

The

# South Deeside View

North Kincardine Community Newsletter



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Currently the daffodils are in bloom and the sun is shining, but the temperature remains rather chilly! Hopefully, by the time this newsletter reaches you, we shall all be enjoying warmer weather.

Thank you to all our contributors (local community members, groups, organisations, and advertisers from across the area), and to the volunteers who hand deliver this newsletter to our community.

Please contact us if you have anything for inclusion in the next issue (autumn) or if you would like something mentioned on our Facebook page.

There is no fee for community groups or charities however advertising fees do apply to businesses – see page 14

*The SDV Editorial Team*

### Aberdeen Aero Modellers



Located at Banchory Devenick airfield near Portlethen and fly all year long.

Given that this hobby is very much dictated by the weather there is no set day when there will be members at the airfield. Generally if the wind speeds are low, and there is no rain, there will be members at the airfield between 10.00am & 2.00pm. Some of our members are retired, making it a social club as much as a modelling club.

Chairman: Michael Blaney,  
Secretary &  
Treasurer: Philip Robb  
Facebook: AberdeenAeromodellersFlyingClub

### Cookney Bowling Club



The Cookney Bowling Club runs from September through to April, and the sessions last for about 2 hours. We take a break during the summer months.

We are always looking for new members so if you are interested in joining please contact us.

Ian Petrie: 07831 856789  
Location: Cookney Hall  
Times: Thursdays, 7pm (Sep-Apr)

### Maryculter Friendship Club



Sessions are on the first Thursday of each month November to April at 2pm in the Church hall. There is a variety of entertainment with a cup of tea/coffee and a fine piece! All are welcome, including new members.

*Please contact us if you will be attending*

Anne: 01224 732071 or  
Dianne: 07801 542154

### Cookney Cuppa

Everyone is very welcome to come along from near and far to catch up with friends and neighbours from the area or just pop along and make some new friendships. For a small donation of £3, folk can choose from a huge selection of delicious home bakes, all washed down with as much tea, coffee and soft drinks as they can manage.

In recent years we have held special Cuppas too to celebrate the Jubilee and Coronation, as well as our ever popular Christmas Cookney Cuppa where we also invite stall holders along to offer up some festive goods. We appreciate all the support from our local community, the money raised from donations goes towards good causes, a lot of which are local.

These are a selection of the good causes that have been supported recently.

- Macmillan Nurses
- Stonehaven Community Collective
- Maryculter Disabled Carriage Driving
- Haven Community Larder
- Horseback Uk
- Scottish Poppy Appeal
- Aberdeen Street Friends
- Mission Christmas Cash for Kids

If you can offer any help or home baking, please message us via the Cookney Hall Facebook Page.



Dates are usually posted up on local Facebook pages/groups a week or two beforehand. Please tell any of your friends and neighbours that are maybe not on Facebook.

Shona Grimmer & Nicola Farquhar

Cost: £3  
Time: 10am to 12 noon,  
one Friday a month, term times  
Location: Cookney Community Hall

## Maryculter Driving For The Disabled



Registered Charity no.  
SCIO 28630

The main purpose of this group is to take disabled persons, both ambulant and wheelchair bound, out on a horse and carriage which is driven by a qualified driver. Volunteers walk alongside the carriage and bring fun and laughter to make the afternoon a social gathering for our disabled friends.

Volunteers are always needed. As a carriage volunteer you do not need horse experience as training and guidance will be provided, and you would be made very welcome by our current volunteers and disabled friends.

We also have a great team of ladies who come along each week with lovely home bakes and make teas and coffees which our disabled friends love! If you feel you would like to join this team, possibly twice over the summer sessions, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to volunteer or join our homebakes team please contact us.  
Our first session is on 1st May 2024.

Homebakes  
Volunteering: Carol 01569 739283  
General  
Volunteering: George 01569 739283  
Kate 07871 531079

Location: Maryculter Home Farm  
Times: May to September  
Wednesdays, 12:30 onward

## Maryculter SWI (Scottish Womens Institute)



In March we celebrated our 97<sup>th</sup> birthday with an outing to Woodbank in Cults for a birthday meal. We are delighted to report that since we have started to meet again after Covid, our numbers continue to increase and we have a flourishing group.

We will take a summer break after our meeting in May, but will re-commence in September when we will be happy to welcome members and newcomers. The SWI is open to women of all ages and we offer a relaxed and friendly environment where everyone can enjoy an evening together.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month, at 7.30 pm in Corbie Hall, Maryculter, when we offer a variety of talks, demonstrations and competitions, but the emphasis is first and foremost on friendship. Do come along and join us!

If you need more information, please get in touch.

Sec: Joan Thomas 01224 733218  
07756-488988  
Email: joanat218@yahoo.co.uk  
Facebook: Maryculter SWI



"Brodie" Maryculter Home Farm

## MEIKLE CAREWE WIND FARM



### Community Benefit Fund

[www.kdp.scot/wind-farms.html](http://www.kdp.scot/wind-farms.html)

The fund is administered by Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP) and managed by a Decision Making Panel made up of members of the local community councils.

The fund is open for applications from 1 July to 30 September. A panel made up of representatives from the community council areas along with a representative from Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP) will then meet in November to consider applications.

You can find out more about the Wind Farm itself at [www.meikle-carewe.co.uk](http://www.meikle-carewe.co.uk)

## LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS



### Guiding

For information on Rainbows or Guides please log onto the girlguiding website:  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)



### Scouting

For the Maryculter, Netherley and Banchory-Devenick areas.

Location: The Scout Hut, Kirkton of Maryculter

#### Beavers

Tuesdays, 5.30 to 7.00 pm.

There are currently 18 Beavers and 4 adult leaders. We have space for a few more and of course additional help is always welcome.

Beavers offer a fun packed programme of crafts, games and activities working towards various activity badges. We like to get outdoors when weather allows and we have recently done our Cyclist, Space and the International badges.



Enquiries about joining or helping should be made to

Kathleen Paterson, -  
Tel.: 07748 774535  
Email: [kpaterson57@gmail.com](mailto:kpaterson57@gmail.com)

#### Cubs

Mondays, 4:45 - 6:30

We have a lively and lovely mixed group of Cubs which makes every session very entertaining. Most meetings are spent between the woods and the hut, and our Cubs are expert s'more makers.

We have done lots of work this session on Morse Code and mapping out our local area. We've also enjoyed a lovely pizza making evening and a smaller group of our cubs were privileged to take part in bird box building, led by one of our talented parents.

We have upcoming camps to: Skyline Trampoline Park, Braemar & Fordell Firs Howling camp and we're looking forward to adding more exciting additions to our timetable.

