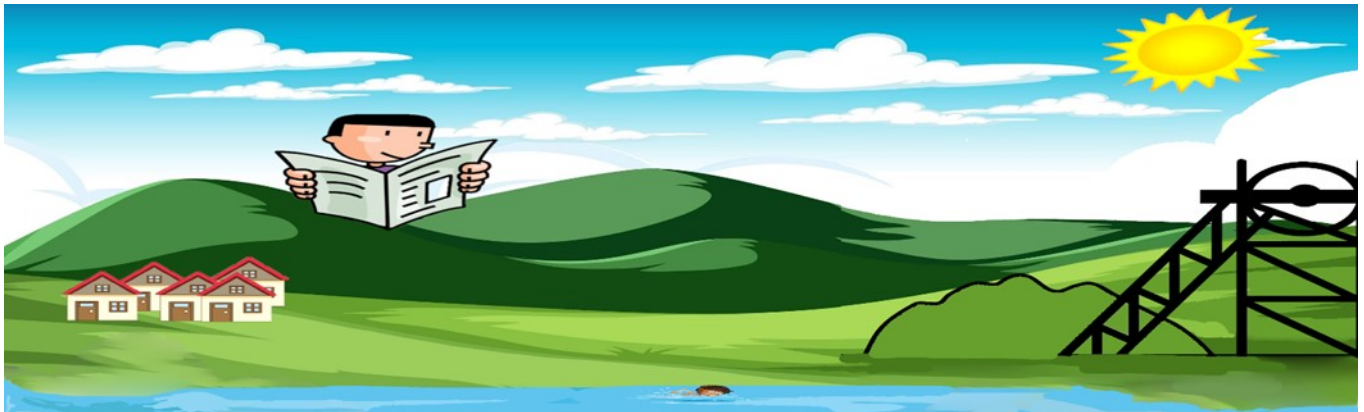


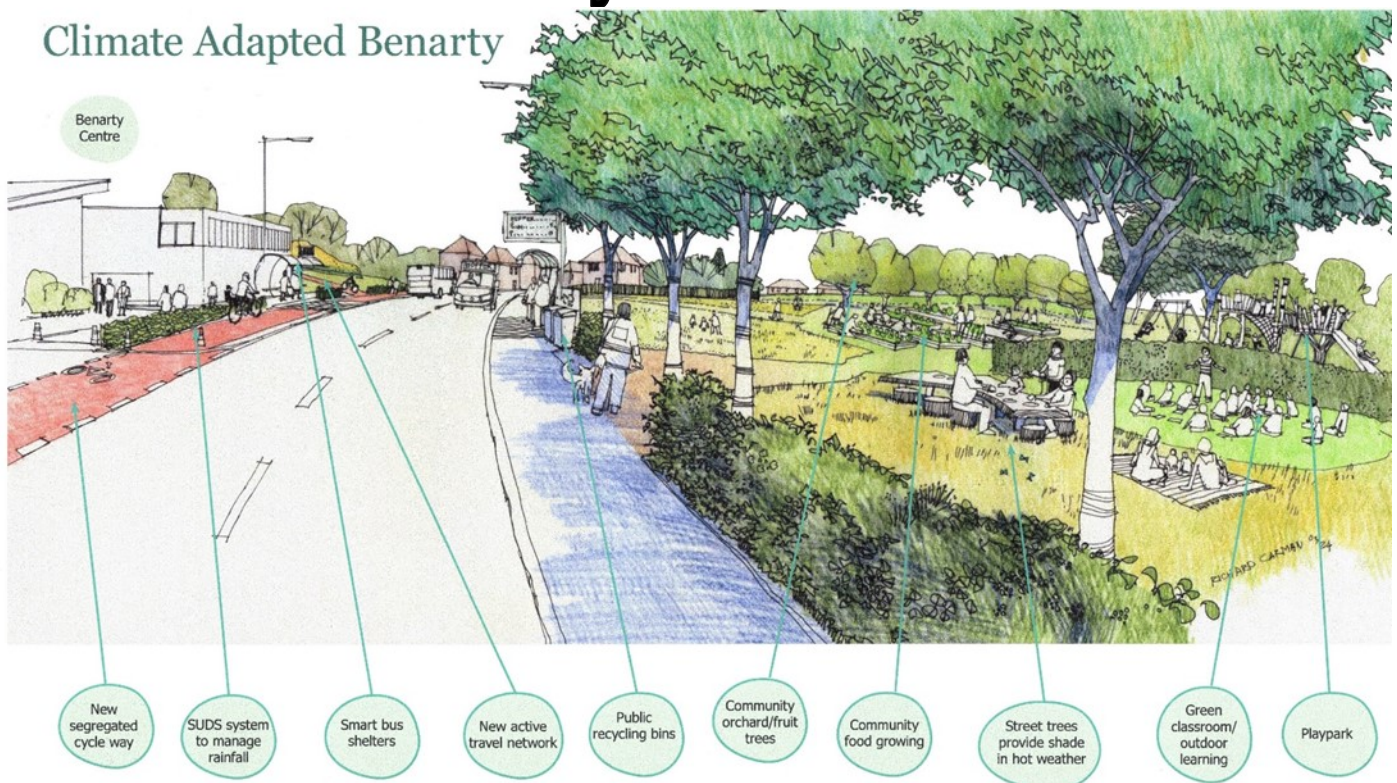
THE BENARTY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 7: Summer 2024



Benarty of the Future ?

Climate Adapted Benarty



As reported in previous issues of this Newsletter, the Community Council has been working with other local groups, individuals of all ages in Benarty; the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Architecture & Design Scotland and representatives from various bodies across Fife to develop a Climate Action Plan and a Local Place Plan for Benarty.

The Climate Action Plan has been completed and many of the areas for change that were

highlighted in the report have now been Included in the Local Place Plan.

The draft Local Place Plan is currently out for consultation. We have to consult our neighbouring communities, eg Kelty, and their Local Councillors, and ask them for comments. This is to make sure that we don't inadvertently include something in our plan that may adversely affect our neighbours.

(Continued on page 3)

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Benarty of the Future ? *(continued from page 1)*

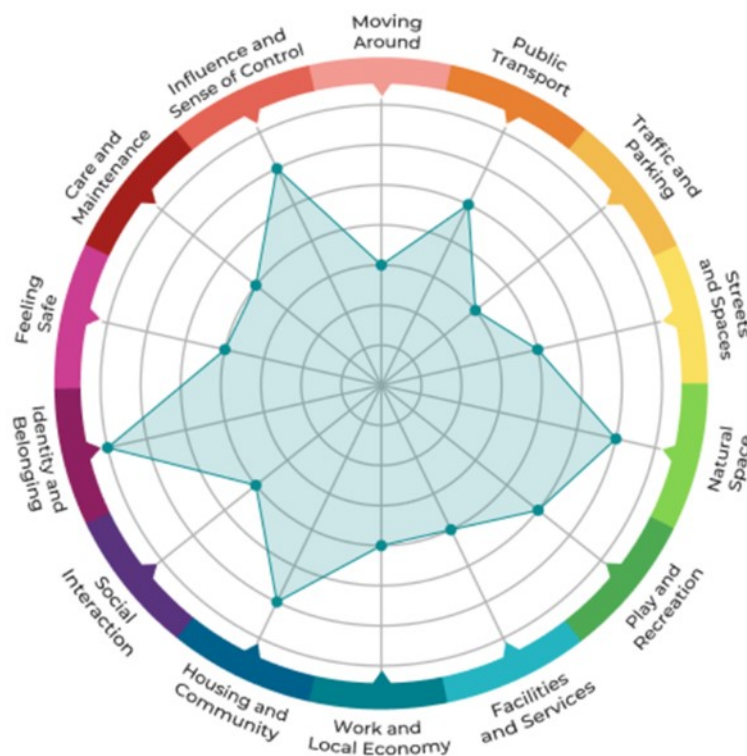
After the consultation period, we can submit the Local Place Plan to Fife Council for approval.

