

BURGH BUZZ



Burntisland's Free Community Magazine

Previous issues at www.burghbuzz.org.uk

November 2025

Issue No 93

Bonfire & Fireworks Night

Kicking off November with another spectacular display on The Links, well done to everyone involved in helping to organise this annual event!



Burgh Chambers—an uncertain future

Spotlight has fallen on the future of the Burgh Chambers in the last month, after the Community Council were forced to move their October public meeting and the Heritage Trust ended their attempts to have the building renovated and clock tower restored by Fife Council.

The building is used for Community Council meetings, Civic Receptions and by other groups, however the work to refurbish the ground floor premises has left the rest of the property with no heating.

It is a historic Common Good asset which should be properly looked after but faces an uncertain future as Fife Council appears to be exploring options for the Chambers.

Elected local Councillors and Fife Council officials are due to meet, and at the time of publication the *Buzz* awaits further developments on the building's future.

Meanwhile, the refurbished former local office on the ground floor of the Burgh Chambers building welcomes Burntisland's Banking Hub into its permanent location.

Cash Access UK has taken a ten-year lease with Fife Council and the new Hub branch will soon open its doors to customers.

The Hub will continue with its 9-to-5 Monday to Friday opening hours, offering the same services as previously in its old home in the old Police Station at 60 High Street. TSB, Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland will offer community services on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday respectively each week. Currently, no community bankers are present on Monday or Friday.

It has been mooted that Barclays and Virgin Money might take these slots, although this has yet to be confirmed by Cash Access UK.

Manager Santosh Budarapu is keen to emphasize that both Barclays and Virgin Money services are currently available at the Cowdenbeath hub. Despite being staffed by Post Office personnel, PO services will not be available at the hub.

With prominent signage on the Chambers' historic facade and proper service counters within, it certainly looks the part.



BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

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Next Issue: February 2026

Copy Deadline: 23rd January

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Half page £160, Quarter page £80, Eighth page £40

From the Editor

The month began with a bang as shown on our front cover of this packed November edition of the Burgh Buzz.

Bonfire & Fireworks—if you are in a position to support the committee's efforts to fundraise for next year's event, details of their Crowdfunder are on page 7.

Burgh Chambers—you can read more about our Grade B listed town centre building in the Community Council bullets opposite and in Burntisland Heritage Trust's report on page 4, as we await details on its future.

Well done to everyone who helped create the poppy falls and displays which appeared on church buildings at the beginning of the month ahead of Remembrance Sunday, these are pictured on pages 24 & 25.

Hope you all have an enjoyable festive period and a pleasant new year.

Michael Booth, Editor

CORNERSTONE
CAFÉ

Cornerstone Café, open on Wednesdays from 12-2pm for a free hot lunch and a blether, is located at the Salvation Army Hall on Lonsdale Crescent for the foreseeable.

Burntisland's Giving Tree

It's that time of year again, when I kindly ask for you to think about buying a gift for a local child. I know times are tough and it's such a big ask, but if you could dig deep and think of a child on Christmas morning.

I work closely with the Primary School, whose staff volunteer to confidentially sort and deliver the gifts.

All you do is get a tag, buy a gift, pop it in a bag, with the age and gender of child on the tag. All gifts should be handed in to the High Street Co-op no later than Thursday 11th December.

Carole-Anne Paterson at the High Street Co-op



Burntisland Over 70s Christmas Treat

This is an invite to all Over 70s living in Burntisland—come along for a free three course meal and entertainment.

Venue: Kingswood Hotel

Date: Saturday 6th December

Time: 12noon for a 12.30pm start

If you require transport to the venue please contact Angie on 07853 503536

Fundraising continues with a Race Night taking place in The Star on Saturday 27th December at 7.30pm.

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:

Matthew Bradshaw	Tim Hailey
Jonna Lange	Ken Littlemore
Alex MacDonald	Isla MacDonald
Kizzy Waplington	Lynne Worthington

Contacts:

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

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 150 Kinghorn Road, Burntisland, KY3 9JU

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.

An in-person surgery will be held in the Parish Church Halls from 12–1pm on Wednesday 3rd December.

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.....

Your 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 November, 16th December, and 20th January.

Members of the public are welcome to attend or to raise matters of interest. 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 are available on the Community Council website.

- **Burgh Chambers:** In October Fife Council cancelled the bookings for our public meetings and civic receptions at short notice with no explanation. They then emailed the CC and Burntisland Heritage a list of items they wish to clear from the building and put into Council storage. The heating system that previously serviced the whole building, now only services the new Banking Hub. After years of neglect by the Council, the Grade B listed building now needs funding to refurbish it. We suspect the Council wish to sell off this Common Good building. We have contacted the Council and will let you know when we have any update.
- The Banking Hub moves this month to the former High Street local office on the ground floor of the Burgh Chambers on a 10-year lease.
- John Rodger, recipient of the Community Award in 2005, passed away at the age of 85. We offer our sincere condolences to all his family and friends. John was well known in the town as a milkman for many years.
- **Children's Scots Verse Competition:** Fife Council have agreed we can hold the winners' presentations and reception in the Burgh Chambers as usual.
- Isla MacDonald has stepped down as Chair due to work commitments.
- The Links Splash Pad refurbishment should be complete by summer 2026. Fife Council shared a proposed design on their Facebook page. We understand this has been adapted following community feedback.
- The seawalls at the beach promenade were repaired and repainted by a Fife Council subcontractor in August. This was with the agreement of owners Network Rail. We gave permission to use the Burntisland Common Good Fund for this work. Separately, the War Memorial railings were also repainted in time for Remembrance Sunday.
- **Railway Station:** we continue to explore improvements at Burntisland station, especially step-free access. A station use survey is proposed.
- **Flooding:** Following an FOI request and calls for solutions to recurrent surface water flooding in the Haugh Rd/Dick Cres Park areas, Scottish Water responded, saying work is at an early stage and options for solutions are not expected until autumn 2026. They promised regular updates on progress.
- **Harbour:** Fife Council legal team did not support the Burntisland Harbour Access Trust (BHAT) interpretation of the legal position on restrictions on public access at the east harbour and breakwater. An attempt to amend the law in BHAT's favour at Scottish Parliament failed. We hope Fife Council, Forth Ports and BHAT can work together to improve public access. Forth Ports have no development news for Burntisland. The old BiFab shed was demolished revealing more derelict land and development opportunities. Fife Council should start work soon on the Active Travel Route extension through the east harbour. A new heritage interpretation panel, arranged by community groups and funded by Forth Ports, was erected near the station.
- We have voiced local concerns to Fife Council regarding public toilets and car parking, and to Police Scotland on antisocial behaviour. We thank Fife Coast and Countryside Trust for the new signage we requested at the public slipway, and Fife Council for the bigger waste bins on the Links.
- **Christmas Lights:** we thank all who support our fundraising, which this year has funded 8 new lights. A Fife Council grant helps subsidise annual costs.
- Fife Council will soon roll out 20mph speed limits to more of the town.

Burntisland Heritage Trust

Burntisland Burgh Chambers: Our Heritage at risk.

Background and Early Efforts

Since the first Community Action Plan in 2016, Burntisland Heritage, in partnership with the Community Council, has worked to keep the Burgh Chambers in community use. A 2019 Business Development Plan proposed redeveloping the ground floor commercially to support community use upstairs, but the multi-million-pound costs made the project unfeasible.

Transition to Burntisland Heritage Trust (SCIO)

In 2021, the Trust took over responsibility for the project, converting to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) to handle larger projects and funding. However, a bid for Levelling-Up funding later that year was unsuccessful, leaving the project without the necessary financial backing.

Reassessment and Changing Context

Following the pandemic, the Trust recognised the need to reassess the original business plan. Working with Fife Historic Buildings Trust (FHBT), an updated review and stakeholder consultation were



commissioned by Fife Council, continuing into 2024.

Council Reorganisation and Setbacks

Between 2021 and 2023, internal changes within Fife Council shifted management priorities, and the building's future in community ownership became uncertain. The 2024 plan for a new Banking Hub in the lower floor further complicated the Trust's redevelopment vision. The Banking Hub's £19.8k annual income starts in January 2027 and is insufficient for BHT or any local group to sustain the building.

Phased Approach and Spire Project

The Trust adopted a phased strategy, beginning with reinstating the building's spire. In early 2025, it secured £15,000 from

the Community Recovery Fund to appoint a project manager to advance the spire restoration and seek further funding. Although restoring the Clock Tower is a planning condition with political support, the Spire and Burgh Chambers are not part of the Fife Council Capital Plan. Politicians should ensure the Burgh Chambers redevelopment appears in the next update.

Current Situation

It is now clear that Fife Council has no plans to restore the clock tower or keep the building in public ownership. As an organisation, we lack both the resources and expertise to pursue this matter further. After ten years of effort, we have reluctantly decided to withdraw from advocating for public ownership. We hope that whoever buys the building will care for it and help bring prosperity and energy to our High Street.

Protecting Local Heritage

Without heating or water, stored artworks and artefacts are at risk; some, like ship models donated in 1950, have already been moved to Glenrothes, a move opposed by the Trust. The Trust argues that the Burgh Chambers' artefacts are integral to Burntisland's identity and should stay in town preserving the community heritage.

George McLauchlan
www.burntislandheritage.org.uk

Burntisland Community Awards 2026

Your Community Council now seeks nominations for the Burntisland Community Awards 2026! We want to recognise the individuals and groups who have played their special part in making Burntisland a great place to live, work, and visit.

Nominations are in three categories: Individual Award (Citizen of the Year); Group or Team Award; and Young Person Award (aged under 25 on 1st January 2026). You can nominate in one or more categories. We do not always award in every category.

This is not a popularity contest: Community Councillors judge all nominations against selection criteria. These criteria and instructions are on the nomination forms to guide you.

You can download nomination forms from our website www.burntislandcc.org.uk and email completed forms back to our Secretary: burntislandcc@outlook.com

Some paper copies of the forms will also be available at the Toll Hub on the High Street and can be left there for collection.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday 15th December**.

We will assess all nominations carefully and it's always difficult to make choices on the winners. The winners will be informed as soon as possible at/from Hogmanay.

This is great opportunity for all of us to express our thanks and give winners the honour and recognition they deserve.

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Toll Community Centre & Hub

The Toll had a busy and successful summer! Our Toll on Tour and Family Fun events were well attended, with overwhelmingly positive feedback. We also continued Family Fun during the October holidays and are now seeking funding to make it a regular session during school breaks.

We piloted a Parent and Toddler project on Tuesday mornings, which has also been really popular. Parents are keen for it to continue, so we're exploring funding options to help sustain it.

Our Hub on the High Street remains a busy space, continuing to offer community food every Wednesday. We're always looking for new volunteers to help with the charity shop—sorting donations, learning to use the till, chatting with customers, or helping us move items to our lock ups. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you!

We're also looking for new people to join our committee. If you're passionate about the Toll and want to help shape its future, please get in touch for a chat.

Looking ahead, we hope to offer Santa's Sleigh and Santa's Grotto this year! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates—and if you'd like to offer support, please reach out.

Finally, we've launched a community consultation to hear your ideas about what you'd like to see at the Toll Centre—from new groups and activities to community events. You can access the online form by scanning the QR code, email us for a questionnaire, or pick one up from our Hub on the High Street.



Email: enquiries@tollcentre.org.uk, or phone: 01592 872854.

Cairinne Macdonald, Centre Manager



Public Bookcases around town

The Itty Bitty BookShack Brings Book Magic to Russell Grove

What started as one book lover's dream has become a little hub of joy for the local community. Inspired by the popular Little Bookhouse Fife on MacKinnon Place in Dunfermline, Auli and her partner Ross decided to create something similar right here in their own garden—and so, The Itty Bitty BookShack was born. A free book gifting library where anyone can come and help themselves to whatever novels take their fancy.

