

February 2023



Village Link



Hope has two daughters---anger and courage.
Anger at the way things are and
Courage to make sure they do not stay that way.
St. Augustine

Message from the Manse

Dear Friends,

This is an important year for our church. Last year we began discussions about working with the other West Fife village congregations.

Similar discussions are taking place across Fife Presbytery and across Scotland. By the middle of 2023 we are required to report to presbytery on progress made. This will not be about final decisions, but the beginning of a process of change.

What is the future of Limekilns Church? This is a question I cannot answer, but we can. The answer in physical terms is 'time, talent and money'. As members of the church we promised to give 'a fitting proportion of our time, talent and money'. That proportion is not defined and in reality changes with time and circumstance.

Our giving of time, talent and money determines what the church is able to do in worship and service. In his grace and mercy almighty God entrusts us and calls us into his service. In the words of 1st Peter, we are 'living stones being built into a spiritual house'.

I pray that God will bless us in 2023, and on into the future. Take care and keep praying.

Yours, Norman



Hello Village Link Readers

Welcome to the first Community Link page of 2023.

Often a new year starts with, "I'm going to do X or Y".

I'm going to ask, what about "V" i.e. Volunteering?

Have you considered helping out or volunteering your time? It's widely recognised volunteering provides a natural sense of accomplishment and can also give you a sense of pride and identity.

In my community engagement role, there are a number of volunteering opportunities here at the Church, from helping out at our Toddlers Group or Games Night, baking cakes or serving at our Tea-room to joining a group of likeminded people to set up a community cinema or tackle environmental issues by joining our Eco Church Working Group.

If volunteering is an interest you'd like to pursue, contact me (Jackie) on 873337, pop into the Church Office Tues to Fri 10am – 12.30pm or email: office@limekilnschurch.org

And finally, a new date for your diary: The next Community Games Night is on Thurs 9th March in the Church from 7-9pm.

Jackie McKenna Community Engagement Worker

Church Services take place every Sunday at 10.00am. For those unable to attend church, Sunday services will continue to take place online on Zoom. To join worship on Zoom use ID Number 899 8656 4721. Contact the Minister for the passcode ([tel: 872341](tel:872341); [e-mail: nmg57@live.com](mailto:nmg57@live.com)). An audio version of the service is available on the website (www.limekilnschurch.org). This can be accessed anytime.

"Faith is a knowledge within the heart,
beyond the reach of proof."
Kahil Gibran



We have had a busy start to the new year with lots going on across our school and nursery. Our pupils are preparing for the Fife Music Festival, we have been learning Scottish poetry for our annual Burns Competition, and our Primary 7 pupils have been planning, organizing and running lunchtime clubs for younger pupils.

In our school we have been introducing an 'Article of the Fortnight'. These come from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the economic, social and cultural rights that children are entitled to.

Our Community Garden Leadership team have been busy working with adults from our local community and the CLP Nature Conservation group to finalize our plans for our garden. The Fife Rural Skills Training team came along for 2 days to clear and prepare the site for us and we had support from over 20 volunteers, parents, children and members of the community, to help us prepare the ground and begin building our raised beds.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and to The Bruce who kindly supplied the workers with lunch and drinks!

Claire McCallum, Headteacher

Sheena Davies and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers received during their recent bereavement.

Limekilns, Charlestown and Pattiesmuir Scottish Women's Institute

The local 'Rural' group meet in the Queen's Hall on the third Thursday of each month (1.15 – 3.00).

We have a varied programme with guest speakers, demonstrations, and lovely home baking with our cuppa. We would like to take this opportunity to say how sorry we are to hear of the passing of one of our long serving members, Lady Martha.

She will be missed.

Anyone interested in joining the meetings will be made very welcome.

Carol Hughes

Charlestown Bowling Club

We had the Green itself totally renovated by a professional company this year after the long dry summer and it has responded well and we look forward to the new season.

I have appealed continuously in the Diary for new members with minimal success. Charlestown Bowling Club has been an integral part of the village for 136 years but is in danger of disappearing over the next few years due to an ageing membership.

