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The NEWSEY

MARCH 2024



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The Newsey

a free information booklet produced quarterly and delivered to all households

by the

NVA

(Newtonhill Village Association)

The NVA has been in existence for over 50 years and seeks to organise and coordinate events and activities for the benefit of the Newtonhill Community.

We have a small committee of volunteers who meet monthly to organise activities.

All residents are considered members of the NVA and are welcome to make suggestions and/or get involved.

Follow us on Facebook (Newtonhill Village Association) or email newtonhillva@gmail.com for further information.

The NVA meets monthly on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in Skateraw Hall (or sometimes in the Newton Arms Lounge). Meetings are usually finished within an hour. Everyone is welcome.

Your committee for 2023/24 includes;
Lisa Stephen (Chair), Julia Fleming (Secretary), Andy Ward (Treasurer), Melanie Torrance (Newsey Editor), Robert Cooper (Common Good Fund/Defibrillators), Sandra McGeorge (200 Club), Lynne Riach (Skateraw Fair), Julia Coyle (NEAT), Vicky Williamson, Craig Slessor.



We hope you all enjoyed the Festive period and that the Christmas Lights on the lampposts in the village helped bring some cheer. Special thanks to Sandy Cheyne for allowing us to access power for the Christmas Tree and to Alec McDonald who provided the mobile scaffolding tower. Also, thanks to Ian Beresford for providing refreshments for the team.

Some of you may have noticed the two lights that were not working. This would appear to be due to faulty sockets on the lampposts and as such beyond the control of the team. Some of you will have also noted that there are four lampposts on Newtonhill Road which do not have sockets and therefore do not have Christmas Lights. This is due to current council regulations which do not specify Newtonhill Road as an 'area of main footfall' within the village and as such we can no longer ask for sockets on these lampposts. We are hoping to change this but there seems to be significant 'red tape' which is making this difficult.

We currently have a very strong and able team of volunteers who spring into action to put up the lights at the end of November and take them back down again in January. However, a number of our team are getting ever closer to our 'sell by' dates. As such, we would be delighted to hear from anyone who is willing and able to join the team. Please contact Andy on NVALights@aol.com. Initially this will simply add you to our contact lists and keep you informed of anything to do with the Christmas Lights.

Elsewhere in the Newsey you will see the advert for our annual fundraising event, the April Fools Quiz. This a fun pub quiz, in keeping with the name. Teams of four can register by emailing your team name and contact details to NVALights@aol.com

Notes from the NVA Treasurer

I have been involved with the NVA, on and off, since the early 1980's. The Village has changed immensely since then but the enthusiasm of the NVA committee members has changed little. It still relies on volunteers to organise and support events and activities that make Newtonhill an attractive place to live. I came back onto the committee a few years ago to represent the Christmas Lights and the Fireworks teams and then just two years ago reluctantly took on the role of Treasurer.

There is a common misunderstanding that being involved in the committee is a time consuming and demanding role. In my view it is far from it. The monthly meetings only last 30 – 40 minutes and even as treasurer I rarely spend much more than an hour each month preparing accounts. You then simply help out with the activities, as and when you can, but there is no obligation to do so. You also do not need to be on the committee to help out. Just get in touch and make sure we have your contact details.

Why am I telling you all this? Because I would like to encourage some new people to come along to the meetings and possibly join the committee.

Personally, I am looking for someone to take over as treasurer. It would suit anyone who can use an Excel spreadsheet. You certainly do not need to be an accountant (I'm not) – although it might interest someone who is training or employed in such a profession. If you think you would like to help, please get in touch with me at andywrd@aol.com.

Skateraw Fair

Saturday 29th June 2024

Great news! The Fair has been saved, we have some new committee members and are already busy planning what this year's Fair will look like.

Beer tent, bouncy castles, face painting, food stalls, live music and many more possibilities to be confirmed.

If you are keen to get involved with any of the planning before or helping on Fair day, come along to the Newton Arms on Wednesday 6th March at 8pm for our next meeting.

Skateraw Fair Committee

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200 Club Xmas Draw Winners:

Alison Anderson, Andy Ward, Karen Gittins, D & I Petrie, Mary Wood, Claire Callander, Alan Maitland, Vicky Williamson, Sally Waite, Stella McLoone, Margaret Brooks, Dorothy Johnston

Monthly Winners:

December 2023 - Claire Callander

January 2024 - Alan Jones

February 2024 - Ian & Ann Sharp

Contact us via the Facebook page if you'd like to join the 200 Club for the chance to win every month! £1 per number, and if we have 200 members, then you have the chance to win £100!



RYLA: We are now in a position to interview candidates for a place at the RYLA 2024 leadership week at Abernethy. Candidates should be 16 or 17 at the date of the camp in July. Please speak to the young people in your family, for further information they should speak to their guidance teacher if at school and/or google RYLA1010.com, our club facebook page also has a link.

YOUTH: A report from our Youth chair Carolyn McGhee:

Young Chef: This weekend (3rd February) our Young Chef winner is representing us in the Rotary District final of the Rotary GB&I competition. Thanks to the H.E. Staff at Portlethen Academy for arranging our local heat & supporting our winning Chef as she progresses in the competition. Our judges were very impressed with the quality of all the entrants' meals.

Young Writer: This year we have received entries in all three age group categories, with pupils from Portlethen Academy taking part for the first time. Our judges are looking forward to reading our entries on the subject of "rebuilding", entrants were able to interpret the topic in their own way & we have a wide range of interpretations.

Primary Schools Quiz (PSQ): March will see P7 pupils from Portlethen School defend their title as Portlethen & District's Primary School Quiz Champions! Last year it was a very closely fought competition between the five local primary schools (Primary 7s), all school teams showing a wealth of general knowledge. We are looking forward to seeing who will represent us at the area finals this year.

International. Rotary Shoeboxes were dispatched and gratefully received by children and families in Romania.