A copy of the draft is available to view on the Community Council's website.

www.benartycc.org.uk If you would like to make comments on the draft, please address them to the Secretary of the Community Council at the Benarty Centre.

If the plan is approved, it means that Fife Council will have to take account of its contents, ie the wishes of the Benarty people, when considering planning applications, or making their own plans for our area. For our part, we have made sure that the Local Place Plan fits in with the aims and objectives of the Plan4Fife and the Cowdenbeath Area plan, so that we're all pulling in the same direction to improve things for our local community.

The following graph shows the perceived strengths and weaknesses within the area, as identified by Benarty people at the workshops. The higher the score plotted, the better the service or provision. This gives a good indicator of where improvements need to be made.



The draft Local Place Plan also identified a number of priorities for community action under the headings shown in the graph on page 4.

Once the plan is accepted, the Community Council will work in partnership with other local groups to raise funds to deliver on those priority actions. The plan is ambitious and will need us all to do our bit to make it happen.

Place and wellbeing outcomes



The principles of equality, net-zero emissions and sustainability underpin all of these themes, and all themes should be embedded in policy and action.

The headline picture (page 1) shows an artist's impression of what Benarty could look like in a few years, if we manage to achieve the plan. The image is of the area at Benarty Centre, looking across to the field. It came from one of the Adaptation Ideas for Benarty of reclaiming greenspaces for local use such as food growing, but also ties in with other ideas such as making paths & roads through Benarty more climate friendly. The vision shows what can be achieved and how spaces that are underused can be adapted, both for the community and to help adapt to climate change.

Both the Climate Action Report and the Local Place Plan are packed with great ideas to improve our community.

Once everything has been agreed, we will make copies of the Action Plan available to anyone that wants a copy.



Image courtesy of OnFife (Kirkcaldy Galleries) on behalf of Fife Council

Ballingry Rovers Reunion

Wednesday 5th June
11am-2pm
Benarty Centre

Everyone who was ever connected
to the club are welcome to attend.

Cowden In The Community

Benarty Centre

Football Classes

Fun weekly football sessions for youngsters
of various ages. Open to all abilities.

Starts: Wednesday 5th June
Ends: Wednesday 19th June
Cost: First Block is **FREE**

Contact:
cowdeninthecommunity@gmail.com
or 07791 801557

Tots Kickers 18months - 3 years old Wednesday's 9:30am - 10:15am	Mini Kickers 3-5 years old Wednesday's 4:00pm - 4:45pm	Fun Football P1-3 Wednesday's 5:00pm - 6:00pm
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Fife **Community Use** **Cowden In The Community** **activeschools**

Flooding Walkabout

As reported in the last issue of this Newsletter (headline news), officers from Fife Council promised at the public meeting that was held on 1st February in Benarty Centre, to do a walkabout of the areas worst affected by flooding in Ballingry.

That promise was kept, and the walkabout took place on Friday 17th May.

The walkabout started on the farm road, up past Dunmore Place, where the officers met residents who talked them through, and showed them where the issues arise.

Carol MacDonald then ferried the officers up the hill, so they could see for themselves where culverts are blocked.



The group then moved on to Kirkland Park, to meet with residents there about the flooding. The main issue is that drains are completely blocked, and this then sends water pouring into people's gardens and under their front doors.

The officers inspected various drains down the bottom of Kirkland Park, and before they left to go on to the next street, arrangements had been made for the Council to send out a drain clearing vehicle the following week (Wednesday 22nd May) to clear all the drains in Kirkland Park properly.

Next up was Kirkton Street, where the officers met with more residents. They also inspected the damage that has been done to the drains and the roads caused by the flooding.

(Continued on page 6)



The group then made their way to Navitie Park, where they inspected damage to road surfaces, and had a look at the cemetery and the area of waste ground opposite the shops in Benarty Square.



Last up was Kirkland Gardens, next to the nursery, where the road regularly floods when it rains.



The point of the walkabout was for Council officers to see for themselves, the worst affected areas, so that they can be taken into account when the catchment survey is being done.

The catchment survey should identify the technical solutions required, and the work that needs to be done, to prevent flooding problems in the long term.

The results of the catchment survey won't be available until Spring next year at the earliest.

Then Fife Council will need to find the money to carry out the work that's identified; and schedule that work into their programme. This will not be a quick fix, and it will be expensive.

As well as Community Councillors, two Local Councillors (Cllr Mary Lockhart [Labour] & Cllr Rosemay Liewald [SNP]) joined the Council officers on the walkabout. All our Local Councillors gave their assurances, at the public meeting on 1st February, to keep pressure on to make sure that the necessary work gets done; so it was good to see both parties being represented on the walkabout.

Many thanks to the local residents who gave up their time to meet with the Council officers.

New Community Team Members at Benarty Centre

We have 3 new temp community workers in the area, who are focussing on health and wellbeing, supporting community food projects and family work. Let's welcome them to Benarty.



Hi,

I am Tara, a Health and Wellbeing focussed Community Education worker who is based in Benarty Centre but cover the wider Cowdenbeath area.

I am currently running a Mountain Bike course for Young Men in partnership with Lochore Meadows. My focus of work is wellbeing for adults and outdoor sessions for Families.

I am passionate about wellbeing and connecting communities to access services and support.

I would love to hear what you do for your wellbeing in these busy times and am very excited to share some exciting summer projects soon.

Contact Tara.Khoury@fife.gov.uk

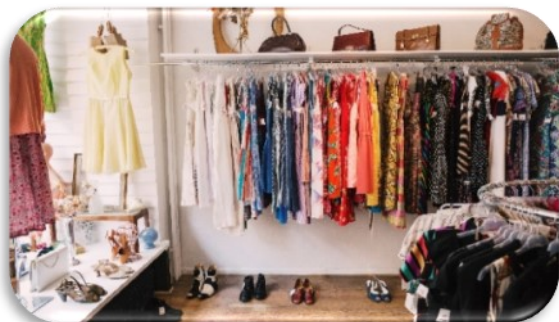
Mobile 07354164609

Krista holds a degree in Community Education from the University of Dundee and works for Fife Council as a Community Education worker, specifically working with community food projects and food education. Over the years she has worked in several community gardens supporting growing and healthy eating initiatives, connecting individuals and communities with nature and developing other community engagement activities. Krista is passionate about creating opportunities for children, young people and adults to learn about food and cooking so they can have a good relationship with eating healthy food.

Krista is looking forward to working with the local community, groups and individuals to share and learn more about food and food opportunities. She can be contacted at krista.Drazniece@fife.gov.uk



Hi, my name is Lesley Kirk, I am a Community Education Worker focussing on family work in the Cowdenbeath area. I am currently building relationships with various partners to identify family programme provision in centres, schools etc. For more information please contact me via email lesley.kirk@fife.gov.uk or by phone 07707 281311.