Located near the school at the end of Russell Grove, the BookShack was lovingly built in summer 2023 using entirely reused and recycled materials. The couple sourced wood from old pallets and leftover projects, while the roof felt and paint were kindly donated by locals. "Reduce, reuse, recycle" has been the key with Ross using his DIY skills to hand build the shack.

Sponsored by Ross's workplace, the Itty Bitty BookShack is now registered with the global Little Free Libraries network. Visitors don't need to leave a book to take one—everyone is welcome to share and enjoy



stories freely. When the shelves are full, Auli takes to the road, redistributing extra books to other local bookcases, nicknamed "Book Bumps" she bumps up the library's stock. So your donations are always redistributed to be given out for free.

Over the past two years, the pair have also brought extra fun to the community with festive book hunts around town at Christmas and Halloween. You can follow The Itty Bitty BookShack on Instagram to see new arrivals, community updates, and their latest book-hiding adventures.

Ferguson Place Free Library

Independently, another public bookcase appeared around the same time in 2023 with Susan Smith putting up the Free Library on Ferguson Place. It was built in the Men's Shed Kirkcaldy by her friend

Susan Thores, painted with the help of son Roan, and put up by all three together.

It is well used, with books for adults on the top and bottom shelves, and children's books in the middle.

The Book Exchange on Grange Road

A third, smaller, bookcase in the town appeared last year, located at the very top of Grange Road, past the old Distillery on the route to The Binn.

It came about after Jo Hadoke saw the others and wanted to share the love of books. All sorts get added, from people passing as well as her own, and Jo recycles most months with the Big Green Market.

There is also a free book shelf at the railway station waiting room and in the golf club.

Are there others nearby that we don't know about? Get in touch and let us know!








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Burntisland Community Suppers (formerly Supper at the Sally)

By the time you read this, Burntisland's friendly Saturday night community suppers will be up and running again. Hurrah!

We aim to run between November and March from 5pm to 6.30pm and offer two tasty hot courses of good food and good company. The project runs with support from Burntisland Community Development Trust alongside massive support from the community, local businesses and funders. These include Fife Council Warmer Spaces, Forth Ports, as well as our fantastic volunteer team who ran bag packing, a bake sale and a sellout bingo night over the summer!

The Pay What 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 (including Saltire Awards for young volunteers) and brings the community together at the darkest time of the year.

This year we are pleased to welcome some new faces to the volunteer team as well as welcoming back volunteers from previous years. Last year we provided service with a smile to over 100 individual diners.

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



For menus, more information or to volunteer check out our website. Weekly menus and further information are on the 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!

The Big GREEN Market Burntisland

It's all Go (ho-ho) for the Big Green Market December Market

It's unreal that we're heading into the final Big Green Market of 2025! We're gearing up for a really lovely finale for this year when we're setting up on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th December at the Burntisland Parish Church Halls.

This is where we're bringing together our lovely remakery stall—beautiful gifts, homewares and accessories made by local crafters. The Big Green twist is that all of the items are made using materials sourced from the Big Green Market throughout the year.

If you have someone on your Christmas list who loves eco friendly, locally sourced, thoughtful gifts—you'll find something to treasure at the Big Green Remakery truly.

We're always SO excited about the December market. Why spend a fortune on brand new stocking fillers, party outfits and cheesy jumpers, when you can give unique treasures a new home—and keep money in the community?"

This year's December market will go directly to Burntisland and Kinghorn Foodbank, making every purchase even more meaningful during the festive season. And you can bring a few items to donate to the food bank, too. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more news on that.

A Record-Breaking Year

2025 has been an incredible year for the Big Green Market, with not one but two record-breaking markets for fundraising. The team will be releasing a full annual breakdown in the new year, but it's clear the market continues to go from strength to strength.

Community Groups Thrive at BGM

The Big Green Market actively encourages local community groups to book tables and spaces over the two days to raise funds and awareness; the results speak for themselves. At recent markets, one community group had well over 100 conversations with our shoppers, while another raised an impressive £230 on their own tombola stall.

For us, this is the big green heart of the BGM. It's not just about pre-loved bargains—it's about creating a space where community groups can connect directly with local people, share their work, and raise vital funds. The market gives groups a ready-made audience of engaged, community-minded people who want to support local causes.

Repair Cafe Returns

Mark your calendars for Saturday 15th November when the BGM Repair Cafe returns. The team are still looking for fixers with skills in basic sewing, small electrical repairs, woodworking, or mechanics to join the volunteer crew.

If you've got a can-do attitude and enjoy helping others, get in touch through the BGM website: www.biggreenmarket.com

And on that note... our BRAND NEW WEBSITE has launched

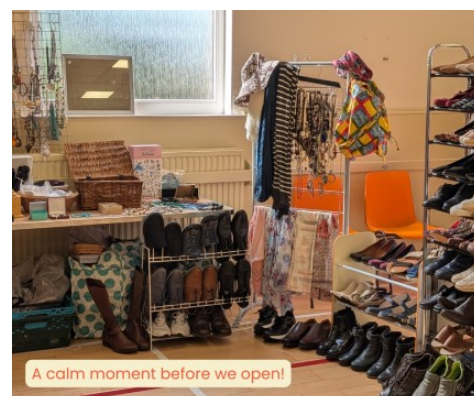
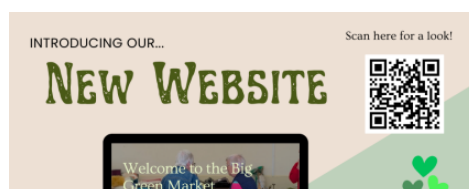
Thanks to support from Kirkcaldy area's 'You Decide' fund, the BGM now has a brand new website at www.biggreenmarket.com. The site has everything you need to know about the market, including details of future markets and Repair Cafe dates.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Please note there will be no market in January, but the BGM will be back in full swing in February 2026. Traditionally, the Big Green Market runs on the first full Friday & Saturday of each month, with hours on Fridays from 12 noon to 3pm and Saturdays from 10am to 1pm at Burntisland Parish Church Halls.

The eagle-eyed among you will notice the Friday times have changed. We're trialling out this new time to see if it makes any difference and will keep you posted on anything that changes long term.

For more information or to book a community group table, visit www.biggreenmarket.com or find us on Facebook.



Burntisland Sailing Club

Summer of progress at the sailing club.

Burntisland Sailing Club (BSC) has had an excellent summer season with members engaged in yacht racing both at home and with other clubs in the Forth, as well as making cruises along the East Coast of Scotland and England. Members have also been sailing North through to Loch Linhhe on the West Coast via the Moray Firth and Loch Ness and venturing South to the Farne Islands and Whitby.

A new workshop has been erected enabling members to carry out maintenance on equipment out of the weather.

Following the previous article in the Burgh Buzz, BSC had an excellent response, gaining 11 new members and can now report a full contingent of boat owners.

The search for non-boat owning members continues with an introductory crew membership being offered for up to 2



years, enabling participants to sail in a variety of yachts both for racing and cruising and to attend social events. They will also be able take advantage of a range of Knowledge Based Learning events on and off the water which will assist them in planning their own needs.

The pontoons in the East Basin now have a water supply and the fingers re-arranged to allow easier berthing for visitors. They are now full, however the moorings in the outer harbour are being overhauled and reset and it is possible that a few may be available for smaller vessels of less than 30 feet in length for the next season.

Bluebird, the club's Cheverton workboat, has been extensively refurbished and renewed. Further alterations to her are



planned over the winter to enable the moorings and race marks to be more easily handled and laid.

Finally, the season was marked by a well-attended Dinner and Prize Giving in November at the Sands Hotel, which was enjoyed by all.

David Holdsworth BEM
www.burntislandsailing.org.uk

Bonfire & Fireworks Night

Another successful event—well done to all of the volunteer committee and bucket shakers!



We're grateful to everyone who donated on the night—you can still donate to help with funds for next year: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/burntisland-bonfire-and-fireworks-display-1

So much work goes into making this event happen, therefore we would also like to take this opportunity to thank: the ATC, Crexcell, IFRA, Burntisland First Aid, Police, Radio Lollipop, 21cc, Morna & her bonfire building crew, Forth Ports, Fife Council staff, Community Payback, Scott Pallets, Highland Games, Mark at Divebunker, Dougie Elder, Jim and Pete, Jenson Codona, Burger Island, On A roll, 114, Evolve, Silver Tassie, The Star, Sunrise Bakehouse, and Starley Hall.



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Burntisland Primary School

This edition we would like to introduce our new House Captains and Vice Captains for the school. They are all from Primary 7 and have chosen to tell you a little bit about themselves:

Inchmickery

My name is Rhys. I am a House Captain of Inchmickery and I love playing rugby.

Hi my name is Lily. I am House Captain of Inchmickery and I love swimming and dancing.

My name is Ethan. I am Vice Captain of Inchmickery and I love cycling.

Hi I am Amelia. I am Vice Captain of Inchmickery and I love my dog, fish and miniature shark.

Cramond

My name is Malcolm. I am House Captain of Cramond and I like playing football.

My name is Isla F. I am the House Captain of Cramond and I like going to my Grandparents' farm and playing football.

Hello my name is Clarke. I am Vice Captain of Cramond and I like playing football.

Hello my name is Rowan. I am one of the Vice Captains for Cramond and I like drawing.

Inchcolm

My name is Isla K. I am House Captain for Inchcolm and I like dancing.

My name is Gregor. I am House Captain for Inchcolm and I like playing football.

My name is Abbey. I am Vice Captain for Inchcolm and I love dancing and running.

My name is Blair. I am Vice Captain for Inchcolm and I like to watch and play baseball.

Inchkeith

I am Oran. I am House Captain of Inchkeith and I like tennis.

I am Sophia. I am House Captain of Inchkeith and I like knitting.

I am Barney. I am Vice Captain of Inchkeith and I like playing video games.

I am Jessica. I am Vice Captain of Inchkeith and I like dancing.

This week the House and Vice captains have visited all of the classes in the school and nursery and this is what they have found out about last term's learning in BPS!

P1M - We have been learning about sounds and the people who help you at school.

P1C - We have been learning how to count up and down, our sounds and the alphabet.



P1/2 - We have been learning about sounds, our community and numbers before and after.

P2F - We learned about Emotion works, place value and comprehension skills.

P2/3 - Enjoyed doing descriptive writing and ball control in gym.

P3O - We have been working hard on our ball skills in gym and have been doing basic spelling and numbers.

P3HL - Have been learning map skills for their topic.

P4R - We have been learning about the local community.

P4S - We have been learning about the community in our local area.

P5S - We have been enjoying writing about Mary Queen of Scots. We have also been enjoying outdoor learning.

P5P - We have been enjoying learning maths skills with subtraction. We have focused on descriptive writing and in gym we were doing gymnastics.

P6H - We enjoyed cooking different dishes and taking them home.

P6M - We have enjoyed developing our cooking skills and learning how to make different dishes.

P7P - We have enjoyed getting our iPads. We also enjoyed learning about electricity and making electrical circuits. We have also enjoyed learning about Black History Month.

P7G - We loved going to Ardroy. We also liked getting out iPads and learning about Black History Month.

In the Nursery - We made a chart to find out what we were dressing up as Halloween. For Outdoor Learning, we went to the woods to learn about pinecones and acorns. We've been learning about Autumn and went on some nature walks, we also collected pinecones, conkers, and we were looking at different types of flowers and nature.