One of our sponsored pupils from our project in Uganda has now passed all his exams and is now off to college, so we have a space to support yet another child through their education.

Community: We held a small raffle and quiz during the Fine Piece café in Portlethen and raised £170 for local good causes. We are also hoping to have a larger fundraising event in early April, keep your eyes open for posters!

Crocus corms have been planted all over our area, Cove, Portlethen, Newtonhill and for the first time we assisted the Chapelton Community Association with planting theirs.

The annual District car raffle in the Bon Accord Centre raised £31,000 for Charlie House and Rotary good causes, and the car was won by a lady from Marykirk. The millionth ticket was sold since we started in 2000. The purchaser was a Christmas shopper from Shetland!

Social: Members and partners enjoyed a Christmas meal in The Neuk, we had visits from our Area and District Governors and held a Touch of Tartan evening with haggis and music.

Contact details, via messenger on our club facebook page or email acm739@btinternet.com.

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Community Council Update

Burnside Bridge

We have started to explore various possibilities for a replacement for this bridge, which was demolished last autumn. The council has not placed the bridge on its top 20 list of bridges as it is not seen as an essential community link, despite homes being isolated and walking and cycling routes affected.

Our initial research suggests that a replacement vehicular bridge would cost around £80,000, while a temporary bridge for walkers and cyclists would be around £10,000.

We are currently exploring aspects of the project such as planning and fundraising requirements, maintenance and insurance liabilities and what help Aberdeenshire Council will offer.

Torc Torrance has been co-opted as a member of the community council dealing mainly with this issue.

Viewing telescope

We are hoping that the new viewing binoculars can be installed in March, once the weather and ground conditions improve sufficiently for the concrete work to be undertaken. The telescope will be sited near the Isabella statue.

Emergency Packs Funding

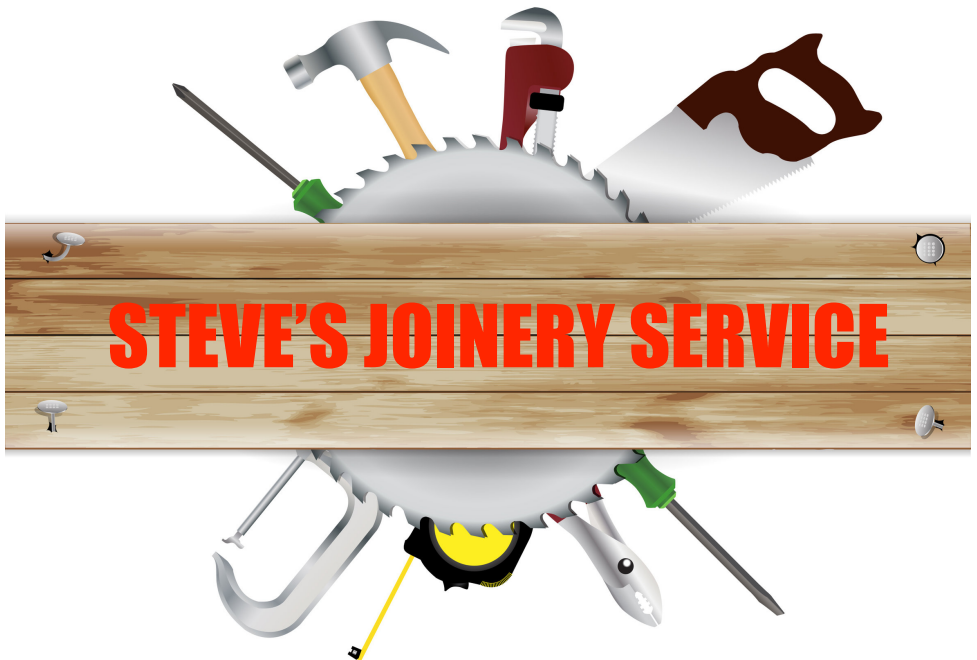
We've now received funding from the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund to make up resilience packs for people, especially the elderly and vulnerable, who find themselves without power for prolonged periods in extreme weather. Currently we are purchasing supplies and working out the best ways of storing and distributing the packs. This winter has made it clear that extreme weather is only going to become more common in years to come, so we hope to help the community become more resilient.

New housing or not?

During 2024, the Community Council will be considering a number of important issues that we will put forward for inclusion in the next Local Development Plan (LDP). A major role of the LDP is the allocation of land for building new houses. Since the start of development at Chapelton, the Community Council has opposed all new development in Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore, although sometimes Aberdeenshire Councillors have voted against the wishes of the local residents. Recent changes to legislation have given the Community Council more say in the next LDP and we intend to maintain the position of no building land allocations within the Community Council area. We would like to hear from you as to whether you support or oppose this position. If you think building land should be allocated, then where should it be? You can contact us at any of our monthly meetings, or via the community Council Facebook page, or email michael.morgan.mnccc@gmail.com.

Future Meetings

We hope to hold some Community Council meetings in Muchalls and Cammachmore in 2024. These will be held in Cammies and the Muchalls Village Hall respectively, but the majority of meetings will remain in Skateraw Hall. Details of upcoming meetings are always posted on our website and Facebook pages.



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Newtonhill & Portlethen 50+ Walking Group



The Newtonhill & Portlethen 50+ walking was formed some 30 years ago, originally as two separate groups but combined in 2022. The group is part of the larger Grampian 50+ Network whose primary aim is to encourage people to get outside for a bit of exercise and a blether in the fresh air and beautiful countryside which surrounds us.

The group meets each Monday at 09:30, alternating between Portlethen and Newtonhill and we car share from there to our chosen destination. Our walks vary from around 6 to 8 miles and are generally on well defined tracks, though these can occasionally be muddy! Our destinations are often local in the Winter months but as the days lengthen and warm we'll travel further afield, up to around 40 miles from Portlethen / Newtonhill. Last years walks ranged from Inverurie to the North, Ballater to the West and Glen Esk to the South.

