

BURGH BUZZ



Burntisland's Free Community Magazine

Previous issues at www.burghbuzz.org.uk

November 2021

Issue No 81

Public Access to our Historic Harbour is Denied

A few weeks ago a planning sub-committee of Fife Council, blindly, and apparently completely ignoring almost 300 individual objections and a petition containing over 3,000 signatures, approved an application by Forth Ports to erect gates and a fence that will effectively deny access by the public to Burntisland Harbour, including the Breakwater. This application was also opposed by all of Burntisland's elected councillors, only one of whom was represented on the committee.

When, during the meeting, a site visit was suggested, the meeting convenor "could not see the point" which indicated that she, and those who supported her on the committee, had little interest in the effects of proposal on the local residents — a damning indictment of the planning procedures within Fife Council. Andy Wight Boycott, a member of Burntisland Harbour Action Team (BHAT) sums up the situation in the following paragraphs.

It is reasonable to ask just why the three parcels of land that form the East Dock have generated so much frustration and anger, while uniting the community. The West Peninsula, or Dead Boats area, is the east wing of the natural harbour created by the melting ice 10,000 years ago, whereas the North Quay and Breakwater are the creations of our grandparents' grandparents, a trifling 150 years ago. Together they form our East Dock, listed and supposedly valued, with a throughput of 2 million tons a year in 1900 reduced now to a paltry 50,000 tons of timber. A dock protected by planning legislation designed to ensure the uninterrupted shipping of goods to and from our nation – bauxite in, coal out. Planning legislation that appears to protect the profits of a property developer at the expense of a community's wellbeing and health.

Just how naïve, though in some cases well meaning, our local and national elected members proved to be, how ineffective, disinterested even, our prized national body, Historic Environment Scotland. How meaningless the government's aspirations for community consultation and involvement. All so focused on legal detail that they lost the bigger picture.

So what next? We watch the fence erected, protected by outdated legislation, as it separates the town from the sea? In the short



Photo: Ian McCracken

term, yes, we have no affordable legal option, although we will probably be pursuing a formal complaint to Fife Council, and maybe thereafter the Ombudsman, regarding a number of aspects of the process which led to the final decision. Even if they rule in our favour however, we don't believe that it would lead to the decision being reversed.

In the longer term we can, we should, take advantage of new, untested legislation, legislation that encourages communities to buy and develop derelict land. In our case land that could include recreational activities from boating to bird-watching, from renewable energy to barbeques, from cycling to calming walks, with attractions from museums to model railways.

The small ad-hoc BHAT team that formed to "fight the fence" needs to regroup and grow, drawing on the imagination and many skills of our determined and diverse community. There will be a public meeting later this autumn to discuss the way ahead. Meanwhile if you would like to register your interest please complete the form at tinyurl.com/BurntislandHAT or leave your name and contact telephone number at Grain & Sustain in the High Street (Tel: 01592 372152).

Toll Community Centre - Expanded Services

The Toll Community Centre has a new addition, a Community Hub based on the High Street. One of the few positives to emerge out of lock down, the premises was originally used by the Burntisland Emergency Action Team (BEAT) which supported our local community in a number of essential ways providing emergency food parcels, activity bags for school children, collecting prescriptions, helping with utility bills etc. BEAT has been closed and now the Hub is being used for a variety of activities.

We want to support our local community by building resilience, encouraging volunteering, eradicating food poverty and promoting the three Rs — Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

We are encouraging services and agencies to come into the town so they are more accessible for residents, as at the moment we have to travel to Kirkcaldy or Dunfermline for support.

We currently offer a drop-in service for anyone who may need assistance with working their way through the maze of benefit forms or help with demand notices regarding debts— all dealt with in the strictest confidence.

SAMH, the Scottish Association of Mental Health, provide a drop-in service. FRASAC, Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre also use the Hub.

We are currently negotiating with Fife Council to have a Welfare Worker in the Hub so watch this space....

The Hub also offers leisure activities—there is a knitting group every Monday morning where people of all abilities are welcome. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet or just have a blether and a cup of tea, pop in and you will receive a warm welcome!

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BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

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From the Editor

Regrettably, our front page again features a depressing article relating to a decision made by a Fife Council Planning Committee that will effectively block public access to Burntisland Harbour for the first time in living memory. The manner in which the Committee blindly accepted an official recommendation with apparent total disregard for almost 300 objections, a petition signed by over 3,000 residents and a cogent letter of objection from our Community Council, clearly demonstrates that the planning system within Fife Council is seriously flawed. The level of disinterest within the Committee was clearly demonstrated when the convenor opined that "there was no point" in a site visit. We can only hope that an appeal to the Planning Minister within the Scottish Government may result in a review of this ridiculous decision.

Covid restrictions will again impact on the traditional Remembrance Day commemoration activities scheduled for Sunday 14th November. A combined service will be held in the Erskine Church but there will be no parade or formal wreath laying at the war memorial. This year is particularly significant as it marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the Poppy as the national symbol of Remembrance. Local organisations and individuals will lay wreaths at the memorial in their own way.

On a brighter note, despite the continued imposition of some restrictions, the successful vaccination programme has resulted in a return to a reduced level of normality. Many entertainment and leisure facilities have reopened and if we continue to abide by the rules, it is possible we will be able to have an enjoyable and carefree festive season.

It is encouraging to read the contribution to this issue by Burntisland Primary School that clearly indicates how pupils, despite Covid rules, continue to actively participate in group activities. The three songs written by the Primary 5s under the Youth Music Initiative project and broadcast on YouTube is an absolute must to tune into.

Finally, this issue contains an appeal for fresh blood to join our editorial team. This appeal was first published through the Burntisland Community Council website over a month ago but to date, we have had no response. Hopefully, the wider distribution of the Buzz will be more successful. If you are interested please get in touch.

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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: Brendan Burns
Treasurer: Fiona Watson
Secretary: Anne Smith

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Tim Hailey Jim Sheridan
Brendan Burns Lynne Ralph
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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.

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 Chair if you wish to join.

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

- We will be working closely with Burrtisland Community Development Trust to produce a new Community Action Plan that will seek to benefit all interested groups in the town.
- Despite our strong objections, sent to both Fife Council and the Scottish Government, we were disappointed to learn that Forth Ports have been given approval to install fences around the harbour estate.
- Plans for Remembrance Sunday remain fluid but there will be some kind of commemorative event. It might not be back to the very well-attended parade and service of previous years but it will reflect the dignity and the respect which we all owe to the fallen.
- We are enquiring about new trees for the Kinghorn Road border of the Links and may also be able to facilitate the provision of "whip" saplings as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.
- A wash-up meeting about this year's fair will be held as soon as we have received evidence which has been requested under the Freedom of Information legislation. We will invite fairground representatives as well as local traders and Fife Council to that meeting.
- We are awaiting confirmation that the Burgh Chambers is once again fit for occupation as a venue for appropriate meetings and we are investigating how to widen accessibility for our own events.
- A meeting was held with representatives from the ExxonMobil plant at Mossmorran. This informative discussion had originally been scheduled before the first lockdown and was an opportunity for the newer members to hear first-hand about the plant's safety processes and economic impact.
- Proposals for artwork on the fence at the old cinema gap site on the High Street remain active but we need more feedback about what is or is not acceptable. It's an opportunity to focus on the local streetscape and perhaps stimulate ideas and possibilities about the future use of the site itself.
- As in previous years, a small service to mark Merchant Navy Day was held outside the Burgh Chambers on 3rd September.
- The very popular water feature on the Links is nearing the end of its useful life and we are in active discussion with Fife Council about the next steps.
- Plans for Christmas lights are in hand for this year, but the future development and extension of the lights will only be possible if new volunteers come forward. The colourful lights are hugely appreciated but we're still looking for more people to support the design, placement and funding for the years ahead.

Come and Join the Buzz Team

The Burgh Buzz, Burrtisland's free community magazine is produced quarterly by a small team of volunteers. We are constantly on the look-out for new members with fresh ideas for content and production.

If you feel you can contribute in any way, please contact the editor - Bill Kirkhope at billvida@sealscraig.plus.com or by telephone 01383 822023.

The Burgh Poliz

from PC Stuart Kinnes



The last few months have been extremely challenging for us as a Community Team and have taken us out of your area for prolonged periods of time. This has been due to ongoing dynamic issues within the whole of Fife Division. COP26 will have a big impact on us later this month and into November. As Community Officers we are fully aware of the frustration that this is causing residents within Burntisland.

On a more positive note there has been a decrease in youth gatherings and associated anti-social behaviour issues. The Viewpoint on Broomhill remains an area of concern that we will continue to tackle. Can I take this opportunity to ask parents to make sure you are aware of your children's whereabouts and make efforts to ensure they are not getting caught up in this problem area. We have and will continue to work with the Fife Council Safer Communities Teams to target and disrupt any issues.

There have been problems reported to us outside St Andrews Court retirement housing complex again on the High Street. Youths on scooters are causing problems for the elderly residents with noise and using scooters on the pavements. We have spoken with youths on a number of

occasions at the local skate park and we are hopeful that the message is getting through. May I again ask parents to remind their children of the dangers of using bikes and scooters on pavements in general.

