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Session Clerk:

Robin Bulmer

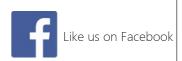
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As we approach the end of 2025 we straddle the time between the 190th anniversary of the founding of the church congregation, in 1835, and the 190th anniversary of the opening of the church building in 1836.

Since those beginnings, a split in the congregation led to the founding of what ultimately became Busby East and Busby West Parish churches. Their coming together again in 1990 saw the founding of Busby Parish Church. Now, as a result of the Church of Scotland Mission Plan Act, 2021, and the resultant Glasgow Presbytery Plan, the church is entering its next transition.

The choice facing the congregation is either a union with near neighbours Greenbank Parish Church or dissolution, in the event that a satisfactory 'Basis of Union' cannot be agreed between our two congregations. That said, in the latter circumstances, the Busby Kirk Session see a third way which would enable Busby to retain its place within the Church of Scotland led by its elders and members, in the absence of a dedicated minister; this would be most closely described in the Mission Plan Act as 'Guardianship'.

Whereas the outcome of all of this remains in the balance, you can play your part by actively supporting the church and praying that God's will be done, whatever that may prove to be.

Robin Bulmer



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 7th December 11.00am Nine Lessons and Carols Led by our Choir

Sunday 14th December 11.00am Holy Communion Led by Rev Wilma Pearson

& 2.00p.m. A Time To Remember

Sunday 21st December 11.00am Sunday Club Service

Wednesday 24th December 11.30pm Watchnight Service With Mince Pie Supper from 10.30pm in the Hall

Sunday 28th December 11.00am Family Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bereavements

2nd November

Mary Savage Waterfoot

3rd November Christine McGregor Busby

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



Busby Brownies meet every Monday night from 6:30 to 7:45. The Pack is currently full, and there is a waiting list.

We are also in need of adult helpers. If you can help by volunteering, please email busbybrownies@gmail.com for more details.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

by ROBIN BULMER

During late 2024 members of the congregation led by the Kirk Session undertook a 'Local Church Review' of our church and its mission. This exercise was facilitated by a team from Glasgow Presbytery that ultimately reported our joint findings and plan to the full Presbytery. It was pleasing that this presentation was enthusiastically received.

A key aspect of our mission plan focused on enabling worship to continue in Busby Parish Church in the eventual retirement of our minister of 26+ years service, Rev Jerry Eve, and in recognition that a new minister was not expected to be allocated to us in our own right.

Inspired by the experience of our neighbouring church in Carmunnock, who currently have three accredited worship leaders of their own, all of whom have led worship in Busby over the past year or two, we decided that we would nominate four of our own elders to follow suit. These were Robin Bulmer, Allan Morrison, Susan Amour and Steve Smith.



Accreditation is granted as a result of attending an 8-evening and 1-day course of study at the University of Glasgow combined with the successful submission of two assignments, concerned firstly with experiencing and learning from 'attending' worship in different church environments and secondly preparing and leading worship in our own church under the eye of a local assessor.

By the time you read this, we will have completed the study, on Monday 24th November and will be preparing to submit our final assignment prior to Friday 12th December at 4.00pm. All fingers are crossed for a successful outcome and we all look forward to providing an ongoing worship experience week-by-week that is a credit to our church of 190 years standing and to all those who have gone before us.



ANSON SINGINI

by MAUREEN POTTER

I first met Anson when he visited the Kwenderana Churches including Busby Parish Church in 2006 as part of the Kwenderana Project. Since then I have met him both times I have been in Ekwendeni and I have seen him change from a naive young man into a family man well aware of his responsibilities, an active Christian who preaches regularly in his community and one who practises what he preaches. Over the years he has regularly helped distribute clothes and other items we have sent to the most needy in his community and has helped many elderly people such as fixing their grass roofs to ensure their homes are wind and watertight in the rainy season.

He has been married to Maggie for about 17 years and has two children Miracle and Mighty plus his late brother's daughter, Lusubilo Singini. Miracle is now at Euthini High School which is a private school, having passed all her exams to achieve entry. The other children attend the local primary school. Over the years Maggie has trained and worked as a nurse but recently she has been running the local shop plus working in Mzuzu.

