



## MCCI Festival

MCCI are organizing a special open day this year to kick off Methilhill's first growing competition! Beginners and experienced growers welcome from the whole of Fife, expert advice will be on hand and fantastic prizes are on offer. The day will include stalls, face painting, BBQ and a play in our garden. 28th of May to find out more information please join us on Facebook at Methilhill Community Children's Initiative @outdooradventuresinthelearninggarden or email [mcci@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mcci@hotmail.co.uk)



## Imagination

Long term CLEAR volunteer Liz has been hard at work these past few months recycling unused CLEAR Buckhaven Heritage cloth calendars into other attractive useable items.



CLEAR possessed a large stock of unsold calendars for every year of the past decade which were gathering dust. With her customary zeal and imagination. Liz as transformed these into attractive cloth bags, bunting for our outdoor events, and a large banner. These unique bags are on sale at The Hub or upcoming CLEAR events for £3 each.



Buckhaven & Methil

# Community Newsletter

## May 2022

Bringing news from around the community

## Brighter Buckhaven & Methil



Photo by Ryan at Monarch Photography

With the advent of spring and the promise of summer, Buckhaven and, increasingly Methil, has been brightened by uplifting displays of spring bulbs around local parks and roadside verges, most planted by CLEAR. We have been planting around 120,000 bulbs a year, mainly daffodils and crocus but also some snowdrop, tulip and others. We plan to extend this each year to replicate and extend this riot of spring colour.



## List of Events

**Saturday 14th May**  
Home growing and plant sale  
Buckhaven Growing Space  
Open Day 11am-2pm



**Saturday 25th June**  
Methil Community Garden  
Open Day 11am-2pm



**Saturday 10th September**  
Buckhaven Growing Space  
Open Day 11am-2pm

### APPLE HARVEST OPEN DAY

**Sunday 18th Sept**  
Coastal Clean-up Buckhaven  
Old Harbour 11am-1pm

**Sunday 30th October**  
Methil Community Garden  
Open Day 11am-2pm

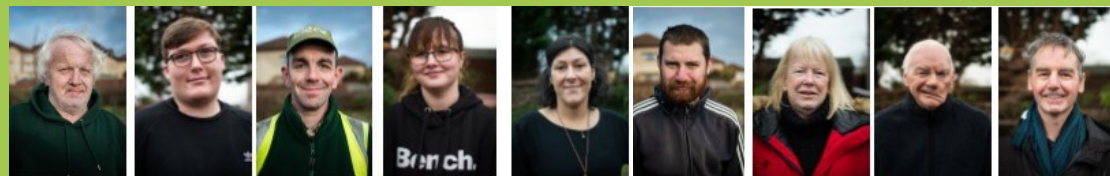


Keep an eye on our facebook for weekend events including bike rides, litter picking clean ups, garden workshops and more.

How about getting fitter, healthier and inspired while making your community a better place—and have fun along the way?

CLEAR offers a range of safe, outdoor activities that can build confidence, create new relationships, it's great for your CV and can provide real satisfaction including:

Tree planting and maintenance; community gardening; woodworking; catering and food; bike recycling and repair; litter picking; environmental improvements: communication; office and administration activities; events.



Contact us on 01592 715021

[www.clearfife.org](http://www.clearfife.org)

[Hub@Clearfife.org](mailto:Hub@Clearfife.org)

[Facebook.com/CLEARFife](https://www.facebook.com/CLEARFife)



Clear, 36 College Street, Buckhaven  
Clear SCIO: SC043573

WE ARE A LOCAL CHARITY CREATING A BRIGHTER, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE BY DRAWING IN LOCAL RESIDENTS AND GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR COMMUNITY-LED REJUVENATION PROGRAMS.



## The Together Levenmouth Project

The Together Levenmouth Project managed by BRAG Enterprises were thrilled to have well known Fife Artist and Sculptor David Mach officially open the Together Levenmouth Hub on 5th April. The initiative was funded by local and national government and is aimed at increasing visitors to Levenmouth.

With 2 escape rooms, 2 crazy golf rooms, a café and gift shop it is sure to help increase tourism to the area. Profits will go back into the community through various workshops and projects hosted by the Hub.

Currently running is a bingo club, for residents of Levenmouth nursing homes.

