



FOCUS

AUTUMN 2026

the magazine of
BUSBY PARISH CHURCH
serving the Parish of Busby & Thorntonhall

Parish Church
celebrating
100 years of worship in Busby

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FOCUS

the magazine of
BUSBY PARISH CHURCH

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Cover picture by Marilyn Ross



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PLEASE SUPPORT THE WORK WE DO

From Busby Food Bank to our Drop-In Club for seniors. From Guides and Brownies to The Guild, with Art classes, Quilters' classes, Fitness classes. Our Choir, the Sunday Club and a host of other activities, all in addition to our Outreach, Pastoral Care and Sunday Worship, and of course this magazine, Busby Parish Church provides a vital focus in our community.

It all takes a lot of voluntary work and resources and we rely on the support of our members and those that use and enjoy all our facilities.

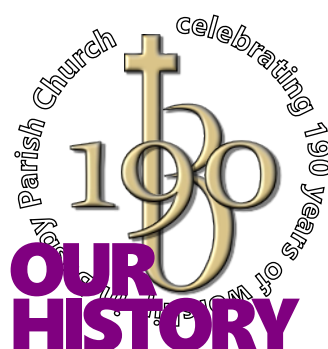
If you would like to support us, you can donate on the Church of Scotland website at <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate> making sure you click on DONATE TO A CONGREGATION and choose Busby Parish Church. If you are a UK taxpayer, please also fill in the Gift Aid form so that we can also reclaim the tax.

If you already contribute, thank you so much. If you are not already doing so, please consider adding Gift Aid to your contribution. For more details you can also email office@busbyparishchurch.org.uk

Thank you.

BUSBY ARTS FESTIVAL

For all those who wondered what had happened to Busby Arts Festival this year, we have been trying to secure funding for a more ambitious event which we hope to run in April or May next year. We hope to have more live music, a bigger art exhibition, more opportunities for young people, more performing arts and more crafts. Look out for more information in the December edition of Focus.



Unfortunately, due to illness, Maureen Potter has been unable to continue with her fascinating history of Busby and Busby Parish Church in this edition of Focus.

She hopes to pick up where she left off in the next edition. We all wish Maureen a speedy recovery.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bereavements

July William Johnston, Waterfoot

August Jemima Drewery, Three Bridges Care Home, Cathcart

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

LODGING HOUSE MISSION

ROBIN BULMER



Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2026

We are so grateful to you for supporting LHM year after year, it means a lot to us. We've put together a short list of the things we need most. If you're able, please pick from these- we've thought it through so it reflects what we actually use. We've also included a few everyday essentials we usually have to buy; donating these would save us money that we can redirect to other areas of our work. Your help allows us cook hot, nutritious lunches and provide emergency food parcels for those who are struggling. If a cash donation is easier, we'll use it to buy fresh fruit, veg and other perishables we need, keeping meals healthy and cutting waste. Thank you from The LHM Team

Cereal	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Goods
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nut	Pears	Baked Beans
Weetabix	Pineapples	Chopped tomatoes
Rice Crispies	Mandarins	Coconut Milk
Sugar Puffs	Fruit Cocktail	Condensed Milk
Frosties	Other	Potatoes
Coco Pops	Diluting/fresh juice	Custard
Cheerios	Coffee	Rice Pudding
Porridge	Biscuits	Butter Beans
Dried Goods	Crisps	Cannellini Beans
Cous Cous	Tea Bags	Chickpeas
Bulgur wheat	Long life milk	Tinned lentils
Paprika, Cumin	Rapeseed Oil	Other
Lentils	Plain Flour	Brown Sauce
Mixed herbs	Corn Flour	Tomato Sauce
Garlic powder	Mustard	Vinegar
Onion powder	Butter	Soya Sauce
Chilli powder	Bottle lemon/lime juice	Worcestershire Sauce
Crushed chillies	Dry yeast	Olive oil
Ground coriander	Baking Powder	Vegetable oil
Black pepper	Red wine vinegar	Gravy Granules
Salt	Apple Cider Vinegar	Veg Stock cubes/ bullion
Pasta	Vanilla Extract	Jelly
Long grain rice	Essentials	Sugar
Bay Leaves	Washing up liquid	Tomato Paste
Lasagna Sheets	Washing Powder	Passata
Coriander	Toilet Tissue	