Over the last few months we have had days of action working in partnership with Fife Council parking wardens to deter drivers parking on double yellow lines in and around the High Street areas in particular. This action has proven to be productive and it's something we will be continuing to participate in.

The Burntisland Fair has been and gone but from a Policing aspect, it passed relatively uneventfully. The main issue was with car parking on a daily basis which was dealt with by an incident by incident basis as they occurred.

Moving forwards, our violence reduction and anti-social behaviour action plan that is designed to target all branches of anti-social behaviour and violent crime has been and will continue to be deployed over the coming months. The deployment is focused over weekends in particular to prevent/detect anti-social crimes, offences and incidents that have been reported to us in problem areas.

One last thing from us, the Covid-19 pandemic is still ongoing. The most up to date guidelines from the Scottish Government can be found by visiting:

www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19

Contacting us:

As always, we 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 provided via Crimestoppers:

Website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Telephone: 0800 555 111

When reporting crime to the Police, the public can use 101 to report non emergencies and 999 to report emergency situations.

You can also contact the community team on the email address below in order to make us aware of concerns which are not ongoing at the material time. For information our email inbox is not monitored 24/7 and an immediate response cannot be guaranteed.

BurntislandKinghornWesternKirkcaldyCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Burntisland First Aid Services Trust

Nineteen patients in a single October evening was not a record for us. However, it marked firmly our transition to student and ice hockey events rather than the cross-country horses of warmer days. Six of those patients were in our care for up to three hours each. They were ably looked after by some of our newest volunteers, working hand in glove with more experienced people. So when we were able finally to leave the event at 3am it was with a sense of fulfilment that all was now well.

We're acutely aware that bad things happen to people when they are at their most vulnerable. So we make sure that our patients are stable and well on the road to recovery before they leave us. If in doubt, we'll transfer a patient to the ambulance service or direct to hospital. However, that's not an easy decision, given the current delays in response times and NHS service levels.

Fortunately, the right intervention is often simple - as long as it's well-directed and early. An opportunity to learn some of those skills is currently in train with a new blended course in First Aid at Work.

Time is tight, with the online element being followed by face-to-face sessions over 6 evenings which commenced on 1st November. We still need to keep the numbers low in order to ensure adequate distancing. However, enquiries about other courses are very welcome via www.bfast.org.uk.

Alex. MacDonald, Chairman



Burntisland Community Award 2022

In December the Community Council will be selecting one or more winners of the annual Community Award.

We've been impressed by the quality of nominations over the past 40 years and are keen to make future awards as inclusive as possible. We've therefore modified previous practice and will be inviting nominations in three categories, namely **Individual; Group; and Young Person**. So we may make more than one award, though there is likely to be one overall winner.

Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary or another member of the Community Council by Friday 10th December. So there is plenty time in hand to think about possible nominations.

We request that all nominations are by standardised form, as last year. Forms can be downloaded from the BCC website www.burntislandcc.org.uk and returned by email to the Secretary (details on page 3).

Paper copies of the form will be available from the Toll Centre High Street Hub (& Library?) and can returned by mail to the Chairman (details on page 3). or handed to any BCC member.

Current elected politicians and CC members are not eligible as single nominees but may be included in a group or team category.

Community Action Plan

In 2016 the Community Council produced a very thorough Community Action Plan for Burntisland. It has proven invaluable to organisations which needed evidence of demand as part of their applications for funding. With a projected life of 5 years, the original plan period is now almost up.

However, given that nearly two years of that was impacted by Covid-19, when very few activities were taking place, it seems sensible to extend the current plan for 18-24 months.

That will give us a breathing space in which to review how it should be modified for the future. It also gives

us an opportunity to work closely with, for example, Burntisland Community Development Trust, who are now well-placed not just to develop the plan further but to facilitate those of its priorities which local groups wish to progress.

We're happy to hear from anyone who would like to support the next generation of that plan. You can find a copy of the Community Action Plan on our website: www.burntislandcc.org.uk

Alex. MacDonald, Chairman



Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association

The weather has now turned autumnal so Christmas is just around the corner, we will be running our Christmas window competition again so now is the time to get your thinking caps on and plan out how you want to decorate your window. The competition is open to all children in the TRA catchment. More will be announced on the TRA's Facebook page as it becomes known.

We will be working with the Hub and the Co-op once again to bring that extra little bit of cheer to those in need, so if you have a

donation you could make that will brighten up a child's Christmas contact me via The TRA's Facebook account.

But Christmas is not the only time we should be looking to support our neighbours, especially given the news about the cost of electricity and gas supplies. When the weather turns to winter and if you haven't seen your neighbour for a few days you should perhaps consider checking that they are alright and if they need any help.

Iain Ralph

Burntisland Over 70s Christmas Treat

This has been a long year but we are glad to announce that the Over 70s Christmas Treat will go ahead this December. Due to certain restrictions still in force, face masks must be worn until seated and track & trace will still be required.

Venue: Kingswood Hotel
Date: Saturday 4th December
Time: 12 noon for 12.30pm

This invite is open to all Over 70s living in Burntisland.

Watch out for posters around town nearer the time.

Community Café Relaunch

The Community Café will be re-opening soon! We have a new venue and a new name, and we can't wait to welcome customers old and new to The Cornerstone Café in the Parish Church Hall, at the top of the Kirkgate, in the near future.

We will be building on the foundations we set in Solid Rock, serving hot food and building community with those who are struggling in our town. Keep an eye out for posters around the town and also on the Burntisland Parish Church Facebook page for updates.

We have a core group of volunteers from various churches in Burntisland and Kirkcaldy, which is great, but could always use more. If you could spare a couple of hours on a Wednesday lunchtime, weekly or fortnightly, and would like to join our team, please email patgibson2708@gmail.com.

CORNERSTONE
CAFÉ



Dillon McLaren's Wheelchair Fund

We can't thank everyone enough for their outstanding generosity in helping us achieve this for Dillon and his family. To Lynn Morran and Shirley Kent thank you for being the driving force behind this. To the wonderful people of Burntisland who donated prizes, bought raffle tickets, attended the bingo nights at the Jubilee and to Davie for being the perfect host.

To the friends and family who sponsored our duo running the black rock race and the McLaren sponsored walk, Dales dry month, Burntisland Pipe Band, the Co-op for shaking a bucket. To the wonderful Burntisland Primary School staff who supported us in everything we did. To everyone who bought tablet and gift packs and to Gordon Adamson for donating the signed Rovers top. To Shipyard, United and to all the traders of this town who were so generous when asked to donate prizes for events like this. You are all amazing...THANK YOU .

Burntisland Primary School

Stepping down the stairs and opening the wooden door into the bright and colourful

Primary 1 corridor, artwork is displayed across the hall. The peaceful P1s have been working extremely hard this term on their amazing topic about our school. This includes places in our school, teachers and different jobs around the building. The little hard workers have also been learning to count to ten and how to order numbers.

In **Primary 2** you will see colourful walls, lots of learning and happy children. They have been learning about dinosaurs and about the 'Belong, Participate, Succeed' (BPS) motto. In Literacy, they have been focusing on non-fiction-based books, as well as word families. Not to forget parts of stories. During their time in school, they learned about the numeracy strategies in addition, and subtraction. Their topic is dinosaurs, and on the walls, they have art based on the subject such as: Paper plate dinosaurs and dinosaurs based on them. They are finding out so much about the amazing topic!

Primary 3 have been learning how to skip count in Numeracy, as well as developing their understanding of 2D and 3D shapes. They can also now partition numbers based on their place value focus. P3 have also been learning about common and proper nouns, and they are working hard to create detailed sentences. In P.E., they have been working on their ball skills and applying these to team games. Their topic this term has been Hinduism and they have enjoyed

developing their understanding of this religion.

In Numeracy, **Primary 4** have been learning about the place value of numbers and have been practising their times tables. Their Literacy work has come from their class novels and they have enjoyed completing different tasks relating to these books. The whole of P4 have been singing during their Music lessons and learning the song, 'Let Spirit Fly.' In P.E., P4 have been keeping fit by taking part in hockey, football and the bleep test.

Primary 5 have been learning how to use the split strategy to solve addition and subtraction calculations in Numeracy. They have also been learning how to round whole numbers to 10, 100 and 1000. They enjoyed using what they have learned in Literacy to write letters to convey important information. Primary 5 have been doing Zentangle art to quieten their minds and relax with mindfulness. This is related to the Blue Cog within Emotion Works. All P5 classes have been working with the Scottish folk musician, Davy Lees, to write their own songs which they recorded on the 1st of October.

This term, **Primary 6** have been busy learning about all sorts of fun and exciting subjects. In Literacy, P6 have been reading *The Goldfish Boy* by Lisa Thompson. This book has been helping them to learn about similes, metaphors and figurative language. They have also been eager learners in Numeracy and Maths with their topics of

place value and measurement. Outside of the classroom, P6 have enjoyed gym with their focus of fitness. They have also been concentrating on their 5 Ways to Wellbeing learning. All of P6 have had a special visit from a local police officer who gave a talk on the very important subject of internet safety. We hope P6 will continue working hard throughout the year.