Although Anson now lives in Ngazi, he works as accounts assistant for LISAP, Livingstonia Aids Project, partially funded by the Church of Scotland in Ekwendeni, Malawi and, to improve his career prospects, Anson has been studying for a degree in Accountancy. I am delighted to report that Anson graduated with a degree in Accountancy on 17th October. I am sure you would join me in sending good wishes to Anson at this important time in his life. Please pray for Anson, Maggie and the children. Malawi very much needs clever families like theirs.



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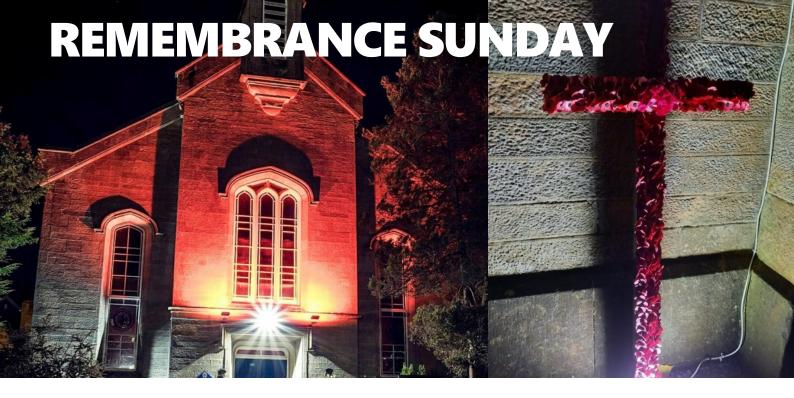
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This year's Remembrance Sunday took place on the 9th of November and our service was led by the Rev. Dr John McPake. As in previous years, the front of the Church was lit up in red with a Poppy Cross as well.

After the names of all those from our community who gave their lives in both world wars were read out by Iain Murray and Lynne Macgregor, and Chris Liddell played the Last Post, we held a two minutes silence, remembering the sacrifice made by so many. Royal Navy veteran, Alan Rutherford, then Iaid our wreath, followed by traditional hymns and prayers, with a poignant sermon by John McPake. Our service concluded with a moving video featuring music from Vivaldi's Concerto for Strings in E Minor and the poem "Perhaps" by Vera Brittain, followed by a trumpet solo by Chris Liddell accompanied on piano by Allan Morrison.

BUSBY BROWNIES

The 1st Busby Brownies have had lots of new members this term and have loved getting to know all of our new friends. We started off the term by learning about climate change and the impact we can have on our planet. Many of our girls have been working on their Eco badge at home by making small but positive changes to help the environment! We have also been working on the new crafting badge by making friendship bracelets, junk modelling boats, origami windmills and felt bookmarks to mark Book Week Scotland!





f you would like to join our waiting list for the 1st Busby Brownies or are an adult who would like to volunteer, please visit the GirlGuiding website.

Best Wishes, Rebecca - Unit Leader

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BUSBY RAINBOWS

1st Busby Rainbows are into their 2nd year and we are delighted to share with you some of the activities that we have completed since our last update.

We have completed our Rainbow Flag which looked great in the Church to represent Remembrance Day. The Rainbows created this themselves and are extremely proud of it. This will complete their Communication badge which is fabulous.

The Rainbows have also completed their Storytelling badge which was done by celebrating Roald Dahl Day in September and creating Dream Jars from the BFG book by the man himself, we continue to work towards many more badges as we have to complete 9 in total to gain their Rainbow Gold badge by May 2026 and we are thrilled to say we are halfway there and making great progress.

PAPA B ARA



Our last night of Rainbows this year will be at Eastwood Theatre to see this year's Panto which is Cinderella. We are all looking forward to what will be a great highlight to the end of a great term, till we restart again in January next year 2026.

Again we would like to Thank you all for making us so welcome at Busby Church. Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year when it comes

Kindest regards June and Joanne

BUSBY GUIDES

At present we have 36 girls in our unit. Two of these girls are Young Leaders and they regularly organise games and fun activities for the Guides.

We had a very successful Halloween Party in October with an amazing range of costumes. It was very difficult to choose the best ones.

We have been working on an Eco award badge this session and they all had to choose 3 ways in which they could help the environment. They must do this for at least 2 months.