Food Parcel Items

pot noodles/packet noodles	Tinned ham, corn beef, tuna,	Tinned spaghetti, spaghetti hoops	Tinned meatball, macaroni tinned dinners eg: curries
instant mash	Microwave rice pouches, pasta pouches	Biscuits, cereal bars	tinned soups packet soups

For over a century, LHM has been a source of hope, empowering disadvantaged individuals to reclaim their lives. As an independent charity grounded in Christian values, our mission transcends boundaries of religion, race, ethnicity, and gender, offering care and support to all in need. Amidst an economic downturn that has left more men and women homeless and many others struggling to survive, our dedicated team stands united with a single, powerful goal: to make a lasting, positive impact on people's lives.

Meals are served Monday to Friday at our Day Centre on East Campbell Street. There is no charge for any of our services, including our food, and we strive to make meal times accessible for everyone. Breakfast includes a hot option and cereal, with guests welcome to enjoy both. Lunch is served as a three-course meal, beginning with soup and bread, followed by a main dish (with a vegetarian option available), and finishing off with a lovely dessert.

Food is served Monday to Friday

Breakfast: 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Lunch: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm (1:30 pm on Fridays and Bank Holidays)

Teas, coffees, and juice are available throughout the day, although from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm, we serve juice only.



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WHITENING**

When the choir members, Allan & myself look for introits to begin our services, we usually look to the CH4 hymn book. Sometimes, however we are lucky enough to have one written specially for us.

Our own Steve Smith wrote one with his own words:

'When the springtime comes anew, and winter chill departs,
When the summer skies are blue and sunshine's in our hearts,
When the autumn leaves lie around and the first frost sprinkles the ground,
Then we thank you Lord so dear for the seasons of the year.'



OUR CHOIR

ROSANNE BRACKENRIDGE

This Introit is a lovely beginning to our services- I'm sure I'm not alone in being amazed at how quickly the seasons go by. Allan & I enjoy looking through our huge folder of anthems at the start of each church session. We choose a selection then make final decisions with the choir members.

Recently, as we now have four worship leaders who are also choir members, it's been a pleasure to spend time at our weekly choir practices, practicing the hymns which they have chosen for their services.

What a very special pleasure it was recently, for the choir to take part in our church's 190th anniversary service. It was a precious moment when all four ministers taking part came to pray with the choir before the service! We chose one of our favourite anthems for the occasion- 'Non Nobis Domine', words by Rudyard Kipling & music by Roger Quilter.

I continue to enjoy sharing fun and music with our very enthusiastic Sunday Club. The songs we sing are usually well know children's songs taken from Junior Praise. Some we've known for decades, others are more recent. The children love singing & using puppets and props to bring the music to life.

Choir members and Allan are always delighted when members of the congregation thank them for the music. It is always a pleasure to provide the music for our church.



WORTH A VISIT - LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING

JOHN WALKER

Every summer, the Scottish Borders hold their traditional Common Ridings, a series of historic festivals that celebrate the riding of the boundaries and the region's rich heritage. On Friday, 31st July, I visited the Common Riding in Langholm, and it was a wonderful day out. The weather was kind, which made the occasion even more enjoyable.

The man at the front of the photograph stands on his horse and makes the

traditional proclamation "that the land is back in the hands of the common people". It is a colourful and memorable event that proudly keeps centuries-old traditions alive.

