

2022 Community Award Winners

For the first time since 1981 two distinct awards were conferred by the Community Council – one for a local group, and another for an individual. Both awards are richly deserved.

On Hogmanay, Alex MacDonald, Chairman of Burntisland Community Council had the pleasure of informing Pipe Major Craig Hooper that Burntisland & District Pipe Band had won Burntisland's Community Award for 2021.

As a double delight, Alex was also pleased to inform Luke Drummond that the Community Council had decided to make a separate, individual award to him for his outstanding and devoted service to the community.

Ever since the first lockdown, the Pipe Band have shown imagination and creativity. The younger members switched very

successfully to online tutoring, competitions and practice. They also took every opportunity to entertain local people who were vulnerable or housebound. More recently, the Pipe Band brought a level of dignity and occasion to the traditional Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial, at a time when the various Covid-related restrictions severely compromised the normal format. Pipers from the band also led the recent, protest rally from the Beacon Centre to the East Dock which demonstrated the unanimity and strength of feeling within the community against the proposed installation of barriers and fences by Forth Ports.

Luke's contribution was somewhat different but no less commendable. He responded superbly to numerous requests for help from individuals and organisation in the town who were in need of deliveries or

repairs following storm damage. In his day job he is self-employed in recycling, removals and property maintenance. He applied those skills voluntarily to help the Burntisland Emergency Action Team (BEAT) to deliver food supplies to where they were most needed and his efforts were hugely appreciated. That selfless and generous spirit was entirely spontaneous and is something that is commended as an example to others.

The award normally takes the form of a certificate which is presented at a reception in the Burgh Chambers, in the presence of the friends and families of the winners. However, current Covid restrictions do not permit this kind of activity. Nevertheless, the Community Council is seriously searching for a way of presenting the awards so that the winners' achievements can be publicly recognised.



Remembrance Day — They will never be Forgotten

At 12.00 noon on Sunday 14th November last year, following a joint Churches service at the Erskine Church, several hundred local residents assembled on pavements surrounding the war memorial to take part in the annual remembrance day service.

Although the traditional parade of disciplined organisations did not take place because of pandemic restrictions, the Burntisland & District Pipe Band performed impressively on the Links adjacent to the memorial, before and after the service and wreath laying.

For the duration of the short service conducted jointly by local ministers, the customary period of silence, the playing of the Last Post on the bugle and the Flowers of the Forest by a lone piper, drivers of all motor vehicles on adjacent roads, respectfully halted their vehicles and turned off

their engines – a most considerate gesture which was appreciated by all.

Despite the restrictions, the ultimate sacrifice made by former Burntisland residents in preserving our freedoms, were respectfully commemorated.



BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

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From the Editor

Best wishes to all of our readers for the New Year, hoping that the approaching Spring season will bring us back to some form of normality. However, as far as our town is concerned, normality is far from perfect.

Over the past decade we have lost our Police Station, our remaining two Banks and are about to lose our Post Office. We have lost our town clock, the Burgh Chambers is in a poor state of repair and Forth Ports have started work to erect fences and gates to deny public access to the Breakwater and East Dock as sanctioned by a Fife Council planning committee. At a time when Fife Council is reported to be planning to spend £3/4million on play-park facilities in Lochore Meadows, Burntisland is struggling to obtain finance to refurbish or replace the Links paddling pool, after years of neglect by Fife Council maintenance staff - I could go on!

However, the Burntisland community, led by an active and dedicated Community Council (regretfully, with limited powers), throughout the years has demonstrated an ability and enthusiasm to collectively organise and support activities and events enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Over the last two years, this community togetherness has been reflected clearly in the manner in which we have pulled together to help each other during the pandemic. Now that the scourge of Covid appears to be receding, we must now concentrate on focussing our efforts on reviving those traditional events and activities for which this town is renowned. We owe it to ourselves, our children and the community as a whole to become involved.

Towards the end of the list of CC Bullets, on the opposite page, are a number of organisations that urgently require support. I can say from personal participation that to become involved is a unique experience - you will meet new friends, exercise your mind (and possibly body), learn new skills, help our children to develop healthily, both physically and mentally - and most of all enjoy a comforting feeling of self satisfaction in contributing collectively to a job well done.

Why not get involved?

Bill Kirkhope

P.S. The Buzz is also looking for new editorial team members.

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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: Alex MacDonald
Vice Chair: Brendan Burns
Treasurer: Fiona Watson
Secretary: Anne Smith

Members:

Tim Hailey Jim Sheridan
 Brendan Burns Lynne Ralph
 Yvonne Crombie Ken Littlemore
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Fife Council local election

The upcoming Fife Council election will take place on **Thursday 5th May**, where voters will elect three local councillors for the Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy ward.

See local press or the Fife Council website for a list of candidates closer to the election date.

Community Council Bullets.....

The Community Council holds its regular meetings on the second Friday of each month, at 7.00pm in Burntisland's Burgh Chambers.

However, meetings are instead being held online using Zoom video-conferencing for the foreseeable future. Members of the public are welcome to attend or to raise matters of interest to them—please contact the Secretary or Chair if you wish to join.

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

- Neale Hanvey MP will be meeting the CEO of Forth Ports in order to protect public access to the East Dock, breakwater and surrounding areas even after the installation of the disputed fencing.
- There is a significant flood risk to Burntisland by 2030. Rising sea levels and storm surges will make parts of the A921 impassable at times. We are awaiting a formal response and action plan from Fife Council.
- We are supporting the creation of an ad hoc team to enhance the Alexander III monument and raise awareness of his significant contribution to Scots language and culture.
- We remain concerned at the lack of consistent detail in the Common Good accounts, making it very difficult to evaluate the financial health of the fund. More detail is awaited for the current financial year.
- The Links Water Feature was a Community Council initiative, in partnership with Fife Council. However, Fife Council say it is now at end of life. We want to see it replaced with a safe, modern and enhanced version. That will require significant funding, so discussions are under way.
- A bus shelter on the Links side of the Porte is highly desirable so we have taken early steps to try and identify funding.
- Funding has been received to ensure that replacement saplings can be planted along the edge of the Links, to fill gaps which have persisted for some time.
- The Community Council are coordinating the distribution and placement of whip saplings throughout the town as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.
- Numerous groups in the town are critically short of volunteers. It's not just the Community Council. Bodies such as Floral Action Burntisland, Civic Week, Highland Games Committee, Events Group and Christmas Lights group all do a superb job for the benefit of the whole community.

However, they can't survive in a vacuum. They and many others all need urgent input from active and motivated individuals. The risk that one or more might fold is very high. We encourage everyone who cares for our town and its community to support these various groups in whatever way they can.

- We have reluctantly concluded that there is not enough evidence of demand to progress a proposal to decorate the fence along the gap site opposite the Burgh Chambers. We will remain in contact with the landowner should he wish to permit access to the site itself, or indeed to release it for development.
- Uncertainty over the provision of post office services is a major concern, so we will be contacting Post Office Counters Ltd to try and trigger some positive action.

Come and Join the Buzz Team

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

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

The Big GREEN Market Burntisland

Burntisland's Big GREEN Market raises over £5,000 for local community groups

2021 brought more than its fair share of challenges and disappointments, but the Big Green Market has been a welcome and positive addition to Burntisland's social and shopping calendar.

Since opening its first Big Green Market (BGM) doors in July, the group has raised over £5,000 for:

- Burntisland Community Development Trust
- Burntisland Primary School playground improvements
- Burntisland Foodbank
- Floral Action Burntisland (FAB)
- Burntisland Over 70s group
- Burntisland Harbour Access Trust

- and we have the good people of Burntisland to thank for making it such a success!



Buy preloved- good for the planet, good for your wallet

What is the Big GREEN Market?

Taking place on the first weekend of the month at the Burntisland Parish Church Halls on West Leven Street, the BGM is a brilliant way to pick up a bargain, catch up with friends and snap up rare and beautiful items from Burntisland's talented artists, crafters and makers.



Showcasing local artists

BGM Fridays (12 noon - 4pm):

Focusing entirely on pre-loved shopping, we take donations from the town and create a fun, vibrant and exciting shopping experience for bargain hunters and treasure seekers alike.

BGM Saturdays (10 am - 1 pm):

We still offer the pre-loved shopping (we top up the products so there's always new bargains on Saturdays) but add in some craft and market stalls too so local crafters, makers and artists can showcase their products to the town.