The group is very friendly and sociable, there's a steady stream of conversations on wide ranging topics going on as we walk and you find yourself chatting with different group members throughout the day. Generally there'll be around 10 -12 on a walk and its quite a relaxed pace, we'll stop if there's something interesting to look at or a fine view to take in. There's always a stop for lunch around the half way point of our walks and if we do happen to end up close to a coffee shop at walks end its not unheard of for us to indulge in an afternoon cake!

We're always keen to see new faces so if your interested in a bit of exercise, seeing some lovely parts of the surrounding countryside and making some new friends why not come along and give us a try?

You can find out where we're walking and any other information by contacting our membership secretary Christine Moig on 07762 746710



April Fools Quiz

Monday 1st April

Newton Arms

7.30 pm

Teams of 4 (max)
£20 per team



Raffle

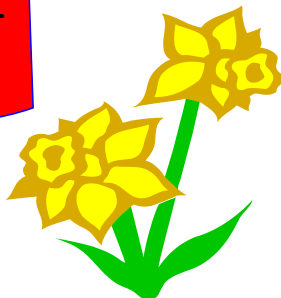
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Refreshments



All Welcome

Aberdeenshire Coastal Path – joining Communities; by Communities; for Communities

There is a plan to develop a coastal path from the River North Esk near St Cyrus along the 90 or so miles of rugged Aberdeenshire coastline to Cullen just inside Moray. It was originally conceived as a celebration of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the plan has the backing of the Lords Lieutenant as well as Aberdeenshire and the City of Aberdeen Councils and a number of other stakeholders. Funding will come from a variety of sources including, we anticipate, the Crown Estate (coastal community projects funded by, among others, the offshore wind farms), the Lottery and various other sources.

Our Kincardineshire coastline is full of wonderful scenery with steep cliffs, secluded coves and abundant wildlife including two wildlife reserves. It has a rich cultural history with castles of national significance and WWII defences through to smugglers' paths and numerous fishing stations. There is a rich and complex geology with the Highland Boundary Fault meeting the sea near Stonehaven, geologically dividing the Lowlands and the Highlands. And, of course, the route will provide a walking link between all the coastal communities to be enjoyed by visitors and locals, casual strollers and keen walkers (although it is not intended as a bike path or bridleway).



There are three main elements of the project: to establish the route; to engage with the coastal communities to inform, hear concerns and seek volunteers and information; and to establish a Trust which will oversee the future development and management of the whole path. Essentially, however, the path is a community focused project with the development and maintenance of the path being made possible by people from the coastal communities.

Our intention is for the majority of the path to be trodden grass with gates, steps and bridges with gravel or tarmac being used only where already established. Sustainability will underpin the development and management of the path: sustainably sourced materials for gates and bridges; recycled materials for signage, benches etc; the responsibilities of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and Leave no Trace to the fore.

Photo. RSPB Fowlsheugh by Caspar Lampkin

In time, we intend that the path will offer a holistic experience and opportunity with the health and leisure benefits of the path being supplemented by cultural, historic, environmental and geographical information through the use of interpretation boards; economic opportunities for existing and potential coastal businesses; educational, conservation and volunteering activities.

Our small group, MerCHAT (Mearns Coastal Heritage Trail), was responsible for opening up the route between the St Cyrus Nature Reserve and Johnshaven - quite a challenging section due to ongoing coastal erosion - and was approached to extend our operation as far as Cove. Funding for this work has come from Macphie's of Glenbervie. There is another group, funded by Aberdeenshire Council, which is developing the route from the north of Aberdeen to Cullen.

MerCHAT has been working on this (part time!) since May 2022 and has so far surveyed about 90% of the proposed route from Angus to Cove. We have photographed and noted virtually every stretch in detail and are writing up reports to share with landowners. We have visited a great many (but not yet all) the landowners to discuss plans, to hear concerns, to offer solutions. And we have attended meetings of several Community Councils along this stretch again to share plans, discuss concerns and recruit local volunteers as well as produce a quarterly Update (see below for details)

As suggested, this project is a community focused project and we are always looking for potential volunteers. Should you be interested in any of the following, please contact us via the email address below: Path Ranger (regular inspections of "your section"); path maintenance - perhaps learn to use a scythe; researching local history, geography, wildlife for interpretation boards; "behind the scenes" like writing Updates and Guides, helping with sourcing fund streams. It would be great if we could say that this Coastal Path is truly a coastal community achievement.

If you would like to receive our quarterly Update, please let us know and we will add you to our database.

Email: platinumjubileecoastalpath@gmail.com



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News from Cllr Mel Sullivan

New year and lots of changes afoot – some good and some so not much. Budgets are squeezed again this year – council tax is frozen and some compensation will be coming from the Scottish Government, but otherwise we have less money coming in for services and for vital infrastructure works.

The three bin rollout across the whole of the shire is almost finished. Hopefully everyone is up to speed on what goes in the blue bin now and what goes to the orange bin. These bins are quite light, so if you have a problem on windy bin days, you can get free bin straps from Portlethen HRC (recycling centre). If you can't manage to get there, please let me know and I can drop some off. Speaking of the HRC, you no longer need to pre-book a slot at Portlethen if you are using a domestic vehicle.

Live Life Aberdeenshire has a new membership model. As well as that, if you are an Essentials member (this is free for all Aberdeenshire residents), you will now get a **free** session of a highlighted sport or activity every month.

Disappointing news about the Elsick/Burnside Bridge replacement. The route wasn't classed as 'important', meaning the bridge currently sits at number 28 on list for repair/replacement. As we have some very expensive bridges (Banff and Aboyne) at the top of the list, there is no way the funding will stretch far enough in the next year. I attended the first meeting of the campaign to get a replacement, and hopefully provided a good overview of the situation and the routes open to the community (pun not intended).

