

BURGH BUZZ



Burrtisland's Free Community Magazine

Previous issues at www.burghbuzz.org.uk

February 2025

Issue No 91

2025 Community Award Winners

The recipient of this year's Individual award is **Colin Blackwood**. This award is in recognition of the support and dedication given over several years to coaching youngsters in the skills of golf in the town. Colin has revitalised Burrtisland Golf House Club's Juniors section and it is now thriving with a substantial membership.

A keen social golfer, over the last few years Colin has worked hard to ensure that local youngsters can easily access the game of golf.

All local children are welcome to come and learn for a small fee – there is no need for their parents to have any other connection to golf. Once they are ready to play on the course, Junior memberships are available at reasonable rates.

As well as attending coaching sessions, Colin organises regular Junior competitions, tournaments, and liaises with other Junior clubs. Colin has been described as "a modest man who is kind and good with young people, and volunteers because he believes opportunities to golf should be available to everyone."



The Group winner is the **Burrtisland & Kinghorn Foodbank**. This award is in recognition of the volunteers who, in a very short time, set up, organised, and began operating our new local Foodbank. They ensured that service users did not suffer any interruption in this vital community service.

Kirkcaldy Foodbank was set up in 2013 and after a few years expanded to cover Burrtisland and Kinghorn. The Foodbank in Burrtisland was originally based in the High Street but moved a few years ago to the Salvation Army Hall in Lonsdale Crescent, and is open to service users regularly on Tuesdays and Fridays.

With increasing pressure on its resources, Kirkcaldy Foodbank made the difficult decision in January 2024 that it was no longer able to support the foodbank in Burrtisland, and it would withdraw its support in July.

This threat to our local Foodbank service drew an immediate response from our community. Existing and new volunteers quickly rallied together. A community meeting was held in February and volunteers signed up to set up a new independent community Foodbank.

Initial banking support was provided by Burrtisland and Kinghorn Church until the

new charity could be set up. In a very short time, volunteers, administration, funding by one-off and regular donations, and all the practicalities of storage and operating systems were in place. This enabled the new Foodbank to run from the same premises in the Salvation Army Hall and on the same days with no break in service to its users.

In December the new Foodbank also ran a new 'reverse Advent' Christmas gift system and worked with Central Burrtisland Tenants and Residents Association and others to support the delivery of food parcels on Christmas Eve to those in need.



If you would like to support Burrtisland and Kinghorn Foodbank in their vital work, please check out their website: www.bkfoodbank.org.uk

Both winners will be presented with their awards at a reception prior to February's Community Council meeting.

Burrtisland's Historic Church—what is the future?

The Church of Scotland's General Trustees propose that the 16th-century Burrtisland Church be sold at market value by the end of 2027. The church will be just one of many up for sale in Scotland but arguably it is one of the most important, with a special place in the nation's social and church history.

So what does the future hold for this unique and nationally important heritage asset?

A small working group, consisting mainly of members of Burrtisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland, is seeking answers. Their first choice is that the building be taken into state care, i.e. transferred to ownership of Historic Environment Scotland (HES). This would ensure its long-term maintenance and keep it accessible to everyone as a heritage asset. Perhaps it could still be used for special services e.g. weddings.



However, with HES limited in resources and many church buildings likely to 'flood the market', the General Trustees do not believe that HES will agree to take on Burrtisland Church. Instead, they believe that the church can be taken into community ownership.

Can a community group look after such an important old building in perpetuity? It would need long-term funding and a business plan. How could income be

generated to secure this without destroying the very heritage features that make the building so special?

Without a solution to these issues there is a risk that either the Grade A listed building is sold privately and general access to this unique heritage asset is lost, or worse, it becomes derelict and ruinous.

If you are interested in this unique church building and want it saved for the nation, please attend a community meeting to be held in the Burrtisland Church in East Leven Street (top of Kirkgate) **on Sunday 23rd February at 12.30pm**. This takes place immediately after the morning service.

This church has served its community well. Now it needs the community to save it for future generations.

BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

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From the Editor

Happy New Year and best wishes for the 12 months ahead, hopefully everyone is safe after Storm Éowyn.

Apologies for the missing issues, but it is good to be back and continuing with the Buzz.

As is traditional, the first issue of the year covers the annual Community Award. Well done to both Colin Blackwood and all of the volunteers at the Foodbank on being recognised for their contributions to the community.

Looking back, it was fantastic to see the return of the Bonfire and Fireworks, well done to the committee for all their hard work to put on a tremendous show, making it a busy town. The contributions from the public also helped immensely to offset the increases costs.

This event and others like it cannot take place without volunteers—if you feel you can offer your time or expertise then one of the many community organisations in the town will no doubt welcome the support.

Did you know there is an Edwardian Summer Fair exhibition and museum (pictured below) upstairs above the Library?

The Heritage Trust's article on page 13 makes the case for using the space to host the working model railway of Burntisland Harbour in 1883. Having seen it operating when exhibited in the Parish Church halls, it would be great for it to find a permanent home somewhere in the town.

Michael Booth, Editor



Join the Burgh Buzz team

The Buzz is looking for new members of the team to ensure the publication can continue to be published every three months:

Advertising coordinator—duties include liaising with regular advertisers, processing new advertising enquiries, and issuing invoices following the publication and distribution of the printed copy each quarter.

Distribution coordinator—responsibilities include maintaining the network of volunteer deliverers and communicating with them ahead of each issue every three months. Taking receipt of the 3,600 printed copies and packaging them into bundles for each delivery area, then arranging distribution to individual deliverers.

Editorial committee—assisting with stories and local news content, proofreading the draft.

If you feel you are able to help in any way, please get in touch with the Editor.

Your Community Council

Burntisland Community Council (BCC) is elected every four years to ascertain, coordinate and express to local and public authorities, the views of the community which it represents and to carry out other functions in the interests of the community.

Chair: vacant
Vice Chair: Jim Sheridan
Treasurer: Carol McLeod
Secretary: Anne Smith

Members:

Gemma Craigie-Sharland
Tim Hailey **Jonna Lange**
Ken Littlemore **Alex MacDonald**
Isla MacDonald **Kizzy Waplington**

Contacts:

Secretary — Anne Smith
burntislandcc@outlook.com / 07545 993235

Address — c/o Alex MacDonald
 1 Craig Court, Burntisland, KY3 0AT

www.burntislandcc.org.uk

www.facebook.com/BurntislandCC

Elected Fife Councillors' Availability

Ward 9: Burntisland, Kinghorn & Western Kirkcaldy

Councillor Lesley Backhouse

Telephone: 07540 677081

Email: Cllr.Lesley.Backhouse@fife.gov.uk

Lesley is happy to meet with constituents at a time to suit them (except Sunday or Monday), contact via text/email.

In-person surgeries will be held in the Parish Church Halls on Wednesday 5th March, 2nd April & 7th May from 12–1pm.

Councillor Kathleen Leslie

Telephone: 07714 778906

Email: Cllr.Kathleen.Leslie@fife.gov.uk

Kathleen is happy to arrange set appointments with constituents.

Councillor Julie MacDougall

Telephone: 03451 555 555 ext. 474496

Email: Cllr.Julie.MacDougall@fife.gov.uk

Julie is happy for constituents to contact her on the above number or email to arrange a one to one appointment.

Community Council Bullets.....

The Community Council holds its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7pm in the Burgh Chambers on the High Street. **Dates for the next meetings are: Tuesday 18th February, 18th March, and 15th April.**

Members of the public are welcome to attend or to raise matters of interest to them. If possible, please email items you'd like discussed to the Secretary a week before the meeting so they can be more easily accommodated in the agenda.

As there is no step-free access to the venue, meetings are also available to join using Zoom videoconferencing—please contact the Secretary if you wish to join online via Zoom.

A summary of issues discussed during recent meetings is set out below. Full minutes can also be found on the Community Council website.

- Alex MacDonald stepped down as Chair of the Community Council at the end of 2024. He continues as a Community Councillor, and we are grateful for his long experience and many years of effective and polite chairmanship.
- The Burntisland Local Place Plan (LPP) was submitted to Fife Council in summer 2024 and validated by the Council. The LPP concentrates on land use and will inform the new Fife Local Development Plan (LDP), due in 2027.
- The Community Action Plan and LPP were joint efforts by the Community Council and Burntisland Community Development Trust. Much progress has already been made and outstanding priorities include:
 - Rail station access: We met twice with MP Melanie Ward, who promises she is working hard on the issues.
 - Public access at the docks: Burntisland Harbour Access Trust is pursuing this issue with Forth Ports and Fife Council.
 - Links splash pad replacement: The Community Council, all three local Fife Councillors, and MSP David Torrance are pursuing this with Fife Council. We have the support of a 204-signature petition from the Primary School Parent Council. A decision is expected by the end of February.
 - Community Emergency Plan: We recently reviewed the CEP, and this will be finalised at the February Community Council meeting. This is part of a Community Resilience strategy.
 - Summer fair: We are arranging a 'wash-up' meeting with members of the Scottish Showmen's Guild and Fife Council. Lessons learned will inform planning for the 2025 summer fair.
 - Fife Historic Buildings Trust have refreshed the feasibility study for refurbishment of Burntisland Burgh Chambers. The report is with Fife Council who will decide any action.
 - Cash Access UK wish to renovate the ground floor office of the Burgh Chambers to provide a banking hub. They will temporarily use an alternative site with a planned opening in February.
 - Other issues still being pursued include flooding, coastal protection and seawalls, car parking capacity, and road safety/active travel. We are liaising with Scottish Water, Network Rail, and Fife Council. We are grateful for support from our local Fife Councillors.
- Isa Duncanson, our very first Burntisland Community Award Winner in 1981, recently passed away at the age of 95. We offer our sincere condolences to all her family and friends. Isa was well known in the town as a teacher of highland dancing to generations of children and for many years Secretary of the Highland Games. She was also a Burntisland town councillor and JP (Justice of the Peace).

