

2024 Community Award Winners

The recipient of this year's Individual award is **Tom Courts**, owner of an award-winning butchers shop on the High Street.

Tom took over the shop in 2016 and his business has gone from strength to strength, making a significant contribution to the success of the High Street amongst an outstanding collection of shops.

Alex MacDonald, Chairman of the Community Council said, "Tom's generosity of spirit and action are well-known. He is not only a successful businessman but he has also supported many events, organisations and individuals in the town."



Alex explained that the idea of the Community Award was proposed by his predecessor, Tom Courts Snr, and introduced back in 1981. This is one of a number of family connections on the list of winners, with Tom's late father having previously won the award in 1986.

The Group winner is the volunteers of the **Big Green Market**. Since July 2021 the BGM has held a pre-loved market on the first Friday and Saturday of each month in the Parish Church Halls.

Over £30,000 has been raised in that time for community groups and organisations—a real boost to the town emerging from Covid restrictions whilst also allowing people to declutter!

The BGM has a team of about 60 volunteers with up to half of them helping each month. There is a real buzz in the market, as the volunteers get stuck in to help set up, organise

donated items for sale, and then pack everything away again.

Alex MacDonald added "It was an inspired idea which might have been very ordinary, but the enthusiasm and dedication of those who prepare, deliver and refresh the market each month show a dedication to our community which is simply outstanding."

Pictured are Tom and many of the BGM volunteers, with their award shields and certificates presented in a joint ceremony and reception in the Burgh Chambers on Monday 22nd January.



Supper at the Sally returns

Thanks to an enthusiastic team of volunteers and massive support from the community, Supper at the Sally, the friendly, pay-what-you-can, Saturday evening pop-up event is back.

Piloted last year by BCDT Development Officers and volunteers it provides good food in a friendly environment at the Salvation Army Hall on Lonsdale Crescent at 5 pm-6.30 pm every Saturday.

Diners have given ten out of ten to the food, the friendly atmosphere and the service, enjoying delights such as Tom Courts Sausage Casserole, Spaghetti Bolognese, "best ever" tomato soup and a "banging" jam sponge and custard with donated, locally made quince jam. Weekly menus, recipes and more information can be found on the website: supperatthesally.myportfolio.com

The project is a real community effort thanks to a brilliant response from volunteers, funders and local businesses. Fife Council helped by arranging Food Hygiene training for volunteers and Burntisland First Aid Trust sponsored two volunteers through First Aid training. Go Fibre, Fife Council Warmer Places Fund and Forth Ports have all helped with funding.

Totally Locally Burntisland also paid for aprons for the volunteers with an embroidered logo. Locals have donated cooking pots and the Big Green Market donated pre-loved crockery and cutlery.

Jane Searles one of the volunteer team and BCDT director explained "The amazing kitchen team include professional chefs who are helping to train and upskill volunteers so that they can build their confidence and experience, and potentially move into paid work or volunteer in other projects in the town. We will keep the project going as long as there are enough volunteers who can commit to running it and enough funds to support it." Anyone looking to volunteer can get in touch for more info via the website.



BURNTISLAND'S COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

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Contributions to the Editor by email.

Editor & Design — Michael Booth
email: editor@burghbuzz.org.uk

Advertising Coordinator — Natalie Lewis
email: advertising@burghbuzz.org.uk

Distribution — Burntisland Community Development Trust, email: distribution@burghbuzz.org.uk

Editorial Committee — Linda Briscoe, Paul Briscoe, Scott McCartney, and Dave McPherson

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From the Editor

Hope all of our readers have had a pleasant winter and start to the year so far.

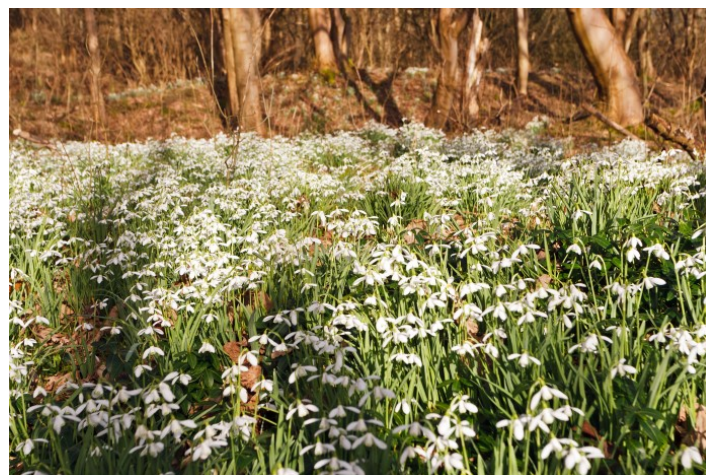
After being unable to produce the previous issue, I made it my New Year's resolution to make sure the February issue of the Burgh Buzz was published—so it's good to be able to say that we're back!

As always the first edition of each year traditionally covers the annual Community Award and this issue is no different. Well done to Tom Courts and all of the Big Green Market volunteers for their contributions to the community, both are well deserved and popular choices for the awards. You can read more about the Big Green Market and their plans for the future on page 6

Best wishes to Julie Anderson who is retiring as Headteacher, having overseen the move to a new building and guided pupils and staff through Covid in her time at the Primary School. We're grateful for her contributions to the Buzz over the years as well.

Thank you to all of the contributors, advertisers, and distributors for your continued support of the Buzz.

Michael Booth, Editor



Snowdrops on the lower Binn path opposite the golf course



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: Jim Sheridan
Treasurer: Fiona Watson (co-opted)
Secretary: Anne Smith

Members:

Tim Hailey Carol McLeod
Ken Littlemore Isla MacDonald
Jonna Lange Gemma Craigie-Sharland
Kizzy Waplington

Contacts:

Chair — Alex MacDonald
 1 Craig Court, Burntisland, KY3 0AT
 t: 01592 873314 e: alex_mac@btinternet.com

Secretary — Anne Smith
 burntislandcc@outlook.com

www.burntislandcc.org.uk

www.facebook.com/BurntislandCC

Elected Fife Councillors' Availability

Ward 9: Burntisland, Kinghorn & Western Kirkcaldy

Councillor Lesley Backhouse

Telephone: 07540 677081

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

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

In-person surgeries will be held in the Library on Friday 1st March, 5th April, and 3rd May from 3.30–4.30pm.

Councillor Kathleen Leslie

Telephone: 07714 778906

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

Kathleen is happy to arrange set appointments with constituents.

Councillor Julie MacDougall

Telephone: 03451 555 555 ext. 474496

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

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

Community Council Bullets.....

The Community Council holds its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7pm in Burntisland's Burgh Chambers. **Dates for the next three meetings are: Tuesday 19th March, 16th April, and 20th May.** Please note the change to a different meeting day since the last issue.

Members of the public are welcome to attend or to raise matters of interest to them. Meetings are also available to join using Zoom videoconferencing—please contact the Secretary or Chair if you wish to join online via Zoom.

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

- It's the start of a new, four-year cycle for the Community Council. We welcomed new members Isla MacDonald, Kizzy Waplington, Jonna Lange and Gemma Craigie-Sharland. We're very grateful for the past service of those who decided not to stand this year: Elizabeth McLaughlin, Clare Slater, Lynne Ralph, Brendan Burns and Fiona Watson.
- Our public meetings have now changed to the 3rd Tuesday of each month, in the Burgh Chambers at 7 pm. All can be joined by videoconference via Zoom. All it takes is an e-mail to our Secretary or Chair.
- The Community Emergency Plan will be updated to reflect our experience of the 'Beast from the East' and also Covid. Both the Toll Community Centre and Burntisland Community Development Trust will be engaged in that process.
- NHS Fife have again refused the proposal for a second pharmacy in Burntisland, so an appeal was registered by us and by the applicant in early December. Most communities of our size have two separate pharmacies. We currently depend on one, which leaves all of us vulnerable to a single point of failure. We have been working hard but NHS Fife have not yet sent the appeal to the National Appeals Panel.
- Two new Blue Badge parking spaces will be provided in the High Street.
- Bollards will soon be erected to prevent motor vehicles accessing the new cycle path at the Links opposite Erskine Church.
- Speed surveys will be carried out on part of Cowdenbeath Road, Aberdour Road and Kirkton Road.
- Design work is under way for dropped kerbs at crossing points on Aberdour Road.
- 20mph repeater signs will be erected at Ramsay Crescent / Duncanson Drive.
- New Christmas lighting was put in place for the vicinity of Union Street, St Andrew's Court and the War Memorial. We're grateful to Sott Pallets, the Sands Hotel, Parish Church, Bel & Etta and the Rosyth Concert Band for their sponsorship. We're grateful also to the Big Green Market and all voluntary helpers for their support.
- We have opened dialogue with Forth Ports and Fife Council regarding the possible development of a Green Freeport at Burntisland. Few details are yet available but we expect discussions to continue as the proposals become more fully developed.

Beacon Leisure Centre

Look out for our Easter holiday programme, including quid a kid at set times for swimming and also on the astro.

Spaces in our Learn to Swim Programme, Swim Skills 1 for age 5 upwards

New Monday classes: Body Conditioning 5.45pm, Pilates 6.45pm on

Kids disco last Friday of the month, 6pm to 7.30pm, for 8 to 12 years—no adults allowed!

Flumes Saturday and Sunday 12 noon to 4pm, last entry is 2.50pm.