So come on folks, put the iPad away, switch off Netflix, be active and get out and enjoy the summer weather. Play bowls, meet new friends and get involved in our on going social activities. For more information contact Bob 872696.



Broomhall Curling Club

Moves Forward

Broomhall has been a *men only* club throughout its history. We have this season revised our constitution opening up the club to all genders irrespective of race colour or religion.

Interested in trying Curling? Contact Kim Dalland at curlingdev@kinrosscurling.co.uk. Kim organises come and try sessions weekly for individuals, families, social groups, schools etc. These sessions are organised with qualified coaches and experienced assistants on hand to teach you the basics and move you forward to future coaching within Kinross Curling Development Club. The demand this year is awesome, so, contact Kim and book your session NOW!



Bird Flu

Finding another dead seagull on the beach today acts as a reminder that avian flu is still very much around, and that pets (and children) need to be kept away from these carcasses. There are reports of the virus being transferred to and killing animals scavenging on the dead birds. Sadly, dead gulls, Mallard ducks and other seabirds have all been washed-up on our beaches this winter.

Tom Leatherland

Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.

Margaret Mead



Traidcraft – Its Spirit lives on.

Since 1979 Traidcraft, whose goods have been sold through Limekilns Church for 40 years, has reimagined the relationships between producers and consumers, putting justice at the heart of trade. So it was with great sadness that Traidcraft PLC announced in January that it was going into administration. The business has been in a weak financial position for some years and has not survived the combined effects of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, rising energy prices, increased transport costs and postal strikes, while still trying to demonstrate that retailing can be done ethically.

Hundreds of thousands of lives have been changed and continue to be changed for the better because of the trail that Traidcraft blazed. It's no exaggeration to say that the fair trade movement as we know it would not exist without Traidcraft.

Sadly though, the mission to combat trade injustice and poverty is far from complete. However, the excellent 'Transform Trade' charity will continue its vital work supporting producers and fighting for trade justice and people-centred trade.

<https://www.transform-trade.org/>. Sue Hamilton

Limekilns Men's Club.

We meet every Friday afternoon, 2 – 4pm in Limekilns Church Hall.

The club ended 2022 with a very good Christmas dinner and prize-giving in the Bruce Arms Hotel on the 16th December - we were pleased to welcome guests Norman Grant and Jackie McKenna.

We now have an annual competition for our indoor sports activities, and this year the overall winner for 2022 was John Reid. At our Christmas dinner, John was presented with our great new trophy (kindly made and donated by member Don Briggs) and a commemoration medal. Congratulations, John!

Our membership continues to grow, but we would still like to welcome new members for our weekly activities which consist of POOL, DARTS, DOMINOES, SKITTLES, TABLE GAMES, and of course Tea Coffee and Chat. We have occasional outside meetings for activities, lunches, visits etc.)

Interested? Please contact:

Jim Tucker, 01383 872 520

(email: jim.tucker@live.co.uk).

COFFEE AND TEA FOR '23...

After a refreshing break, the Wednesday Tearoom in the church got under way on 1st February for the 2023 season. We are open for business as usual between 2 and 4 pm, with our now-famed home-made cakes and buns ready for consumption with a nice cup of coffee or tea.



This is a great socializing event in the village, and is open to everyone. Our team of volunteers would love to have new people join in, especially if you can bake. If you would like to know more, please speak to me, or any of the other team members and we will be delighted to explain how the tearoom works.

If you are unable to help directly, then please think of donating basic ingredients which can be handed in on a Wednesday afternoon or to the office.

Jennifer Lindsay

Limekilns Pier Car Park

Robbie Blyth, good friend of our villages, and Head of Operations at Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT) spoke to the Community Council about planned changes to Limekilns Pier Car Park. (These are in line with schemes that are working well in North East Fife in places like Kingsbarns.) The aim is to maximise parking space by marking 31 bays, of which 4 would be for holders of blue-badges, 4 for parent and child, 20 standard bays, and 3 for overnight parking.