Black Rocks Rowing Club



We are afloat! In May 2024 we launched our beautiful St Ayles skiff, named Irene, before going on to enjoy a rather successful first year on the water. Despite some fairly challenging conditions in our first few weeks (you'll probably remember the disappointing, windy summer weather we had) we managed over 30 rows by the end of the year.

Many of our rows were simply 'social', one even saw us landing Irene onto Silver Sands beach before heading off for a well earned coffee at Sands by the Sea! That said, a team did also train for, and compete in our first race. We entered the Castle to Crane event—a 13 mile row on the Clyde from Dumbarton to the middle of Glasgow. We were pleased to be placed 9th out of the 21 skiffs competing—not bad for a first effort!

Our membership has grown slowly but steadily since our launch and now that we're actually a little more established, we are more keen than ever to attract new members. So, if you're interested in joining us at Black Rocks Rowing Club, please get in touch. Of course, we understand that you may prefer to experience rowing before committing and, if that is the case, we would encourage you to sign up for a number of 'come and try' sessions.



To make contact with the club, visit our website: www.burntislandrowing.org.uk

There, you'll not only find a lot of information about our wee club and its backstory, but also further information about the wider Scottish coastal rowing community. To get in touch, please click the 'Contact' tab on the menu at the top of any page. Once you make that initial contact, we will get back to you as soon as we can to arrange your first 'come and try' rowing session.

You may also be interested in our FAQ section where we are collecting together all the questions we asked when we each started rowing. We hope these will answer some of your initial questions and allay any doubts you may have. We very much look forward to lots of enquiries coming our way!

Don't be put off getting in touch because rowing is something that is new to you. We were all new to rowing at some point, and we were all well looked after and supported as we learnt the ropes!

Further, be absolutely assured that your safety is very much our priority. As a new rower you will always have at least two experienced rowers in the boat – as well as a cox who always has our safety as their top priority. Our boat, Irene, is a St Ayles skiff which is crewed by a cox, four rowers and also has room for an extra person who can swap in as required. You need no specialist clothing/gear at all - other than a lifejacket - and we have plenty of them for everyone who will be in the boat.

We very much look forward to hearing from you

Douglas Young, Chair



Burntisland First Aid Services Trust



We're breathing new life into the west end of the High Street. After three years of negotiation, fundraising and legal complexities we have bought the former police station and have now converted it into a first aid training and resource centre.

It's not a trivial task. We've opened up training and social space on the ground floor, to make it both accessible and welcoming. That means a lot of structural work as well as electrical and heating upgrades and then painting. We've been careful throughout to ensure sustainability wherever possible. From roof insulation to environmental improvement and LED lighting, we're doing what we can to follow green principles. Already we are re-using surplus furniture kindly donated by GoFibre and ExxonMobil.

It means we can schedule public first aid courses much more regularly, instead of waiting for clients to come to us. It also means that for the first time we can hold all of our emergency materials, event kits and training resources in one place.

There are wider benefits also. Police Scotland are leasing back one office, so that they now have a base in Burntisland for their occasional use. We will also host the new banking hub until the longer-term solution is ready in October / November. Other organisations and community groups have also expressed interest in leasing or renting part of the property.



As far as possible we've placed the upgrade business with local companies, via RM-PM as our main contractor.

It's been a financial challenge. Apart from our own contribution, we were very pleased to receive support from 11 different funders, all helping to stimulate the local economy and ensure that the overall project would be viable. Nevertheless, holding to a very fixed budget has been both essential and difficult.

All of that has to be done alongside our regular work. In February alone we will be attending five late-night events in Fife, with up to 2,000 participants; we'll teach essential life-saving skills to vulnerable young people; and we'll run an open 1-day course in Emergency First Aid at Work.

In the year ahead we have events in our diary up to November, some of which are up to 60 miles away. Locally, thanks to a very generous donation from Burntisland Youth Theatre, we've been able to replace the oldest of our public-access defibrillators.

So, it's a very busy time. We always welcome enquiries, whether about courses or volunteering, via www.bfast.org.uk or alex_mac@btinternet.com.

Alex MacDonald,

Chairman, BFAST

Scottish registered charity SC035248



Scots Verse Competition



The annual Scots Verse competition began in 1986 to mark the 700th anniversary of King Alexander III's death. Each year children from Primary 1–6 take part on St Andrew's Day, with pupils judged at the school.

In December, the winners headed off to the Burgh Chambers for a reception hosted by the Community Council. This was a wonderful evening of reciting Scots poetry, learning about the history of the trophies and socialising over a very lovely buffet.

- P1, Marshall Memorial Trophy: Rumi Shields
- P2, Macdonald Memorial Trophy: Arlo Pinkman
- P3, MacDougall Memorial Trophy: Lucas McBride
- P4, Gilbertson Memorial Trophy: Matthew Dow
- P5, Horn Memorial Trophy: Heather McDowall
- P6, Kerr Memorial Trophy: Isla Kerr

Alex MacDonald, Community Council

Burntisland Over 70s Christmas Treat

The annual Over 70s Christmas Treat event was held at The Kingswood Hotel on Saturday 7th December.

As always, this was very well attended with almost 120 local residents enjoying a three course meal, fantastic entertainment from Kirk James and even a visit from Santa Claus who took time out from his busy December schedule to hand out some gifts!

The committee would like to extend their thanks to the many individuals and businesses for their donations, including: Briggs, The Star, Tom Courts, Hancocks Bingo, Wildbells, The Olive Tree, Gooz, Romano's, Unique Flooring, Poison, Travel Island, Novelli's, and Burger Island.

Many thanks also to the Kingswood staff and everyone who supported this event throughout the year with their attendance at fundraisers. It really means a lot.



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The Big GREEN Market Burntisland

It was a year to remember for Burntisland's Big Green Market, and there's so much to look forward to in 2025!

2024 started with a wonderful surprise when the Community Council awarded our team of 50+ volunteers Burntisland's Community Group of the Year. The market even received a mention in Parliament—quite an achievement for a project that began with just a handful of people and a £90 float back in 2021!

The past year brought exciting changes, with BGM becoming an independent Community Interest Company after three years under the Burntisland Community Development Trust. This move opens up new possibilities for funding and community projects.

We were nervous when we first started the BGM. We wondered if anybody would be interested in our market, or if there would be enough stock. Last year's numbers speak for themselves: £15,000 raised throughout 2024, including three record-breaking markets, each bringing in over £1,300. That brings the total to more than £50,000 since we opened our doors.

None of this would be possible without our amazing volunteers who show up every month to sort donations, set up and unpack, and keep everyone flowing through—grabbing bargains as they go.

After a well-deserved break, the regular market returned on 31st January/1st February and continues monthly throughout the year on Fridays 12-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. We're also planning more Repair Cafes and workshops, with the date for the next one provisionally set as Saturday 22nd March 10am-12.30pm.

If you want to stay in the loop scan the QR code below to join the mailing list for dates and details. eepurl.com/iUgCXQ

Want to Get Involved? If you have good-quality pre-loved items to donate (no CDs, DVDs or underwear, please!) or would like to join our volunteer team, pop in during market hours or email us at BigGreenMarket.Burntisland@gmail.com

Cut out this graphic on the left and stick it to your fridge so you don't miss a market date this year!

Keep up with all our news and updates on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BurntislandGreenMarket.



SCAN THIS CODE ON YOUR CAMERA APP & JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Feb - 31	Jan/1 Feb	Jul - 4/5	July
March - 28	Feb/1 Mar	Aug - 1/2	Aug
April - 4/5	April	Sept - 5/6	Sept
May - 2/3	May	Oct - 3/4	Oct
June - 6/7	June	Nov - 31	Oct/1 Nov
		Dec - 5/6	Dec

THE BIG GREEN MARKET

FRIDAYS: 12-4. SATURDAYS: 10-1
PARISH CHURCH HALLS, BURNTISLAND



BURNTISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Live in Burntisland and want to make a difference?

What a fantastic buzz at Burntisland Community Development Trust's first community conversation, which was held before the AGM on 28th January. Members chatted enthusiastically about their ambitions for the town and some even put their names in the frame, to look at how to make things happen!

Look out for more of the same! The Trust aims to serve the needs of everyone in Burntisland and is keen to connect with the local

community and support people to take action on the things that matter to them.

We are also looking for new trustees who are willing to bring their skills and talents to help the trust survive and thrive as we review our past work, celebrate present achievements and look to the future. It's an exciting time to join us!

If you are open minded and keen to learn and have time to help please get in touch. Skills in bookkeeping, committees, social media and communications all welcome but training and support is available so you don't need to be an expert!

For an informal chat or to find out more, contact: **Jane Searles**, phone: 07900 175403 or email: Jane.Searles@thrivinginfife.uk

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COSY KINGDOM

With the end of Winter in sight you may have had enough of high energy bills, drafts and a cold home. It's now a really good time to think about ways to make your home warmer, save energy and reduce your carbon footprint.

Cosy Kingdom is a free and impartial energy advice service that is available to anyone living in Fife. We offer help with areas including energy tariffs and fuel

debt, dampness, draughts and ventilation. If you're struggling with your bills, we can help you find out if you are eligible for further support and point you in the right direction.

Through our Climate Friendly Homes project, part of Climate Action Fife, Cosy Kingdom advisors can also offer advice on lowering your home's carbon footprint, for example by installing insulation or fitting solar panels to your roof.