Black Rocks Rowing Club



The Burgh Buzz has been good enough to help us keep the local community aware of our ongoing project to build a rowing skiff. Last year we had hoped to have completed the project and be out rowing in the bay at Burntisland beach by now. Well, a combination of a very small pool of volunteers and some very time consuming tasks has meant that progress has been a bit slower than we had hoped.

Nevertheless, we now have something that very much looks like the finished article. The varnishing is mostly complete and only the hull needs final painting. By the time of publication we expect the boat to be complete.



Lately, we welcomed another two members to the club. Recruitment of members has not really been a priority up to now as experience has shown that many people want to row but perhaps fewer feel they are able to contribute to the build. That is absolutely fine but as we nudge towards completion, we will be working on recruiting new members. We need all ages and all backgrounds. So, why not have a look and see if you might be interested.

You can keep up to date with our final stages of progress by visiting our website at www.burntislandrowing.org.uk or our Facebook page. Coastal rowing is a large community and getting bigger. Have a look at the www.scottishcoastalrowing.org website to get a better understanding of the level of interest.

By the time of the next Burgh Buzz article we hope to have more information on our launch date. In the meantime, our contact details can be found on our website and we are more than happy to respond to any requests for information.

Martin Birrell

Central Burntisland Tenants & Residents Association

Well, that is 2023, thank goodness, and we have welcomed 2024. But first, I have a lot of thank yous to say to all the volunteers who have been involved with the TRA throughout the year as without them, we as a group would never have achieved anything.

This was especially true at Christmas when over 30 volunteers came out on a cold and blustery Christmas Eve to collect, sort, and deliver almost 50 Christmas parcels to families and individuals who were struggling to get through this financial crisis that the country now finds itself in. A special thank you also goes out to the local traders and Aldi (Dalgety Bay) for the kind donations they gave, without them it would have been poor pickings in the Christmas parcels.



The TRA continues to move forward with trying to make our area a nicer place to live and in the not-too-distant future we hope to start planting up our flower containers. During the springtime we should not need assistance in watering the planters, but once Burntisland is again bathed in sunshine we will be looking for support to water and keep the planters weed-free. So if you can spare a couple of minutes per day with this task your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

The TRA continues to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of almost every month at 6.30 pm in the Heritage rooms; please come and join up if you wish to become involved in the TRA.

Iain Ralph, CBTRA



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**BURNTISLAND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

We've had a busy few months at the Trust and are delighted to say that we now have charitable status, which hopefully will make it easier for us to support work in the community. We are particularly interested in supporting action highlighted in the Community Action plan (2023–2028).

Of course not everything is covered in the Plan and the Trust continues to try and be responsive to the needs of the community, for example, restarting the Supper at the Sally, the community suppers that were so popular last winter. Every Saturday night everyone is welcome to pop along to the Salvation Army Hall on Lonsdale Crescent at 5 pm and enjoy a warm welcome, hearty meal and some good company.

We've also been busy looking at some

biodiversity initiatives and our Big Green Market is as popular as ever-special congratulations to the fabulous team of volunteers who have just been awarded the Community Group of the Year!

When the Community Action Plan was pulled together (thanks again to the hundreds of you who fed their ideas in last year), we promised that we would do our part to make sure the plan was kept in the community eye and didn't collect dust on a shelf somewhere.

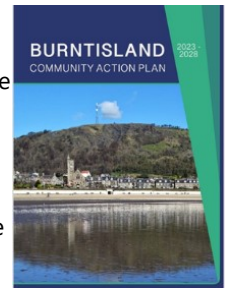
So, six months after launching and in partnership with the Community Council, we invited everyone to come along to the Sands Hotel and tell us what you knew had been happening and what you thought needed to happen next. Over 70 people came and joined in the conversation on the night, which allowed us to produce a 6 month CAP review document. This is now available on our website's CAP page: www.burntisland-trust.org/cap

If any of the ideas highlighted in the review, or anything else in the CAP interests you, please do get in touch with us and we will do our best to make sure that you are included in the big conversations that are happening and see if we can get smarter by working together.

The CAP doesn't belong to any organisation, it belongs to the whole community, so standing back and waiting for someone else to lead on everything isn't an option if we want to see real progress. Let's take this opportunity to work together.

**Jo Hobbett & Nicki Francis,
Development Officers (job share)**

DevelopmentOfficers@burntisland-trust.org



The café is always open on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 2 pm in the Parish Church Hall at the top of Kirkgate. We provide lunch and limitless tea and coffee. There is no charge at all! The café exists to provide a meal and company for anyone who would like to come. We have many regular visitors now and it's become a place to meet up with friends, make new friends and find a welcome. Bacon and egg rolls are still a firm favourite as is a fruit crumble.

We are grateful to Tom Courts our local butcher who makes sure we have the best bacon in town and Ross McCauley who sources the freshest of vegetables and beautiful fruit which features in our soups and crumbles. We have also received donations from the Big Green Market. Our

volunteers continue to be the backbone of the café. They're a great team; always smiling and ready to speak to all our visitors. Running the café is only possible because of the brilliant Burntisland businesses, community and volunteers who make sure we can provide a warm welcome and tasty meal.

The café is also a place where people can get access to information, advice and encouragement. Two folks from the Community Social Work team come along fortnightly; we've all really enjoyed getting to know them. It's a great place for them to let folks know what's going on, a space to fill out forms, and signposting to the right place has led to great outcomes for folks.

Bridgehead Healing team come along regularly too, and folks can enjoy a hand massage, encouragement through hearing more of what is in the Bible or there is an opportunity for some prayer. They set up tables in a corner of the hall and it's a drift in service that's much appreciated by some of our visitors.

We've been pleased to welcome visitors to the town as well. One day last year we had a large group of visitors arrive – very wet – and very thankful to have found our sign on the High Street directing them to the halls. They were from a charity based in Kirkintilloch, through in Burntisland for a summer trip, and we were very pleased to feed them soup and crumble.

It was so wet that many of our regulars had decided not to venture out therefore we had lots of soup and crumble on offer. We laugh still about the order for 'sixteen crumbles please'. Not the usual size of order we expect in the kitchen all at once. We were very grateful for the dishwasher that day...

We are thankful too for those folks who come along and donate the cost and more of the food they enjoy. Your generous donations help greatly. Most of all we enjoy your company.

If you've not been yet, we hope to see you soon!



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The Big GREEN Market Burntisland

Starting 2024 with a bang!

We can already tell that 2024 is going to be a great year for the BGM.

On Hogmanay 2023, we received the amazing news that our group—the six of us in the core working group and all 60 of our volunteers—had won the Community Council's Community Award. What a way to start the year! We were chosen not just for our fundraising efforts (over £30,000 and counting!), but for our commitment to the environment and building strong links in the community with our volunteers.

Supporting people, progressing sustainability and bringing people together are the core values of the BGM, and we're looking forward to celebrating with everyone soon.

News about our hall

With the help of the Burntisland Parish Church committee, the Highland Dancers, and Tai Kwon Do groups, we're pleased to announce that we have new storage space in the building, and we've secured the larger, lower hall for our markets this year.

This makes such a huge difference to the success of each market and makes the set up and take down each month so much easier. A big thank you to everyone involved for helping to make this happen.

Ringing in the changes

In 2024, we're putting the green well and truly into the heart of the Big GREEN Market. We'll still be raising funds for local community groups, but now that everyone's back on an even keel after the Covid years, we're looking to support projects which help to make Burntisland a greener, cleaner and more sustainable place to live.

If you don't yet have a 'green' project in mind, then get in touch with us. We're more than happy to advise and recommend ideas for how you can continue to receive funding from the BGM while making a

positive environmental impact in the town. Yes, even if you think your group doesn't have a 'green agenda'—we can help you find one!



Remakery Opportunities

You'll see some changes with our monthly stalls, too. For 2024, our stalls will be packed with beautiful products and items that are 100% remade.

We're inviting talented crafters, makers, artists and hobbyists to create lovely things from unloved, unwanted or unused things and give them a whole new lease of life.

We've been trialling the venture for the past two markets and have been pleased with the response.

So far, we've sold upcycled picture frames for gorgeous new art prints, homewares made from unwanted fabrics and vinyl, earrings and jewellery modernised from old -fashioned necklaces and beautiful fashion accessories repurposed from clothes that are out of season or style.

If you would like to become a Big GREEN Market Remaker, please get in touch. The success of the Remakery is down to the creative people who get behind it, and it's a brilliant way for you to make money from your makes while supporting the BGM!



Remakery Skills Workshops

And finally—we're pushing forward with plans to create a skilled and crafty Burntisland! We were awarded funding from Fife Communities Climate Action Network (FCCAN) to host skills and craft workshops throughout the year ahead. The idea is to teach as many people as possible skills to live sustainably. Our workshops have covered sewing repairs for clothes, jewellery making and curtain lining.



Workshops are extremely low cost and fill up quickly, so please make sure you've joined our Facebook Group so you don't miss out on the next round of workshops: www.facebook.com/groups/biggreenmarketburntisland (or scan the code and follow the link)

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ABK Ladies Probus Club

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

The club meet on the third Wednesday of the month from September to June at the Kingswood Hotel. We meet at 10:30 am for tea/coffee and at 11 am we have an invited speaker who will entertain us with their wide knowledge of their subject.

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

If you think you may be interested in the Probus, you are very welcome to come along as a guest.

You can contact our chairperson Judy Panton on 01592 873239 to arrange a visit as a guest.

