

BURGH BUZZ



Burrtisland's Free Community Magazine

Previous issues at www.burghbuzz.org.uk

May 2026

Issue No 95

Civic Week's Royal Party 2026

This year's Summer Queen & King and the Royal Party for Civic Week has been announced!

Summer Queen: Mia Clark
Summer King: Gregor Henderson
First Attendant: Jessica Goodall
First Attendant: Lennox McFarlane Swan
Second Attendant: Lily Peterson
Second Attendant: Riley Paul
Summer Princess: Kathryn McLean
Summer Prince: Oliver Strachan
Flower girl: Orla O'Neil
Page Boy: Ethan Anderson

The names were drawn at Burrtisland Primary School by Citizen of the Year, John Harrower, alongside Jane Searles of Group Award winners, Burrtisland Community Suppers. Pictured with the Royal Party is Civic Week Chair Amanda Jones.

The crowning ceremony will take place on Saturday 6th June at the Links bandstand, before the "Celebrating Scotland" themed Parade Day on Saturday 13th. Civic Week runs from Friday 12th June to Sunday 20th June. See page 8 for details of the programme.



Burrtisland Heritage Centre—on the move!

Burrtisland Heritage Centre will soon be relocating from 2-4 Kirkgate around the corner to the Upper Library Halls. The lease is almost finalised and we're gearing up for a busy few weeks to make sure everything is ready in time for our Summer Exhibition.

There's plenty to do. The hall that once housed the Edwardian Fair needs some work, including removing panels and upgrading lighting and electrics, which will be carried out by Fife Council.



Some of you might remember the life-sized models of local schoolchildren dressed in period costume. Well, we've managed to rescue them all! We'd love to hear from the "children" themselves (now likely in their 40s) so they can claim their models, which are free to take home. The illustrated

history panels will also be staying and will continue to be part of our displays.

We'll also be asking OnFife about bringing back the three wartime Burrtisland Shipyard models that were moved to

Bankhead in Glenrothes last year. Fingers crossed we can welcome them home.

To help with the move, we've applied to the Common Good Fund, with support from our local councillors, and we're hopeful for a positive outcome. A local company will handle most of the heavy lifting, but we're planning to move some items ourselves—especially our large model ships. This will likely happen on a Monday when the library is closed. If you'd be willing to lend a hand, we'd really appreciate it...just get in touch.

By the end of May, we're also expecting to welcome the much-loved Burrtisland 1883 model railway. It will have a permanent home with us as a static display, with special running days planned. Alongside our expanded exhibition space, this will give us even more opportunities to celebrate and share Burrtisland's rich history.

We have opted for a start date of 8th July for our maritime-themed Summer Exhibition, titled "Burrtisland Port of Grace".

Ian Archibald

Continued on page 4...



BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE SINCE 1998

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

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From the Editor

It's a bumper 28 page edition as our front page looks ahead at two regular fixtures of the town's summer months—Civic Week and the annual Heritage Exhibition with their move to larger premises above the Library.

As noted on page 3, the Community Council awaits the result of their Freedom of Information request for the completed feasibility study on step-free access at the railway station.

Options being evaluated by Network Rail were shown at the CC public meeting in March. These included one or two lifts and their possible locations, the old underpass, or even building a new station beside the Lammerlaws Bridge. The latter is a proposal going back over 25 years, and mentioned in the early editions of the Buzz.

It remains to be seen what each option is projected to cost and what funding sources can be found to provide the town with an accessible station.

Meanwhile other stations such as Cardenden are benefitting from the Fife electrification project, with lifts and a higher footbridge planned to allow clearance for overhead electric wires to be installed. However in the future new trains will run through Burntisland on battery power meaning no changes need to be made at our station.

Can we push Burntisland up the priority list, and gain access to funding? Now there's a task for our newly elected representatives...

Hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer season taking advantage of everything the town has to offer.

Michael Booth, Editor

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Refurbished Links Splash pad opens ahead of the summer



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: Eliza Twaddle
Vice Chair: Jim Sheridan
Treasurer: Carol McLeod
Secretary: Anne Smith

Members:

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

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Address — c/o Anne Smith
 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.

In-person surgeries will be held at Cornerstone Café in the Parish Church Halls from 12–1pm on Wednesday 17th June and 8th July.

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 19th May and 16th June (no meeting in July).**

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.

- **Changes at the Community Council:** We welcomed Eliza Twaddle as our new Chair in February. Kizzy Wappington and Isla MacDonald have both resigned from the Community Council and we wish them well.
- **Links Splash pad:** We are delighted that refurbishment works are at last complete. The much-loved splash pad is again open for safe water play for all ages and abilities from 8am to 8pm daily in season. Thank you to all concerned! An official opening by Fife Council is planned in due course.
- **Railway Station issues:** Representatives of Network Rail attended our March public meeting. They told us they could not share the results of the feasibility study for step free access until authorised to do so by Transport Scotland. Therefore, we submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to access the report. We had a useful discussion of access issues at our meeting, and you can read more in the CC Minutes. We also contacted ScotRail about other station issues, including lack of shelter on platform 2. The only agreement achieved so far is for better signage to the station entrance from Forth Place. We will continue to pursue the other station issues with ScotRail and Network Rail.
- **Burgh Chambers:** We are delighted that Fife Council have committed to £250,000 of investment to address the issues of heating and access at the Burgh Chambers. Fife Council has applied for Listed Building Consent for a new electric heating system. Step free access, accessible toilets, and kitchen facilities would also help bring the building back to better community use and we will continue to press for these. Fife Council has promised to meet with us this month for further discussions on these.
- **Burntisland Common Good Fund and assets:** Following communication with Ken Gourlay, CEO of Fife Council, we received a positive reply from Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods at Fife Council, on 10th February. However, we have heard nothing since then. Concerns over Fife Council management of Common Good Funds seems to be a problem over all Fife, and is probably a Scotland-wide issue. Community councils across Fife plan to work together to seek a way forward with Fife Council.
- **Christmas lights:** Fife Council requested full details on our festive lights due to concerns expressed elsewhere about the weight of structures fixed to the new lightweight lampposts. We provided the data and hope that our festive lights are not compromised by this threat. Meantime, we still need new volunteers and additional funds to support our town's festive lights. Please contact us if you can help.
- **Games Day:** We will hold our annual 'Exiles Reception' on the morning of Monday 20th July and organise the usual parade. This year is extra special as we will also welcome Norwegian guests from our Twin Town of Flekkefjord, Norway. This is the 80-year anniversary of Burntisland Town Twinning.
- **Community tree planting:** Thank you to Fife Climate Forest and Floral Action Burntisland volunteers for tree sapling planting at Piper Crescent and Duncanson Drive parks to replace those lost from our Queen's Green canopy planting in 2022.
- **New community councillors:** If you live in Burntisland and are aged over 16 and are on the local Electoral Roll, please consider joining our vibrant CC to volunteer your time to help better your community. Read more on our website and contact us if you are interested.

Burntisland Heritage

...continued from the front page.

We've been working with Fife Council on new ways to make our local history even more accessible. One idea we're excited about is using QR codes linked to our website, allowing visitors to explore more stories and information as they go. We're also planning a new leaflet to tie this all together. While our current interpretation panels are still accurate, they're starting to look a bit dated, so a refresh is on the cards when time allows. We've secured funding for five new display panels, which will help us tell even more of Burntisland's story.

A huge thank you goes to Janet Genders and Gill Paterson for completing the massive task of cataloguing our heritage data and assets. Gill, along with Andrea Morrison, have also been busy transcribing and translating the Burntisland Kirk Session records from 1633, which you can now read on our website. These records offer a

fascinating glimpse into life in 17th-century Burntisland.

The Kirk Session, led by Minister John Mitchelson and a group of annually elected male elders (31 in 1633), met weekly to Acting as a local court It punished offences such as immoral physical relationships in the parish, drunkenness, theft, Sabbath-breaking, and suspected witchcraft, with serious cases referred to higher authorities. Despite major events in 1633, including King Charles I's visit and the baggage ferry disaster, the Session records make almost no mention of them, focusing instead on routine governance. This is an interesting read.

Many of you will already know about our long-running involvement in the search for King Charles I's lost baggage ferry, *The Blessing*, which sank off Burntisland in 1633. What started back in 1997 as a dedicated project has grown into one of our most

exciting and enduring stories—and it's still ongoing today. This remarkable tale will be a key feature of this year's Summer Exhibition.

We'll also be holding our AGM in May, once we've settled into our new home.

As always, everything we do is made possible by the enthusiasm and commitment of our volunteers and supporters. We're incredibly proud of what's been achieved so far, but we'd love to welcome new members to help shape what comes next. If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is a great time. Whether you can offer a little time, a particular skill, or just an interest in local history, you'll be very welcome.

To find out more, check out our web www.burntislandheritage.org.uk or get in touch at burntislandht@btinternet.com. Together, we can keep Burntisland's stories alive and make even more of our shared heritage.

Ian Archibald



On the Cat Trail!

Have you spotted the new summer visitor at the Links?

The Wemyss Ware Cat Trail is a £60,000 tourism initiative from Adam Smith Global Foundation and Kirkcaldy Lottery.

There are 17 moggies in the public art trail across the Kirkcaldy area, with sculptures also located in Auchtertool, Kinghorn, Ceres, and the remainder in Kirkcaldy. Each cat features a unique decoration by a Fife artist.

Burntisland's cat is designed by Abigail Cooper and titled "**Women's Wark Will Ne'er Be Dune**". Wrapped in herring and flax, paws dirty with coal dust, this cat celebrates women's work in three of Fife's major industries: linen, fishing and coal.

In September they will be auctioned off for project funders Kirkcaldy Lottery.

Visit www.cattrail.uk to find out more and view the trail map.

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Church organist marks 50 years of playing

Local resident Neil Robertson is celebrating 50 years as a Church organist this month. Neil studied the piano from a young age, his teacher had been the pianist at the local cinema and had played for the silent movies, which is where Neil's style of playing may have originated.

Neil first started playing the organ at Rosyth Methodist Church where he played for the Sunday School and then regularly on a Sunday when the resident organist took ill.

Since then Neil has never looked back and has been organist at several churches in

Fife, Auchterderran, Viewforth, St Andrews Kirkcaldy, and Burntisland Parish to name a few as well as covering for other organists for holidays when he could.

Neil retired after 30 years service at Burntisland Parish while remaining as organist at Auchtertool Kirk and also often plays at Kirkcaldy Crematorium when required. He has played at 100s of Baptisms, Weddings, Christenings and Funeral Service over the years and even played at the famous Blackpool Tower Wurlitzer.

A thanksgiving service for his 50 years will be held in **Auchtertool Kirk on Sunday 24th May at 9:30am** conducted by Rev Gillian Paterson. Everyone will be most welcome. Neil won't be getting the day off

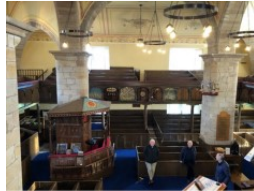


though, he has chosen some of his favourite hymns and will be playing for the service. That's dedication!