Our friendly and experienced energy advisors can visit you in the comfort of

your own home or provide advice by telephone. We can help you find practical and affordable ways to stay warm, manage your energy bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

Whether you want help to stay warm in winter or advice on reducing the carbon footprint of your home, please get in touch. Call **01592 807930** (Mon–Fri, 10am to 3pm), text COSY then YOUR NAME to 88440 or email info@cosykingdom.org.uk

Michael Hildrew, Energy Advice Team Leader, Cosy Kingdom

The Music Hall

As a committee we continue to work on creating the Music Hall website to improve our booking system which is currently not working too well.

Part of the website is a short history of the hall from being gifted to the people of Burntisland until the present day. If anyone can remember anything from before 1970

we would like to hear from them. Old photos would be brilliant. Please contact us through our Facebook page if possible.

Work to render the hall watertight is still ongoing but we are getting there slowly and it is already looking a bit better.

We are currently working on a design and business plan for presentation to funding agents to bring the hall right up to date with modern facilities while retaining the character and history of the building as a

music and entertainment venue.

This involves returning the front door to its original position, utilising the lower basement space, stage lighting and sound, heating and ventilation, as well as addressing the fire exit issues. The hope is to get the hall back to being a flexible space for all to use and enjoy for years to come.

Archie Higgins, Chair, Music Hall Management Committee

Burntisland & Kinghorn Foodbank



The time has flown by, and it's been 6 months since we launched our Burntisland & Kinghorn foodbank.

Despite the challenges we faced, we were able to thrive, thanks to the incredible support of our community. We provided over 900 food parcels to individuals, couples, and families in need.

Each month, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of local businesses and community groups who embraced our cause and fundraised tirelessly on our behalf. This includes Burntisland & Kinghorn Church Teas, Iona Community Family Group, Kinghorn collection tins, Big Green Market, Burntisland & Kinghorn Church carol singing, Trang Murray at Not Just Travel, Steven Marr at SM Autos, Auld Hoose Open Mic Music, Ralph and Hazel Watson at Time for You, and Kathryn Henderson and the Burntisland Acoustic Music Club.

That's why we'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has thought of us. Your donations are what enable us to provide the vital support we do.

We were delighted to learn that the Foodbank was nominated and then chosen as the Group winner of the Burntisland Community Award. The council noted the difficult circumstances of our creation and the continuity of support to vulnerable people in our community.

We want to recognise all our volunteers who have been such a critical part of this continuity, and the wonderful generosity of the communities of Burntisland, Kinghorn and Aberdour who stepped up so quickly to support the Foodbank in its new form.

The BK Foodbank would now like to invite you to become a Member. Having a strong membership base is important, as it helps ensure the Foodbank is accountable to the community it serves. Members advise on how the Foodbank should operate, helping to set our priorities and actions.

Anyone over 16 who supports our charitable aims and lives in Burntisland, Kinghorn, or the surrounding areas can apply. We'd especially welcome those with experience of using a foodbank, or expertise in areas like nutrition, fundraising, or working with our client base. If you'd like to become a member, please complete the application form at www.bkfoodbank.org.uk/member

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The Burgh Polis



Welcome to the latest edition of Burgh Polis—I believe that it has been a few editions since there was any sort of input from us, so I was keen to rectify that.

I would like to introduce myself as **PC Ross Paterson**, working alongside **PC Stuart Horne** who will likely be well known to many in the town. I joined Stuart towards the end of June 2024, having previously being briefly deployed in Burntisland back in 2014. When the opportunity arose to rejoin the community policing team covering Burntisland, Kinghorn and Auchtertool, I jumped at the opportunity, and I am thoroughly enjoying it.

I hope that nobody was seriously impacted by Storm Éowyn, remained safe and hopefully the clean-up operation will be a quick one. I can assure you that the High Street was not a pleasant place to be on the Friday afternoon as the roof came off the flats on Lothian Street. Stuart and I were exposed to the elements while debris flew all around us and the storm raged.

Since joining Stuart, we have been made aware of several places where anti-social behaviour was prevalent, particularly on the High Street and the Beacon Leisure Centre, quick decisive action meant the issues were resolved quickly. With regards to anti-social behaviour, we ask for the assistance from parents to ensure that they know of their young people's whereabouts and encourage them to avoid behaving in an anti-social manner when out and about.

We have also been focusing our attentions on other local issues such as several speed sites around the area, we have attended Burntisland Nursery and gave inputs to the children about people who keep them safe in the community.

We are also keen to hear from all residents who have any issues that they would like us to address or even just stop us in the street for a chat.

As many of you will be aware we have been very lucky in provided a room in the old police station which will hopefully be ready for us to start using imminently. It is fantastic to see the old station being brought back into use and Alex has done a fantastic job in the refurbishment of the building. We have already met other residents of the town in the station who will be putting other areas of the station to use and looks to be turning into a real community hub.

Having the base will allow us to be a lot more visible in the town once again. We are also looking to have the drop-in surgeries restarted, once we have dates confirmed these will be advertised around the community.

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 provide via Crimestoppers using the details below:

Website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org Telephone: **0800 555 111**

When reporting crime to the Police, the public can use **101** to report non-emergencies, **999** to report 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

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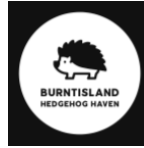


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Burntisland Hedgehog Haven



It may be quiet on the admission front just now but there's lots going on in the rescue!

We are still caring for 25 hedgehogs (most are hibernating) and once the weather improves these will be released back to the areas where found if safe to do so.

Last year was an extremely busy 12 months with 225 hedgehogs coming into the rescue. We saw a range of injuries which sadly many could have been prevented.

We had hedgehogs which had been trapped from falling down uncovered street drains or holes in gardens. Lots of hedgehogs who were sadly tangled in garden netting or goal post netting.

Please ensure all netting is raised off the ground to prevent these accidents from happening and any holes covered and missing drain covers reported to the council.

The rescue was very busy at the end of the year with lots of autumn juveniles coming in. Hedgehogs now need more help than ever as climate change is having a big impact on their lifecycles. With our warmer autumns females are having their second litters a lot later in the year.

Sadly the survival rate of many of these late born hedgehogs is bleak as once they leave the nest and the winter weather sets in they sadly haven't had the time to build up their fat reserves to survive the winter and so they perish.

This is why it is so important that if you see a hedgehog out in the day, we urge you to seek help from a rescue even if the hedgehog "looks ok" to you.

There is very little food around in the winter and small hedgehogs are unable to regulate their body temperature as well as a larger hedgehog so they need urgent help.

Many come into the rescue dehydrated, emaciated and suffering from hypothermia. They are completely exhausted and in a collapsed state.



We have also seen a big rise in Lungworm cases due to the warm wet summer. Slugs and snails thrive in these conditions and have been in abundance.

Slugs and snails make up a very small part of a hedgehogs diet as they much prefer caterpillars and beetles.

Due to flooding and the general decline of insects hedgehogs have to eat what they can find and sadly slugs have been the only thing many have found. But they can be hosts to lungworm which explains the increase in hedgehogs suffering this parasite.

It's also important to note that due to our varying temperatures not all hedgehogs hibernate.

To be able to hibernate a hedgehog needs a constant low temperature but again due to climate change our temperatures could be in the minuses one day and then up to double figures the next. Going in and out of hibernation uses a lot of a hedgehogs energy and fat reserves.

People can help hedgehogs by making a simple feeding station out of a plastic storage box with a 15cm x 15cm square cut into it as a doorway and providing a bowl of a good quality kitten biscuit and a shallow bowl of water.

Please remember, do not feed mealworms or calciworms as these can cause metabolic bone disease in wild hedgehogs.

If you can, create a wild area in your garden to encourage insects. A log pile and lots of ground cover, wild flowers and shrubs and leave the leaves.

There is so much you can do even in a small space. Don't forget that all important hedgehog highway. Let them into your garden by creating access points in your garden fence.

At the moment we are having a new outbuilding being built so that we will be able to help even more hedgehogs. It's so exciting!

Thank you to everyone who donates to the rescue as none of this would be possible without your help.



We were very surprised to be contacted by the ITV programme Good Morning Britain back in October to appear on the show live from the rescue. Our appearance on the show led to a stream of calls after regarding poorly hedgehogs out in the day that otherwise may not have received help.



We have recently done an interview with STV News in the rescue, again spreading awareness.

We were absolutely honoured to be nominated and to receive the Highly Commended award for UK Rescue Of The Year at the Animal Star Awards in Nottingham. And later also received the UK Animal Star for 2024 award which was amazing!

We also received a Motion in Parliament thanks to David Torrance MSP.

2024 really was an incredible year for the rescue—here's to helping many more hedgehogs in 2025!

If you have any questions or concerns about a hedgehog please don't hesitate to contact us on **07577 000328** or visit www.burntislandhedgehoghaven.co.uk and check our Facebook page for updates.

Sharon Longhurst
Scottish registered charity SC052888



Burntisland Out of School Service (BOSS)



For the first issue of 2025 we thought we would introduce Burntisland Out of School Service—affectionately known as BOSS!

We are a charity providing affordable childcare for school aged children. Our service covers before and after school care during term time and also holiday clubs during the school holidays. We are based in the Toll Community Centre and our location is ideal for escorting children at Burntisland Primary to and from school, we also welcome children from neighbouring towns during the holidays.

As a charity we rely on parent and carer volunteers who support the team to deliver

a service that reflects the needs of the children and families attending BOSS.

Our trained and experienced team create a safe, inspiring and enabling environment for children to learn and develop through play and exploration. The children are active participants in the planning of the resources and activities we provide at BOSS ensuring we have a variety of active, creative and relaxing play. The children also love planning the snacks we provide in the afternoons and during holiday clubs.