A Parking Charge Notification scheme (PCN) will be introduced, with clear signage and the provision of parking meters with the following modest pricing:
Up to 2 hours: Free; Blue Badge: Free.
All day (07:00 - 20:00): £2.00
Overnight (3 spaces only): £5.00

Having a PCN scheme in place allows FCCT to manage the car park in a safer and more sustainable manner. Funds raised will support the cost of managing the area and contribute to further improvements. The 2 hours of free parking supports residents who routinely use the car park for short periods of time.

The scheme will be kept under review. Should you wish to comment on the changes or have any further questions, please contact Robbie on 07940774065 or robbie.blyth@fifecountryside.co.uk

Katie Strang,
clpcommcouncil@gmail.com

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH

Baby/Toddler Group: Tuesday
9.15 to 11.15am

Tea Room: Wednesday
2.00 to 4.00pm

Men's Group: Friday 2.00 to 4.00pm for games,
conversation and refreshments.

See more at
Community Link News



QUEEN'S HALL

The hall continues to be well used with a number of groups and organisations enjoying the facilities. As I have said on numerous occasions - the hall is community asset, run by a committee and the current members of this committee have been doing the job for a number of years.

A couple of our members have decided it is time to retire from the committee and we are looking for people to join the committee. As well as the usual chairperson, treasurer and secretary each village, group, organisation should have representatives that are invited attend our meetings so please feel free to come along. Call the secretary for the details of the next meeting. If you would like to help out the committee please contact the secretary.

Chairperson – R Nellies, 872422

Sec/Treas – C Hughes 872605

Booking Sec – K Paterson 872418



The Scout Group continues to grow with increasing numbers in most sections. We have recognized the success of over 21 of our members achieving their highest award in section, the Chief Scout's Award across Squirrel, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

The Explorer section reopened in August with 10 members, and we are working closely with the 2nd Fife Explorers in Dunfermline while our numbers grow.

Our newest section, the *Squirrels*, has celebrated its first birthday in the 81st and we can now welcome members from the age of 4 into the Group. The Squirrels were one of the first groups in the UK to form following the completion of the pilot phase and we continue to feedback to UK headquarters to help develop Squirrels further across the UK.

The leadership team has been acknowledged with 40, 30, 20, and 5 year service awards and Andrew Mitchell has been awarded the Silver Acorn for outstanding service to the Scout Association.

The Group continues to look for new Leaders, particularly in the Beavers. If you would be interested in finding out more about helping with the Beavers, please get in touch.

81stFifeGSL@gmail.com.

Floral Displays Group

Winter may have been mild overall, but the two short periods of hard frost, which came on suddenly, look to have hit many plants quite hard. With days now lengthening, the hardy tub plants should soon recover and it's an encouraging sign of spring that bulbs are coming up all over the village, with snowdrops already in flower providing some cheery colour.

An experiment this winter was to try autumn flowering wallflowers in the tubs near the 'Fife Gold Award' sign on Dunfermline Road. These have to be judged a success.

It seems likely that we'll again have some blue and yellow tubs to recognise the terrible on-going war in Ukraine.

If you're interested in our work, or have ideas for us, and especially if you'd like to help with displays maintenance, please get in touch via:

tom@chway.plus.com

Tom Leatherland, Secretary.

SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study

Whether this is something you would like to know more about or you want to pick up where you left off, join us over coffee or tea and a wee biscuit, in a relaxed informal setting, to talk about the Bible and learn so much more. We meet weekly on Thursdays at 7pm for an hour or two.

You will be very welcome.

For more details

Contact Sandra on 07739669855

or

The Church Office

Tel: 01383 873337

When God gives you a gift,
don't keep it in the package.



Forth Cruising Club

This is now our Club's 'quiet' season where the boats sit patiently waiting for the

weather to go from deep frosts, wind and rain to a little increase in the temperature to allow their new coats of paint to be applied.

Some brave souls still battle the weather to soldier on but mainly working inside their boats doing upgrades, repairs and modifications!

On the social side we had a successful annual Dinner/Dance and Prize Giving at the Pitbauchlie Hotel in November followed by a December Mulled Wine evening in the Clubhouse. We are now running midweek Clubhouse talks and presentations on a variety of boating topics.