This term, **Primary 7** have been heads down busy in Numeracy. Place value, four operations and negative numbers have been a key learning opportunity in the last few weeks. They have also been doing 'spectacular subtraction', 'mind-melting multiplication' and 'all-star addition'. Their topic this term has revolved around their class novel, "Divided City" by Theresa Breslin, which has allowed them to learn about sectarianism. The main message Primary 7 wanted to get across was that we are all human despite our race, religion, gender or sexuality! In addition to this, P7 have been up levelling vocabulary and how to develop their sentences until they are immaculate. There has been a focus on personal writing this term with an emphasis on emotional language and the use of personal pronouns. Brilliant P7s have also been developing their comprehension skills through task map challenges.

Prepared by P7 pupils



...and news from the Head

It has certainly been a busy start back to the year ahead.

Covid-19 has not left us yet and, in school, we still feel the impact of absence from pupils and staff as they self-isolate or are tested positive for the virus. We are extremely grateful to parents who keep sticking to the rules around not sending children in when they display symptoms. This is vital to reduce the spread, so we really appreciate this as we know it's not easy.

The new guidelines mean that we are allowed to continue without whole classes

or Nursery rooms being asked to self-isolate as before the break.

We are still not allowed parents in for shared events such as Shared Starts or Busy Finishes, Assemblies, or even parents nights - which were again online this year. We continue to have lunches all separated and staff are not allowed to gather for staff meetings, lunches or morning 'Huddles' as we used to and this can be hard.

But things have eased a bit and we can now move around inside school more freely and share resources, restart our after-school clubs, girls lunchtime football, do

P.E. indoors and actually sing!!!

This is helping, and it is great to see children once more moving around the school and taking part in activities we have been prevented from doing for so long.

After school cycling lessons have started, organised by Kirsten Durkin. Morag Cotton won the Road Safety banner competition and the Police have given valuable lessons on Internet Safety.

(continued on page 7)



Primary 5s have been able to take part in a fantastic Youth Music Initiative project. This saw them write three songs with the help of traditional folk singer Davy Lees. One song is about the school and learning, one is about our fabulous town of Burntisland and the other is all about Novelli's. Please take a listen, you'll not be disappointed. But, be warned, you might be singing them for the remainder of your day!

Our Primary 7s organised a collection of clothing for Afghanistan Refugees arriving in Fife and we were overwhelmed with the amount of donations received. The pupils worked incredibly hard sorting everything out, led by Mrs Syme, and Luke Drummond, very kindly gave up his time to take a whole van load up to Glenrothes to

the drop off point.

This was valuable learning experience as well as a commendable effort to help others. Within our community.

The Big Green Market also, has given us immense support through a very generous donation of £800 towards playground improvements for which we are extremely grateful.

Our Parent Council is continuing to raise money for big playground improvements. In the meantime, we have started regular chalk drawing opportunities and in P1/2 we have Dance Day Fridays where we take out music and the children choose their tracks and dance moves! A great way to end each week for them.... and us!

We are continuing to explore ways to keep us connected to parents and the wider community during these restrictive times. Please follow us on Facebook and watch out for video links that are sent out, so you get a flavour of life in BPS.

Each and every day, I still feel incredibly privileged to be the Head Teacher of the local school in such a fabulous town, where we have so many positive things to celebrate together. We still try to instil a sense of "Family" in the school, the BPS Family - where we do our best to be kind to each other and work together to achieve positive outcomes. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Julie Anderson

Burntisland Playgroup



Another new term has gone by so quickly! We have had some returning children who have chosen to stay with us until they move onto Primary One and some new children who are in our setting for the first time. All the children have settled in so well with the older ones helping out with showing the younger children the routines. Slowly we are being allowed to have more and more resources back out so the Playgroup is feeling more like the Playgroup we all know and love.

This term we have been focusing on our topic which has been developed from the children's interests in transport and travel. We have been out and about looking for signs, trains, buses as well as seeing how many different coloured cars pass us by here at the Toll Centre! We love to take the children out and about for them to explore all what Burntisland has to offer.

We have also been interested in Autumn and Harvest time and the children have enjoyed collecting conkers and leaves that have fallen from the trees. They also harvested apples from our apple tree in the garden and made some yummy stewed apples to try!

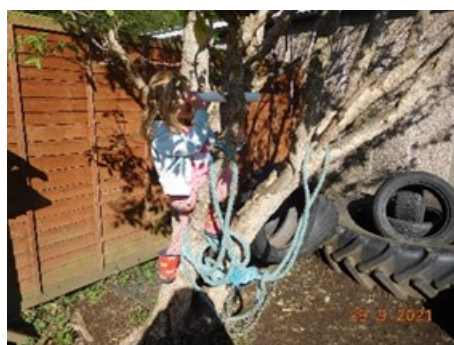
A huge thank you to those you offered us items for our loose parts play. The children are loving to play with all the items that have been donated and we are seeing a lot of creative play in the garden with these. We are always looking for guttering, pipes, pallets, cable reels, ropes and tarpaulin.

Playgroup still has some places available and you can apply at any time of the year for this or future years. We follow the same curriculum as the nursery as well as offering all the same experiences and opportunities they are offered in nursery settings. We have the added benefit of

having a smaller intake in a larger premises. If you are interested please do not hesitate to get in touch via email at burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk. Please also follow us on our Facebook page. We update it weekly with our adventures of that week.

Playgroup offers quality childcare from 2 years 10 months to 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.

Rebecca McColm, Manager



Burntisland Out of School Service (BOSS)

Burntisland Out of School Service (BOSS) is a play based childcare provision based at the Toll Community Centre catering for children aged 4-12yrs and is a charitable organisation with a management committee supported by wonderful parent volunteers.

BOSS has exclusive use of the Toll Centre including the garden area in the afternoons during term time and for holiday clubs whilst our breakfast club is based within the main foyer of the centre.

We deliver activities involving arts and craft, imaginative play, constructive team games as well as musical activities. Our very experienced and qualified team is focused on nurturing relationships and create enabling and inspiring play environments. We always welcome new ideas from children and parents and our team involve the children in the planning of the provision as part of our routine including providing opportunity for them to plan the healthy and tasty snacks.

Whilst making the most of the great space we have at the Toll Centre we promote lots of outdoor play including regular trips to the woods, beach and local parks.

Over the last term the children have been enjoying a Connect 4 challenge in the mornings before school and we have been exploring our musical side practicing with drum pads and percussion, discovering the art of origami and raiding the local 'chessy tree' for all the conkers!

Our holiday clubs provide opportunity for the children to venture further outdoors and our October holiday club included day trips to Craigencalt by Kinghorn Loch and Beveridge Park in Kirkcaldy. As well as lots of free play the children also enjoyed paper marbling, dancing, truffle making and a visit from Enjoy-a-Ball! We will be open on the next school in-service day on Friday 12th November and have places available.



Breakfast Club – 7:45am – 9am £5.50 per session

After School Club 3pm – 6pm £12.00 per session

Holiday Club 8:30am – 6pm £24.00 per session (early start 7:45am £27.00 & half day £14.00)

We also accept childcare vouchers towards payment of fees.

If you are interested in BOSS becoming your childcare provider or have any other enquiries please email Anne at

bossburntisland@gmail.com or telephone 07702 801132. We would love you to join us!!!

Anne Laidlaw



Burntisland & District Pipe Band

It has been a busy past few months for Pipe Band with our first in person practice together for almost 18 months. If you have been keeping up to date with us on Facebook, you will have seen how the band has been progressing.

In early June, the Pipe Band gathered together on the Links for some well-deserved fun as an end of season reward for all their hard work over the last year and a half. Some awards were given out to some extra special players who have worked immensely hard. These were as follows: Most Improved Piper Award was awarded to **Catherine Spears**, Most Improved Drummer Trophy was awarded to **Gregor Noble**, Red Hot Chilli Piper Award for innovation and creativity was awarded to **Ruben Hamilton-McBain**, Drummers Player of The Year was awarded to **Erica Wyse**, Pipers Player of The Year was awarded to **Jade Møller**.

Finally, the Donald Flynn memorial trophy - Donald was a full-on supporter of the band and was a big part of our committee for over 20 years. Sadly, last year he passed away, but his family and the band wanted to honour him, and we chose to put together the Donald Flynn Memorial Trophy – to be given to a band member who has shown impeccable commitment. This was won by **Brooklyn Morris**.

Brechin Solos 2021 were put online this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our very own piper **Nyree Howes** won 1st place in her piping solo with an outstanding performance. Everyone in the band family is very proud of her achievement and all the hard work she puts in.

On 15th August the band made the short trip to Kinghorn to play at their socially distanced Gala which was full of fun activities and stalls. This was a great opportunity for the band to get some playing time under their belts as a unit since it has been difficult to manage getting everyone together due to Covid restrictions.

On 12th September the band joined forces with our pals from Lochgelly High School, Inveraray & District, and Police Scotland



Fife Pipe Band in support of the Bowhill Highland Games. This was the first official function that the band had attended together for 18 months due to Covid and — my gosh! was it good? It was great to see all the new recruits playing in the band for the first time.