If you'd like up to date information on these issues or anything else I'm working on, sign up to my weekly email (or read it through the link on Facebook).

My email address is **cllr.m.sullivan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk** You can find me on Facebook as 'Councillor Mel Sullivan, North Kincardine'. My webpage is <https://melsullivan.mycouncillor.org.uk>.



In 2024 we have different activities happening at Newtonhill Library at the Bettridge Centre and at Portlethen Library.

Coffee and Crafts drop-in activity happens every Friday from 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm at Newtonhill . Bring your own craft and make new friends whilst having a coffee (or tea!)

At Portlethen Library we have Conversational Spanish classes with Leandro every Monday from 22 January to 12 February, from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The Lego club continues to meet up every Monday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm as well. Relaxed Lego sessions are happening on the first Saturday of each month, until June 1st. There is Duplo and standard Lego available in a quiet side room adjacent to the main library. This session must be booked and Parents/Carers must remain at all times. Go to Live Life Aberdeenshire and select Events to book.



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1st Muchalls and Newtonhill Scout Group

We are 1st Muchalls Newtonhill Scout Group, started in 1975. We work towards helping young people enjoy new adventures, experience the outdoors, interact positively with others, gain confidence and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We achieve this through a mix of weekly sessions and occasional events like camps, district competitions and challenging activities. The biggest part of scouting in any section is the badges and awards they gain. These play a strong role in the sense of achievement each child experiences. All badges are earned through hard work, not simple attendance, and may require some work to be done at home. However we recognise that not all children have the same abilities so we adapt the requirements so that all those who participate face a similar degree of challenge.

Our group is made up of the following sections who typically meet at the Bettridge Centre:

- Beavers (6 to 8yrs) Tues 6 to 7.15pm – Catherine (catty@the-kid.org)
- Cubs (8 to 10 ½yrs) Tues 6.30 to 7:45pm – Jade & Laura (newtonhillcubs@gmail.com)
- Scouts (10 ½ to 14yrs) Wed 7 to 9pm – Chris (fryer_chris@hotmail.com)

Our leaders put in a tremendous amount of energy organising activities, here are examples of recent events. Our Cubs enjoyed an indoor Scottish themed camp in January leading the way that nights away adventures are not just for summer months. In December we took all sections to the Bettridge Centre Panto, this is free to members and is covered by our fundraising activities.

Our groups have all camped over the last year. Beavers joined the District Damboree last May at the Jock Neish Scouting Centre. Cubs camped at Templars Park last July with both leaders gaining their nights away permit. Scouts, Cubs and Beavers all camped at a joint Group Camp last September organised by Inverbervie Scouts.

Badges and activities covered by sections this year cover things like First Aid, navigation, knots, pioneering, adventure sports, frisbee golf, visits from the Aberdeenshire Ranger to learn about the Countryside Code, trees and mini beasts, hikes, gardening, bug hotels, litter picks, visits from people in our community of different faiths to learn about religions and their festivals.

Keeping our group running requires a lot of time from our volunteers. We have section leaders and assistant leaders. We have a full committee to support our leaders and help raise funds. We have 3 young leaders aged between 15 and 17 who volunteer their time and gain life skills. We have parent helpers and volunteers from our community who give time for specific badges and activities, for example members of The Chapelton Allotment Association hosted our Cubs at their allotments to complete their Gardeners Badge.

We are looking forward to an adventure packed 2024. If you want to get involved in any way, build transferable skills, gain confidence, and know you are helping to build a better community then please get in touch to join our amazing team. You can contact Rob at rob@robertarton.com or via 07525 101441. Our sections generally run at capacity, please contact myself or the leaders via their email addresses above to enquire about joining your child. For children under 6 years I encourage you to get them on our waiting list to reserve a space.



Calendar Of Events

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#THELARDER #FORTHECOMMUNITYBYTHECOMMUNITY



The Larder at the Porty Cabin on Cookston Road (opposite Portlethen Primary School) is here to ease some of the difficulties for many individuals and families in our local community. The Larder offers fresh bread, eggs, fruit and vegetables, fridge, freezer and cupboard items, toiletries, cleaning and baby items, all for a small donation, if you can.

If you find yourself struggling with food cost and could benefit from extra help, please scan the QR Code attached to place an order or visit our Facebook page and click the link to open a Google form to choose the items you are short of. We can also be contacted by email to c19portlethenhelp@gmail.com or by phone on 07376 133870.

Did you know that The Larder is available to EVERYONE? Please come in and visit The Larder for a top up shop. We receive surplus fruit and vegetables weekly from FareShare and organic vegetables, when they are in season, from the farm at Bridge of Muchalls, through the [@oneseedforward](#) organisation. These items are for EVERYONE to benefit from, for a small donation, if you can.

In addition, we SELL fresh farm eggs, soup packs and bananas at a fair price. The Fareshare items are excess stock items donated by supermarkets and are distributed to us to stop them from being sent to landfill and prevent food waste. Please see our Facebook page for weekly updates on the food items donated or pop in to see for yourself. All monetary donations are then used to purchase fresh items weekly. We can accept cash or card donations.

The Larder is open **Monday 6pm-8pm, Friday 2.30pm-4.30pm and Saturday 10am-12pm**. Our volunteers are there to help anyone during this cost-of-living crisis and you do NOT need a referral from another organisation.

We are very grateful for any donations, large or small, as this enables us to spend our grant money and donated money on fresh items that we need to purchase. The residents, schools, churches, and businesses of Portlethen & surrounding areas are so amazing with all the support they give to us. Our wonderful and dedicated volunteers need a special mention too. We could not provide this service without everyone's help, so a huge thank you to our community!

The Larder Team



Services are held in the Church every Sunday, beginning at 10.00 am.

We look forward to welcoming both old and new friends of all ages and you can catch up with our online services that are hosted on YouTube [Newtonhill Church - YouTube](#) or our own website [details below].