Darren Rankin

Parish Church guided tours

Burntisland Church of Scotland, located at the top of Kirkgate, will be open to visitors this summer on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons between 2–4pm from 4th June until 29th August.



A church member will be there to give guided tours and answer any questions.

Built in 1592–1595 it is the oldest post-Reformation church still in use in Scotland, and where the new translation of the Bible was granted by King James VI in 1601.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of history with a visit to one of Scotland's most historic buildings—'The Kirk of the Bible'.

Bonfire & Fireworks Night

After a successful AGM in early March where three new office bearers were appointed, the committee is now looking ahead and planning for this year's event.

The date has been set as **Wednesday 4th November**.

Organisation of this event relies on a number of volunteers both during the coming months and on the night so your help is needed to ensure that it goes ahead.

If you'd like to get involved please get in touch with the committee via email:

burntislandbonfirecommittee@gmail.com or message our **Burntisland Firework Display** page on Facebook.

We thank everyone who generously contributed to our event last year. Contributions from the public made up to 35% of the total cost of the event so please look out for our new Crowdfunder which we hope to have up and running soon.

John Harrower

Broomhill Kids Garden Club

We are pleased to say that the Kids Garden Club has started again running from May through to the end of October.

For those of you that don't know, we are a small outdoor club for parents, carers and kids from walking to age 8 (younger and older siblings are welcome too).

We meet every Tuesday from 3:30–4:30pm at the Broomhill allotments, which can be accessed via Manse Lane or the garages off Lonsdale Crescent.

The club is free but donations are always welcome. Please check out our Facebook page to see what we got up to last year. The page is updated weekly with reminders, up to date information and photos of our sessions.

No need to book, just come along, get involved and have fun! See you there.

Sarah Stevenson





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Toll Community Centre & Hub

It's been a busy and successful start to 2026 at the Toll Community Centre, and we're thrilled to see so many familiar and new faces joining us.

Our Tuesday Toddlers group has been a real highlight, continuing to thrive every Tuesday morning from 9:15–10:30 am. It's a wonderful space for little ones and their grown ups to connect, and we're so pleased with how well it's going. We also have our Friday Morning Crafts class running right through until the summer holidays, which has been a fantastic way for local residents to get creative and socialise.

Additionally, we are hosting Gaelic Bookbug sessions on Friday afternoons (1–2pm) until the end of May, following a fantastic response from local families. On Mondays we have Sittercise 12:30–1:30pm and Sewing Group 6:30–8:30pm, plus Youth Club (P5–7) 6:30–8pm on a Tuesday, and Kickboxing 6:30–7:30pm on Wednesdays.

Down on the High Street, our Hub is as busy and bustling as ever. We are seeing many people accessing our community food provision via FareShare, and it is great to see the Hub serving as such a vital resource for the town. We would love to be able to open the shop on a Saturday to make it even more accessible for everyone, but we can only make this happen with more volunteer support. If you think you might be able to help out for a few hours on a Saturday, we would love to hear from you.

Family Fun over the Easter break was another massive hit, and it was fantastic to see the centre so full of life and activity. We are pleased to confirm that we will be continuing **Family Fun over the summer holidays** to keep that momentum going. We are also currently exploring and applying for further funding to see if we

can offer even more opportunities and events during the school holidays as well. Please keep a close eye on our Facebook page and website, as we'll be updating those regularly with all the dates and details as they are confirmed.

Following on from our community consultation, where we heard from over 100 of you about wanting more tech support, we are now looking at launching a Digital Drop-In. This will be a relaxed space where you can bring your devices and get support with anything from basic setup to navigating apps.

As the centre continues to evolve, we are also looking to grow our staff team and will soon be recruiting for an Admin Officer. This is a great opportunity to get involved in the behind the scenes work that keeps the Toll running smoothly. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page, where we will be posting the job advert and full details shortly.

We are also always looking for more people to join our wider team. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to volunteer with our groups or activities, we'd love to hear from you. We are also seeking new Trustees to help guide the future of the organisation. If you have a background in management, HR, policy, admin, or simply a passion for Burntisland and want to help shape what we do next, please get in touch for an informal chat.

We're always keen to hear from local people about new project ideas or things you'd like to see happening at the centre, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Cairinne Macdonald, Centre Manager

Website: www.tollcentre.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheTollCommunityCentre

Email: enquiries@tollcentre.org.uk or Phone: 01592 872854



Platform Artists Open Studios Weekend

An open weekend for the Platform Artists is taking place on 23rd and 24th May from 10.30am–4pm.

Step inside the studios and meet the makers behind the work. Discover fine art, craft, jewellery and giftware, with pieces available to buy or commission.

Located at:

- Platform Studios (behind the train station)
- The studio on Platform 1
- 113–115 High Street

Featuring work by Susie Redman, Ebba Goring, Sheena Watson, Caroline Finlay, Gingerbread Designs, Leo du Feu, Susan Smith, Grace Girvan and Sally Grant.



Burntisland Sailing Club

A successful start to the season.

Following the last issue of the Burgh Buzz advertising forthcoming Sailing Experience and other knowledge acquiring opportunities, Burntisland Sailing Club (BSC) had an excellent response with 15 people new to sailing coming along to give sailing a try. They are now engaged in a variety of activities which hopefully will see them become full and active members over the summer and autumn.

BSC has become a victim of its own success, the facilities in the East basin are, by their very nature, limited in scope and the berths and moorings are full to capacity. So for a while, BSC is unable to accommodate further yacht owners wishing for a place for their sailing boats, there being a substantial waiting list. There is however a natural



churn of members and interested parties should contact the club.

The Opening Muster Race was well attended with 16 boats out on the water, a piper to get the boats away and an opportunity for a mass starboard hand start resulting in a very crowded patch of sea close to the clubhouse. Well done Cloud 9, a convincing winner on corrected time.

The Early Series of races on Wednesdays and Sundays were completed at the end of April before the summer series commenced

on the first Monday and Friday in May.

Cruising: There has been a resurgence of interest in cruising in company and a variety of ports around the Forth have been identified as potential destinations, with the appointment of a Cruise Captain and Vice-Captain to manage destinations, monitor weather, oversee passage plans and advise the less experienced. As a practice several boats visited Aberdour in April to sample the Boat Jumble.

There will always be opportunities for interested people to come out for a sail and experience our varied and exciting sport. For more information contact:

admin@burntislandsailing.org.uk

David Holdsworth BEM
www.burntislandsailing.org.uk



Lee Mahady's life in the Fire Service

On 13th September 1994, Lee Mahady began a journey that would leave a lasting mark on both his colleagues and the community he served. Starting his career as a firefighter, Lee quickly became known not just for his bravery, but for his personality—equal parts crazy, caring, and completely dedicated to the job.



Over the years in Burntisland, Lee grew into a well-known and respected figure. Whether responding to emergencies or supporting residents through difficult moments, he was always at the front.

Rising through the ranks to become a Watch Commander, Lee attended countless incidents, leading his team with confidence, humour, and an unwavering commitment to protecting others.

But beyond the uniform, it was his character that truly stood out. Lee had a way of putting people at ease, even in the most stressful situations. His colleagues will remember the laughter he brought to the station, while the community will remember the reassurance he gave when it mattered most.

After more than three decades of dedicated service, Lee officially retired from the brigade on 31st March 2026. And in true Lee fashion, he didn't let the moment pass quietly—celebrating his

retirement with a "crazy weekend" over in Belfast, surrounded by friends, stories, and no doubt plenty of laughs.

The gratitude from the community is immense. From the residents he helped in times of crisis to those who simply knew him as a friendly face, Lee has made a difference that won't be forgotten. A huge thank you goes out to him for his years of care, courage, and commitment.

These days, life has slowed down just a little. You're just as likely to spot Lee out walking Joe or enjoying a relaxed cuppa at The Olive Tree—still a familiar face, just without the flashing lights and sirens.

Retirement may mark the end of his time in the fire service, but Lee Mahady's legacy in Burntisland will live on for years to come.

Craig Cameron

Fundraising Four

A fundraising Ladies Night on Friday 27th February at Burntisland Bowling Club was organised by Mary Hindle, Joan Dewar, Caroline Stevenson, and Judy Panton.

We raised a total of £935 and this was donated to Burntisland Highland Games, which is the second oldest games in the world.

There is a small group of volunteers who work very hard to enable our Highland Games to continue. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to help on the day or with setup should contact the Games committee.

We would like to thank the Bowling Club for supporting and allowing us to use their venue, and also thanks to John Poulton for doing a great disco and karaoke.

Finally, thank you to all the Ladies that came along to our event and donated raffle prizes.

Mary Hindle

Burntisland Junior Youth Theatre

Could YOU be the next Leader of this lively group of kids?

Established in 1981, Burntisland's Junior Youth Theatre (JYT) has given hundreds of local kids, from Primary 3 to P7, a space to grow their imaginations, confidence and creativity.

Supported by many wonderful secondary school assistants, it has been Ann Thallon's privilege and joy to be the Leader for an amazing 39 years! But the time draws near when Ann will stand back from her much loved role. **Can Burntisland still offer this once a week after school club to our local kids?**

If you're interested to know more about the group and how it's run, or would like to come along to the Music Hall to see what sort of things we get up to, please just email Ann to start the conversation. ann@annandthal.plus.com

Ann Thallon



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Civic Week 2026—"Celebrating Scotland"



This year's Civic Week will take place from Friday 12th to Sunday 21st June. For full details see our programme of events delivered to every household.

Our theme for Parade Day this year is "Celebrating Scotland" so we're expecting a fantastic variety of Scottish outfits!

We are doing something different this year, as the Royal Party will be crowned separately on **Saturday 6th June** on the Links bandstand.



The front cover of our programme features artwork from **Emma McKenzie** in Primary 6. Well done to all of the class winners, who are pictured on the opposite page with Mr Stewart, it was difficult to judge with so many great entries!

You can keep up to date by visiting our Facebook www.facebook.com/BurntislandCivicWeek or if you want to get in touch email: burntislandcivicweek@gmail.com

As ever, the committee is grateful to all of the local businesses and organisations who provide financial assistance to help make Civic Week possible.

Saturday 6th June

Crowning of the Summer Queen & King on the Links bandstand, 2pm

Friday 12th June

Shop window competition judging, 3:30pm

Bingo Night at the Jubilee Tavern, 7:30pm

Saturday 13th June

Functional Circuits at the FitNest, 8-9am

Parade (1:15pm) along the High Street and "No Scotland No Party" after party in the Parish Church Halls

Sunday 14th June

Beach Day—Sandcastle Competition (11:30am), BBQ, Raft Race (3pm) and more

Monday 15th June

Pool competition, Crown Tavern, 7pm

Tuesday 16th June

Dominoes, Jubilee Tavern, 8pm

Museum of Communication Lecture on Mary Somerville, by Ian Archibald, 7:30pm

Wednesday 17th June

Craigencalt walk to Kinghorn Loch, 10am

Thursday 18th June

Quiz, Sands Hotel, 8pm

Darts, Crown Tavern, 8pm

Friday 19th June

Civic Week Cup race, Sailing Club, 7pm

Evening Heritage Walk, meet Library 7pm

Saturday 20th June

Fitness taster sessions—Dancefit, BTT, Nia, the Space Upstairs, 9-11:45am

5-a-side football tournaments at Recreation Park, kids (10:30am) and adults (1pm)

Outer Heritage Walk, meet Library, 1pm

Live Music—"Scotland Rocks" band at the Golf Club, entry £15 w/Stovies, 8pm-late

Sunday 21st June

Harbour Fishing competition, 9am-12pm

Fathers Day high teas at the Kingswood Hotel, 12-7pm

Dog Show on the Links, 2-4pm

Pairs competition, Bowling Club, 2:30pm



Friends of Burntisland Old Parish Church

Join us as we throw open the doors and welcome you in to Burntisland's historic church, which is facing an uncertain future. Enjoy family-friendly activities, historic tours, music and more.