If you would like to learn more about the Langholm Common Riding, visit:
<https://www.langholmcommonriding.com/>

This summer we visited Planet Bee Honey Farm and Meadery in British Columbia, Canada where we saw honeybees up close, strolled through bee-friendly gardens, and tasted honey and mead - all free of charge. For a small charge, visitors are given a short child-friendly education on the importance of bees.

Super Bee Body Facts

- Five Eyes: Bees have two big eyes on the sides and three tiny eyes on top of their head to see light.
- Six Legs: They use their legs to walk and special hairs on their back legs to carry pollen.
- Fast Wings: A bee's wings flap 200 times every second, which makes the buzzing sound.

Inside the Beehive

- The Queen: She is the boss of the hive and lays thousands of eggs every single day.
- The Workers: These are female bees that clean, build, protect the hive, and search for food.
- The Wiggle Dance: Bees do a special wiggle dance to give directions to other bees as to where to find the best flowers.

Beautiful Bees in Busby

It is easy to take bees for granted. They just buzz around our gardens. But these small, hardworking insects play a much bigger role in our local environment than we might realise.

Bees are among nature's most important pollinators. As they move from flower to flower collecting nectar and pollen, they help plants reproduce. Many of the fruits, vegetables and flowers we enjoy depend on pollination, making bees an essential part of healthy ecosystems and food production.

Here in our local communities, gardens, parks, allotments and green spaces can provide valuable habitats for bees. Even a small garden or balcony can make a difference. Planting a variety of flowers that bloom at different times of the year gives bees a reliable source of food from spring through autumn. Lavender, foxgloves, crocuses, heather and wildflowers are just some of the plants that can attract visiting bees.

It is also important to remember that not every bee lives in a hive. The familiar honeybee is only one species. The UK is home to many different types of bees, including bumblebees and numerous solitary bee species. Some nest underground, while others use holes in wood, walls or other sheltered places.

Unfortunately, bees face a number of challenges, including loss of habitat, fewer sources of wildflowers, pesticides, disease and changes in the climate. This makes the spaces we create for wildlife increasingly important.

Try helping our bees by taking a few simple actions:

- Leave a small patch of grass to grow so bees have shelter and natural feeding spots.
- Plant bee-friendly flowers such as lavender, foxgloves, crocuses, heather, wildflowers and dandelions.
- Avoid unnecessary pesticides, especially when plants are flowering.

So, let's celebrate our local bees. By making room for them in our gardens and green spaces, we can help ensure that the familiar summer buzz continues for generations to come. Small actions can make a big difference — and when it comes to bees, every flower counts.



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K	I	N	D	H	E	A
S	M	I	L	E	L	Y
P	L	A	Y	O	V	E
H	E	L	P	S	H	A
L	O	V	E	S	H	A
S	H	A	R	E	K	R

COLOUR ME!



Grab your crayons
and bring this picture to life!

JOKE TIME!



Why did the scarecrow win an award?

Because he was outstanding in his field!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find 5 differences between the two pictures?



DID YOU KNOW?



There are more than 7,000 different kinds of apples grown all around the world!

DRAW AND WRITE

Draw a picture of your favourite autumn activity.

Why do you like it?



BE KIND • BE HELPFUL • BE YOU!



Our litter event took place a few months later than usual this year on Saturday August 15th.

This was because East Renfrewshire Council launched their 'Big Clean Up' initiative for each ward. 'Busby's Big Clean' was scheduled for March and a little too close to our usual April date.

The weather was kind to us again and our usual Church litter picker stalwarts were out in force.



This year we were also fortunate to have a good number of volunteers from our Community Council giving us their support. A big thanks to all those who participated. Many hands make light work.

It feels good to make this small contribution to improve our environment in the hope that others might get the message and change their habits. It could be worse if we did nothing.

Finally, I'm pleased to be able to report that the volume of litter was considerably less than in previous years. If we persevere, we might be redundant in another few years!

Thanks again to all the litter pickers, the drivers, those who provided the refreshments and the Council for the uplifts, ensuring this event was successful.