In addition to our indoor setting, we encourage lots of outdoor play which is one of the best ways to promote children's

health and wellbeing as well as inspiring the children to build a positive relationship with the natural world. As well as having use of the garden where we are based, we regularly enjoy excursions to the local parks, woods and beach.

Whilst we rely on families booking regular planned sessions, we also accommodate ad-hoc sessions for families whenever we can—all you have to do is register with us ahead of time!

For all other enquiries or if you would like to be added to our mailing list for August 2025 school starts, holiday clubs or ad-hoc sessions you can call us on **07702 801132** or email bosburntisland@gmail.com

We regularly share our activities on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BurntislandOutOfSchoolService and information about BOSS and our committee can also be found on our website www.bosburntisland.co.uk

Anne Laidlaw, Manager



Burntisland Playgroup

Burntisland Playgroup is an early years setting that runs term time and can be attended from the age of 2 years 10 months, with funded places from the intake after their 3rd birthday - and they can attend right up until they start school, which my son and several other children are planning to do.

As the parent of a child at Burntisland Playgroup, I know what I love about the care setting but to ensure I didn't fangirl too much, I decided to ask some of the other parents and children who currently attend the setting for their input.

One parent described the setting as having a "home from home nurturing feel". Whether the children are curled up listening to a story, playing in the home corner or having some quiet time drawing or painting, there is always a chilled, comfortable feel to playgroup.

Other things which were mentioned by parents were "the fantastic garden", "interesting trips out" and "learning with joy through play". The children agreed that the garden is a highlight - especially the bikes, scooters, slides and the time they made ice and then "got to stamp and crack it all". Inside, the children love "being an artist at the paint tray", cars, slides and, of course, Magnatiles.

Perhaps most importantly, there is the wonderful team of staff behind Burntisland Playgroup. Every parent I spoke to mentioned the staff at Burntisland Playgroup, saying things like "lovely supportive staff" and "my son will really miss the team when he goes to school". One parent added "the team are like family - my child has come on leaps and bounds with his speech and emotional development which they have supported even through the really tough times".

This is something I have to echo as I have loved the surprise of discovering how much my son has learned - when he could suddenly draw circles or when, out of the blue, he had so much confidence on a balance bike - these were things he had been working on with the team at playgroup, learning with such enjoyment.

And of course, we couldn't discuss playgroup without mentioning the food! Several of the children mentioned Karen's

cooking when they were asked about their favourite things about playgroup with one saying "we get different things every day, I love the flavours". Lunches and snacks are prepared in house on the day and are tailored to celebrate special events such as Burns Night and Diwali, so the children learn about nutrition and more while they eat.

Most of all, I love that my child has never once shown reluctance to attend Burntisland Playgroup. He was made to feel so comfortable that right from his first day, he skipped in with barely a backwards look and I look forward to my daughter experiencing the same as soon as she is old enough.

If you are interested in a space for your child at Burntisland Playgroup, please email burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk or call us at 07756 316172.

Amy Drysdale



Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club

Team BASC are in the midst of a busy winter season. So far this year, our fabulous team of young athletes have represented Burntisland at the Bathgate swim meet, the Fife and Novice League galas in Glenrothes, and the East District Age Groups at the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh.

We've seen terrific efforts from swimmers participating at a meet for the first time, and an impressive number of personal best



Go BASC! Head coach Bridget Fraser cheering on her team

times. Perhaps most importantly we have seen a brilliant team spirit from the entire squad, ensuring events like these are fun and welcoming for all.

In the lead up to Christmas, team BASC hosted their own Club Championship finals at Kirkcaldy Leisure Centre, and our much-loved Awards Night and Ceilidh featuring some of the most unique trophies in all of Scotland, and a real live tiger.

At the Awards Night new club captains were appointed for 2025. Congratulations and good luck to Isabelle Bradshaw and Sorren Duncan-Clark. You are going to be grrreat!

Next up we have the Glenrothes spring meet in February, more Leagues and EDAGs in March, and of course, our weekly training at Burntisland and Kirkcaldy pools.

As always, an enormous thank you goes out to everyone who volunteers with the

club. Whether you are timekeeping, organising events, helping on the poolside, or coming along to galas to lend a hand and shake a black and yellow pom, thank you! Your help ensures these brilliant kids learn invaluable skills, and have heaps of fun, in and out of the pool.



Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club are currently recruiting swimmers who have reached Scottish Swimming Swim Skills 3 and above, or equivalent. This means swimmers at level 3 in swimming lessons, who are developing competency in all four strokes and diving. For more information or to arrange to come along for an assessment please check out our website: www.burntislandswimmingclub.co.uk or email: basenquiries@hotmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

Laura Scotland

Local Business Updates

*in association with **Totally Locally Burntisland***



Since the last issue of the Burgh Buzz...

Seven Burntisland businesses have been shortlisted for this year's Scottish Independent Retail Awards.

Wildbells florist have moved to the former Grain & Sustain.

Stephanie Skin Clinic has opened on the High Street.

Somerville Street Studios has opened, offering flexible working space. www.somervillestreetstudio.co.uk

Café Verde is expected to open its doors at the end of February for their café/bistro, having refurbished the former Roasting Project premises on the High Street.

Rankin Funeral Directors held their annual Charity Afternoon Tea and raised an amazing £933 for The British Red Cross. Special thanks to Tom Courts Butchers, On A Roll, Niaroo Business Service and everyone who handed in all the baking and savouries treats.

Burntisland Fry has replaced Romano's on the High Street, while continuing with the same staff, now owned by Ciprian Serea.

The Romano's name has been in Burntisland since 1986, run by Sergio first at the Kirkton before moving to the High Street, and more recently his son Giustino after his passing in 2017.

114's Kitchen & Winebar has launched, serving wood fired pizzas, small plates and sharing platters—open Wednesday lunch and Thursday to Sunday, lunch and dinner. www.114bistro.com

Arminen Tattoo, providing tattoo services, cover ups, correction of old tattoos and custom designs has moved into The Platform Studios by the railway station.

Burntisland Playgroup and Burntisland Hedgehog Haven continue as the Co-op Community Fund's chosen groups for 2024-25.

Finally, we're hoping to join in with the next Totally Locally Magic Tenner fortnight which runs from 1st–16th March.

Keep up to date with all our Totally Locally businesses at: www.facebook.com/totallylocallyburntisland

Acoustic Music Club

The monthly music nights at Burntisland Bowling Club restarted in October with Yvonne Gilfillan, Ian Craig, and Peter Kerr taking over the running from Andy and Helen Pay.

These events are held on the second Friday of the month from 7.30–10.30pm.

Proceeds from donations on the door go to a local charity.



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Floral Action Burntisland

Although it is winter all of our amazing volunteers have been busy with winter planting and preparing for spring.

Our crop of vegetables harvested from the community allotment was fabulous this year and were subsequently donated to Community Suppers. Unfortunately though Storm Eowyn damaged the main fence at the allotment but we have liaised with Fife Council to rectify this.

We are also holding an event to recruit new volunteers on Thursday 20th February, 7pm at Burntisland Golf Club. We will be providing refreshments so if you wish to attend please email contact@floralactionburntisland.co.uk so we get a rough idea

of numbers attending. Commitment levels are totally flexible.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting, also at Burntisland Golf Club on Friday 14th March at 7pm, so please come along if you can or make enquiries using the email above.

Our new website is fully up and running and updated regularly showing the work we do around town, so check it out at www.floralactionburntisland.co.uk

Irene Megaw, Secretary



ABK Ladies Probus Club

ABK Ladies Probus Club is intended for women over 55 years in the Aberdour, Burntisland, and Kinghorn area.

The club meet on the third Wednesday of the month from September to June at the Kingswood Hotel. We meet at 10.30 am for tea/coffee and at 11am we have an invited speaker who will entertain us with their wide knowledge of their subject.

Meeting new people, making new friends, and discovering new interests, are just some of the advantages of belonging to a Probus club.

If you think you may be interested in the Probus, you are very welcome to come along. Contact our chairperson Judy Panton on 01592 873239 to arrange a visit as a guest.

Mary Hindle

Burntisland Bowling Club

During the closed season the members and guests have been enjoying the carpet bowling within the main clubhouse. These games take place on Thursday evenings 6.30pm for 7pm, Saturday afternoons 1.30pm for 2pm (both mixed), and Monday afternoons 1pm for 1.30pm (ladies). All welcome to come along and try—just bring your carpet slippers.

The club also welcomes everyone to Friday Night Bingo and Dominoes from 7.30pm in the Pavilion each week.

The Management Committee wish to inform the members the date for the AGM is Wednesday 12th March at 7pm in the main Clubhouse.

As we approach the new outdoor season, members are looking forward to the Opening of the Green on Saturday 12th April. We will also be running a 'Come and Try' day (date to be confirmed) for anyone wishing to give bowls a go. Anyone interested can contact the club secretary at:

connor.james37@gmail.com

www.burntislandbowlingclub.org.uk



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Burntisland Heritage Trust

Goodbye Edwardians, Hello Victorians?

For more than 35 years now, the Edwardian Summer Fair Exhibition has been on display in the Upper Hall of Burntisland Library. Enjoyed over the years by residents and visitors alike, access is now upon request, and viewings are few.

Time for a change? Well, this is the view of Burntisland Heritage, the town's very own heritage charity. Ian Archibald, Burntisland Heritage Convenor, explains: "We have an ideal opportunity now to tell another important chapter in the history of the town. The East of Scotland 4 mm Group, dedicated model railway engineers and enthusiasts, have created a unique working model of Burntisland Harbour, exactly as it was in 1883"

Automated wagon hoists allowed coal trains to be unloaded directly into the holds of waiting ships bound for destinations throughout the world, and a magnificent Roundhouse allowed railway engines to be serviced and turned. The Station House was the principal rail terminus for trains to and from the north, with travellers to and from Edinburgh embarking and disembarking steam powered paddle ferries that plied the Forth between Burntisland and Leith.