Mary Hindle

Burntisland Bowling Club

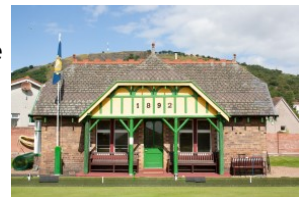
During the closed season the members and guests have been enjoying the carpet bowling within the main clubhouse. These games take place on Thursday evenings 6.30 pm for 7 pm (mixed), Saturday afternoons 1.30 pm for 2 pm (mixed), and Monday afternoons 1 pm for 1.30 pm (ladies). All welcome to come along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

The Management Committee wish to inform the members the proposed date for the AGM is Wednesday 13th March at 7 pm in the main Clubhouse. The AGM is open to all current Club Members and we hope for a good turn out on the evening.

A new and exciting website is being developed and will be rolled out in the next few weeks. Watch this space!

As we enter a new year the members are looking forward to the new outdoor season, with opening day to be confirmed in early April.

Prior to this all members of the public are welcome to play and we will be running 'Come and Try Bowls' days for anyone wishing to give bowls a try. Anyone interested can contact the club secretary at: connor.james37@gmail.com



Lest We Forget



Wreaths laid at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday (12th November), after the Erskine Church service and Parade.



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Burntisland Over 70s Christmas Treat

The annual Over 70s Christmas Treat event was held at The Kingswood Hotel on Saturday 2nd December.

As always, this was very well attended, especially given the inclement weather on the day. Over 100 local residents enjoyed a three course meal, great entertainment and even a visit from Santa Claus who took time out from his busy December schedule to hand out some gifts!

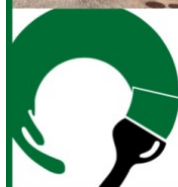
Many thanks to everyone who supported this event throughout the year with their donations and

attendance at fundraisers. It really means a lot.

A race night took place at The Star on the 29th December as it was also well attended and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the night.

Thanks to everyone who came along and all the organisers too, in particular Donald Orr who provided the technical know-how along with playing bookie for the evening.

Photos courtesy of Sara-Jane Keeley



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Floral Action Burntisland

Floral Action Burntisland would like to thank the community of Burntisland in supporting the new memorial bench we have installed at the Porte end of the High Street. We held an event on 11th November to mark the installation, which was attended by members of the community and piped into a two minutes silence by Evie and Aimee from Burntisland Pipe Band to commemorate those who gave their lives in service. We would like to thank K&S Fabrication for creating this wonderful feature in our town.



We held an amazing Bingo night at the Jubilee Tavern which raised £480, so this will contribute to the displays we do in areas of the town without sponsors. We have connected with local businesses about our summer basket schedule and our spring bulbs are all planted so we are hoping to have some wonderful displays to keep the town looking fabulous.

If you would like to get in touch about sponsoring baskets or signs about town get in touch.



The community allotment on Manse Lane has been providing some produce which we have donated to various local groups and it is our aim to increase this. Frank who has been working with Flavia has decided to step down from this role, so we would welcome any further volunteers to support this. Thank you so much to Frank for the dedication over the years.

We held an EGM, appointing a new chairperson, Adele Osborne, vice chair, Sandra Grant and even three new committee members. We have even appointed Hamish Brown as an honorary committee member for his amazing work he undertakes at Allan Court and all the snowdrop displays in the areas surrounding Burntisland.

We unfortunately had some vandalism of signs at the Colinswell bus shelter last year, so we had to liaise with police and local councillors to report this. We hope that whomever perpetrated this has ceased, but please do get in touch with us if you see any issues around our displays and baskets.

Our new website, which Flavia one of our volunteers wonderfully created, is now live at: www.floralactionburntisland.co.uk. It highlights all the areas we cover and you can reach out on this or by contacting our Secretary Irene Megaw at secretaryfab@gmail.com

Tom Courts
BURNTISLAND BUTCHERS

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Burntisland Primary School

Nursery

This term the Main nursery are learning about how pizzas are made and where the different toppings come from, to try and teach them about food miles and the work put into their food. They are also discovering the local services. They have decided to continue the visits to the local care home, Linksvie, where they help and interact with the elders, doing things like potting flowers. They have a weekly visit to the forest, where they learn about nature and wildlife and when it gets warmer, they will also have the choice to go to the beach.

The Bungalow nursery children are learning how to take care of the environment by looking after and feeding the birds in the garden. They have made and hung out bird feeders using pinecones, lard and seeds to attract and feed birds. By observing the colours and patterns on the birds, the children have been using a chart to identify and record the different types of birds.

Primary 1 are learning how to add and subtract in Numeracy. They will be learning about time, measure and counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s. Their topic this term is fairytales. They will be reading classic fairytales and then creating their own; developing crucial writing skills. For Health and Wellbeing, they are focusing on the 'Cool in school' subject as well as how they are all unique. They are learning about the artist Yayoi Kusama. In P.E they will be developing their ball skills.

This term **Primary 2** have been learning about place value in numeracy. They will be working with tens and ones for their place value as well as looking at strategies to help their addition and subtraction knowledge. For literacy they are focusing

on onomatopoeia, alliteration and adjectives. For writing they will be using talk for writing, they learn a short story then change a few key features when they come to writing their own version. For P.E they have been practicing their gymnastics skills. This term primary 2 have their sharing their learning assembly. For their topic they will be learning about the human body. During that topic they will be concentrating on the human skeleton, heart, lungs and skin.

This term **Primary 3** are doing creative writing to develop their knowledge on a beginning, middle and end of a story. They will also be developing how to describe a character, as well as looking at different poetry and writing their own poems. In Numeracy, they will be focusing on addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. For Health and Wellbeing they will be looking at how to eat healthy, stay healthy and keep their minds healthy.

Primary 4 are doing the Iron Age as their project. They are learning to use speech marks and commas correctly in their sentences in their Report Writing. For Numeracy, they are doing multiplication and division problems. In Health and Wellbeing, they are developing ball skills through netball and basketball.

In Health and Wellbeing this term, we will be focussing on keeping our minds and brains healthy and in PE, we are learning how to play Volleyball.

Primary 5

This term P5/6 are moving on to learn about the Industrial Revolution as their topic. They have been working to improve their division skills in numeracy as well as a focus on money and problem solving. In literacy they have been learning how to use

direct speech and how to write 5-part stories and will look at journalistic and dialogue writing.

Across the classes, children will be developing key skills in sports such as volleyball and rugby. For outdoor learning they will be going on explorations to the woods and also to the beach. Coming up this term they have their sharing the learning assembly about Industrial Revolution

In term three, **Primary 6** are developing their multiplication and division skills along with learning about shape. Their focus for HWB will be substance misuse and for P.E, they will be focusing on hockey and football. For their topic this term, they will be learning about The Titanic. They will be linking this project to their literacy and drama.

This is a busy term for **Primary 7**. They have been continuing their topic on WWII. They are learning about the breakout of the war and fighting on the western front. They have been practising ceilidh dancing for the upcoming transition event, where they will attend a ceilidh with the other schools in the cluster. As well as that, they will be doing lots of outdoor learning, going on walks and learning about nature.

This term, they are also entering the Speaker's Competition; a popular event where they give a talk on a subject of their choice. They will also be taking part in the Burns Competition where they learn and perform a Burns poem. For Health and Wellbeing, they will be developing their understanding of substance misuse and its impact on individuals. In numeracy, they are learning about how to use and understand charts.



Scots Verse Competition



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

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

For the first time, we had joint winners in Primary 6. Both performances were excellent and we just couldn't decide between them.

P1: Lucy Young – Bowfin
P2: Kathryn McLean – Ode Tae a Spider
P3: Max Blyth – Fireworks Aff The Castle
P4: Brodie Haston – Sair Finger
P5: Anna Fokina – A Dug, A Dug by Bill Keys
P6: Holly Purves & Aria Craigie-Sharland – Sergeant Snoddy

Alex MacDonald, Chairman, Community Council



Meet the BPS Leadership Team



**Miss Julie Anderson (Headteacher),
Mrs Katie Morris (Acting Early Years
DHT), Miss Nat Fleming (P2-4 DHT), and
Mr Will Berry (P5-7 DHT)**

We are very lucky to have such an experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated Leadership Team at BPS.

Mrs Morris leads and supports children and staff in the Nursery, in both buildings, and the three classes in Primary 1 and P1/2. She has been with us since the start of this session and, as a former Burntisland resident and BPS pupil, she is dedicated to ensuring the Early Years department goes from strength to strength. When she's not in school, you might well find her on the golf course!

Miss Fleming has been at BPS since she started her teaching career many years ago, in the old school. She has been part of the BPS Family all this time and, with her time in the upper years also, she has excellent knowledge of the children and families throughout BPS. Miss Fleming is passionate about getting it right for every learner and making our school as inclusive as possible. In her spare time, she is a lover of animals, especially guinea pigs (definitely not spiders) and enjoys going to music gigs—although many of us have not heard of the bands she follows!

Mr Berry started with us just in December 2023 but has settled in to BPS life quickly. He was DHT just along the road at Dunnikier Primary School before then and has worked tirelessly during that time on high school transition for the Cluster schools. He has a very keen interest in technology and outdoor learning and, no

matter the weather, he aims to have more children outside, more often. In his spare time, he loves all things outdoors and, as a local resident, can often be seen down the beach with his paddleboard.

I am sure most folks will have heard about me over the years and so perhaps I need no introduction. I am however, retiring at the end of March and I am delighted that the school will have such a strong leadership team to support the new Headteacher well during the time it takes to settle in to such a special place.