BURNTISLAND
OLD PARISH CHURCH



OPEN DAY
SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2026

10am - 2pm

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FoBOPC on
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Fun activities for children



Hear the Carnegie Organ being played



Enjoy free refreshments



Tours of the historic building

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(Big Green Market weekend)

Burntisland Primary School

During Term 3, we enjoyed a fantastic block of After School Clubs led by our teaching staff. Children took part in a wide range of activities including gymnastics and dance, arts and crafts, cooking, STEM, ukulele, chess, and many more. The clubs provided lots of fun and exciting new experiences, and it was wonderful to see children problem-solving, building new friendships, growing in confidence, and developing new skills. A huge thank you to all the staff who generously gave their time to run a club, and to all the children who committed to attending each week and helped make the clubs such a success. Well done everyone!

Our recent Crazy Hair Day, organised by the Parent Council, was a huge success and helped to raise valuable funds for our school. Children arrived with some truly fantastic and creative hair designs, which brought lots of smiles and laughter throughout the day. It was clear that many grown-ups and children had very early mornings to create such imaginative styles! A huge thank you to the Parent Council and everyone who took part for making the day so colourful and fun.

We are delighted to continue our whole-school Outdoor Learning Mornings, which take place on the last Thursday of every month. These sessions give children the opportunity to explore and learn in a variety of locations throughout the Burntisland community, supporting their learning while enjoying the outdoors. A huge thank you goes to all of our parent volunteers who generously give their time to support these mornings and help make them such a valuable and enjoyable experience for our pupils.

We have enjoyed some fantastic sporting success during Term 3 and are incredibly proud of all our pupils who represented the school so well. A special

congratulations goes to the BPS P6/7 Indoor Athletics Team who qualified for the Fife Finals in December and travelled to the Michael Woods Centre in Glenrothes on 30th January with hopes of defending their title. Despite managing a few injuries, the team worked tirelessly across all events. With three schools closely matched and results recounted several times, the competition was intense, but to the delight of everyone at BPS, the team were crowned Fife Champions. Their hard work, determination and excellent team spirit were a credit to both themselves and the school. Well done, Team BPS!

Our Netball players also did a fantastic job at the Cluster League, representing the school with pride and enthusiasm. They played brilliantly, showed great sportsmanship by congratulating Kirkcaldy West Primary School on their overall win, and most importantly, had lots of fun along the way. An extra special well done goes to Rhys Edward, who was awarded the Team Spirit Award for his positive attitude and encouragement of others.

In March, Lily (P7) and Emma and Leo (P6) proudly represented BPS at the Fife Schools Swimming Competition held at the Michael Woods Sports Centre in Glenrothes. The event was extremely well attended, with around 200 children from primary schools across Fife taking part. All three swimmers qualified for two events each, with Lily competing in the 50m backstroke and 50m freestyle, and Emma and Leo both competing in the 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle. The BPS swimmers, who are members of Burntisland Swimming Club, produced fantastic performances against strong competition, achieving personal best times in all of their races. Everyone had great fun and showed excellent

determination and commitment—a very well done to all three on a superb achievement!

We were delighted to celebrate the announcement of this year's Civic Week Royal Party during a whole-school assembly, joined by members of the Civic Week Committee for the grand unveiling. This special occasion created a real buzz of excitement across the school. A huge well done to all members of this year's Royal Party—we know you will have a wonderful and memorable experience.



During the assembly, the winners of the Civic Week Art Competition were also announced. Judges had an incredibly difficult task selecting winners in each category due to the high standard of entries. Congratulations to all of our talented winners, whose artwork will be proudly used throughout Civic Week.

Finally, a little reminder that our uniform shop continues to run every Friday morning, 9-10am. This is a fantastic opportunity to refresh and replace school uniform with some pre-loved items.

Thank you for reading our news!

Louise Gordon,
Headteacher



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Burrtisland–Flekkefjord



Town Twinning



Burrtisland Twinning Committee & Youth Exchange

Calling it what it is...

Burrtisland Twinning Committee is, and always has been, a Cultural Youth Exchange.

Every two years we send 4 or 5 of Burrtisland's teens (14–16 year olds) to spend a week in Flekkefjord and the following year we welcome their teens to spend a week in Burrtisland. It's been established since 1946 and so in its 80th year we are adding the words of 'Youth Exchange' as a subtitle to help emphasise what we actually do.

Coffee Morning & Bake Sale.

Thank you to all who attended the Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th April at St Joseph's. It was a great turn out and helped raise over £500 which will all go towards providing an exciting itinerary for the Youth Exchange this summer.



Thanks also go to St Joseph's and to all involved in the organising the stalls and baking. It is no small undertaking and it is greatly appreciated. We hope you enjoyed too. **Pictured are cakes.....lots of cakes!**

Twinning Dates 2026.

The youth exchange will coincide with Games Day this year with the group arriving on 19th July and staying until 26th July.

80th Anniversary plans.

As a special anniversary year we have invited members of the Flekkefjord Council to join us in celebrating. We are delighted to advise that the invitation has been accepted and Flekkefjord will send a delegation. They will be joining us at the same time as the youth exchange and will participate in an itinerary of activities designed to foster the continuation of the exchange at a time when there are budget pressures and calls for more activities for teenagers to get involved in.

Games Day Parade.

The Community Council have kindly allowed us to join in the parade on Games Day as part of the 'Exiles' group in celebration of our 80th anniversary. So calling all past Twinners! We invite you to take part in the Games Day Parade on Monday 20th July. Join us for a Civic Reception and a walk down the High Street.

Email us at burrtislandtwinning@gmail.com if you would like to take part. More information can be found at:

www.burrtislandtwinning.org.uk

Mark Kisby, Chair

Burrtisland Out of School Service (BOSS)



We are very much enjoying outdoor play these days at BOSS. The children love the ease of playing at the Toll Park and hanging out with their friends and playing bigger games of football. We have also been seeing many of them join in on our Nature Connection activities.

We are getting down to the beach more too where the children can enjoy the soothing sounds of the sea, bury their friends and sometimes toy dinosaurs in the sand and create the most elaborate castles and moats. The children are also hard at work preparing the seed trays for this year's vegetable garden. It is wonderful to see all the different outdoor play that is accessible to the children right on our doorstep!

Ahead of the new school year we are registering all our new families who are interested in joining BOSS after the summer and will be holding an open day before the summer. New families already on our mailing list will be notified once the

date is confirmed. If you are interested please get in touch. We will be at Burrtisland Primary's transition afternoon on Wednesday 17th June if you would like to speak to us in person.

BOSS has been growing in numbers and we are currently recruiting enthusiastic, playful individuals who have a keen interest in supporting children thrive in a play provision. There are opportunities for both contracted hours and relief work as well working in our holiday clubs during the school holidays. If working with school age children is something you are interested in please get in touch for more information.

Thank you to Burrtisland First Aid Services Trust who provided our recent training again. We have trained with them for many years now and would highly recommend.

For all other enquiries or if you would like to be added to our mailing list for August 2026 school starts, holiday clubs or ad-hoc sessions you can call us on 07702801132 or email at bossburrtisland@gmail.com

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

Anne Laidlaw, Manager



Local Business Updates

in association with Totally Locally Burrtisland

Since the last issue of the Burgh Buzz...

A new restaurant is expected to open in early summer at a refurbished 267 High Street. Arina Meze Bar is a modern Greek small plates restaurant which will be serving a menu of traditional and contemporary meze dishes designed for sharing, alongside a carefully selected list of Greek wines and speciality coffee.

Royal Nails and Spa has opened at 107 High Street.

Solus Holistic is now operating from the rebranded and refurbished 186 High Street, offering holistic treatment for women, children and families.



Their studio for rent also hosts classes including Yoga, massage, creative knitting, art therapists, and herbalists.

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

Beacon Runners



This edition comes at our favourite time of the year... the clocks change signals the end of our winter programme where we can finally put away the high-vis gear and head torches and enjoy some training in the daylight!

The year has started well with some new faces joining us, and some previous members returning after a spell away, so our weekly numbers continue to be very good and the energy on a Monday night is buzzing (pun intended!). We've got a full programme of sessions lined up through September now and will be supporting people who are into their 2026 racing plans or those who don't race but just want to get out and run.

So far this year we've already had members of the club compete in ten races in distances ranging from 10k to 42 miles...in Scotland, Madrid, and Morocco! There are lots of races planned across the next few months, with the local ones—Binn Race, Donkey Brae, and Black Rock—high on the list.



Alongside our Monday sessions, there have been a number of other events taking place. Our first Parkrun tour saw 17 club members make the trip to BEECRAIGS Country Park in West Lothian to try out the new parkrun there. Our ultra runners had a few great day trips to get in the necessary long, hilly miles that they needed in their legs ahead of their early season races. And because running isn't just about running, in collaboration with local yogi Paula Wardrop, we started a 'Yoga for Runners' class.

The Beacon Runners meet every Monday from 7–8pm in a variety of locations—mainly in Burntisland—for a planned session led by two of our coaches.

If you'd like to find out more about us, check our website: www.beaconrunners.co.uk And if you'd be interested in coming along to one of our sessions get in touch and we'll make sure you're welcomed and looked after.



"Come & Try" sessions in June

New runners are always welcome, whatever your ability. If you've considered coming down but are unsure what to expect, we're offering three "Come & Try" sessions on Monday 8th, 15th and 22nd June.

At these, new runners can take part in the sort of sessions we normally run and meet the coaches and other club runners. All sessions are free and will be easy paced to accommodate all abilities: the first will be on the Links, the second at Toll Park and the third TBC. In all instances just come along ready to run and meet outside the front door of the Beacon Leisure Centre at 7pm.

If you want to know any more, message us at beaconrunclub@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you.

George Lees (Coach)

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Class 4



Class 7

Friends of Burntisland Old Parish Church



Our Vision is: To keep Burntisland Old Parish Church a publicly accessible heritage asset for the foreseeable future and for the good of the community.

We seek the best way to meet this vision – join us and be part of the legacy.

Community survey: Thank you to all of you who completed our community survey. Here are some of the preliminary results: 256 responses were received, of which over 98% said it was important or very important to preserve this historic and unique church building. 93% supported community ownership in principle. More detail on all the responses will be available at the Open Day 23rd May.