Fundraising for local community groups

The BGM is run 100% by volunteers. Every penny (after essential costs) goes into a fundraising pot and each month a nominated Burntisland group or charity is awarded the donation.

"Everyone in the BGM team loves crafting and upcycling. Charity shops are our favourite places to shop because we can donate unwanted items and pick up a bargain knowing we're helping reduce landfill while helping a good cause. We wanted to bring that to Burntisland." says Jo Hobbett from the team.

Nikki Frances continues *"after two lockdowns and a year of being stuck at home, everyone was getting rid of unwanted goods and clutter - but had nowhere to take them. We knew setting up a pre-loved market would be welcomed!"*



Cupboard upcycled by one happy BGM customer

How YOU can become involved

There are so many ways to be part of the Big GREEN Market. You can:-

Volunteer:- The team need help with setting up (Fridays) and packing up (Saturdays) and helping with retail during both days.

Our volunteers love being part of the bigger picture *"I feel useful again and it's great to be part of such a vibrant team"* and

'its lovely just to reconnect with the community, I've really missed being able to do that' commented two volunteers recently.

Donate:- Do you have bags of good quality clothes, bric-a-brac, homewares, books, music etc? Donate to BGM and your items can be loved again.

Shop: Come along to the market on the first Friday (12-4pm) and Saturday (10am-1pm) and grab a bargain.

Sell: If you're a local maker, crafter, business or group and want to showcase your products and green credentials to the Burntisland community then book a craft stall. They cost just £25. A new stallholder gave us lovely feedback last month *"It was great to connect with customers at the BGM and raise the profile of my work...., and the market was so well organised....I'll definitely be back"*

Apply: Need a boost to your funds? If you are a local community group or charity then you can apply to be a nominated group at a future BGM. The Burntisland Playgroup, the local RNLI, the new Community Café, BOSS, and the Pipe Band will have their funds boosted by the first BGMs in 2022.

SUPPORT THE BIG GREEN MARKET, BURNTISLAND!

Follow the BGM Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BurntislandGreenMarket to get updates on all the market news. Or email: biggreenmarket.burntisland@gmail.com

DATES for your Diary- the next Big GREEN markets will be on:

Fri 4 & Sat 5 February—Playgroup

Fri 4 & Sat 5 March—RNLI

Fri 1 & Sat 2 April—Community Café

Fri 6 & Sat 7 May—BOSS

Fri 3 & Sat 4 June—Pipe Band

Jo Hobbett



The Queen's Green Canopy – Plant a tree for the Jubilee

The Queen's Green Canopy is a UK initiative inviting towns, communities, and individuals across the country to plant trees to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. In 2022 she will have reigned for 70 years. The QGC will celebrate this by creating a living legacy for future generations. More than that, the QGC is an opportunity for people to come together to:

- do something positive to help fight the Climate Crisis in the wake of the COP 26 summit in Glasgow.
- provide homes for nature and help increase biodiversity.
- improve the amenity and attractiveness of our local green spaces.
- actively bring together, safely outdoors, neighbours and communities under the prevailing restrictive conditions of the Covid pandemic.

Burntisland Community Council has ordered 420 (free) young tree saplings from The Woodland Trust under the QGC initiative. These will be delivered to Burntisland for community planting in **March 2022**.

We would like as many people as possible to have the opportunity to be involved in QGC planting and have already spoken to some community groups and individuals, and to Fife Council. If you are interested, please speak to your neighbours and

friends, and consider sharing this on social media. This project is something that almost anyone can become involved in, whatever their age, ability, or background, and this includes children and young people.

The idea is to divide the 420 saplings among different areas of the town, according to the size of the available area and the level of interest of local residents.

In order of size, the following are areas of town where we have landowner permission and support for planting:

- The Red Pond amenity area
- Meadowfield grassy amenity area
- Piper Crescent play area
- Toll Community Centre land
- Greenmount TRA grassy amenity areas
- Duncanson Drive play area.

The 420 saplings ordered are the 'Year-round colour' large pack comprising, hawthorn, dogwood, wild cherry, silver birch, rowan, and hazel. These are all British native trees of small and medium size, which should provide a colourful display throughout the year – attractive to wildlife as well as to people. These 'baby trees' or 'whips' which are only 20 – 60cm high will grow steadily over the years, but until they are fully established, they will need some protection. To avoid accidental damage by grass cutting machinery, the planted areas cannot be mown.

You can learn more about the QGC initiative at:

www.queensgreencanopy.org and about planting and the trees we have chosen at: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities



Burntisland Links:

Separately, Burntisland Community Council has received Fife Council permission to plant eight additional lime trees to fill the gaps in the line of trees bordering the Links alongside Kinghorn Road. As these will be more mature saplings, they will have to be purchased and planted independently from the QGC initiative. We welcome donations from individuals, groups, and businesses to support this project. To arrange a donation, please contact the Secretary or any BCC member.

Anne Smith, Secretary BCC

Darren Seizes the Initiative

Burntisland Funeral Director Darren Rankin has already supported the Queens Green Canopy project by the donation and planting a tree at the entrance of the Links as part of the national initiative to mark Her Majesty's historic Platinum Jubilee.

Darren explained that he decided to support the initiative as a way of marking the 70 years of dedicated service the Queen has given to the Country and Commonwealth. Her Majesty herself has planted hundreds of trees around the world during her reign.



The tree has been planted opposite the Copper Beech tree planted in 1935 to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Queen's Grandfather King George V. A plaque will be added to the tree later in the year.

The tree that was chosen is a native Rowan which has glossy leaves, white flowers in May/June time then the bright red berries later in the year.

The Rowan Tree features quite prominently in Burntisland being included in the badge of the New Primary School. When the School moved in to the new building two Rowan Trees were planted at the entrance to the school. According to folklore, Rowan Trees are supposed to have magical qualities and also protect those on a journey making it very apt for the summer visitors to travel to the town and pass through the Links entrance.

Darren would also like to thank Derek Davidson and Gary Davidson (no relation!) from Fife Council for their help with the planting of the tree and to Burntisland Community Council for accepting the gift of the tree on behalf of the town.

Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association

Happy New Year to All from CBTRA. The TRA has been in hibernation for the last few months but we are still supporting our community and other groups working within the town.

A big thanks goes out to the team from BEAT for their hard work over the Christmas period, many families in the area have benefited from your efforts making their Christmas a celebration rather than just another day in the year.

Unfortunately, due to illness we were unable to go ahead with our planned Christmas Window competition this year. The TRA events committee are meeting to discuss future events in 2022 so watch out for the notices and Facebook posts.

Our meetings are now held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm and until there is a significant reduction in Covid these meetings will be online via Zoom.

Following the success of our Easter Trail in 2021 we again plan to hold this again and would like to include all groups in the planning. If you would like to get involved please contact us through messenger on our Facebook page or our website.

So come and join us and have your say.

Lynne Ralph, Head of DYW Partnerships

Burntisland Primary School

Primary 1 are settling back into school life well and are having lots of fun learning. The children have started learning about fairytales and all three classes have been using exciting vocabulary to write their own sentences with a focus on using the correct punctuation too. They will be continuing to learn new sounds and using their phonics to develop their confidence in reading independently and as a class. They are looking forward to exploring more fairytales as the term progresses and they might even get the chance to act them out. In Numeracy, P1R, P1H and P1/2S will be learning how to add and subtract within 10 and 20.

Primary 2 are excited to be back in the classroom and can't wait to find out more about the human body which is their new topic this term. In Numeracy, they will be focusing on place value and being able to write numbers in words, draw numbers as pictures and explain what the value of digits are. What an exciting challenge! The children in P2 are looking forward to learning how to write detailed recipes and formal letters in Literacy. Primary 2 will also be learning about growth mindsets, what this means and why it is important to have one. We're positive the children in Primary 2 will enjoy developing their understanding of this and will encourage each other to never give up. The P2 classes will be developing skills in gymnastics this term.

Primary 3 have an impressive amount of learning to look forward to in Term 3. In Literacy, they will be learning about speech marks and how they can use these in newspaper articles and detailed reports. In Numeracy, they will be taking on the challenge of multiplying and dividing which means there will be lots of opportunity to

practise the all-important times tables. Primary 3's topic this term is a very important and current one – protecting our planet. We're sure the children are going to have fantastic ideas about how we can work towards saving our planet. In Health and Wellbeing, the Primary 3 children are going to be learning all about Emotion Works to develop the language they are using to describe their emotions.