We at Burntisland & District Pipe Band would like to say a massive Good Luck to **Sophie Lewis** and **Struan Ventures**, two of the longest serving members of our Novice Juvenile Band, as they head off to further education in far flung lands. Unfortunately, due to Covid Sophie and Struan were robbed of their final years of competing with the band, but they know that they are always welcome at Burntisland & District Pipe Band.

As we look ahead in our calendars hopefully, Remembrance Day will be the next big outing for the band. This is usually one of the most important outings on our band calendar. We always look forward to taking part in such an important function when we can contribute towards the commemoration and remembrance of those local residents who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you all for your continued support for our wee band. If you'd like to keep up to date, please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/burntislandanddistrictpipeband.

Leading Drummer Erica Wyse

(from front page) We run a Community Fridge/freezer to tackle food poverty and save food waste. We also have plans to expand this service into a food pantry with a membership scheme which will be accessible to all. Every Tuesday we have a delivery from Fare Share, which includes a wide variety of produce from meat to exotic fruits and even "Free From" food. Every Wednesday morning we continue to receive a donation of rolls and cakes from Stephens the Bakers. You will find these on the table outside the Hub. Come and help yourself and if you can leave a small donation that's great, but if you can't don't worry!

We hope to operate a Credit union from the Hub which will offer opportunity to save and access low interest loans. For more information on the Food Pantry and the Credit Union keep your eye on The Toll Community Centre's Facebook page or posters in the Hub's window.



The Hub Charity Shop has proved such a success that we are extending the opening hours to include a Friday and Saturday. All proceeds are directed towards the maintenance of the Hub's essential services.

We accept donations that are in good condition that can be resold or passed on and we accept electrical goods which are PAT tested before they are displayed for sale.

The Hub is managed by a great team of dedicated volunteers who receive continuous support and training. If you are interested in volunteering, pop in and pick up a form. By volunteering, you will make a difference within our community. You will learn new skills which can boost confidence and can be added to your CV, useful when looking for work or in support of an application for college /university. Additionally, you will experience a sense of achievement, meet new people, make new friends and have a lot of fun on the way.

The Hub is open six days a week from 10am -4pm and everyone is welcome.

If you have any ideas of what you would like to see in the Hub drop us an email, give us a call or pop in or if you just need to see a friendly face and have a chat, we are there waiting for you!

COMMUNITY HUB PROGRAMME

Monday am Knitting Group

Tuesday Food Pantry (Fare share delivery)

Wednesday am Help with benefits/form filling, utility bills and managing debt drop in (Strictly confidential)

Wednesday Food Pantry, including Rolls and cakes

Thursday RASAC

Thursday SAMH 12-8pm

Friday Hub Charity Shop 10-4pm

Saturday Hub Charity Shop 10-4pm

Toll Community Centre

At last, we feel we are returning to normality, although Covid procedures are still in place there is a real buzz about the Centre again.

Every weekend we have people hiring the Centre for children's and adult birthday parties, baby showers and fundraising events. We even hosted a wedding.

The Playgroup has been back for some time offering extended childcare hours. (Page 7)

BOSS, the out of school care project provides a fun play/care service both in-term and during school holidays. (Page 8)

Our Bike Project is still going strong thanks to our devoted volunteer James. He will repair your bike and help you to decide what bike is suitable for you or your children. We are still accepting donations. Pop along to the lockups beside the community centre on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday afternoon 1-3pm.

We are running a sewing class on a Monday evening for people of all abilities, some are making cushion covers and others are more adventurous making dresses. There is currently a waiting list, but we do intend to make this class an ongoing event as it has proved so popular.

On a Monday afternoon at 12.30 - 1.30 we have George back by popular demand delivering a keep fit class for all abilities. You can sit and still experience an allover workout or stand depending on your preference. Exercise to lively music from years gone by and guaranteed lots of fun.

The Wednesday club is meeting again on the two middle Wednesdays of the month. Members enjoy the entertainment each week, including a raffle and of course, tea and biscuits. If you would like to join in the fun come along at 7pm.

In light of all the publicity around women's safety and as a follow up to our provision of safety alarms we are now running Self-Protection classes. In addition to guidance on how to protect yourself, emphasis is also placed on not putting yourself in danger in the first place and how to avoid potentially

threatening situations. For more information please call the Toll Community Centre on 01592 872854.

It will be lovely to see Mary back at Rhyme time on a Friday morning, a popular group for parents and their young children, singing and having lots of fun and conversation.

We are in constant touch with Fife Council to see when the youth Group and Music club can start back

We are also waiting for planning permission from Fife Council to build an annex in the garden and to extend the garden.

We are having a **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 4th December** with a great variety of stalls, mulled wine and Xmas pies and a surprise visit from a special man, I will give you a clue he always wears red and has a very white beard!

This will be the fourth year that we will be making up food parcels on Christmas Eve. We receive fresh food from Aldi on the night just before they close then its all hands on deck with our volunteers making up the parcels and delivering to families and people on their own that have been referred to us.

As a direct result of the pandemic, this Christmas there are likely to be more families in need of our assistance.

We would be grateful if, when you are out doing your shopping, you could pick up some extra treats or a small gift and hand it into the Community Centre or the Hub.

Over the years we have been overwhelmed with people's kindness. One that really struck a chord was a young teenager who handed in the money he had saved to buy his family presents. Such a kind gesture. Let's work together to make sure everyone has a Happy Christmas this year.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We have questionnaire available at www.tinyurl.com/toll-centre-survey and we would love for you to fill it in. Its only a few questions and won't take more than five minutes to complete. We wish to know what YOU want to see happening at the Toll Community Centre.

As part of our support for the three Rs we are hoping to run an upcycling project. There are so many great paints and products to make upcycling so much easier and produce great results. Instead of buying new furniture, lamps etc why not restore and save money, learn a new skill, make friends and have some fun.

If you have queries about this article or would like more information please don't hesitate to get in touch. Phone 01592 872854 or email:

yvonnecrombie.tollcentre@gmail.com

Yvonne Crombie



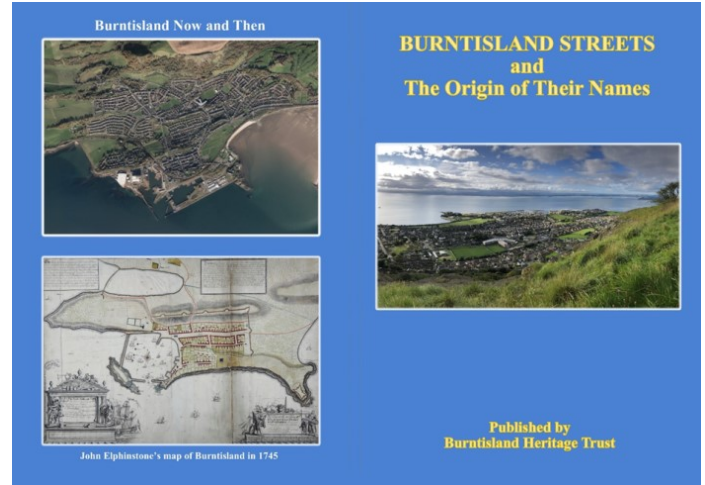
Burntisland Heritage Trust

“Right up your street”

Burntisland has built up and expanded considerably during the period after WWII. With new streets, roads etc. where did their names come from? In fact, where did the names of the older streets come from? The last booklet on this subject was published in the 1960s. It was felt that time was right for an update. Also, we are fortunate in that more sources are now available to explore and hopefully solve some of the mysteries encountered in the previous booklet.

The new booklet, “*Burntisland Streets and The Origin of Their Names*” has the origins of street names, photographs, and maps. It also has - the former names of the streets: names from the landward area around Burntisland and names which were used by previous generations but are now not in use.

At a bargain price this is a lovely wee stocking filler just in time for Christmas. On sale at Hanselled Books in the Kirkgate and Chapter & Verse in the High Street.



Museum of Communication

The onset of Covid-19 forced the Museum to keep going in new ways. The most visible change has been the transition of our Goudie Lectures from an 'in-person' to an online format, using Zoom, helped by a much-appreciated grant from Museums Galleries Scotland. Fortunately, a series of high quality speakers has come forward to present a variety of fascinating lectures online.

The format comes as close as possible to the 'in-person' experience, with the audience taking part 'live', able to put questions directly to the speaker and to chat with other members and supporters. This format has proved to be highly successful, enabling participants to join in from throughout the UK and overseas - including Japan!

Recent inspections have revealed problems with the Museum's roof. The most serious of these concerns the flat roof at the front of the building. Works are therefore in hand to replace it with a modern flat roof, complete with thermal insulation conforming to

the latest standards. Unfortunately, due to the upheaval this will cause, the contents of the Lecture Room are having to be moved downstairs, into the Exhibition Hall. (The café and ladies' toilets will also be inaccessible while works are in progress). It will therefore not be possible to reopen the Museum to the public until 2022.