Sessions are led by Cubs leaders, and assisted by our Duke of Edinburgh students, we also have the support of a parent rota.

To join, or to volunteer, contact:

Kate Gwynne - Tel: 07421 466312  
Email: [kate.gwynne@me.com](mailto:kate.gwynne@me.com)

#### Scouts

Fridays, 1915 to 2115 hours.

We currently have a troop of 15 Scouts, a mix of boys & girls

Last month we said "Happy Retirement" to our Group Scout Leader Les, who decided to hang up his necker for the last time, having joined the group as a Cub 62 years ago! Cubs, Scouts & parents gathered to view a photo montage from his time as a leader, to present him with some leaving gifts and to thank him for his huge contribution over the years.

Contact  
Graeme Paterson  
Tel: 07817 483118.

*Occasionally the Scout group can help the community by lending tables & chairs and our large tent for outdoor events. Please contact us for details.*



### Youth Café

A rewarding experience which allows you to get to know the wonderful young people in our community. There is plenty to do from football, table tennis and pool to board games and of course the tuck shop! Or just relax and chill out chatting with friends.

Meetings are term times, Thursdays, 7-8:45pm. Everyone who is in school between P7 and S3 is welcome and if you are a little older than that but still want to be involved why not come and help?!

Contact: Dianne Brown

07801 542154

Location:

Maryculter Trinity Church Hall

## SCHOOLS



### Banchory-Devenick Primary School

The Highlights from This Term were as follows:



- We achieved status as a Gold Level Rights Respecting School.
- All of the children had the opportunity to participate in Boccia sessions led by Active Schools.
- We enjoyed spoiling Pam Main, our wonderful PSA, who celebrated 20 years of working at Banchory-Devenick School.
- Our Fabulous Fairtrade Feasts tuckshop continues to go from strength to strength and the children enjoy going to the local shops and doing the baking.
- Ben Bamford has been coming in and leading a Code Club for the children.
- The children asked for special assemblies to be held during Mental Health Week, so they could learn more about autism and dyslexia.
- The children in P1-4 enjoyed participating in a Bricks and Blocks Generation Science workshop, and the P5-P7s an Electric Explorers workshop.
- As part of our Reading Schools work, the older children have been visiting Portlethen Academy to read stories to the Mearns Coastal Group.
- The children in P5-P7 had a Victorian day where they experienced what school life was like back in the day.
- Fun activities, including a book themed Forest Schools quiz, were held during Book Week designed to promote a love literature and reading.
- David from North Sea Transition Authority and John from Advanced came out to school and acted as Dragons for our Dragon's Den presentations. They were absolutely fantastic, and through their pitches, the children proved that they really are the inventors and engineers of the future.
- Although cold, wet and very, very muddy, a group of pupils enjoyed attending the Open Cross Country Championships at Albyn School.



Head Teacher: Mrs. Karen Downie  
Tel.: 01224 472925

Email: [banchorydev.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:banchorydev.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.banchory-devenick.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.banchory-devenick.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)  
Twitter: @BanDevPS

## Lairhillock Primary School



We have been busy at Lairhillock reviewing our school vision, values and aims. Our new school vision as voted on by the children is 'Together Everyone Achieves More' TEAM! The values, devised with parents and children some years ago remain an important part of our way of life at Lairhillock and our aims have been rewritten to match our school values. Our P3-P7 children are actively engaged in promoting our values through their participation in their leadership groups and we share the children's reports here with you.

The Community Values group organised a 3 week-long charity drive - 3 Weeks of Advent - as we were learning about how the cost of living crisis was affecting families across Aberdeenshire at Christmas. To embrace the seasonal spirit of giving, we donated to the Aberdeenshire South Food Bank based in Banchory.

The Environment Group (the Green Team) have done a Litter Pick in the grounds and have prepared a drama sketch and information to share at assembly. We've made litter posters to share around the school. We are working on the action plan areas of Climate Change and Food and the Environment in our group time. We helped organise school bulb planting with 1000 bulbs to be planted for a spring display.

The Friendship Group have been finishing off some ideas that the group started last year. We completed the bench and have some inspirational plaques ready to put up outside. We are also going to read the bucket fillers to classes and drop off the small buckets of kind quotes to each class.

The Learning Group have been looking at the Lairhillock Learning Skills and ways we can share these with the nursery children. We decided to make games that focus on each skill - adaptability, curiosity, teamwork, reflection and perseverance. We are playing games with the children in nursery, introducing the language and ideas associated with each learning skill. Look out for lots of lego, dressing up, obstacle courses, BeeBots and feely boxes!

The Responsibility group have decided to have a focus on waste reduction. After an initial exchange of ideas, pupils have chosen to be "*Food Waste Warriors*" to try and reduce the amount we throw out at Lairhillock. To date, we have emailed the Catering Team at Aberdeenshire Council to try and have a better understanding of the bigger picture across schools. We have come up with some excellent questions for the catering staff here at Lairhillock. The pupils have passed on their questions and are hoping to agree a time to interview the staff to answer these. Finally, the group wants to design a "food audit" to run over several dinnertimes so they can collect the data and present their findings to the rest of the school - and hopefully encourage all of us to be less wasteful.

Our Wellbeing Group initially discussed what our group name should be. We decided to call ourselves the 'Wellbeing Ninjas', liking the idea of the focus and determination that a ninja character inspires. We then spent time designing and finalising a logo, so that any future communication from the group is instantly recognisable. Our logo is a ninja face with coloured eye mask, the colour and design of the mask changing with the seasons and hinting at outdoor adventures. We are working on our first collaborative poster with a wellbeing message. We have played games, both indoors and outdoors, to help us bond as a group, and because playing games is good for our wellbeing. As a group, we discussed things that are good for our wellbeing or harmful to it, and we hope to inspire others to improve their own wellbeing. We have shared our ideas for Sports Day and are excited by the range of ideas we have. Soon, we will be discussing ideas for our 2024 Health Week, hoping to bring exciting activities to the school to boost our mental, physical and emotional wellbeing.

Our Dream Big Group have been working towards accreditation as a reading school. We have done a quiz about reading in school (pupils) and are also going to send a teacher's quiz out too. We have started to collect forms for the Blue Peter Book Badge which we are hoping classes will complete and then we can send off as a school. We are going to send home forms for those we have not yet received and send information to teachers for the badge tasks to be completed.

Head Teacher: Mr Stewart Crabb  
Tel.: 01569 690485

Email: [lairhillock.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:lairhillock.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.lairhillock.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.lairhillock.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)



## COMMUNITY HALLS



### Cookney Hall

Since the last South Deeside View there have been a number of notable events held at the Hall.