On the 11th November we had an evening related to the 2nd World War. Many Girl Guides had played an active part in the war effort. Our Guides made shelters, practised bandaging and made tea. They also had fun making paper planes. We discussed life during the war too.

Towards the end of November, we are going to East Kilbride Ice Rink for the evening. This is an annual event organised by the County and the Guides always really enjoy this whether they are beginners or already confident skaters.

Our final evening this session will be our Christmas party on the 1st Tuesday in December. The girls will all bring a gift up to £5 value and we have a lucky dip. They all thoroughly enjoy the evening and get quite excited about getting a gift at the end.

Pamela Mill (0141 644 4452)





DESERT ISLAND DISCS the selection of Irene Black

Irene has long been a regular attendee at Busby Parish Church and is a member of our flower arranging team. In addition, for the last two years she has organised our annual litter-pick with her trademark energy and organisational skill.

Picture courtesy of BBC Radio 4

1 George Harrison - My Sweet Lord. This is the first record I bought. It was 1970 and it cost 7/6 (shillings and pence). There was a music shop, Mills & Co, and I ventured in with some friends. We thought we were really cool and grown up. It was my choice and I loved it. I now understand George Harrison intended the lyrics as a call to abandon religious sectarianism.

2 Carole King - You've Got A Friend. I've loved this music since secondary school days. It's melodic, reflects feelings of joy and sorrow, and tells a story. I dare say it probably fed into teenage insecurity and angst at that time but, I still go to it when the mood is right.

3 Elton John - Rocket Man. I saw Elton John in the Glasgow Apollo when I was 17 and have been a fan ever since. He is a real showman. I've seen him live a few times over the years, not always at his best. We got tickets for his farewell tour in the Hydro in 2023 and, despite him needing a travellator to transport him on and off the stage, his show was absolutely amazing.

4 Sade - Your Love Is King. Roddy and I moved house in 1984. We were both busy, working hard, building our practice and modernising our house. When we had time to relax and socialise, Sade's album 'Diamond Life', with tracks like Your Love is King and Smooth Operator, was perfect with its sultry jazz vibes. It had the power to calm even me.

5 Queen - We Will Rock You. In July 1986 we took a road trip with a group of our friends to see Queen's Magic tour in Wembley. We had hired a somewhat unreliable red van we named 'The Vin Rouge'. The weather on the day was perfect. We got there early with our substantial picnic and booked our patch on the pitch. That day is undoubtedly high up on my list of days to remember.

6 Tanita Tikarum - Good Tradition. I was expecting my first child in 1988. We were staying with my sister because we had sold our house and had to wait for entry to our new property. This song was in the charts and being played on the radio. I latched on to this song because it was sort of folk rock and it reflected the dynamics of family relationships – including love and hate, as noted in the lyrics!

7 Bruce Springsteen - Dancing In The Dark. I struggled to choose a favourite Springsteen track. I saw him for the first time in Leeds on his Born in the USA tour and I was hooked. He has toured with his talented group of amazing musicians in the E Street Band for years. Every song tells a story, not always with a happy ending. He uses his music to challenge US politics and the concept of the great American Dream.

8 Coldplay - Viva La Vida. This choice brings me a bit more up to date. I seemed to lose interest in the music of the nineties, but the noughties revived interest. I really rate Chris Martin as a musician, and his influence and actions on environmental issues. This song is complex. It's about loss of power, regret and mortality. Despite that, the title 'Viva La Vida' means long live life, and all we need to make the most of it.

Book – Still Life by Sarah Winman. This has been my book choice in recent years. It is well written and paints a vivid picture of unusual characters and situations. An opportunity to laugh and cry.

Object – An Exercise Bike – Not only would this help to keep me sane, it would also help me to stay fit enough to forage for food on the island!



LYNNE MACGREGOR

A big thank you to everyone who supported the November Fayre at Busby Parish Church on Saturday 15th November.

Visitors and church members enjoyed a cuppa and a chat, and marvelled at the talent of the ladies who were displaying their hand made quilts. (they attend the quilting group at the church).

Also on display were the knitted and crocheted blankets made from squares that church members had knitted, to be sewn into blankets for the Lodging House Mission, for the homeless.