Our Crane in date is 23/24 April when both harbours will again become 'alive' with boats showing that winter is definitely behind us.

As Scottish Water plan to do some major sewerage work on our site they have been informed of this date when the boat yard will be clear for them to proceed.

The Club is of course open to new members and our website can be found at www.forthcruisingclub.org.

Phil Whetton
Commodore

Knitting / Craft Group

Our group meet-up is in the Queen's Hall on the last Thursday of the month. We meet 7pm – 9pm for a chat, work on our projects and have a cuppa. If you enjoy crafting and would like to get together with similar minded people, join us, bringing your work with you. *Carol Hughes*

Brucehaven Tennis Club

Playing tennis throughout the winter is difficult, but not impossible! Many of our members have kept playing over the winter months, stopping only when weather conditions made the courts completely unplayable.

Now, with spring (and warmer weather) not far off, we're planning our busiest ever tennis programme:

Coaching for all ages and levels – lessons start on Monday 6th March.

Easter, Summer and Autumn holiday tennis camps for children aged 4-18.

Competitions for individuals and teams in all age groups.

Fun tennis events, including: Easter festival, Family Cup, US Open and regular fun doubles.

School roadshow - taster sessions in schools followed by a festival event at the club

Social tennis sessions - at the club and with other local clubs

We're always delighted to welcome new members but all coaching sessions and many of our fun events are open to non-members.

If you're keen to learn a new sport, or just be active this spring, our Open Days and free community 'taster' sessions are the ideal way to get started.

For more information about our 2023 tennis programme and the benefits of club membership, please see our website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BrucehavenTC>, email us at brucehaventennis@gmail.com or check out our Facebook page.

QUEEN'S HALL LIBRARY

The library in the Queen's Hall opened for business last year. There is an excellent selection of books. If you enjoy reading and would like to borrow books locally, please come along. We'll even have tea and coffee!
TUESDAY 2–4pm & FRIDAY 10.30 – 12.30pm.

You Dancin'?

You Askin'?

Following my article in a previous Village Link reminiscing about Regattas in Limekilns, the editor asked if I had any more memories to share.



The Bowling Club Ceilidh brought memories flooding back of the wonderful social life the villages enjoyed in years gone by. There were frequent dances as well as cheese and wine parties (remember those?), organised by various village organisations.

The Forth Cruising Club, Tennis Club and many others organised these, and many other events, which greatly enhanced their funds. They were well supported by all age groups and were so sociable, helping people to make friends throughout the villages. There was also a very good baby-sitting circle in the village which facilitated younger people to attend.

There were Cheese and Wine parties and Burns Suppers held in the Queen's Hall, the Cruising Club premises and in the Kings Cellar.

A very sociable, friendly time in our villages, let's hope it could be reintroduced in the future.

Margaret Briggs.

Meet the Wildlife of the Firth of Forth!

Limekilns Church Hall
Saturday 25th February: 10am - 5pm

Come along and see amazing wildlife photos, and meet those working to protect wildlife across the Firth of Forth

Adults £1, Kids Free

BEACON WAY UPDATE

The good news about the project to raise money to repair Limekilns Pier is - the response to making a donation which will help lay the commemorative Beacon Way, is that we now have £25,000 in the Limekilns Heritage Trust bank account. An excellent start, and hopefully may enable some work on the pier this year.

Not so good is, the project is behind schedule. The stones have been quarried and after fettling will go to the engraving company. Engraving will take a few weeks. If you are wondering when you will see your personal stone in its place, it won't be too long!

Our other fundraising effort is the special concert by HM Band of the Royal Marines Scotland hosted by LHT in Limekilns Church on Thursday, 2 March. Seating is limited to 150: places can be booked on a first-come, first-served basis at the church office between 10 am and noon, 7 to 10 February. A voluntary donation of £10 per place would be much appreciated. A 'first' for the band, each of seven segments will showcase the specialist skills of all the musicians.

Russell Kelly Limekilns Heritage Trust

Farewells and Funerals

The beginning of this year has been marked by quite a number of bereavements.