On 31 December there was a Hogmanay ceilidh hosted by the Committee and the Crynoch Ceilidh Band. In January this year there was a New Year's ceilidh, again featuring the Crynoch Ceilidh Band, and a Burns Supper, featuring selected speakers and musicians. It was good to note that all of these events were sold out well in advance and feedback regarding the food provided at the Burns Supper was universally positive, possibly due to it being cooked at the Hall for the first time ever. Looking to the future, plans are afoot for more events with the possibility of a Quiz Night in May currently being one option being discussed

The Hall continues to host regular events such as Yoga classes, carpet bowling and dog obedience classes. Also the Cookney Cuppa, which continues to go from strength to strength, with all proceeds from the Cuppa going to good causes, many of which are local. Details of the events held at the Hall can be found on our Facebook page.

The clothing bank outside the Hall continues to be well used and is handy as a revenue stream for Hall fundraising so if you have any old clothes, shoes, sheets etc. which are ready for recycling why not drop them off into the clothing bank when you're passing the Hall?

Over the last 18 months, the Committee have lost a number of our members so we are keen to find new blood to help keep the Hall to the high standard it's currently in, so that it will be well used and preserved for future generations of our community. The only qualifications needed to join the Committee is a little spare time and a lot of enthusiasm.

If you'd like further information about hiring the hall for a private function or celebration, or if you'd like to get involved in the Committee, please contact us.

Willie Angus: Tel: 01569 730123  
Email: wgangus.moc@gmail.com

*Bob McKinney,  
Friends of Cookney Hall Committee*



### Corbie Hall

Our hall continues to be well used by local groups.

A very successful Burns night was held in January

with great food, chat and speeches of distinction from local worthies who excelled in their delivery. Thanks to all who contributed to the raffle.

We were also pleased to host the Senior Citizens Christmas meal which had not been held for a number of years. It was a most enjoyable evening with many of our committee now being of an age to be invited!

No floods or disasters to report in this edition, however the state of the approach to the hall past the demolition site that was the Old Mill Inn continues to hurt the eye and the poor road surface is also a concern, but little our committee can do about it.

The field has not had a good Winter. Many games have been lost to waterlogged conditions, but games don't get cancelled, they just get postponed and we expect a very busy Spring with evening and weekend games being played. Culter Cosmos, Thunder, Alba and Rob Roy are the youth teams, Glendale the adult team and also West End Girls. Spectators are always welcome, but come on your bike as parking can be a problem!

A date for your diary:  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**

We are planning a  
**Corbie Park Games afternoon**  
with games, challenges, teas and BBQ for all groups and all ages from toddlers to grannies.

Check social media and the SDV facebook page for more details nearer the time.

Should you be planning a child's party, picnic, BBQ, fundraiser, AGM, training course, band practice etc, etc please feel free to enquire about our hall or field availability.

Charges for the hall are £15 per hour and for the field £35 per game or half day. Whole day or longer hires may be negotiated.

To enquire about the hall or field  
email: maryculterhall@yahoo.co.uk

*Les Paterson,  
Corbie Hall Committee*

# CHURCH NOTICES

## Maryculter Trinity Church Of Scotland

Charities Number SC013648

A new venture for us this year was the publication of the Maryculter Trinity Church calendar which contained 12 photographs of the local area submitted by individuals or local groups. Special thanks are extended to our sponsors whose financial support helped with publishing costs.

The calendar proved popular, so we intend to produce one for 2025. We are now alerting everyone to have their cameras at the ready! By the end of the summer, we will again be seeking submissions of photographs to be included and hope we will get a strong response. Thank you in anticipation!

The Fundraising Committee wish to extend sincere thanks to all in the community and beyond who have faithfully supported our fundraising activities throughout the year. Future events will be posted on our website.

Mrs. Anne Massie, our Treasurer, retired at end of December 2023.

We marked the occasion with a presentation and thanks for her dedicated service for over 30 years.

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Sunday Services are held at 10.30am in Maryculter Trinity Church Children are welcome to join us. Family service with hymns accompanied by our Praise Band takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

**Services are now live streamed on our Maryculter Trinity Church Facebook page.**

Bible Study Group meet on a Tuesday in the church hall at 7.30 – 9:00pm. This is ecumenical and open to all. Come along and enjoy discussions and fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee and chocolate biscuits.

Community Coffee Mornings are held on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month the church hall from 10.00am - 12 noon. Fresh coffee or tea and home bakes £4.00. Come and and enjoy chats with friends and make new friends. We look forward to welcoming you. For further details or to arrange a lift, contact either Anne Massie or Helen Anderson.

The Guild is held on the first Monday of the month from 7.30- 9.30pm from October to November and February to April. New members or visitors are always welcome.

Youth Cafe is a rewarding experience which allows you to get to know the wonderful young people in our community. There is plenty to do from football, table tennis and pool to board games and of course the tuck shop! Or just relax and chill out chatting with friends. Everyone who is in school between P7 and S3 is welcome, and if you are a little older than that but still want to be involved why not come and help?!

**All services and events are held in Maryculter Trinity Church unless otherwise intimated.**

*Please check our website for full details of events, updates and information.*

We look forward to welcoming you at any of our services and events.

Interim Moderator:

Rev. Tony Stephen 01330.822811  
Email: tstephen@churchofscotland.org.uk

Caretaker, Hall Bookings

& Coffee Mornings:  
Mrs. Anne Massie 01224.732071

Locum Minister (3 days pw):

Rev. David Galbraith 01561.320779  
Email: david.galbraith@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Guild & Coffee Mornings:

Helen Anderson 01330.811754

Session Clerk:

Mrs. Joyce Mackintosh 01224.733495  
Email: joycemackintosh@yahoo.ie

Youth Cafe: Dianne Brown 07801 542154

**Email:** marycultertrinitychurch@btinternet.com  
**Website:** www.marycultertrinitychurch.org.uk

Treasurer & Bible Study Group:

Margaret Britten 01224.780305.



## St Ternan's Episcopal Church, Muchalls

Website: [www.stternans.co.uk](http://www.stternans.co.uk)

St Ternan's is the Northermost Scottish Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Brechin.

We are part of the world-wide Anglican communion. The church is located in the North Kincardine Rural Community Council area, to the west of the A92 about a mile from Muchalls Village on the Causey Mounth where the road branches off to Cookney and Netherley.

The Church is open every day. Our Family Eucharist service is held on Sundays at 10.30am and a Prayer and Chat service on a Wednesday at 11am.