The appointment of the new Headteacher takes place in February, and the news will be shared with BPS families and staff and a thorough handover will take place.

I absolutely love the job I do, I often tell folk at any open events, 'it's the best job in the world', and I feel that it really is.

However, in March next year I will have been working for Fife Council Education for almost thirty-five years, across seven schools in differing posts, with the last twenty-one years as a Headteacher and the last ten years at Burntisland and it is now time to take a step back.

Being the Headteacher in my local community, as a former pupil, has been a great honour and privilege and I have loved every minute, including any of the challenges and the many special moments.

Leading the school community from the old building to the new was certainly something incredibly special in my life and many lifelong memories were made for children, staff, and the wider community along the way.

Organising the distribution of over 1000 Rowan trees, the Open Evenings for former pupils and residents in the old school, the "Cheerio" we gave to those special buildings was really quite something.

Moving into the new school was very special too and many new and very happy memories have been made in here over the last ten years. During the 'Beast from the East' when we organised the 'soup kitchen' and delivered milk to the families in the town, made all the difference to so many, and gave us great pride and a feeling of community service. The Pandemic saw almost two years of unprecedented times throughout the world, and I believe at BPS, we remained connected and supportive to families and each other throughout. Some of my favourite memories through Covid Lockdowns were the daily staff 'Huddles' with our team, online assemblies, and the nightly bedtime stories I read to children.

It will be the day-to-day special connections I will miss the most, however. I love the informal chats with children throughout their days, calling them in for lunches each day, hearing their news and laughs, leading assemblies, seeing the smiles, hugging away any tears and watching their personalities grow and develop in different ways throughout their time in school.

These connections and relationships are so important to me, and these are what makes any job in a school so special.

I have always been grateful for the continued support I have received during the last ten years, it has always much appreciated and never taken for granted.

I am still in post until the end of this term and will continue to be committed, dedicated, and connected to the BPS Family throughout and I know the Leadership Team will continue to give their all to ensuring continuity for the school and wider community.

Julie Anderson

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Burntisland Playgroup

We normally use this space to tell everyone all about our adventures however as the time is now to apply for a space for your child to attend Burntisland Playgroup we thought it would be better to tell you more about Playgroup.

Was your child born between 1st March 2021 and 28th of February 2022?

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, who has offered early education and childcare to Burntisland and surrounding areas for over 50 years. We work in partnership with Fife Council who offers 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 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 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 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 effect 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 2023–June 2024) and the next (August 2024–June 2025).

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 pop in to see us during our opening times or email at

burntislandplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

Rebecca McColm

Burntisland Out of School Service (BOSS)

As we move into Spring we are focusing on preparing our small greenhouse for the children to plant their chosen seeds which will then be transplanted into our own planter in the Toll Centre garden. Whilst our children have enjoyed some sessions outdoors with torches we are getting excited for the lighter evenings and looking forward to more outdoor play!

This term the children are sharing photos of the pets (we have a lot of animal love here!) Children often talk about their pets when they are at BOSS and it is wonderful to see them all on our pet wall.

As a child led play provision our team consult with the children on a regular basis to ensure we are meeting everyone's play needs. Our sessions always have opportunity for creative activities, active games and we have a great variety of toys. In recent weeks many of the children have been very enthusiastic with their den

building using lots of creative and problem solving skills.

We will be open the first week of the Easter holidays and our consultation with families will begin on Monday 19th February to determine which days are the most in demand. If you are interested in our holiday clubs and not already on the mailing list please get in touch as soon as possible.



For all other enquiries or if you would like to be added to our mailing list for August 2024 school starts you can call me on 07702 801132 or email at bossburntisland@gmail.com

We regularly share our activities on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BurntislandOutOfSchoolService. More information about BOSS, our team and our committee can be found on our website www.bossburntisland.co.uk

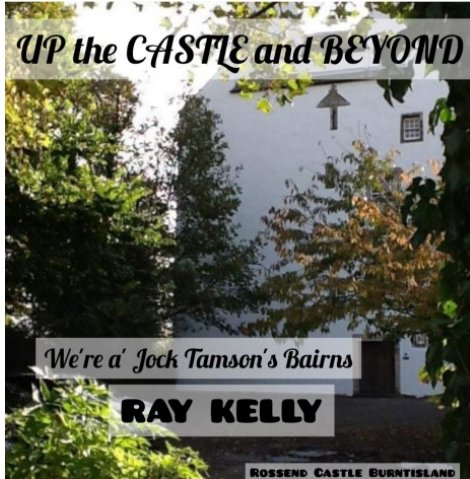
Anne Laidlaw, Club Manager



Up the Castle and Beyond

A new book is soon set to be published by Ray Kelly, telling the story of growing up as a child in Burntisland in the mid 1940s and 50s, and beyond.

Writing in her 80th year, this is Ray's very first book, as she remembers vividly her childhood years...



The sights, the sounds, the smells, the sheer freedom and excitement being out from dawn 'till dusk on adventures with the intrepid gang of Castle Arabs.

Building gang huts along the Monks Walk, entering the derelict and dangerous ruin of Rossend Castle, crossing the railway en route to Starleyburn with our pieces on jam and bottle of water. Idyllic sunny days spent at the bathing pool. There were polar bears in the dressing rooms!

The Burntisland Shipbuilding Co. when 500 men would make their way through the gates when the horn blew.

Those were the good old days!

No home phones, no internet, no central heating, no car. None of that mattered. We had our freedom, respect for our elders, we were taught discipline at school. Belted a few times!!

I'm so glad my granddaughter Fern said, "Gran, tell me stories about when you were wee" which prompted me to write the book, otherwise the stories would be lost forever.

Original songs complete with chords, poems and photos relating to the stories are peppered throughout the book.

"Ray is a very accomplished performer of her songs, and I am sure we will hear her singing them in various venues.

It has been a pleasure working with her on her book and I believe it is a welcome addition to our understanding of life in Fife".

Iain Gray, Editor and Author, Cellardyke.

"The pacing is well maintained, ensuring a captivating reading experience that keeps readers eager to discover what lies beyond each page.

Gemma Grant, English Teacher, Kent.

If you would like to order a copy, (available soon) and to be informed of book launches and signings, please send an e-mail with your contact details to:

rayhkelly2@yahoo.com

Civic Week 2024

We have a very thrilling year ahead for Civic Week, and are already beginning to plan ahead. We will be doing a couple of fundraisers, leading up to our 10 day programme of events which runs from Friday 14th June until Sunday 23rd June. So please keep an eye on our Facebook page to see our new and fabulous events taking place.

Our theme will be '**Fashion through the Decades**' and we are really eager to see all your amazing outfits on Parade Day this year!

We also have some exciting dates for you to put in your diary. The crowning of our Summer King & Queen at the Parish Church will be on Saturday 15th June followed by our free party on the links with our fabulous bouncy castles, pony rides and many more great activities all free for you to enjoy!

Saturday 22nd June will see the return of our fantastic keep fit sessions at The Space Upstairs and also our 5-a-side football tournament at Burntisland Shipyard for both kids and adults.

The evening of Saturday 22nd June will see the return of our band night at The Golf Club 8pm-midnight, look out for the announcement for details of tickets. This is sure to be a sell out gig so get in quick!

Come along to Beach Day on Sunday 23rd June and show us your best sandcastle building skills. Or get a team together, construct a raft and take to the water to win some great cash prizes in the Raft Race across the bay!

We will of course be having a fun filled programme with lots of different activities and events during the week with all pubs and Burntisland venues taking part!

If you would like to help at any of these events please get in touch via email burntislandcivicweek@gmail.com or message our Facebook page, as we would love to see you. We are always looking for volunteers to join our enthusiastic team.

Amanda Jones, Civic Week Chairperson





Burntisland-Flekkefjord Town Twinning 2023



The twinning adventure last summer was the amazing trip we had hoped and planned for. Our twinners had a tremendous time making new friends and establishing social links that will stand the communities of Burntisland and Flekkefjord in good stead for many years to come.

Flying from Dyce to Stavanger we were welcomed by all the Norwegian twinners eager to meet their Scottish counterparts. It is immediately apparent that the twinners are going to have a great time as they start to chat and laugh at our attempts to speak Norwegian replying in their perfect English.

At Flekkefjord Council Chambers we meet the families who will be looking after us all. We also had a surprise visit from members of the Burntisland Sailing Club. Flekkefjord town has with great civic pride as the Council logo adorns flag poles down the street and even the drain covers in the road. Is a delight to wander through the narrow streets of the Old Town. All around the town centre are old bicycles painted bright colours and fitted with flower filled planters.



Every twinner to ever visit Flekkefjord will ride the Flekkefjordbanen. This is the decommissioned railway that runs along the valley. The line now carries adapted tandem peddle bikes which are great fun.



Like Burntisland, Flekkefjord has a viewpoint atop a hill. After a climb up steep rocky steps, we are rewarded with a great view of the town and the fjord. A campfire is lit, and Marshmallows are roasted. The following day the group is treated to paddle boarding, kayaking and canoeing but the most fun was had on a doughnut being towed by a speedboat! There are new beach facilities including, a fire pit, a stainless-steel BBQ, picnic benches, diving boards, a fishing platform, sauna, toilets and changing rooms. The town has built these facilities to encourage tourism and for people to enjoy living in the town.

We are often greeted by locals who have visited Burntisland in the past and they all remember Burntisland very fondly.

The local sports centre provides a day's entertainment with Climbing walls, Gym areas, gymnastics area, big sports hall, squash courts tennis court and a football pitch in the roof!