As well as finding out all of the information about the learning going on, the House Captains have also been saying goodbye to Maureen our lollipop lady who retired at the end of the month of October after looking after all of our children so well for 28 years!

Thank you Maureen for your kindness, your good humour and your always cheery chat. We will miss seeing you at the Toll Crossing and wish you every happiness in your retirement!



The children have also been busy raising money to help end polio, in collaboration with the Rotary Club. All classes have 'walked a mile' to end polio and most children brought in a pound coin to show their support for this cause.



We are looking forward to a busy term in the run up to Christmas, including Scots Verse, Bonfire Night and Christmas Parties as well as the Carol Concert, Nativity and Nursery Christmas Singalong.

Thank you for reading our news and thank you to our new House and Vice Captains for helping me with this article so well!

Louise Gordon, Headteacher

BPS Parent Council

Hello Burntisland families! The Burntisland Primary School Parent Council is back with some fantastic news heading into winter.

Introducing the New Committee

We've had a big change! We have lots of new faces joining the committee this year, but we are extremely lucky to have the wonderful Eileen staying on as our co-secretary! We've also introduced a new, non-office-bearing role: Nursery Liaison, to better connect with our youngest pupils' families. We are very pleased to have Jenna Evans taking on that role. A big thank you to everyone who logged on to our last meeting, your involvement is truly appreciated.

Free Uniform Shop is NOW OPEN!

We're proud to announce that the new BPS Free Uniform Shop is up and running! This initiative is amazing for families, but it's also

a huge win for the environment. By passing on uniforms, we are promoting sustainability and keeping textiles out of landfill. It's totally free and accessible to all parents and pupils. Simply ask at the school reception to access the shop in the General Purpose room where you can donate and/or pick up BPS uniforms.

Playground Upgrade is GO!

Great news for playtimes! Our £34,000 proposal for the playground update has officially been signed off by Fife Council. We are thrilled to see this project moving to the next phase. A special thanks to Fiona Embleton for carrying this forward. The full upgrade will be implemented over the next few months, weather permitting, so get ready for some exciting new play spaces!

Date for the Diary!

We are looking forward to hosting our annual **Christmas Fayre on Sunday 7th December from 1pm-3pm.**

There will be a soft start for families who benefit from a quieter environment from 12.30pm. It's always a fantastic day of fun, community, and festive cheer. Volunteers and raffle prizes are still needed so please reach out or watch our Facebook page for more details.

Don't forget to mark your calendars! We can't wait to see you all.

The BPS Parent Council

Chair: Amy Peterson
Vice Chair: Chris McLaren
Treasurer: Paula Garcia-Zaragoza
Co-Secretaries: Meg Kiel, Eileen Leavers
Events and Fundraising: Steph Sinclair
Nursery Liaison: Jenna Evans

burntislandps.parents@gmail.com



Burntisland Out of School Service (BOSS)

We are preparing ourselves for the winter months here at BOSS! The darker afternoons do not stop us getting outdoors, instead we explore our surroundings with lots of torches providing the children a safe place to discover new things from a different perspective. Our first term this year has seen the children enjoy the fruits of their labour and sample some delicious and ridiculously huge courgettes grown in our shared garden. The strawberries were a hit too!

We offer the children lots of different areas and activities to support them in their play and development. This term the children have been enjoying lots of football, basketball and group games such as jump the river and dodgeball. Those who enjoy creative and mindful activities have been enjoying loom bands, hama beads as well as clay modelling and painting.

Our recent generous donation of Harry Potter Lego has been a huge success and is often requested. We have also collected

some amazing donations of clothes and accessories from the Big Green Market which are providing the children lots of provocation and inspiration for their imaginative play.

We are very pleased to have been able to open both weeks of the October holidays. During our holiday club we made soup and bread, enjoyed facepainting, practiced yoga, the children created their own gameshow, had a beach trip, lots of park play, there was plenty den building, arts & crafts and some delicious ice cream at Novelli's.

Our next holiday club will be on the school in-service day Friday 14th November. We have very limited spaces left so please do get in touch as soon as possible if you are interested in your child joining us!

As a registered charity we are working hard to keep our provision affordable for families and would love to hear from any businesses and workplaces who would be able to support BOSS! If this is something you can

help with please contact us using the details below.

For all enquiries or if you would like to be added to our mailing list for August 2026 school starts, you can call us on **07702 801132** or email bossburntisland@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.bossburntisland.co.uk

Anne Laidlaw, Manager



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Fife Council Community Learning and Development Team



Girls Group, S1-3 Burntisland Library Upper Room, Thursday 4-5.45pm, Free

This is a brand-new group looking to start some small group work with around 8-12 girls who are in S1-3 who are looking for a place to meet their friends and take part in activities along with our two experienced youth workers Jordan and Kelly.

The direction of the group will be shaped by the girls who attend. We will start with pizza then get involved in various activities that will build confidence, address at wellbeing concerns, give information about staying healthy, how to deal with peer interactions/pressure, relaxation and team working. There will be arts/crafts, games, talks from visiting organisation, trips and lots more to get involved in.

If you know someone you think would benefit from getting involved but is nervous of attending for the first time, please email lynn.brannan@fife.gov.uk and we will happily meet them in advance, so they have a friendly face they know.

Women's Group

Cornerstone Café, Salvation Army Hall, Wednesday 12-2pm, Free

The Women's Group is open to all women in the town and is a space for us to meet, talk, laugh and get information and advice. In partnership with Cornerstone Café, a free delicious two course lunch is served by the amazing volunteers then we settle into an activity.

12th November—Crochet/Crafts
19th November—Christmas Crafts
26th November—Crochet/Crafts
3rd December—Wreath Making

If you want to sign up to the wreath making course, please email cdtadmin@fife.gov.uk or phone 01592 583475 in advance as spaces will be limited and priority will be given to those who have been attending the other sessions.

REHIS Food Hygiene Course

Toll Community Centre, Monday 17th and 24th November 9.30am- 1pm, Free

This is a free course for anyone who volunteers with a local community food project or is looking to gain a qualification to help them find a job. Spaces are limited so signing up in advance is essential by emailing cdtadmin@fife.gov.uk or phoning 01592 583475.

The course covers all aspects of food safety: bacteria/food poisoning/personal hygiene/food pests/equipment/hygiene law and has a multiple-choice exam at the end. Our community food expert Ian will assist all learners to gain this certificate.

Please note that both days must be attended to gain the certificate.

If you have any questions or course/opportunities you would like to be made available in the town, please let me know by emailing lynn.brannan@fife.gov.uk

Junior Youth Club, P5-7

Toll Community Centre, Tuesday 6.30-8pm, Cost £1.50

The youth club is back!

We are working with reduced numbers at the moment as we unfortunately lost our volunteers however, we have had someone step up and offer their services, so we hope to be able to open some new spaces very soon.

The children continue to enjoy arts/crafts, group games, board games and pool to name but a few.

We are no longer able to offer cooking/baking so if anyone has these skills and would like to volunteer their time they would be made very welcome.

If you have a child who would like to attend please email before sending them along.

**Lynn Brannan, Community Education
Worker**

Burntisland & Kingshore Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has supported us through donations and volunteering. Your generosity helps us try to ensure that nobody in our community goes hungry.

Volunteers needed—can you help?

Our monthly Saturday promotions at Morrisons Kirkcaldy have been very successful and brought in lots of food each time. We need more volunteers to help with this—do you know anyone who could chat with shoppers and hand out our 'shopping list' flyers? (This needn't be the whole day, you could join us for a couple of hours if that suits you better.) Please email us if you can help.

We also welcome help with packing and sorting parcels, and welcoming people coming to collect them. No previous experience needed—just drop us an email to find out more.

Our AGM and future plans

We held our first Annual General Meeting

on 4th September, reviewing our first year and making plans for the future.

We discussed our Annual Report (if you'd like to see a copy, please email us). Our office holders (the co-Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer) were re-elected and we thanked the three Trustees who have stepped down from the Board but remain Members.

Thank you to everyone who came and joined in the discussion. Suggestions for future action included looking into whether we could offer a collection point in Kingshore, investigating what we can do to make sure the food we offer is healthy, and whether we could offer more collection time options. All of these are being discussed at Board meetings.

Potential new collection point in Kingshore

We held an information session at Kingshore Community Centre on Saturday 25th October, to find out what local people think about a collection point there. We felt this went well and will now think about how to run a pilot version. If you would like to comment on this idea, you can email us

with your thoughts or speak to our members.

We'd be pleased to hear from anybody who would like to help with the Kingshore collections (likely to be a Saturday morning).

Reverse Advent Calendar

We will be running the Reverse Advent Calendar from 1st December, to collect donations for Christmas dinner parcels (working with the Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association). Look out for more information soon!

For more updates, please look at our website or Facebook page, and sign up for our newsletter.

We continue to offer support on Tuesdays and Fridays 12-2pm at the Salvation Army Hall on Lonsdale Crescent with no need for a referral or appointment—anyone who needs help can just turn up.

More information about how we can help and what we do is always available on our website, www.bkfoodbank.org.uk and our Facebook page.



Friends of Burntisland Old Parish Church

Join the movement and be part of the legacy!

In the previous edition of the Burgh Buzz, we told you that our iconic church building is listed for disposal by its owners at the end of 2027. This is despite it being used regularly by its congregation, Burntisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland. The building is not owned by the congregation, but by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland, based in Edinburgh.

Friends of Burntisland Old Parish Church (FoBOPC) is a community group formed recently to protect this unique 430-year-old building and its historic fixtures and fittings. We want to save it as a publicly accessible heritage asset for the foreseeable future and for the good of the community.

Historic Environment Scotland: In August, we hosted representatives Steven Robb and Mirra Kannan from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Andrew McMaster, the new Built Heritage Officer at Fife Council. They toured the church and were very impressed with its historical features and general condition. Claire Baker MSP continues to engage with HES on our behalf. However, despite recognising the building's importance, HES has not committed to taking over building ownership, saying its resources are limited.

Statement of Significance: Burntisland resident Peter Ryder is an independent historic buildings consultant. In October he completed a Statement of Significance for the building for us; something that is missing from the HES records. We will share this with HES and others who may be able to help preserve the building for the future.

The **General Trustees** said they will give a suitable community group preferred purchaser status. If the building can only be saved by a community group purchase, it's important to ensure that this is a feasible option long term. The building must remain useful to the community and financially viable.

Community views: In September, we held consultation events over two weekends to coincide with the 'Big Green Market' and 'Doors Open Days'. Over 225 people visited the church and told us what they think of the building and how they'd like it used in the future. Feedback was very positive.



Here are a couple of the comments made:

"This is my first visit... A lovely space that should be kept and cherished by the community. The heritage and history must be preserved."

"Amazing building. Very well preserved. History is outstanding..."

Community group: FoBOPC now has a constitution, a committee with office bearers, and a membership application form. The next steps for the group are to raise funding for a professional feasibility study. This will look at options for acquiring the building and the viability of managing it for community uses, as suggested in our recent consultation.

Should the group proceed to a community purchase, an updated constitution will be required and conversion to a legal entity e.g. a SCIO or a Company Limited by Guarantee.

You're invited: FoBOPC membership is free. If you share our concerns and want to help save our historic church building, please contact us at: friends.of.burntisland.opc@gmail.com and we will send you an application form. We meet every month in the church halls and currently welcome new attendees at our meetings.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 12th November at 7pm. Find us on Facebook and look out for updates and events.