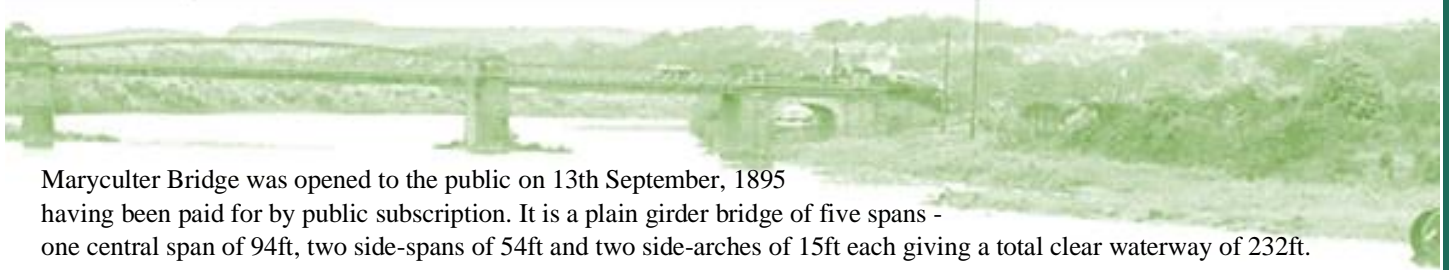
Our community room, including kitchen, toilets, disabled toilets and baby changing facility, is available for hire. Please contact Sheila on 01569 731608 for further details.

The Rev. Canon Mary Jepp is the full-time priest in charge and transitional minister for St. Ternans and St. James Stonehaven. Rev Mary can be contacted on 01569 730625.

## LOCAL HISTORY

### Maryculter Bridge

*Thank you to Carolyn Marrison for providing these excerpts from the archives*



Maryculter Bridge was opened to the public on 13th September, 1895 having been paid for by public subscription. It is a plain girder bridge of five spans - one central span of 94ft, two side-spans of 54ft and two side-arches of 15ft each giving a total clear waterway of 232ft. The roadway is 20ft wide with a footpath 3ft wide along the east side.....

.....Prior to the erection of the bridge there was both a ford and a ferry at Inch of culter. The ford struck diagonally south west across the river and emerged on the south bank close to some ferry cottages. The ford road ascended the south bank eventually joining the south deeside road at the Mill Inn.

The Inch Ferry which was still in use in 1921 is slightly west of the old ford. A path on the south side ran from the ferry to join the south deeside road, half a mile west of the Mill Inn. A solitary tree on the north bank was left standing as a guiding landmark for the ferryman at night.

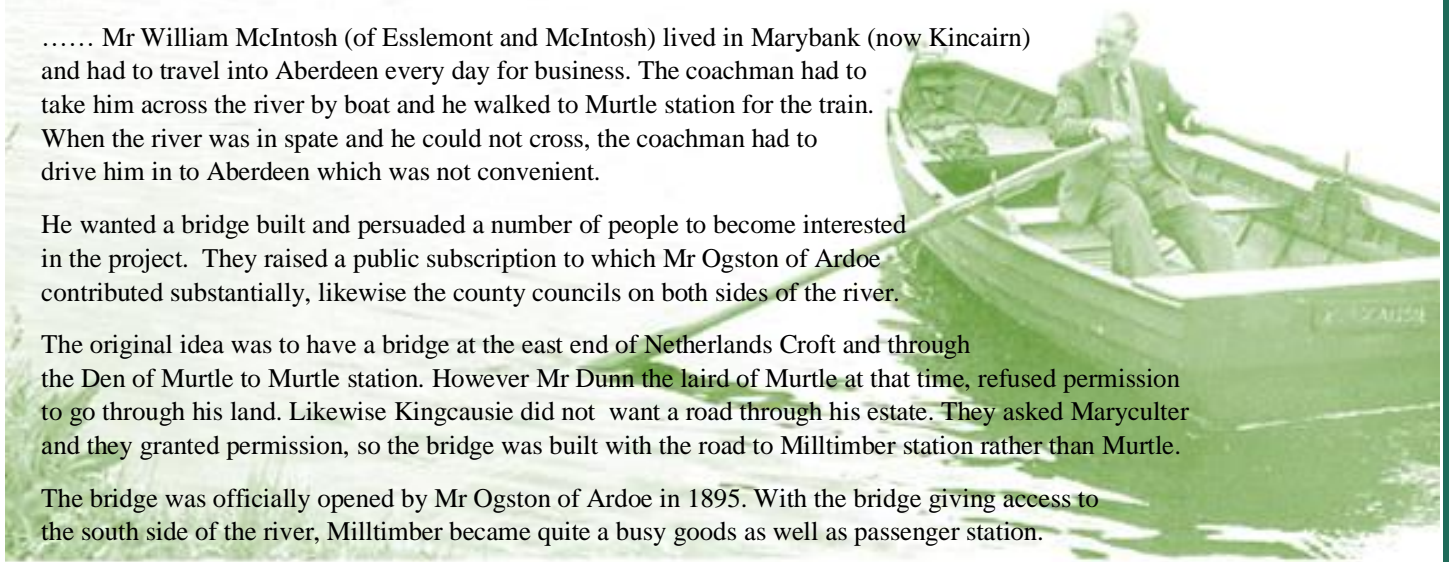
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*The following was provided by Mary Love, the Lodge, Blairs, Aberdeen AB12 5FE, October 2013. This was written by her late father and was originally intended for inclusion in an early issue of South Deeside View*

..... Mr William McIntosh (of Esslemont and McIntosh) lived in Marybank (now Kincairn) and had to travel into Aberdeen every day for business. The coachman had to take him across the river by boat and he walked to Murtle station for the train. When the river was in spate and he could not cross, the coachman had to drive him in to Aberdeen which was not convenient.

He wanted a bridge built and persuaded a number of people to become interested in the project. They raised a public subscription to which Mr Ogston of Ardoe contributed substantially, likewise the county councils on both sides of the river.

The original idea was to have a bridge at the east end of Netherlands Croft and through the Den of Murtle to Murtle station. However Mr Dunn the laird of Murtle at that time, refused permission to go through his land. Likewise Kingcausie did not want a road through his estate. They asked Maryculter and they granted permission, so the bridge was built with the road to Milltimber station rather than Murtle.

The bridge was officially opened by Mr Ogston of Ardoe in 1895. With the bridge giving access to the south side of the river, Milltimber became quite a busy goods as well as passenger station.



## NORTH KINCARDINE COUNCILLORS



**David Aitchison,**  
**SNP**  
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cllr.d.aitchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



**Mel Sullivan,**  
**Scottish Liberal Democrat**  
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**Shirley Burnett,**  
**Scottish Conservative & Unionist**  
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email:  
cllr.s.burnett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



**Catherine Victor**  
**SNP**  
07787 800678  
email:  
cllr.c.victor@aberdeenshire.gov

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### News from Cllr Mel Sullivan

New financial 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.