Another staple twinner activity is a Crabbing trip. However, we are advised the crabs don't seem to be around in great numbers and the weather forecast is not great. The twinners don't seem to want to go crabbing in the rain so as an alternative we go and look at the crabs in a crab pot outside the harbour before the



weather closes in. The penultimate day is Paint Ball and Karting. High octane fun is had by all. To wind down we visit a local light house and tourist spot. The tower is open to the public and the view of the flat landscape contrasts with the usual mountains associated with Norway. As if this was not enough for one day on the way back we stop for a few lanes of bowling...



After seven days we all travel home... we all meet up back where we started at the Council Chambers. We pose for pictures now we are all friends. The twinners have truly gelled as a group and there were some heartfelt hugs and goodbyes but we know this is just the start of planning for their visit to Burntisland in the summer.

You can find even more details and photos on the **Burntisland-Flekkefjord Town Twinning** page on Facebook.

And a date for your diaries—there will be a fundraising Coffee morning on Saturday 20th April at St Joseph's Church Hall.

Mark Kisby

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Burntisland Sailing Club celebrates its 70th Anniversary!

Celebrating 70 years of fun on the water, Burntisland Sailing Club will be hosting activities through the year to commemorate this major milestone.

The Club started in the harbour soon after the war in 1954 to encourage "affordable sailing" in Fife through dinghy sailing. During generations of constant activity it has grown in strength to the present day with a sizeable number of cruising and racing yachts.

Among the major milestones in BSC's history have been a new clubhouse built by the members in 1984, putting pontoons in the East Basin with the assistance of generous grant funding in 2018 (bringing 16 boats off moorings into the shelter of the East Basin and its all weather access) and recently, 20 more berths on pontoons funded and built by a massive effort from the members in 2022.

All this has enabled the Club to go from strength to strength, last year engaging in more racing than any other sailing club on the Forth. In addition, not only have members cruised to many of the harbours in and around the East coast but also sailing as far as Flekkefjord in Norway. A recent association with the newly formed Black Rock Coastal Rowing Club will see a new skiff rowing from the harbour through 2024.

Right in the heart of Burntisland, the Club is in the most accessible deep water harbour on the Firth of Forth, a cruising ground with the reputation of being one of the best in Britain, with many historically significant, welcoming and picturesque harbours within a day's sailing of Burntisland.

Sailing is in the town's heritage and BSC provides affordable adventure, company,



social activities, the means to gain new skills and much more, centred around the sea and sailing.

Sailing boats always need crew and BSC is offering free opportunities to try racing and cruising this year in a variety of yachts, with those who want to sail being matched up with boats and skippers needing crew. Mentoring in seamanship and navigation skills continues through the year.



To help this, the modest membership fees have been put on hold for a year for new members and there will even be free tea and biscuits on race nights!

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ABK Probus Club

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



The club meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month, at the Kingswood Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon. Meetings generally start with coffee and time for a chat followed by any club business then a presentation by an invited speaker on any of a wide range of interesting subjects.

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

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

John Bruce

Local Business Updates

in association with Totally Locally Burntisland



It's now 10 years since Totally Locally was launched in Burntisland—how time flies! Since the last issue of the Buzz:

Dears Pharmacy & Travel Clinic have taken over the former Lloyds Pharmacy, open Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.30 pm and Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm with free Monday to Friday delivery.

Travel Island by Sue has opened on the High Street, and Marmaris Barber has replaced Global Mobile Phone Shop.

Chapter & Verse and Pretty Presents gift shops have undergone recent refurbishments.

114's Bistro is expected to open soon for the summer months.

Eight Burntisland businesses have been shortlisted for the annual Scottish Independent Retail Awards.

Finally, the Co-op Community Fund awarded grants last year to BOSS, Floral Action Burntisland and the Broomhill Garden Club, with Burntisland Hedgehog Haven and the Highland Games Committee chosen as this year's local groups.

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



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Burntisland's friendly running club welcomes runners of all levels

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Burntisland Hedgehog Haven

A hedgehog out in the day is not ok!

We are still seeing lots of autumn juvenile hedgehogs coming into the rescue.

These hedgehogs are not coping well with the cold weather and are struggling as they have not had enough time to build up their fat reserves from being born so late in the year due to the milder autumn we've had.

If you see a hedgehog out in the day it will need help so please contact us on 07557 000328.

Consider putting out a shallow dish of water and some kitten biscuits for passing hedgehogs as you may just save a life.

Details of how to make a simple feeding station are on our website, along with lots of information regarding hedgehogs:

www.burntislandhedgehoghaven.co.uk

Once Spring arrives please be careful if using strimmers and other garden machinery as hedgehogs will not run from noise but instead ball up so please always check long areas of grass and bushes first.

It's hard to believe that March sees us being open for a year! From March 2023 to 14th January 2024 we've had 105 hedgehogs through the door.

It is so rewarding making them well again to be released and seeing them be released back to the area where they came from is the best part.

We've had quite an upgrade since those early days and now have a dedicated hospital room thanks to everyone's support.

We will now be able to help even more hedgehogs as it is always so hard turning some away as we had no space.

All our fundraising efforts go straight to the hedgehogs care and we are always looking for new ideas or crafters to make things for us to sell.

We are very lucky to of been one of the local causes chosen by the Co-op which means if you are a Co-op member and select us as your cause, every time you buy Co-op branded products and scan your card or app we receive a donation. Please consider selecting us as your chosen local cause.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the staff and children of Starley Hall School for having a stall on the High Street selling all the wonderful things the children had made to help raise funds for an incubator.

The children made t.shirts, jewellery, hedgehog nesting boxes and various Christmas items to sell. Thank you to everyone who supported them by visiting their stall and purchasing items.

Their wonderful efforts raised enough

money for us to go ahead and buy a large much needed incubator for the very poorly hedgehogs that come into our care.

If you require any advice regarding hedgehogs visiting your garden please send us a message or email burntislandhedgehoghaven@gmail.com

Sharon Longhurst



Burntisland & Kinghorn Foodbank Crisis

For the past nine years the Kirkcaldy Foodbank has provided food assistance to those in need in Burntisland, Kinghorn, and Aberdour.

With the cost of living rising to crisis levels the need for this assistance has increased dramatically, and the Board of Directors of the Kirkcaldy Foodbank has had to make the decision to concentrate its efforts within Kirkcaldy and terminate its activities in Burntisland by July.

It is therefore essential that local organisation starts immediately; many families in Burntisland and Kinghorn are struggling and depend upon assistance. Everyone is invited to a meeting to share ideas and discuss how this may be accomplished.

By the time you read this in the Buzz, a community meeting will have taken place in February to plan the way forward. Look out for more information on local Facebook groups and in the next issue of the Burgh Buzz.

Pat Gibson



**Fife Historic
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Studio available at The Platform - next door to Burntisland railway station. Suitable for artists and creative industries. Available for a sole tenant or for shared use. Contact us to find out more!



info@fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk

Live on the Links

I took the decision in December to discontinue my involvement with Live on the Links. Several years ago I announced that I would step down if I could find a replacement who could wear all the hats required, but no one has come forward.



Last year we reached a landmark 40 years of providing entertainment to the town with the status that brings. I would've been happy to call it a day then, but with everyone enjoying themselves and a great atmosphere it seemed selfish to put an end to it. When you organise these DIY events, you become responsible for all aspects of them and having to carry a heavy speaker cabinet upstairs after a recent gig, I realised the end had come. I'm not asking people in their 60s to do this anymore, and it's got beyond me.

Thanks to everyone who came and has been involved, we've had fun over the years but with no youngsters chapping at the door to play, it's run its course.

Charlie Kilgour

Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club

Burntisland & Kinghorn Rotary Club were busy over the Christmas holidays assisting Santa and his Elves. Both Kinghorn in Bloom and Rotary toured Kinghorn with Santa's sleigh and handed out sweets to many delighted children who handed Santa their wish list for Christmas. The sweets for both the Kinghorn and Burntisland sleighs were donated by Rotary.

The Kinghorn sleigh flew to Morrisons in Kirkcaldy on the Saturday before Christmas, Santa was very busy and had many requests for selfies with both grown ups and children, the day was great fun and a good fundraiser for local causes.

Auchtertool, Burntisland and Kinghorn Primary 7 classes took part in our annual Burns Poem Competition, with the winners from each school having the opportunity of reciting their poem at the Rotary Burns Supper on 30th January. A hamper which has kindly been donated by Morrisons will be raffled in aid of the Butterfly Trust who help children suffering from cystic fibrosis.

We are delighted to announce a Big Band Concert at the Adam Smith Theatre on 17th May. Both Kingdom Brass and the Dysart Colliery Silver Band will perform, hosted by B&K Rotary. More details in the next edition of the Burgh Buzz.

We meet on a Tuesday at 6.30pm in The Sands Hotel. If the above sounds interesting to you, then you are most welcome to come along and join us.

David Kelley



David Torrance MSP

Representing the Kirkcaldy Constituency
Kirkcaldy, Kinghorn, Burntisland,
Methil, Auchtertool, Buckhaven,
Wemyss Villages

Have a question?

Contact me:

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david.torrance.msp@parliament.scot

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Burntisland Harbour Access Trust



After a year of rumours, we at last have an idea of what the Forth Green Freeport might look like in Burntisland. The picture above comes from the launch of the Freeport proposal – at the time of writing, it is just that, a proposal. The yellow triangles are the floating base units for wind turbines, presumably built elsewhere and awaiting their towers and blades. These will come in by ship for final assembly on the jetty.

