

THE VILLAGE HUG



Connecting Community Creatively

Issue 9 – 12th June 2020

“For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life and I will raise them up at the last day.”
John Chapter 6, Verse 40

The Village Hug is a weekly newsletter created by the young folk of Torrance Parish Church as a gift to the people of Torrance during the Coronavirus Emergency.

Please pass on this PDF to others who may enjoy it and print it off for people not connected by email or Facebook (whilst taking the appropriate social distancing precautions of course).

If you have any ideas for future content then please contact us at thevillagehug@gmail.com

As you’ll be aware, the second phase of lifting lockdowns in Scotland now looks likely to be announced next week. To keep The Village Hug sustainable over a longer period of time, we feel this is now the time to switch to a fortnightly issue. So ‘Issue 10’ of The Village Hug will be released on the 26th June – see you all then!

INTERVIEW *with Mark Girvan*

Mark Girvan has lived in Torrance for most of his life. He recently began working for Shelter Scotland, a charity that campaigns on housing and homelessness issues. He shares his experience of beginning a new job under lockdown.

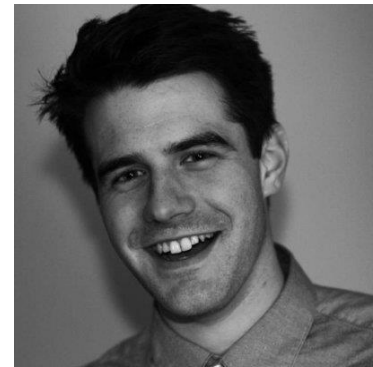
Since the restrictions began, I’ve been keeping active by going for walks along Tower Road. It helps me to cope with being stuck inside for most of the day and it’s given me greater appreciation for Torrance and its beautiful surroundings. The lockdown has also made me realise just how important it is to have a home that meets your needs and where you can feel safe. For too many people in Scotland, this is not the case.

My work with Shelter Scotland began as a result of the lockdown. Having opted for a career change last year, I enrolled on a Master’s programme in Strategic Communications and took part in an industry placement with the charity. When the lockdown was announced, I was told that it was no longer possible for my placement to continue. Instead, I was asked to apply for a position as a media officer.

Starting a new job from my bedroom desk was an unusual experience. Though I was already familiar with the organisation, learning how to do my job whilst working remotely was a challenge. I’ve enjoyed learning on my feet – writing press releases, responding to media enquiries, editing reports – and I have been well supported by my new colleagues.

Throughout the lockdown, Shelter Scotland has worked hard to ensure that renters are protected from the threat of eviction and has campaigned to ensure that rough sleepers who are currently accommodated in hotels do not return to the streets when the restrictions ease. Shelter Scotland believes that everyone has the right to a safe home. We can’t go back to the way things were before.

This is a worrying time for all of us. If you have any concerns and need advice, visit www.shelterscotland.org/coronavirusadvice

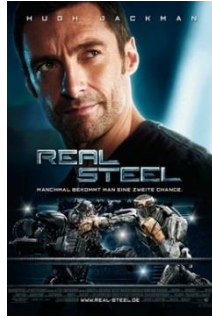


Shelter
Scotland

Reel Steel – Cert 12A, Sony Movies – 18:30, Friday 12th June

Hugh Jackman stars in this light-hearted father and son boxing/sci-fi epic about a father who re-connects with his son through the sport of robot boxing. Jackman’s performance is one of the highlights of the film, and the spectacle is certainly there with the robot boxing matches, but the heart of the film lies with the connection that Jackman’s character, Charlie, develops with his son, Max.

3/5 Village Hugs



Jurassic World: Fallen kingdom – Cert 12, ITV – 14:40, Saturday 13th June

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom is a far cry from the sheer awesomeness that was the original *Jurassic Park*, but the film still has a lot going for it. Chris Pratt is entertaining as ever as the Ranger Rick of the film, Owen Grady, and his relationship with Bryce Dallas Howard is certainly entertaining; but we all know that the real reason we go to see a Jurassic Park movie is to see dinosaurs eating people. There’s plenty of dinosaur action, but it’s bogged down by a dull, sciency, military plot that’s hard to care for.

3/5 Village Hugs



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles – Cert 12, Film 4 – 18:55, Saturday 13th June

This film suffers from very prominent producer intervention, and seeing as how the producer was Michael Bay, he definitely tries to make it clear that he was involved in the making of the film. However, it still gets the characters of the turtles bang on, and their chemistry is definitely the best part. The action is also well shot, which makes for thrilling and creative action scenes. Even if we don’t really care about the main human characters, it’s still pretty to look at.