As part of a Scottish Government programme, Low Emission Zones are being introduced in Scotland's four biggest cities - Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen. In Aberdeen, boundary signage has already been installed and warning signage is due to be installed in the next few weeks. Cameras are also to start to be installed although people will not be fined until **1 June 2024**. Motorists driving non-compliant vehicles in the area from that date will be given a fine although there are exemptions including the blue badge holders. You can check if your vehicle is compliant here: [lowemissionzones.scot/vehicle-registration-checker](https://www.lowemissionzones.scot/vehicle-registration-checker)

After hearing a warning on the radio for us to look out for yellow-legged (Asian) hornets, I did a bit of investigating. These hornets are catastrophic for our native bee population. Fortunately, none have been sighted in Scotland yet, but sightings in England extend as far as Yorkshire and are increasing. The website [nonnativespecies.org](https://www.nonnativespecies.org) is very helpful for identifying invasive species and how to report sightings. Everything from Giant Hogweed to Raccoons! [nesbrec.org.uk/biomaps/](https://www.nesbrec.org.uk/biomaps/) is a great resource to find sightings of plants and animals (native or not) locally.

The three bin rollout across the whole of the shire has just 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). I will also have a small supply with me at my café consultations.

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.

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).

You can find me on Facebook as 'Councillor Mel Sullivan, North Kincardine'.  
My webpage is <https://melsullivan.mycouncillor.org.uk>.

Café Consultations: I will be coming for a coffee and a chat to the following events:

**Cookney Cuppa** (Cookney Hall) - 7<sup>th</sup> June,  
**ReActive8** (Bettridge Centre) - 29<sup>th</sup> May,  
**Fine Piece** (Jubilee Hall, Portlethen) - 8<sup>th</sup> May

## Notes From the Chair

The North Kincardine Rural Community Council (NKRCC) continues to be active in your area. We meet monthly and we are always pleased to welcome involvement from local residents. We try to bribe you to come along with the promise of a cup of tea, a wee snack and a warm welcome!

As a statutory body, we believe the Community Council serves a useful purpose in our area, it is well supported and has a strong voice for the local community.

**Planning** - All local planning applications are reviewed at our monthly meetings. Where required, these are discussed and may result in a letter of concern, objection or support being sent to Aberdeenshire Council, depending on local views. It is very helpful to the Committee if members of the public raise their concerns to us, so that we can properly reflect local views.

As previously mentioned, there is a planning application for 5 houses on the site of the Old Mill Inn. This went to appeal and was refused. It would be true to say that members of the community would love to see the site cleared, as at the moment it is a bit of an eyesore, but we await new plans and suggestions from the developer in due course.

**Website** - At our last meeting we discussed the "traffic" on our website. In most cases, this is just a signposting service, and because of a lack of interest, the intention is to reduce the amount of information that gets posted. Most people seem to have their own sources of information, so perhaps we are re-inventing the wheel. We will, of course, continue to post all the items of community council relevance.

**AGM** - Due to the Aberdeenshire Councils desire to align the community councils, there will be a slight change this year. The annual general meeting is on Monday 17 June and the usual annual report will be submitted and financial statements approved. No election of future office bearers will be done at that time. All are most welcome.

The change in schedule will be as follows:-

- **Sunday 8 September** Closing date for nominations for CC members
- **Monday 16 September** **The last regular monthly meeting**
- **Wednesday 18 September** The CC formally stands down
- **Friday 20 September** Ballot if required (this could be exciting – and a historic first!)
- **Monday 7 October** Proposed changed date for our October monthly meeting  
*(Please note that the usual meeting on 21 Oct. will probably be cancelled.)*  
First item of business at that meeting would be the formal appointing of the new office bearers and committee.
- **Monday 18 November** **Next regular monthly meeting.**

If anyone would like to become involved with the Community Council, we would love to hear from you. Any member of the committee would be happy to explain to any future potential members what the role involves. The duties are not onerous, and the meetings less than once a month. Your community needs YOU!

Henry Irvine-Fortescue

Details of meetings and correspondence of interest are posted on the website or the Facebook page. We receive and publish monthly police reports and useful crime alerts that are posted on our website.

**Meetings:** monthly at the Lairhilllock School,

**Website:** [www.nkrcc.org.uk](http://www.nkrcc.org.uk)

Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, June    The **third** Monday, 7.30pm  
July                            Summer Break  
Sep/Oct                        *Please see AGM exceptions above*  
December                    The **second** Monday, 7.30pm

**Facebook:** North Kincardine  
Rural Community  
Council – NKRCC

Chair	Henry Irvine-Fortescue	<a href="mailto:henry.irvine-fortescue@nkrcc.org.uk">henry.irvine-fortescue@nkrcc.org.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Graham Norrie	<a href="mailto:graham.norrie@nkrcc.org.uk">graham.norrie@nkrcc.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Bob McKinney	<a href="mailto:bob.mckinney@nkrcc.org.uk">bob.mckinney@nkrcc.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Graham Norrie	<a href="mailto:secretary@nkrcc.org.uk">secretary@nkrcc.org.uk</a>
Minutes Secretary	Susan Astell	<a href="mailto:susan.astell@nkrcc.org.uk">susan.astell@nkrcc.org.uk</a>
Planning Officer	Rod Farquhar	<a href="mailto:rod.farquhar@nkrcc.org.uk">rod.farquhar@nkrcc.org.uk</a>

## FURTHER AFIELD....



### Portlethen Christian Fellowship

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. You will be welcome to join us, details are contained in the PCF website, which has links to the ACF site where you can sign-up for our weekly 'What's On' email.

**Sunday Services:** Every other week we meet 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..

**Mainly Music:** Tuesday, 10am to 11.30am, The Jubilee Hall, Portlethen, £3 per family per session  
A fun & interactive music programme for children (0-5 years of age) and parent/caregiver. Singing and rhymes followed by a snack, free play, and a chat for the big people! *Contact Susan - 07513 387 810*

**Porty Crafts:** Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00pm, Porty Cabin, Portlethen, £4 per session to cover costs,  
Creativity in a relaxed setting, with a cuppa & cake and fellow crafters to chat with. We invite you to take your own projects along (knitting, sewing etc.). We also enjoy card-making, decoupage coasters & other crafts.  
*Contact Frances - 07740 427 272*

Email: info@portlethenpcf.com Location: The Porty Cabin, Portlethen  
Website: Portlethenpcf.com

### Portlethen Mens Shed

The members continue to respond to requests from the local community, which range from planters, benches and furniture for the garden, and other smaller items. The Shed is happy to repair or refurbish your garden furniture, and other items that are within our capabilities, so just let us know what you need. Should you wish the members to make you an item or if you have a project you would like us to assist with, please get in touch.