In the meantime, work goes on behind the Museum's closed doors, preparing for our eventual reopening. Next year, we plan to mount an exciting new exhibition to mark the centenary of public radio broadcasting in the UK. Look out for news of this in the new year!

For the latest information, visit our website: www.museumofcommunication.org.uk

Dorothy Brankin

MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATION



Greenmount Tenants & Residents Association was formed after a well-attended public meeting at the Toll Centre in November 2019. We aim to improve our neighbourhood and provide a forum for residents of Greenmount Road North, Nicol Drive, Spence Avenue, and Cotburn Crescent to raise local issues. Unfortunately, it wasn't long after that that the pandemic intervened in all our lives - we'd barely got started.

Last month we were able to restart meetings at the Toll Centre, in the big hall this time to allow some distancing. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm and all residents and supporters are welcome to attend.

We are currently sitting on a small pot of funds that have built up while we weren't able to hold in-person meetings, and are starting to look at what the community's priorities for spending that money are. If you have any ideas, do join us on 9th November. Equally, if you have any concerns or complaints about the area, we'd like to hear them."

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The Big GREEN Market

When we started the Big GREEN Market back in July we had no idea if it would work. We just knew we wanted to find a way to bring crafters, makers, upcyclers, thrifters, eco-warriors, bargain hunters and good-hearted people together for a monthly market – packed with pre-loved and eco-friendly items.

We wanted to help the people of the town declutter and pass on their once loved items, and we wanted to raise money so the whole town benefited.

And all we needed was YOU to get involved & you've done us proud!

You've donated, supported, volunteered and shopped with us! With your massive support you've helped us raise over £2,700 shared between Burntisland Community Development Trust, Burntisland Primary School, Burntisland Foodbank and Floral Action Burntisland (FAB).

Isn't that amazing!? And there's so much more to come!

On the first weekend of each month we set up at the Burntisland Parish Church Halls and host a pre-loved treasure trove on the Friday (1pm – 4pm) and a craft + pre-loved market on the Saturday (10am – 1pm). We're all volunteers and every penny goes back into the running of the Big GREEN Market, Burntisland – and the rest is donated to local groups.

Coming up...

- November 5 & 6th: Over 70s group
- December 3rd & 4th: Harbour Trust
- January: taking a much needed break!
- February 4 & 5th: Burntisland Playgroup
- March 4 & 5th: RNLI

Interested in volunteering?

We're always looking for volunteers to help set up on Fridays and take down on Saturdays – if you'd like to get involved, please get in touch at the email below.

Like to nominate a community group?

We love supporting our local community groups. If you have a great cause you'd like us to fundraise for – get in touch at the email address below.

Want to book a stall for the Saturday market?

Every month we feature around four local crafters / makers who want to sell their environmentally friend products. If your products have a GREEN ethos and you'd like to know more about booking a stall (and dates of availability) – get in touch via email: BigGreenMarket.Burntisland@gmail.com

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To find out more contact us on **01592 269 654**
 Email fifeignhs@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



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Burntisland Bowling Club

Whilst Burntisland Bowling Club's 2021 season was again severely constrained by Covid restrictions, their gradual easing allowed recreational bowls, internal competitions, and some inter-club friendly fixtures, to resume on a reduced scale.

The Club's AGM was held in July, later than usual, with Alan Lascelles being elected as Club President alongside other members of the Management Committee.

Fortunately, the Club's internal competitions were able to be completed and the winners included:

Ladies Competitions: Dorothy Whyte (Ladies' Championship, Morrison Cup, Seniors & Helen Mann Cup); Margaret Farnes (Festival Cup); Lorna Murdoch (Isabel Muir Trophy); Jean Hughes (President's Plate); Margaret Farnes & Lorna Murdoch (Nomination Pairs); Dorothy Whyte & Sheila Colville (Ballot Pairs); Dorothy Whyte & Jean Millar (Triples) and Dorothy Whyte, Janette MacDonald & Carol Wilson (Triples).

Men's Competitions: Brian Fleming (Championship, Stevenson Cup); Paul Graham (Consolation Cup); Mark Paterson (President's, Bob Meldrum Handicap Trophy & Ian Muir Trophy); Brian Fleming & Steve McAughey (Nomination Pairs); Paul Graham & John Robertson (Ballot Pairs); Paul Graham, Steve McAughey & John Henderson (Triples).

Mixed Competitions: Audrey Colville & Brian Fleming (Mixed Pairs); Paul Graham (Equal Footing).

The Club finished the season with its traditional Secretary v Treasurer competition. Despite the occasional downpour, players completed the competition and, whilst the Treasurer's players came out top, the trophy for the winning rink was shared between the teams skipped by Alan Lascelles and Steve McAughey.



They are pictured here, holding the trophy, with their team members, Dorothy Whyte, Margaret Farnes, Ian MacKay and Kathryn Cooper.

Richard Perry

Burntisland Shipyard FC

A lot has been happening since our last article in the Buzz with substantial changes both on and off the park. Previous manager Stuart Innes left the Club towards the end of pre-season and the committee moved fast to replace him with local man David Costello. Costy added Dean Ewing and Ross Gallacher to his backroom team with the league campaign kicking off just two days later.

What followed was quite remarkable as the team started the season with a nine game unbeaten run, including an amazing comeback against Oakley United where we recovered from 4-0 down to earn a 4-4 draw and were unfortunate not to win. A penalty shootout defeat against Dalkeith Thistle in the Scottish Cup was a hard one to take, as over the piece the tie was there for the taking.

A horrendous run of injuries has stretched the squad to its limits, with at the time of writing, at least six players unavailable for various amounts of time. The most serious being Lee Henderson

Burntisland Golf House Club

Another season has come and gone and, in the main, it has been a good one. There were still many Covid related restrictions in place at the start of the year, but the game itself continued to be played throughout.

As a Club we contemplated switching the system we use for booking times, unintentionally upsetting a lot of members in the process, but in the end we had to return to the original one as too many problems came to light.

Between that and the new World Handicapping System which was introduced at the end of 2020, the Match & Handicap team deserve a lot of credit for managing to keep things running as smoothly as they did.

Within the Clubhouse we saw changes in bar and kitchen personnel, along with a new cleaning arrangement. Some of us now look forward to a prolonged period of stability!

One area of the Club's activities slowly returning to normal is the social side of things. A quiz night was well supported and we recently held a very successful ABBA tribute night. Hopefully, the start of things to come.

Congratulations to all of the 2021 Champions at the Club:

Club Champion – Scott Brownlie;
'B' Champion – Rab Bett;
Ladies Champion – Joyce Murdoch;
Ladies Bronze – Kerry Foley;
Senior Champion – David Thom;
Senior Handicap – Jack Lloyd;
Stroke Play Champion – Greig Kilpatrick;
Stroke Play 'B' – Brian Hunter; and last but certainly not least:
Junior Champion – Greig Carscadden.

Greig Carscadden is one of the many juniors who is enjoying, and benefitting from our Junior Academy. Overseen by Craig Armstrong our Assistant Professional, and Colin Blackwood, our Junior Convenor, the coaching has proved very popular and certain age groups have been oversubscribed. Remember - Under 16s at Burntisland are FREE - so it's a great way to get your children and grandchildren out into the fresh air and enjoy all the benefits that it brings.

We continue to be extremely grateful for the sponsorship received from returning and new patrons. For all 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.

Dave McPherson

who suffered a broken arm in the 6-0 win over Hawick. This looks like keeping him out until the new year. On the transfer front, Reece Brown was transferred to Glenrothes with Jack Wilson coming in from St Andrews United to replace him. Jack has already hit the back of the net four times with only Ben Anthony ahead of him in the goalscoring charts.

Many of you reading this will no doubt have noticed that the floodlights are now operational and that we have played two games under them. There were a couple of teething problems initially, however, these have been rectified to everyone's satisfaction. The support of the local community including Briggs Marine, the Common Good Fund and Fife Council have made this possible and we thank everyone for their contribution.

We are pleased to report that attendances at Recreation Park continue to increase this season, with three figure crowds attending some matches and a fantastic 211 people watching the Friday night match against Lochore Welfare. This is most welcome as we continue to build the club into something the town can be proud of.

Andrew Beveridge

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11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group

BEAVERS

We started our term by welcoming 9 new Beavers into the two sections and have been continuing to take advantage of the local outdoor areas.

The children have been doing their health and fitness and disability awareness badges in which they have all learned new skills and have taken away new knowledge.

As the restrictions are easing, we have been able to run a day camp at Wemyss Firs Campsite which was a first for all the beavers. They enjoyed learning about putting up tents, new knots and learning all about maps and gaining their navigation badge. We are hoping to now return into the hall after the October holidays.

Beaver Scout Leaders, Shirley Kent and Simone Thomson



cubs

Another busy term, more outdoors than in, however the Scottish weather always has other ideas, and our busy programme adapts as needed. This term we have been working on our Team Leader badge learning how to help others and lead by example.

We also spent several weeks on the Links completing our cycling badge and have been practicing our outdoor skills for when we can get back to camping. We also managed to throw in some archery and curling, trying new things. This term we welcomed and invested loads of Beavers who have moved up to our Cub section and we also welcomed some new members into our Scouting family.