Primary 4 return to school for Term 3, raring to go on a variety of new learning tasks and challenges. Their focus for topic will be the Vikings, with so much to learn and create they are relishing the term ahead. In writing they will be focusing on creating creative texts and creating these through rich language and vivid imaginations. Numeracy will see them delve into fractions and examine the relationship between fractions and how they can recognise what different fractions look like and can be compared.

Primary 5 have made a great start to the new term and are ready and raring to get stuck into their new learning. This term, Primary 5 are over the moon to be learning all about space! Linked to this, their class novel will be 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce which lots of their Literacy work will come from. In Numeracy, they will be focusing on multiplication and division. Primary 5 will also be focusing on improving their stamina and strength through this term's P.E. focus which is fitness and we know the children will be working very hard to challenge themselves with this. Finally, Primary 5 will also be continuing their weekly Outdoor Learning sessions. We know that they are very excited about this and we look forward to hearing all about their adventures.

This term, **Primary 6** have come back to school eager to learn and have fun with a wide range of activities. This term, they are excited to get stuck into their new topic, Natural Disasters. There is lots of fantastic learning planned for this which we know they will all enjoy. Linked to this topic, Primary 6 are looking forward to reading 'Running Wild' by Michael Morpurgo, based on the true story of a boy saved by an elephant after the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia. In Numeracy, they will be focusing on fractions and decimals and are also really excited to be taking part in gymnastics for P.E. Finally, Primary 6 will also be developing their understanding of their emotions and how their body changes and reacts to different emotions.

Primary 7 have come back with the vision that 2022 will be the year of their transition to high school. The transition process is an exciting time for the P7 pupils and we look forward to making the most of our final two terms. This term, we will complete our World War 2 topic focusing on D-Day and the victory that was celebrated in Europe. In Literacy, we will be starting creative writing and we look forward to using our vivid imaginations to bring our stories to life. In Numeracy, we will be focusing on area and perimeter as well as fractions. We look forward to the challenge! We are keenly anticipating the opportunity to participate in traditional Primary 7 competitions such as the Burns ankers events.

Written by Primary 7 pupils



I'm PC Trevor Farley and alongside PC Kinnes we have faced a challenging final quarter to 2021.

Since the previous issue of the Buzz, PC Kinnes and I have been abstracted due to COP26 and it was a privilege to represent Police Scotland on the world's stage. This came with its own challenges and does take us away from our primary role of Community Policing in your area.

There have been no significant rises in disorder calls within the area for this quarter and as with every year our focus will continue to be on keeping Burntisland a safe and harmonious place to be. With the years end upon us we will focus on drink and drug driving. PC Kinnes and I will continue engaging with motorists and other road users alike.

To keep on this topic of road safety we remind all residents to be prepared for winter. Information for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists alike that can potentially be life-saving can be found here:

The Burgh Polis

www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/road-safety/winter-road-safety

Despite the cold weather PC Kinnes and I are well aware of the continuing youth disorder calls received from the area and will, when possible, be there to deal with them for you. PC Farley and PS Howie have recently attended and spoken with the residents and staff of a sheltered housing complex on the High Street.

This was a very informative and engaging meeting for both staff, residents and officers. So please, when we are in your area on foot patrol, come and engage with us, as residents are always the best equipped to keep us up to date with any ongoing issues that require our attention.

One last thing from us, you will be well aware of the continually changing guidelines as we are still dealing with the

global Covid-19 pandemic. Can we again ask you all to be mindful of the most up to date guidelines from the Scottish Government. For more info visit:

www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19

As always, we will take this opportunity to remind the public that there are various ways of reporting crime.

Where persons are looking to remain anonymous, information can be provided via Crimestoppers using the details below:

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

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

**BurntislandKingshoreWesternKirkcaldy
CPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk**



Burntisland Playgroup



Last term was filled with excitement and arts and crafts and we celebrated a few festivals. The children tried haggis and oatcakes to celebrate St Andrews Day. They also learned the story of the festival of Diwali and why that is celebrated. They sampled some lovely Indian food which is normally eaten to help celebrate. We discovered how children in Sweden celebrate Santa Lucia Day and we dressed up like the children and paraded around the hall with our lights.

Our focus this term has been Christmas since it has dominated the children's thoughts and play. We have read stories, role-played, listened to each other about how needs, wants and wishes surround all things Christmas. The children also were very interested in all our arts and crafts we had planned and all really enjoyed taking them home to their parents.

Although the man in the red suit wasn't officially allowed to visit us, one of our staff members who didn't want to disappoint the children, took on the role of "Santa." All the children were mesmerised and loved every second of it. Some of them a wee while later identified our "Santa" as our staff member as they recognised "her eyes."



A few new children who joined us and have settled in very well. We will hopefully, be starting back at the woods and beach in the next few weeks.

We also had a very successful stall at the Christmas Fayre held at the Toll Centre and raised over £200 for the Playgroup funds.

January is the time when parents are beginning to think about nursery applications and we are a long standing community childcare resource. We would hate for Playgroup not to be supported by the people of Burntisland and have to close after over 40 years being in business. We are looking for families whose children are turning 3 between March 1st 2022 and February 2023 to join us for the 2022/2023 intake. We currently have no waiting list and we accept children from 2 years 10 months (fee applicable) and from the term after they turn 3.

Although we are called Burntisland Playgroup, we operate as a nursery similar to a school nursery. We all follow the same curriculum and offer the children the same experiences as a school nursery setting. We have close links to the school so transitions into school or nursery are always very straightforward and supportive of the



children's needs. It has long been thought that attending Burntisland Playgroup hinders your chances of a space at primary school or nursery. We have certainly never found this to be the case and no child that we have had in our setting has ever had any issues in gaining a space at the school. We have an in-house cook who prepares all our healthy meals which are based on the children's likes and dislikes. We utilise our local area as much as possible and are looking to have our garden finally refurbished this year. We are a small team of a manager – Rebecca – and 2 Early Years Officers – Mandy and Louise – and our cook – Karen.

We currently have no waiting list for spaces.

Please email burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk for an application pack or if you have any questions regarding our setting.

Rebecca McColm, Manager



Burntisland Out of School Service (BOSS)

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families who have joined BOSS recently. We are starting the year full of energy with lots of active games in the large hall we have in the Toll Centre. Particular favourites of the children so far have been basketball, jump the river and hockey.

Our creatives in the club have been busy

Chalk Art



making bouncy balls, painting and chalk art! We have sessions available in our breakfast club and afterschool club throughout the week. If you are interested in BOSS as your childcare provider please get in touch by emailing bossburntisland@gmail.com or calling on 07702801132

We have already started the planning of our holiday clubs for February (16th-18th) and April (4th-15th). Our hours of opening will be 8.30am to 6pm (£24) early start is 7.45am (£27) and we offer half day sessions (£14). Provision will be based on demand and our closing date for the February break is the 24th January.

We will be sharing our activities on our website bossburntisland.co.uk and our Facebook page [facebook.com/BurntislandOutOfSchoolService](https://www.facebook.com/BurntislandOutOfSchoolService) - please give us a like!

A special thank you from BOSS to all our

wonderful and generous local businesses who contributed to our Christmas raffle helping us raise £345 which will go towards activities and resources.

The Sands ~ The Kingswood ~ Burger Island ~ Jason's Newsagent ~ Courts Butcher ~ Chapter and Verse ~ The Olive Tree Café ~ The Fix ~ Short and Curly's ~ Pretty Presents ~ Homeware ~ We are amused ~ Laura Anne Photography ~ Happy Go Lucky Dog Company ~ Totally Hardware ~ JO JO Co ~ Dunearn Hill Handmade Soap Co. ~ Aye-Candy ~ Spotty Dog Customs ~ The Roasting Project ~ Call Clean Dry Cleaners ~ Bodyluscious ~ The Co-op ~ It's Labelled ~ Cromwell Kitchen ~ My Spanish ~ Sugar and Spice

Anne Laidlaw, Manager



Burntisland & District Pipe Band

As we welcome in the New Year, Burntisland & District Pipe Band has reflected on what has once again been a difficult year. Over the last three months, the band has had a limited chance at a return to a semblance of normality with some important outings.

As we commemorated the soldiers lost at war on Remembrance Sunday our Band was proud to show how all our hard work throughout the year was paying off. Always one of the most important outings in the year for the band, this was reflected on the turnout by band members past and present. This year's service was especially important as we were privileged to lay a wreath at the memorial. Catherine Spears our wee superstar Drum Major had the honour of laying the wreath on behalf of our band.