3/5 Village Hugs



Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring – Cert PG, 5 Star – 15:55, Saturday 13 June

The first instalment in Peter Jackson’s trilogy is a film that offers fun, adventure and great characters that are well developed throughout the script. Ian McKellen as Gandalf is one of the highlights, as is Elijah Wood as Frodo. The film also features revolutionary visual effects that still stand strong nineteen years later and which at no point take you out of the movie. A great introduction to a fantastic world that has still proven to be popular eighty-three years after the first Middle Earth book was published.

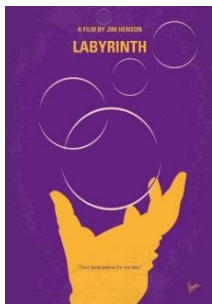
5/5 Village Hugs



Labyrinth – Cert U, Sony Movies – 16:05, Sunday 14th June

David Bowie stars in this fantasy musical about a girl trying to rescue her baby brother from the evil Goblin King, whom Bowie portrays. The film is filled with great musical numbers and timeless puppetry from the late Jim Henson, better known as the creator of *The Muppets*. *Labyrinth* was given a mixed reception when first released in 1986, but it has since stood the test of time and has proven to be a cult classic amongst fans of the eighties and film buffs in general.

4/5 Village Hugs



WALKING ROUTE by Sheila Traynor

This is just under 4 miles so would make for a short run or a good walk of about 1 hour 20 minutes (depending on your walking speed of course!)

Starting in Kings Park, go to the end of the street and into the field at the end. Take the path right through the middle (you will see a bench at the far right but you could save sitting on it until returning to this field at the end!).

Head for the small opening at the end of the field which goes through a shady area and past a long white cottage on your left and onto Glen Orchard Road. Turn left and then cross over West Balgrochan Rd and look for the Wardend Road sign . Go along this tarmacked road which has houses either side and then the road narrows, becoming a path and this is the start of the Fairy Glen.

Follow the path and go through a kissing gate and then over the bridge; still following the path you will come to another kissing gate which leads to Tower Road. Turn right here and follow uphill, don't take the sign to Barraston but go straight onto Back o'Hill Rd. Follow this road passing two farms and at the end of the road turn right onto Glen Orchard Rd. This goes uphill and then at the top where there is a sign for Mealy Brae House turn right onto Barraston Road.

Follow this road until the end and then turn left and continue to follow the road as it takes a sharp incline and then flattens again. Keep following the road until comes back into Torrance and take first left into Acre Valley Road and go back onto the right of way signposted for School Road past the long white cottage on your right. Go though the shady area and then you will be back in the field at the end of Kings Park and can head for the bench on the left to enjoy a well earned sit down!



Tweet

Rachel Jackson follows



Morgan Rees
@TheMorganRees

In honour of our Amazon drivers, let's clap out our windows sometime between 9am and 6pm



Mike Cox @MrMikeCox · 8h
Replying to @TheMorganRees

I did clap for my amazon driver but he was out so I did it while stood in his recycling bin.

FIRE SAFETY REMINDER

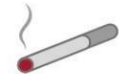
COVID-19 Home Fire Safety Checklist



With all of us spending more time at home due to COVID-19 there can be an increased risk of fire.

Here are some steps to help you stay safe in these challenging times:

- Don't leave cooking unattended** and don't cook if you're tired, under the influence of alcohol or drugs or on strong medication.
- If you smoke, **smoke outside**, at an open external door or window and never while under the influence. **Always use an appropriate ashtray.**
- Using a laptop? Make sure it's placed on a hard surface **to prevent overheating.**
- Always turn** computers and laptops **off at night.**
- Don't overload** electrical sockets.
- Make sure all common areas and exits are **kept clear** of any combustible materials and don't leave any items in escape routes.
- With bin collections reduced at this time it is important that flammable items like cardboard or paper are **safely stored.**



COVID-19 Home Fire Safety Checklist



At night when you go to bed:

- Ensure white goods such as washing machine, dishwashers or tumble dryer are **switched off**, and **never used while sleeping or out.**
- Switch off** all electrical appliances not designed to be left on overnight.
- Don't leave** chargeable items like phones and tablets **charging overnight.**
- Turn off** portable heaters and put a fire-guard around the fire place.
- Keep mobility aids and any methods of calling for help **accessible** for a cared for person.
- Before going to bed, check any candles and cigarettes are **extinguished.**
- Make sure the main door keys are **accessible and in a safe place.**
- Close all the internal doors** before going to bed.