Michelle Paton, Cub Scout Leader



SCOUTS

Monday Scouts have had another busy and fun term where they continued to meet mostly outdoors and use our fantastic town to the fullest. They held their own mini-Olympic Games on the Links to complete the Athletics Badge.

The Scouts developed their navigation skills by working with maps and compasses, as well first aid skills as they learned how to use defibrillator machines, help choking casualties, and how to treat cuts, asthma, hypothermia and heat stroke.

Our last two weeks saw us move in doors for an archery evening and badminton tournament. We saw a huge number of badges presented this year as our youth members and leaders did amazingly well to cope with the disruptions and changing restrictions caused by the pandemic. We are extremely lucky to have such a fantastic group of passionate and motivated young people in Burntisland who continue to display a positive attitude along with excellent behaviour.

Davie, Monday Scout Leader



Thursday Scouts have been fortunate this term to have had some fantastic weather and have certainly made the most of it. The highlight of the term was a visit to the Scottish Gliding centre where we learned a great deal about the workings of the aircraft and were given amazing access to the whole facility. The team went above and beyond to ensure the scouts had a fantastic visit whilst they were there.

We have also worked on first aid, pioneering and cycling. Another highlight was to have our first camp in almost 2 years which was a huge success hammocking at Wemyss Firs Campsite. This was a first for our group and the first time that some of our newer scouts have camped since they were a cub. We finished of the term with bush craft skills and a bag of chips as a fine reward for all their hard work this term.

Barrie Kent, Thursday Scout 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

Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC031394



EXPLORERS

As lockdown restrictions continue to ease, we managed to camp with our Explorers in September which was our first camp since March 2020. They spent a day at Wild Shore Dundee doing paddle boarding and the water activity obstacle course which was great fun. We then camped overnight at our local campsite in hammocks.

Closer to home we've continued to develop First Aid, Navigation skills and work towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards. We also completed some Young Leader modules which will allow our Explorers to assist with the youngest sections and pass on their skills and knowledge.

We finished this term by presenting three of our Explorers with the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awards which is a fantastic achievement especially to complete this under the restrictions that have been in place because of the pandemic.

Davie, Explorer Leader

Burntisland Civic Week

Date for your diary - our AGM will take place on Sunday 23rd January at 2pm in the Sands Hotel.

In the previous issue of the Buzz we included an appeal for new volunteers as most of the current committee are stepping down ahead of next year.

Pleased to say we had a few new volunteers along at our informal chats who are interested in taking over office bearer roles at the upcoming AGM.

However we are still looking for additional committee members or other volunteers to help out with Civic Week next year.

If you are interested in helping out, please come along to the AGM or get in touch via our Facebook page or email burntislandcivicweek@gmail.com for more information.

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SAT: 8:30-17:00

The Ecology Centre

As we leave the fabulous summer months behind and head into Autumn, we can look back and appreciate all the work our amazing volunteers have put in to make our beautiful site by Kinghorn Loch look so good. We couldn't have done it without them!



The Volunteers

Happily, our Wednesday Volunteer lunches are, almost, back to normal, making good use of the produce from our gardens. Though still being served outside, we hope to move lunch safely indoors as the weather becomes less favourable.

We must also remember those who help Stuart out in the Nest Café and those who help produce the, much appreciated, Wednesday Volunteer lunch. They all contribute so much to the Centre.

If you are interested in volunteering in any aspect of The Ecology Centre, please contact Lee at Lee@theecologycentre.org

Have you been keeping up to date with our monthly Biodiversity Reports? Our volunteer, Dr Robert Mills, produces a fascinating monthly report which is published on our website. He discusses the flora and fauna around Kinghorn Loch as well as keeping us informed about his findings along the local coastline. Check out Dr Robert's reports if you get a chance.



Afternoon Tea

We are offering something new this winter – our Nest Café Afternoon Tea. This takes place on Saturday 20th November 12 noon – 2pm. A selection of yummy cakes, scones and sandwiches freshly made by Stuart in our Nest Café. Why not have a lovely winter walk by the Loch followed by this tasty treat. Booking is required via www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afternoon-tea-tickets-183560393077

Winter Events

As Autumn turns to Winter, we will have the return of two of our most popular workshops. The Mosaic Workshop, led by Jo Hobbett, takes place on Saturday 27th November and Wreath Making, led by Tricia Annand, is on Saturday 11th December. Get your creative hat on and make yourself something wonderful, or, make a special gift for a friend or loved one. Booking for these workshops can be found on our website Events section.

Christmas Market

If you fancy a more relaxed approach to your Christmas shopping this year, why not come along to our Christmas Market on Saturday 4th December. We will have a selection of stalls, from local artists to kids books and baking products, in our Den space. Once you have had some retail therapy what about a visit to our Nest Café for a Festive hot drink and a mince pie?

Toolshed @ The Ecology Centre

Just a wee reminder that we are still accepting donations of your old tools which will be refurbished by our tool shed volunteers.

Our Tool Library service is open to everyone. Membership costs £20 per year and you have access to an impressive selection of tools which can be borrowed and returned.

Please contact us at toolshed@theecologycentre.org if you would like to donate your old tools or join the Tool Library.

Keep in touch with our latest news at www.theecologycentre.org or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

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Burrtisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Burrtisland & Kinghorn have returned to face-to-face meetings at the Sands Hotel every Tuesday evening at 6.45 pm. These meetings are now flexible with the introduction of equipment which allows members who may have difficulty attending in person, to join the meeting fully on Zoom. This also allows for an unlimited access to interesting & relevant speaker presentations. For example, we have recently had presentations from V & A Museum, Dundee & an interesting talk regarding how Rotary functioned in Germany & Spain during WW2.

Whilst some community & fund-raising projects have been reduced due to Covid, in particular our actions with primary schools which, with luck, will restart soon. Many others are still in process & planning whilst the children's clothing bank New4U is very much operating throughout the area. We liaise with the Community Councils of both towns to establish any possible

projects, in particular environmental, which is now one of the fundamental pillars of Rotary throughout the world.

Naturally, the need to raise money to support our projects is high on our priority & the Ways & Means committee has a number of ideas to consider including a Curry & Comedy night similar to one a couple of years ago as well as a possible Strictly Come Dancing evening which might tempt a number of competitive couples & an audience.

As always, we are looking for new members who have an interest in areas of community assistance in all forms & who get great pleasure & fun being part of a local, national & international organisation. If interested contact Secretary Ros Moffat ros.moffat13@gmail.com or any Rotarian.



Derek Thomson



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Class 4



Class 7

St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church

As the nights fairly draw in we can look back on a summer of (mainly) blue skies and sunshine and an autumn of rich colour and hedgerow harvest.

At St Serf's our church year reflects this seasonal change and throughout September we particularly focused on God's Creation and ourselves as stewards of it. As you might imagine, we had to acknowledge that human beings are sadly lacking in the stewardship department.

We also realise that anything we can do, however small it may seem, can make a significant difference. So we are hoping to set up an eco-garden around St Serf's Church, with plants to attract pollinators, places for insects and bugs to hide for the winter and in the spring we hope to plant some vegetables among the flowers and invite local residents to come in and

sample the produce when the year moves round to harvest time again.

As you know, this November global leaders will meet in Glasgow at COP26 to discuss the climate change crisis. We will try to do our bit by recycling our waste and limiting our use of fossil fuels. None of us finds this



easy, particularly if it involves financial outlay as it all too often does but we can do our best.

We will also be praying that those who can influence what happens in the world will be guided by the principles of the Kingdom of God which put need before greed and creation before destruction.

Harvest is also a time to give thanks for God's gifts. At St Serf's we gave thanks for the gifts and talents God has given to each of us and to bring with us something that illustrated that gift to add to a display. It was an amazing and uplifting display. I wonder what you would have brought.

Enjoy all that the season brings and may God richly bless you as you use **your** gifts this autumn.



Rev. Carol Latimer

The Erskine Church

October 2012. That's when we first arrived in Burntisland. A lot has happened over these 9 years, certainly none of us could ever have anticipated the past 18 months of pandemic! Back then we hardly knew anyone, it was a lonely first Fife Christmas. Thankfully things have changed now...

October 2021. When you feel settled and at home somewhere, life is very different. People acknowledge and chat to you on the street, I know folks in all the churches and in many other parts of the community too. Lockdown isolated many of us, but emerging from restrictions now feels far more positive and hopeful when you have people to reconnect with. Making time for each other has never been more important, not least for our social well-being and mental health.

Here's our news. BEK (Burntisland Erskine & Kinghorn) Churches met for a service and conference at The Bay Hotel on 3rd October, we are edging towards a local covenant partnership which will allow us to work together more effectively in serving our communities. Exciting stuff!

Erskine has a Sunday service each week in-person at 11am. Our Monday Association meets weekly online at 7pm, a super group with a warm welcome. Get in touch if you'd like to join in!

The Bible says, "No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us" (1 John 4.12, NLT). Small acts of kindness or compassion, simple things done to help or connect with others, all of these show God's love and bring it to life.