The team also run the Levenmouth Community Lottery and are looking at a membership discount for those who subscribe to the lottery via the website with a weekly subscription earning 10% off Hub prices! To subscribe or find out more about the hub visit [www.togetherlevenmouth.co.uk](http://www.togetherlevenmouth.co.uk)



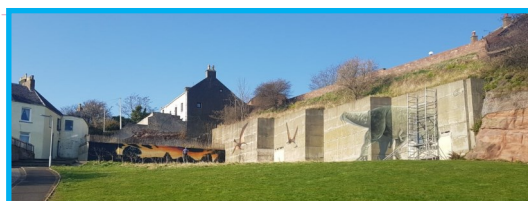
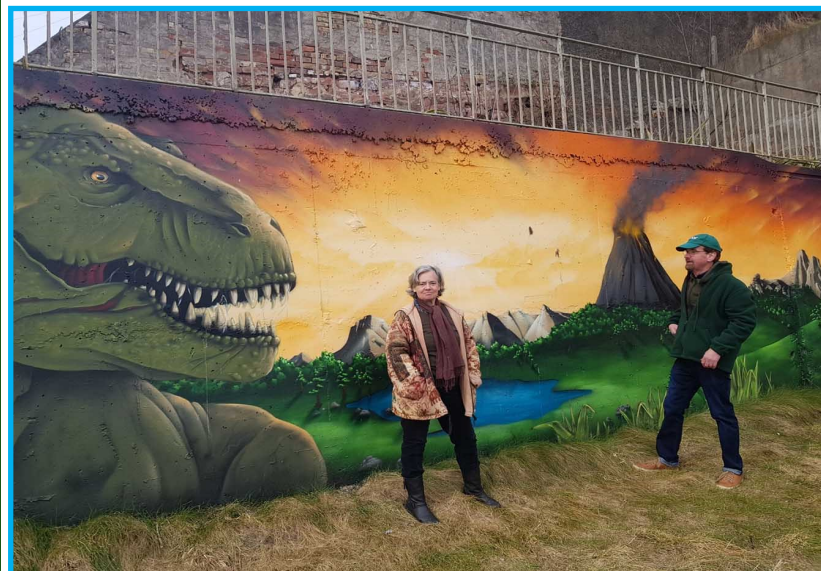
## Buckhaven's Dinosaur Murals

The second phase of Buckhaven's striking dinosaur mural has been belatedly completed at the Shore St/Anderson Lane site. Flying pteradons, triceratops and a Jurassic landscape have been added to the scary T-rex and is already drawing visitors

The mural has turned two depressing concrete walls, the remains of demolished flats built in the late 1960s, into an asset as part of a wider programme to enhance the Buckhaven's neglected Foreshore led by CLEAR with Council support. The spring bulbs, archways and soon, additional heritage panels will add to the trimtrail, benches and picnic tables recently installed along with the improved path and selective tree planting and totems to enhance the location's appeal of this fabulous coastal location.

The Jurassic them can educate as well as fire the imagination of a younger audience. CLEAR Chair, Bob Taylor. *"The site looks out over the Forth 'ring of fire', the circle of extinct volcanoes (Bass Rock, Berwick Law, Arthurs Seat, Largo Law etc) clearly visible so the landscape in earlier times can be easily imagined. The dystopian menace conveyed can prompt awareness of the impending risks of climate change which, if not controlled, could return our planet to a state before humans destroyed it."*

The same artist Ian Tayac (known professionally as Paco Graff), is French and lives north of Dundee.



## Levenmouth rail line advancing

Restoration of the almost 6-mile branch line from Thornton Junction to Leven is proceeding. The first mile of single track line (the remainder is double-track) is now in place with significant work also started on five underbridges along the line. The timetable for services to resume has slipped from December 23 to March 24. Direct Leven-Edinburgh services should run twice per hour, one via the western side of the Fife Circle (Dunfermline, etc) and one via the east side (Kirkcaldy etc) with no need to change except for journeys north to Dundee and Perth. Journey time is estimated to be around 70 minutes but the line will be electrification-ready so this should reduce in future. Cameron Bridge will serve as the park and ride focus with up to 300 parking places, while Leven station (behind the Leisure Centre), located very close to the bus station, will have 90 parking places.