The Girls Brigade

1st Newtonhill Girls' Brigade continue to meet on Monday evenings in Newtonhill Church, beginning at 6.15 pm. with activities for girls from 5 years old and upwards.

If you require further info, contact girlsbrigade@newtonhillchurch.org.uk



The Guild

The Guild has completed its activity for this session and will begin their new programme in the autumn. At that time, they would welcome any new members to join them at their meetings.



Car Wash

Our popular car wash is held on the first Saturday each month in the church car park, from 10am till 12.00am.

The dates for the rest of the year are 4th June, 2nd July, 6th August, 3rd Sept, 1st October and 5th November.

Price for standard sized car £5.00. Price for large car £8.00.

Skateraw Fair

Teas and coffee etc. will be delivered by the Church and available in the adult lounge at the Bettridge Centre on the 25th June this year.

Bible Study Group, Sunday Fun Club (SFC), Café Kirk, Soupa Tuesday Lunches

All of these church based activities will recommence over the coming months as we move on from the COVID-19 restrictions and we will let you know when these groups do begin again.

If you would like to get involved in any of the events or organisations listed above, please speak to anyone at the church or through our website www.newtonhillchurch.org.uk



**Portlethen and District
Voluntary Community
Ambulance Association**

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 31829

JOHN GODSMAN



Although this article brings sad news of the untimely death of John Godsman, our Maintenance Co-ordinator, following a tragic accident, we are celebrating all the work he has done for our community and his involvement in the purchasing of our new Ambulance. From all the tributes we have read and heard, everyone said "John always had a smile on his face" and I'm sure all the passengers who travelled to their appointments with John behind the wheel will agree. He will be missed very much by us all, however his legacy lives on in the people who have benefitted by the donation of his organs.

John had an illustrious career in Engineering which took him and his family to all corners of the world over several years. When he returned to his hometown of Stonehaven, it was John's sister-in-law Lyn King, the Practice Manager at Portlethen Medical Centre, who encouraged him to volunteer as a driver for the Community Ambulance. He first became a relief driver in 2016 and, before long, had volunteered to carry out maintenance on the vehicle when required. At the AGM in 2019, John was voted onto the committee as the Maintenance Co-ordinator where he made sure the regular servicing, MOT and 6-monthly tail lift inspections were scheduled. Every month he would take the vehicle down to his home in Stonehaven and thoroughly clean it and top-up the AdBlue. If anything went wrong or needed replacing, all we had to do was call John and he would sort things out at short notice. If he was not available, as he and his wife Sheila enjoyed many holidays abroad, he always knew someone who could help.

As you will see below, we took delivery of our new Ambulance in the first week of February, and it was John who finalised the specifications and was in regular contact with the vehicle supplier, ensuring all the fine details were communicated clearly and the internal fitting-out was on schedule. It is down to John that we now have the vehicle that exactly meets our requirements.

* * * * *

On a cheerier note, our new "Wee Blue" Ambulance arrived in the first week of February and has been on the road ever since. We would not have been able to purchase this vehicle without the generosity of some local businesses, community councils and individuals. Our thanks go to Brio Retirement Living, Kepak McIntosh Donald, Macphie of Glenberrie, Michies Chemist and Meikle Carewe Wind Farm. The individuals who provided donations were local businessmen Colin Lawson and Graham Thom. From the local communities we received funds from Newtonhill Common Good Fund, Newtonhill Community Council, Portlethen Town Association, and lastly a grant from Aberdeenshire Council. Our thanks and gratitude go to all those mentioned above and to those who have regularly topped up our collection tins and left donations at the Medical Centre for us.



**Portlethen and District
Voluntary Community
Ambulance Association**

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 31829



We are currently planning an Open Day in the Spring to celebrate the milestone of acquiring our new vehicle. This will pull together some key individuals who were instrumental in making this all happen one way or another. Updates and more photos will be included in the next edition of the magazine.

If you are elderly or infirm and require our transport to your appointment at either the Medical Centre or the Portlethen Dental Practice, please request this through the relevant Reception when you are making your appointment.

As usual, we are always looking for additional volunteer drivers to boost the numbers on our team. If you can spare a few hours, either regularly or occasionally, please contact Hugh Wheelan on 07834 559547 (hwheelan1@gmail.com) or David Walton on 07468 883289 (j.d.walton@btinternet.com)

CROSS, NOT CROSSING!

Villagers are refusing to take the loss of a well-used bridge lying down – with a campaign for a new Elsie Burn crossing in full swing.

Walkers, cyclists, dog owners and schoolchildren are among those cut off from easy access to popular routes.

Not to mention a couple who now struggle to get essential deliveries such as heating oil – and fear a fire engine would not reach them in an emergency.

Aberdeenshire Council demolished the bridge as a safety precaution in October. Repairs had been halted after they found the foundations of the pretty 19th century structure were unsound.

But replacing it is not as high on the cash-strapped council's priority list as residents hoped - sitting 21st with little prospect of a quick fix despite local Councillor Mel Sullivan's success in getting it pushed up seven places.

The scoring system focuses on disruption to the road network rather than the impact on public health, routes to school or disabled access.

People with mobility issues have to negotiate the steep slope down towards the old mill to get to the beach or East Cammachmore.

And the large number of people who used the crossing for walks and rides around Cranhill and beyond face a long diversion via the village centre.

Petitioning the council to review its prioritisation was among actions agreed at a well-attended public meeting at the Bettridge Centre on 26 January.

A Facebook Group set up to keep the community up to date with developments already boasts hundreds of members – and a group of volunteers has formed a committee to agree a wider action plan.

The volunteers are examining a range of options such as raising the money for a like-for-like road bridge – estimated by the local authority to be at least £80,000 - or securing alternative access to the affected home then funding a cheaper burn crossing for cyclists and pedestrians.

The campaign will be conducted with the close support of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council (NMCCC).