Remembrance. There'll be a joint Remembrance service with Burntisland Parish in Erskine on Sunday 14th November. At the time of writing, it's clear that things will be scaled down in terms of uniformed organisations & actual numbers able to be present. It's also likely that some restrictions will apply to those attending. Normally we have the War Memorial service afterwards, but as yet no final decisions have been made about what's happening. 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the poppy as a powerful emblem for Remembrance back in 1921.

Christmas. We're hopeful that in-person services will be possible this year. Notably a first BEK community carols in Erskine on the evening of Sunday 19th December, followed by the welcome return of Erskine's legendary Watchnight service with bells to welcome the big day itself on the night of Friday 24th December.

We must remain tentative about confirming these arrangements as the virus still lurks around us & keeping folks safe is the main priority. Please keep an eye on the usual places for updates & more specific information nearer the time, including our Facebook page.



So as this year draws towards its close, let's be thankful & hopeful, gracious & tolerant, kind & compassionate. Surely all our communities benefit when we treat one another like that.

Rev. Alexander Ritchie

Burntisland Parish Church

I am looking forward to celebrating my first Christmas in Burntisland Parish Church as for the previous 7 Christmases I was ministering in Glenrothes: St Margaret's Parish Church. I am the new Locum Minister and I started in the middle of July.

While I have always enjoyed Christmas, I am aware that it can bring many added pressures for families to buy gifts on tight budgets. With the changes to Universal Credit and rising costs of energy, money may be tighter than ever. On top of this, there is that 'tinsel' expectation that everyone is feeling happy which can add to the stress. With families living at a distance, many folks can find it a lonely time of the year.

When you look at what happened on that very first Christmas, it

was actually a very simple and humble affair. A baby was born into poverty. The present giving of wise men came later in the new year.

ALTERnativity is a Christian charity that encourages churches and communities to simplify Christmas. You can find out more about ALTERnativity at www.alternativity.org.uk.

Although Christmas has become associated with present giving, Christmas is really a festival to remember that very first Christmas when God sent a message to humankind. We are used to receiving



(continued on page 19)

messages on our mobile phones that we can delete after we have read them. This message cannot be deleted: the son of God was born into a world full of conflict and strife, as a living message of love and peace to YOU and me.

Would you like to have a simpler Christmas this year? If so, ALTErnativity recommends that we do the following:

- Resist the pressure to over-spend
- Be concerned for those who find themselves in poverty
- Re-ignite enthusiasm for great celebrations
- Rediscover the Christmas story

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas. P.S. Here are details of the Christians against Poverty who offer debt support

www.capuk.org/scotland

www.facebook.com/CAPScotland

Service of reflection, Sunday 21 November at 3pm

In this season of Remembrance, there will be an opportunity for those who have lost family and friends during the pandemic to join a short service of Reflection at Burntisland Parish Church hall on Sunday 21 November at 3pm. This short, reflective gathering is a way to remember loved ones who have died.

For many families who were bereaved during March 2020 onwards, the number of people who could attend funeral services was very restricted because of Covid which meant that not everyone who wanted to attend to pay their respect could attend.

If this is something that would be helpful to you, you are welcome to join us. There will be refreshments served after the Service of Reflection.

Rev Eileen Miller

St Joseph's Church

We are still taking cautious steps here in St Joseph's as we learn to live with our changed circumstances. Many people are returning to Sunday worship, but clearly some are still a bit hesitant about being in a confined space with lots of other people. We are doing our best to keep everyone as safe as possible with sanitiser, face coverings, ventilation and cleaning.

We have resumed the serving of teas and coffees after Thursday morning Mass and we hope to resume Sunday teas soon. Fr James celebrated a birthday with a '0' and we had a lovely, joyful celebration in the Church Hall. It was good to be able to gather socially after such a long time – this is something many have missed.

One challenge for the year ahead is to support our younger parishioners who have missed out on their celebration of the various Sacraments. We will do our best to help them and their parents prepare for these important occasions in their lives. November is a time for Remembrance and we will once again, with the help of the Knit and Knatter group, decorate the cross



outside the Church with knitted poppies. We also look forward to sharing in the Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, always a very emotional and moving occasion.

Fr James will be installed as a Canon of the Metropolitan Chapter at St Mary's RC Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Tuesday 14th December and we hope to run a bus for anyone who wishes to attend. And then it's Christmas, coming around all too soon....

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our Christmas Services. On Christmas Eve there will be Carols at 5.30pm, followed by Mass at 6.00pm, and then on Christmas Day Mass will be at 10.00am. As Christmas Day falls on a Saturday this year, there will be no Vigil Mass of the Sunday that evening. Mass will be on Sunday at 10.00am. If circumstances change these arrangements might also change, so please check the Newsletter on our parish website www.stjosephsburntisland.co.uk nearer the time.

Please continue to keep safe and take care and wishing you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas when it comes and every blessing in the New Year ahead.

Father James



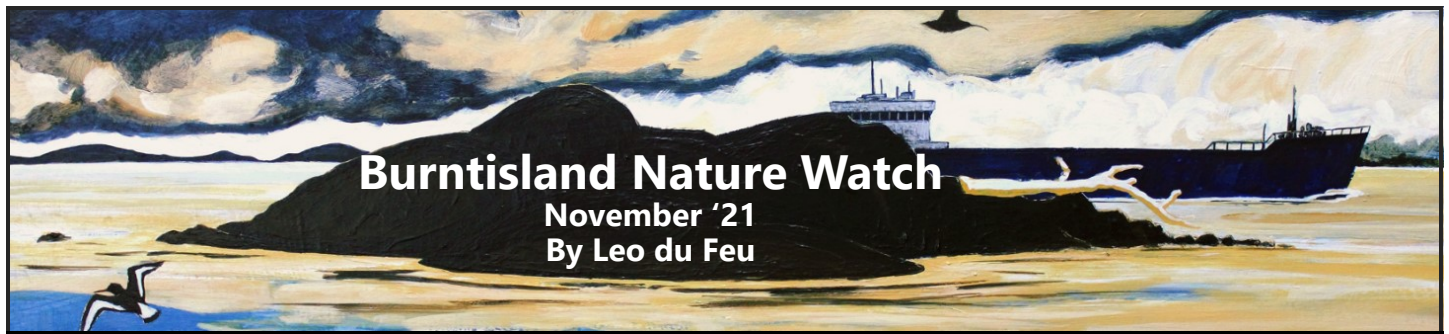
Burntisland Churches Welcome You to Join Us in Celebrating Christmas

- **27th Nov- Messy Advent Online** "Messy Church Burntisland and Kinghorn Facebook Page" Starting Sat 27th Nov and running daily through Dec. up to Christmas. **All Welcome.**
- **17th Dec- Live Nativity @ Rectory St Columba's Church, Aberdour, Fri 6pm**
Family Service with Carols and Christmas treats. **All Welcome.**
- **19th Dec- BEK Community Carol Service, Erskine Church, Sun 6:15pm**
- **24th Dec- Crib Service at St Columba's Church, Aberdour Fri 3:00pm.**
This is a fun family service to focus on the meaning of Christmas.
- **24th Dec- Christmas Eve Services, touch the real heart of Christmas. Fri.**
St. Joseph's Church, Carols at 5.30pm followed by Family Mass at 6pm.
Parish Church, Candlelit Christmas Eve Service, 7pm.
St. Serf's Church, Christmas Eve Eucharist, 7pm.
Erskine Church, Watchnight Service, 11.15pm.
- **25th Dec- Christmas Day Service, Come and Celebrate the Birth of Jesus. Sat.**
St. Joseph's Church, Christmas Mass 10am.
St Serf's Church, Christmas Day Service, 10am.
Parish Church Service, Short Christmas Day Service 10.30am.



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Autumn is one of my favourite three seasons, probably my favourite of all. I'm enjoying it in our garden on a damp aired October afternoon. It isn't a large garden but it's well packed. The mixed native hedging I planted seven years ago is at its fruiting peak – the yellow Cherry Plums were finished a month or two ago but everything else is ripe now, some for us, most for the birds. There are clusters of orangey red Rowan berries, the strange lumpy pink fruits of Spindle which by now have split to reveal dangling orange seeds inside, the berries of Guelder Rose like miniature glaze cherries, a few fleshy red Yew 'berries', a Hazelnut (yes, just a single Hazelnut but the first we've ever had), perhaps a hundred dark purple fruit of Blackthorn – Sloes, for making Sloe gin.

Our Apple - variety Greensleeves, extremely juicy sweet if left on tree or shelf to fully ripen - is heavily covered as every year. The self-seeded Blackberries which I train along south facing house wall and north facing garden wall are big, lush, and go on and on and on. The autumn Raspberries are the same.

There are autumn flowers for insects though not nearly enough, that's something I need to work on. I do have treasure chests of Cyclamen under the hedge, jewels of purples and pinks and white, small delicate types as I've seen in woodland carpets in Italy, not the big flouncy ones of some Council plantings. Ivy flowers are starting to open, the very best late nectar source.