Monday
CLOSED
Tuesday
10:00 - 16:00
Wednesday
CLOSED
Thursday
10:00 - 16:00
Friday
10:00 - 16:00
Saturday
10:00 - 13:00
Sunday
CLOSED



**Come for a browse, and
stay for a coffee**

Advertisement



Original Miners' 1984/85 Strike Banners

There will be a display of original miners' strike 1984/85 banners on display in the Miners' Welfare Institute, Lochore, following the march & rally on 15th June. OnFife (Kirkcaldy Galleries) have kindly given permission for images of those banners to be published in this Newsletter.

The banners were designed and made by George Mackie and were saved for posterity by Iain Chalmers. They are currently housed in the archives in Glenrothes, so if you want to



Image courtesy of OnFife (Kirkcaldy Galleries) on behalf of Fife Council

Ten applications were received for funding from the Westfield Wind Farm: Benarty Community Fund. The public voting event was held on Saturday 11th May at the Benarty Centre.

Of the 10 applications, one was later rejected by the Wind Farm Panel because it was for a project that was not in Benarty.

We are delighted to report that all the other 9 applications were successful, with each being awarded the amount that they requested for their project.

The successful projects were:

Tartan Talkers

Their project aims to break down barriers and stigma associated with mental health, raise awareness of the issue of male suicide and improve men's mental health and wellbeing. The funds will cover the running costs of the group for 12 months. Amount Awarded: £2,000.

Benarty Heritage Preservation Group

Their project aims to restore several damaged local heritage information boards located at various sites of historic interest around the Benarty area. The funds will cover the cost of installing UV-protective Perspex on the heritage boards, plus fully replacing one sign which sustained significant damage. Amount Awarded: £2,500.



Benarty Community Shop

The Community Shop offers second-hand clothing, furniture & household items for sale at low cost for the whole community, along with a coffee shop area offering hot drinks and snacks. The funds will support additional hours for the Shop Manager, extending the role from part-time to full-time. Amount Awarded: £4,000.

Benarty Astros AFC

This project will maintain the pitch and grounds in order to enable safe training for all players. The funding will contribute to the cost of a new ride-on mower. Amount Awarded: £4,000.





Benarty Events Group

Their project will support the purchase of new bunting for the Benarty Gala. The Gala brings the whole community together to create a sense of belonging and celebration. The bunting, which decorates the parade route, acts as a highly recognisable sign to residents that the event is approaching. Amount Awarded: £4,000.

Save the Cage

Their project aims to create a display of large mining equipment and heritage information boards around the Mary Pithead Frame at Lochore Meadows Country Park. The funding will contribute to the cost of transferring the equipment from the National Mining Museum of Scotland to the park; and making it safe for visitors. Amount Awarded: £4,000.



Re-employ

Their project will offer secondary school pupils with additional needs, or those who find the school environment challenging, an opportunity to create a personalised product in a supported work environment. Each young person will experience various aspects of the manufacturing process. The funding will be used to purchase the equipment and resources necessary for the production of the personalised items. Amount Awarded: £2,703.27.

Benarty Community Shop

Their project involves an upgrade to the Community Shop's coffee area, allowing hot food items, such as toasties and soup, to be served in addition to the current selection of cold snacks. The funds will cover the cost of tables, chairs, white goods and small kitchen items. Amount Awarded: £1,074.81.

Lochore Welfare Junior Football Club

Their project is seeking to improve the safety and security of the pitch and grounds, in order to support youth football training. The funds will support the cost of installing perimeter netting to help prevent ball loss and partially contribute to the cost of installing pitch boundary fencing. Amount Awarded: £2,100.

It was quite a day at the Benarty Centre. The Fairy Wood Group took a table to show visitors what they had done with previous funding from the Wind Farm; Fife Voluntary Action had a table to encourage volunteering, and they were giving away lovely notebooks and other items; Jacqueline Morrison, who is based at Benarty Centre, had set up an area where kids could enjoy some crafting whilst their parents had a wander round the tables and read about the projects; and Foundation Scotland had provided a lovely buffet for everyone who came along.



Fairy Wood Table



Jacqueline Morrison with the Kids Craft Table



Turnout was affected by the clash of dates with the Old Firm Match; and, it was a gloriously sunny day, and people may have wanted to make the most of that; but the event was nevertheless successful, and the voting worked well.

Thank you to everyone who did manage to get along and vote; and we look forward to all the projects being successfully completed.

Community Education Worker: Mental Health & Wellbeing



Hi,

My name is Kirsty McElhinney.

I am a Community Education Worker for the Cowdenbeath team with a specific remit for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

I have been in this role since December 2021 and love the variety of things it allows me to do. I predominantly cover the ward 7 areas but work across the entire Cowdenbeath area for some projects and group work. I am part time and work Mon-Wed.

I currently deliver sessions focussing on increasing people's physical health and the link this has with an increase to their mental health. I am a Paths for all walk leader and facilitate walks and talks groups every Monday.

I am always open to meeting, chatting with and learning from people and if you had an idea of something you would like to take forward that falls within my remit, please contact me on kirsty.mcelhinney@fife.gov.uk.

PETS CORNER

Lorraine Robertson's lovely Leo looking quite the dapper chap!



Laura McConnell's cutie wabbit, Toobs!



PETS CORNER

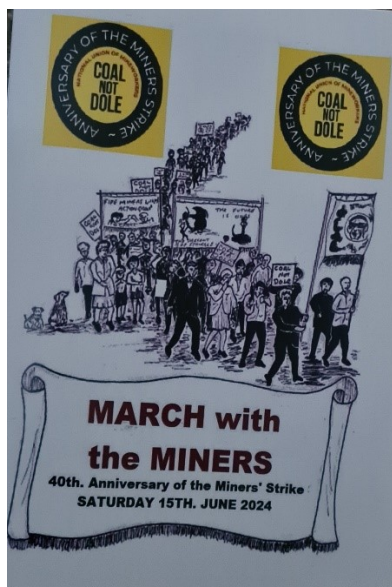


Sharon Scm's purrfect
double act –
Buttons and Magic

Keith Annandale's pawsome double act –
Millie and Monty



March With the Miners: 15th June



The programme for the Miners' March & Rally on 15th June is now available, for a financial donation, from The Red Goth, Lochore; Lochore Miners' Welfare Institute and the Community Shop in Ballingry.

The programme is a limited edition and includes brilliant articles about Benarty in the Miners; Strike: Their Story In Their Voices; Coalfield Justice in Scotland – Four Decades On; the Orgreave Truth & Justice Campaign; the Lochore Stone and the Save the Cage Project.

The programme is definitely a collector's edition and they'll go quickly.

All donations for the programme will go towards the Save the Cage project.

The arrangements for the day are:

1130 hrs	Assemble at the bus turning circle at the top of Ballingry Road, Ballingry
1200 hrs	March to Lochore Meadows Country Park
1300 hrs	Commemorative Rally
1400 hrs	Official Programme Ends

What if it's raining?

In the event of inclement weather, the march will still go ahead, but will terminate at Lochore Miners' Welfare Institute, where the speeches will be held.

What if it's scorchio?

If it's a scorching day, a water station will be provided outside The Red Goth in Lochore (about halfway through the parade route).

Toilets

Toilet facilities will be provided at the assembly point at the start of the march; along the route at the Benarty Centre, the Red Goth & Lochore Miners' Welfare Institute; and at the rally point in the Willie Clarke Centre.