In Limekilns Church we have lost two of our oldest members. Lucy Grieve (Sheena's mum) died at the age of 105. She was our oldest member.

Lady Martha died at the age of 101. Martha served this congregation in many different ways, a lady of great faith and constant service. We also remember the loss of Elsa Mitchell and Brian Rowland. As well as those named, many people have lost a loved one during the last few weeks.

Please pray for all of the bereaved families in our church and parish.

Norman

This newsletter is published and financed by Limekilns Parish Church. It is a Church/Community link for Limekilns, Charlestown, Crombie and Pattiesmuir. Paper copies are available from the Church Office and the Sutlery. The deadline for the Easter edition is Friday, 24th March Submissions to, and more information from, Eileen Kirkpatrick (Editor)
Tel. 872 618 or Email: eileenkk28@btinternet.com

A Gordon for Me

By Dennis Hardie, Limekilns

As a wee lad brought up in rural Aberdeenshire I often heard the strains of "A Gordon fer Me" drifting by my classroom as I stared out of the window dreaming of valiant deeds and heroic adventures. For some that song means little, but to the folk of Buchan it's a timeless tribute to a famous regiment, The Gordon Highlanders.

The Life of a Regiment, by a firm friend of mine, Lt-Col DM Napier, is an Anthology of that famous Regiment. Much of the content of these volumes collected over many years, comes from personal reminiscences of serving/retired Gordon Highlanders and those who worked with them.

Alas the regiment is no more. The Gordon Highlanders left a legacy of service, gallantry, and the highest professional standards and a record of achievement that their successors could build upon. Change is inevitable and we must all live with that but to have a vivid depiction of the life of a famous Scottish Regiment throughout its lifetime is to value the core values of this remarkable family regiment.



**CHARLESTOWN, LIMEKILNS
AND PATTIESMUIR NATURE
CONSERVATION GROUP**

**Please share your knowledge and skills
with younger generations!**

Do you love gardening and growing your own food? Do you have knowledge, skills and experience you would like to share with younger generations on growing veg and other plants? The school community garden is really coming along with raised beds built and ready for planting with a raised bed per class. We are looking for volunteers of all ages who may have 2 hours to spare a week (or more if they wish) to support the children in the school garden with their growing and planting, alongside the teachers. If you would like to be involved or find out more, please contact Jo McFarlane on 0781 312 4577 (please leave a message if not picked up) or via jowildplanetexplorers@gmail.com.

We need you!

Jo McFarlane

CLP Nature Conservation Group (Chair)

Doctor Donald Duck... To whom Life was a Load of Laughs

Thanks to Christine Taylor for passing on this lovely story of Dr Donald Duck of Mallaig, a friend of Christine's Dad and a family doctor and missionary.

Dr. Duck, who died in 2006, was driven quackers by his cartoon name, but he said it had brought too much joy to ever think of changing it. He added that it was also a good ice-breaker when meeting strangers. When introduced to another doctor he would often await the familiar reply, "Oh yes, and I am Mickey Mouse!"

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

— James Baldwin

Andrew Tucker's Sailing Adventure

Regular readers will know that erstwhile villager Andrew Tucker is sailing round the world in his Oyster 46 sailing cruiser *Voyager II* in the World Cruising Club World Rally. Of the 200 boats that sailed across the Atlantic, they are now one of the remaining 23 boats of 8 different nationalities who are Going for Gold.



Having spent the Christmas period sailing through the Caribbean, *Voyager II* has just sailed through the Panama Canal. Last Sunday, using the Canal's webcam system, we were able to watch from Limekilns as their small fleet voyaged through one of the enormous locks on the canal.

So now they are berthed near Panama City, delayed by some essential repairs to the boat before setting off across the wide, wide Pacific. Where next?... we'll keep you posted.

A valuable talent may never have had a real chance, nipped in the bud by a harsh critique, a dull and uninspiring teacher, or a lack of funds. But that repressed talent still lies within you. Bringing it to life only requires some care and attention. — Alan Jones, in *Seasons of Grace*