The November Fayre raised a fantastic sum of £1242.12.

Well done to everyone who helped and attended.











PART THREE - The Churches and Village Grow

by MAUREEN POTTER

Photographs courtesy of East Renfrewshire Council Heritage Group

In this, the third part of our Church's history, Maureen covers the period from 1862 to 1900 as the Village of Busby and its Churches grew and developed.

The 19th Century was a time of division in Scotland between the various Presbyterian Churches and Busby was no different, having one church which was Busby Church of Scotland United Free Church (East) and another known as Busby United Presbyterian Church of Scotland (West). However, Busby did not have an established Church of Scotland. This did not happen until 1884 when Busby Greenbank Church of Scotland was built.

Turning the clock back to 1862, Rev Dr John Taylor moved to Busby from Canada, where he had been a Theological Professor to the United Presbyterian Synod of Canada for 9 years. He commissioned a house to be built in what is now Carmunnock Road and he assisted Busby United Presbyterian Church during its time of vacancy after the Rev. James Dick had been removed from his position. In January 1863 he was called as Minister to Busby United Presbyterian Church and was inducted in April 1863, too late to prevent the breakaway East church. Dr Taylor gradually rebuilt the United Presbyterian Church congregation. As well as Sunday morning sermons he held lectures during the week and on Friday evenings, with visiting preachers. Dr Taylor also changed the composition of the Kirk Session. One of the new elders was David Alexander and he married Ann Hope. They had a house built on East Kilbride Road and named it "Hopefield Cottage" now 67 East Kilbride Road, Busby. David Alexander's sister-in-law, Margaret Hope, became the first Infant Mistress in the newly built Busby School when it opened in 1876. The Alexanders and their family were very active in the church until Mrs Ann Alexander died in 1883. Two years later her husband David stepped down as an elder although he was still involved in the church until 1892 when he and his family emigrated to Australia.



In September 1865, what was to become Busby East Church was opened and called the Carmunnock Free Kirk. However, it was soon renamed Busby Free Kirk when a new Free Kirk opened in Carmunnock Village.

Initially it had three services on a Sunday – 12 noon, 300p.m. and 6.30p.m. with a Sunday School after the Sunday afternoon service. The Kirk Session was very active in ensuring its members lived by a strict moral code and any who strayed from that code were dealt with "severely". The Deacon's Court was also busy in acquiring funds to pay off the debts the church had and in finding a manse for the first minister Rev Alexander Andrew, who initially stayed with his family in a part of Williamwood House belonging to Captain Stewart who was presented with a silver inkstand in appreciation of his generosity The church was eventually offered a

house for sale in 1868 by Mr. William A Hall of "Springbank House", 65 East Kilbride Road. This became the Busby Free Church Manse and remained as the Manse until 1929.

Dr Taylor, minister of Busby United Presbyterian Church, was very helpful to the new church, celebrating the first Lord's Supper with them, inviting them to his church AGM and sharing his influence in the village with the new minister in the United Free Church. The two ministers also worked together to improve conditions for the poor in the village. They were also concerned at the non-attendance of many parishioners to the churches and discovered this was because they considered they did not have the "right clothes" due to poverty. In the 19th century churches had great power throughout Scotland and many worked with the







industrialists to keep a tight rein on the working classes. In Busby the churches worked with many of the mill, print and dye works and other business owners to try and keep the village free of sins such as drunkenness and fornication which were severely frowned upon. If found guilty the sinner could be sacked and if he was a married man, this in turn caused great hardship to his wife and family.

On 11th May 1863 the Busby Railway Company Act was approved by Parliament and by 1866 at a cost of £7000, including two railway stations, the new line was open to the public for their use. One of the features of the new railway line was the viaduct with seven arches built at Overlee which is still in use today. The two railway stations included in the initial cost were at Busby and at Giffnock. Clarkston at that time was considered too small to warrant a railway station. Each railway stations consisted of a wooden platform with a glass canopy to protect travellers from the elements. In 1868 the line was extended to East Kilbride.