Forth Ports Ltd (FP) own most, if not all, of the land over which the Burntisland freeport will be developed and could acquire ownership over the seabed on which the "T" jetty will be constructed.

The proposals have the potential to bring economic development and employment to the Burntisland Community. But the Burntisland Community will be concerned about road traffic through the town, fair wages for those employed (no advantage taken of relaxed freeport legislation), the potential damage to the East Dock by the possibility of filling it in to create more space, any compromise to the tourist potential of Burntisland (recreational boating, fishing, diving, camping, to name but a few), and last and not least community access to the breakwater.

At the open meeting with representatives from Forth Ports and Fife Council, hosted by the Burntisland Community Council on 20th November, we took the opportunity to make some alternative suggestions of which the following have been endorsed by the Community Council:

- The proposed jetty for assembling floating offshore turbines be run out from the West, rather than the East, Dock. This would concentrate industrial activity in areas historically used for such activity.
- Consideration be given to developing the onshore area of the East Dock, with public access restored. The area could be developed to improve existing activities—coastal freight, offshore servicing, ferrying, recreational sailing, excursions to the islands, whale watching etc. These activities could be complemented with other recreational and tourist facilities – Recreational Vehicle (RV) park, heritage museum, sea bathing, floating restaurant, solar park, natural history, boat park, dive training etc and, of course, recreational walking and cycling.

- The next phase of the Edinburgh tram network is to be a North/South line with the north terminal at Granton. A restored Burntisland all weather ferry slip would allow the revival of the historical Granton/Burntisland ferry service. Combined with the Active Transport routes already created, or proposed, for Burntisland, the station area could be developed as an Active Transport hub.

On the issue of public access, BHAT has sought legal advice and we have now received our lawyers' report. This advice has been expensive and we are very grateful to those who contributed to our "Open the Gates Legal Fund" appeal, without which it wouldn't have been possible. The opinion is that public rights of access have been established through more than twenty years' unfettered access by members of the public. It seems likely that rights under the "Right to Roam" legislation may also apply and we've discovered that an obligation to provide community access applied when the foreshore and seabed were sold for the building of the East Dock and that these conditions still apply.

We now intend to pursue the reinstatement of public access directly with all parties: Forth Ports, Fife Council and the Scottish Government. We firmly believe that this can be achieved without compromising the creation of the freeport. You can read the full report on our website: www.burntislandharbour.co.uk

At the same time we are seeking more information and pressing for further opportunity for community input, which in our view is long overdue. We want to know how the people of Burntisland feel about the freeport "vision". Please email us your views at Burntislandhat@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page and leave a comment.

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REACHING OUT

We have had productive autumn and winter terms, which each began with a week of diverse experiences for our young people. This included opportunities such as fruit picking and jam making, offering them a unique enrichment experience.

Additionally, some young people took the time to contemplate their goals for the year ahead and constructed vision boards to capture their aspirations.



Enterprise

A caring group of young people have been actively involved in supporting the Burntisland Hedgehog Haven. As a part of their woodwork project, the young people have skilfully constructed hedgehog homes, which they donated to the charity. Several young people have honed their crafting abilities to create attractive lavender bags, table centre pieces, t-shirts, bird feeders, chutney, Christmas cards and jewellery.

These tastefully handmade items were sold at our Christmas pop-up shop located outside the Co-op in December as well as a stall in school. Henry demonstrated his excellent selling technique. A huge thanks to Linda and all involved in raising over £800 altogether! This will allow the Burntisland Hedgehog Haven to buy an incubator for hoglets (baby hedgehogs).



Our compassionate and responsible young people have also extended their support to Mel's VIPs in caring for rescued rabbits. One class sold delicious handmade jam to raise funds for this cause. Another responsible young person used the money earned to purchase essential supplies for the rabbits. Additionally, during his visit to Mel's VIPs to deliver the supplies, he undertook the task of thoroughly cleaning out the rabbit enclosures.

Commando Chef

The Hospitality group had the privilege of hosting a visit from the Commando Chef Education Awareness Team. The young participants thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear the soldiers' captivating stories. The group demonstrated great teamwork and culinary skills as they followed instructions to prepare mouthwatering fajitas.



Creativity

Individual and group art sessions have provided a platform for young people to freely showcase their creativity and express themselves through unique projects. In these classes, participants have had the opportunity to explore various artistic styles and approaches.

Hospitality

The hospitality classes have expertly crafted culinary creations such as strawberry meringue, pastries, and delicious soups. In addition, one of the classes even organised a tuck shop during break time, which received great appreciation from both staff and young people.

Residential Trip

A group of young people took part in a residential experience at Abernethy Barcaple in Dumfries and Galloway. The young people pushed themselves out of their comfort zones participating in a number of challenging and fun activities including climbing, kayaking and cycling. This was a very rewarding experience for all involved.



Happy Holidays

During the Christmas break, the young people participated in a variety of enriching activities. This included a visit to the In-Bru Carnival in Glasgow. Additionally, they engaged in recreational pursuits such as dog walking, sauna and steam room, and swimming.

Our dedicated and diligent young people have actively participated in various community initiatives throughout the years, such as crafting Buddy Benches for local schools. Currently, we are engaged in the production of hedgehog homes and raising funds for the Burntisland Hedgehog Haven. To discuss potential collaboration on a project for 2024, please feel free to contact us via info@starleyhall.co.uk or get in touch with our school office at 01383 860314.

Tracy Duffin, Principal Teacher

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Girlguiding at the Parish Church Halls

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas Coffee Evening at the end of November, the evening went well and the funds raised will go towards our hall rent. We hope everyone had an enjoyable evening and picked up some bargains from the stalls. Guides, Brownies and Rainbows enjoyed serving teas and coffees and helping on the stalls.



The Guides and Brownies had great fun on their Christmas outing to the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh to see the Snow Queen. The trip included a visit to McDonald's and a walk along to see the Christmas lights before taking the train home.

A date for your diaries, the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows are planning a Tombola for our spring fundraiser. Watch out for us outside the Co-op on the High Street on Saturday 23rd March.

1st Burntisland Guides

Guides have been working on their Confectionery badge and learned how to decorate cakes and biscuits with a Halloween theme. They also enjoyed carving pumpkins to take home with them.

Guides took part in the Armistice service and parade again this year.

The unit completed the Trefoil Guild 80th Anniversary Challenge at the end of last term and were awarded with their badges. Guides learned how to use British Sign Language to sign the Guide promise.

We finished off last term with a very productive and enjoyable Christmas craft

evening, Guides made cards, mini wreaths and tree decorations. The unit also made over 50 mini wreath tree decorations to be handed out to older members in the community through the Pastoral Care Group. Ann Smith kindly came along to our meeting to collect these and also our completed knitted blankets. They will come in handy on chilly days and we know that Ann will find them a good home.

Unit leader Helen Barrett was presented with her 50 year long service award at the County annual review, a fantastic achievement. Well done Mrs B!

1st Burntisland Brownies

This term at Brownies has been another busy one. We have been very busy completing our badge work and one of our Brownies achieved her Brownie Gold

Award and 5 years' service in Girl Guiding, she has headed off to Guides and we wish her luck in her new Guiding adventure.

We celebrated Halloween and had a joint party with the Rainbows. We all dressed up in costumes and had a great night celebrating.

Brownies enjoyed helping out on the various stalls, and tombola at the Coffee Evening, it was a great success and thank you to Brownie families who came along to support us.

We headed off to Edinburgh on the train to see the Panto The Snow Queen and enjoyed our lunch in McDonalds, we all had a great day out.

Our last evening of term was enjoyed by having a Christmas Party, we all dressed up

in our party dresses and played party games and had some delicious food. We also celebrated our 4 young leaders making their promise to Girlguiding as they continue to support the Brownies and Rainbows and doing a fantastic job.

1st Burntisland Rainbows

We've had a busy few months at Rainbows. Lots of fun activities and lots of badges earned. Our coffee evening was a great success and the girls enjoyed helping to serve the delicious cakes and biscuits on offer.

We were very pleased to present one of our Rainbows with their Gold award just before Christmas. This is the highest award in Rainbows. Well done, Eilidh! We also awarded three Rainbows with their Silver awards and one earned their Bronze award. Well done everyone!

We have another busy term planned with lots of exciting and fun activities and of course we are looking forward to the brighter weather to get back outside.

Spaces are available in all units, contact us for more information or register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus and we will get in touch with you.

Units meet in the Parish Church Halls on Monday evenings.

Guides: 7 to 9pm
burntislandguides@gmail.com

Brownies: 5 to 6.30pm
burntislandbrownies1st@outlook.com

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

Jean Priestley



Burntisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland

"From Burntisland to beyond" what Buzz Lightyear might have said! But what I am saying is that there is a buzz and busyness around both Burntisland and Kinghorn High Streets that is great to see and be a part of, unlike so many other town and city centres, there's a variety of shops and cafes: well done!

There's a buzz as well about the new Union of the Church of Scotland Churches of Kinghorn and Burntisland to form Burntisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland, continuing to work together with Erskine Church in the BEK Partnership.

My name is Jim Reid and am delighted and daunted to be called to be the first Minister of the newly United Church.

Having been Minister of Kinghorn for nearly 27 years I know the area and look forward to encouraging Church unity and growth, as we have a message for everyone a church for anyone and a place for you.

We have a variety of services in each place of worship, something for everyone, with an openness to try new ideas and fresh expressions of worship as we have shown with our 3-weekly "Chilled Church".