Two of our piping tutors had the huge responsibility of leading the march for the Save Burntisland Harbour campaign led by Burntisland Harbour Access Trust. Andy Aitken and Stewart Birrell led the march through the docks showcasing their dulcet tones to the cause. We at Burntisland & District Pipe Band are exceptionally proud of the two for their contribution.

On the 4th of December the band played at The Big Green Christmas Market at the Parish Church Hall. With the kids using this opportunity to showcase their vast range of tunes. Despite the bitterly cold December weather, our Band put on a spectacular performance.

Once the warmth was felt in the hands again, we marched through the Links and up Cromwell Road play at the Christmas Fayre hosted by the Toll Community Centre. There, once again, we were able to present our repertoire where we received a warm welcome and a hot juice!

PLAYERS WANTED!

We continue our efforts to recruit new faces across all areas of the band - Pipes, Drums and Drum Majors. We have one of the best



support network of Tutors at Burntisland & District Pipe Band - recognised worldwide!

Perhaps a New Year's resolution was to learn a new skill? Well, why not try a traditional Scottish instrument. Please ask around friends, family, and relatives if they are aged between 8-16 and keen to come along. Encourage them to get in touch via the Band's Facebook page.

We at Burntisland & District Pipe Band would like to wish you and your family all the best for the New Year!

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

Erica Wyse, Leading Drummer

Over 70s Christmas Treat

Saturday 4th December at the Kingswood Hotel. Almost 150 guests enjoyed a welcoming drink and a sumptuous Christmas lunch, very competently served in a festive atmosphere.

Following lunch, entertainment was provided by the versatile Tony Delicata with a medley of old favourites encouraging everyone to join in the singing and even a few couples up dancing. The afternoon's entertainment concluded with the arrival of Santa who visited every table distributing Christmas cheer!

This event is organised by a very hard working committee who arrange fund raising events throughout the year. The committee would like to extend their own thanks and appreciation to generous donations from Briggs Marine, Scott Pallets, Tom Courts, The Big GREEN Market, Indoor Bowling Club, Hancocks Bingo, K & S Fabrications, Links Fish Bar, Guides/Brownies and many individual donors, without whose assistance the event could not take place in its present format.

The Fight for East Dock Access Continues

Our March and Rally held on 27th November, a beautifully crisp, cold day sandwiched between storm Arwen and a fall of snow, was an extremely successful, and quite emotional, event. Estimates of the turn-out vary but 500 might not be too far off the mark.

We would like to thank all those who came along in support and specifically Burntisland Pipe Band, the Burntisland HAT Band, Burntisland First Aid Services Trust (who all gave their services free), Sandra Maguire and George Fisher for their stirring speeches, the Big Green Market who funded the publicity, the Platform Studios for sharing their lawn, Forth Ports for permission to use their land and Brian Anderson of cottagebroadcasting.co.uk for a very generous deal on the video, which you can watch on YouTube, entitled "Burntisland Scotland – Save Our Harbour"

youtu.be/4plkeOnaJC8

Construction of the fence has started and it may well be all done and dusted by the time you read this. The rally marked the transition from fighting it, a fight we can no longer legally win without vast expense, to registering the community right to buy the East Dock. We, the Burntisland Harbour Access Trust (BHAT), became a formally recognized Trust last summer with the specific intention of doing just that. Funding for buy-outs is available from a range of sources and there are many examples around the country of local communities becoming landowners via this route. It does not depend on the public having to put their hands in their pockets.

We now need to grow the membership of the Trust to ensure a community consensus as to how we develop the East Dock once we are in possession of it. If you're yet to join, please consider doing so and help shape the way ahead, to take another step in the march for open access to, and the sustainable development of, Burntisland's East Dock. Membership is free and carries no obligations, but gives you a say in how the land and harbour could be used as a fantastic community resource. Please note that the earlier online petition and the latest inked petition were not applications for membership.

Ultimately the success of the Trust depends on its membership. We already have a whole raft of ideas and we're looking for more members to contribute their own suggestions. We also need a Treasurer with financial skills and a Membership Secretary with experience of databases.

All those who have already applied for membership should have received an email (if you haven't seen one, check your spam folder). If we don't have an email address for you, you'll receive a hand-delivered letter.

You can download membership application forms from our new website (see below) or collect a hard copy from Grain & Sustain in the High Street. Completed forms can be returned online or handed in at Grain & Sustain or the post box at 253B, High Street (The Space Upstairs between the Co-op and the Roasting Project).

Having produced, delivered, collected, collated, and checked over 1,000 petition signatures from Burntislanders to support the registration of the right to buy, we have now submitted the applications. We've established that there are three landowners involved, with Forth Ports obviously owning most of the land. Establishing ownership details is an expensive business, so the magnificent sum contributed to our funds by December's Big Green Market was most welcome. Our grateful thanks go to all the organisers and helpers for their hard work.

You'll find updates about our campaign, along with lots of information about the history of the harbour, our story so far, wildlife, membership application forms and more at: www.burntislandharbour.co.uk Many thanks to Ian Gordon and Shaun Perry for kindly setting the website up for us.

Andy Pay



Photo by Ronnie Mackie



Photo by Craig Lamb

Co-op Local Community Fund

In November, the High Street Co-op hosted a cheque presentation for three groups. Burntisland Playgroup, RNLI Lifeguards, and Broomhill Garden Club were the organisations to benefit from the fund which totalled £16,580.

Money for the community fund is raised when Co-op members buy selected own-branded products and services, and from carrier bag sales. Pictured with representatives from the groups are manager Craig from the High Street Co-op, Tina from Dollar Road, and Member Pioneer Michael.

A new round of funding has since opened for three groups: the Central Burntisland TRA, along with the Playgroup and Lifeguards. Co-op members can choose which group benefits from 1% of their spending between now and October.



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burntislands@gmail.com



Burntisland Heritage Trust

Model Ships Donation

A chance meeting with Margaret Dean (nee Scrymgeour of Nethergrange), has resulted in Burntisland Heritage Trust obtaining 16 working model ships. Margaret, a former resident of the town and past Lord Lieutenant of Fife, recently lost her husband Brian.

Brian a retired consultant surgeon in Dunfermline, was an accomplished model builder and over the years accumulated a large collection. Margaret was downsizing and looking for a home for the models. She was delighted when the Heritage Trust offered to take them. It is hoped that some of the models will be on display this year. It is the Trusts intention to display all 22 of their model ships along with the railway layout "Burntisland 1883", in a dedicated exhibition which is currently under discussion.

As can be seen from the photographs the models range from a simple but detailed clinker-built rowing boat to the nearly three feet long 'Duchess of Fife', paddle steamer. Examples of a traditional 'Fife' fishing trawler can be seen as well as a large detailed model of HMS Lion, a WWI battlecruiser.

Some of the models and artefacts require extensive cleaning and it is hoped that we can encourage members of the public to lend a hand. If you are interested in helping or in further research of the models, please contact us at

burntislandht@btinternet.com

George McLauchlan, Trustee



Duchess of Fife



Mizpah K18



Lion

Photographs courtesy of Allan Hutchison

Burgh Chambers

The proposal submitted to Fife Council by Burntisland Heritage for the Burgh Chambers meets the criteria announced for obtaining a grant from the new "Levelling Up Fund". This comes direct from Scottish Office to the local authority. The Burgh Chambers project is supported by Fife Council, but no decision will be reached until near the end of March this year.

In the meantime the trust is taking steps for us to apply to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Kevin Robertson, a Policy Officer

with Fife Council has offered assistance and we are moving forward with this.

Street Names Booklet

I'm pleased to say that we managed to get the booklet 'Burntisland Streets and the Origin of their Names' published and available in Chapter & Verse and Hansell Books in time for Christmas. We did a limited print of 100 copies and I understand there are still a few more copies left for sale.

The draft of the booklet has been passed on to Iain Sommerville to be added to the Burntisland Heritage website.

Our thanks to Iain for last year adding additional new topics of information on the website at www.burntisland.net. The new headings are 'Shipwreck 1633', 'Model 1883' and 'Old Maps'.

The "Blessing"

Finally, the search for the lost treasures of Charles I. Regarding this project, more recent work has involved an analysis of the survey scanning material of the shipwreck site. The results are very positive and hopefully may result in identifying the wreck site.

Ian Archibald

Burntisland Christmas Lights – Appeal for volunteers!