And finally:

- Make sure you have **working smoke alarms.** Test them **once a week.**



CHARACTER QUIZ – SCOTS ON SCREEN

These characters were all portrayed on screen as being Scottish.

Can you name a. the characters, b. the programme/films, c. the actors and d. the nationalities of the actors?



- 1a.
- 1b.
- 1c.
- 1d.



- 2a.
- 2b.
- 2c.
- 2d.



- 3a.
- 3b.
- 3c.
- 3d.



- 4a.
- 4b.
- 4c.
- 4d.



- 5a.
- 5b.
- 5c.
- 5d.



- 6a.
- 6b.
- 6c.
- 6d.



- 7a.
- 7b.
- 7c.
- 7d.



- 8a.
- 8b.
- 8c.
- 8d.



- 9a.
- 9b.
- 9c.
- 9d.



- 10a.
- 10b.
- 10c.
- 10d.



- 11a.
- 11b.
- 11c.
- 11d.



- 12a.
- 12b.
- 12c.
- 12d.

Bonus question: Which one of the above movies was partly filmed at Mugdock Country Park on 2017?!

WHAT'S IN A NAME? by Craig Thomson

You may have seen in the news this week much debate about historic statues in UK cities linked with the slave trade. Following the death of George Floyd in America and the subsequent protests around the world, the way in which we remember our forefather's involvement in the slave trade has come under scrutiny.

A statue was hauled down in Bristol, then plans were brought forward to add information to a statue of slave owner Henry Dundas in St Andrews Square in Edinburgh.

A similar conversation is growing in our own nearest city, Glasgow. The Merchant City area, as it was rather benignly badged in the last few decades, is a fantastic place for restaurants, bars and shops but it's construction has a dark past.

The 'Tobacco Lords' as they became known were merchant traders based in Glasgow. They imported tobacco, cotton, sugar and rum from The New World. However, their profits were inflated by taking part in the 'Triangular Route' slave system. Ships with manufactured goods would go to Africa from the Broomielaw on the Clyde and swap their cargo for captured slaves. The ships would then head to The Americas where they'd empty those souls still alive after the journey to be sold to plantations. The ships would then be stocked with the fruits of the plantations to return to Glasgow.