Buses

Buses are also being provided for those who cannot manage the walk. The buses will also provide a shuttle service at the end of the rally to transport people back to Lochore.

Road Closures

Please be aware that there will be a series of rolling road closures along the route, to allow the

parade to pass through safely. The road closures will be managed by the Police. Your patience is appreciated.

Stewards

There will also be stewards along the route in hi-viz vests. If you have any problems, concerning the parade or rally, please speak to one of them.

First Aid

First Aid is being provided by the Mine Rescue Team.

Food & Drink

Food will be available after the rally, from the “Soup Kitchen” at Lochore Miners’ Welfare Institute. A donation for whatever is selected would be appreciated. Drinks will be available to purchase at both Lochore Miners’ Welfare Institute and the Red Goth, Lochore (directly opposite the Institute).

Entertainment

For a full list of the entertainment that is being provided by Lochore Miners’ Welfare Institute and the Red Goth, after the rally, please see the official programme for the event. The programmes will also be available on the day.

Support

Benarty has a good record of remembering the strike and the coal industry. Without coal, our villages would be tiny compared to what they are now. Coal gave us our identity and forged us into the close community that we continue to be today.

Please show that support by joining this peaceful, commemorative parade, or by lining the route to cheer everyone on as they pass through on their way to The Meedies.

Even if you can’t do the parade, you are all welcome to enjoy the entertainment in The Tute and the Red Goth afterwards.



Image courtesy of OnFife (Kirkcaldy Galleries) on behalf of Fife Council



News to B.R.A.G about

Dunfermline business supports Benarty based growing project



Technip FMC staff were definitely on hand to help out the community garden project in Benarty this month. They provided vital volunteer hours as well as a critical cash donation which was used to purchase extra topsoil.

Community Roots is a new community growing space that has been created at BRAG's Community Enterprise Centre in Crosshill. BRAG already operates the Food for Thought program there as well as a weekly food pantry called Pantry@BRAG which currently has over 300 members. It also plays host to the Benarty branch of the Dunfermline Foodbank.

Community Roots will act as a complementary garden space that seeks to improve connections between members of the community through the medium of growing. It will provide the facilities, resources, training and inspiration to encourage local people to grow and eat locally produced fruit and vegetables, helping them save money, whilst supporting positive mental health & wellbeing.

Kirsten Spence who is the Operations Manager at BRAG responsible for the Community Roots Project said "This is an exciting opportunity. The overall objectives of the project are to create a community growing space that provides fresh and affordable produce for our pantry, the foodbank and people's own use. Our aim is also to create a training, outdoor learning and test space for people to gain knowledge and experience, where they can trial growing before they commit to maybe growing in their own garden, and at a secondary level for the wider community and volunteers to work outside, supporting health and wellbeing, with the knowledge they will be helping others, supporting wider community engagement and participation. We also plan to use the space as a trial space for our employability trainees and thank Coalfields Regeneration Trust for gifting tools and equipment".

Brian Robertson-Fern the Managing Director at BRAG also said "We were so pleased that local businesses have stepped in to help. We had financial support from Edinburgh Airport, Brockwell Energy, Ventient Energy Wind Farm and Fife Environmental Trust. However, Technip FMC have gone above and beyond sending us a team of volunteers that have proven invaluable in preparing the space for our grand opening on the 8th June".



What's On In Benarty This Quarter

Army Cadets

Every Tuesday & Thursday 7-9pm Cadet Hall, Navitie Park High School Children, aged 12 & over

Arts Club

Every Monday 1-3pm Benarty Centre There is currently a waiting list.

Ballingry Rovers 40th Anniversary Reunion

Wednesday 5th June 11am to 2pm Benarty Centre Everyone who was ever connected to the club are welcome to attend.

Benarty Children's Gala

Sunday 30th June 11am The Meedies Parade leaves Benarty Centre

Bookbug Sessions

Every Thursday 10.30-11am Benarty Library Babies, Toddlers, Pre-School Children & their families. There are limited spaces available so please contact the library to book a place. Tel: 01592 583526 Email: benarty.library@onfife.com

Community Council

First Thursday of every month 7-9pm Benarty Centre All welcome. Note: There are no meetings in July or August.

Companions' Club

Every Friday 11am-2pm Benarty Centre Aimed at older members of the community, but all are welcome to attend.

Crochet Group

Every 2nd Thursday 11am-12.30pm The Pantry Hall, BRAG All welcome.

Cycling

Fife Cycle Track, Glenraig. Details on how to book can be found at:

Entertainment

The pubs and clubs in Benarty have entertainment nearly every weekend. Please watch out for advertisements on the various Benarty social media sites, as well as on the pubs'/clubs' own sites.

The Cleikum Inn (Ballingry); The Craigie Bar (Ballingry); Lochore Welfare Football Club (Crosshill); The Masonic Hall (Glenraig); The Miners' Welfare Institute (Lochore); The Red Goth (Lochore).

Family Fun Day at BRAG

Saturday 8 th June	11am	BRAG, Crosshill	Free to attend
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Foodbank

Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday	4-6pm	BRAG, Crosshill	Needs a referral from an appropriate body. Donations welcome direct to the Foodbank (15 mins before each session), or at the Community Shop, The Nail Lassie or Lochore Co-op.
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Football

Lochore Welfare JFC Match Fixtures not available at time of going to print.

Football Classes

Wednesdays	9.30-10.15am	Benarty Centre	Tots Kickers 18months–3 yrs
Wednesdays	4-4.45pm	Benarty Centre	Mini Kickers 3-5 yrs
Wednesdays	5-6pm	Benarty Centre	Fun Football P1-3

The Football Classes are organised by Cowden in the Community. Starts Wednesday 5th June. Ends Wednesday 19th June. Contact: cowdeninthecommunity@gmail.com or Tel: 07791 801557.

Football (Girls)

Every Tuesday	3.15-4pm and	Benarty Centre	Organised by Fife Council in partnership with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.
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Benarty Heritage Preservation Group

Every Monday	1.30pm-3.30pm	Benarty Centre	New members welcome
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Highland Dancing

Every Wednesday	5.30pm-8.30pm	Benarty Centre
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Indoor Bowls

Every Wednesday	6.30-9pm	Benarty Centre	The club takes a summer break from 12 June to 2 October.
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Jobs' Club

Every Tuesday	2-4pm	Benarty Centre
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Kinship Carers' Group

Every Wednesday	10-11am	Benarty Centre
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Kinship Care Open Day

Wednesday 19 th June	10am-Noon	Benarty Centre	Meet some workers from the kinship team & some kinship carers. Food provided. Contact: Tel: 01592 583554; or just pop along.
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What's On In Benarty This Quarter (continued)

Ladies' Circle

Every Wednesday	2.15-4.15pm	Benarty Centre	
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Masonic Lodge

Saturday 1 st June	Time tbc	Masonic Lodge, Manse Road,	Entertainment: Pamela
Saturday 6 th July	Time tbc	-“-	Entertainment: Kenny Smith
Saturday 3 rd August	Time tbc	-“-	Entertainment: Billy Fox

Miners' March & Rally

Saturday 15 th June	Noon	Parade leaves from the top of Ballingry Road (bus turning circle) &
	1pm	Rally at The Meedies
	2.30pm onwards	Various entertainment at Lochore Miners' Welfare Institute and The Red Goth, Lochore

Nurture & Nature

Wednesday 19 th – 26 th June; 3 July	3.15-5.15pm	Benarty Centre	Free family play sessions. 3-week sessions. To book email: benarty.centre@fife.gov.uk
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The Pantry

Every Thursday	1-3pm	BRAG, Crosshill	There is currently a waiting list.
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Pipe Band & Highland Dancing Competition

Saturday 22 nd June	Noon	The Meedies
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Religious Services

Benarty has three main places of worship, with services held every Saturday/Sunday. The Church and Chapel alternate services between Benarty and Lochgelly.