We also continue to maintain links with the local schools and community groups. At the end of last year we had a visit from a local Scout Troup and they made themselves key holders.

Our gardeners planted sapling trees at the Portlethen Woodland Community Walk which will benefit the area in the years ahead. We have recently planted saplings in the open space at the Portlethen Jubilee Hall and we will be planting more saplings around the community over the next few weeks.

Our Men's Health Programme recently kicked off with an interesting presentation from CLAN on Prostate Cancer. More health presentations will follow shortly with support from the Scottish Men's Sheds Association with their MOT4Men – Preventative Health Initiative.

**Portlethen & District Men's Shed and Garden is open to anyone who wishes to come along so come along for a blether and learn more about how to get involved.** Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any question or need assistance, or check out our Facebook page for more details. Whether you wish to be actively involved 2 or 3 times a week or occasionally you will be made welcome. Please email for a Membership Form to join us.

Please get in touch if you wish to make a donation to Portlethen & District Men's Shed of timber or tools, we can arrange collection of your donations. Our thanks to everyone who donated tools and wood over the past few months.

Secretary: Jim Duguid Meeting: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am to 1pm.  
Email: secretary@portlethenmenssheds.co.uk  
Facebook: Portlethen & District Men's Shed Location: Cookston Road opposite the Police Station.



As a result of our wooden poppy sales last year we were able to present a cheque to the Poppy Appeal



## REASONS TO WORK WITH ME

YOU DON'T WANT ANY MORE MEDICATION

YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO "LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT"

YOU WANT TO BE PAIN/ SYMPTOM FREE

YOU WANT A HIGHLY SKILLED AND EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL

YOU WANT TO BE HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD

**YOU ARE READY TO GET YOUR LIFE BACK!**

### CONTACT :

Phone : +44 7415 535 445

Email: [emma@emmaarmes.com](mailto:emma@emmaarmes.com)

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

Website : [www.emmaarmes.com](http://www.emmaarmes.com)

## ARE YOU READY TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT PAIN?

The old biomedical model (focused only on the physical) still used by most of the medical profession is out of date and now we must look to the new biopsychosocial model (the whole picture of you).

My work is centered around this and using the latest findings in pain science I will teach you to understand pain differently, how to reduce your pain and how you can learn to become pain-free.

Pain is 100% real and can affect every area of your life. However, pain does not come from your tissues (as we used to think). It is a message from your brain about its opinion of how much danger it thinks you are in. Unfortunately, that opinion may be years out of date but still running as if you were in danger today. If that message gets stuck, your system effectively becomes "overprotective". This is what is classed as persistent or chronic pain.

Pain Therapy can work with all sorts of pain including back and joint pain, sciatica, old injuries, migraines, arthritis, raynaud's, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue, and M.E.

Most of my clients leave pain free or have a drastically reduced level after only a couple of sessions.

This not just pain management, this is getting rid of your old unnecessary pain messages for good and getting your life back! No more painkillers, misery, or sleepless nights.



## Master Practitioner & International Trainer



## ABOUT EMMA

I was a Paramedic for 17 years before I injured my back in 2010 and had to take medical retirement.

I had many failed treatments including surgery, then in May 2017 I found OldPain2Go®.

I did my Practitioner training and, on the course, had my chronic pain removed. I have been pain free ever since which is why I am so passionate about helping others achieve the same result.



I am Scotland's Master Practitioner and Authorised Trainer and have worked with hundreds of clients and trained hundreds of Practitioners all over the world including Australia, Europe, and the USA.

OldPain2Go® and Pain Therapy is not hypnosis - no trance is required. As there is no physical touch involved, all sessions are done online via Zoom, which has the added advantage of no travelling, and you can do it from the comfort of your own home!





# Baby & Child First Aid courses across Aberdeen & the Shire

## AWARENESS CLASSES FOR PARENTS & ACCREDITED COURSES FOR CHILDCARE PROFESSIONALS

**Fun, engaging & life changing courses**  
delivered by Paramedic & Mum, Fran.  
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Email: [francesca@littlivesfirstaid.co.uk](mailto:francesca@littlivesfirstaid.co.uk)  
[www.littlivesfirstaid.co.uk](http://www.littlivesfirstaid.co.uk)



### Sea Shaw Miniatures

I am a local artist, creating models from local driftwood, reclaimed wood and recycled materials that would otherwise go to waste.

Aiming to provide a safe space for reflection and creativity amidst life's pressures, I offer group modelling sessions in the Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire area. The sessions can be held at most community venues or within your own home.

Each session lasts approx. 3 hours.  
All materials are included, with guidance provided, and items can easily be personalised.

These sessions are ideal for:

- Children's Birthday parties (aged 10 plus)
- Ladies events
- 'Girls nights in'
- Church groups
- Children/adults with a learning disability
- Mental Health focused groups
- Work away days
- School events
- Rotary nights
- WRVS nights



Contact me to discuss your requirements and receive a cost estimate (no obligation).

Annick - 07905501674      Email - [annickshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:annickshaw@yahoo.com)

### Empowering E-Bikes Ltd (Peterculter)

- Bike and electric bike mechanical servicing (Velotech Platinum accredited)
- Conversion of your bike to an electric bike (or buy a complete electric bike)
- Free try out of an electric bike and general advice
- Electric bike rental
- Bike parts and accessories



Contact Graham  
[www.empoweringebikes.co.uk](http://www.empoweringebikes.co.uk)  
[empowering.ebikes@yahoo.com](mailto:empowering.ebikes@yahoo.com)  
07378 301567

See the back page for details on how to advertise here.  
Fees include an advert in the newsletter & the option to post business updates on the Facebook Group.



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 [info@eiswaste.co.uk](mailto:info@eiswaste.co.uk)

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## Shifting Stones

### Ladies Only Treatment Room

The Old School, Maryculter, AB12 5GN

- ♥ Hot Stone / Aromatherapy Massage for Full Body or Back, Neck & Shoulders;
- ♥ Prescriptive Facials;
- ♥ Reflexology;
- ♥ Indian Head Massage;
- ♥ Hopi Ear Candling.

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Text or call: 07711 554347

[www.shiftingstones.co.uk](http://www.shiftingstones.co.uk)

## Drummin' About

Drummin' About is a Stonehaven based community group that has been going for nearly 20 years. The group is run by Magi and Guigui, and they are dedicated to sharing passion and appreciation for tradition around music and rhythm from West African, mostly of the Malinke, tradition (originating in Mali, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Ghana).