Consultation on design and facilities of both stations are likely to take place in May. A wider place making concept has been developed but it is vital local residents share their views and priorities. Apart from this issue, two other key challenges remain to be resolved. Firstly, crossings and access. For example, the crossing into Cameron Bridge station (located between the dam and Standin Stane – not the old station site) needs to be direct or over half the potential passenger catchment in Methilhill, Methil and Leven will not find it convenient to use. The issue of freight and the location of an intended freight terminal is becoming critical and seems to depend on Diageo's own commercial interests yet this will determine whether their 20,000 plus HGV goods movements annually by road continue over inadequate local roads. Note the major Bawbee Bridge £8.3 million upgrade starts in August, requiring almost a year, with diversion across a hired temporary bridge craned in. LMRC Action Meetings are held monthly, except July and September, on the last Tuesday of each month.

For official enquiries email [LevenmouthReconnected@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:LevenmouthReconnected@networkrail.co.uk) or for Campaign matters tel 07903366529, email [LMRC@mail.com](mailto:LMRC@mail.com) or check our facebook pages.

LMRC and CLEAR plan more bike runs to the new station sites and other features into May and June.



## The Big Potato Experiment

5100 seed potatoes have been delivered to various groups in the Levenmouth area.

The idea is to grow them and share how you got on. This is part of the Dandelion Project, a big arts and science initiative which will one day feature concerts in Edinburgh and Glasgow. <https://dandelion.scot>



## CLEAR Bike Workshop

CLEAR Bike Workshop open every Thursday, Saturday from 10am-3pm at 47 Sandwell St Buckhaven for repairs and affordable second hand bike sales .





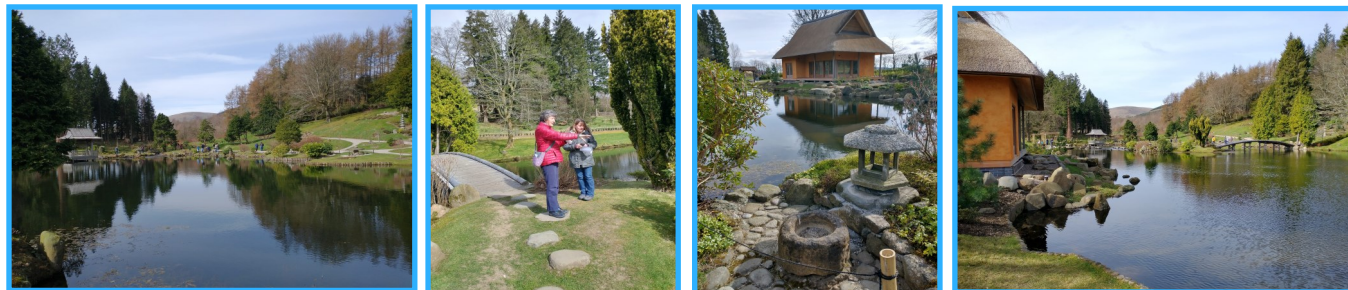
## Social Farms and Gardens

2 members of CLEAR staff attended a Gardeniser course in March. It was organised by Social Farms and Gardens, sponsored by the Scottish Government. We met 14 other community gardeners from all over Scotland, which was marvellous for networking.

The course was a mixture of theory in the mornings and garden visits in the afternoon. Each day had a theme, " understanding the community garden", " land design and wellbeing", "people and partners", " sustaining and flourishing", " health and recruitment", " health check of your organisation".

The gardens we visited were at Mayfield, a newly started Community garden in Mayfield and East-houses Development Trust, Earth in Common is a people based project in Leith Links, We had two visits to The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. We also had a visit to a community project in Broomhouse. All projects here were similar to Clear but they have a lovely Community Centre which is run by volunteers.

To develop and complete this course we are required to complete 40 hours of study and garden visit evaluations then we are awarded a Gardeniser License.



A world-first green hydrogen gas network in the heart of Fife. A new gas network will be installed alongside our existing natural gas network to supply clean hydrogen gas to around 300 homes who opt-in to our world-first project.

This is an exciting opportunity for everyone living in the streets highlighted in this map to transition early to energy that's better for the environment with our support.

To find out more, or register your interest to participate, please visit [www.h100fife.co.uk](http://www.h100fife.co.uk).

**'Smell gas? Phone 0800 111 999'**



## Fun in the Back Field

In the Easter holidays CLEAR worked in partnership with MCCI to run two fun filled creative afternoon sessions for children age 6+ in Methil Community Garden.

Despite the rain, 15 kids attended the first session. It was good to welcome back kids from last year and new faces. There are always a choice of activities, either to make bird feeders; sow, prick out and pot on Sunflowers, take part in a Bug Hunt and chop fruit of their choice to make ice cream smoothies using our Smoothie Bike. Lots of learning and new friendships made.