Funding & feasibility: We were delighted to be awarded a Project Feasibility Grant by the Architectural Heritage Fund. We secured some match funding from Fife Council and await news of a Common Good Fund grant application. We have appointed two consultancies Community Enterprise and Fife Historic Buildings Trust to work jointly on a feasibility study and business plan for possible community ownership. They have analysed our survey data in detail and will supplement it with face-to-face interviews, and further community engagement at our Open Day Events.

Open Day Events in Burntisland Church: We are holding an Open Day Event on Saturday 23rd May 10am-2pm: This is a chance for you to learn more and give us your views. It should be an entertaining day with guided tours, music from organist Neil Robertson, and various other goings-on. Free light refreshments will be available.

Further Open Day Events are planned for Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th July to share information on the feasibility study and business plan. You can help decide the best options to meet our vision to save this special building.

Cabinet Secretary visit: Angus Robertson visited Burntisland Church on 19th February, along with Claire Baker MSP, and was suitably impressed. He quickly grasped the issues and promised to talk further with the various heritage organisations, including Historic Environment Scotland (HES). We will not hear further from our MSPs until after the Scottish Government elections.

However, from what we know of resource issues at HES, it seems very unlikely that HES or a similar organisation will take on future ownership and maintenance of the church building. It may be possible to work collaboratively with a heritage organisation however.



REACH project: We are delighted that Burntisland Church has been chosen as one of ten churches of outstanding heritage and social value for a special study involving the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (SoAS) and Scotland's Churches Trust (SCT): Research in Action on Church Heritage (REACH).

We were pleased to discuss this project with DJ Johnston-Smith of SCT and Emily Johnston of the SoAS. DJ and volunteers will record the heritage assets within the building. Emily and team will interview those with stories to tell of the church building to capture the less tangible heritage aspects for posterity. Contact us if you'd like to volunteer to add your story.

Website: Coming very soon – our new website!

Meantime follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FoBOPC/

For membership forms or enquiries please email: friends.of.burntisland.opc@gmail.com

From the Committee: Anne, Kristian, Matthew, Ian, Jamie, Neil, Kitty, and Catherine.



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Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Burntisland & Kinghorn have, of late, been collaborating with other Fife Clubs to organise and run a number of fundraising events. The first of which was a successful Antique Valuation Day along with the rotary Club of Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay including a visit from television's Anita Manning.

So, continuing the collaboration theme several Clubs have responded to our proposal to hold a Pilgrim's Way walk from Queensferry to St Andrews on 31st May raising funds for My Name's Doddie Foundation and FRASAC (Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre) with individual sections of The Way being completed by various Clubs.

Further to the above we are involved with the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy in detailed planning for the Fife Cherished & Classic Car Tour on Sunday 6th September. We are planning an enjoyable, scenic and unique driving event of approximately 120 miles through the iconic East Neuk of Fife, raising vital funds for charities. Get in touch with rotarycartour@gmail.com for more information, entry and sponsorship forms.

Every year Rotary in Scotland runs the primary schools quiz for year 6 youngsters. Within our remit for Burntisland, Kinghorn & Auchtertool schools, Kinghorn were the winners going on to the Area finals in Levenmouth Academy where they also won against eleven other teams to progress to the final in Aberdeen.

Our speaker for the evening of 14th April

was David McNeil giving a talk on Literacy in Scotland which tied in very nicely with a new project the Club has taken on for our community:

1 in 10 children and young people aged 5 to 18 say they do not have a book of their own at home so we were very keen to pick up on this. We noticed in one of our Rotary magazines, that the Alumni Association of Rotary District 1210 had decided with 2026 being the National Year of Reading they would contribute by providing Rotary Books4 Home in local Primary Schools. Good quality, clean Pre-Read books were collected and distributed to the children in Primary Schools within their community, then children were invited to come on a special day, choose a book and take it home to keep.

The Project Team decided to start with one Primary School in our area and chose Burntisland with over 500 pupils.



Having consulted with the Headteacher to see if this was a feasible project, a date was decided in June. All we have to do now is collect over 500 suitable pre-loved, good

quality clean books for ages Nursery to Primary 7, so no pressure on us!

Thanks to the Big GREEN Market, Burntisland, our speaker David McNeil from Literacy in Scotland who organised some books for us and members of the team, we already have around 250 books but still need many more for this project to be a success.

By the time you read this, collecting boxes will be in place week at Burntisland Nursery & Primary School, The Toll Centre, and Burntisland Library.

So please help us out. If you have suitable books, look out for the Rotary marked boxes in the locations named above and leave them there.

By using Pre-Read books we are helping to protect the environment. Making a new book produces approximately the same amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions as a 17 mile car journey (The Independent Publishers Guild (IPG))

As you can see the Club is very active and looking for people who feel they might wish to meet others who want to assist, take on challenges, enjoy opportunities and would like to be part of a worldwide organisation.

We meet in the Sands Hotel every Tuesday at 6.45pm, Dinner & Raffle £15 are optional, contact Hon. Secretary Derek Thomson 01337 860654

delta.tango662@gmail.com

Derek Thomson

Museum of Communication

The Museum of Communication's new Exhibition, entitled **'When Screens Were Small, but the Magic Seemed Huge'** opens on Saturday 9th May. It will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 11am and 4 pm until 26th September.

Visitors will be able to see vintage TV equipment, learn about how it all began and what new technologies came as a result, go in front of a studio camera and play some retro-computer games. There will be plenty of exciting hands-on learning for children and nostalgia for adults. Please come along and see for yourself!

On Tuesday 16th June, during Civic Week, local historian Ian Archibald will give a lecture entitled **'The Remarkable Mary Somerville—Queen of 19th Century Science'**.

Brought up in Burntisland, Mary Somerville was an astronomer, a scientist, a pioneering mathematician, geographer and a gifted writer. What made this all the more

significant was she mostly self-taught at a time when education for women was not encouraged. Somerville College in Oxford, the first women's college, was named after Mary Somerville because of her strong support for women's education.

Her talents and achievements were recognised in October 2017 when her portrait (and Burntisland beach) were featured on the Royal Bank of Scotland's £10 note.

See the Museum's website at www.museumofcommunication.org.uk for details of all events. There is an entry fee of £5 for lectures.

Please remember that the Museum of Communication is run entirely by volunteers. Please contact us on enquiries@mocft.co.uk if you'd consider joining us! There are opportunities to help out with this year's Exhibition.

David W. Brown



2026 EXHIBITION
"WHEN SCREENS WERE SMALL BUT THE MAGIC FELT HUGE"

100 Years of Television

Come in to see vintage TV equipment, learn about how it all began, what new technologies came as a result, go in front of a studio camera and play some retro-computer games too.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome

Museum of Communication

You Must See This!

Opens May to end September
Wednesdays and Saturdays only

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email: enquiries@mocft.co.uk

Scottish Charity SC022004
Dates and Times

Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club

BASC has plenty of reasons to celebrate this season, with achievements, milestones, and an exciting calendar of events.

2026 marks the club's 140th anniversary, making BASC one of the oldest continuously running swimming clubs in Scotland. If that isn't enough reason to break out the party-poppers, our swimmers have also had a stand-out competitive season at Leagues, East District Age Groups, and Fife Schools Championships, with four swimmers achieving rapid national consideration times.

In April, District swimmer Callum Fraser represented the team at the Scottish



National Age Groups (SNAGs) in the 100-metre butterfly, competing against top national swimmers in his age group. This is a fantastic achievement and a well-deserved accolade for a talented young swimmer. Congratulations to Callum and everyone else at the club who has enjoyed success this season.



Our younger swimmers kicked off BASC's calendar of celebratory events at Fordell Firs in Dalgety Bay, enjoying a fun day of outdoor activities. In October, older swimmers will be jetting off to Club de la Santa in Lanzarote for our "warm weather" camp. Sun cream most definitely required!

Throughout the year, swimmers have been raising funds for these and other events. Our next fundraising activity will be the Black Rock 5 Race in May. If you're headed down to Kinghorn for this popular local running event, look out for Sorren, Matthew, Edith, Lucy and Sam in their team BASC black and gold.



As always, BASC is open to anyone who can swim at least one length of a recognisable stroke. For more info or to arrange to come along for an assessment please visit our website:

www.burntislandswimmingclub.co.uk or email: basenquiries@hotmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

Pictured are Session 1 and 2 swimmers at the March Novice League Gala in Glenrothes

Laura Scotland

The Big GREEN Market Burntisland

Big Green News from Burntisland's Favourite Market! What a spring it's been for everyone at the BGM.

We were worried that our Easter weekend market might not be busy—and we were blown away by how many people came to shop with us! A record-breaking 700 plus visitors came through the doors across the two days. What an incredible community we have!

Giving back to Burntisland

Thanks to your generosity (spending and donating) and support across the board we've been able to donate £1,000 each to Floral Action Burntisland (FAB) and Broomhill Kids Garden Club, two brilliant projects keeping Burntisland looking beautiful, and inspiring the next generation of green-fingered Islanders!

In our June market we will be supporting Burntisland Hedgehog Haven. If you've been watching David Attenborough's Secret Garden you'll know how important hedgehogs are for maintaining biodiversity in our gardens and green areas, so please come along and grab some bargains for our spiky wee pals!

Fill your bags before you pack your bags!

With the warmer months on the way, now is the perfect time to remember the mantra: **TRY THE BIG GREEN MARKET FIRST!** Before you spend your hard-earned money topping up on holiday clothes, give us a visit. We have a brilliant selection of summer clothes, beach sandals, and holiday reads (2 for £1, and with all the latest titles).



Repair Cafe Update

We've been looking at ways to bring more Repair Cafes to the town, and while we're searching for funding to make that happen, you'll find us popping up occasionally for trial sessions at the Big Green Market. Check out our website www.biggreenmarket.com to find out more, or join our mailing list for the dates and info straight to your inbox.

Can You Help?

We're always on the lookout for new volunteers. **Our Saturday pack-down from 1pm-2:30pm slot is looking a little lean.** No heavy lifting required, just great company and a willingness to muck in. Everyone is given a coffee voucher to use at either Cafe Verde or One One Four as a wee thank you from us for getting stuck in.

We're also looking to grow our team of **fixers** for the Repair Cafe. If you can sew, do basic electrical repairs, mending, or general tinkering, we'd love to hear from you!

AND FINALLY... A NOTE ABOUT OUR AUGUST MARKET

We're taking a break in the summer, so there's no market in August. We'll make sure you have plenty of reminders in July, and will look forward to welcoming you through the doors for our September market.

Until then, if you have any questions or you'd like to volunteer, email us at biggreenmarket.burntisland@gmail.com



Burntisland Church Halls

THE BIG GREEN MARKET

2026 DATES

Friday 12pm - 3pm		Saturday 10am - 1pm	
JUNE	5TH & 6TH		
JULY	3RD & 4TH		
AUG	NO MARKET		
SEP	4TH & 5TH		
OCT	2ND & 3RD		
NOV	6TH & 7TH		
DEC	4TH & 5TH		
JAN	NO MARKET		

The Big Green Market is run by volunteers and all funds raised are distributed to local community groups and causes. email: biggreenmarket.burntisland@gmail.com

@BURNTISLANDGREENMARKET

The Burgh Polts

Welcome to the latest edition of Burgh Polis and hope that you are all enjoying the improved weather and longer days which are much welcome after a long winter.