Each service this year we'll be looking at Jesus "The Gospel in Person" as he's portrayed in the Gospel of Mark. We want to let Jesus "The Gospel in person" shape our life together as a newly United Church.

To get a diary for times, types and venues for worship in our three places of worship across our two communities please go to either our new Facebook page: Burntisland and Kinghorn Church. Or alternatively our new website:

www.burntislandandkinghornchurch.co.uk

We are running an Alpha course from the end of January through every Thursday evening at 7pm

"Alpha at the Sally" held at the Salvation Army hall on Lonsdale Crescent, Burntisland. Alpha is a great way to learn more about the Christian faith in a relaxed and friendly environment. Come along with a friend or come along and make friends and enjoy some delicious home baking.

Rev Jim Reid

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- **Advocacy and influencing**
We help individuals and churches speak out on issues of poverty and injustice, and we challenge unjust policies and practices at a local, national and global level.

Burntisland and Kinghorn Church of Scotland, charity number SC016418



Erskine Church

I hope your festive period went well, Christmas and New Year are definitely in the rear-view mirror now! Thanks to everyone who attended the carol & Watchnight services. A total of £353.58 was raised for our worthy charitable causes of The Cottage Family Centre and Tearfund. It was great to see more people attending again after the long break caused by Covid.

The opportunity to make a fresh start is always exciting, but it can sometimes feel daunting. Holding that thought in mind, here are some early highlights from Erskine's year. We're now following a shared calendar for all Sunday services, working alongside our BEK partners. This

means that we may have joint worship, Chilled Church or just our own normal weekly service at 11am. It's great to do things together, please keep an eye on Erskine's Facebook page for the latest news. You'll always be warmly welcome to join us.

Easter falls early this year on Sunday 31st March. The local churches will be planning their usual shared events soon, these will be held during Holy Week (from 24th March). Keep an eye out for details nearer the time.

Wishing you many blessings as 2024 gets fully underway!

Rev. Alexander Ritchie

St Joseph's Church

Welcome back, Burgh Buzz – as Joni Mitchell sings, "You don't know what you've got till it's gone." I am writing these words on "Quitters' Day". We are told that over 80% of people fall off their New Year's resolutions by the second Friday in January.

If you are one of them (like me), then it's good to remember that we can always start again – we all fall, but the important thing is not to remain fallen, but to get ourselves up and start again.

That's the message of the Season of Lent which is approaching fast this year. Ash Wednesday is celebrated on 14th February,

Valentine's Day. There will be Mass and the distribution of ashes at 10am and 7pm.

On the Fridays of Lent there will Stations of the Cross at 7pm. On Palm Sunday, 2nd April, Burntisland Churches Together will be having another Walk of Witness, finishing at St. Joseph's.

On Holy Thursday, 28th March, Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7pm, with watching at the Altar of Repose until 9pm. The Celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place at 3pm on Good Friday, with Stations of the Cross at 7pm. The Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection will be at

8pm on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday Mass will be at the usual time of 10am. All are welcome at any of our services.

On March 10th we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in the current Church building and Archbishop Leo Cushley will join us for that.

As always, all are welcome at any of our services. I wish you and yours every blessing and hope 2024 will be a good year for us all.

Fr James Tracey



St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church

Oooh, the cold and the dark; how they make us reluctant to go out and eager to get home again when we are out!

St Serf's likes to use the corner of Cromwell Road and Ferguson Place to brighten up the community whenever it can and December was no exception. Once again we invited local organisations and businesses to supply a decorated Christmas tree to be displayed in our garden. An encouraging number of groups responded (although many of those invited did not. (I wonder why that was? Answers on the back of an envelope to...!))

As a result, children stopped on the way to and from school, pram-pushers stood for a while and even passing motorists were interested. The wind blew and the lights and decorations tossed about but the message shone out: "Christmas is on the way and we want to share the Good News of hope for the world".

God knows we need that hope at the moment when every day we hear in the news of conflict, aggression and hatred; poverty, need and neglect. As Christians we share the message that Jesus was born into the recurring misery created by the inability of humanity to organise life as it could and should be lived - and he suffered as a result. But in the end, he overcame that misery and lived the positives he was sent to share. That's the message of the Christmas lights and it is the message of all our worship.

Come and see for yourself. All are welcome to pop into The Space in St Serf's on Thursday afternoons between 2 pm and 4 pm, when we have teas and coffees and often cakes as well. Time to be together, time to chat, time to go into a quiet space, light a candle and simply be.

Or think about coming on a Sunday morning. Our service of Holy Communion is at 10 am and our congregation includes people of many different religious backgrounds. Everyone is welcome but always remember, there is no obligation to "join" and we are just as happy if you decide you'd be more at home at any of the other local churches. Although each has its own traditions, the Burntisland churches pride themselves on working together as one church in Christ.

Wishing you bright, sunny days, a light heart and the blessing of our heavenly Father.

Rev Carol Latimer



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Keep Burntisland Beautiful

We would like to thank everyone who has attended our events over the past year and who help to Keep Burntisland Beautiful by picking up rubbish on their daily walks.

Very well done to the fabulous Zoë Scotland on completing the challenge she set herself of picking a bag of litter for every week of the year!

You have made a big difference in helping to keep our town cleaner and safer for animals and walkers.

We look forward to the weather improving so that we can organise some upcoming events.

You can find us on the "Keep Burntisland Beautiful" group on Facebook.

Sharon Longhurst



Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club

Appeal for New Club Members

Another awesome year of swimming has come and gone for Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club. In that time, we've seen our youngest swimmers build confidence, and our seasoned team members further develop their core skills. Scottish Swimming says, "Swimming is a life skill. It keeps children and adults safer, confident, and competent in and around water, and can ultimately save lives." It's also lots of fun!

Throughout 2023 team BASC enjoyed brilliant social events, from paddleboarding on Loch Ore to our Family Fun swim and Awards Night Ceilidh.

Back in 2018, with a young family, a job, and a busy life, I was reluctant to sign my son up for Swim Club. I'm not a swimmer myself, so I didn't know much about it as a sport, and I found the time commitment daunting. My son was eight and had been taking lessons at the Beacon for a few years.

He was enjoying them, and I knew it was a great way to keep him active, but I wasn't sure about taking it to the next level. It was one of the swimming instructors who convinced me to let him give it a try, and wow—I am so glad they did.



Fast forward six years, and Swim Club has had an enormously positive impact on my son, and now I can honestly say, I cannot imagine life without it. The confidence and skills he's gained since he started in Session 1 have been a joy to witness. He's made friends of different ages and from different schools, he's got a great relationship with his coaches, and he's even had the opportunity to compete at the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh.

Now the whole family are involved. My husband and I have taken a timekeeping course, so we can help at Novice and Fife League events, and our daughter is in Session 1. Now my son is just about to turn fourteen, and in Development Squad. I'm sure he'll be swimming to keep fit for a long time to come, and I hope hearing his story will help encourage other families who are wondering if Burntisland Swimming Club is a good fit for them to give it a try. It might just be the start of something brilliant!

We are currently recruiting new members to join Session 1. Swimming is a great way to stay active, meet new people, and engage with your local community. Burntisland Amateur Swimming Club is open to anyone who can swim at least one length (25 metres) 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: bascenquiries@hotmail.com

Laura Scotland



Award Recipients at BASC's 2023 Awards Night and Ceilidh

Craigencalt Rural Community Trust

This winter has been really wet, leaving paths muddy and slippery, and the fields so soggy. At Craigencalt, hare and deer abound and now the beautiful stoat in ermine white can be spotted.

However, once the snowdrops and daffodils can be seen peeping through the ground we know that Spring is just around the corner. The first big event in our calendar is the annual Spring Walking Festival. This has been running since 2014 and the event is welcomed and anticipated by many people who enjoy getting out in the fresh air and meeting new folk.

The festival will start on 20th March and run until 10th April covering part of the Easter break. Walks in the local area are rich in both beautiful coastline and countryside. There is always a good choice of walks, varying in length, difficulty, and interest. All are welcome and the event is free but we do ask people to register the walks of their choice as this helps with our organisation.



Our description of walks will be available on the Craigencalt Trust website by the end of February and posted on noticeboards too. So if you enjoy getting out in the fresh air and meeting new folk, the Walking Festival is definitely for you.

The annual 'Come and Try Day' event at Kinghorn Loch is to be held on Saturday 4th May, from 1–4 pm. The loch may be small but it is full of activity all year round, and this event gives everyone the chance to come along and try something new.

There is choice, with sailing, canoeing, rowing and radio-controlled yacht clubs in attendance. If you prefer a quieter pastime there is also bird watching or just enjoy a walk around with the dog.



The Trust is in its thirteenth year and has completed many projects during that time to provide a paths network and to improve facilities and safety at the loch. Our current projects are making good progress. We are seeking to further improve safety at the loch. As more people take up open-water swimming, we are putting in a ladder while also improving landing for canoes and paddleboards. The bridge at the loch outlet is being made fully accessible too. Both projects are fully funded and with help from volunteers, work should soon commence.

The Rock Rest Project (pictured) is nearly finished. The resting place among the rocks with access path, rockery and fences is complete, and at a workday in December the granite seat was installed. A picnic table on the lower platform will follow soon with sympathetic planting and bird feeders. It is encouraging to see that people are already enjoying this new area, tucked away in the bank of the old quarry.

If you would like to help with any of our projects please get in touch at info@craigencalttrust.org.uk or phone 07740 999514.