"We are excited by the prospect of providing a permanent home to such an excellent exhibition" continues Ian "and we have committed to Fife Cultural Trust and Fife Council to seek the views of stakeholders and residents alike."

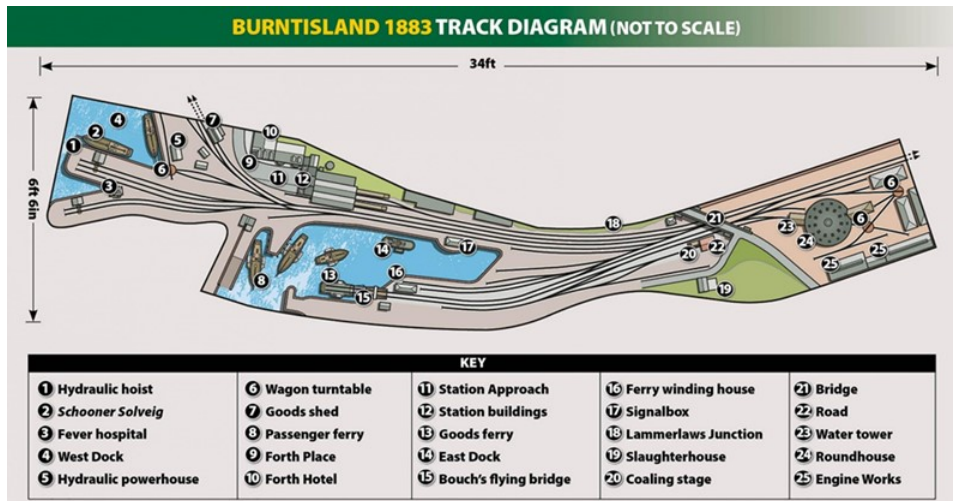
More detail on the exhibition can be found on the "Burntisland 1883 Harbour Area" video on the Burntisland Heritage YouTube Channel and websites at www.burntislandheritage.org.uk and extensive photographs at www.burntisland.net (click on 'Model 1883' Exhibition).

Ian Archibald



The award-winning exhibition has toured throughout Britain and into Europe winning praise wherever it is shown. The design has been meticulously researched, providing an exact scale replica of the Harbour.

So why 1883? By this time the harbour was at the cutting-edge of Victorian technology. The world's first roll-on roll-off ferry linked Burntisland to Edinburgh, carrying coals from the Fife coalfield to the hungry hearths of the capital city.



Museum of Communication

MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATION

An Exciting Year Ahead

Our winter programme of talks continues at 131 High Street and online via Zoom. On Saturday 15th February at 11 am, speaker Mervyn Hagger will deliver a talk entitled, 'The Palimpsest Hoax'. In this, Mervyn will lay out some unexpected conclusions arising out of his researches into aspects of communications history.

Further talks will follow on Saturday 15th March, and Tuesdays 15th April & 6th May. Lectures cost £5 to attend and a buffet lunch will be available for in-person attendees at the Saturday meetings. Visit www.museumofcommunication.org.uk/events for more information.

At the same time, our dedicated volunteers are planning for this year's Summer Exhibition, which is due to open in May. Children will be welcome and will have the opportunity to try out some exhibits. Knowledgeable volunteer guides will also be available to help both adults and children to get more out of their visit.

As 2025 marks the centenary of John Logie Baird's first demonstration of television, it is a momentous year for the history of communication in Scotland. Television will therefore be the major feature of this year's Exhibition.

The story will develop from the origins of TV in the 1920s through its coming of age in the 1950s, the leap into colour in the 1960s and up to the present day. The development of TV cameras and applications of TV technology, including virtual reality and video games, will all be

illustrated and there will be a vintage TV Repair Shop.

The story will be both educational and entertaining, with hands-on activities for children and nostalgia aplenty for older people. Although we're not due to reopen to the public until May, a lot of work is required to get the Exhibition ready in time. If you think you could join us as a volunteer, please get in touch!

We also host group visits to the Museum and undertake visits to schools, as well as giving talks to local organisations. Please see the Museum's website for details of all these activities.

Pictured is the replica John Logie Baird 'Televisor' that will feature in the Exhibition.

David W. Brown

Museum of Communication, 131 High Street, Burntisland

www.museumofcommunication.org.uk



Burntisland Community Suppers

Formerly Supper at the Sally

Hurrah! Thanks to a fantastic team of 25 volunteers Burntisland's friendly, Saturday night community suppers have served up over 400 hot, tasty meals since the start of November. The project runs with help from Burntisland Community Development Trust and has had massive support from the community, local businesses and funders including Fife Council Warmer Spaces, Go Fibre, and Forth Ports.

The Pay As You Can approach is a huge success, giving people a chance to come along to make new friends in a social setting over a tasty meal without worrying about costs. The project also provides training opportunities for volunteers and brings the community together at the darkest time of the year.

This year the project is proud to welcome

seven young volunteers who are providing service with a smile while completing their Saltire Award. We are also pleased to welcome enthusiastic cook, Sonia who, with the volunteers, cooks up a storm at special events like Burns Night and every Saturday.

Despite support from local businesses and a successful bingo fundraiser, increased costs and the popularity of the suppers means we are struggling to run until the end of March. We have set up a Go Fund me page. All donations are welcome and every little helps. www.gofundme.com/f/community-suppers-burntisland-needs-help

Most importantly though, the suppers are for everyone and aim to connect the community. So if you live in Burntisland please do come along on a Saturday at 5pm to 6.30pm in the Salvation Army Hall

at Lonsdale Crescent. We would love to welcome you.

For weekly menus, more information or to volunteer check out our website: www.burntislandsuppers.org.uk

It's all about sharing our skills and learning new ones, getting to know new people in the community and hopefully having fun! Come and join us!



Burntisland Sailing Club

New Opportunities To Get Out On The Water

Burntisland Sailing Club is looking forward to an exciting year. Members are busy braving the weather and completing maintenance on their boats in anticipation of the full programme planned for this year's sailing season.



Low Cost Sailing. In line with its mission to provide affordable sailing in Fife, BSC is pleased to offer great value sailing experiences at entry level, which when spread over two years will cost about £1 per week. These will get you out on the water in yachts, sailing as trainee crew.

Together with a Royal Yachting Association 'Discover Sailing' initiative later in the year, our team of mentors will provide you with the opportunity to learn the basics of seamanship and navigation in a series of optional classes both ashore and afloat.

Fun. Starting at the end of March when the yachts are craned back into the water, we have planned an extensive programme of cruises around the Forth visiting other yacht clubs and scenic anchorages.

In addition, on Friday and Monday evenings throughout the summer, there will be regular racing around marks laid within sight of our newly refurbished

clubhouse, the ideal way to learn about sailing whilst having a lot of fun.



Welcome. Boats need crew and new members without yachts who wish to "Just Do It" will be welcomed onboard with open arms (as well as tea and biscuits!). Much better than computer games... this is the real thing... don't be a landlubber, come and join us!

Contact: For more info and membership application visit www.burntislandsailing.org.uk

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Burntisland Golf House Club

A New Season

The Green staff's preparation for the course for the start of the season was dealt a setback when Storm Éowyn decided to do its own bit of landscaping by damaging or felling a large number of trees. But with coring to be done in February the course will be prepared to the normal great condition ready for the Traditional Captain vs Vice Captain competition season opener on Saturday 29th March.

Joining the Club: A Path to Improvement

One of the best ways to achieve your golfing goals is to join a golf club. Burntisland Golf House Club offers an unparalleled opportunity for practice and play, with excellent practice facilities and a course that is accessible to fit any schedule. Tee times are available in the mornings and afternoons, providing flexibility for all members.

A Time of Hope and Ambition

The build-up to the new season is always a time of hope and ambition for golfers and golf clubs alike. It is a period marked by goal-setting and dreams of personal and collective achievements. Whether aiming to win the club championship, reduce one's handicap, or simply enjoy the camaraderie and joy of the sport, the start of the season is a beacon of promise.

Professional Support and Coaching

Our club prides itself on offering the best support and coaching in this part of Fife. The Professional Shop, managed by our esteemed PGA Professionals, Paul and Craig, is a hub of expertise and encouragement. Throughout the season, we run a Junior and Ladies Golf Academy, fostering the next generation of golfers and promoting inclusivity in the sport. Individual lessons are also available for gents, ensuring that every member has the opportunity to refine their skills and enjoy the game to the fullest.

A Warm and Welcoming Clubhouse

The heartbeat of Burntisland Golf House Club is undoubtedly its clubhouse, where the hospitality team, led by the ever-friendly Sheena, has cultivated a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Members, visitors, and social event attendees alike are greeted with open arms and outstanding service.



It is indeed a great time to visit the clubhouse, enjoy the culinary offerings, and bask in the convivial environment that has become synonymous with our club.

Embedded in the Community

Though the golf course lies on the periphery of the town, the heart of Burntisland Golf House Club beats strongly within the centre of the community. Our club is not just a place for sport but a gathering space for social interaction, shared experiences, and community spirit.

Looking to the Future

As we welcome our new club captain and embark on a new season, we do so with optimism and enthusiasm. The challenges of the past have only fortified our resolve, and the future holds boundless opportunities for success and enjoyment in the game we love.

May this season bring joy, achievement, and a sense of togetherness to all at Burntisland Golf House Club. Here's to new beginnings and the continuation of our cherished traditions.