Meeting weekly in the Haven, Stonehaven, the group is a very friendly and welcoming bunch. Sessions are taught mainly for adults, though occasionally younger participants have joined if they are rhythm fanatics or extremely keen. The first group works for 1.5 hours and involves everybody, learning new rhythms and songs all together. The extended group then works for a further 1.5 hours on more complex arrangements & technique.



Rhythm and Groove in a seaside town

Cost £30 monthly

Every Monday evening 5.45pm-8.30pm

*Drums can be rented at a small cost if you don't have one.*

For dates and times email: [mej.w@btopenworld.com](mailto:mej.w@btopenworld.com)

*Currently there are no spaces for complete beginners, unless you come with some previous music experience & don't mind learning at a pretty fast pace.*

## Solstice Nurseries "We Grow People and Plants" A Scottish Social Enterprise

### Growing People

Solstice provides Work Skills Training for people who have severe, ongoing mental health issues.

Our Participants work and learn in a supportive, non-threatening environment. We can assist you to work towards your personal goals and to reach your own potential.

Everyone learns useful general work skills, such as routine, good communication, working with others, awareness of safe work practice as well as specific horticultural skills.

Referrals to Participate at Solstice are generally through Social Work or Health Teams.



Do come along and see [us](#)

To see our range of plants and buy some good quality, locally grown plants for your garden – just call us on  
**01224 865907**

[office@solsticenurseries.co.uk](mailto:office@solsticenurseries.co.uk)  
[www.solsticenurseries.co.uk](http://www.solsticenurseries.co.uk)

### Growing Plants

At Solstice we have a wide range of locally produced, high quality, hardy plants.

We supply Garden Designers, Landscapers and local community groups with the plants they require.

Advice can be given on which plants grow well in this area and which plants will suit your garden and which plants grow well together.

If it is something more unusual you are looking for we can source it for you and help you put together a stunning display for your garden.

Just call and pop along to

Drumduan Walled Garden

South Deeside Road AB12 5YL





## Woodpeckers

A friend recently noticed an oak tree in their garden had been damaged. Patches of bark had been torn off and there were several series of holes on the trunk. Strangely, there was also a sitka spruce cone wedged into a crevice, with many more cones lying on the ground around the base of the tree.

It looked like a bear or some other exciting carnivore had been sharpening its claws but the stuck cone was the big giveaway. We put up a wildlife camera and found that the culprit was less ursine but still interesting - a great spotted woodpecker!

Common throughout the UK, including South Deeside, great spotted woodpeckers are omnivores, in the warmer months eating anything from wood-boring grubs and ants to garden bird eggs and chicks. In the winter they change their diet to nuts and seeds, often jamming cones into tree trunks and using them as anvils to prize out the winged seeds. Adaptations to help them feed include extra grippy feet with two toes pointing forward and two pointing back (most birds have three forward pointing toes on each foot) and tails with extra stiff feathers that act as props, helping them brace against trees.

As spring approaches and trees start drawing water, sugars and minerals up from the ground, woodpeckers sometimes drill into the trunk to drink the rising sap. This explains the holes in my friend's tree. We did notice similar marks from last year so trees can obviously cope with a little damage. Woodpecker have comparatively long tongues compared to other species, with the great spotted's extending 40mm beyond the tip of the bill. Their tongues are so long that when not in use they coil around the back of their skull. This also gives the bird's brain further protection during high-speed pecking.

After a rejuvenating drink, great spotted woodpeckers start drumming at the top of old trees to mark their territories. Choosing rotten, hollow branches that amplify the sound, birds make an incredible 10 to 16 strikes a second. Their brains are protected from these forces by their cushioning tongue, an especially adapted hinge between the lower mandible and skull that spreads the force of the blow and a natural shock absorber in the skull made up of strengthened bone tissue and minute air pockets. Scientists are investigating if these natural design features could be used to develop protective headgear in the future.



Once territories and pairs are established, both birds excavate the nest, hammering out a 30cm deep chamber in a rotten tree. Up to six creamy, white eggs are then incubated for a fortnight by both adults. Hatching takes place around mid-May and fledglings are fed by both parents for a further three weeks. You can often hear cheeping in woods around the end of May and if you walk slowly you can find the nest, spotting the young woodpeckers' heads poking out as they get too big for their home!

Young are taken to bird feeders by parents and you can tell the difference between them all from their markings – males have a red stripe on the nape of their neck, females are plain black and white, whilst young have red crowns. Peanuts, sunflower hearts and suet are their favourite foods.

If you put nest boxes up in your garden for song birds, covering the hole with a metal plate or the entire box with wire mesh has been found to significantly decrease woodpecker chick predation.

Happy ornithological adventures!

Mandy Tulloch

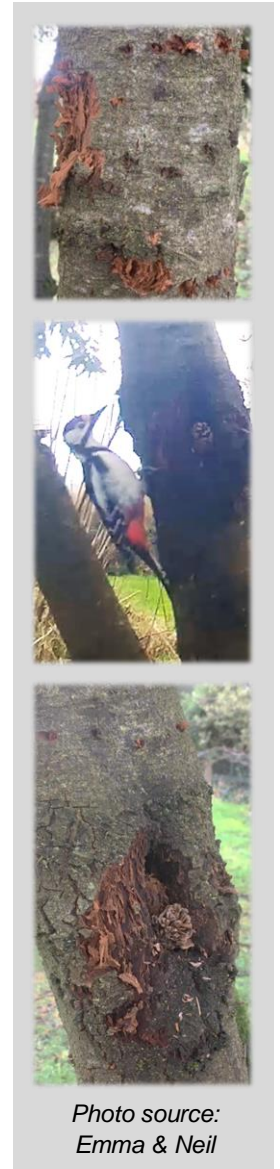


Photo source:  
Emma & Neil

Excerpts from previous issues of the South Deeside View.

2014 - 10 Years ago

**Maryculter Woodlands Trust**



**Making Progress...**

The application to acquire the 67 hectare wood adjacent to the Kirkton of Maryculter has been approved by Forestry Commission Scotland. The asking price is £240,000. The

community group, the Maryculter Woodlands Trust, now has until 18th May 2015 to raise the funds required. We are therefore busy completing grant application forms!

For more information please visit our website or get in touch.

Ed Thorogood  
Chairman, Maryculter Woodlands Trust  
Scottish Charity No. SC044224  
email: [info@maryculterwoods.com](mailto:info@maryculterwoods.com),  
[www.maryculterwoods.com](http://www.maryculterwoods.com)

**Chapelton Update**

Those of you who have passed the site will have seen a great deal of mud being moved over the winter. Despite the deluges we have not fallen behind schedule on the infrastructure programme to put in the roads and utilities to the first part of Chapelton, Cairnhill. WM Donald continue to have to drill through tough rock to dig the water and cable channels, whilst holding back the floods in the newly created SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage System) ponds.