Torc Torrance, who is leading the push for action and also speaks on behalf of the local cycling group, said the strength of feeling on the issue was clear.

“I’m calling for urgent action to get a new bridge to help us all connect. At the highly successful kick-off meeting we decided on a plan and we have a team who have the capabilities and support to make this happen. “I asked the people of Newtonhill and area to turn up to show our determination and they have answered!”

Would you like to add your skills to the campaign group? Please get in touch on 07879 583711 if so.

And look out for a survey online and in the next Newsey which will be used to demonstrate community backing for the campaign.

Please join!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/newtonhillbridgereplacement>





Baby Sensory™

Precious Early Learning for Babies

☀️ Baby Sensory gives you a complete experience of all Baby Activities.....☀️

Baby Sensory is the original learning and Development programme designed for babies aged birth to 13 months.

Every activity is based on decades of expert research to ensure that your baby not only has fun but it benefits their development too. You could come for a whole year and never experience the same session twice. Partners/Grandparents are welcome 🍷



- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| ♥️ Baby Massage | ♥️ Light Shows |
| ♥️ Baby Yoga | ♥️ Puppet Shows |
| ♥️ Reflexology | ♥️ Water Play |
| ♥️ Signing | ♥️ Messy Play |
| ♥️ Music | ♥️ Play Ideas |
| ♥️ Instruments | ♥️ Bonding |
| ♥️ Textures | ♥️ Dress up and Themes |
| ♥️ Scents | ♥️ Meet other new Parents |

For more information and to book one of our Award winning Baby Sensory classes with Elisha Martin visit www.babysensory.com/aberdeensouth or you can contact me directly on 07999 452858.

Classes run at the following venues: Monday - Bettridge Centre, Newtonhill, Tuesday - The Den and The Glen, Thursday- The Hanover Community Centre, City Centre

THE STACK

RESTAURANT & BAR

Open Wednesday -Sunday for relaxed family and dog friendly dining using the finest of local produce.

You are welcome to just pop into our well stocked bar for a refreshing drink, cocktail, or coffee.

Midweek Fixed Price Menu

Available Wednesday and Thursday evenings

2 courses-£22.00/ 3 courses £28.00

Mother's Day

Treat Mum this Mother's Day, Sunday March 10th, to a relaxing afternoon with great food and drink.

We shall be offering our full menus, specials and children's menus as well as our aged rib of Aberdeenshire beef with Yorkshire pudding and traditional garnish.

We are open for food from 12.15pm -7pm.

Book now to avoid disappointment.

*Lighter lunch menu available Wednesday-Saturday alongside our full menu.

*Sunday Special-Roast rib of aged beef with Yorkshire pudding, cauliflower cheese and roast potatoes -**£19.50**

*We continue to offer out takeaways. All the menus can be found on our website.

*Looking for a venue for a celebration?

The restaurant can host parties for up to 50 covers and can also be booked out for exclusive use or let us take the restaurant to you with our bespoke catering services.

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with upcoming events and news.

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Newtonhill resident**



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Talk to Barry

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E: [barry.robertson](mailto:barry.robertson@theopenworkpartnership.com)

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BETTRIDGE CENTRE NEWS

Knock Through

We're delighted to announce that, thanks to Developer Obligation funding, the long-awaited creation of a direct link between the old and new halls at ground level has finally been carried out.



Many thanks to our user groups for their support with the project and their patience as the work was carried out.

The building was originally designed to work like this, but due to VAT costs, the link couldn't be built in. It's a great way to celebrate the centre's 21st birthday and we hope it'll make the centre a much safer and easier place to use.

REACTIVE8

Friday Luncheon Club

Monday 11.30 – 1.30, £8 + £1 for bus

Dates: 1st & 15th March

Places must be pre-booked, so if you aren't already on the list and would like to attend, please call Lorraine on 01569 731320 or email info@bettridgecentre.org.uk

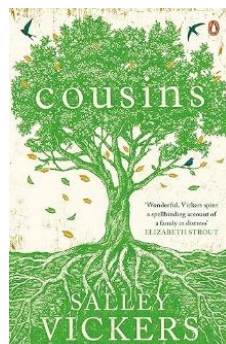


To make this very valuable service a success, we need volunteers to help run the meals. You don't need to come along for every lunch, just as often as you can manage, every little helps. Please contact us if you can help.

Book Club

Wednesday 13th March, 10 – 12, FREE

We're reading Cousins by Salley Vickers, copies provided by the Library Service. We have a couple left, if you're a fast reader and would like to join our first meeting.



New Groups

Yoga for Cancer & Chronic Illness

Thursdays, 13:00 – 14:00, FREE

An initial funded 6 week block will run until 21st March, we are hoping to secure more funding to carry on the class, so please contact us if you're interested in taking part.

Dance Fitness with Heather

Thursdays, 14:15 – 15:00

Dance Fitness is a 45minute moderate impact, fun follow along dance cardio and strengthening class with a relaxing stretch to finish. Modifications are given to suit a range of abilities.

Broadway Boogie

Thursdays, 19:00 - 19:45

Broadway Boogie is a high energy dance fitness workout inspired by musical theatre.

What's On

Friday Luncheon Club

1st March, 11.30 – 13:30

London Mountain Film Festival

2nd March, 7.30pm,

Friday Luncheon Club

15th March, 11.30 – 13:30

Coffee Morning

27th March, 10:00 – 12:00

Back to 80s & 90s Disco

4th May, 7.30 – late

Baby & Child First Aid

24th August, 10:00 – 12:00



MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL COMES TO NEWTONHILL!!