For several years, our town has benefited from the work of a Christmas Lights Group, which was a sub-group of Burntisland Community Council (BCC).

The Lights Group arranged for fund-raising and purchase of all the column motif lights (on the lampposts), all the lights in the permanent trees, and additional lights for the Christmas tree. Without their work we would not have our festive lights display which is much appreciated by residents, visitors, and local traders.

Unfortunately, all the previous Lights

Group volunteers have now retired, and we urgently need new volunteers to carry on their good work and form a new Lights Group. At least one member of the Lights Group should also be a BCC member.

No special experience is required. Support and further information is available from the Community Council. If you are interested in volunteering to help our town sparkle, please contact our BCC secretary or any BCC member.

Anne Smith, Secretary BCC

Email: burntislandcc@outlook.com



Toll Community Centre & Community Hub

Happy New Year! And what a build up we had to 2022 with December being one of our busiest months.

It started with our Christmas Fayre where local small businesses were able to show off their wares. It was a great success considering it even snowed! But that just added to the magic of Santa being in the building. Children were able to visit Santa in his grotto and receive a small gift for free.

As Burntisland is such a dog loving community we introduced Santa Paws and lots of dogs came to have their photo taken and get spoiled with healthy treats. The Burntisland Pipe Band braved the cold and played for us - huge thanks to them.



Santa came back later in the month with his sleigh, and we had the biggest turn out ever bringing lots of joy to children and families across our wee town.

For the fourth year running we delivered food hampers on Christmas Eve to families across the town that had been referred from various services and agencies. Approx. 200 people benefited from the hampers. The most we have ever had, unfortunately a sign of the times.

As usual Burntisland came together

donating goodies and their time, it is a huge task, and we can't thank the volunteers enough. They gave up their time on the morning of Christmas Eve, then again in the evening to collect fresh food from Aldi and Sainsbury's and to deliver to homes.

We received so many fresh turkeys from Sainsbury's that we were able to give many away to families who hadn't been referred.



The Community Centre has been busy with private bookings for parties and is available to hire for birthdays, meetings, courses etc.

We have a sittersize class on a Monday 12.30-1.30pm. Fun exercise for all abilities to great music from the past. All are welcome!

Our sewing class is also on a Monday at 6.30pm.

The two middle Wednesdays of the month host the Wednesday social club meetings 7-9pm. Entertainment is provided as is a cuppa and chat.

Friday morning is Rhyme time with Mary and Lauren. Bookings can be done through Facebook.

We hope to have the youth clubs up and running by spring. What an exciting year 2022 promises be!

We have secured funding to develop our community fridge /freezer into a Food

Pantry operating from The Toll on Tour Community Hub on the High Street. Hopefully in the near future, a credit union will be available to help with saving and debt management.

The Pantry will be run by volunteers. If this is something that you are interested in, please get in touch. Training and support will be provided.



We are planning to develop a gardening project in the Spring, in partnership with the Conservation Volunteers. This will support the Pantry with fresh vegetables, herbs etc. that we have grown ourselves. We also plan to give space to members of the community who would like to grow their own produce and learn about gardening.

The Hub will continue with the Charity shop, Knitting group, SAMH, Welfare and form filling support.

The Hub has been set up to meet the needs of the Community so if you would like to see a service or class set up, please let us know. Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous 2022!

Yvonne Crombie, Centre & Hub Manager

Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club

Since our last article the club has continued with the weekly hybrid meetings held at the Sands Hotel allowing members with Covid concerns to take full part in club business and as indicated in October's article, an opportunity for far flung speakers to present. An example being that of Dr. Sally Lawton who wrote 'The Nurse Who Found Herself In 1916' a story detailing the difficulties and harrowing experiences nurses encountered in WW1. Remarkably, she was in Vancouver when she spoke.

With primary schools tentatively returning, our Burns recital competition is being organised with a view to holding our Burns Supper on 25th January, featuring the youngsters and this year including Auchtertool Primary. Each winner is awarded a School Trophy for display and an illustrated book of Burns poetry.

A new initiative for this year is to institute a 'Young Citizen of the Year' award and to this end the club will be issuing questionnaires to local organisations to identify suitable candidates for interview. Organisations interested should contact the Club Secretary, details below. In addition, in line with Rotary's conservation pillar we are looking to work with the Ecology Centre in Kinghorn regarding planting a variety of flowers to assist insect growth. Our Honorary Member Hamish Brown continues his extraordinary work at Allan Court, Burntisland.

The current joint Club kids clothing initiative New4U is continuing with many referrals and deliveries being handled by our Members and a contributions bin for new underwear & socks being made available in Morrison's Kirkcaldy.

As always, the Club has to continually find funds to allow us to carryout much of our annual charity support and to this end will be holding a Curry & Comedy Night at Kirkcaldy Golf Club on 25th March including a choice of five curries and entertainment from five comedians. Tickets are available from any Club Member at £20 per person.

2022 sees the 40th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Burntisland & Kinghorn, formed from the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy. A Charter Dinner will be held later in the year with several notable speakers already primed. The Club will also be looking to help mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in some suitable way.

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

Derek Thomson



Town Twinning - Flekkefjord - An Invitation!



Flekkefjord Town

In 1946 as the world was coming to terms with the aftermath of a World War our town of Burntisland embarked on a bold and at that time very new adventure. The town entered into a twinning agreement with Flekkefjord a town in Southern Norway.

In 2021 our friendship celebrated its 75th year despite those celebrations being somewhat constrained by Covid. In those 75 years a great many of the young people of both towns have enjoyed the experiences of visiting our twin town, living with a Norwegian family and enjoying Norwegian life first hand. Many of those young people have grown up and still keep in touch with the friends they have made.

We have the privilege of being the second oldest twinning arrangement in Europe.

In 2020 we had our plans in place for that year's exchange when Covid struck. It was with bitter regret that we had to inform the young people concerned that the exchange was suspended.



Flekkefjord 2017

Last year, together with our Norwegian partners we were again forced to realise that we could not proceed. Recent meetings of both committees have concluded that due to the ongoing uncertainty the best time to plan to restart our exchange will be 2023. This may seem some time away but it has been realised a great deal of work will be needed in the months ahead.

As we put our plans together we realise that arrangements for 2023 will have to be somewhat different. Our normal age for our young participants has been around 14 or 15. This fits in with Flekkefjord where the commune looks after education up to the age of 15. So our search will be for young people who will be around that age in the summer of 2023. We are therefore looking for young people who are presently 12 or 13.



Peak of the Cairngorm 2019

We are looking at approximate ages and we would be flexible for a few months either way. We must stress that there is no financial onus put on any family but we would hope that both the young people and their families would work with the Twinning committee to develop a programme which would be both relevant and enjoyable for themselves and their guests. The twinning experience has traditionally been a two year project with the first year being in Burntisland with the second year being in Flekkefjord.

So we are offering an invitation to all residents of our town. Would you like to give your young people an opportunity to participate in a unique experience? An experience which will continue a tradition established in Burntisland over 75 years ago. An experience that comes at no cost to the family but will be remembered for years ahead. This invitation is open to all whether your family was born in Burntisland or moved here only recently.

If you are interested or would like more information, please feel free to contact me.

George Kay

cllrgeo@outlook.com

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11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group



This Autumn term we moved back into the hall, but that did not stop us visiting the community gardens and planting some seeds to watch grow throughout the coming year. We also had a night walk visiting the war memorial and some star gazing.

We finished our Health and Fitness and Safety badges, First Aid and Christmas craft and a party which was organised by our young leaders. We welcomed four new beavers and will say goodbye to seven beavers who continue onto cubs, and we awarded three Bronze awards too. We have lots of exciting plans for the new term ahead.

Beaver Scout Leaders Shirley Kent and Simone Thomson



SCOUTS

Our Scouts had a fun and interesting end to the year with them working on traditional Scouting skills, craft, and creative skills, cooked on hike stoves and planned an Expedition where they would carry their kit and camp overnight. Unfortunately, their hopes of completing the Expedition were blown away by Storm Arwen, this will now go ahead in March.

Our Scouts had an evening of reflection for Remembrance Day where we discussed the importance of remembering those who served, as well as everyone around the world who has been impacted by wars and conflict.

Thursday Scouts developed their DIY skills when they built bird tables and designed and made mosaic tiles. They also had a night hike, and a sports evening where they played basketball and netball. They finished their term with a fun Christmas themed evening.