A Heartfelt Farewell to Jim Galloway

Before we look forward, we must look back and express our thanks to Jim Galloway, whose tenure as club captain over the past two years has seen the club through some recent challenges with the cost of living crisis a challenge that has imperiled many golf clubs. Under his stewardship, Burntisland Golf House Club not only weathered the storm but emerged stronger and more resilient, a testament to his leadership and vision.

Contact the club on 01592 874093, find us on Facebook or visit www.burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk

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Burrtisland & District Pipe Band

The pipe band is busy preparing for the coming competition season, with two competing bands again. The Novice B band will be back in action while our Grade 3B band, thanks to an impressive 2024 season, has been promoted to Grade 3A.

Both bands had successful competition seasons last year, culminating in fantastic results at the famous World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, in August. The Novice B band made it through the heats to the finals, and were ultimately awarded 2nd place overall. But the excitement didn't stop there – their drum corps was crowned World Champions and Champion of Champions (based on results throughout the season).



the traditional services and ceremonies. You may also have spotted some of our members out and about in the local community playing at Hogmanay and Burns Night events, which is always warmly received.

We're excited to announce a special fundraising concert on March 15th at the Erskine Church in Burrtisland. The event will feature both bands, our Drum Major team, and a recital by double gold medal-winning Pipe Major Douglas Murray. Tickets are £10 each and can be purchased through a band member, by contacting us on Facebook, or emailing bizland@outlook.com.

We're always happy to speak to people of all ages who are interested in learning or improving their skills in piping, drumming, or drum majoring. But we couldn't do this without our fabulous tutors and committee—so from us to them, THANK YOU! Do get in touch if you have any questions about how you might be able to get involved.

Finally, a reminder that the best way to stay up-to-date with all our activities and our progress in the upcoming competition season is by following our Facebook page.

Susan Cotton

Photos: Craig Lamb



The Grade 3B band didn't disappoint either, winning 2nd place in their grade, Champion of Champions for the band, and Champion of Champions also for the drum corps. As if that wasn't enough, our Junior Drum Major, Catherine Spears, was named Junior Drum Major World Champion. What a day to remember!

In November, both bands came together to support the local Remembrance Sunday event, an occasion we are always honoured to be part of. Special thanks to our lone pipers who played during

Civic Week 2025

Civic Week will return this year with a fabulous 10 day programme of events, which will run from Friday 20th until Sunday 29th June. Look out for the programme of all events, this will be delivered to all households at the beginning of June.

This year we are super excited about our theme which is "Halfway to Christmas" We can't wait to see what you come up with for all your fantastic costumes in the parade!

This year's Summer King and Queen will be crowned in the historic Parish Church on Saturday 21st June.

This is followed by our wonderful parade along the High Street and onto our Party on the Links hosted by Radio Lollipop alongside activities all free for you to enjoy. Please get in touch if any groups would like to join in this year—the more the merrier!

Also confirmed for this year are returning favourites Des and the Dingoes, our Family Beach Day, football tournament, fitness sessions, yoga, and much more.

Before all that we have a Bingo Night on Friday 14th March at the Jubilee Tavern, eyes down at 7pm. For tickets (£10) contact Shirley on 07580 761662.

For Primary School children we have our programme artwork competition and the opportunity to be a part of the Royal Party.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us out so we can keep going with this great Burrtisland tradition—we would love to hear from you, get in touch via email burrtislandcivicweek@gmail.com or message our Facebook page.

Amanda Jones, Civic Week Chairperson



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Girlguiding at the Parish Church Halls

The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows had a very busy Guiding year in 2024 as we celebrated 100 years of Girlguiding in Burntisland.



You may have seen our display in the window of the Burntisland Heritage Centre, thank you to Heritage volunteers for their support.

To celebrate, the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows went on a day trip to the Five Sisters Zoo in West Lothian at the end of the summer term. It was a lovely sunny day and everyone had a great time exploring the zoo and finding out about all the different animals. There were some tired feet and one or two of us had a little nap on the bus home.

All units took part in the Civic Week parade as we were celebrating our 100th year we dressed in fashion from the 1920s, the girls enjoyed wearing their flapper style dresses and sequined headbands made by one of our very talented Brownie Leaders.

Guides and Brownies took part in the Remembrance service and parade. We had a very busy coffee evening at the end of November, the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows enjoyed helping out on the sales tables and tombola as well as helping with the teas and coffees. Thank you to all the families and friends who came along and supported us, the money raised went towards our hall rent.

We would like to thank the Burntisland Youth Theatre volunteers for thinking of us when they dispersed funds after they closed. Their kind donation of £1000 has been shared between the five Girlguiding units in the town.

1st Burntisland Guides

2024 was a memorable year for the Guide unit as we celebrated our 100th birthday. The unit was formed on the 3rd of July in 1924, we still have the original certificate, it's good that it has survived all these years.

We celebrated our first Gold award, thank you to our County Commissioner who came along to present the award. Well done, Chloe! A lot of hard work went into achieving this award and we are very proud of her. We also said goodbye to Mrs Barrett and wished her well on her new adventure in Australia.

This year has started well, and we are happy to welcome new members. Guides have been busy working on their programme, learning some semaphore and Morse code for their Guiding History badge. They also investigated wartime Guiding including making and of course eating apple crumble made to a wartime recipe. In September Guides went to a County Activity Day at Cluny Clays, they played mini golf and tried archery for the first time.

We had a crafty Halloween evening decorating a tote bag with lots of ghostly images and then enjoyed Halloween mocktails. Guides made poppies from recycled plastic bottles to put in the planter outside the Library on Remembrance Day. We made small gifts for the Over 70s Christmas Treat and enjoyed making Christmas cards and decorations, turning coat hangers into Christmas stars and tea lights into snowmen to take home to decorate their trees. Guides celebrated Burns night by making a pompom Haggis, complete with googly eyes, and decorating petticoat tail shortbread as colourful kilts.

1st Burntisland Brownies

Brownies have had a very busy year so far and have welcomed eight new Brownies to the unit.

The three young leaders organised an awesome Halloween party, everyone had a brilliant time. Thanks to the Cubs for welcoming the Brownies to their archery and tomahawk throwing evening. Everyone enjoyed trying out something new. We had a sponsored 'glow in the dark' walk around the links to raise money for our funds. It was a cold evening but the walking certainly warmed everyone up.

We awarded both Bronze and Silver awards at the end of term. Brownies had fun making very glittery Christmas crafts and finished up the year with a joint Christmas party with the Rainbows.

1st Burntisland Rainbows

We've had a busy start to the year taking part in the Big Garden Bird Watch and celebrating Chinese New Year. We are looking forward to our district World Thinking Day event later this month. We are currently full but we do have a waiting list for anyone wanting to join.

Contact us for more information or register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus and we will get in touch with you.

Units meet in the Parish Church Halls on Monday evenings.

Guides: 7 to 9pm
burntislandguides@gmail.com

Brownies: 5 to 6.30pm
burntislandbrownies1st@outlook.com

Rainbows: 5 to 6pm
1burntislandrainbows@gmail.com

Jean Priestley



St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church

Writing this just after Storm Éowyn blew through Fife, I find it encouraging to look out of the window and see the defiant snowdrops shining in our gardens, while looking forward to spring and all the activities Burntisland enjoys as the year gets going.

The message of the potentially devastating effects of climate change that Storm Éowyn brought with it, though, is one that we must keep in the forefront of our minds, even while we enjoy a coffee in the High Street or games on the beach. The inconvenient truth (as Al Gore's film put it in 2006) is that if we don't, we may not be able to enjoy summer in the High Street for much longer

Fortunately, although it is no longer possible to reverse the damage already done, there are plans afoot to slow down the impact of climate change, and we all need to be onside with those plans. (Why not Google "Burntisland energy masterplan"?)

At St Serf's, we have formed our own environment steering group, linked to the Net Zero plans and actions of the Scottish Episcopal Church as a whole, where we investigate ways of reducing energy consumption in our building, encourage our church members to green up their

lifestyle and focus our worship on the magnificence of God's creation and our duty to care for it. It's a long and complex path to tread but our early efforts were rewarded last autumn when we received the Bronze Award from Eco-Congregation, Scotland. This has spurred us on to link with other organisations and seek funding to do further work.



As you can imagine, there is no shortage of interesting discussion in our church fellowship and everyone enjoys sharing plans, ideas and just plain friendship after our worship at 10 am on Sundays. We also meet on Monday afternoons for study and prayer groups and plan to resume Thursday afternoon coffee and chat meetings in the spring.

Our Taizé services on the first Sunday of the month at 7pm are now well-established

and provide an oasis of stillness in our busy world. These services are shared by friends from all the local churches and by those who do not profess a faith but welcome the opportunity for quiet contemplation.

The next major Christian festival will, of course, be Easter, with all the joy that its message of Resurrection, new beginnings and a clean slate brings. Before that happens, the focus shifts during Lent (March/April) to an acknowledgement of the many ways in which we have fallen short of God's expectation.

There will be a reflective church service every Thursday during Lent, starting at 2.30pm. In Holy Week (13th–19th April), we follow the final steps of Jesus as he approaches his death on the cross. There will be services on Palm Sunday (13th April at 10am), Maundy Thursday (17th April at 7pm) and Good Friday (18th April at 2pm). Then on Sunday 20th April at 10am we celebrate Easter Day itself.

You can be sure of a warm welcome if you decide to join us for any of the services listed. Keep an eye on the notice board for details of any other events.

Be blessed, enjoy the spring and go greenly!

Rev Carol Latimer



Kirkcaldy (KY1 1PF)
Tel: 01592 640644



Glenrothes (KY7 5ND)
Tel: 01592 751997



Dalgety Bay (KY11 9NH)
Tel: 01383 822121

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Burntisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland

Happy first birthday to Burntisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland! United in worship, service and outreach with Jesus one year ago.