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LONDON MOUNTAIN
FILM FESTIVAL
ALL AROUND THE WORLD

TICKETS
£6 ADULT
£3.50 UNDER 12s
£15 FAMILY

WHEN AND WHERE

Saturday, 2nd March; Bettridge Centre, Newtonhill
Doors open at 7pm, films start at 7:30pm

Fundraising for The Bettridge Centre and the 1st Muckhills and Newtonhill Scout Group

Tickets and info:



**Back to
80's & 90's**

4th May
8pm - midnight
Un1que Discos

BETRIDGE CENTRE, NEWTONHILL

£7 PER TICKET
AVAILABLE VIA
TICKET SOURCE

18+

BYOB - RAFFLE - Doors open 7.30pm

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Do you or your family use the Bettridge Centre? Do you value having such an amazing facility on your doorstep? Could you spare 12 hours over the next year to help keep it going? If so, we'd love to hear from you!

The centre is, thriving, busy, and professionally-run - home to the many local groups and activities which help make Newtonhill a great place to live and work – but it's under threat of closure because the three trustees who are on the board have decided to step down. And, as a charity, we cannot continue to run without trustees.

No trustees = no Bettridge Centre = no Out of School Club, no ReActive8, pantomime, Choi Kwang Do, Skateraw Fair, badminton, pickleball, Scouts....

You wouldn't have to worry about the day-to-day running of the centre, as this is completely taken care of by Louise and her team of staff. All we ask of trustees is that they take an interest in the centre on behalf of the local community, meet regularly through the year and help us with some fundraising.

Who are you?

Someone who:

- Cares about the future of the centre and its role at the heart of the local community
- Wants to help make a difference
- Lives locally – but not necessarily in Newtonhill itself
- Can attend approx 5 meetings per year - Zoom or in person

You might also be someone who:

- Has an interest or background in sports/leisure, HR, accounting, project management etc – or would like to develop that experience to add to your CV: as a charity we can access free training to help you develop your skills
- Enjoys organising events
- Wants to get to know people in the local area and improve their social life

We welcome all ages, backgrounds and levels of knowledge & experience. We know times are hard and everyone's busy just making ends meet, but we hope you agree that helping the centre is an incredibly valuable use of a relatively small amount of time.

We're holding an
Extraordinary General Meeting
on **Tuesday 30th April**
to recruit new trustees. If you think this is something you could help us with, please contact us by emailing info@bettridgecentre.org.uk, dropping us a DM on Facebook or calling 01569 731320.

Bettridge Centre Regular Groups

MON	Baby Sensory	9:15	-	16:00
	La Jolie Ronde – pre-school French	10:00	-	11:00
	ReActive8 Bettridge Belters Singing Group	11:00	-	11:00
	Line Dancing	13:30	-	14:30
	Walker School of Highland Dance	17:00	-	20:00
	Choi Kwang Do	18:00	-	20:00
	Newtonhill Netball Club	20:00	-	21:30
	Maitland Badminton (private group)	20:00	-	21:00
TUE	Busy Bees baby & pre-school group	9:30	-	11:30
	Chair Yoga	11:00	-	12:00
	Open Pickleball	12:00	-	16:00
	Newtonhill Netball Club	17:00	-	21:00
	Beavers/Cubs	18:00	-	20:00
	Aberdeen Astronomical Society (last Tues of month)	19:30	-	21:30
WED	ReActive8 Meetings	10:00	-	12:00
	Library Service	15:30	-	18:00
	Yoga	18:20	-	20:30
	Scouts	19:00	-	21:00
	Lethen Archers	19:30	-	21:30
	Harding Badminton (private group)	21:00	-	22:00
THU	Yoga	9:30	-	11:00
	Open Pickleball	10:00	-	11:00
	Cancer/Chronic Illness Yoga (15 th Feb – 21 st March)	13:00	-	14:00
	Disabled/Inclusive Sports	13:00	-	14:00
	Dance Fitness with Heather	14:15	-	15:00
	Jacob Badminton (private group)	18:00	-	19:00
	Yoga	18:30	-	19:30
	Broadway Boogie	19:00	-	20:00
	NNC Bounce Back Netball	20:00	-	21:00
Auld Boys Football	21:00	-	22:00	
FRI	Parents & Toddlers	10:00	-	11:30
	La Jolie Ronde – pre-school French	10:00	-	11:00
	Library Service	13:00	-	15:30
	ReActive8 Craft Session	13:15	-	15:15
	Choi Kwang Do	18:00	-	20:00
	La Jolie Ronde – primary school French	18:00	-	19:00
	Jacob Badminton (private group)	19:00	-	20:00
SAT	Dance Dimensions	08:30	-	15:30
	Footstars	09:00	-	14:00



Newtonhill Out of School Club

Runs every week day from 07:30 – 09:00 & 14:45 – 18:00

Holidays and in-service days – 07:30 – 18:00

The club can be contacted on 07793-561748



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*Please note, other charges apply.

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BRASSERIE AND BAR

Kincardine Coastal

Services

The parish has been renamed as you can see from the heading but, as ever, we look forward to welcoming both old and new friends of all ages.

Our Morning Service at Newtonhill now begins at 9:30 am. following our Union with Portlethen

During the vacancy at Kincardine Coastal, services will be conducted by Rev John Watson as locum. John is a resident of Newtonhill and, as a former police officer and minister with over 40 years experience, is on call should anyone need his services.

Contact number for John is 01569 - 730604.

Soupa Tuesday Lunches

These enjoyable events continue to be held **between 12 - 2 pm. on the first Tuesday of every month.**

Everyone will be very welcome to join us in the church.

The Girls Brigade

1st Newtonhill Girls' Brigade meet every Monday evening in Newtonhill Church, beginning at 6.15 pm. with activities for girls from 5 years old and upwards.



Support from the community is always welcome and, if you require further information, please contact girlsbrigade@newtonhillchurch.org.uk

The Guild

The Guild would always welcome any new members to join them for their regular meetings in the church, starting at 2:00 pm, with the following event already organised.

March 20th AGM, Bring & Buy and Cruising with the Doctor.



Car Wash

Dates for our Car Wash will be published for our events that will begin in April 2024.