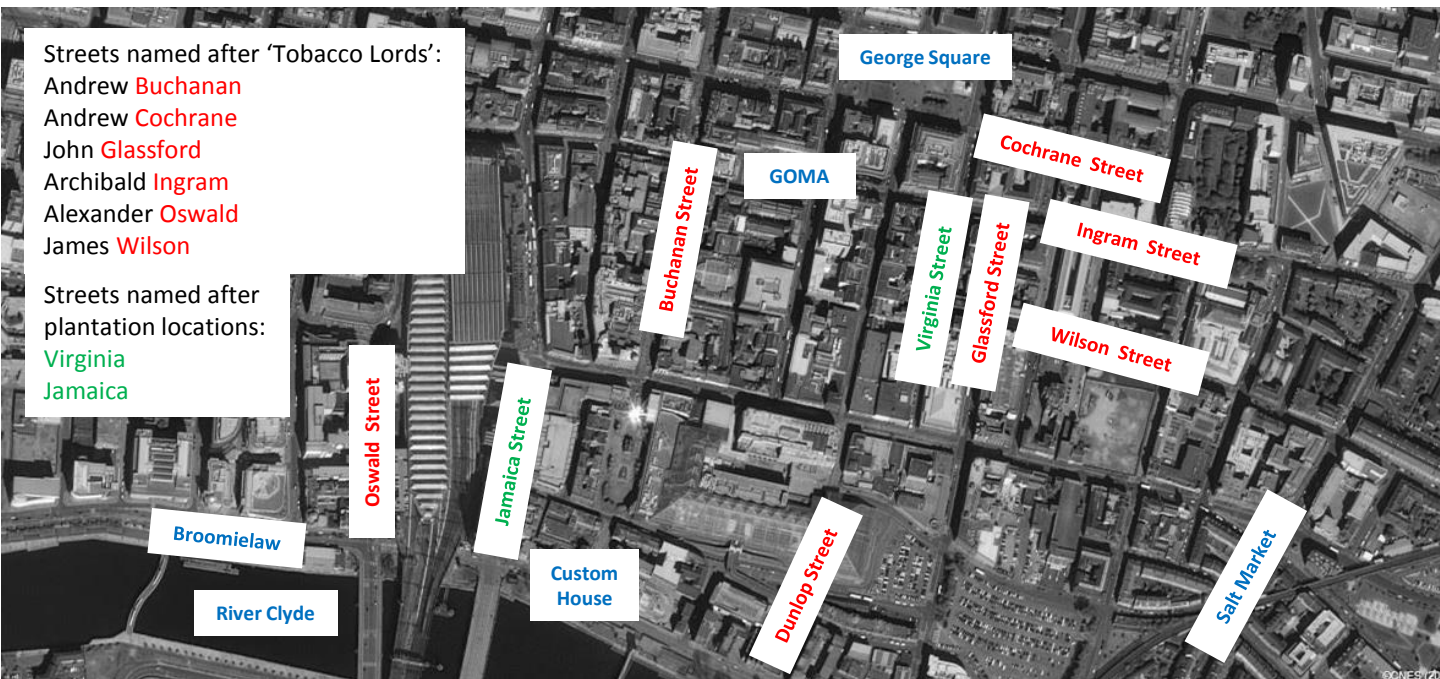
Gallery Of Modern Art

The import taxes raised at Custom House helped pay for the rapid growth of Glasgow from the Salt Market westwards. The merchants built mansions in the area – The Gallery Of Modern Art (GOMA), for example, in it's original form was the home of trader William Cunninghame.



Custom House

Many of his contemporaries were so crucial to the city that the streets now bear their names.



Though it's thought very few slaves were seen in Scotland, Glasgow was an integral cog in the slave trade machinery at it's height and indeed it helped to fuel the world's addiction to tobacco, sugar and rum at the same time.

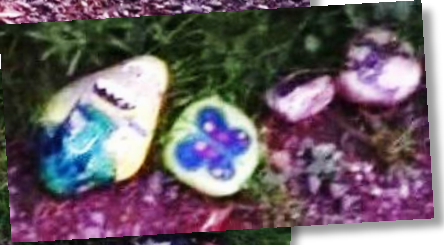
It seems inevitable that the public conversations will grow as to how to acknowledge this dark past: adding information plaques to streets, changes to the school curriculum or even re-naming streets?

The choices we make as a society in how we look back on the past with clear vision but without erasing aspects we don't like can inform our future in a more positive way.

If you're at all interested in history then The Torrance Heritage and History Group hopes to be returning as soon as possible. It normally meets on the last Monday of every month at the Caldwell Halls from September to June. Contact torranceheritageandhistory@gmail.com for more information.

TORRANCE STONE SNAKE

Look out for the ever-growing stone snake on the path beside the burn behind Michael McParland Way! You could even add your own.



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

The answers to the crossword from Issue 8 of The Village Hug shown opposite.

The hidden television show was Dad's Army!

1.	T	W	2.	E	L	3.	V	E	4.	J	5.	A	6.	D	-	7.	L	8.	B
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9.	S	E	T	T	L	E	R	S	O	F	L	A	T	A	N				
	S		O		E				T		A		I		D				
	P		N		R				I		D		T		A				
10.	A	C	I	D	I	C			N		11.	R	E	U	B	E	N		
	L		A		E						S		E						
	7																		S
		12.	A	13.	M	O	S				14.	A	L	15.	P	S			
16.	F		I						17.	B		I		L		18.	M		
19.	R	O	S	E							20.	A	R	I	A	N	A		
	I		H			21.	A			E		D		S		T			
22.	E	V	E			23.	R	A	M	B	L	E	R		T		R		
	N		A				I			E		O		I		I			
24.	D	U	R	H	A	M				R		25.	S	P	A	C	E	X	

Follow the link below to register for a free, online 'Love Your Clothes' Workshop with a guest speaker from Zero Waste Scotland.

As well as explaining why the clothing industry is bad for the environment there will be practical advice on how to combat this in our own lives.

An estimated £100 million worth of used clothing goes to landfill in the UK every year.

Clothing has the 4th largest environmental impact after housing, transport and food

Friday 19th of June, 2.15 – 3.15pm.

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/love-your-clothes-workshop/>

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Please join us as we pray each week for the needs of our Village. This week we are praying about "additional support needs":-

"Dear Lord

Dear Father God we pray for the adults and children in Torrance with additional support needs, who find daily life a challenge.