The drystone walls are in place, as is much of the landscaping, at the roundabout at the edge of Newtonhill. Now we are waiting for the electricity company to remove poles and overhead cables so work in that area can be completed.

2003 - 21 Years ago

There was no spring issue of the South Deeside View newsletter in 2003.

**Apache lands in Maryculter**

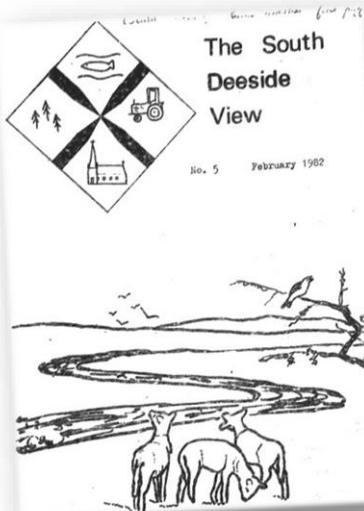
Look what happened after the oil pressure warning light came on!

An Army Apache Attack helicopter made a safe emergency landing in a Maryculter field at



lunchtime on April 7, challenging the NATO Joint Warrior Exercise to demonstrate its flexibility. Later on, twenty or so heavily equipped soldiers jumped out from a massive Chinook helicopter, transferred fuel from the Apache and set up guard. No need really since the natives were friendly and offered refreshments. Our thanks to the pilots who managed to avoid landing on any homes or farm stock.

1982 - 42 Years ago



The South Deeside View

No. 5 February 1982

**MARYCULTER SCOUTS AND GUIDES** The Harvest Home Dance raised a total of £190 profit so the New Hut Fund now stands at £3,522. A Haggis Supper Dance takes (or has taken) place in the Ardoo Hall on Feb. 12th - proceeds again towards the new hut.

SPRING CLEANING will soon be upon us and the Scouts and Guides will be most grateful for any JUMBLE. Their next Sale will be in the Music Hall on June 5th. Please contact any of the Scout or Guide Leaders or Committee members if you have jumble to be collected. You may also 'phone 868363 or 732107.

£ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £

The **LADIES WORK PARTY** of Maryculter Parish Church are looking forward to summer! Their SALE OF WORK will be held on June 26th. Further details will be in the next "View" but any enquiries can be made of their Secretary, Mrs F. Simpson, on 733984.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# FUN DOG SHOW



being held at

**CORBIE HALL AND MARYCULTER PLAYING FIELD,**  
*South Deeside Road, Maryculter, Aberdeenshire, AB12 5FX*

on

**Sunday 2nd June 2024**



Entries taken from 10am

Judging at 11am

£3.00 for first class and thereafter £1.00 per class with same dog

### CLASSES

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Best Puppy (under 12 months) | 7. Best Pair (2 dogs with one handler) |
| 2. Best Male                    | 8. Waggiest Tail                       |
| 3. Best Female                  | 9. Best Mover                          |
| 4. Best Oldie (10 years & over) | 10. Child Handler (16 years & under)   |
| 5. Best Crossbreed              | 11. Dog Judge would like to take home  |
| 6. Best Rescue                  | 12. Fancy Dress                        |

RESERVE AND BEST IN SHOW AFTER ALL CLASSES HAVE FINISHED

Rosettes 1st to 6th place, trophies and prizes

Raffles and tombola

Teas/coffees/juice/homebakes will be served in Corbie Hall for a donation.

For further details please email [tarquie799@gmail.com](mailto:tarquie799@gmail.com)

Proceeds going to Blaikiewell Animal Sanctuary  
(Registered Charity SC026054)



## GAMES AFTERNOON

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

at Corbie Park

GAMES, CHALLENGES, TEAS & BBQ

FOR ALL GROUPS AND ALL AGES FROM TODDLERS TO GRANNIES.

Check social media and the SDV facebook page for more details nearer the time.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Local Halls & Grounds

Contact information is at the end of the article for each hall. Please see the contents list for the relevant page number:

- Cookney Community Hall, Cookney
- Corbie Hall and Field, Maryculter
- Lairhillock School, Netherley
- Maryculter Church Hall & Glebe Field
- St Ternan's Church Community Room, Muchalls



**DIAL A BUS**

01467 535333

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### Home Deliveries

#### Coal & Wood

J.H. Roberts of Auchenblae Tel 01561 320335  
Delivers orders in this area on Monday mornings.

#### Fish

George Fairweather Tel: 07974 311326  
Deliveries: West of the B979 road and east of the road on different days. Please call for details of days and to establish approximate timing.

### Libraries

- Bettridge Centre,  
Newtonhill - Tel 01569 690530
- Evan Street,  
Stonehaven - Tel 15069 691531
- Bridge Street, Banchory - Tel 01330  
700441

### Castles

- Crathes Castle** - Tel 01330 844525  
[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)
- Drum Castle** - Tel 01330 700334  
[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)
- Dunnottar Castle** - Tel 01569 766320  
[www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk](http://www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk)

### Facebook Groups & Pages

*If you know of other local groups of interest then please let us know so that they can be included in the next newsletter.*

#### Groups & Pages

- Friends of Cookney Hall
- North Kincardine Community – Cookney, Netherley, Maryculter etc.
- North Kincardine Rural Community Council - NKRCC
- Peterculter & Surrounding Areas Community
- Portlethen, Hillside, Newtonhill and North Kincardineshire Community

Other: Blairs have a community WhatsApp group. Please contact Lynn Winton for details of how to join - [Lynn.winton@talk21.com](mailto:Lynn.winton@talk21.com)

### Police Services

- Emergencies 999 or 112
- Non-emergencies 101
- Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
- Drugs Information Line 0800 371 553

### ADVERTISING

We have a distribution of over 1000 hand delivered newsletters, and 1.2k facebook group members.

Fees include an advert in the newsletter and the option to post business updates on the Facebook newsfeed.

To advertise please email:  
[editor.sdvnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:editor.sdvnewsletter@gmail.com)

Small ( <i>portrait</i> )	£25	1 issue / £35	2 issues
Medium ( <i>landscape</i> )	£45	1 issue / £60	2 issues
Large ( <i>portrait</i> )	£70	1 issue / £85	2 issues

This issue was produced by:

Bob McKinney, Carolyn Morrison, Emma Lester-Smith, Rob Winmill and NKRCC representatives. Rob Winmill also coordinates an additional volunteer team of local residents and community councillors for hand delivering this newsletter to over 1000 homes.

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*Disclaimer:*

*The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors.*

*Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of content however, responsibility cannot be taken for errors or omissions.*