Week two, avoiding the rain under gazebos, the kids mixed cement to sculpt the face of our Triceratops, made a huge Scarecrow, and painted slate. There was lots of excitement playing traditional games as the garden offers great places to hide or run to. Hot chocolate and marshmallows warmed us up while we admired our SpongeBob Scarecrow.

We look forward to more fun in the Summer Holidays so book your child's place as soon as you see our posters or check our Facebook page.



## A Taste of Summer

Here in the CLEAR Production Kitchen, we're working our way through the freezers, making jam, jellies and chutneys from the fruit our amazing gardeners and volunteers have grown in the community gardens, clearing the way for this years' harvest, which will start in June. If you fancy a taste of summer, we have some of our delicious frozen berries available from our shops at the Hub, College Street and the Workshop, Sandwell Street, Buckhaven.



**BUCKHYNE BRAES**  
Available from our shops at the Hub,  
College Street and the Workshop,  
Sandwell Street, Buckhaven.



## The Wee Forest at Muiredge Park

A 600-tree "Wee Forest" was planted on the 30th of March. This is part of an EarthWatch Europe campaign to plant 150 such forests in the UK by 2023. CLEAR, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), NatureScot and Levenmouth Academy were involved in the planting day. This method of tree planting used the Miyawaki Method (which pays close attention to soil quality and plants the trees close together so they can cooperate and share nutrients) and over the next few years we'll see if it works better than traditional tree planting. If anyone wants to be involved in the ongoing care and monitoring of this Wee Forest to support EarthWatch Europe's project please contact

[batswood@icloud.com](mailto:batswood@icloud.com)



## Community Trade Hub Guided Start

The Community hub has an exciting new academy starting: Guided Start is a new project that is targeted to supporting Youths within Levenmouth. The aim is to create more learning environments for youngsters to learn and enhance their career and lifeskills. Academies supported by Guided Start are Construction, Hospitality, Horticulture & Environmental Management and Digital Skills. **CLEAR** will be working with the Trade Hub to deliver the Horticulture and Environment management with young people working on various projects to improve public green space across Levenmouth.



If you are interested in one of the courses please get in touch with the **Community Trade Hub**, [enquiries@communitytradinghub.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@communitytradinghub.co.uk) or call 01592308249.



## Buckhaven & Denbeath Community Council

The Community Council does amazing work organizing the fireworks display, summer and Christmas fun events as well as working for improvements to our community. New members are always welcome. Meetings are held the last Thursday of each month from 6.30pm at Buckhaven Community Centre.



## Community History Group in Methil

This is a photo of Kirkland area in the early 1930s it shows the steel and creosote works, Kirkland sidings. This photo became a hot topic with the Community History Group in Methil

**Q:** Where is the Manor House? (house of Kirkland pits manager)

Is it closeby the pit bing on bottom left?

**Q:** Can you see Kirkland House? – Is it at top left of picture? The Peters family owned the textile mills in Kirkland since the early 1800's – 1890's – west and north of steelworks

**Q:** Where are the factory workers houses?

In 1791 the population of Kirkland was thought to be 391 people and Methil 314 people (Buckhaven 601 people) Rambles book. We asked what happened to the workers families houses? Could they have lived near Kirkland

Brae to Methilhill Cemetery? Our community history discussions happens every Thursday morning ..if your interested in making or hearing about a peoples history of Methil .. join us for tea/coffee and chats. **Call or text Marion 07923 – 220 – 818**



## Your Views welcome, with chances to win a CLEAR bag of goodies

CLEAR is conducting a simple survey to gather the views of local residents. As we plan environmental improvements over the next year or two, we would really appreciate your thoughts and suggestions and might manage to take a few forward. Please complete our online survey by Friday 31st May. Answers will be confidential. Look for the link on our

Facebook Page— [www.facebook.com/CLEARFife](https://www.facebook.com/CLEARFife)

For a chance to win a number of mini-hampers of CLEAR products (juice, jam, chutney, cloth bag etc).

Thanks in advance to those responding.



## Cook and Share Club

Cook and share Club volunteer Liz is pictured making some fruit crumble for sharing with members. The Cook and Share Club runs every Tuesday afternoon from Buckhaven Community Centre and provides opportunities for cooking as well as sharing surplus food provided by Fareshare.

For further information, contact Iain on 07525 392 2808 or email [iain.anderson@fife.gov.uk](mailto:iain.anderson@fife.gov.uk)