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Class 7



Burntisland–Flekkefjord Town Twinning



Report of our 2025 visit to Flekkefjord from Stephen Cook (Youth Leader)

We arrived in the beautiful coastal town of Flekkefjord at 3pm on 4th August, where our twinnings were warmly welcomed by their Norwegian counterparts and host families. Although the same storm that had swept through the UK brought plenty of rain, it didn't dampen our spirits. The first evening was spent settling in with host families, followed by a visit to the town's fantastic sports centre for some energetic fun.



With the weather a bit unpredictable, our plans remained flexible—but that didn't stop the adventure. One of the highlights was cycling along the old railway line on specially adapted bikes, a thrilling and scenic ride that everyone loved. As the skies cleared later in the week, we hiked up to a stunning viewpoint overlooking Flekkefjord, capturing group photos with the town nestled below. We also got to take part in an unforgettable kayaking trip along the river.



Our final day was a perfect send-off: a barbecue hosted by one of the families,

set against a breathtaking backdrop of a mountain and fjord. Everyone had a chance to try water skiing and had some fun in the water.

Oldest twinner update

We are grateful to Joan Ferguson (née Mackie) for correcting us on our assertion that Sandy Fraser was our oldest twinner! Joan advises us that her sister Lena Cutler (née Mackie) who was the youth leader on Sandy's exchange in 1948 is still very much with us. Now 98 and living in St Albans, Hertfordshire, Lena is described as being 'as sharp as a tack'. Joan reports that Lena keeps up to date with the town's news by viewing the Buzz on her iPad.

Joan was able to confirm the full list of participants in 1948 as: Sandy Fraser, Jamie Ewan, John McLaughlan, Betty McCowat, Betty Bowman, May Scott, and Nancy McDermot. So it appears Lena had her work cut out for her looking after seven Burntisland youths on the journey when she herself was not much older than those she was accompanying! The young travellers back then made the journey by train and sea over several days. Much has changed in the intervening years but we are delighted the twinning continues to be an integral part of the fabric of Burntisland by providing our youth with the opportunity to experience the culture of Norway.

80th Anniversary plans

Calling all past twinnings! We invite you to take part in celebrating 80 years of twinning with Flekkefjord in 2026! Our twinning was established in 1946 and is one of the oldest in the UK. This year the exchange will take place slightly earlier to coincide with the Games Day so tying in one of the oldest twinning arrangements with one of the oldest games days!

When the twinning celebrated its 50th anniversary a cairn was placed on the Links, (behind the public toilets), where it



still stands to this day. One proposal would be to rededicate the cairn with an additional plaque celebrating the links for an additional 30 years. We would like to do more and with a lasting legacy.

With the launching of our website this year we have been pulling together the history of the exchange, as no records had been kept of the previous visits. If you have any images or memories from previous exchanges, like Joan's and Lena's above, we would love to hear your story.

How would you like the 80th anniversary of the twinning to be marked and celebrated? How can we keep it relevant and a source of pride for Burntisland for another 80 years?

2027 & 2028 cohort

We are already receiving applications to join in with the next round of visits in 2027 & 2028. We are particularly keen to hear from any boys interested in participating. In an effort to widen our potential catchment—if you don't have a spare room, don't let that stop you from applying, as some of the committee have volunteered to offer accommodation to a twin if space is tight at your home. (You must still be a resident of Burntisland).

If you would like to know more please get in touch via the website at

www.burntislandtwinning.org.uk or email burntislandtwinning@gmail.com

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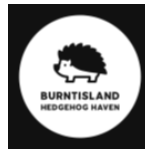
Brickwork, blockwork, stonework, concrete work. New window and door openings. Masonry walls removed

Call Bill - Tel: 01592 383418

Mobile: 07718 934386



Burntisland Hedgehog Haven



It's been our busiest summer since opening the rescue, where we've taken local hedgehogs in and also those from as far away as the Borders.

We've seen ailments such as hedgehogs caught in garden netting, dog bites, injuries from garden machinery and internal parasite burdens.



Our rehabilitation shed quickly turned into a maternity ward where we had Florence who gave birth to 5 hoglets, Gracie 2, Christie 2 (sadly one was stillborn) Bev 4—sadly two passed away due to the trauma they had all been through before arrival to the rescue.

We also had lots of mums and hoglets arriving from nest disturbances where sheds were being knocked down or decking pulled up. We provided a safe haven until mum and hoglets were ready to go back out into the world again.

We've had a lot of media interest and we were amazed and humbled to be a finalist for the BBC Make A Difference awards. It was a lovely afternoon spent at the BBC studios in Glasgow where we received a "Highly Commended" award in the Animal category for our work in the rescue.

We featured in an article on the BBC News site and we did a feature about hedgehogs for CBBC Newsround and we were recognised as "Heroes Of The Week" on Channel 5 News where they came and filmed in the rescue and interviewed us on what we do and why it matters.



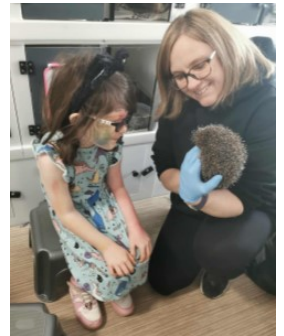
We would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who go above and beyond helping in the rescue and also to our wonderful volunteer drivers both in Fife and Edinburgh as without them we wouldn't be able to get the hedgehogs here to receive the help they need.



REMEMBER A Hedgehog Out In The Day Is NOT ok and will need help from a rescue quickly. Time is never on their side and once they are wandering around during the daytime (Dawn to Dusk) something will be wrong. Please don't just put them in a bush. In winter they are at high risk of hypothermia.

We are so happy to say that we have been selected as one of your local community causes with the Co-op again this year. Please consider choosing us as your local cause if you are a Co-op member and a big thank you to everyone who chose us for the last funding period.

We were delighted to welcome 6 year-old Zelda, who completed a sponsored walk all the way along the coast from Kirkcaldy to Burntisland in aid of the rescue.



Zelda loves animals and wants to help them—she raised an incredible £440 for the rescue. Thank you to everyone who donated!

As always we are here for any hedgehog questions or concerns you may have. Just pop us an email or a message on Facebook. Don't forget there is a lot of information on our website at www.burntislandhedgehoghaven.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the rescue by dropping off donations, newspapers and food. Your help is so appreciated

Sharon Longhurst

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Frequently Asked Questions about Burntisland Playgroup

Who are we?

We are an education provider providing childcare for children aged 2 years 10 months to 5 years old. We are an alternative to the school nursery. We receive funding and support from Fife Council and follow all the same guidance as the school nursery. We have been supported by locals for over 40 years who have chosen us to offer their child's first experiences of education.



We are a registered charity who work from a Committee raising funds to keep us sustainable. Unfortunately due to lack of knowledge that we are a service available in the town, we are looking for extra support this year and the coming years from local families to choose us for their child's education.

Who works for us?

We are a small team formed of our manager and senior practitioner – Rebecca McColm, our two full time Early Year Practitioners – Mandy Macpherson and Louise Donaldson. We have our part time Early Years Practitioner in Laura Rankine. We also have our personal cook – Karen Lorrain-Smith. We are supported by our relief staff Sarah Henderson and Emma Lorrain-Smith. We also have our visiting teacher from Fife Council Rachel Walker. We are all experienced in our roles as well as being mums to children of all ages.

Where are we based and what times are we open?

We are located in the Toll Community Centre. We have free flow play into the secure garden which is currently being redesigned for our future children.

We are open Monday–Friday term time from 8.45am until 2.45pm.

Does coming to playgroup affect getting a place at Nursery or in Primary 1?

NO! Accepting a place at playgroup does not affect your chances of getting into the nursery the following year or in at the school for Primary 1. All parents apply online through Fife Council website for school or a school nursery. We have never

had a child being refused a space at Burntisland Primary when needed.

What do we do?

We follow the Curriculum for Excellence which all nursery provisions follow. We have a key worker systems which is one adult assigned to your child and they will follow their developmental progress and will develop close links with your child and family.

We utilise outdoor space and our town as much as possible. This year alone we have had lots of visits to the woods, beach, war memorial, railway station, fire station, police station, Links View Care Home, the Links, shops and regularly explore the Toll Park.

Is there a waiting list?

We currently have no waiting list at all. You can apply at any time of the year for the coming intake or for future intakes. We have space for up to 24 children.

If you would like to find out more we are having an open day on 30th November from 1pm to 3pm. Come and see the setting, meet the staff and do some Christmas craft!

Alternatively, please contact burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk for further information.



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Burntisland Harbour Access Trust

The past 6 months have kept the Burntisland Harbour Access Trust busy.

In April, we thought we had a breakthrough with Fife Council showing an interest in our lawyers, BTO, opinion. The opinion stated that there were at least three reasons for believing that the community had a legal right of unrestricted access to the areas of the harbour fenced off in 2023. Fife Council interest ceased abruptly after the BHAT chair met with the Fife Access Officer to walk around the dock. Requests to see the Access Officer's report were refused and are now subject to a Freedom of Information appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

In May, our Local Councillors placed a motion with the Fife Cabinet seeking a summary of the Council's position on access rights around the East Dock. The cabinet agreed and called for a report at their August meeting.



In August, BHAT staged a march and rally from the Beacon to Scott Pallets. Some 400 of you joined us. The objective was to raise awareness of the pending Cabinet meeting. The meeting was postponed to September.

In September, the Cabinet met. It rejected the BHAT request that Fife Council meet its responsibility to examine the BTO legal arguments for access, in favour of the oft-stated argument that Forth Ports are a statutory undertaker and, as such, have acted lawfully in enclosing the active

harbour area from unauthorised and/or public access.

In October, BHAT accepted an offer to assist two of our MSPs, David Torrance and Mark Ruskell, in drafting amendments to a new Land Reform Bill. These amendments are being discussed as the Buzz goes to press, with BHAT commenting:

"We are delighted at MSP's positive reception to improving community access to community assets, encouraged by the universal desire to address the shortcomings of existing legislation and to reform it, delighted to be invited to further debate, but disappointed that the specific Burntisland amendment was, to date, not taken. BHAT and its legal advisors are at the forefront of communities seeking reform and stronger action from the enabling agencies - local authorities. Await developments!"

To keep up to date please visit our website: www.bhat.org.uk or our Facebook page.

Black Rocks Rowing Club



From Sunday 6th to Saturday 12th July, Black Rocks Rowing Club were delighted to join more than 2,000 other rowers from 78 clubs to be part of the **2025 SkiffieWorlds** in Stranraer. Held only once every 3 years, teams came from across Scotland, Ireland, England, the Netherlands, USA, Canada, South Africa and Australia to take part in this festival of rowing. It was our wee club's first visit to the SkiffieWorlds – and the first time for many of our rowers too.

Sunday's opening ceremony was curtailed a little by some rather windy weather but was still an impressive event. The winds were even stronger on Monday which unfortunately saw the first day's racing postponed however the weather improved considerably on Tuesday when we awoke to glorious sunshine and lovely light winds which stayed with us for the rest of the week.

The races all followed the same course – 1 kilometre in one direction, a 180-degree buoy turn to starboard, and then 1 kilometre back. There were 22 different classes of racing for rowers of all ages ranging from U17 right through to 280+ (average age in the boat 70). Most classes had Women's, Men's and Mixed categories, with up to 15 boats per heat. We were delighted that from our newly formed club we managed to enter crews in 12 of these classes. With this being a brand new experience for most of us there were clearly a few nerves before the racing started – however, it became clear from results in our early heats that in fact Black Rocks were going to be able to be 'in the mix' with other clubs of a similar size.

With no racing on Monday, Tuesday became a very busy day that saw us competing in 4 events. The sea was still pretty rough after Monday's stormy weather – especially earlier in the day – so it was a challenging day for all involved!