The driving force behind the new railway was Jospeh Colin Wakefield whose main motive was to improve the competitiveness of his own Printwotks with better transport links. The new railway line opened up Busby to increased industrialisation which in turn increased the population of the village. It also opened up travel for the villagers into Glasgow to shop, to meet friends in the tea rooms which were opening up or to a visit to the theatre. There were three trains daily except for Sundays and the fares were 1 shilling (5p) single or 1/6 (7 and a half pence) return First Class! It took between 25 and 30 minutes to travel into Glasgow, so much the same time as today.

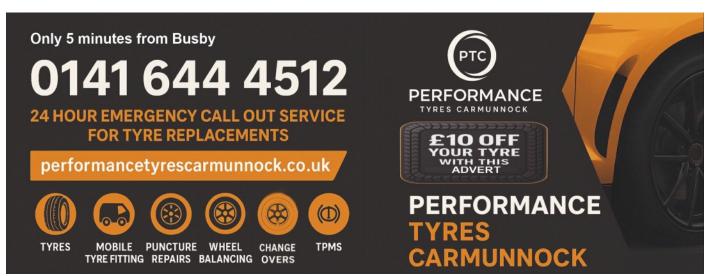
The opening of the railway also opened up Busby to different organizations from outside the village such as the Glasgow Foundry Boys Religious Society, the Masonic Lodge St John and the Orange Lodge, of which the only survivor today is the Busby Masonic Lodge No. 458.

In 1871 Dr John Ross died. He had been the general physician in the village from 1828 right through the cholera outbreak until his death. He had cared for all in the village irrespective of their status and ability to pay. He also founded the Busby Savings Bank to encourage thrift amongst the villagers and was involved in all

aspects of village life. It is recorded that there was a huge turnout at his funeral.

Due to improved transport links, football was now beginning to have a bigger part in village life as supporters were able to follow their teams to different football clubs when they played away from home. Busby had its own football team, Busby Cartvale which

Continued over



had been founded in 1874 and the local bar was renamed The Cartvale Wines and Spirits Vaults after the team. Busby Cartvale FC initially played at Easter Farm and then moved down close to Busby District School. All football at that time was amateur and one of the Cartvale players, Robert Calderwood, who worked in the Printworks, was capped three times for Scotland in 1885 before becoming professional which banned him from taking part in international games. In the early 20th Century, his nephew John or Jock McLean played for Blackburn Rovers and Bristol Rovers where he became a legend in his lifetime. Another player, who also worked in the Printworks was Michael (Mickey) Dunbar who turned professional and played for Hibernian and then for Celtic FC when it was founded in 1888. He later became a publican and a Celtic director.



Thomas Donohoe

Another footballing person associated with Busby is Thomas Donohoe – The Father of Brazilian Football – who has a bust in his honour in Busby Main Street. He was born in Busby to an Irish immigrant family who had moved to Busby to work in the Busby Printworks in Field Road. served Thomas apprenticeship in the Busby Printworks where his father was the dyehouse foreman. He married Eizabeth Montague in 1890 and in 1894 they emigrated to Brazil where they



lived in the village of Bangu which is now part of Rio de Janeiro. He organised football matches with the locals in the village and gradually the game expanded until it became popular throughout Brazil.

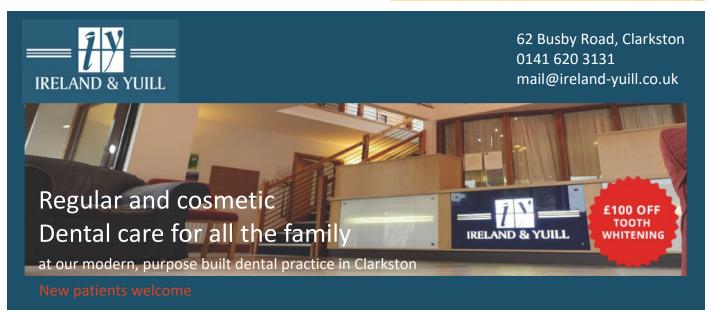


Going back to 1871 the Kirk Session of Busby United Presbyterian Church decided that the church building needed a major refurbishment and that the Manse behind the church was also in need of enlargement and modernisation. While this was taking place Busby United Free

Church offered their premises for worship use during the period of refurbishment thus beginning a long period of friendship and cooperation between the two churches.