The Gospel Hall (Crosshill); Ss Kenneth's & Bernards's Chapel (Ballingry); St Serf's Church (Ballingry).

Running Club

Every Monday & Wednesday	6pm	The Boathouse, Lochore Meadows Country Park
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Sewing Class

Every Thursday	6.30-8.45pm	Benarty Centre
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Sunday School

Every Sunday	4pm	Gospel Hall, Crosshill
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What's On In Benarty This Quarter (continued)

Taekwondo

Every Monday	6.30-8pm	Benarty Centre	Kids 8yrs+ & Adults
Every Tuesday	6.15-7pm	Benarty Centre	Kids 3-8 yrs
Every Thursday	7-8pm	Benarty Centre	Kids 8 yrs+ & Adults

Tartan Talkers Club

Every Friday	7-9pm	St Serf's Church, Ballingry
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Water Sports

A range of water sports is available at the Outdoor Education Centre at Lochore Meadows Country Park. For more information on what the centre can offer, please visit: outdooreducation.fife.scot/; or contact them by phone on 01592 583388.

Yoga

Tuesday	10-11am	Benarty Centre
Wednesday	6.30-7.30pm	Benarty Centre

Youth Clubs

Junior

Mondays & Tuesdays	5.30-7pm	Benarty Centre	Primary School Aged 8+
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Senior

Tuesdays	7.30-9pm	Benarty Centre	High School Ages
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The summer events being organised by the Community Team at the Benarty Centre were not available at the time of going to print, so please look out for announcements from them on social media.



News to B.R.A.G about

Family Fun Day at B.R.A.G

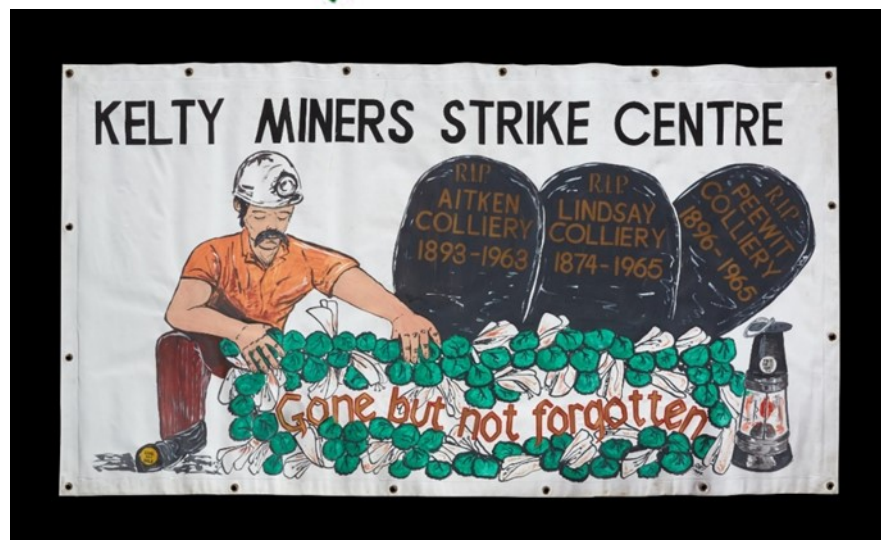


Image courtesy of OnFife (Kirkcaldy Galleries) on behalf of Fife Council

Save the Cage: Project Update

The Save the Cage group are delighted to announce that following a generous and recent grant from Fife Environment Trust, which in turn gave us enough in the bank to release a pledge from Brockwell Energy Westfield Community Fund, we can now get things moving in earnest with our project to transfer major items of mining equipment from the National Mining Museum of Scotland (NMMS) to Lochore Meadows Country Park.

We were also successful in being awarded a grant from the Wind Farm, which will help to cover the cost of those elements of the project that aren't covered by the grant from Fife Environment Trust.

The group were down at The Meedies to mark out the spaces for the plinths that will hold the equipment, and a site visit with our main contractor and the Park Manager was held on 14th May. Diggers should be on site within the next couple of months, with a view to opening the exhibition at the end of the summer.

There are still a few "i's" to dot, and "t's" to cross on the legal agreements but things are progressing nicely.

We will be working with the NMMS on the content for the storyboards; and we will be working on an information board to list and thank everyone who has contributed to achieving our goal.

We will continue to raise funds for the project to make sure that we have enough to cover maintenance of the exhibits for several years. Some of the items are shown below.

We are overwhelmed by the support that we have received for this project, not just in terms of finance, but moral support too. It was needed! There were times when it felt like 2 steps forward and one step back, particularly during the covid years when everything came grinding to a halt; but we are so close to completion now. Just seeing the corners of the plinths being marked out was exciting!

We will record every stage of the process and keep everyone up to date on developments.

Iain Chalmers
Chairperson
Cave the Cage



Coal Cutter



Man Riding Bogie



Coal Shearer

Microgrants Awarded

Over the past three months, the following microgrant applications were approved by the Benarty Community Council.

Group	Reason	Amount Awarded
Lyn Malvenan (Benarty Primary Parent Council)	To pay for markings, in a sensory garden, to enable additional support children to ride on bikes etc; be independent & learn through play.	£250
Save the Cage	Contribution to help cover the costs of the Miners' March & Rally.	250
S6 Pupils, Lochgelly High School	Contribution to the cost of their S6 end of term prom.	250

Anyone, or Group, can apply for a microgrant provided that they live in Benarty and/or the grant will fund a project in Benarty. The maximum microgrant amount is £250.



The funds for these grants come from the Wind Farm Panel; are administered by Foundation Scotland; with decisions taken by the Benarty Community Council.



Application forms are available from the Benarty Centre or from the Benarty Community Council website: www.benartycc.org.uk There is no deadline for applications. The Community Council consider applications at each of their normal monthly meetings throughout the year.



02-UK 3G 02:54 100%
 < GMAC Martial Arts's post



Message GMAC Martial Arts

We got this lovely letter from Lesley Skivington after she was awarded a micro grant earlier this year (reported in the last Newsletter).

"Thank you to Benarty Community Council for the micro grant they donated to me on behalf of my granddaughter Jodi Skivington. This money will be used in Jodi's upcoming trip to Rome to compete in the ITF Roma competition. This support means a lot to us. I will update you all with how the competition goes.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Skivington"

Jodi didn't win the competition, but she gained valuable experience at a high level. This can only auger well for her future. Well done, Jodi. Your community is proud of you.

AN INTERVIEW WITH WATTY WATSON

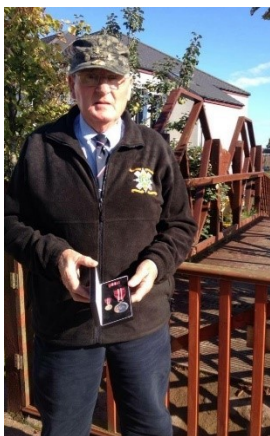


Watty Watson

You're an Australian. What brought you and your family to Fife?