Marilyn Edwards



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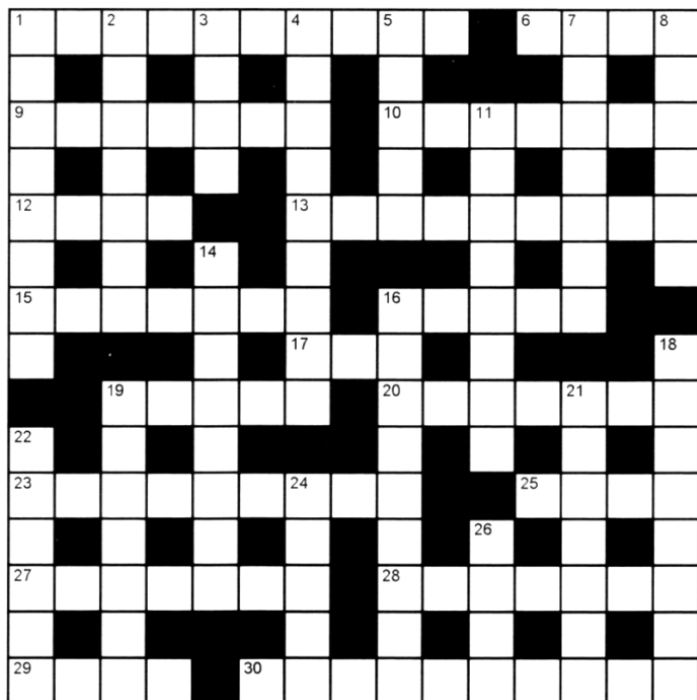
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Completed entries by 31st March to: **1 Lammerlaws Road, Burntisland, KY3 9DT** or email **paulbriscoe1@gmail.com**

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

Solution will appear in the next Burgh Buzz issue.

THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Exultant (10)
6. Charles ——"Essays of Elia"(4)
9. Witty saying (7)
10. Able to be read (7)
12. Not at home (4)
13. Uneducated person (9)
15. End of the day (7)
16. Power cable structure (5)
17. Before, poetically (3)
19. Professorship (5)
20. Let in again (7)
23. Bring to an end (9)
25. Sparkling Italian wine (4)
27. Coteries (7)
28. Raise (7)
29. Wise(4)
30. White coffee Fr. (4, 2, 4)

DOWN

1. Young person (8)
2. Copy (7)
3. Deep mud (4)
4. Person or thing of excellence (9)
5. Synthetic fabric (5)
7. Egg white (7)
8. Bosom (6)
11. Large apes (8)
14. Italian desert (8)
16. Keep on striving (9)
18. Loud and grating (8)
19. Raising trivial objections (7)
21. Eye Makeup (7)
22. Heaps (6)
24. Bewildered (2,3)
26. South American country (4)

August Crossword Solution

Across: 1.Middleaged, 6 Help, 9 Remnant, 10 Implore, 12 Inns, 13 Methodist, 15 Ancient, 16 Storm, 17 Eta, 19 Solid, 20 NonPlus, 23 Top secret, 25 Able, 27 Tractor, 28 Against, 29 Chop, 30 Playthings.

Down: 1 Marzipan, 2 Demonic, 3 Lead, 4 Attempted, 5 Edict, 7 Egotism, 8 Pleats, 11 Profound, 16 Sanctuary, 18 Asbestos, 19 Soprano, 21 Lebanon, 22 Static, 24 Rural, 26 Bach.

Congratulations to our August crossword winner:

Graham Rowles, Orrock Drive

Burntisland's Events Diary

MARCH

Friday	1st	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–4 pm
Saturday	2nd	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Friday	8th	Acoustic Music Club in Burntisland Bowling Club	7.30 pm–10.30 pm
Tuesday	19th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers (also via Zoom)	7 pm
20th March to 10th April—Craigencalt Walking Festival, see page 25			

APRIL

Friday	5th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–4 pm
Saturday	6th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
Tuesday	16th	Community Council meeting in the Burgh Chambers (also via Zoom)	7 pm
Saturday	20th	Burntisland-Flekkefjord Town Twinning Coffee Morning in St Joseph's Church Hall	TBC

MAY

Friday	3rd	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	12 noon–4 pm
Saturday	4th	Big Green Market in the Parish Church Halls	10 am–1 pm
		'Come and Try Day' at Kinghorn Loch	1 pm–4 pm

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



Burntisland Nature Watch

By Leo du Feu

New Year, new determination to be in nature more! A big mental health blip took me by surprise a few months ago and made me realise I had stopped making time to do many of the things which make me, me. Being in nature is my biggest thing of all, not just walking through it on my way to the shops but being in it with the express purpose of looking closely, absorbing, revelling. I used to take part in lots of different volunteer counts for the British Trust for Ornithology and other conservation charities and I loved it. The counting itself—being out, looking, noting down what I saw. But also inputting the data afterwards, knowing I was part of a big network of people around the country, the world even, all contributing to conservation science.

Children were born, life got fuller, I unintentionally stopped more and more of these activities. My closest to home was a monthly WeBS (Waterbird Survey) count of the Binn Pond. Just a small site, the pond on the west side of the Binn. Not a large variety of waterbirds, not large numbers, but if you sit and wait there's always something.

Through winter there are often Teal, Britain's smallest duck, very shy so listen for their chiming calls, like little silvery bells. Sometimes also larger ducks, Wigeon, with gold-streaked foreheads. In spring Little grebes nest on the pond and year round you may see Coot, Mallard, Moorhen, Heron. I was dismayed to discover I hadn't count the pond for nearly two years so on 14th January I fixed that.

Starting from our home I decided to take note of all the birds I saw and heard for the duration of my walk. In the hedges and shrubs of our garden were House sparrow, Coal tit, Blue tit, Blackbird, Robin, Starling, Woodpigeon, Feral Pigeon. Eight species as I walked down the steps and along the garden path. As I walked along Ferguson Place Jackdaws were 'chack, chack'ing at each other from the chimney pots. When we had to have our chimney rebuilt I asked the stonemason to embed wire mesh about two feet down inside the stack, so Jackdaws could still nest in there but without their sticks – and chicks – falling down into our blocked off fireplaces. Carrion crows were on the roof of the old school. I looked up into the branches of a silver birch in the nursery garden in case the Waxwing I saw there four days earlier was back. It wasn't.

In the air over the school were Herring gulls and Black-headed gulls. I looked down into the Toll/Cot Burn where sometimes there's a Grey wagtail or Mallard ducks but neither today. A Coal tit or Great tit strongly sang 'teacher teacher' in the evergreens of the first house past the burn. The Binn glowed in the low winter sun. A Buzzard was up there and Magpies were in trees and on rooftops as I walked up Cowdenbeath Road. Out of the town, distillery wall on my left, a Heron flew across the road ahead of me, gliding like a pterosaur. Landed in the tussocky field and started slow-stalking along as it watch for small mammals, frogs, toads. In olden times people thought the shrill shriek of a Heron at night was a witch overhead on her broom. If they saw the Heron fly across the moon,

long legs sticking broomstick-like behind, it may have reinforced the idea.

Cross the road and into the blissful calm which descends the moment you step into the wood. Halfway up the steep bit, where it flattens for a short way with the old quarry on your left, are a handful of tall pines. They were alive with movement so I spent a while with binoculars and ears out. Blue tits, up to all sorts together. I didn't spot Goldcrests, Britain's smallest bird, but I felt sure they were there.

At the same time, on the woodland floor ahead of me, a Wren, Britain's second smallest, teensy tail sticking bolt upright. Into that beautiful open meadow where three Chaffinches flew over into the wood. A Rook flapped past, bald grey beak and face shining light grey against black feathers – black with a metallic purple sheen if you get a good view in the right light.

And arriving at Binn pond. As often there seemed to be almost nothing there, just two Coots swimming in the open water. Half an hour later, having stood quietly in various different places (a short way up-slope, silhouette camouflaged a bit by the trees, is good.) and listened and watched carefully, I counted two Coots, two Wigeon, six Teal, two Mallard and one Heron.

Onwards, up the old holloway so muddled by cattle, out onto the quiet country road behind the Binn. East along Standing Stanes Road, meandering along farm tracks here and there for sweeping views to the Lomonds. Onto the winding track which leads eventually down past the horses and the Binn village. Down through the woods to emerge opposite the golf course. From pond to home, I had also seen Raven, Redwing, Dunnock, Pheasant and heard but hadn't seen a Skylark. Twenty seven bird species in total and probably plenty missed. I also saw five Roe deer, one Hare, and sadly one dead Badger on the verge.

Join Burntisland Biodiversity on Facebook to be part of our growing community of people who care about our local wild creatures and places. Get in touch for any guidance on wildlife surveys to take part in, or other naturey questions.

To Do In The Garden at this early time of year – plant some native hedging, shrubs, trees. Plant fruit trees and bushes.



Hello Burntisland!



Kingswood Hotel would like to wish everyone a fantastic 2024!

As new owners we have now achieved our first year and have been delighted to meet so many lovely people, local and further away.

This year we will start our refurbishment but please be assured it will be business as usual with new menus, accommodation deals and lots of weddings and events planned.

If you have something to plan this year please do get in touch and find out how we can help.

Looking ahead we are now taking bookings for Mother's Day and Easter.

We look forward to seeing you.

Dal Singh ~ General Manager

Nikala ~ Wedding & Events Manager

T: 01592 872329

E: enquiries@kingswoodhotel.co.uk

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