In 1900, the Free Church of Scotland and the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland united and the combined churches became known as the United Free Church of Scotland. This meant that both Busby East and Busby West belonged to the same denomination and were known as Busby East and Busby West United Free Churches of Scotland.



This can hardly really be called a recipe, so apologies that the quantities are so vague!

I know some people are averse to dates but combined with the peanut butter and chocolate they really do have the taste and texture of a Snickers.

Ingredients:

Per tree:

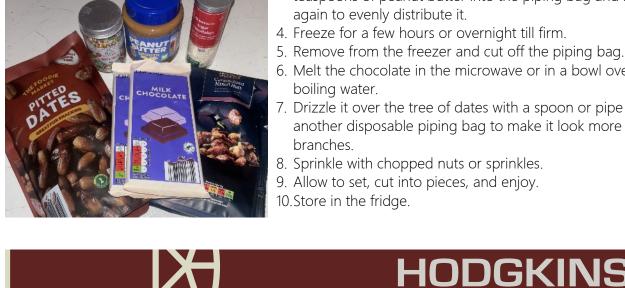
- 1 disposable piping bag or sweetie cone
- 8-10 pitted dates
- 2 tsp peanut or almond butter
- Approx 70g milk or dark chocolate
- Chopped nuts or sprinkles to decorate

Method:

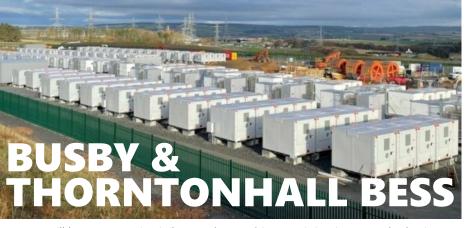
- Open up the dates and squash them flat inside the 1 piping bag. You can use your hands or roll over them gently with a rolling pin.
- Heat the peanut butter briefly in the microwave to 2. make it runnier.



- 3. Spoon two teaspoons of peanut butter into the piping bag and squash it again to evenly distribute it.
- 6. Melt the chocolate in the microwave or in a bowl over a pan of boiling water.
- 7. Drizzle it over the tree of dates with a spoon or pipe it using another disposable piping bag to make it look more like branches.







On the 11th of November, the BESS and LDES group received a letter from Cavendish, Apatura's consultants, informing that the BESS application was being put on hold for the foreseeable future. This is a bittersweet success as Cavendish ALSO TOLD US that Apatura would now be concentrating on the development of the 86 Acre LDES application that is currently lodged with OFGEM, having passed the initial South Lanarkshire Council EIA, the Scottish Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

The communities of Thorntonhall and Busby deserve a huge thanks for securing this result; however, we

still have to remain vigilant as the LDES is now sitting just over the horizon, and we need to keep working together to prevent this industrialisation of our rural communities and green spaces for the generations that follow us.

The "Busby" really "Thorntonhall and Busby" LDES plan has already passed the OFGEM eligibility assessment stage and is now one of 77 that have made it through the initial sifting stage and will now proceed to the assessment stage, where OFGEM will undertake a more detailed evaluation of shortlisted schemes. The final OFGEM approvals for successful LDES projects will likely be announced in the summer of 2026. The BESS is on hold and they are going for the 86 acres LDES site in Summer 2026

Thank you once again for all of your ongoing help and support, we must keep going. Please talk to your neighbours, tell them about this massive site and ask them to send their emails into bess@thorntonhallbess.com so we can keep them and everyone informed. This has not gone away.

Trisha and the BESS/LDES group.



Busby Community Council reformed in March 2025 and have monthly meetings (apart from Dec, July & Aug).

They hope to encourage more community involvement and interaction from all ages, especially trying to encourage more young people.

Our January meeting is planned for Tuesday 13th 7-9pm. All welcome

We request email agenda items (no less than 2 weeks before meetings or turn up & raise at the meeting): busbycommunitycouncil@outlook.com

We'd love to encourage new followers on our social media as an efficient way of communicating to the community. Shares of our events would be appreciated.

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/BusbyCommunityCouncilInstagram:https://www.instagram.com/busbycommunitycouncil/

Council Page for past minutes etc https://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/busby-community-council

Hilary Paton & Debbie Carol Busby Community Council 07880 502508