Obviously with the improving weather this brings with increased visitors to the town creating a vibrant atmosphere for resident and tourists alike.

However, we are mindful of this time of year can see an increase in antisocial behaviour. I want to reassure the community that we are taking a proactive approach to address this, and our hi-visibility patrols will be increased throughout the town particularly in keys areas to deter inappropriate behaviour so everyone can enjoy the town and everything it has to offer safely.

Since the last edition we have proactively carried out drug searches and we remain committed to disrupting drug related crime and protecting the community from the harm that it causes. This was as a result of intelligence being provided from the community. If you have any concerns over this in your neighbourhood there are a number of ways that information can be provided to Police and all sources remain confidential. These means are detailed at the end of the article.

We also have been deploying with the speed gun in areas that have previously highlighted to us as areas where speeding remains a concern. Several motorists have been stopped who have been dealt with accordingly and we will continue to deploy with the speed gun.

In previous editions I have mentioned that we aimed to restart drop-in surgeries, and I am pleased to announce that these have now started again.

On each previous surgery we have been joined by housing officers from Fife Council. We are eager to see as many people as possible where we can talk about any issues that any members of the community may have or just have a blether.



These surgeries are being held in the Old Police Station, 60 High Street, on the upcoming dates:

Friday 5th June: 10–11am and Thursday 9th July: 10–11am

Could I also bring to your attention that we have a new email address for contacting your community Police officers. This new email is FifecommunityPoliceKirkcaldy@scotland.police.uk. A reminder that this email is not monitored 24/7 so any crimes should always be reported via the normal channels below.

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

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

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

PC Ross Paterson



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Floral Action Burntisland

FAB Secures FCCAN Funding for June Climate Garden Party

Floral Action Burntisland is delighted to announce that we have been awarded funding from the Fife Communities Climate Action Network (FCCAN) to host a community garden party this June as part of the Fife Climate Festival. The event will bring together residents of Allan Court and younger community members to spark a multigenerational climate conversation and encourage shared ideas for a greener Burntisland. Keep an eye on our socials for more information!



Summer Basket Hanging Underway

Plans are fully underway for our summer basket hanging, which will once again brighten the High Street and surrounding areas.

Strengthening Community Ties with Scott Pallets

We're also pleased to share that we are strengthening community ties following a successful meeting with Scott Pallets, who will be supporting us in improving the community allotment.

Thank You to the Big Green Market

A huge thank-you to the Big Green Market for a successful April event — we are ever so grateful for their continued support. The Big Green Market is such a vital and valuable part of our community!

Interested in Volunteering?

If you're interested in volunteering with FAB, we'd love to hear from you. Visit our website

www.floralactionburntisland.co.uk or

Email us at: contact@floralactionburntisland.co.uk

secretaryfab@gmail.com

Irene Megaw, Secretary



Burntisland & District Pipe Band

It has been an action-packed start to 2026 for the Burntisland and District Pipe Band. From successful fundraisers to silverware at competitions, the band is hitting its stride as we head into the summer season.

The band recently impressed at the Lothian and Borders Branch Indoor competition in Livingston at the end of March. The Novice Juvenile B Band secured a fantastic 2nd place, while the Grade 3 Band won their section and placed a commendable 4th while "playing up" in the Grade 2 contest. Our soloists also shone on the day: Callum Patterson took 2nd in 14-18 Piping; Annalise Paterson placed 3rd in U14 Snare Drumming; and Gregor Noble placed 6th in 16-18 Snare Drumming. At the RSPBA European Solo Drumming championships in early April, Annalise and Gregor both secured podium finishes again (2nd and 3rd respectively) in their snare drum categories. It takes a good deal of courage to step up and play in solo competitions, so huge congratulations to all band members who chose to perform.

The outdoor season kicks off for us on 23rd May at Dollar Academy. You can also catch the band locally during the Civic Week Parade (13th June) and on Highland Games Day (20th July). While the town celebrates Civic Week, our Grade 3 band will be representing Burntisland in Belfast at the UK Pipe Band Championships. This will be a fabulous experience for the team, with many competing outwith Scotland for the first time. The season will culminate at the prestigious World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow on 14th-15th August—an amazing spectacle where bands and Drum Majors from all over the globe gather to compete.

Maintaining uniforms, instruments, and travel for two full bands and a Drum Major team is a significant undertaking. We are incredibly grateful for the £600 raised at our recent Rock-'n'-Roll Bingo night at Burntisland Golf Club in February. Please keep an eye out for our donation buckets during our summer performances—every penny helps keep the band on the march!

Huge thanks to all our loyal supporters; your messages on social media are lovely to read. We would be unable to keep this show on the road without this support, alongside our fabulous committee and tutor teams. If you are interested in supporting the band in any way, please do get in touch—there is a lot more to pipe banding than just bagpipes and drums!

We are always looking for new learners, experienced players, and drum majors. We rehearse in Burntisland every Monday and Thursday evening. For more information or to follow our progress, find us on Facebook.

Susan Cotton



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Burntisland Hedgehog Haven



We are now into our busiest time of year at the rescue.

We've already had a range of casualties in which have included hedgehogs stuck down drains or holes in the garden and stuck in garden fences or fallen in ponds.

Please make sure drains are covered, and report any that are not covered and on council land to Fife Council. Please cover any holes from building works or gardening.

Hedgehogs are very clumsy as their eyesight is not great so easily fall into holes or ponds. If you have a garden pond please ensure you have some rocks in a corner for hedgehogs or other creatures to escape.

Breeding season is well underway and females are busy building their nests and giving birth to hoglets.

Please be careful when removing old sheds or decking as these make perfect nest sites. If you find a hedgehog nest please do not touch the hoglets but cover it back over and call us.

Please continue to be vigilant in your gardens (even if you don't think you have hedgehogs) and **please check any long grass thoroughly before using any garden machinery or tools.** Also take care when digging out big plants or bushes as again these make great nest areas.

In our 3 years of opening we have now taken in just short of 700 hedgehogs!

We were delighted to be featured on BBC1's The One Show where we talked about the rescue and how climate change is affecting hibernation in hedgehogs.

The changing temperatures is definitely having a huge effect on hedgehogs with many now not hibernating at all and then not being able to find food due to the time of year and their natural food source ie caterpillars, beetles, grubs being scarce.

You can watch our BBC1 appearance on our website or on our Facebook page.

We recorded a feature for CBBC Newsround which will hopefully appear in local schools and we were also finalists at the National Pet Awards for Charity Of The Year. Thank you to everyone who voted for us.

If you can put a shallow bowl of water in your garden it may just save a hedgehogs life as many come in dehydrated. Please never give milk.

If you wanted to feed them please do not feed mealworms, fruit or vegetables or anything with seeds or peanuts. Kitten biscuits is best to feed.

Thank you to everyone who attended our hedgehog awareness talk at the Kinghorn library. We had some lovely feedback so thank you to the library team for hosting us.

Please visit our website and Facebook page for lots of hedgehog information and please remember a hedgehog out in the day is NOT ok.

www.burntislandhedgehoghaven.co.uk

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Burntisland Playgroup

Was your child born between 1st March 2023 and 28th of February 2024? If so you can apply to us for a place for your child at Burntisland Playgroup.

Who are Burntisland Playgroup?

Burntisland Playgroup is a registered Scottish Charity, which has offered early education and childcare to Burntisland and surrounding areas for over 50 years. We work in partnership with Fife Council who offer funding per child when your child attends our setting from the term after they turn 3 years old.

Within this partnership, Fife Council also supports us by supplying us with a peripatetic teacher who visits every 3 weeks and with access to courses for our staff to complete to ensure their knowledge and understanding is up to date. They also provide us with a development officer and we have an annual visit with our Quality Improvement Team to ensure we are offering the children in our care the support and learning that a Fife Council nursery would provide. We are pleased to say we have very positive experiences with all the support offered from Fife Council.

What are the Playgroup opening hours?

Our operating hours are 8.45am until 2.45pm Monday to Friday, term time and we are based in the Toll Community Centre.

Who works for Burntisland Playgroup?

The Playgroup operates under a parent committee and is a living wage employer. We employ 3 full time staff members, 2 part time staff members and 2 relief staff who have contracted hours to ensure that your children get to know them before they are called in as relief.

Are you the same as nursery?

YES, we are a pre-school nursery but known as Burntisland Playgroup. We operate in the same way as a nursery. We follow the same curriculum and we have the same qualifications as nursery staff. We are a smaller setting with a maximum of 24

children in our yearly intake. We have access to a large hall, our own toilets and free flow access into a secure natural garden. Our children all have their own Personal Learning Journals which documents your child's learning that takes place in the playgroup. We use our local community and visit the woods and the beach, the local care home, as well as the train station, recycling area, shops and traveling around the town on the small bus.



Will accepting a place at Burntisland Playgroup affect my chances of a space in the School for P1?

No. Every family has to apply for a space in their chosen School online at Fife Council in the January before they are due to attend in the August. We have been very fortunate, that most of our parents choose to keep their children with us until they attend Primary One. We have never had a child refused a space from the local school or nursery. There is always the option to move your child to any other setting. Your child's funding travels with them and as a parent it is entirely up to you where your child should attend.

Is there a waiting list? And can my child attend prior to their funded session?

We currently have spaces for this session August 26-27 and the next August 27-28.

There is the option to apply for a "fee paying" space from 2 years 10 months. There is a cost for this space and we do ask that you use us for at least one term of your

child's funded placement.

I have already applied for a space at nursery, can I apply for Playgroup?

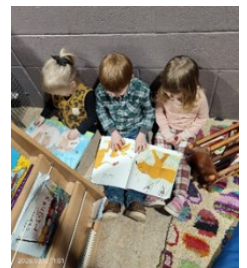
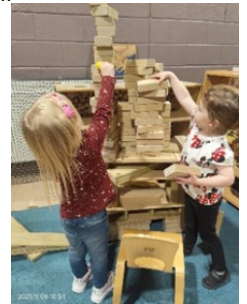
Of course you can! Some families aren't aware that we are here so even if you have already applied for nursery you can still contact us to discuss what we can offer and if you feel it is what you are looking for then it can be easily resolved. Your child's funding follows your child wherever you choose to enrol them.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk or pop in to see us in our opening times.

Looking forward to our August 2026 intake, we have spaces available for the year 2026-2027 if your child turns 3 in this time. We have funded spaces and fee paying spaces available. You can apply now to us by visiting the Playgroup at the Toll Centre or emailing us at burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk.

There is also a link on our Facebook page. We accept applications from birth so it is never too early to apply to us. We will let you know we have received your application and we will then get in touch closer to the time.

Rebecca McColm



Burntisland Community Suppers

After twenty-one Saturdays of providing a friendly, hot supper for the Burntisland community between November and March, the Community Suppers team are taking a well-earned rest for the summer!

Thanks go to everyone who helped make 2025/26 another successful season, including our funders, diners, fantastic cook and of course all the amazing volunteers who offer their time to make the suppers happen.

The project runs with support from Burntisland Community Development Trust

along with massive support from the community, local businesses and funders including Fife Council Warmer Spaces and You Decide.