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DESERT ISLAND DISCS

The Selection of Jim Savage

A keen sailor and enthusiastic golfer Jim is an active member of our Church and is also our Property Convener, looking after the Church buildings.

"Given my wide eclectic tastes in music over the years (with heavy weighting in the 70s and early 80s) it was difficult to pick out my best of the best but here goes"

Picture courtesy of BBC Radio 4

1. Behind Blue Eyes – The Who. Iconic rock of the early 70's and top of my teen" play it loud" sounds at the time. Time has changed but I still like this number (maybe a little less volume now!)
2. My Sweet Lord – George Harrison. The whole Let it Pass album was played non stop by me at the time (supposed to be studying for Highers I think). Many cover versions of the various tracks confirm its pedigree.
3. Your Song (original version) – Elton John. Like many contributors in the past, Elton has been a firm favourite over the years and this track is probably one of my favourite songs of all time. I don't like later jazzed up versions.
4. Stairway to Heaven – Led Zeppelin. For them, a slightly unusually mellow start leading to the supreme guitar sequence and full tilt sound of Led Zep at the end. Sorry neighbours of early 70s.
5. Heart of Gold – Neil Young. The haunting sounds of Neil Young marked the move in my tastes to include more folky rock at an age of leaving school and home to go into the big wide yonder.
6. Dreamer – Supertramp. Being 1974, this beat Breakfast in America numbers given the mid 70s timing being some of my most exciting years in my post school days. I was now living and working in Dundee where I had great times and made many new friends not to mention the most important one of all - a certain lovely lady called Mary!
7. Sailing to Philadelphia – Mark Knopfler and James Taylor. I have enjoyed so much of the music of both artists over the years and a great combination in this number.
8. The Boxer – Simon and Garfunkel. As they say an oldie but goodie, dating back to the Vietnam years and one which, like so many of Simon and Garfunkel's classics, is still played today – I could quite easily have chosen countless others such as Bridge over Troubled Water which my sister Moe played all the time back in the day.

Sorry not to be able to take other music to the island by the likes of Van Morrison, Chris Rea, Beatles, Eagles, Pink Floyd, Bruce Springsteen, Genesis.....

The book I would take is

Pheonix -Policing the Shadows by Jack Holland and Susan Pheonix.

This is a well put together and very personal account behind the scenes of the secretive life of Ian Pheonix who as Northern Ireland's head of police counter surveillance spent many years working the dangerous task of trying to make the Province a safer place. Tragically, Ian along with many of the top people in national security for Northern Ireland at the time (and the RAF crew) were all killed when the Chinook helicopter they were traveling in crashed on the Mull of Kintyre on the 2nd June 1994.

An object to take to the island.

My putter – I have been saying for years that if I had the time to practice my putting more, I might start to record less embarrassing golf scores. Well, there should be plenty of time for that!



This recipe is in honour of the Queen of Country Music - the late, great Dolly Parton. The famous "Cuppa Cuppa Cake " is an easy three-ingredient dessert popularized by Dolly Parton's character Truvy in the 1989 movie *Steel Magnolias*. A perfect warm dessert for cozy autumn evenings.

Enjoy! Shona

Ingredients

You only need three basic items to make this old-fashioned Southern treat:

- 1 cup self raising flour
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 1 cup fruit cocktail (including the sweet juice from the can)
- Vanilla Ice cream to serve

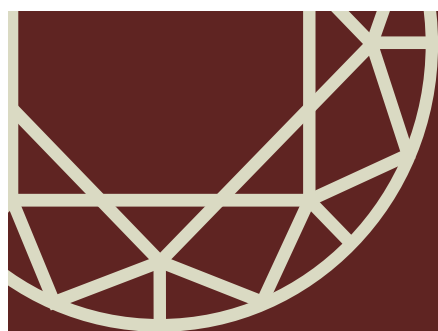
Method

1. Preheat your oven to 175°C/ Gas mark 3 and grease a baking pan or pie dish.
2. Mix the ingredients together in a large bowl until just combined.
3. Pour the mixture into your prepared pan.
4. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes until the top is golden and bubbly.
5. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream to help balance the rich sweetness.