Monday Scouts cooked expedition style meals on hike stoves (some of our Scouts used the skills they learned to cook dinner for their family at home!). They also had a Halloween party, made Christmas decorations, and finished the term by going Ten Pin bowling.

We are all hoping for less disruption from Covid going forward, so in a break from Scouting traditions where we always try to maintain an upbeat outlook, we definitely want everyone to remain Negative this year!

Davie, Monday Scout Leader

The Cubs have had another busy term on the run up to Christmas. We managed to complete lots of badges including the Emergency Aid, Fire Safety, and the new Money Badge. We also practised our Archery and Pioneering skills and enjoyed some Christmas craft.

We were also able to present 18 Silver Chief Scout awards this term, well done everyone. We are looking forward to the year ahead hoping that we can get a return to sleepovers and camps.

Michelle Paton, Cub Scout Leader



11th Fife (Burntisland) Scout Group

Group Scout Leader: Kerry Laing – Tel: 07517 374459 Email: 11thfife@gmail.com

District Commissioner: Derek Dunsire – Tel: 07905 227493 Email: dc@scoutskirkcaldy.org.uk

Scottish Registered Charity Number - SC031394



EXPLORERS

Explorers have been improving their emergency aid skills using our new training equipment: a training defibrillator so they know what it sounds like and what it would ask them to do in the event they ever had to use a real one, and a choking vest that safely allows practicing abdominal thrusts if someone was choking.

We spoke about Remembrance and had a visit to the war memorial on 11th November to lay a wreath for the whole group. They also had some fun challenges, protecting an egg from a high drop where their engineering skills really came into play with some interesting designs, also a Xmas challenge to make a Xmas tree from balloons. We finished off term with a trip to the ten pin bowling in Dunfermline.

Kerry Laing, Group Scout Leader



Floral Action Burntisland

Are you new to the town and want to meet new people? Are you newly retired and want a new challenge? Or do you just want to give something back?

As the Chair of Floral Action Burntisland, I need to ask for your support. As a group, we are at a crossroads with our current membership. This has been impacted due to Covid along with other circumstances, and we are in desperate need of some 'new blood' to join us. There is every possibility that if we don't get new members, we may have to stop making Burntisland fabulous.

I appreciate that some people are reluctant to commit to a community group as they feel it may take up too much of their time, however, the commitment is really not that significant - honestly!

Please get in touch if you are in a position to support us in anyway, but specifically within the following roles:

Vice-chair, Secretary, Committee member

Joining a community group like FAB really gives you a sense of giving back to our beautiful wee town and it's a great way to meet new people, get involved with projects to enhance the town and to put a smile on peoples faces. Please email me at floralactionburntisland@outlook.com, message our Facebook page or call me on 07879451432.

Scott Sweaton, Chair



A stylized illustration of a fish, possibly a salmon, with a Christmas tree growing inside its body. The fish is orange and white, and the tree is green with red ornaments.

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The Ecology Centre

After the challenges of 2021, we are looking forward with positivity to 2022. We rounded off last year with a very tasty Volunteer Christmas Lunch, and wreath making, before heading off for a well-earned break. Everyone is now back, energy levels topped up, ready for a successful year ahead.

Community Fridge

The end of 2021 also saw a fabulous new addition to the Centre – our Community Fridge. This was funded by Hubbub in partnership with the Co-op and has proven to be very popular. The fridge can be found just inside the door of our main building and is **open to everyone**. It is there to help reduce food waste as well as to support those who may be needing a wee bit of help. No referral required. We collect food from the Co-op in Kinghorn 3 days per week as well as receiving a Fare Shares delivery on a Tuesday. Feel free to make use of this local resource. If you are able to leave a donation when you make use of the fridge, please do, but there is no obligation to do so whatsoever.

Forest Schools

The Ecology Centre Education team can now offer a Forest Schools course as part of their Education Programme. Liz, our new Education Manager, and Fraser can facilitate this child centred learning process to build confidence and self-esteem in an outdoor setting. We can also offer Forest and Outdoor Leadership Awards, a qualification which is part of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). These qualifications can be tailored

to children from late primary school through secondary school. Please contact liz@theecologycentre.org for more info.

WWF Seagrass Officer

By the time you read this we hope to have recruited a Seagrass Officer as part of the new Restoration Forth project, led by the WWF-UK. This project brings together communities and a range of national and local organisations to restore oysters and seagrass in the Firth of Forth. The Ecology Centre will be part of a network of 6 community hubs supporting seagrass restoration through volunteers, citizen science monitoring and learning and outreach activities along the Fife and East Lothian coastline respectively. We are very excited to be part of this project.

Nest Café

After a successful first 6 months, the Nest Café is back for 2022 with all your favourites and a range of *Stuart's 'Specials'*



every week. As well as Stuart, our Café Supervisor, and his trusty band of volunteers, we now have Sam, our trainee, who is with us as part of the Government's Kickstart programme. Sam, from Burntisland, is an energetic, enthusiastic addition to the kitchen and is very keen to learn from Stuart. He is also attending a cookery course at Fife college two days a week and brings what he learns at college to the Centre's kitchen. The Nest Café is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 9:30am - 3:30pm. Takeaway drinks are also available on a Thursday.

Tool Shed and Tool Library

Thinking about some jobs around your home and garden but don't have the correct tools? Remember, we have our Tool Library. Membership is £20 per year, and you will have a vast array of tools at your disposal.

We are also happy to take your old tools off your hands. Our volunteers refurbish the tools, some end up with local schools and charities or even support projects in Africa. Get in touch via email:

toolshed@theecologycentre.org

Volunteering

If you are starting the New Year looking for a new challenge, why not become a volunteer with The Ecology Centre? There are a number of options available, indoors or out. If you are interested, contact

lee@theecologycentre.org

Karen Wakefield



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Class 4



Class 7

Burntisland Parish Church

Before I came to Burntisland, I was Minister of St Margaret's Parish Church in Glenrothes and lived in that town for many years. Glenrothes is a new town planned in the late 1940s with, in my opinion, great art and green spaces. Although it can be confusing, and I got lost many times, you get to know the roundabouts! I like how the town was designed to give each precinct within the town a school, shops, and community areas. As a child I grew up in another new town, East Kilbride, so you can guess that I am someone who enjoys town life!

Since we moved to Burntisland, the thing I have been appreciating is the connection to a past that extends further back into Scottish history than 20th century. Unlike new towns, Burntisland has been in existence for centuries and some of the buildings are very old, including the Parish Church.

I remember seeing The Great Tapestry of Scotland in Kirkcaldy Galleries in 2015. I was amazed by its size as it is made up of 160 linen panels and 300 miles of wool - enough to stretch the entire length of Scotland. I was so impressed that the history of Scotland could be displayed in this visual way that I bought the book by Alistair Moffat. The tapestry is now on permanent display in a purpose-built gallery and visitor centre in Galashiels.

If you look closely at the image of Panel 47, the making of the King James Bible, you

can see Burntisland Parish Church and the year 1601 are visible.



PANEL 47 The Making of the King James Bible (Copyright courtesy of The Great Tapestry of Scotland)

1601 is the year that the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met in the Parish Church instead of in Edinburgh. A decision was made to translate the Bible into English. Up until then, those who attended Church heard Bible passages being read in Latin and most people would not have understood what was being read. Since then, there have been new translations of the Bible which make the language even more accessible to modern readers.

Burntisland was at the heart of this historic decision simply because the King was not able to travel to Edinburgh, and it becomes part of a bigger story.

The truth is that we are all part of a bigger story. Who we are, past, present, and future, is part of the rich tapestry that is the imaginary panel of the Royal Burgh of Burntisland in 2022. It is made of a rich diversity of people with different backgrounds, which was the case even centuries ago as the Commonwealth graves in the old Kirkton Church graveyard confirm.

This time of year, in the church calendar, is known as Lent as we travel towards Good Friday and Easter Sunday on 17th April, we are thinking about the big story of life, death and eternity recorded in the Bible and other historical records. In the tapestry of life, there is a golden thread that runs all the way through of love which connects for eternity each one of us to the God who loves us, through his son Jesus Christ. It is a gift of love to be explored, and thanks to the decision made in Burntisland in 1601, there are many translations of Bible available to help you explore the big story.

**Rev Eileen Miller,
Locum Minister**



Erskine Church

Welcome to 2022, I hope that you had a good and safe Christmas. Let me wish everyone on behalf of Erskine a peaceful and happy New Year! It's been tough for such a long time, we need some hope that better days are ahead.