We have a very special photo taken on our son Andrew's first birthday. It was a unique occasion as a resident of what was then Caberfeidh Nursing Home in Kinghorn had her 100th birthday on the same day as our son's first. The birthday boy sits in the birthday girl's arms!

In many ways our new United Church finds itself part of the long history and heritage of faith and tradition in our two communities: we are grateful for this, but we can't afford to be hidebound or held back by "it's aye been".

I am reading Pope Francis' autobiography

"Hope" and in it he says, quoting Mahler, "Tradition is not the worship of ashes; it is the preservation of fire" Tradition is not a museum, Tradition is a root".

One of the big issues that the United Church has to contend with is the future of our two historic buildings and I hope that you will consider attending the meeting which is highlighted elsewhere in this edition of the Burgh Buzz.

Church buildings may come and go and a great many around our land will be going on to other uses: BUT the Church as a Jesus - following, Spirit - led, people - serving, grace filled body of ordinary people will go on in a variety of ways: in partnership with Erskine Church in BEK and in fellowship with all the local Churches in our communities.

We seek to live up to and live out our motto:

"A message for everyone, a church for anyone and a place for you".

You are welcome at all of our services as we head into Lent and look in anticipation towards Easter.

There are such a variety to mention that I'd ask you to look out for our service schedule cards and, on our website, Fife Free Press or Facebook page.

www.burntislandandkinghornchurch.co.uk

Rev Jim Reid



Erskine Church

The local churches did lots of stuff together over Christmas and New Year, which was great and very encouraging. I always enjoy Erskine's Watchnight service on 24th December at 11.15pm. The services in Erskine raised an excellent total of £455.60 for our 2024 charities, Safe Families and WaterAid. Thanks to those who supported us and contributed to these very worthy causes.

Hopefully you managed to survive Storm Éowyn relatively unscathed on Friday 24th January. It certainly exposed Burntisland to some dangerous and really severe weather conditions!

Faith can be a huge support during life's storms. The most unexpected things tend

to happen when we least expect them. Having a faith in God helps to make sense of the chaos and always allows us to discern hope for the future.

One new thing in 2025 will be our BEK half hour services, every Thursday at 11am. These offer a simple, quiet space for worship together in the midst of a busy week. Services will alternate between Erskine halls and Kinghorn Church. The upcoming dates in Erskine are: 13th and 27th February, then 13th and 27th March. Please feel free to pop along to any of these services.

There's always something in the Burgh Buzz about our epic coffee and pancakes mornings. The next one takes place on

Saturday 26th April in our halls between 10am and 12 noon. It's a great opportunity to meet others and enjoy the freshly-baked goodies.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for details of upcoming events, especially the Easter services happening in our local churches. Holy Week this year runs from Sunday 13th–20th April. It's not that far away, I can assure you!

Hopefully stormy days will soon make way for definite signs of spring. You'd always be very welcome to come along to church on any Sunday.

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



St Joseph's Church

Greetings to everyone from St Joseph's Church. I hope 2025 has been kind to you so far and wish you and yours many blessings and good things throughout this year. It is good to have the Burgh Buzz back again—it provides an invaluable contribution to building up the community spirit of our town.

Christmas is well behind us now and we have the liturgical season of Lent ahead, preparing us for Easter, always a busy tie in the parish and the Church.

We begin with Ash Wednesday on 5th March, with Mass and the distribution of ashes, reminding us of our mortality and therefore our need of God. Mass will be celebrated at 10am and 7pm that day.

On the Fridays of Lent we will celebrate the traditional devotion of the Way (Stations) of the Cross at 7pm. The Way of the Cross is an ancient devotion and prayer, carried out by following the road Christ took from the time of his condemnation to his entombment.

We celebrate our Feast Day with the Feast of St Joseph on 19th March. On Palm Sunday, as well as our usual Sunday services with the blessing and distribution of Palms commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, we will join with fellow Christians from the other local Churches in a Walk of Witness throughout the town, stopping at our various places of worship.

On Holy Thursday, 17th April, we begin the three most important days of the Liturgical Year, the Triduum. On Holy Thursday we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm, followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until 9pm.

On Good Friday we celebrate the Solemn Passion of the Lord at 3pm and then we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord with an Easter Vigil at 8.30pm and Easter Sunday Mass at 10am.

As ever, all are welcome at any of our Services.

May you know God's protection and love.

Fr James





Burntisland–Flekkefjord Town Twinning



Want to get involved in our town twinning and go to Norway? Burntisland–Flekkefjord town twinning is looking for one more family to get involved in this year’s (and next year’s) twinning activities.

We already have 3 girls and 1 boy on the twinning team, and we are looking for one more boy to join. To be eligible, they need to be in S2 or S3 and available join us in Norway at the beginning of August.

The trip to Flekkefjord will be paid for however you’ll need to get involved in fundraising activities and be able to host a Norwegian exchange partner in 2026.

It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity to get involved in this historic town twinning which has been going on since 1946! You can apply today by scanning the QR code.

We are just starting to organise the fundraising events so look out for our



coffee morning (which will be held around Easter time), and a Norwegian themed Ceilidh which will be on Saturday 17th May—which is Norway’s National Day! More information on these events will be coming soon.



Finally, how would you like to recycle, earn some money and help the twinning in just one easy action? Our final fundraiser initiative does just that! If you would like to sell something on eBay but don’t have the time or don’t know how to do it. We will prepare the item, photograph it, research its value and list it on eBay all in exchange for a negotiated percentage of the proceeds after costs.

To find out more on any of the above feel free to email us at:

burntislandtwinning@gmail.com

We would be delighted to hear from you.

Mark Kisby



Poppy Cascade Project

Hello all you ‘crafty’ people!

We would like to make poppy cascades for the outside of our Burntisland and Kinghorn Church buildings, to be displayed over the Remembrance period in November and we need your help to make this idea a reality.

Later in the year we will gather poppies

together and have an afternoon or evening to put together everyone’s efforts.

All types of poppies—plastic, crochet, knitted, felt, in red for the fallen, white for peace and purple for animals. These can be crafted in any material, so long as they will cope with the November weather.

You can drop off your efforts at our church buildings, the Chapter and Verse shop in

Burntisland, or Faith Hope and Charity in Kinghorn.

I know it will seem early, but we will need hundreds so get crafting! Thank you in advance.

Mary Tulloch



Holocaust Memorial Day

Bringing names to a statistic on national Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January. “It’s easier to kill a number than a person.”

Five year old Tova Friedman told her father she’d be a good girl over the wailing of mothers, sisters and daughters boarding the cattle-cart. The train was dark. A small window offering a slither of light, Tova was too small to see. The ride to Auschwitz took 36 hours, no food, no water, no bathroom. For almost two days straight, Tova was surrounded by howls from women reduced to cattle, herded amongst their faeces. For many this would be their last journey.

The train arrived at Auschwitz, people poured out in a writhing, quivering mass. The soldiers roared in a foreign language, everyone obeyed. Nobody ran. Saliva stringed from the muzzles of German shepherds, barking in imitation of their Nazi commanders. “Mama, the dogs! They’ll eat me” Tova said, eyeing the animals who stood mirroring her at eye level.

“Only if you run.”

The women were stripped naked, lined up in pairs, sent left or right, life or death. Their health was being assessed by the guards,

Tova’s mother told her. “Do I look healthy Mama?” Her mother nodded but began gently slapping her face in an attempt to bring red life to the skin, transparent with fear. The smell of burning bodies polluted the air. Children rarely made it past the inspection, but by miracle, Tova, number 27633, was separated from her mother and sent to the children’s barrack.

In September 1944, Tova’s sixth birthday had consisted of an immense pulsation of hunger which ran through the veins of the children’s barrack, wrapping skin neatly around small cheekbones and ribs. Dreams of swimming in egg yolks would offer a fantasy world during her childhood nights spent in the biting cold which consumed the barracks. A single slice of bread could have been the difference between life and death. Having been passed along a string of starving hands, Tova’s mother was able to deliver this sanctuary as a gift. Her birthday present was a slice of bread, which she received through the kindness of her fellow empty prisoners.

In January 1945, hiding amongst corpses with her mother, the pair were liberated by Russian troops, and soon migrated to the

United States. In the seventh grade Tova had her numerical tattoo on display in class, “Put that away.” her teacher instructed her, “Forget about it. You’re here now, we don’t want to hear about that.”

Tova obeyed until her mid-40s, when she started sharing her story. “They say to my face it never happened.” Tova now holds her wrist up with pride, “This is the evidence they can never take.”

27th January is national Holocaust Memorial Day. Please take a moment to consider the six million murdered Jews as individual people with lives, families and stories like Tova’s, rather than figures in a statistic. People rather than numbers.

Written by Poppy Spears and Toby Liddell, Advanced Higher History pupils at Balwearie who visited Oświęcim, Poland in November 2024, and ambassadors for the Lessons of Auschwitz charity organisation.



Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

Time to dust down your walking boots and join us for our annual Walking Festival. This has grown into a popular local event which first began in 2014 to highlight what a beautiful part of Fife we live in. The Festival begins on Wednesday 2nd April and runs over two weeks, finishing on 16th April. The event is free, and all you need to do is register for the walks of your choice beforehand so the organisers know how many people to expect.

The full programme and description of walks will be available on our website www.craigencalttrust.org.uk from the end of February. You can also email info@craigencalttrust.org.uk or phone 07740 999514 for more information.

We always plan to have a walk for everyone, with longer treks for those who like to stride out, some shorter, more leisurely walks and some with special interest. We cannot guarantee the weather but spring can be a beautiful, refreshing time of the year and a walk in good company always lifts the spirits.