My parents lived in Fife originally and my dad was a miner before he went to Australia. They emigrated in early 1965 as £10 poms, as my dad had family there. He loved it. Due to his training in mine rescue and health & safety, he ended up becoming an ambulance driver. He was also in the Australian Army during the Vietnam War and was awarded an Australian Defence Medal. I was born shortly after they emigrated to Australia. My mum struggled to settle though, and she became increasingly homesick; so we moved back home to Fife in 1970. Dad started work back in Bogside Mine in 1970, then moved to Comrie, then Solsgirth.

What age were you when you became a Fifer? 5.



Mr Watson with his medal.



Close-up of the Australian Defence Medal.

What age were you when you become a miner?

I was 16. I remember having to stay on at school till 5th year because, with my birthday being in November, I was too young to leave in the summer. In December, I started a 12-week welding course at the Lauder Tech; then followed my dad into the pit.

Did you want to do any other jobs?

To be honest, no. I'd always envisaged going down the pit. My dad was a miner and my grandad was a miner. They loved the pit, and I knew I would too.

Were you on the local Branch Committee of the NUM?

I assisted with the youth delegate at Bogside Mine, but not on the committee. I was never in an elected position but helped out when needed.

What age were you when you were arrested; and how many times were you arrested?

I was arrested exactly one week after my 19th birthday; and I was only arrested once.

What were the circumstances?

It truly was a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. I had walked down to Lochore Institute, at about 5am, and I was the only one around. A couple of police vehicles rolled up, in convoy with a van carrying a few miners who had returned to work, and I flicked the "vs" at the van. The rear police car pulled over and one of the policemen arrested me. It was a stitch-up and I got done for breach of the peace.

How did you end up being sacked?

That incident happened on Friday 16th November 1984 and I was sacked on 20th November 1984.

Did you try to get your job back?

Yes. I had a strong case for taking the coal board to a tribunal. The other policeman in the car and some of the miners who had been in the van were willing to testify on my behalf that I had done absolutely nothing to warrant being arrested, let alone being sacked. However, the NUM and the coal board had reached an agreement through ACAS, and I was recommended to accept that option. It meant that I got my job back, but no compensation for lost wages or pension contributions. I finally got my job back in December 1985. I then went on to work in the pits for 20 years and ended up being a Deputy. I worked right up to 2002, when the last deep mine closed (Longannet). That's where the second knife in the back comes. All the miners who were in Longannet could have taken redundancy from earlier pits and would have received around £27,000. However, because Longannet was a privatised pit, only the state minimum redundancy was offered: £4,000 per person. The men moved to Longannet because they believed that the pit had a long-term future. As it was, the pit was lost when 17^{1/2} million gallons of water breached and flooded the mine. There was an outcry from politicians about the paltry redundancy amount, especially when another pit in Yorkshire had also just announced its closure with the miners getting their full entitlement. The Yorkshire pit hadn't been privatised though. The Labour government awarded the miners £5,000 in compensation, giving a payment of £9,000 in total – a far cry from the £27,000 the miners should have had.

You were really active in trying to achieve justice for sacked miners; and you've led the work to organise the 40th anniversary march & rally to commemorate the 1984/85 strike. What motivates you to keep going with this?

I was the youngest miner to be sacked in Scotland; probably the UK. The year I spent being sacked was worse than the year's strike. I didn't know if I would be able to get another job, or whether I was blacklisted or not. It was a dreadful time. We did everything together, campaigning, raising money. The families deserve compensation. It was hard, really hard. There appeared to be no future and it messed with everyone's heads. I knew I had been victimised, so I felt compelled to try to get our jobs back. There's also a tinge of guilt mixed in because I was the only one of the Benarty 6 to get their job back. The other men were pleased for me, so there were no hard feelings, but it made me determined to continue to fight for some kind of justice for the others.

Why should anyone care after 40 years?

We should all care because the same thing can happen again. You only need to look at the P&O fire & re-hire policy; and the increased use of zero hours contracts. The circumstances run true to this day. Workers' rights and their terms & conditions of employment are badly depleted now.

Isn't there a risk that it might open up old wounds between those miners who remained on strike for the whole duration and those who went back to work before the end of the strike?

The wounds aren't old, because they haven't healed yet. This community wasn't divided. There were a few people who were exploited by the NCB through the offer of money to return to work.

False promises were made and unfortunately, some miners, having stayed solid for almost the whole year, believed those false promises.

You only have to look at the adverts that were being placed in the newspapers by the NCB, telling miners that if they took the money & returned to work, they would "save pits, protect jobs and secure the future of our industry".

Well, we all know what really happened!

ADVERTISEMENT

IF YOU TURN UP FOR WORK THIS WEEK, YOU WON'T BE ALONE.

WEEK ENDING:	MINERS RETURNING TO WORK:
NOV. 9th.	2,201
NOV. 16th.	5,016
NOV. 23rd.	?

On Monday and Tuesday of this week more than 3,250 miners made up their minds and returned to work.
As each day goes by, more and more miners see the total futility of letting this damaging dispute drag on any longer.
For more than 63,000 NUM members the strike is already over.
And tomorrow, it could be over for you.

Return to work this week and you'll take home up to £100 in weekly wages, holiday pay and other entitlements before Christmas.
And you'll be helping to save pits, protect jobs and secure the future of our industry.
So think about the real issues now. Then contact your manager.

NCB
Management are doing all they can to keep the pits open.
Help us secure your future.