One thing that made me smile recently was a news report that we'll soon be able to buy 'tearless' and sweet onions in our supermarkets. That means they've been cross-bred to remove a lot of the material that irritates our eyes and causes tears to flow whilst we're chopping them up. Great idea, but I understand these new varieties are going to be expensive!

Sadly, no one's going to have a tearless 2022, that's for certain. Life just isn't like that, but at the same time there are ways we can overcome the challenges and keep ourselves on track. Faith in God offers us this essential inner strength.

Let's look back over Christmas. Folks from all our local churches sang carols together in Burntisland High Street on Saturday 18th December, which seems to have been greatly appreciated. It was lovely seeing

passers-by pause, smile, listen and even join in as the traditional carols were shared.

Sadly we couldn't run our Watchnight due to virus restrictions, but it was great to have a BEK carol service in Erskine with Burntisland & Kinghorn Parishes on the evening of Sunday 19th December. A charitable collection was taken for the very worthy causes of CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Burntisland and MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Scotland. We also shared an online Christmas Day BEK service, which proved to be a lot of fun. Well done to everyone who was involved!

Each year Erskine picks a Bible verse, here's our 2022 selection: "But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40.31, NLT).

Looking into 2022, we are planning to hold a monthly Big BEK Bash service and some other new exciting ideas like Chilled Church to encourage people to explore faith in a more relaxed way. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest news and

updates. The common thread in all these projects is that our three churches will be working closely together, which is great news.

Weekly Sunday services continue in Erskine at 11am, it goes without saying that you'd be very welcome to join us. If any of our legendary coffee and pancake mornings can possibly be organised safely this coming year, we will let everyone know without delay!

Finally on behalf of Erskine let me again wish you a safe and healthy 2022. It's not going to be a perfect year, but with faith and hope in God's promise of new strength, there is always something to take the edge off our hard, lonely and anxious times.

Rev. Alexander Ritchie



St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church

I wonder what you particularly like about this time of the year? For me it's definitely the longer, lighter days; not spring yet because the blue of the sky is still pale and the sun so low it often makes it difficult to see ahead, especially driving east in the morning or west in the afternoon!

And the garden is stirring. In our garden at St Serf's the bulbs are poking up promisingly through the soil, and the beds we cleared at the back end of the year are ready for planting. First up will be the broad beans and then the tatties, then we'll dwell a pause before planting runner beans and other veg.

What's all this? Has St Serf's sold out to Gardeners' World? No, it's just part of our effort to make an eco-contribution to our local community, as we hope that when the crops are ready, people will come through our gate and sample what we have grown or simply come and spend some time in our welcoming green space. Don't let the railings put you off – the gate is easy to open!

Watch out too for our floodlit display on the Cromwell Road end of the church during Holy Week and Easter (10th – 17th April) and the return of Susan Smith's painting from its winter home inside the church. The notice board has details of our services and events and you are always welcome to join us on a Sunday at 10 am.

So enjoy these lengthening days, even though we *can't* see far enough ahead to make definite plans – not because of the low winter sun but because we still live in the shadow of Covid and its necessary restrictions – and make the very most of the beautiful area we live in and the gifts of God we see around us. Have an especially happy Easter and may you be blessed as you live out the promise of new life and all that it means for you and those you care about.

With blessings

Rev. Carol Latimer



St Joseph's Church

Although it is February, I am sure it is not too late to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. Things are looking much more positive these days, so I hope it is a better year for us all.

Life at St Joseph's is getting back to normal with the resumption of some social activities. The young people are busy preparing for their reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We have a few couples preparing for marriage later in the year and some Baptisms lined up. These are all great signs of life after the woes of the last few years.

We are still broadcasting services on Facebook and YouTube – this enables those who are still hesitant about returning to in person worship to participate in the life of the parish.

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent are not far away and I would encourage those who wish to attend any services to confirm the times by checking our parish website.

Wishing you every blessing in 2022. Keep safe and well.

Father James



Burntisland Golf House Club

2021 was another strange year for most parts and it doesn't look like we will be completely clear of problems this year either.

We did however manage a full golfing calendar and the course itself was in fantastic condition for the vast majority of the season. It was very busy with members and visitors alike and there was unanimity from all golfers that the course was in better condition than most others in the region.

We look forward to more of the same in 2022 and the increase in visitor traffic can only be good for the town in general.

New members can still benefit from an introductory deal so what's not to like? Don't miss out on the chance to promote your wellbeing with gentle exercise and fresh air. Drink in the scenery and make friends for life in a sociable environment.

The resurgence of the Juniors under the watchful eyes of Craig Armstrong and Colin Blackwood continues and we look forward to welcoming more future champions this year.

Once again I'll take this chance to thank the many local businesses that sponsor

the Club. We are extremely grateful to them all.

Boyles Bites took over kitchen duties in the middle of 2021 and they are now doing a takeaway / delivery service. Download their app or look them up on Facebook.

The uncertainties around social events still hinder our return to a full social calendar and, as we go to print, the chances are our first event of the year – Stars for a Night Tribute Act - will be put back for a bit. Neil Diamond / Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton are all scheduled to appear in the Clubhouse in the next couple of months so please look out for details. These events are not 'Members Only' so it's first come first served for tickets.

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

For details of membership, or If you have any queries please phone 874093 (Office) or 872116 (Shop) or email info@burntislandgolfhouseclub.co.uk

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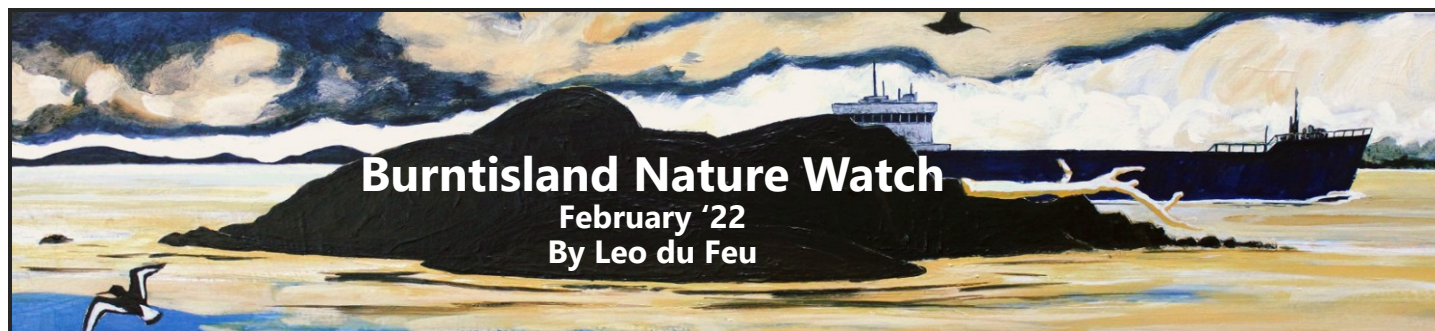
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Happy New Year! Though I must say I'm not feeling it. Through my studio windows comes the tedious 'THUD... THUD... THUD...' of a rust red tractor hammering in posts to fence an entire town out of a place it loves and needs, one of our very best areas of open space. No more showing my children the spring-arriving Wheatears and Stonechats. No more watching the nesting Goldfinches, Greenfinches and Sparrows. No more enjoying the harbour Eider ducks and winter-visiting Divers and Grebes. No more marvelling at passing Dolphins, Porpoises and Whales from the breakwater. No more watching the sun set behind our little lighthouse. Thank you Forth Ports for protecting us from such harms. Thank you Fife Council for allowing them to protect us.

Anyway, Happy New Year apart from that. Though. Have you walked the bit of dock being left to us, the footpath beside Calypso? Much of that brilliant stretch of self-seeded coppice and mature hedgerow is right now being felled. Why!! What about the Song thrushes that sang there? The Finches, Tits, Robins, Blackbirds, Starlings, Linnets...? The Chiffchaffs and Willow warblers which fly from Africa to nest right in that spot? The autumn Redwings and Fieldfares? It was such excellent habitat, one of my favourite places in Burntisland. It showed what happens naturally when land use changes. We need more, not less.