This year the Suppers Team were also delighted and proud to be awarded the Burntisland Group Award from the Community Council.

The Suppers aim to give local people a chance to come along to make new friends in a social setting over a tasty meal without worrying about costs or having to come with someone.

The project also provides training opportunities for volunteers and brings the community together at the darkest time of the year.

We will be back in November and please do come along and support our fundraising Bingo night on 14th August at the Jubilee Tavern. Have a great summer everyone!

For more info or to volunteer check out our website. www.burntislandsuppers.org.uk

Burntisland Bowling Club

The new outdoor season for 2026 got off to a good start on opening day 11th April with an excellent turnout and all rinks in action. The weather was dry if a bit chilly!



President Lee Brown welcomed everyone along a wished a good and successful season for the club and the members. The first Jack was delivered by Linda Nimmo, a long-time servant of the club and previously treasurer for seven years.

The winners on the day of the Frank Cooper Quaich were Rosey Paterson, Jim Connor and Skip Derek Bett, seen being presented by the trophy by match coordinator Alan Lascelles.



The club welcomes new members of any age group. For other events that will take place please watch our new Facebook Page which is **Burntisland Bowling Club Social**.

www.burntislandbowlingclub.org.uk

Jim Connor, Secretary

Burntisland Shipyard FC



As you read this article our season will either be over or with just one game left. It has been a disappointing campaign for the Club as despite a particularly good start things somewhat petered out as the season progressed. A good win against St Cuthbert Wanderers at Kirkcudbright in the Scottish Cup saw us pitted against University of Stirling in the next round, but despite a valiant effort the Lowland League outfit ultimately proved to be too strong.

A good run in the League Cup would eventually see us lose heavily to Premier Division Dunipace, though the Denny based side were by far and away the best team we played all season. The league form, particularly against some of the so-called lesser sides, has been the biggest disappointment as the team has proven on their day they were a match for any side in the East of Scotland Second Division.

Once again, the support from the town on match days has been excellent with our average attendance just shy of one hundred. I'm sure everyone enjoys the food and refreshments on offer as much as the football itself. We can now offer matchday hospitality for up to twenty people which is already proving to be popular with our supporters and visitors alike.

As ever, there is always a need for more volunteers to keep the Club functioning on several different aspects. Anyone willing to assist with things like pitch maintenance, general DIY jobs around the ground and clubhouse, social media and website development or help on matchdays with hospitality, stewarding and setting up the goals etc would be most welcome.

So please get in touch with the Club if you are interested or require further information, via email: abeveridge.shipyard@sky.com or contact us through our Facebook and X platforms.

Andrew Beveridge, Secretary

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Burntisland Harbour Access Trust

A Road to Nowhere?

Sandra Maguire, Spokesperson for Burntisland Harbour Access Trust (BHAT), the community organisation that has been campaigning for rights of way at Burntisland Harbour's East Dock, stands next to Forth Ports controversial harbour fence at Burntisland's East Dock breakwater. "Forth Ports and Fife Council might think that they've shut the gates on this issue, that the community will give up on their rights and simply walk away, but that's not going to happen. The law is clear and we will win this. Rights of Way at Burntisland's East Dock must be respected".

So how can Sandra, and her fellow Directors at be so sure? "It's simple really" explains Sandra "the law is very clear. We have rights of way at the East Dock, and the Council has a statutory responsibility under the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 to 'assert and protect' rights of way throughout Fife. They have the statutory powers to ensure compliance and simply need to issue a legally binding compliance notice to Forth Ports. They don't even need to go to Court"

BHAT is advised on legal issues by lawyers BTO and Professor Roddy Paisley, Chair of Scots Law at the University of Aberdeen, the recognised leading authority on Rights of Way in Scotland. "He's the man who writes the books on Rights of Way that the other lawyers refer to" advises Sandra "and Roddy, who regularly acts as an expert legal witness on such matters, and has walked the harbour himself, has no doubt that rights of way apply at the East Dock."

Remarkably, Fife Council has already confirmed that BHAT's understanding of the law is correct, stating that a report on the matter prepared by BTO, and submitted to the Council for consideration, is "correct in regard to the law", before going on to state that such rights hadn't been sufficiently evidenced at Burntisland Harbour.

"This is why we've gone back to basics" explains Andy Wight Boycott, BHAT Chair. "We provided information covering various Acts of Parliament and rights of access



required by title burdens etc, but essentially, whether there is a right of way or not depends on four specific components, which can be determined by asking four simple questions. We've now provided all the necessary evidence for Fife Council to answer these questions. If they answer yes to each of these, then a right of way exists. No ifs, no buts, four yesses and it's a right of way".

So, what are these simple questions?

- Have the routes concerned been used by the public as a right, without let or hindrance, for a minimum of twenty years?
- Has access been taken by definite routes?
- Have the routes concerned been accessed from end to end?
- Do the routes link public places? (bear in mind that a harbour is a public place)

BHAT is confident that the answers to each of these questions is yes. Six BHAT Directors, joined by David Torrance MSP, have now signed affidavits (sworn statements made before a Notary Public) and submitted these as evidence to the Council, confirming that the answer to these questions based on each signatory's personal experience and their direct exercise of these rights, is **yes**.

"Scotland is proud of its progressive public access legislation" explains Andy "but if the enforcement body for such rights, in this case Fife Council, fails to ensure compliance, the legislation is reduced to nothing more than a 'feel good' gesture. This fight isn't just about Burntisland, it's about communities throughout Scotland who expect the law to be respected, and where necessary, enforced. The repercussions of this struggle will reverberate around Scotland. Fife Council must now get off the fence and act".



To show their support for the BHAT Four Simple Questions Campaign, the public are invited to visit the BHAT website at www.bhat.org.uk to answer the four simple questions for themselves. Andy is delighted with the early response to the appeal and is grateful to all those who have already submitted their answers. "Over two hundred have done so" explains Andy "which is outstanding. It helps us build on the overwhelming body of evidence demonstrating rights of way. We want as many more as possible to visit the website and to sign up to the campaign. If you have a minute to spare, please go to the website and answer the questions for yourself. It only takes a few minutes and together we can force Fife Council to act."

"I'm Burntisland born and bred" adds Sandra "I've lived here all my life, and I've walked the harbour for seventy years, by definite routes, all without challenge, as a right, and from end to end, as have generations of Burntislanders before me. The East Dock is a hugely important part of Burntisland, it's one of the most important places of public resort in the town. It was a godsend for local people during Covid and it is absolutely essential that our rights of way are respected, and that Fife Council acts in accordance with its statutory duty. This isn't a complicated issue, it's a matter of basic right. Come on Fife Council, now is the time to stand up, to serve the people of Fife, to do your job!"

BHAT

Burntisland Makers Market at The Music Hall

A brand new monthly market celebrating local artists, makers, community groups and charities is being set up at The Music Hall.

The aim is to support local creatives who do not have retail premises, giving more people the chance to showcase and sell their work within the town.

The first market is being held on **Sunday 31st May** and then the last Sunday of each month, from 11am to 3pm, at The Music Hall on Thistle Street.

Come along, support local, and discover unique handmade goods right on your doorstep.

Monthly Art Group at The Music Hall

A Monthly Art Group also runs at the Music Hall, on the **first Sunday of each month** from 1pm to 4pm.

This is a relaxed, welcoming group for adults of all abilities. Each session explores a different seasonal theme through painting and mixed media, with plenty of guidance and space to work at your own pace.

All materials are provided. No prior art experience is required. £25 per session (includes materials and refreshments).

For more info on either event, or to book a table get in touch with **Kerrie-Anne Jarvis**, kerrieon.intuitiveartist@gmail.com

Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association

In March we held our AGM with our old office bearers standing down and our new elected members are as follows:

Chair: Iain Ralph, Vice Chair: Gordon Langlands, Secretary: Marion MacGregor, Treasurer: Moira Michie and Gillian Newman, Committee Members: Jane Simes and Lynne Ralph.

Our meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm in On a Roll café, High Street—all welcome.

In the coming weeks you may see members of our committee and Fife Council on walkabout in our area identifying areas where improvement is required. One such area that we as a TRA have identified is Somerville Street, next to the high flats.

Currently the grass area is polluted with dog fouling. We would like to see this area brightened up for the residents who live here. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see in this area that will enhance it there please come along to our next meeting, your ideas and opinions are important to us.

We are continuing to purchase more poo bag dispensers to help keep our streets clean. If you would like to sponsor a box and have it sited next to your business or home then contact us through emailing CBTRA.sec@gmail.com. The cost would be £50 for the year. Any donations towards the cost of dog poo bags can be handed in to On a Roll Burntisland or contact any committee member.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a challenge for both our residents and retailers within our area. We are working with Safer Communities and the community

Police to address this and look for ways of de-escalating and protecting those in the area.

If you witness or experience any anti-social behaviours then contact police on 101 (keep incident number for future reference) or email Safer.communities@fife.gov.uk You can also report non urgent matters anonymously to Crimestoppers via 0800 555 111 or to www.crimestoppers-uk.org this will then be passed on to Police Scotland to action.

In the next few weeks we will be looking to repair and refurbish the seagull proof bins that are on the high street. The gulls continue to be a challenge and the introduction of these bins have helped to keep the waste out of reach of the gulls making the streets safer to walk in when the gull chicks hatch.

Lynne Ralph

BUMS OFF SEATS... Fife Walking Initiative

Bums off Seats is a Fife Walking Initiative. We provide free local health walking opportunities in Fife and all walks are led by a trained team of Volunteer Walk Leaders. A health walk is a free, short, local walk and is suitable for most people, even if you have a long term health condition.

A new walk in Burntisland has recently been added, taking place on **Thursdays at 1pm every fortnight** until 1st October. Meeting place is the Links car park. Upcoming dates are: Thursday 23rd May, 4th June, 18th June, 2nd July, 23rd July

All walks are free and you don't need to book, just turn up!

Scan the QR code for more information at the Active Fife website.



Beacon Leisure Centre

Spaces are available in Swim Skills 1, on various days and times. Suitable for 5 years upwards, beginners.

Pool Fun session on the last Friday of the month for 8 to 12 year olds, from 7:15 to 8:30pm.

www.fifeleisure.org.uk/locations/beacon/

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Girlguiding at the Parish Church Halls

Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from Burntisland and Kinghorn District gathered together in Burntisland Parish Halls to celebrate Thinking Day. This year we were celebrating 100 years of World Thinking Day focusing on 'our friendship'. The girls enjoyed making friendship bracelets for each other, singing some new songs and learning how to tie a friendship knot in a neckerchief. We also learned how to say 'Hello Friend' in lots of different languages.



hand woven baskets with a paper rose to hide a sweet treat inside

Our Easter craft was a puppet chick, the Guides painted and decorated their wooden pieces and then turned them into puppets, getting the strings the right length proved challenging!

Guides took part in the Fife County Coastal Challenge; our unit was challenged to walk the length of the coastal path from Aberdour to Burntisland. The weather was kind to us and Guides enjoyed skimming stones and a game of Poohsticks along the way. Our three newest Guides also made their Guide promise at Silver Sands which was very special.