Our 40+ Women finished 8th in their heat, 40th overall.
 Our 40+ Men's crew finished 6th in their heat, 36th overall.
 Our 280+ Men's crew from Eastern finished 33rd overall – our top points-scoring event.
 Our 50+ Mixed crew finished 8th in their heat, 43rd overall.
 Our 60+ Men's crew finished their heat in 11th, 49th overall.
 Our 40+ Mixed crew finished 7th in their heat, 48th overall.
 Our 50+ Men finished their heat in 8th, 35th overall.
 Our 50+ Women finished 13th in their heat and 61st overall.
 The 60+ Mixed crew finished 12th in their heat, 57th overall.

Our Mixed Open team finished 8th in their heat and 41st overall. Our Men's Open team finished 9th in their heat and 28th overall. And finally, our Women's Open crew finished 7th in their heat and 37th overall.

Overall, we finished 57th out of a total of 78 participating teams and we are very pleased with that result—particularly considering the fact that we only launched our skiff last year! Indeed, despite our best efforts, none of our crews actually managed to get a full practice together before race day. It's been quite a shot in the arm to realise that we really are in the mix with longer-established clubs. We're seeing a surge of enthusiasm for competitive rowing that will no doubt be reflected in our future calendar.

This event was a steep learning curve for all involved but was, at the same time, hugely enjoyable. There's a wonderful sense of community within coastal rowing and it was lovely to experience that and to be a small part of it. Stranraer is an ideal venue and the organisers, and their army of willing volunteers, deserve huge praise. Together they ensured the whole event was just a spectacular success. We are already looking forward to SkiffieWorlds 2028!

If anyone would like to join us and try rowing, please just visit our website at www.burntislandrowing.org.uk and hit the link that takes you to our 'get involved' page. Please don't be put off by all the talk of competitive racing in the article—most of our rows are simply social in nature and allow us to enjoy the sights and sounds out on the Forth.

Brian Morley



Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club



The Club has continued its activities under the influence of President Lesley Main with several activities linked to the local primary schools in Burntisland, Kinghorn & Auchtertool. This includes support for a school fayre in Burntisland on 7th December and continued support for Rotary Rambles taking pupils on natural interest walks around their area.

The schools are also involved in the 'Walk a Mile for Polio' campaign where children complete their challenge in the school grounds. A recent speaker at the Sands was Aileen North from West Fife Rotary who gave a presentation on the progress of Polio eradication throughout the world indicating that the only countries showing endemic disease were Afghanistan & Pakistan both of whom are making strong efforts to control.

From our own entertainment point of view, 15 of us will be visiting Rosslyn Chapel on 10th November whilst we will be hosting Glenrothes on Monday 24th November for the local round of our inter-club Gavel Competition for 'Pub' games.

Plans for a series of cooperation events to

raise funds with sister Clubs is now very much in process with, firstly, an Antiques Valuation Day scheduled for 17th February at Dalgety Bay Church with the Rotary Club of Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay.

Secondly, we are in progress of assisting the plan for a 'Cherished Car Tour' with the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy to take place on 6th September next year. The route, leaving from the Bay Hotel Kinghorn will take in large parts of Fife to reach Madras Rugby Club St Andrews for lunch & return to the Bay Hotel for dinner raising funds for 'My Name is Daddie', Prostate Cancer & a specific woman's charity to be decided. Along with the Kirkcaldy club we are looking for a major sponsor along with programme & support sponsors for what should be a memorable event.

In addition to all the above the Club has initiated a plan, along with a number of other Fife Clubs, to carry out the 'Pilgrim's Way Walk' in the early Spring raising funds for various Rotary charities.

Our meetings are, as always, held in the Burntisland Sands Hotel at 6.45pm with the option of a single course meal, tea &

coffee. A variety of speakers on general & sometimes specific subjects are arranged by our programme convener. (see next three months below) To attend contact any B&K Rotarian or advise Secretary Derek at delta.tango662@gmail.com

Derek Thomson

November – Rotary foundation month

11th Remembrance event
18th Scottish evening – Fiona Brodie
25th Fellowship evening

December – Disease prevention and treatment month

2nd Business meeting
9th Ian Archibald – Binn village shale works
16th Christmas party
20th Santa's Sleigh at Morrisons Kirkcaldy
23rd & 30th holiday

January 2026 – Vocational service month

6th Business meeting
13th Ann Wilson (tbc)
20th Burns Supper
27th Fellowship evening

February – Peacebuilding and conflict



Hello Burntisland

KINGSWOOD HOTEL is prepared for our exciting FESTIVE season. Bookings are open for all our exciting EVENTS we have lined up for you!!

Apart from our Party Night, we will be running Wreath Making Classes with Poppy Floral Design, Murder Mystery Nights, our popular Breakfast with Santa and a Christmas evening with Elsa McTaggart Music. Something for everyone!!

Our festive DINING menus will start 1st December in the restaurant if you are planning Christmas Get Togethers, Office Parties and Family Reunions..

Christmas Afternoon Tea will also be available Mon-Sat inclusive (24 hours notice please)

CHRISTMAS DAY will start at 12pm right through till 4pm and then why not end 2025 with dinner, DJ entertainment, games and ceilidh dancing to welcome the New Year with a BIG FAMILY HOGMANAY Hoolie?

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Burntisland Bowling Club

The outdoor bowling season at Burntisland Bowling Club concluded on Sunday 5th October with the closing of the green. After another great season of bowling at the club, the Mens Club Champion was Elliot Young and Audrey Colville became the Ladies Club Champion. We also had success at County Level with Brian Fleming, Paul Graham, Audrey Colville, and Margaret Farnes winning the West Fife Mixed Fours.



Men's Competitions: Stevie McAughey (President's Cup, Bob Meldrum Handicap); Mark Paterson (Senior Cup, Stevenson Cup); Chris Connor (Ian Muir Trophy); Ken Littlemore (Over 65s); Paul Graham & Derek Connor (Ballot Pairs); Stephen Croxford & Paul Graham (Nomination Pairs); Paul Graham, John Robertson & Lee Brown (Triples);

Ladies' Competitions: Dorothy Whyte (Morrison Cup, Festival Cup); Hazel Montague (President's Plate, Isabel Muir Cup); Audrey Colville (Seniors' Cup); Margaret Farnes (Helen Mann Cup); Janette MacDonald (Points Cup); Margaret Farnes & Sandra Beveridge (Nomination Pairs); Dorothy Whyte & Rosemary Lascelles (Ballot Pairs); Audrey Colville & Sheila Colville (Two Bowl Pairs); Audrey Colville, Lorna Murdoch & Morag Hutton (Triples);

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

The **Junior Championship** was won by George Connor.

Congratulations to all our winners.

As we move into the close season the carpet bowls begins in the main hall, with all welcome. Days and times are Monday 2pm (Ladies), Thursday 7pm (Mixed) and Saturday 2pm (Mixed). Also look out for upcoming social evenings the club, again all welcome.

www.burntislandbowlingclub.org.uk

Jim Connor

Civic Week

We are delighted to announce we are holding our Civic Week Christmas Artisan Market again this year at Burntisland Sands Hotel on Sunday 30th November from 1pm to 5pm.

This is a family Christmas event with stalls, Santa, snow globe, mince pies, and mulled wine. All money raised will go towards running future Civic Week events.

Our AGM took place in late September, with the committee continuing for another year as we begin planning the dates and theme for next summer's Civic Week.

If you would like to join our committee or help volunteer next year to ensure Civic Week is a success, please get in touch via our Facebook page or email: burntislandcivicweek@gmail.com

Amanda Jones, Chair

ABK Probus Club

Aberdour, Burntisland, Kinghorn Probus is a friendly and welcoming club intended for retired men. The objective of the club is to provide opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, to socialise and promote common interests.

The club meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month, at the Kingswood Hotel, from 10am to 12noon.

Meetings generally start with coffee and time for a chat followed by any club business then a presentation by an invited speaker on a wide range of interesting subjects. We already have a full list of speakers for 2026 presenting various interesting subjects such as The Forth Bridges, History of the Beveridge Park, Burntisland Shipbuilding the war years, and more.

There is currently an active snooker sub-group who meet every Monday and others such as bowling may be possible. We also arrange occasional outings during the year.

We would welcome new members and invite anyone interested to contact our President, Jim Bisset for further details. Telephone 07958 305349 or email jimbisset1@gmail.com

John Bruce

Local Business Updates

in association with Totally Locally Burntisland

Since the last issue of the Burgh Buzz...

Arminen Tattoo studio has opened at 138 High Street, having moved from the Platform Studios.

Talented Witches has closed however they continue trading from a mobile service and their Facebook page.

A number of businesses including Pretty Presents, Wildbells, Bel & Etta (11th and 18th December), Happy Go Lucky Dog shop (4th and 18th), and Hair.comb will be opening late on a Thursday leading up to Christmas.



Burntisland Hedgehog Haven and Burntisland Highland Games are the two causes chosen to benefit from the Co-op Local Community fund for the year ahead.

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

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Floral Action Burntisland

A Season of Community Spirit and Lasting Legacies

As the golden hues of autumn settle over Burntisland, it is time to reflect on a summer season that truly displayed the town at its best. From vibrant floral displays to tireless community efforts, the town has once again proven why it is not just a place to visit—but a place to belong.

A Blooming Success

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to making Burntisland shine this summer. The town looked spectacular, and the impact on visitors was undeniable. The collective effort, from residents to Fife Council, showed the pride and care that defines our community. Special appreciation is due to the Council teams, whose diligence and dedication to public spaces did not go unnoticed.



Teamwork in Action

We recently saw another brilliant example of community collaboration as the summer baskets came down and compost bins were filled. A special shout-out to Gordon Sweeney, whose voluntary use of his cherry picker made the task not only possible but enjoyable. To all who turned up and got stuck in—thank you.

Digital Blossoms

A huge thank-you to Flavia McIntosh for developing the beautiful new Floral Action Burntisland website—a fresh digital space that reflects the vibrancy and dedication of our community. Here we will be updating our blog regularly on topics all about planting, garden maintenance—sharing hints and tips for all.

Growing for Good

Our community allotment continues to be a source of nourishment and connection. This season, we were proud to donate fresh produce to local community suppers which brings people together over shared meals and shared values. It's a powerful reminder that sustainability starts with generosity and grows through collaboration.

Learning for Sustainability

We're also thrilled to continue to support Burntisland Primary School in their Learning for Sustainability journey. From outdoor learning to climate education, this partnership is helping to embed real-world, values-driven learning into the heart of the curriculum. It's a joy to see pupils engaging with nature, community, and global citizenship in such meaningful ways.

Looking Ahead: Winter Prep and a Legacy in Bloom

As we turn our attention to winter preparations, we also look ahead to a poignant milestone. This January marks the final year of Hamish Brown's snowdrop planting—a tradition that has blanketed Burntisland in beauty for over six decades.

At 91, Hamish is stepping back from his hands-on role, including his long-standing care of Allan Court.

Hamish's contributions to the town are legendary. A renowned mountaineer, author, and outdoor educator, his life story is as inspiring as the landscapes he's helped shape. If you would like to help continue his living, beautiful legacy, especially in Allan Court, please email: contact@floralactionburntisland.co.uk. Even if you are not ready to take on the role, a walk through the vennel or a chat with Hamish is well worth your time.

What's Next

Winter planning is underway, with spring and summer projects already on the horizon.

The AGM is expected to take place in February and another volunteer event is in the works to welcome new faces and fresh energy into the fold.