"God, family, music, and food are the staples of my life. Food for the heart, food for the mind, food for the soul, and food for the table." - Dolly Parton

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William Albert Johnston

by Gemma Johnston



William Albert Johnston was born in Belfast on 8th June 1943 to Albert and Josie Johnston. A man of great character, warmth and humour, William lived a full and colourful life and was loved by all who knew him. He sadly passed away peacefully at home on 1st July 2026, surrounded by his beloved wife Thelma, his children and grandchildren.

William began his working life in the Navy, before later becoming a successful businessman and opening two much-loved businesses, Sunshine Electrical and Minnesota Fats. Through his working life, he made many friends and created countless memories, always known for his strong personality, quick wit and larger-than-life character.

William shared 63 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Thelma. Together they built a loving family and created a lifetime of memories. He was a devoted husband and a much-loved father, brother, uncle, grandfather and great-grandfather, with his family always at the heart of his life.

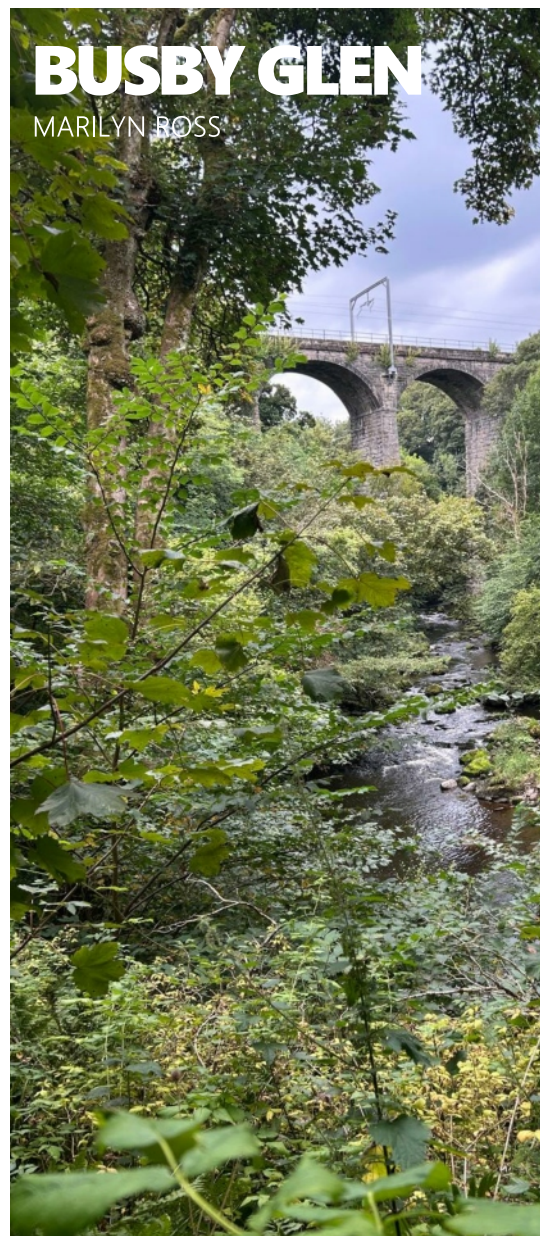
William will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him, but his memory will live on through his family, the stories they share and the many lives he touched throughout his years. A truly special man, who will never be forgotten. Rest peacefully, Billy.

When was the last time you walked in Busby Glen? On a recent sunny day I went for a stroll and the first thing of interest I came across was a young oak tree with a special plaque, dedicated to a dearly loved and most missed member of our church, Sandra Mackay.