Our Rock Rest project is finished with a secluded stone bench, picnic area, fences painted and rockery planted. It is now enjoyed by passers-by stopping for a snack, and the birds will enjoy any crumbs they leave behind. Also, folk from the nearby allotments

can sit and admire their gardens while having a little rest. This project has been on our list for some years and we were able to complete it by the generosity of a kind donation and Trust funds.



Our Loch Safety Project is completed, ready for the new season when sports groups begin their activities. A new 'Plaswood' rubbing strip along the edge of the jetty will be especially helpful for all users, particularly those heavy on the rudder! We have also put in a safety ladder to help get in and out of the water.

The first job each spring is to fill the four rafts on the loch with barley straw. This has been done for 25 years now, and has been an effective way to keep the water healthy. The birds who make Kinghorn Loch their home always take a keen interest when the rafts are filled. They see this as a good chance to claim their nesting sites for the springtime. We know that our varied bird life at the loch is a big attraction to bird watchers. Also many visitors come to feed the wildlife at the loch.

Sadly, last year, some ducks, the male swan and a cygnet were all accidentally run over in the lochside car park. Thankfully the female swan managed to rear her other cygnets on her own. To try and prevent such incidents we would ask that people only feed the birds on the jetty, away from the cars, and if possible ask someone to make sure birds are not waddling in front or behind a car when they leave.

There are several paths that the Trust maintain around Kinghorn extending to Burntisland, so if you can spare us a little of your time to help, please contact us on the same details as above.

Marilyn Edwards



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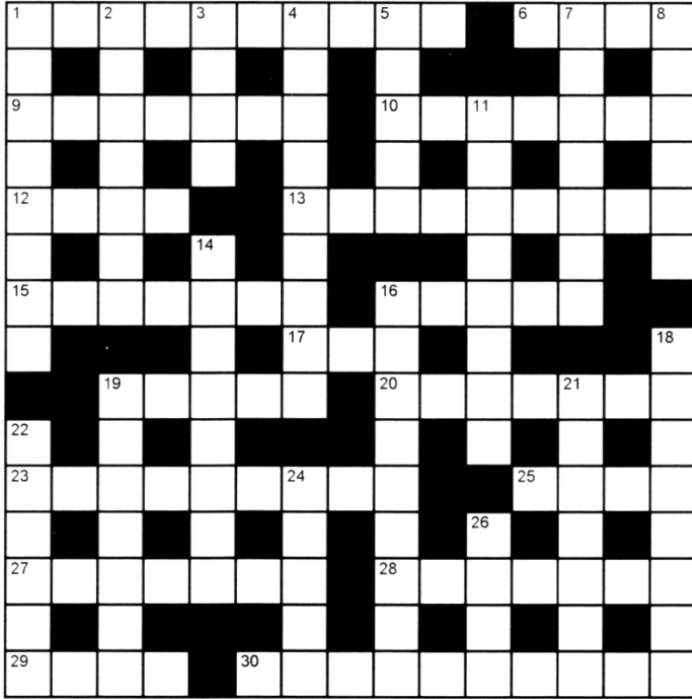
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THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Wrongdoer (10)
- 6. Probabilities (4)
- 9. French Castle (7)
- 10. Rumour (7)
- 12. Part of the eye (4)
- 13. Heavy waterproof cover (9)
- 15. Agony (7)
- 16. Premature (5)
- 17. Ailing (3)
- 19. Monkey (5)
- 20. Baltic country (7)
- 23. South American country (5,4)
- 25. Way of walking (4)
- 27. Voted into office (7)
- 28. Eccentric (7)
- 29. Take care of (4)
- 30. Vex (10)

DOWN

- 1. Great Lake (8)
- 2. Idling (7)
- 3. Charges for services (4)
- 4. Wooing (9)
- 5. Different (5)
- 7. Exhibit (7)
- 8. Folds in cloth (6)
- 11. Cheerful enthusiasm (8)
- 14. Recklessly determined (8)
- 16. Lifts (9)
- 18. Historic French prison (8)
- 19. Water tank (7)
- 21. North American falls (9)
- 22. Loud piercing cry (6)
- 24. Guide to book contents (5)
- 26. Tool used to cut & shape wood (4)

Name

Address

Telephone

Completed entries by 30th March 2025 to: **1 Lammerlaws Road, Burntisland, KY3 9DT** or email paulbriscoe1@gmail.com

First correct entry drawn wins **£40**.

Solution will appear in the next Burgh Buzz issue.

Congratulations to our May 2024 crossword winner:

Mrs Orrock, Burnside Gardens

Burntisland's Events Diary

FEBRUARY

Friday	14th	Acoustic Music Club at Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm
Tuesday	18th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers (also via Zoom)	7 pm
Thursday	20th	Floral Action Burntisland volunteer event at the Golf Club	7 pm
Sunday	23rd	Community meeting on the future of Burntisland Parish Church, East Leven Street	12.30 pm
Sunday	23rd	Burntisland Highland Games AGM in the Sands Hotel	3 pm
Friday	28th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–4 pm

MARCH

Saturday	1st	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Monday	3rd	Blood donation sessions at the Kingswood Hotel	2 pm–4 pm & 5.30 pm–7.30 pm
Friday	14th	Floral Action Burntisland AGM at the Golf Club	7 pm
Friday	14th	Acoustic Music Club at Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm
Saturday	15th	Pipe Band Concert in the Erskine Church	2.30 pm–4.30 pm
Tuesday	18th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers (also via Zoom)	7 pm
Saturday	22nd	BGM Repair Cafe at the Toll Community Centre (to be confirmed)	10 am–12.30 pm

APRIL

Wednesday	2nd to 16th	Craigencalt Walking Festival, see page 21	various dates/times
Friday	4th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–4 pm
Saturday	5th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Friday	11th	Acoustic Music Club at Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm
Sunday	13th	Palm Sunday Walk starting at St Joseph's Church	2 pm
Tuesday	15th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers (also via Zoom)	7 pm
Saturday	26th	Coffee and Pancakes at the Erskine Church	10 am–12 noon

MAY

Friday	2nd	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–4 pm
Saturday	3rd	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Saturday	3rd	"Come and try day" at Kinghorn Loch	1 pm–4 pm

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

Burntisland's Bonfire & Fireworks Night

Back with a Bang!

On 3rd November Burntisland hosted its annual bonfire and fireworks display on The Links for the first time since 2019.

It was a monumental effort from the committee, restarting the event after five years and contending with increased costs.

Financial support in the form of a crowdfunding page raised well above its target amount, along with the collection

buckets and other grants which helped to ensure the fabulous evening went ahead.

Organisation of the event relies on volunteers for planning, stewarding and bucket shaking.

Planning soon begins for this year's event so if you would like to get involved to help maintain this tradition, please get in touch with the committee via email:

burntislandbonfirecommittee@gmail.com



Burntisland Harbour Access Trust

How time flies! It was back in 2021 that Forth Ports dropped their bombshell, the East Dock would be fenced off. For the first time in history, all harbour-side access to our beautiful B listed harbour would be denied. There would be no more fishing for mackerel, dog walking or whale watching along the breakwater, no more walks to the outer harbour to watch the bobbing boats, and no more strolling among the enigmatic 'Dead Boats' at Shank's Pier, the inspiration for numerous local artists and photographers. And for the children, there would be no more feeding of Sammy, our much-loved harbour seal!

The Community was outraged. A petition against the fence attracted over 3,000 signatures, the Fight the Fence campaign saw over 250 objections to Forth Ports' application for Listed Building Consent (a record for Fife) and an online funding appeal for a specialist conservation report arguing against the application raised £1,000 in just 48 hours.

More than 400 of us marched in protest at the "Rock the Dock" event. Appeals to Fife Council and the Scottish Government were made by the "Fight the Fence" campaigners supported by all local Councillors, MSPs, and our MP. The Community Council fully backed the case. Surely the fence wouldn't be allowed? But it was, the opinions of those most affected simply didn't matter.

The town didn't give up though. Burntisland Harbour Access Trust (BHAT) was formed, and an interest in land at the harbour was registered, with one in five of those on the electoral roll signing in favour. This ensured if the land was ever to be sold, the community would have a right to buy. Burntisland Acoustic Music Club, the Big Green Market, traders in the High Street and many, many individuals dug deep.

Together we raised the many thousands of pounds we needed to engage lawyers to assess our assertion that access to the harbour was a right established over generations and under legislation passed by the Scottish Government. We (and the elusive Citizen Grinder who has ensured access has remained) were right, the lawyers agreed, access to the harbour is our right.

We presented the legal opinion to Forth Ports in January last year and requested a meeting to discuss it. They ignored us. To ramp up the pressure, in June we turned to Fife Council and asked them to fulfil their obligation to enforce public rights of way and notify Forth Ports that they had to open the gates. It took another seven months but we finally got our three-way meeting, on 31st January. The outcome was very disappointing:

1. Was it agreed that the East Dock and breakwater will be reopened to full public access?

Sadly, no. In spite of the expert legal opinion we've presented to them Forth Ports refuse to discuss it and the Council aren't prepared at this stage to accept that legal assess rights exist.

2. Did anything positive come out of the meeting?

Yes, a couple of concessions were offered. Forth Ports offered to "enhance" the short stretch of path from the eastern end of Scott Pallets to the Lammerlaws. This seemed unnecessary and appeared to involve land owned by others so we didn't take them up on it. At the time of writing we're waiting for confirmation of the other one, but it doesn't involve the breakwater or the East Dock.

3. Is BHAT satisfied with the outcome of the meeting?

No way.

4. Will BHAT continue to strive for public access to be reinstated for the East Dock and breakwater?

Absolutely! We remain totally committed to regaining access to the whole site and have already decided on our next moves.

We really appreciate all the fantastic support—please keep it coming!

BHAT

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