Our journey to Aberdour was made by train, this was part of our 'Get on Board' challenge. Thank you to everyone who supported us through sponsorship, we really appreciate this.

1st Burntisland Rainbows

This term we celebrated Burns Night by designing our own tartan using our paper weaving skills.

We read "I Want My Hat Back" for World Book Day and made our own hats – luckily no one came looking for them!

We have also been busy working on our Camp Stage 1 Skill Builder – deciding what

equipment we would and would not need, thinking about how to protect the wildlife in and around our campsite and making our own indoor tents.

And we finished off the term with an Easter fun night thanks to the Brownies!

Urgent—Volunteers Needed

To keep our Rainbow unit running, we urgently need two more volunteers as soon as possible —without them, our unit will be forced to close in the very near future.

No experience is needed; just a willingness to help, enjoy working with young children, and be part of a team. Full training and support will be provided.

If you would like to learn more or register your interest, please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/

Units meet in Burntisland Parish Church Halls on Monday evenings.

Guides: 6.45 to 8.30pm
burntislandguides@gmail.com

Brownies: 5 to 6.30pm
burntislandbrownies1st@outlook.com

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

Our units are happy to welcome new girls. Contact us for more information or register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus and we will get in touch with you.

1st Burntisland Guides

In response to feedback from families we have made slight changes to our meeting times, Guide meetings now start at 6.45pm enabling an earlier finishing time of 8.30pm. We are happy to review this in the future.

We have been busy this term. We celebrated Chinese New Year, Guides tucked into Chinese food, enjoyed a fun game picking up marshmallows with chopsticks, cracked open fortune cookies and made paper lanterns to light their way home. For Pancake Day, Guides learned how to make pancakes, these were delicious spread with Nutella.

Guides had fun making gifts and cards for Mother's Day, they worked hard making





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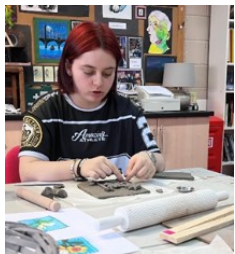



As we look ahead to summer, the past few months at Starley Hall School have been busy and engaging, with a strong focus on creativity, wellbeing and supporting our young people to complete their National Qualification courses with confidence.

Crafty Kids

We have loved welcoming Kirsty from Krafty Kidz into school as part of our 5 Ways to Wellbeing afternoons.

Our young people have been designing and creating their own clay tiles, exploring textures, shapes and patterns with great attention to detail. Alongside this, slime making has brought plenty of curiosity, laughter and sensory exploration.



Qualifications

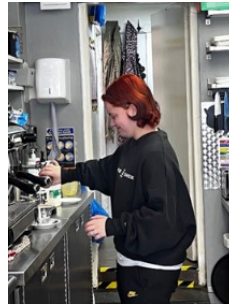
There has been a real flurry of activity across the school, with young people working hard to complete qualifications across a range of subjects. Staff and young people have shown great commitment throughout, with a particular focus on maths ahead of one of our maths teachers, Jo, heading off on maternity leave. The young people chose a lovely card and some thoughtful gifts for Jo and her new baby, including a very cute Peter Rabbit outfit. We wish Jo all the very best as she begins this exciting new chapter.



World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day, young people made fantastic sorting hat cupcakes. They baked the cupcakes, created marzipan sorting hats, made buttercream from scratch and carefully piped their designs.

Each cupcake included a hidden house name underneath the hat to reveal which Hogwarts house you are in.



Work placement

Some of our seniors have continued to engage with a range of local employers and voluntary organisations, gaining valuable experience in real world settings.

It has been fantastic to see Payge growing in confidence and independence through her placement at the popular local café, The Olive Tree, where staff have been incredibly supportive. She has quickly mastered the coffee machine and can now make a mean cappuccino.

Henry's keen interest in cars has led to an exciting opportunity to begin a work placement at Porte Auto Services. This has been a great fit for him, allowing him to build on something he genuinely enjoys. He is gaining hands on experience in a mechanics workshop, developing practical skills and growing in confidence in a new environment.

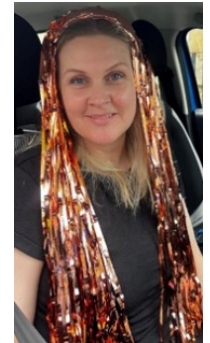
Within school, one of our young people has also made an excellent start to internal work experience with our maintenance team, undertaking a range of tasks including supporting with car checks and contributing to the upkeep of the school.

These opportunities allow our young

people to explore different work settings, build confidence, strengthen community links and help inform future planning.

Crazy Hair Day

We enjoyed taking part in Crazy Hair Day, with staff and young people getting involved and showing off some creative styles, including colourful extensions. We were pleased to support Comic Relief through optional donations.



Looking Ahead

We always welcome opportunities to connect with local groups and are happy to attend as a guest speaker or welcome individuals and groups into the school where appropriate. If you would like to get in touch, please call 01383 830314 or email info@starleyhall.co.uk

We are grateful for the continued support of local organisations, businesses and residents. By working together, we are proud to help our children and young people feel connected, valued and part of the wider Burntisland community. Our young people were delighted to receive Easter eggs from Rankin Funeral Directors' Easter Egg Appeal! We really appreciate you thinking of us.

Over the summer, whatever the Scottish weather has in store, we hope everyone can take a moment to slow down, enjoy some fresh air and make the most of all that our local area has to offer.

Tracy Duffin, Principal Teacher

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07530 735230
burntislandls@gmail.com
www.burntislandlocksmithservices.co.uk

Black Rocks Rowing Club



It's now two years since the Black Rocks Rowing Club (BRR) launched our beautiful St Ayles skiff, named Irene. The skiff is a versatile 22 foot rowing boat typically crewed by four rowers with a cox steering and room for a passenger in the bow. While we row in open coastal waters, we have a safety first policy. Our club will provide all the equipment and training needed. Our boat is kept at the Burntisland Sailing Club on a floating dock.

Most of our rows are simply social in nature and allow us to enjoy the sights and sounds out on the Forth. We have social rows sometimes two to three times a week depending on weather and members availability. We also take part in competitions for those who want to.



We are keen to recruit more members and we have "Come and Try" rows so you can see what it is like. Rowing is for all, no matter your level of fitness or experience. We have had a lot of people Come and Try lately and they have really enjoyed it.

If anyone would like to join us and try rowing, please visit our website at www.burntislandrowing.org.uk and hit the link that takes you to our 'get involved' page.

On our website you'll not only find information about our club and its backstory, but also further details about the wider Scottish coastal rowing community. And there's an FAQ section where we are collecting together all the questions we asked when we each started rowing. We hope these will answer some of your initial questions and allay any doubts you may have.

Brian Morley



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11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout group are hoping to open their first Squirrel Section in August 2026

You can find more information about squirrels at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/squirrels/>

If you would like your child to be added to our waiting list or to help as an adult volunteer, then please get in touch at Group@11thfife.org

Scouts.org.uk/join
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Squirrels



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Burntisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland

We had a memorable Holy Week and Easter. The Palm Sunday Walk took place after a brief thunderstorm but thankfully was dry and well attended by all the Churches; it's good to work and to walk together as Christians!

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion of the Last Supper in Burntisland Church at the Kirkgate was solemn and still and ended in darkness: let me explain; we had, what is historically known as, "Tenebrae" (literally "Darkness, from the Latin). We followed the journey of Jesus and his disciples after the gathering for Passover in the upper room, to the garden of Gethsemane, where he was betrayed.

As we read from the Gospel story, after each reading a candle on the Communion Table was extinguished, so that at the end we left in darkness and silence, as did the first disciples who ran in fear leaving Jesus alone to his destined death for our sins and our salvation. It was a very moving and meaningful service.

Our Friday evening, Good Friday service in Erskine Church was both sad and solemn

with Bible Readings, Talk and Hymns which reflected on the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Easter Sunday, Resurrection Day was joyous and offered a variety of worship and gatherings for breakfast!

Short services on Burntisland and Kinghorn beaches and at the top (or near the top as it was windy!) of the Binn to proclaim Christ is Risen: He is Risen indeed!

Breakfast followed and then in a packed Kinghorn Church in the High Street we proclaimed the Easter Gospel in song, drama sketch and my colleague, Alexander and I had a "bar-stool chat" dialogue and discussion on Jesus and the Resurrection: truly inspiring all round!

Have you seen one of the Cats on the Wemyss Ware Cat Trail yet? There are 17 in all, in and around Kirkcaldy. Burntisland's artist is Abigail Cooper and her cat, located at Links Place, is called "Women's Wark Will ne'er Be Dune"

They are delightful and surprising: like so many of our Church services: enough to

know it's church but captivating, different, engaging and enjoyable!

Do pick up a BEK Partnership Church Services schedule card the latest edition of which runs from May to August; there's also a helpful description card with it which gives a rundown of the Nine (yes 9) different services and activities.

The newest of which is "Kidventure" Not a service but a fun time for primary school kids and, if accompanied by an adult, younger children too. Come and join us on an adventure through the story of the Bible with worship, videos, talks, prayer, crafts and games. We meet in Burntisland Church at the Kirkgate, top hall on Sunday from 9.30 until 10.30am (not on Chilled Church Sundays).

It would be great to see you at any of our services of all are welcome!

Our Church motto is:

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

Rev Jim Reid

www.burntislandandkinghornchurch.co.uk

Erskine Church

Firstly, a word of genuine appreciation from Erskine Church. All of us in the congregation would like to express our sincerest thanks to people in the Burntisland community and beyond for such generous support following recent vandalism to the antique glass in our church's front doors.

We were very touched by every expression of sympathy, noting the warm regard in which local folks hold our church. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the JustGiving fundraising appeal. The initial target of **£1,000** was reached within 24 hours of it going live online! It means a great deal to know that we are respected as an integral part of the town we share. We've been overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity.

It would also be remiss of us not to take this opportunity to thank all our sister churches in the town for their thoughtful

words and prayers for Erskine. The hurt caused by this damage has been greatly offset by the way people have rallied round and shown us that they care.

Please keep an eye on our front doors as you pass by, plans are well in hand to get the glass replaced and the doors repainted. Onwards and upwards!

Games Day on Monday 20th July. Yes that's not too far away now either. Erskine's hall will be open all day as usual offering a delicious menu of filled rolls, home baking, tea & coffee etc. Our location is very convenient just opposite the Links, so everybody's most welcome to pop in and see us.

Coffee & Pancakes on Saturday 29th August, 10am–12noon. Our next coffee & pancakes morning is already in the diary.

Community has always been such a precious thing, yet these days it seems to have lost the central place it used to occupy in our collective consciousness. These are

challenging days for every church as tough choices and pressures around reduced attendances and lack of funds take their toll.

The world is in a very fragile and volatile state at present, with so many global issues directly impacting us across our local communities. I know that many of you have fond memories of a past connection with Erskine, indeed people tell me that all the time. We in Erskine are very thankful for the ongoing truth that Burntisland continues to value a strong sense of community. That's very precious, let's look after it together!

I hope that you have a great early summer, now that the cold dark days of winter have finally been banished.

Please keep checking our Facebook page for the latest updates.