A hand washed car and a cup of tea / coffee while you wait would be a great way to start off your day.

If you would like to get involved in any of the events or organisations listed above, please speak to anyone at the church or through our website www.newtonhillchurch.org.uk

FRIENDS OF NEWTONHILL

Friends of Newtonhill (FON) is a parent group who supports Newtonhill Primary School with their wish list of wants and needs. Each year the group organises three school discos and a Christmas Fair as a minimum to raise funds for the school. FON has traditionally purchased P1 Painting Aprons with pupils names stitched on and the P7 Leavers Hoodies for the children at the school as their gifts to start and end their time at the school. Recently when Sarah Chew (Chair) and Clare Simpson (Vice Chair) took on the roles in 2021 the challenge was initiated to fundraise to rejuvenate the outside space of the school.

The playground as many of you will know, has very little play equipment and the playground markings were faded. Over the last two years, the group has organised a Race Night, Sponsored Walk, Photo Fundraisers, School Calendars, and Sports Day Picnic to name a few to raise funds for our playground project. We have tried to keep the whole of the community up to date with our fundraising efforts through communications and have implemented a parent app called Class List for parents/careers of the children who attend the school from nursery – P7.

So far to date we have spent a total of £16,293.10 on the outdoor space at the school. £5960 was kindly given to us from Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee fund as part of our match funding request. Eve a P5 pupil kindly raised £1000 during her sponsored climb of Ben Nevis and she chose one of our lovely new playground markings for the money to be spent on. We have also been gifted money from the Friday Luncheon Club, the NVA Santa Run and Tesco Newtonhill to boost all the money we have raised from our events.

Now that phase one of our plan is complete, we are looking forward to phase two. We would love to fundraise to purchase more play equipment for the pupils to use, this in turn will also support the wider community. We have been gifted £2500 from WM Donald £400 from the NVA Santa run 2023 and IACS Consulting have also donated £500 so we are well on our way to raising funds and hope to be able to approach the Kincardine and Mearns Committee for match funding in the new financial year 2024/25.

We are currently also raising funds to support the schools current wish list of new reading materials for the whole school at a cost of £1700 and new tablets for the pupils – fundraising for items never stop.

If there are any local businesses who could support us with a donation of money, prizes for our raffles or any support from local people who know of companies who would like to support the community school, we would love to hear from you and you can contact us via email fon.newtonhill@gmail.com or alternatively contact the school directly.

We would love to take this opportunity to thank all the community for supporting our fundraising efforts and we hope everyone is enjoying all the new equipment we have installed so far. We really couldn't do it without you.

Sarah and Clare



WHO WE ARE

We are a community of Christians who meet together to worship God, encourage and support each other in our day to day lives and share Jesus' loving care with groups in the Portlethen area

MOMENTS TO MARVEL

As we embrace the mountains and valleys in our journey through life, may there always be time to enjoy the surrounding scenery! May God bless you in these precious moments.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Every other week we meet at The Porty Cabin, Portlethen at 2pm for tea/coffee before a watch service at 2.15pm. On the alternate weeks we attend ACF's Union Grove building or watch online. You will be welcome to join us and details are contained in the PCF website (Portlethencf.com). This website also has links to the ACF site, and on the 'Let's Keep In Touch' page, you can sign-up for our weekly 'What's On' email.

WE PLAN TO HOLD AN EASTER SERVICE ON SUN, 31 MARCH. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.



Mainly Music is a fun and interactive music programme for parents and caregivers to enjoy with their child from age 0 to 5 years of age. It meets on Tuesday mornings at The Jubilee Hall, Portlethen, from 10am to 11.30am, consisting of 30 minutes of singing and rhymes followed by a snack, free play, and a chat for the big people! Cost is £3 per family per session. Please contact Susan on 07513 387 810 for more details.

PORTY CRAFTS

Our craft group meets at the Porty Cabin, Portlethen. Come and enjoy some creativity in a relaxed setting, with fellow crafters to chat with, and a cuppa and cake into the evening. We invite you to take your own projects along, for example: knitting, sewing or your own project choice. We also enjoy doing card-making, decoupage coasters and other crafts together. We meet weekly on a Thursday, from 7:00 - 9:00pm with a £4 fee towards costs per session. For more info, contact Frances on 07740 427 272.



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Cllr Catherine Victor

I love this time of the year. Full of promise for the spring and summer. It fills my heart with joy to see the spring bulbs peeping through the ground and the first snowdrops bobbing about in the breeze. The weather has been a mixed bag since Xmas, and I hope those of you that enjoy skiing have taken the opportunity to glide down a few slopes in Scotland's winter wonderland. We have also had some promise of what is to come with the lovely mild conditions in the past few days. The garden beckons.

I attended the meeting in the Bettridge Centre to discuss a way forward for the replacement bridge at Elsick/ Burnside. It was a lively discussion, and we were joined by Mel Sullivan, one of your councillors and our SNP, MSP Audrey Nicol. An action committee has been formed and there is an Elsick Bridge Facebook page. Please join both if you can and help, wherever possible, the more we have the better and easier to grow the funds that are needed to realise the possibility of a new bridge. It was obvious, listening to the constituents, that this bridge is necessary to the inhabitants of Newtonhill and surrounding area for their well being along with other reasons. I admire the community spirit that was so obvious at the meeting and that is why Newtonhill and area get so much done. They are not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. Dreams and aspirations are there for the taking, you just must make them happen by actions.

The new school at Chapelton is near enough on track, so we will keep pushing to make that happen. I have been asking for a timeline for the cutting back of bushes at Tesco and the refreshing of the crossing for the children's safety, who are walking to Newtonhill school presently. I will not let the council forget that they promised action in that area when they withdrew the bus.

I have requested double yellow lines on Park Place corner, Newtonhill, to stop cars parking and causing an obstruction there. To date, no reply.



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