The garden is alive with activity – Hoverflies, Spiders, Snails, Slugs, resident and visiting Hedgehogs (please please PLEASE stop fake-grassing, paving, strimming and hedge-chopping-down-to-replace-with-fencing!), Pond snails and

Ramshorns in the pond (where else). A noisy chirping of House sparrows in the Ivy, in a nearby Elder and in tall Privet hedging. The Sparrows splash in the birdbath and cling like Spiderman to sandstone walls for grit and minerals from the mortar. Robins are singing their squeeze-box songs, wistful but in a good way, holding a territory all winter until spring. Three Wrens were in the Lilac, a rare visitor here. Even less expected, a Grey Wagtail (grey on top but what a bright yellow tummy) sat a moment on a gutter, gave a distinctive chirp then up over the slates and away.

Starlings whistle and whirr from gutters and eaves and flit down to bird bath or feeders. Woodpigeons are always about, you get a great shock when one frights out from the hedge a foot above your head. Up in the chimney pots are Jackdaws, such companionable sounds as they chatter with those in the neighbouring pots. Pink-footed and Greylag geese are back in our skies and - best 'til last - last Wednesday that is, 6th October, I was out bringing in the washing when I heard my first Redwing of the year. A single 'tseep' from up in the dark. It must have been a really early one, I haven't yet heard another. They migrate at night and call as they do so. You can hear that sound many nights as they come here from colder Iceland, Scandinavia, Russia.

Across the lane in the larger gardens two mature Rowans are stunning. Thousands of berry clusters glow against hundreds of dark branches radiating from a main low trunk. Three Collared doves seem almost white set in front of those dark branches and charm of Goldfinches flickers in the uppermost twigs. These Rowans had their own mighty backdrop before two huge

conifers were felled a few years ago, ending the mini murmur of several hundred Starlings which treated us all on autumn afternoons. Sometimes in the night a Tawny owl hooted from the branches.



The bird of prey which does still visit is the Sparrowhawk. It's mostly luck as to whether you see one but up your chances by quickly searching the sky the moment you hear a sudden commotion of lots of local birds. They're likely chasing a Sparrowhawk and you might see it skim down over rooftops to garden cover, or soar away to seek a meal or peace somewhere else. On a day of constant drizzle back in August we were enjoying cosy time inside when suddenly there was a Sparrowhawk perched hunch-shouldered on a garden arch. Feathers fluffed, neck tucked it looked a different bird to the slender, head-up hawk I naturally imagine. The yellow of eye ring and taloned feet were the only dashes of colour in that drenched scene. It took me the first minute to decide it might be staying long enough to rush for binoculars, three or four after that to decide it might be worth dashing for a paper and pen. I got two or three minutes of sketching before it flew.

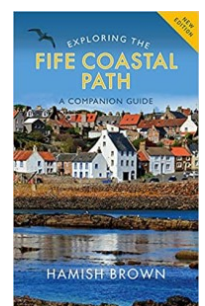
New Book For Fife

Burntisland author and photographer Hamish brown walked the Fife Coastal path during 2020 and his efforts are now seen in a knowledgeable, entertaining and well-illustrated guidebook –

EXPLORING THE FIFE COASTAL PATH, A COMPANION GUIDE (£15)

This book covers the whole coastline from Kincardine to Newburgh and describes everything of interest in the towns as well as the coastal areas, appealing to all. It also contains details for climbing the Binn, Largo Law and Norman's Law, visiting May Island and the Chain Walk.

Copies are available from any bookshop (Waterstones in Kirkcaldy) or, if local, ring 873546 and arrange the purchase of an autographed copy from Hamish himself.



Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

Last year we invited local author, Hamish Brown, to become the first Patron of the Trust, which he happily accepted. However, it was not until recently that we could meet up to celebrate the honour. Alasdair MacIver, as Chair, gave a short presentation acknowledging Hamish's work, his travel and walking books and his many environmental interests, including the planting of many thousands of snowdrops in the area over many years. Hamish was presented with a gift of a brass statue of a wren, mounted on a wooden plinth.

We went on to discuss our new projects. The project to widen the sluice bridge at Kinghorn Loch will be completed very soon. This improvement will allow disabled buggies, families with buggies and cyclists to cross the burn safely and with ease. We are also going to construct a fishing station for disabled anglers near the sluice. This will be undertaken with help from Alcan, owners of the loch, and advice from the Scottish Carp Group.



At the Burntisland end of our "patch", we are working with Alcan to make a new and improved path from opposite Burntisland Golf Club up through the woodland to the Binn Village. A possible route, giving a disabled and family friendly path, had been surveyed in winter, but, during the summer, it became clear that the high growth of bracken could disrupt any path and potentially invite health problems with ticks, so the route will need to be reconsidered this autumn. If you would like to help with our projects or on our workdays, please get in touch by email info@craigencalttrust.org.uk or phone 07740999514.

It is good to report that Trust activities are returning to normal, and we held our annual BBQ in September. The Trust photo competition was won this year by Paul Williams, one of our local bird watchers with a beautiful photo of an autumnal fieldfare.



The Walking Group has now been back in action for six months and the weather has been excellent for most walks. In June we were able to take part in the Burntisland Civic Week and led a walk along the beach to Kinghorn with an inland return.

Kinghorn Loch is busy once again with the canoe club holding twice weekly sessions, though activities are confined to weekends during winter. The radio controlled sailing boats can be seen on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The coastal rowers will be returning to the loch in October so they can keep fit with some winter training. It is good to see these groups back in action once more. Kinghorn Loch has an abundant balance of wildlife and Alcan are keen for this to be protected, while keeping a welcome for water sports. Notices are be erected showing wildlife conservation zones where water sports use is restricted.

Marilyn Edwards

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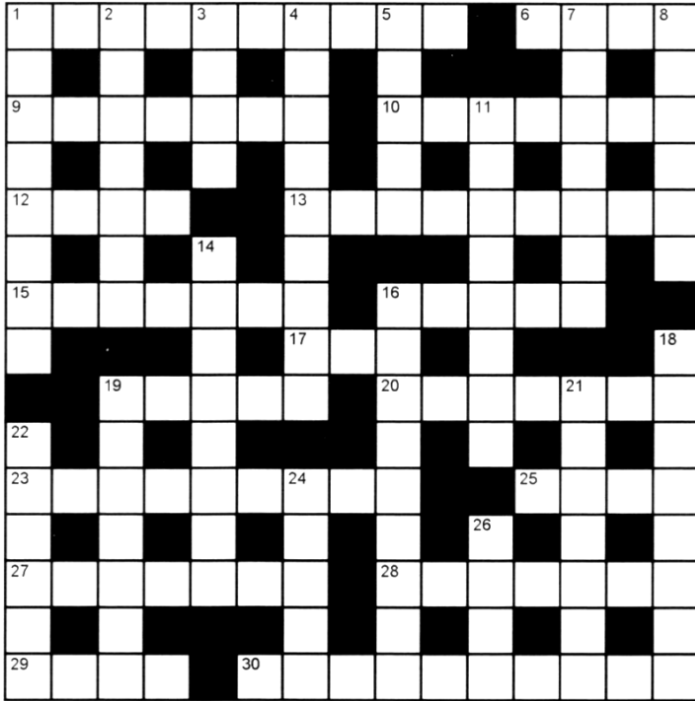
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THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Minor misdeed (10)
6. Second hand (4)
9. Surviving fragment (7)
10. Merry (7)
12. Poems (4)
13. Looking for plunder (9)
15. Take out (7)
16. Scandinavian (5)
17. Flightless bird (3)
19. Attempted (5)
20. Light soft roll (7)
23. Small breed of dog (9)
25. Jupiter (4)
27. Paint solvent (7)
28. First (7)
29. Fifty percent (4)
30. Comprehended (10)

DOWN

1. Forgiven (8)
2. Remark (7)
3. Partly open (4)
4. Hinted (9)
5. German pistol (5)
7. Be enough (7)
8. Flood (6)
11. Brandy (3-2-3)
14. Not saying much (8)
16. Undersea vessel (9)
18. Disclosed (8)
19. Petty (7)
21. Spanish sausage (7)
22. Whisky (6)
24. One of the Great Lakes (5)
26. Prejudice (4)

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Completed entries by 31st December 2021 to:

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

First correct entry drawn wins £40 in vouchers kindly donated by Shell UK Ltd. Solution will appear in the next Burgh Buzz issue.

August Crossword Solution

Across 1 Afterwards, 6 Beam, 9 Morocco, 10 Beijing, 12 Noon, 13 Tarantula, 15 Sultana, 16 Verge, 17 Coo, 19 Cadge, 20 Conceal, 23 Personnel, 25 Eton, 27 Deepest, 28 Silence, 29 Sett, 30 Physicians.

Down: 1 Admonish, 2 Turmoil, 3 Rich, 4 About face, 5 Debar, 7 Epicure, 8 Magyar, 11 Ignorant, 14 Handsome, 16 Vocalists, 18 Flunkeys, 19 Correct, 21 Estonia, 22 Spades, 24 Notch, 26 Bloc.

August Crossword Winner:

Mr E Lazmirski, Ayton Crescent, Burntisland.

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