Those who knew Sandra will certainly understand this sentiment.

Apart from the awesome railway viaduct and the White Cart waterfalls, a playpark and beautiful woodland, there are several paths enjoyed by locals and dogwalkers. But look closely...you might find some other inhabitants!

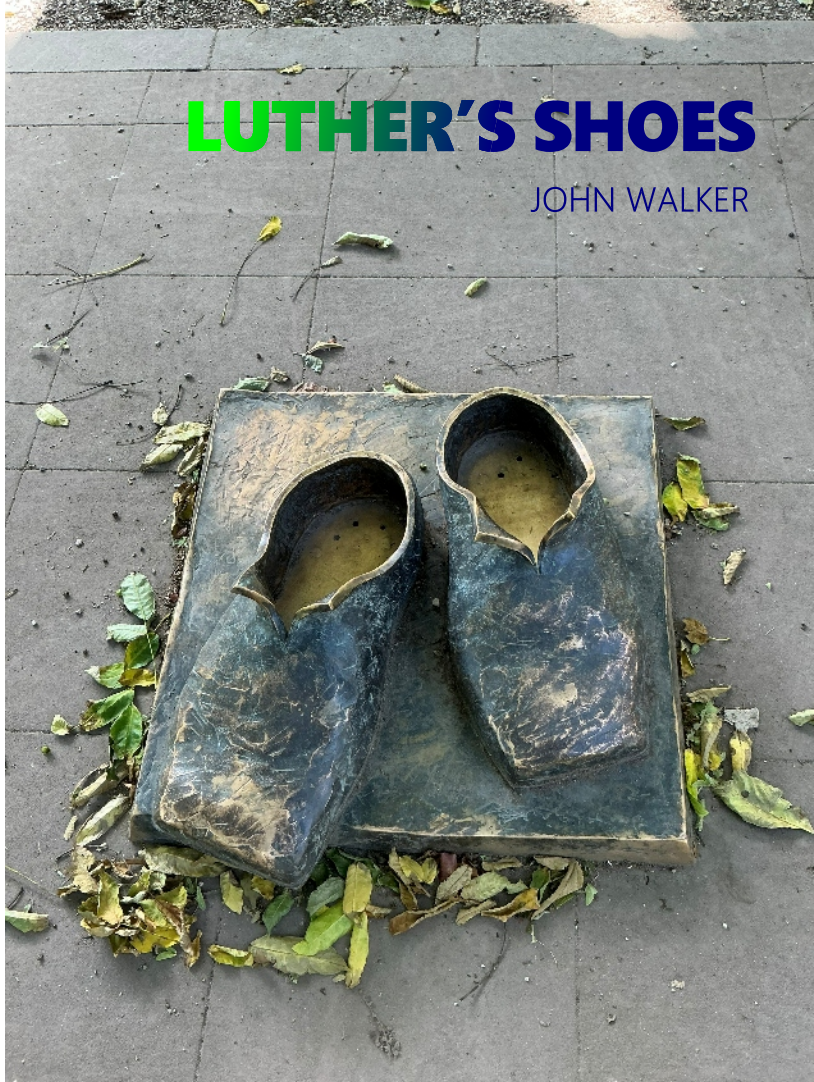


On the second Monday in August, early in the morning, I travelled to the historic city of Worms. This is one of Germany's oldest cities. My first stop was the Museum Heylshof, where I had the pleasure of meeting the museum's curator.

Outside the building she warmly welcomed me and, after our conversation about the history of the building, she kindly directed me to the statue of Cornelius Wilhelm von Heyl, whose family established the museum and preserved its remarkable art collection for future generations.(heylishof.de)

Before leaving the peaceful Heylshof Park, she also encouraged me to go to see Luther's Big Shoes, an unusual bronze sculpture that visitors can actually step into. The giant shoes stand near the historic site where Martin Luther appeared before Emperor Charles V, at the Diet of Worms in 1521, and refused to withdraw his writings. The sculpture invites visitors to reflect on Luther's courage and the importance of freedom of conscience, making it one of the park's most memorable sights.(worms-erleben.de)

At this very spot he refused to take back his teachings unless he could be shown from the Bible the reason that they were wrong. Luther said at Worms "Here I stand; I can do no other. God help me."