Still, Happy New Year. Actually... you know the Burnside Path behind the new Lovell houses at the top of Kinghorn. Where Whitethroat, Sedge warbler, Song thrush, Dunnock, Bullfinch, Wren, Blackbird, Goldfinch, Woodpigeon have all been recorded breeding? The wildflower haven for Butterflies, Hoverflies, Bumblebees,

Beetles? It's just been scoured to the ground, completely destroyed despite Lovell promising Kinghorn Community Land Association that much of it would be preserved. Some can be replanted but years are wasted and the migrant Sedge warblers and Whitethroats are likely gone for good. Read more on the **Kinghorn Loch Wildlife Facebook Group**.



You'll have heard the term "eco-anxiety"? It's about the destruction of the animals, plants and habitats of the world, the breaking of the very climate of our planet. It's about all this taking an ever-increasing toll on the mental health of millions. Young people suffer it worst of all. They should. They're going to have to live here the longest. They're going to have to decide whether it's fair to have children of their own, children who'll have to live here even longer. But they didn't cause any of this.

Frankly, eco-anxiety is far too mild a term and I don't know how anyone with eyes or ears can not be suffering it. If you like life, if you love anyone or anything at all, you should be eco-anxious. The world over, nature is being driven to the very brink. In many places it's starting to happen to human life too. The Biodiversity Crisis is every bit as real as the Climate Crisis. They are all part of the same and are caused by

humankind's (mostly MANkind's) utter disregard for the world which supports us.

What can you do? Despair, yes. But also this – think about it, learn about it, talk about it. Surround yourself with people online as well as in person who feel likewise, not so you can depress each other but so you can share and inspire and act together. Taking action helps you feel less powerless. Act by not doing things and act by doing things. DO NOT rip up any more nature! Do not turn that garden to concrete. Do not turn that hedge to fence. Do not take that flight if you don't have to.

And do. There's so much you can do! It's so easy! Do turn whatever space you have into a haven - native hedging, native trees, fruit trees and bushes, shrubs, bulbs, wildflowers. Do make a wildlife pond. Do campaign: sign petitions; let politicians and businesses know that biodiversity and sustainability matters most; express your outrage at negative actions planned or taken; sign petitions. Do use your vote. Do join environmental groups - Ecology Centre, Greener Kirkcaldy, Scottish Wildlife Trust, RSPB... so many to choose from. You support them and they support you. Being part of any of these brings many ideas of actions to take. Or sign up to their free email newsletters. Lastly - DO go out and enjoy it and DO realise it's not up to you to solve it all, you can't. It's up to you to do a little part of it, as it is to me and as it is to all of us.

Here's a painting of one this winter's two visiting Humpbacks to cheer you. Awesome creatures.

Join the **Burntisland Wildlife and Woodlands** group on Facebook and inspire us with all the things you are seeing and doing.

Leo's art studio

Back in October, the official opening of Leo du Feu's art studio took place at the railway station, with invited guests from the rail industry and other community railway projects in Scotland.

The rooms inside the station building on platform 1 had been out of use and with their windows boarded up since the 1990s.

A grant from the Railway Heritage Trust and collaboration with Network Rail has enabled the rooms to be combined and given a new lease of life as an art studio.

Pictured with Leo is Alex Hynes, head of Scotrail's Railway, and Andy Savage from the Railway Heritage Trust.



Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

It is good when you get things done and the Dells Path in Burntisland has needed repair and improvements to its drainage ever since it suffered from summer storm damage. This is the path leading from the golf clubhouse to Kirkbank Road. It is well used by walkers, families going up to the Binn, and the woodland is enjoyed by nurseries and school pupils too. In December, Trust volunteers carried out the work with help from a digger and driver kindly provided by Alcan. The new drainage should prove effective and we are pleased with the result.



The new year began with the Walking Group stepping out for a beautiful walk up Dunearn Hill and returning via Stenhouse Reservoir. The weather was perfect and one

walker even took time to lay back on a convenient, comfy sofa to take in all the views. In February the group will enjoy a snowdrop walk, and in April it is hoped to hold our spring Walking Festival once more. This has been put off for too long!

We are spoilt for great walking trails in this area of Fife, and the Walking Festival allows us to highlight some local beauty spots and interesting trails of varying lengths and difficulty. An event programme of walks will be available in March, but if you would like to know more about us then please phone 07740999514.

Now it is time to look ahead at new projects for 2022 and look for funding to make them happen. The sluice bridge at Kinghorn Loch has been widened but there is still further work required on it. Then we hope to install a disabled fishing station near the bridge to enable more people to enjoy the outdoors. The jetty at the lochside, completed in 2007, has stood the test of time, but now needs some maintenance work and additional safety measures. Another project from our original 'link path strategy', is a 'Rock Rest' picnic area, which will be a resting place to take in the air. This is situated on the track along the north side of the loch.

However, our biggest project is to work with Alcan to construct a new path from Burntisland to Binnend and then off to Kinghorn Loch. The original path up the wooded hillside is badly degraded and a new route, with better drainage, is being investigated with further survey work commencing soon. This project will take some time but will be very beneficial to Burntisland when complete.



If you would like to support the Trust and become involved, either as a volunteer helper, or as a Friend supporter please get in touch by or phone 07740999514 or email info@craigencalttrust.org.uk.

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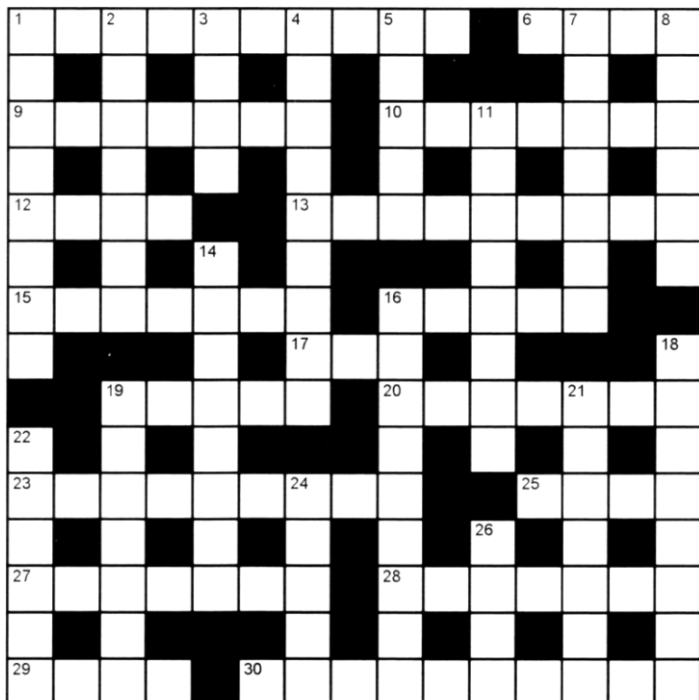
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THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Good-looking (10)
6. The Orient (4)
9. Pet rodent (7)
10. Pink (7)
12. Sediment (4)
13. Pre-dinner drinks (9)
15. Dizziness (7)
16. Colloquial saying (5)
17. Manage (3)
19. Cricket trophy (5)
20. Dry white French wine (7)
23. Fibs (5,4)
25. Swedish pop group (4)
27. Coached (7)
28. Shakespeare play (7)
29. Cure (4)
30. Vex (10)

DOWN

1. Glue (8)
2. Glass (7)
3. Busy insects (4)
4. Bullfighters (9)
5. Poetry (5)
7. Sports arena (7)
8. Comfortable (2,4)
11. Curved sword (8)
14. Age of majority (8)
16. Cuts (9)
18. Thin slice of meat (8)
19. Arabian Nights hero (7)
21. Border plant (7)
22. Spasmodic muscle contraction (6)
24. Book content guide (5)
26. You (archaic) (4)

November Crossword Solution

Across 1 Peccadillo, 6 Used, 9 Remnant, 10 Gleeful, 12 Odes, 13 Marauding, 15 Extract, 16 Swede, 17 Emu, 19 Tried, 20 Brioche, 23 Chihuahua, 25 Jove, 27 Thinner, 28 Initial, 29 Half, 30 Understood.

Down: 1 Pardoned, 2 Comment, 3 Ajar, 4 Intimated, 5 Luger, 7 Suffice, 8 Deluge, 11 Eau-de-vie, 14 Taciturn, 16 Submarine, 18 Revealed, 19 Trivial, 21 Chorizo, 22 Scotch, 24 Huron, 26 Bias.

August Crossword Winner:

Anne Blake, Piper Crescent, Burntisland.

Name

Address

Telephone

Completed entries by 31st March 2022 to:

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

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

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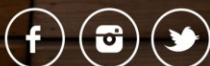


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