Irene Megaw, Secretary

www.floralactionburntisland.co.uk



Burntisland Golf House Club

BGHC Membership Deals 2025

1) 18 month membership from October 2025 to March 2027

£180 down payment then £39 per month

2) Winter Membership 2025 from October 2025 until March 2026

£45 per month

If membership is renewed in April, 50% cashback towards your new membership is applied.

Visitor winter green fee from November 2025 to end of March 2026 is £20 per person, bookings can be made via the pro shop on 01592 872116. Rental clubs and buggies available to hire subject to availability.

The Clubhouse at Burntisland Golf House Club warmly invites you to enjoy the varied and reasonably priced 'let's eat' lunch

menu: 2 courses £7.50, 3 courses £10. Booking is essential, contact 01592 874093 (option 3)

The clubhouse can also be booked for any private functions, to enquire please call the bar 01592 874093 (option 3)

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01592 872116 or via info@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk



The Music Hall

The latest hall booking is for Salsa and Buchata dancing on a Wednesday evening starting at 6.30pm. Sara and Dani are both excellent teachers and give outstanding instruction in a really fun way. Everyone is welcome irrespective of standard. Feel free to come along and enjoy!

JKS Karate club, who used to train elsewhere, are starting up again in the

Music Hall in January. The dates are still to be confirmed but look out for more details.

The next group we are looking to book is a Community choir. Initial enquiries have raised a few leads but nothing confirmed either way at the moment so we are open to ideas as to how to make it happen.

There is a free women's practical self-defence class on 21st November sponsored by CORRA and delivered by myself and our

top female instructor, Yunkai Li. This is open to ladies of any age, and fitness or ability is not an issue. Search the Burntisland Facebook group for more info.

Finally, we have now replaced the sign boards outside the hall which will have a full itinerary of all the clubs and training times of the hall users. Please keep your eye on the board to see what is going on.

Archie Higgins, Chairperson



As a 16-year-old in S5 at Balwearie High School, I am incredibly grateful to be one of fourteen to be selected from my school to join the Polar Academy team.

The Polar Academy is a charity with an inspiring drive to help push young people past their limits and reach their full potential. The charity's targets are to equip us with resilience and confidence within ourselves and our team, which gives us the courage and drive to believe in ourselves and achieve our dreams. This is a fantastic opportunity as many people selected are "invisible" in school systems and this results in us having a severe lack of belief in our abilities.

Each year, two schools are chosen to follow a year-long programme where the separate teams are put through intense physical and mental training such as weekly insanity training, a week away camping in the Cairngorms, and various long tyre hauls.

This prepares us physically and emotionally

for an authentic Arctic expedition in March 2026, where we will be leading our own expedition across the north of Finland. Out of the 14 chosen, 10 people are on the expedition team and 4 people are on the leadership team and stay behind, however they still have many opportunities such as the summer exchange and go through the same training as the expedition team.

Our Balwearie group also includes Spencer Davies and Connor Lamb from Burntisland.

Although my team and I didn't know each other at the beginning, we have grown a close bond and I have already noticed changes in myself in the sense that it has opened my eyes to so many opportunities that I thought never would be possible for me, and this makes me feel more hopeful and confident for my future. I know that I'm not the only one who is feeling like this.

The Polar Academy also helps many more children across Scotland than the few selected each year, as each team member must share our own personal, unique experience with at least 3,000 people, and so although the Polar Academy directly works with 14 people from our school, around 42,000 students around Scotland will indirectly have the chance to be motivated and encouraged due to The Polar Academy.

This life changing opportunity would not be possible without the hard work and devotion of Craig Mathieson, the founder of The Polar Academy, and everyone else who is involved. The trip costs £25,000 for each person to go, but Craig fundraises everything himself so there is no cost for the families. However, we do hold different events to help fundraise, support, and raise awareness of the charity's work.

Below is a link and QR code to our JustGiving page should you feel inspired to contribute. Any donations are most gratefully received. Thank you

Eilidh Murphy

www.justgiving.com/team/balweariepolaracademy



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Burntisland First Aid Services Trust

We will end this calendar year with a great mixture of events. After a busy November we can wind down in December with a lovely carol service and 3 days of a new Christmas market. Our year is typically bookended with student events – 22 in all this year – but in between we have motorsport, horses, fairgrounds and agricultural shows. Overall, our diary has about 150 events and/or training activities per year, spread across 7 local authority areas.



That's a stretch for our volunteers but it's still so much easier now that we have our own premises at the former police station.

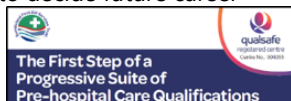
As we had hoped, we've able to extend the benefit of our new centre beyond our own members. By providing a temporary home for the Banking Hub we've had lots of local people through the doors and helped to provide that service earlier than might otherwise have been possible.



We've also hosted occasional use by others, including the Civic Week committee and Sewing & Crafts group. We've leased one room back to Police Scotland for use by the community officers as and when needed.

For ourselves, we recently spent a lovely afternoon supporting the Kinross Road Runners in their half-marathon around beautiful but challenging terrain. Our own radios are good, but were no match for that combination of distance and topography. So we were delighted to work with Raynet (the radio amateurs emergency network), to help ensure that everything ran smoothly.

Right now, our prime focus is on developing our members' skills and welcoming new volunteers. We offer hands-on experience which can be invaluable in helping to decide future career choices. Or own clinical skills are unrivalled in the voluntary sector and are honed by real life.



We do our best to schedule entry-level courses whenever there is enough demand. We're also happy to be flexible about dates, times and content. However, quality is non-negotiable. We want our candidates and our volunteers to be confident in applying the skills that we teach.

We're always happy to respond to enquiries, though with about 40 events in our diary already for next year we're already turning down some events where we would be just too stretched. Naturally, we'll be happy to provide information about courses, events or the hire of meeting rooms at 60 High Street. There's more detail about what we offer and how to get in touch on our website, www.bfast.org.uk

Alex MacDonald

Highland Games

The Annual General Meeting of Burntisland Highland Games will take place on Sunday 1st February at 3pm in the Jubilee Tavern. All members of the public are welcome. The AGM is an opportunity to view our accounts, volunteer to join the committee and help start planning this year's Games.

If you are interested in helping, volunteering or just finding out more about the town's Highland Games, we would love to see you there. To get in touch with the committee message us on Facebook or email burntislandhighlandgames@gmx.co.uk

Skydiving for charity!

Originally a Christmas present from his wife, Derek Clunie turned a skydive into a chance to raise money for two good causes, at Fife airfield near Glenrothes in September.

Last year Derek unfortunately suffered an accident at work which resulted in a two broken vertebrae, fractured ribs and a lacerated kidney. Working at Kettlebridge it was decided the potholed farm track was too risky so a helicopter was requested and promptly arrived to transport him to hospital.

After recovering, he decided to give something back to those who helped in his recovery, "namely the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance and a special mention to the guys at Andys Man club which helped me get my head together."

Derek would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the local businesses, the many individual sponsors and friends who helped raise almost £900, with £600 going to SCAA and £300 to AMC.



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I'm very used to the outdoor life, in all weather conditions! My own dogs, are Bedlington Terriers called Lily & Logan, they accompany me everywhere!



There are currently spaces available on the 11am - 12pm group walk, so please contact: Susan, on 07887 870 790.

It has been a busy and positive start to the new school year at Starley Hall. Both young people and staff have enjoyed a full autumn term of learning, creativity and community connection.

Our Enrichment Week in August provided a supportive transition back to school life, inspired by the Five Ways to Wellbeing – Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. Activities included a visit to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, as well as outdoor art and sports challenges. Young people also prepared and shared homemade pizzas as part of the "Give" theme, helping to strengthen our sense of belonging and kindness across the school.



Many of our young people have been working towards a range of recognised qualifications, including SQA National Qualifications and ASDAN awards. These courses provide opportunities to gain accreditation across subjects such as English, maths, personal development and vocational learning. One group carried out a personal hygiene survey in Dears Chemist as part of their ASDAN work, while another class has been studying Jekyll and Hyde, and exploring the atmosphere of horror and suspense in classic and modern spooky films. Alongside gaining formal accreditation, these experiences help young people develop confidence, communication and transferable skills that prepare them for life beyond school.

Special Visitors

We were pleased to welcome Alex MacDonald from Burntisland First Aid Services Trust for a practical and engaging

first aid session. A small group of young people took part, learning key emergency response skills such as CPR, using a defibrillator and applying bandages. The session gave those involved the chance to build confidence and gain valuable knowledge that could make a real difference in an emergency.



We were also delighted to welcome Calum from Cool Creatures for a memorable animal handling session. Young people met a range of fascinating animals, including curious meerkats and Tank the armadillo, who quickly became a firm favourite. The visit sparked plenty of excitement and conversation, and was a real highlight of the term.

Enhancing our Environment

Our newly refreshed therapeutic base, The View, has also been brought to life through contributions from young people who helped to design and decorate the space. This area provides a calm environment for emotional regulation, reflection and wellbeing support. Both young people and staff continue to benefit from relaxation and yoga sessions. These are a valued part of our whole school approach to wellbeing.



We have also invested in new outdoor play equipment, which is already having a positive impact on outdoor learning across the 24-hour curriculum. The upgraded space is designed to meet the diverse needs of our

young people, and reflects our commitment to providing a nurturing environment where everyone can feel good, connect with others and thrive.



It is an annual tradition for the young people and staff at Starley Hall School to create the Guy Fawkes for the Burntisland Bonfire and Fireworks Display. This year, the group were keen to give the Guy a greener focus, using charity shop finds and donated items that might otherwise have ended up in landfill. It was a team effort full of creativity, laughter and community spirit, especially when they got a few funny looks delivering him through town!

Spreading Cheer

This term also saw the launch of our Starley Hall Winter Collection, featuring Christmas cards, gift tags, notebooks and mugs showcasing original artwork by one of our talented young artists. The collection was created as part of an enterprise initiative to raise funds for our annual Christmas present appeal.



After a successful debut at the Burntisland Big Green Market in October, only limited stock remains. Orders can be placed via info@starleyhall.co.uk with free local delivery available.

As we approach the festive period, everyone at Starley Hall would like to wish our local community peace and kindness in the weeks ahead. We recognise that this time of year can mean different things to different people, and may not be easy for everyone. However you spend it, we hope it brings moments of rest, connection and hope for the year to come.

Tracy Duffin, Principal Teacher



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Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association

Finally we can update you that the boards with history of our docks and town are now in place at Forth Place. This has been two years in the making but well worth all the work. A big thank you to our

project partners: Heritage Trust, Ian Somerville; BCDT, Flavia McIntosh; Gordon Langlands and Iain Ralph along with our funders and project managers Forth Ports, Lucy Harris and Andy Lamb.

An area that was neglected and in need of being cleaned up has been transformed in to a community garden, completed by Deek and his crew from the parks and open spaces team. We have sited an inclusive picnic bench to give the residents in the area a place to meet and enjoy the space in the better weather.

We are currently working with the housing officer looking at possibilities of where we can re-site bin storage for flats where currently they are kept on the street and stored under house windows. Not ideal and hopefully we can find a suitable alternative.

Dog poo bag dispensers sited on our High Street seem to be doing their job. The street seems cleaner. We would like to continue to offer free bags but require sponsorship to keep this going. Whether you want to donate poo bags (rolls to fit dispensers) or a few pounds then we can continue to offer this service.

We estimate that we require 800 bags a year which at Amazon prices equates to £276. Businesses and community if you can afford to donate no matter how small then please hand in your donation to On a Roll, High Street.

As most of our projects are coming to an end we are looking for



ideas of what you would like us to focus on next. If you live on the High Street, Links Place, Harbour Place and any street within that area then please message us your ideas and suggestions on what you would like us to focus on next, through Facebook.