The reformation that followed on from Luther brought to our great nation a national Church of Scotland built upon the authority of the Bible without interference.

Believers in Scotland can stand in Luther's shoes due to the changing ways in our nation. For it has been written into the law of our land whereby the Divine law and the secular law live together. Now that is worth standing up for.

And you do not have to travel to Worms to do this, to put your feet in his shoes. You can stand on the traditions of our great nation by acknowledging this wherever you are.


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BOGEYS

IAIN JARVIE

Left to Right - Iain Murray, Jim Savage, Malcolm Hastie, Robin Bulmer, Gordon Watson, Iain Jarvie, John Lamb, Allan Morrison jr, Trevor Watson and Allan Morrison sr.

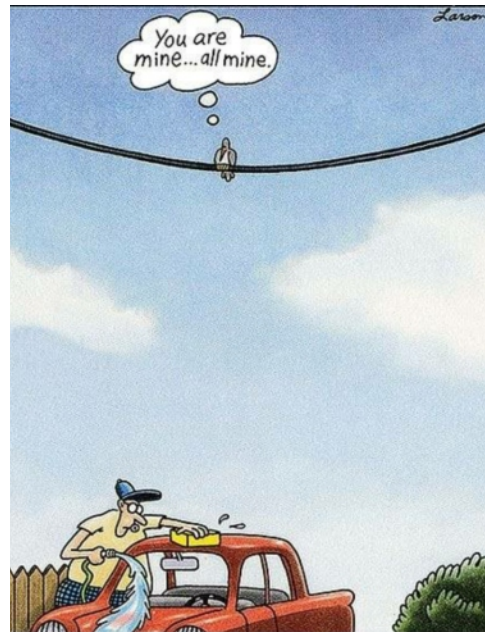
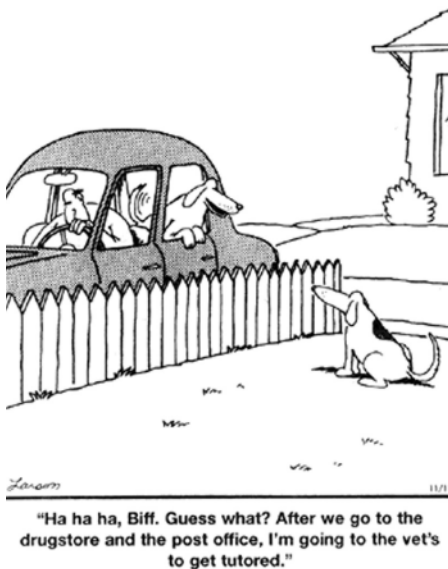
Busby Occasional Golfers End of Year Soiree, or "The Bogeys" as they're better known, have been on the go for nearly 30 years. Whilst their origins are Busby, and they did have end-of-year year soirees at one time, these days Bogeys come from wider afield, and year-end soirees have morphed into summer weekends of convivial camaraderie.

courses at Alyth and Strathmore, as well as the famous 9-hole "Wee Course" at Blairgowrie.

This year's outing on 7-9 August saw the group staying at the excellent, if quirky, Red House Hotel in Coupar Angus, playing friendly and welcoming

If the standard of golf can best be described as average, the weekend as a whole fell into the category of great fun, finishing back home on Sunday evening for the annual prizegiving dinner, where no-one can quite remember who won what (It's the taking part that counts, I believe).

Bogeys' elder statesman, Steve Smith (photographer), didn't participate in the golf this year but did demonstrate considerable prowess on the snooker table in the hotel bar. I did say The Red House was quirky.



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