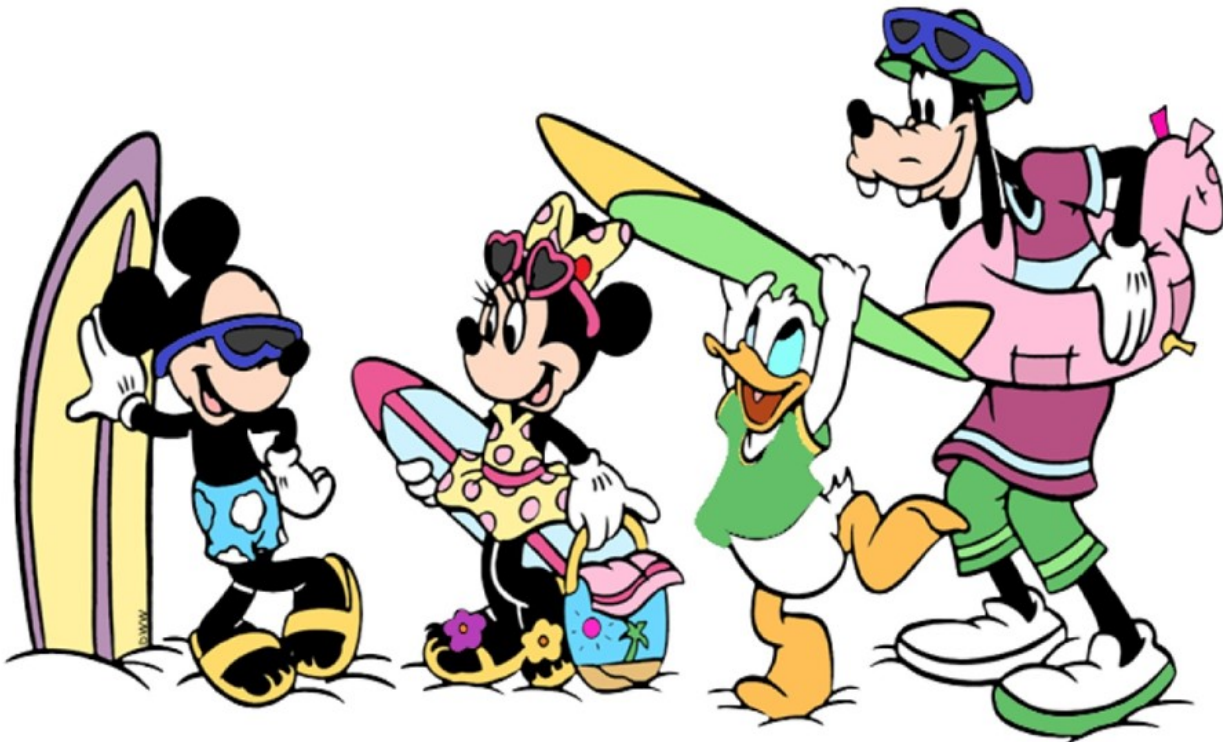
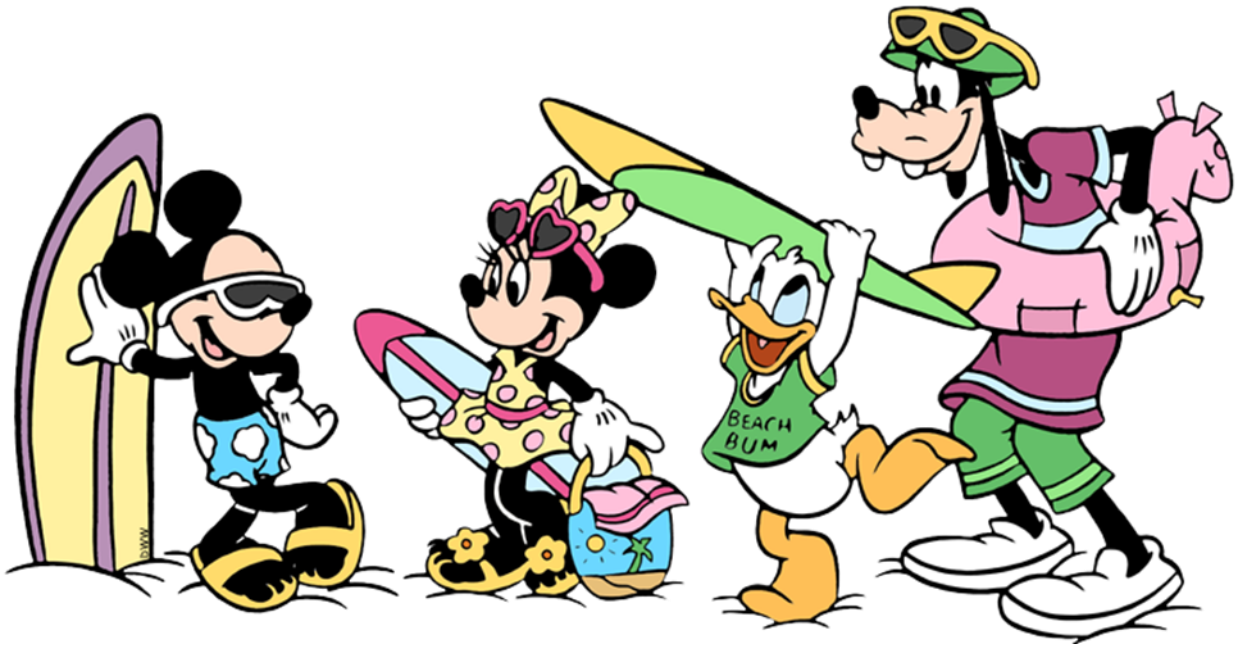
How did you end up being a train driver?

It was down to my dad again. He became an undertaker in 1988 and we lived above the shop in Cowdenbeath. One of his colleagues (Dave Eadie) got a job as a train driver and dad saw the potential & encouraged me to apply. I spent 6 months as a ticket inspector; then I was a conductor for 2 years; and have now been a train driver for 20 years. I have remained active initially as local level rep for ASLEF, where I was elected 3 times after being co-opted in the Edinburgh depot. Then was elected the local level rep at Dundee depot for the RMT. I consider it a huge honour to be elected by my colleagues to represent them. I was then elected by the Branch Committee to be the Health & Safety rep, 4 times; and I have now spent the last 4 years as the Equality Rep.



KIDZ CORNER

CAN YOU SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES?



KIDZ CORNER

Summer Search

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BEACH
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SUNSCREEN
SANDALS
SWIMMING
ICE CREAM
BOAT
PICNIC
GALA
SODA
SANDCASTLE
FUN
TRUNKS
HOLIDAY

Benarty & Lochgelly Credit Union
11 Benarty Square
Ballingry. KY5-8NR
Tel: 01592 868800



The Opening Hours are:

Monday	9.15am to 12.45pm
Tuesday	9.15am to 11.45am
Thursday	6.15pm to 8pm
Friday	4.15pm to 6.45pm

The Credit Union also operates from the Lochgelly Centre on a Monday morning from 9.30am to 10.20am.



Saturday 24th August

Headliner: Suzi Quatro
Bay City Rollers
Kyle Falconer of The View
QFX
Dirty Harry Edinburgh
The Gerry Cinna-Man Experience – Tribute
The Ultimate Rock Show
Massaoke
Instant Credit



Meedies Running Club 24 Hour Relay

The fabulous Meedies Running Club 24 Hour Relay returns to Lochore Meadows Country Park on Friday 5th July through to Saturday 6th July 2024. The event commences at 7pm on Friday 5th July, and finishes at 7pm on Saturday 6th July. The setting for this event is the fantastic, multi-terrain 5k route around the stunning loch.

The event has been running for quite a few years and thousands of pounds has been raised for charities and local causes. Last year £1200 was raised which was distributed to the local schools and nurseries. The event also collects foodstuff and toiletries for local food provision which is distributed to the local community.

Participants are welcome to come along to walk, jog or run at least a 5k at your own time and pace around the loch path, and finisher medals will be presented to everyone completing a minimum of one lap. As part of the event there will be an entry option of Single distance Championship and a Team (of 6) Relay Championship.

The start line will be adjacent to the Willie Clarke Centre on the grass area beside the main car park. Drinks and refreshments will be available at all times courtesy of the Meedies Running Club members. There will be a gazebo tent for shelter if required and space to store your bags and belongings.

There will also be a BBQ at certain times with minimum costs.

Please note that you can run, walk or jog the course depending on your ability as everyone is welcome to take part! Children are welcome to take part as long as they are accompanied by an adult, children in buggies are free of charge.

CaniCross runners are also welcome.

You can sign up via Entry Central (<https://www.entrycentral.com>) or just come along to the event where cash payment can be taken on the day – the cost per entry is £12, the proceeds going to charitable causes. The entire event is organised and run by volunteers and for more information please pop an email to Meedies.runningclub@outlook.com



**UNISON Fife represents employees of the council and workers in voluntary organisations in and around Fife.
We negotiate for better pay and conditions, help individuals in trouble and campaign for a safer, fairer society.**

**To join UNISON go to
<https://joining.unison.org.uk/join-unison-today>**

**Follow us on Facebook
Unisonfifebranch**



**UNISON Fife Branch Web Site
<https://www.Unisonfife.org.uk>**

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Advertisement

Planning Proposals

Over the past three months, no new planning applications have been registered, or decisions taken on existing planning applications, that affect our Community.