It is that time of year when we are working on organising the Christmas Food Parcels. Last year we supported over 200 people in Burntisland and Kinghorn to have a lovely Christmas lunch. This year we anticipate that it will be more with the increase in cost of living some families have been financially struggling and have no extra cash for Christmas.

Once again we have teamed up with Burntisland and Kinghorn Foodbank to supply those in need with a Christmas Food Parcel. This year non-perishables will be distributed from the foodbank on Monday 21st evening and normal Tuesday opening times. Perishables will be delivered on Christmas Eve. This arrangement allows volunteers to finish earlier on this special evening. Collection and delivery details will be given out to those receiving parcels.

There are many ways you can be involved and help support us to make this happen:

- Donating food stuff to the BK advent calendar
- Donating bags for life. Our team will be in your area the first two weeks in December going door to door looking for donations of bags for life.
- Donating what you can to our crowdfunder that will open on Facebook at the beginning of December.
- Volunteer to help pick up food from stores, pack or deliver parcels on Christmas Eve. Please contact us through Facebook to volunteer.
- Attend our Bingo Night on 5th December at Burntisland Golf House Club. Tickets on sale from the club or On a Roll Cafe

Thank you all for your support throughout the year, wishing all our members, funders, volunteers and the wider community a good Christmas and Best Wishes for 2026 from the CBTRA team.



Kirkcaldy (KY1 1PF)
Tel: 01592 640644



Glenrothes (KY7 5ND)
Tel: 01592 751997



Dalgety Bay (KY11 9NH)
Tel: 01383 822121

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Girlguiding at the Parish Church Halls

1st Burntisland Rainbows need you! Can you help save the group?



As a couple of leaders come close to retiring at the end of this year the group is in need of female leaders over the age of 18 in order to keep running. If no new leaders come forward the unit will be forced to close after Christmas.

If you can spare a few hours on a Monday evening to help girls aged 4–7 with a range of fun activities, get in touch via 1burntislandrainbows@gmail.com.

No previous experience is required, and full training and support will be given.

You can find out more at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/

Units meet in Burntisland 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

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

Burntisland & District Pipe Band

Burntisland & District Pipe Band have maintained their spree of success throughout the rest of the competition season. We have achieved great results in major, minor, and solo competitions, and have proudly represented the community of not just Burntisland, but the whole of Fife.

The European championships took place on 9th August in Perth and saw impressive results from all members of the band. Our grade 3A band achieved a fantastic 6th place, a result of the dedication from members and tutors, and the novice juvenile B band placed 7th, narrowly missing the top 6 due to ensemble preference. We are immensely proud of both bands. The drum majors also performed brilliantly; in the juvenile category, DM Logan Clark took 4th place, and DM Catherine Spears achieved 1st, becoming the new European champion! DM Graeme Wise also placed 5th in the adult category, securing a well-rounded success for all our competing drum majors.

Our highlight of the season was the World Championships. Performances of extremely high standards could be seen from 207 bands over the two-day period, and we are thrilled to declare that our bands were

amongst them. On Friday 15th August, our novice juvenile B band made it to the grade final, qualifying with a strong performance. They finished in 10th place and were lucky enough to compete in arena 1 for the final, a moment of great pride for the whole band. Our grade 3A band and drum majors competed on Saturday 16th August. After a successful heat, the band went on to place 3rd in the final, with the drum corps taking 1st place and being crowned champion of champions for the season! We are exceptionally proud of this standout result that conveys the hard work, dedication, and talent that makes up our band. Our drum majors also displayed outstanding performances in a very competitive field, with DM Catherine Spears placing 6th in the juvenile category.

Since then, the band have taken part in several other competitions and community events. Our competitors achieved great results from competitions in both Peebles and Pitlochry throughout September, even taking home a staggering 20 trophies from Peebles. These were great opportunities for our younger drum majors to have a chance of competing, and we are delighted to say that they all came home with plenty of trophies to be proud of. Alongside these

competitions, our bands had the honour of playing for the Fife flyers at one of their hockey games. They played crowds of supporters into the building as a band, and piper Nyree Howes did us all proud playing the national anthem solo to start the game. We are very grateful to have these opportunities and are always eager to represent the community in any way.

Many of our players excel in solo competitions as well as within the band, and the Burntisland and District Pipe Band solos in Beath High School gave us a chance to display this array of talent. The event took place on Thursday 5th October and was a huge success, with many pipers and drummers of all ages giving exceptional performances. We are immensely proud of all the competitors and want to thank all judges and volunteers for making a day like this possible. The world solo drumming championship was also an excellent opportunity for some of our drummers to compete against the world's best. Gregor Noble and Annalise Paterson both did us very proud, making it to their respective finals and finishing in the top 10 of very competitive categories. These are exceptional results, and we feel very lucky to have such talent within our band.



DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

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We are always looking for new members, and everyone is welcome. Whatever level you're learning and playing at there is a place for you, and between competitions, Highland Games, and local events, there is something for everyone. We offer tuition in pipes, drums, and drum majoring.

The talent that our band displays would not be possible without our excellent tutoring team, as well as the support from volunteers, family, and friends. We would like to extend a sincere thanks to everyone involved in helping our band grow and improve – we couldn't do it without you!

To get in touch or to learn more information, follow the Burntisland and District Pipe Band Facebook page.

Aimee Busher

Burntisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland

Each November, our communities come together to honour the memory of those who gave their lives in service to our country. Remembrance is a time of reflection, gratitude, and unity—a moment when our community pauses to pay tribute to the brave men and women who sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Central to our local commemorations both in Burntisland and Kinghorn are the striking poppy falls that adorn the three BEK Partnership Churches: Burntisland, Erskine and Kinghorn. Crafted with care by volunteers, schoolchildren, and folks in our communities, these cascades of red

poppies serve as a visual reminder of the enduring legacy of the fallen. The sight of hundreds of poppies tumbling down the walls of the Churches will move passers-by and visitors alike, I'm sure. Thank you in deep gratitude to all who have crafted these impressive poppy falls.

The poppy falls are more than just decorations; they are a living symbol of remembrance. Each handmade poppy tells a story—of a loved one missed, a family's pride, or a community's collective memory. Together, they form a powerful tapestry of respect that brings Burntisland's history to life every autumn.

This year, as we gather for the Remembrance Sunday services in Erskine Church or in Kinghorn's Kirk by the Sea and at both war memorials and observe the two-minute silence, let us also take a moment to appreciate the dedication and creativity behind our poppy falls. They are a testament to the spirit of our community resilient, compassionate, and ever mindful of the past.

We invite everyone to visit the poppy displays, reflect on their significance, and join us in honouring all who have served. Lest we forget. **Rev Jim Reid**



Burntisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland (part of the BEK Partnership) welcomes you to any and all of these services and activities this Christmas:

Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve: All age early service at Burntisland Church (Kirkgate) in the Hall at 7pm.

Carols by Candlelight service at 11.15pm in Kinghorn Kirk by the Sea and in Erskine Church at 11.30pm

Thursday 25th December, Christmas Day: Family fun service in the small hall of Kinghorn Church in the High Street, (bring a toy/gift to show us) 10–10.30am (joint BEK Service).

Erskine Church

Now that summer is officially over and the clocks have changed, we all notice the difference as we experience shorter days and colder temperatures.

Firstly, a BIG thank you to everyone who supported our iconic Autumn Fayre on Saturday 25th October. It was great to see so many people in our halls, the amazing sum of around £1,100 was raised!

Remembrance. During the marking of this special time to pause, reflect and remember sacrifices made in major conflicts past and present, we hope you noticed the poppy cascades in the grounds of our local churches? A lot of them were designed and completed by working together, which is great. The town of Burntisland always excels in the dignified way it remembers those

who have given their lives in the cause of freedom.

I hope that you'll not let the winter months get you down. Please try to find precious hope in a world that's so divided, confused and dysfunctional. It's often in the small acts of kindness shown to our family, neighbours and friends that we experience real blessing.

Christmas. Not long to go now! As usual, the local churches are planning to get together for quite a few events and services. There's carol singing in the High Street on Saturday 13th December at 11am and also BEK carols in Erskine on Sunday 21st December at 6pm.

We're having a Watchnight service once again on Christmas Eve this year too. It's on Wednesday 24th December at 11.30pm, finishing just after the midnight bells as we

welcome Christmas Day. What better way to begin your festivities? Please note the slightly later start time and keep a close eye on our Facebook page for the very latest updates.

I hope too that the commercialisation of Christmas doesn't take over everything. Please remember the love, humility, peace and joy of the original Christmas story. That's something which remains timeless, it's certainly not to be found in the online frenzy of seasonal shopping or any overindulgence in eating and drinking.

Have a hopeful winter & blessed Christmas!

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



St Joseph's Church

Warm greetings from all here at St Joseph's. This is always a busy time of the year, with lots of extra things happening.

November is a time for remembrance and we have once again, with the help of the Knit and Knatter group, decorated the cross outside the Church with knitted poppies. We are also having a Garden of Remembrance, inviting people to take a small wooden cross with a poppy attached, write the names of their loved ones on it and place it in the garden for the month of November.

We look forward to sharing in the Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on

Remembrance Sunday, always a very emotional and moving occasion.

On Saturday 29 November there will be a Coffee Morning in the Church Hall, from 10.30am. There will be crafts, bottle tombola, tombola, raffle and cake & candy.

On Saturday 6th December there will be a special Children's Mass and craft day. We look forward to joining the other Churches for Carols on the High Street on Saturday 13th December.

The Society of St Vincent De Paul will host a Christmas Party for senior parishioners on Sunday 14th December and there be a Christmas Party for the children and young people of the parish on Sunday 21st December.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our Christmas Services. On Christmas Eve there will be Carols at 4.30pm, followed by Mass at 5pm, and Christmas Day Mass will be at 10am.

Wishing you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas when it comes and every blessing in the New Year to follow.

Fr James



St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church

The many weeks of the summer and autumn are known in the Episcopal Church as Ordinary Time; a time to take stock and move quietly along until Advent and Christmas. Ordinary time is transformed for the whole of September, however, as the Church celebrates the Season of Creation.

With environmental considerations as the focus of much that we do, St Serf's moved wholeheartedly into this season, choosing a different environmental theme for each of the four Sundays of September and bringing things to a colourful conclusion with our harvest festival on the first Sunday of October.

This year, in an attempt to raise awareness of the huge risk to marine life posed by the commercial exploitation of the sea, we showed David Attenborough's impressive and heart-wrenching film, *Ocean*. This was a strong reminder that unless we actively register our concerns about factory fishing and bottom trawling, coral reefs and the eco-systems of the seabed will be destroyed, perhaps for ever, having a catastrophic effect on the life of our planet.

There are plenty of opportunities online to express concern about these issues, and many of us felt moved to sign petitions

urging our government to intervene to help prevent further exploitation of our natural resources.

We may feel that our concerns are recent but as long ago as the 13th century, Francis of Assisi was honouring and respecting every aspect of the created world, from the sun and the stars to the tiniest living creature, celebrating the life-cycle from birth to death. This autumn, I was fortunate to spend the feast of St Francis in his home town of Assisi, where the 800th Anniversary of his poem "The Canticle of the Creatures" was being celebrated. Brother Sun was much in evidence, and the area around the church of S. Damiano was filled with birdsong.

Coming home to St Serf's, I noticed how full of colour the garden is. Do come and look at it and enjoy the variety of plants and flowers.

The next season to be marked will be Remembrance, when all the churches come together with the pipe band, uniformed organisations and people of the town at the War memorial to honour those who gave their lives in war. Look out for the poppy displays which will be in evidence outside our places of worship.