We think especially of those for whom lockdown has removed comforting routines and necessary support mechanisms.

We pray that you will help to bring your peace to confused and troubled minds and that you will give families, friends and carers the patience and stamina they need to get through each day.

We ask that they will feel your strong arms around them in the days ahead.

Amen"

Are you in need of help, prayer, to be listened to in confidence?

Please don't hesitate to contact the following number by phone call, WhatsApp or text:

07788 797238

This is a dedicated phone number, used only by the Prayer Ministry Team.

During lockdown many of us have been walking the lovely footpaths, tracks, and country roads around Torrance, getting our daily exercise.

I'm sure there has never been a time when we have walked out every day and seen spring unfolding in the same way we have this year.

We started off in March when the trees and hedgerows were bare and there were very few wayside flowers. We saw and heard the early nesting rooks noisily build their homes high up in precarious leafless branches. The weather was chilly, we wore scarves and hats and gloves.

Then March gave way to April, the weather warmed a little and the sun began to shine. Gradually nature began to respond.

Tiny buds appeared on the trees and hedges, primroses, violets and celandines cheered up the verges and the banks of the streams.

As April progressed the Montgomery lambs were born and the fields around Torrance were joyful with new life. The birds were busy gathering material for their nests. The sun continued to shine and we put away our hats and gloves and scarves. We walked along dry footpaths and tracks, we met friends and chatted, keeping our distance of course. The daffodils disappeared and the bluebells came, the air was filled with the scent of wild garlic and the woods were alive with bird song.

Under the warm sunshine the leaf buds opened and the trees blossomed, the bees and the butterflies arrived.

So we drifted into May and welcomed back the swallows and the cuckoo who has been in fine voice around Torrance this year. The trees are in full leaf and the May blossom is out on the hawthorn hedges. Perhaps we can now 'cast a clout'.

We can enjoy the wayside flowers, the buttercups and daisies, the campion and cuckoo flower and the fledglings cheeping, still wanting to be fed.

As lockdown loosens, the black bird will still sing its beautiful song in the long light evenings, spring will give way to summer, the next wave of wild flowers will appear, the rosebay willow herb and the birds foot trefoil, but will we have time to watch. . .?



Wild Garlic



Bluebells



Oxeye Daisies



Foxglove



Campion



Primrose



Buttercups

CHOCOLATE BROWNIE RECIPE *from Grace Murray*

Read on to learn how to make Grace's award winning chocolate brownies!

Ingredients:

- 185g of unsalted butter
- 185g of good quality dark chocolate
- 85g of plain flour
- 40g of cocoa powder
- 100g of chocolate (Dark, milk or white or a combination of these)
- 3 large eggs
- 275g of golden caster sugar



Method:

1. Chop the unsalted butter into little cubes and place into a medium bowl. Next, break the good quality dark chocolate into pieces and put into the bowl with the butter. Melt these together in the bowl over a pot of simmering water. Stir occasionally then leave to cool to room temperature.
2. Pre-heat the oven to 160°C fan/180°C/ gas mark 4. Then line a 20cm square tin.
3. Sieve the plain flour and the cocoa powder into another medium bowl.
4. Chop up the 100g of other chocolate into chunks.
5. Crack the 3 large eggs and the golden caster sugar into a large bowl and whisk for 3-8 mins until pale and double the volume. If the mixture leaves a trail on the surface for a second or two it is ready!
6. Pour cooled chocolate mixture over the eggy mixture and fold together until the colour is mottled dark brown.
7. Sieve flour and cocoa powder mixture into eggy chocolate mixture, shaking from side to side to cover the top evenly. Fold it in using a rubber spatula in a figure of 8 until mixture looks fudge-y. Stir in the chunks of chocolate.
8. Pour into tin and bake for 25 mins. If it wobbles in the centre after 25 mins, bake for another 5 mins.
9. Finally leave until completely cold.

Keeps for two weeks in an airtight container and in the freezer for up to a month!

Do you have a great recipe worth sharing with the Village? – Send it to thevillagehug@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:30AM EVERY WEEK

During the Coronavirus Emergency you can listen to and watch the service using the Zoom webinar conferencing app. You'll be able to see the song words and the people leading the service. As a viewer you won't be visible on screen.

<https://zoom.us/j/462751387>

The Meeting ID is: 462 751 387.

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