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



St Joseph's Church

Warm greetings to everyone from all at St Joseph's. As I write this in April, we are still in the Easter Season and I look back with gratitude on our Easter celebrations which went exceptionally well and were very well attended.

The Churches Together Walk of Witness is always an important start to Holy Week and we are looking forward very much to another Churches Together service on the evening of Pentecost Sunday in St Serf's

Church on Sunday 24th May. It is great that we come together in this way and pray as fellow Christians, celebrating what we share in common and praying together for our troubled world, especially in these uncertain and worrying times.

We have a busy time ahead with various celebrations to come, a number of Baptisms and First Communions for some of our young people. A reminder that we have a Vigil Mass on Saturday evening at 5pm and Mass on Sunday morning at 10am, followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. All are

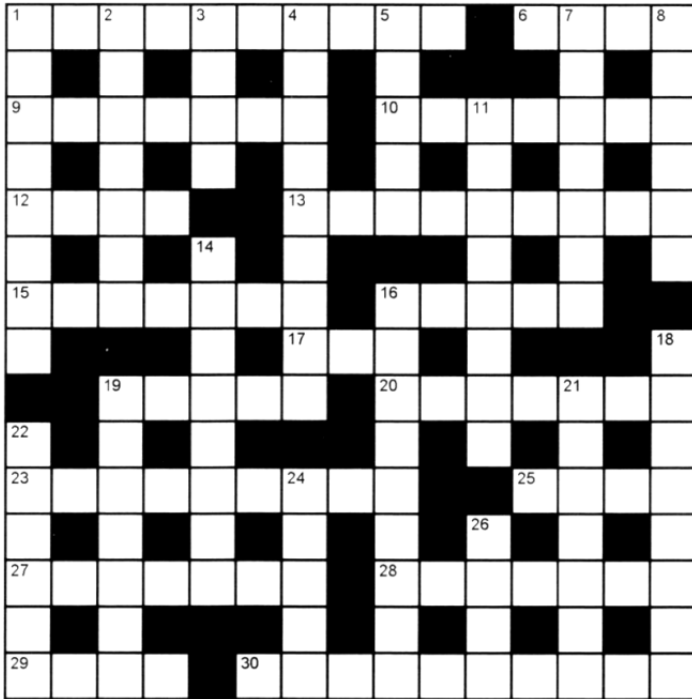
welcome. The Knit and Knatter group meets on a Wednesday morning and are always open to new members.

Wishing you a very pleasant Summer and if you are lucky enough to be getting away on holiday, I hope you will enjoy it and return refreshed and renewed.

Wishing you every blessing.

Fr James





THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Feigning (10)
- 6 European mountains (4)
- 9 Gracefully slim (7)
- 10 Waterfall (7)
- 12 Part of the eye (4)
- 13 Impertinence (9)
- 15 Modern Basutoland (7)
- 16 Clergy council (5)
- 17 Cricket/baseball score (3)
- 19 Vex (5)
- 20 Japanese paper folding (7)
- 23 Sheltered (9)
- 25 Male deer (4)
- 27 Citizen army (7)
- 28 Roman sea God (7)
- 29 Unwell (4)
- 30 Top diplomat (10)

DOWN

- 1 Feasible (8)
- 2 Foes (7)
- 3 Swirl of water (4)
- 4 Communal bedroom (9)
- 5 Small cuts (5)
- 7 Erudite (7)
- 8 Scandinavian country (6)
- 11 Glorious (8)
- 14 Be highly noticeable (5,3)
- 16 Wales National Park (9)
- 18 Shakespeare tragedy (4,4)
- 19 Kind of paint (7)
- 21 Astonish (7)
- 22 Doubting apostle (6)
- 24 Kingdom (5)
- 26 Musical work (4)

Name

Address.....

Telephone

Completed entries by 15th July 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.

February Crossword Solution

Across: 1 Disconcert, 6 Abel, 9 Frantic, 10 Backlog, 12 Odin, 13 Insolvent, 15 Ignoble, 16 Cease, 17 A la, 19 Quell, 20 Broaden, 23 Identical, 25 Taxi, 27 Chimera, 28 En route, 29 Sage, 30 Bloody Mary.

Down: 1 Daffodil, 2 Sea lion, 3 Oath, 4 Cochineal, 5 Robes, 7 Believe, 8 Lights, 11 Calvados, 14 Absentee, 17 Caballero, 18 Entirely, 19 Queuing, 21 Dracula, 22 Discus, 24 Crawl, 26 Dray.

Congratulations to our February crossword winner:
Rowena Gillen, Geds Mill Close

Burntisland's Events Diary

MAY			
Saturday	16th	Christian Aid Coffee Morning in the Parish Church Halls	10am–12 noon
Tuesday	19th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers (also online via Zoom)	7 pm
Saturday	23rd	Open Day event at Burntisland Parish Church, see details on page 8	10 am–2 pm
Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th		Platform Artists Open Studios weekend	10:30 am–4 pm
Sunday	31st	Burntisland Makers Market at the Music Hall	11am–3 pm
JUNE			
Friday	5th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–3 pm
	5th	Police Community Surgery in the old Police Station, 60 High Street	10–11am
Saturday	6th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
	6th	Crowning of the Summer Queen & King at the Links bandstand	2 pm
Friday	12th	Acoustic Music Club in Burntisland Bowling Club	7:30 pm–10:30 pm
Friday 12th to Sunday 21st—Burntisland Civic Week, see page 8 for details			
Saturday	13th	Civic Week Parade Day—"Celebrating Scotland" theme and after party in the Church Halls	1–4 pm
Sunday	14th	Civic Week Beach Day including Sandcastle Competition (11:30am) and Raft Race (3pm)	11:30 am–3:30 pm
Tuesday	16th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers (also online via Zoom)	7 pm
	16th	Museum of Communication Lecture on Mary Somerville, see page 13	7 pm
Saturday	20th	Civic Week 5-a-side football at Recreation Park	10:30 am–4 pm
	20th	Civic Week Live music at the Golf Club with "Scotland Rocks" band	8 pm–late
Sunday	21st	Civic Week fishing competition at the Breakwater	9am–12 noon
Sunday	28th	Burntisland Makers Market at the Music Hall	11am–3 pm
JULY			
Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th		Open Day events at Burntisland Parish Church	TBC
Friday	3rd	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–3 pm
Saturday	4th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Wednesday	8th	"Burntisland Port of Grace" Heritage Summer Exhibition opens in the Upper Library, High Street	
Thursday	9th	Police Community Surgery in the old Police Station, 60 High Street	10–11am
Friday	10th	Comedy with Phil Kay in the Music Hall	7:30–9:30 pm
	10th	Acoustic Music Club in Burntisland Bowling Club	7:30 pm–10:30 pm
Monday	20th	Burntisland Highland Games on the Links	10am– 4pm
		Erskine Church Snacks, baking and tea and coffee	10am– 4pm
		Exiles Reception at the Burgh Chambers and Parade (11.45 am) along the High Street to the Links	

To include a public event taking place in August, September or October in our next issue, email: editor@burghbuzz.org.uk

You can also view an online version of this calendar with any future updates at: www.burghbuzz.org.uk/calendar

Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

The Trust has chosen a new home for its main information board, and it will be in place soon. It will be positioned near the Rock Rest picnic area and there are plans to have a new pathway to go further up the hill alongside the field in order to give good views over the loch and out to the Bass Rock. A beech hedging wind break has already been planted and gorse removed to open up the path more.

This new project will take time but it will give a lovely new place when finished where the Trust can display its posters and announce forthcoming events. The upper platform will have a picnic bench too. Craigencalt is in our name so we wanted to keep our main board nearby.

Our Annual Walking Festival finished in April and we enjoyed lovely spring weather. We always try to add some new walks to attract participants, and the feedback was just how much people enjoyed them.

One walk was around Kinghorn, starting at the Community Centre looking in the octagonal room to see the fresco copies of the Elgin Marbles, then continuing around Kinghorn to visit all the sites where once local industries had been thriving.

Another different walk took us further afield to see the lime kilns at Charlestown. The walk followed the Lyne Burn through the woodland and back through the Elgin Estate, with the spring lambs in the fields.



The final walk began from Burntisland and went along the Binnend Path and around Grangehill down to the beach at Pettycur. The tide was right to stride out across the sand to the Black Rock. For many people on the walk it was the first time to visit the rock, which made it special for them. Afterwards the group made its way back to the Sands Hotel in Burntisland to enjoy a well earned lunch to celebrate the end of another successful walking festival.

Spring is a lovely time of the year with new growth of flowers appearing and trees

sprouting green and blossoming. The wildlife on Kinghorn Loch is evident with the first Coot chicks, goslings, and soon some cygnets. The female swan waits patiently on her well built nest, on the island just outside the bird hide.

As readers will know it is also a time when the grass needs cutting and weeds balloon in the garden. For the Trust it is time to consider path maintenance for the months ahead. The map board at the viewpoint at Binnend needs some attention and this will get done over the summer.

We are always on the look out for new volunteers who can help with trimming paths and maintenance, or help on the odd workday with new projects, so please don't be shy. You can contact us by email info@craigencalttrust.org.uk or phone 07740 999514 for more information.

Marilyn Edwards

www.craigencalttrust.org.uk



Fife Council Community Learning and Development Team

Junior Youth Club (P5-7), at the Toll Community Centre, Tuesdays 6:30-8pm

Several young people from the Junior Youth Club were proudly presented with certificates of attendance at the inaugural YOSCARS ceremony held at the Adam Smith Theatre in January. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their commitment and achievements, and we are incredibly proud of all the young people who attend each week.



The club offers a wide range of activities, including art, dance and games, giving everyone the chance to try new things, build confidence and have fun. Encouragingly, the Primary 7 participants have shared that they would like to continue attending once they move into S1. This is something we will consider carefully, and we will keep everyone informed should the age range of the club change as a result.

Only Girls!, Library Upper Room, Thursdays 4-5:30pm

There are currently five S1 girls attending the group and they've been full of creativity from the very start. In the first few weeks, they designed and created their own zines (short for fanzines),

exploring topics ranging from fashion and novels to Stranger Things and Fugglers. These are now ready for printing and look fantastic.

The group has now moved on to a jewellery project, decorating their own jewellery boxes before making their own pieces to keep inside. Moving forward, the sessions will continue to build on their creativity and confidence, introducing new craft activities shaped by the girls' interests and ideas.

All girls from S1-3 are welcome.

Craft n Cuppa, Toll Community Centre, Fridays 9:30am-12pm

This group grew out of the successful crafting taster day held at the end of March and has quickly become a lively and creative space. There are currently three crafts on offer—crochet, jewellery making (kumihimo bracelets) and watercolour painting—with all materials provided free of charge, making it easy for everyone to get involved.

The space is also open to anyone who prefers to bring along their own projects, whether to work independently, share ideas, or ask for a bit of guidance. Alongside the crafting, there's plenty of tea, coffee, cake and conversation, creating a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. Support and further assistance are always available, ensuring the group remains a welcoming place to create, connect and enjoy time together.

For more information, ideas or support, feel free to get in touch by emailing lynn.brannan@fife.gov.uk. We'd love to hear from you.

Lynn Brannan



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