And please remember, you are welcome to attend worship in any of the town's churches.

As I always remind you—St Serf's is an active and completely inclusive church. Visitors, enquirers or just the plain curious are always welcome in church on a Sunday morning. Our service of Holy Communion is at 10 am and there is always a chance to share a cup of tea or coffee and have a chat after the service. Always remember, there is no obligation to "join" and we are just as happy if you decide you'd be more at home at any of the other local churches.

I'll leave the last word to St Francis, who reminds us of the importance to life of "our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs." Please do your bit for the environment this autumn.

With every blessing. **Rev Carol Latimer**

Exhibition of Ukrainian Icons

We are privileged to have chance to show 10 icons painted by Ukrainian artists onto Ammunition box lids that have come from the war zone in Ukraine.

These will be on view on Saturday 27th December, 11am to 4pm at St Joseph's RC Church, Cowdenbeath Road.

Free entry to the exhibition. Donations after expenses go to medical charities working in Ukraine; for any icon sold 30% goes to the artist.



Elaine Ryder, Burntisland Churches Together

Waiting Time?

Traditionally Advent is a time of waiting for.....



Whether you are part of a church community or not in this busy time of year here is a chance to take a few hours to reflect on what this time means to you this year

What are you looking for? What are you hoping for? What is being born in you? Guided by words and images of Mary, Mother of Jesus

Sunday 7th December in St Serf's Church, Ferguson Place

Tea and biscuits from 3.30pm

Starting reflection 4pm to 6pm

Followed by bowl of soup (vegan and gluten free). Please bring any additions you would like to eat.

Taizé service 7pm to 7.45pm

Please register to help with catering by 4th December

jennywilliams@gmx.co.uk or 07935 723968. Also fine to just come on the day

BEK Partnership Church Services



The BEK partnership churches (Burntisland & Kinghorn Church of Scotland and Erskine United Free Church) will be delivering a range of services, in different styles and venues, in the weeks leading up to Christmas. A summary of these is provided below, or you can see the full service schedule (including Christmas services) on our website: www.burntislandandkinghornchurch.co.uk

Everyone, whatever your church background (including none) is welcome at any of these services. We'd be delighted to see you.

Burntisland & Kinghorn Church of Scotland services: 11 am at Kinghorn (Church on the High St) on Sunday 23rd November, 7th and 28th December, and Burntisland (Kirkgate) on 30th November

Erskine services: Sundays at 11am on 30th November, and 7th, 21st, and 28th December. BEK Carols on 21st December at 6pm.

Midweek services at 11am, at Erskine on 20th November, and Kinghorn (Church on the High St) on 13th and 27th November.

BEK services. Popular joint services delivered by the BEK partnership once a month at 11 am on Sunday 16th November (Burntisland (Kirkgate)) and 14th December (Erskine).

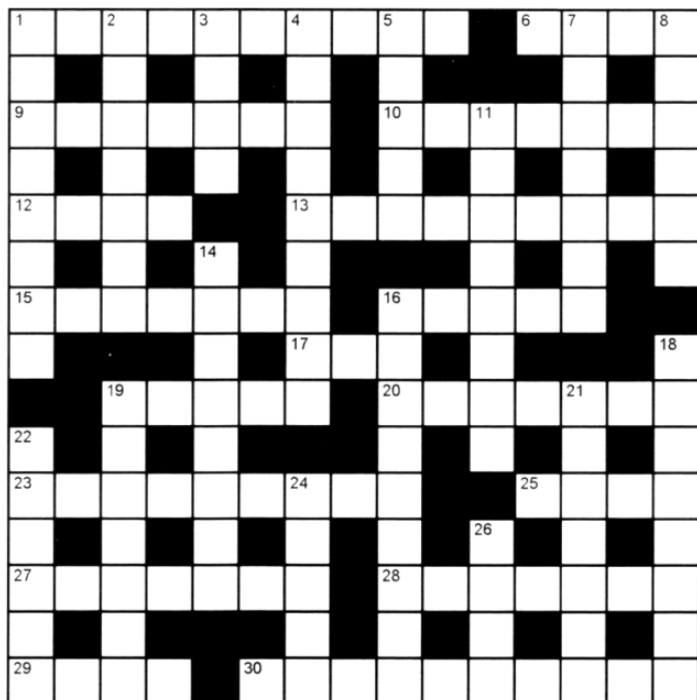
Café Church. A relaxed, extended time of worship and discussion over cakes and hot drinks at 6.20pm in the Salvation Army Hall. Sunday 30th November and 28th December.

Chilled Church. An informal relaxed service for all ages with live band, videos, taskmaster challenges and good chat. Lots of fun, food and friendship. Sundays at 11am on 23rd November (Erskine) and 21st December – a special Christmas Nativity service – at Burntisland (Kirkgate).

Ignite. A chilled approach to faith and the bible for the young at heart. No pressure: just good vibes and great chat. Erskine Church at 6pm on Sunday 16th November and 14th December.

Taizé service. Simple, meditative prayer, song and bible reading, allowing time for silent reflection. Delivered by St Serf's Church. Sunday 7th December at 7pm, St Serf's.

Please also watch out for the "Advent Angels" in Kinghorn and Burntisland.



THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Self-satisfied (10)
6. Male deer (4)
9. Ice cream flavour (7)
10. Apart (7)
12. Den (4)
13. Quarrelsome (9)
15. Stress (7)
16. Large books (5)
17. Weep (3)
19. Drainage channel (5)
20. Go over again (7)
23. Large breed of dog (9)
25. —and means (4)
27. Alligator pear (7)
28. Paper-folding art (7)
29. Twilight (4)
30. Strongly emotional (10)

DOWN

1. Politeness (8)
2. Allude to (7)
3. Light musical rhythm (4)
4. Common garden bird (9)
5. Large African antelope (5)
7. Boring (7)
8. Very gaudy (6)
11. Last (8)
14. London rail terminus (8)
16. Despotic (9)
18. Sweat (8)
19. Doubtful (7)
21. Southern U.S. state (7)
22. Name of eight English kings (6)
24. Hawaiian greeting (5)
26. Large car (4)

Name

Address

Telephone

Completed entries by 15th January to: **1 Lammerlaws Road, Burntisland, KY3 9DT** or email **paulbriscoe1@gmail.com**

First entry drawn from the correct submissions wins **£40**.
Solution will appear in the next Burgh Buzz issue.

Apologies to our regular crossword players for the cancellation of the August edition crossword—unfortunately a mix-up behind the scenes meant the answers were listed here instead of the clues, so it was declared null & void.

Burntisland's Events Diary

NOVEMBER

Friday	14th	Acoustic Music Club in Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm
Saturday	15th	BGM Repair Cafe at the Toll Community Centre	10 am–12.30 pm
Tuesday	18th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers (also online via Zoom)	7 pm
Saturday	29th	Coffee Morning in St Joseph's Church	10.30 am
Sunday	30th	Civic Week Christmas Artisan Market in the Sands Hotel	1 pm–5pm
		Burntisland Playgroup Festive Open Day at the Toll Community Centre	1 pm–3pm

DECEMBER

Friday	5th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–4 pm
		Bingo Night at Burntisland Golf House Club in aid of CBTRA Christmas Food Parcels	7 pm
Saturday	6th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
		Over 70s Christmas Treat at the Kingswood Hotel	12 for 12.30 pm
Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th		Station Studio and Platform Studios Christmas Open Weekend	
Sunday	7th	Christmas Fayre at the Primary School	1 pm–3pm
Friday	12th	Acoustic Music Club in Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm
Saturday	13th	Carol singing on the High Street	11 am
Monday	15th	Blood Donation session at the Kingswood Hotel (www.scotblood.co.uk)	2 pm–4 pm and 5.30 pm–7.30 pm
Tuesday	16th	Community Council meeting, venue to be confirmed	7 pm
Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th		Churches Christmas Services, see details on pages 24 & 25	
Saturday	27th	Race Night in The Star—Over 70s Fundraiser	7.30 pm

JANUARY 2026

Friday	9th	Acoustic Music Club in Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm
Tuesday	20th	Community Council meeting, venue to be confirmed	7 pm

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	1st	Burntisland Highland Games AGM in the Jubilee Tavern	2 pm
Friday	6th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–3 pm
Saturday	7th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm

To include a public event taking place in February, March, or April in our next issue, email: editor@burghbuzz.org.uk

You can also view the BCDT What's Happening? online calendar at: www.bcdt.org.uk/whats-happening

Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

The weather has played a significant part in our successes this year as the Trust is an organisation that encourages people to use the outdoors. The Walking Festival had wall to wall sunshine, and the Civic Week Walk across the beach from Burntisland to Kinghorn was the same. Our presentations have been well attended as was our vibrant summer barbecue, a beautiful evening.

Our final event of the year in November was another presentation on the Fife Coastal Path from Hamish Brown. No one knows this path better than Hamish who has written two books on the subject. He recommends that people do not simply walk the coastal path, but stop and notice the little extra things so easily missed with just walking.

Recently, the Trust has convened a communications group who hope to promote Facebook and our website more. They are also looking at some new ideas for activities in 2026, so if you would like to offer or suggest some, please get in touch.

For the first time in our existence, we recently had something stolen. The Rock Rest picnic area was created in a small stone quarry alongside the track on the north side of the loch near the farm allotments. It has grown into a lovely spot, used as a place for people to have a snack and chat. Walking further up into the quarry the Trust provided a granite stone bench, tucked into a rock alcove. It is a quiet place amongst the rocks to read or

just contemplate. This bench was funded by a generous bequest from a local family.

Recently we were stunned to find that someone had forcibly removed this bench. This was no quick, easy job, and the culprits must have known where to find it, as its location is not obvious. The flat, polished, granite seat was firmly fixed with epoxy resin and weighed 75kg. Whoever stole this needed tools to dislodge it, and help to carry it to a vehicle on the nearby track then transport it away. This happened in late September and despite both the press and the police showing a keen interest it is unlikely that the bench will be recovered.



The Trust has worked closely with the owners of Craigencalt Farm around Kinghorn Loch since its inception. The first project included a board showing a map of walks in the area for visitors, pockets for leaflets and booklets, and a place to put up our posters for forthcoming events and walking. Diana Neil and her son Richard

sold the farm six years ago on her retirement. Now, Two Skies Limited, the present owners of Craigencalt Farm have given us notice to remove all our property from their land. We have tried hard to dissuade them from this, as we do not want it to affect people's enjoyment of the area.

Next year will be different for the Trust but we look forward to some new beginnings as our remit covers such a large area. We leave Craigencalt Farm feeling pleased with all our achievements at the loch and knowing that our improvements at the jetty and the pathways we have constructed have brought great enjoyment to a lot of people. Meanwhile we wish everyone a lovely relaxing Christmas and a good New Year.

Marilyn Edwards

www.craigencalttrust.org.uk



Chapter & Verse

Looking for an exciting new challenge? Then Chapter & Verse on the High Street needs you!

Our Church Shop on Burntisland High Street, is looking for a volunteer **Shop Manager(s)** as the couple who are current managers retire at the end of the year and having a new manager(s) in place by the start of 2026 would be ideal.

If you have, or had, banking, retail, management, accountancy

or buying experience then it may be an ideal opportunity to make use of your skills and serve the community. The role could also be serviced by a small team led by a manager having overall control.

If you would like to know more about the role then email Liz Taylor at sessionclerk@burntislandandkinghornchurch.co.uk for further information.





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58 High Street, Burntisland—located upstairs in the old Police station building

For more info, contact:

Amanda on 07383 434885

Email: Burntislandsewingcrafts@mail.com

Facebook page: Burntisland sewing & crafts workshops



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