The Community Council does not normally comment on domestic planning applications.



Image courtesy of OnFife (Kirkcaldy Galleries) on behalf of Fife Council

What we do

Supported self-help deals with the challenges of today: the focus is not what happened in the past and there is no requirement to discuss this.

We support people to develop tools and techniques to better manage their mental health. The service is delivered via up to eight 1:1 sessions with a self-help coach, and is available to individuals 16 years and over based in Fife whose lives are negatively affected by childhood trauma.

Better Than Well also run training and learning events for other organisations in Fife to increase awareness of the impact of childhood trauma, share good practice, and encourage people to get involved with the Better Than Well program.

What is trauma?

Trauma can be viewed as an event, series of events or set of circumstances experienced as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening with lasting adverse effects such as feelings of fear and helplessness.

Examples of traumatic events in childhood include:

- Emotional, physical and sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Witnessing abuse and violence

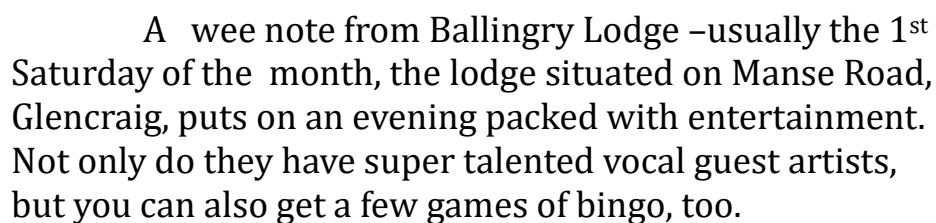
How we can help you

The self-help coaches use a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy or CBT based approach which introduces resources, techniques, and tools tailored to help people:

- Recognise and understand the impact of trauma
- Identify personal outcomes and how to work towards them
- Connect to other services and sources of support in the community
- To improve mental wellbeing

How can you get support

Better Than Well offers support to all residents in Fife over the age of 16. For residents in the Northeast and Southwest communities this will only be available via phone or video call. For all other localities, there is a blended model of delivery with face-to-face meetings, video, or telephone sessions available. For more information on the service or for a referral to the Better Than Well service, please visit <https://www.linkliving.org.uk/betterthanwell> and fill in the relevant referral form, or email enquiries@linkliving.org.uk or contact us on **0330 303 0302**.



The lodge isn't just about having a good time though - in the past year they've raised over a million pounds for charity nationwide, and thousands for local charities, too.

As well as joining them on the Saturdays, why not visit their tombola stall at the Gala, Sunday 30th June 2024, try and grab yourself a prize, all the while the proceeds will go help local causes.

If you'd like to pop the dates in your diary for the Saturdays, here they are:

1st June - Pamela

6th July - Kenny Smith

3rd August - Billy Fox

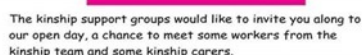
7th September - Pamela

5th October - Keith Tolson

9th November - Kenny Smith

14th December - Jamie Dee

All dates and artists correct at time of press



Where: Benarty Community Centre, Ballingry

When: Wednesday 19th June

Time: 10am till 12pm

Food will be provided

If you can make it please contact Kinship Duty to confirm 01592 583554 or reach out to us on our facebook page Fife Kinship Care or just pop along.

Look forward to meeting you.



BENARTY THEN AND NOW...

Mary Pit Disaster

In connection with the explosion of gas which occurred in the Mary Pit, Lochore, about a year ago, when three men were killed and four injured, an Indignation Meeting was held on Thursday night, in the public hall, under the auspices of the Lochore & Glenraig Branch of the Miners' Union.

The meeting was called for the purpose of protesting against the offers of the Insurance Companies. The attendance was large and a vote condemning the offers made was unanimously passed.

The offers are as follows:

Mr Abel	£75	Injured
Mr Bell	£80	Injured
Mr Thomson	£100	Injured
Mr Peggie	£200	Injured
Mr Gibson	£150	Fatal
Mr Law	£100	Fatal
Mr Stein	£200	Fatal

On Tuesday, at the instance of the relatives of Gibson, a test case will come up for proof in Edinburgh, when £750 is being asked for. This sum represents a larger amount than the amount offered for all cases.

The Cowdenbeath & Lochgelly Times & Advertiser
Wednesday July 7th 1909

The Mary Pit Explosion – Heavy Damages Against the Company

After three days trial in the Court of Session, before the Lord Justice, Clerk and a jury, verdicts were returned on Thursday in four actions of damages against The Fife Coal Company Limited.

The actions arose out of an explosion of inflammable gas in the myneer seam of the defenders' Mary Pit, Lochore on the 2nd February 1908, which resulted in the death of three miners and the injuries of a number of others.

The myneer seam is 180 feet above the five-foot seam to which the shaft is sunk. Inflammable gas was met within the course of operations, and safety lamps only were in use. As the workings were developed, the air current was found to be insufficient.

The jury, after an absence of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour, returned a unanimous verdict for the pursuers.

Gibson entitled to £300; Stein £300; Bell £350 and Thomson £500.

The Cowdenbeath & Lochgelly Times & Advertiser
Wednesday July 14th 1909

It's horrendous accidents and judgements like this that made the miners fight so hard to improve working conditions. Dangerous, dirty work + 3 men's lives + 4 more injured = £1,825.

Brian Menzies

Have Your Say

If you have any opinions, that you'd like to share on this Newsletter, or if there are any announcements, articles or photos you'd like to contribute, please email them to:

charlotte.howe@benartycc.org.uk; or you can hand them in, or post them to,

Benarty Community Council

The Benarty Community Council meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm in the Benarty Centre, Ballingry. You can write to the Secretary of the Community Council, Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Avenue, Ballingry. KY5-8JH; or email the Secretary at: john.purdie@benartycc.org.uk. The papers for meetings are also available online at: www.benartycc.org.uk and in the local library in Benarty Centre.

Local Councillors Contact Details

Benarty is part of Ward 8, within Fife Council's boundaries, which also includes Cardenden, Lochgelly & Lumphinnans. There are 4 Local Councillors who cover the Ward, so each of the four represent Benarty as part of their remit. If you have any issues, about areas for which Fife Council is responsible, you can contact any of the Local Councillors direct. The details are shown below.

Name	Party	Telephone Number	Email Address
Linda Erskine	Labour	Mobile: 07930 607403 Fife House: 03451 555555 Ext 442455	cldr.linda.erskine@fife.gov.uk
Rosemary Liewald	SNP	Mobile: 07725 223776 Fife House:	cldr.rosemary.liewald@fife.gov.uk
Mary Lockhart	Labour	Mobile: 07515 289982 Fife House:	cldr.mary.lockhart@fife.gov.uk
Lea McLelland	SNP	Mobile: 07596 727308 Fife House:	cldr.lea.mclelland@fife.gov.uk

You can also write to any of the four Local Councillors at: c/o Members Services, Fife House, Glenrothes, Fife. KY7-5LT

Member of Scottish Parliament: Annabelle Ewing MSP (Office) 01383 611067; (Parliament) 0131 3485066

annabelle.ewing.msp@parliament.scot

Advertising

If you'd like to advertise your business in this Newsletter, please contact Debbie Doyle at debbie.doyle@benartycc.org.uk; or leave a note with your