

Foveran Community Newsletter

December 2016

Issue 145

Formartine *in Bloom* 2016



Winner Newburgh

Category: Medium Community

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Secretary report for November / December 2016 newsletter

If you want to place an advert in future editions of the newsletter which is published three times a year then please contact me on 01358 789761 or e mail g_cdouglas@hotmail.com

Foveran Community Council looks after the interest of the residents of Newburgh, Foveran, Udney Station and Cultercullen, and everything in between.

The newsletter can be now be accessed after publication by anyone on

<https://foverannews.wordpress.com/electronic-news-letter/>

We act as a focal point where you can bring to our attention matters that may concern you. Elected councillors from Aberdeenshire Council normally also attend our meetings which are open to all.

Agenda's for the meetings and minutes of the meetings are available on line at www.formartinecommunitycouncils.co.uk

A list of community councillors and scheduled meeting dates is included in the newsletter

This newsletter would not be possible without the support of the companies who advertise in it, so please consider them when thinking of making a purchase.

Thank you to Newburgh Gala Committee for the kind donation of £1,000 which they asked to be allocated towards maintaining the Christmas lights in Newburgh and towards the future costs of the annual Christmas tree

There was also an anonymous donation of £500 which has been allocated to the Christmas tree, and the Nicer Newburgh equipment funds.

Congratulations to the following who received awards from Formartine partnership in October

Formartine Beginning to Blossom 2016

Silver Award – Newburgh Mathers School
Cultercullen School

Formartine in Bloom

Highly Commended Small Community

Foveran
Cultercullen
Udney Station

Medium Community

Winner – Newburgh

Formartine Landscape Team award for most improved small community

Winner – Cultercullen

We thank Rambo's tyre services for providing the Christmas tree in Newburgh, and Martin McKenzie (Romar), Keith Watson (K.F Watson Electrical) and John Duncan Plant hire for the erection of the Christmas lights on the lampposts, and for Tony Tortolano (TT Electrical Services) for the PAT testing of the lights.

A defibrillator has been installed at the Gallowshill sport pavilion, and at Udney Station Community hall, both of these being partially funded by the Community Council.

After many years Kate Duncan has left the Community Council and we thank her for her help and contribution over the years.

We are looking to co-opt on a new member to keep our numbers up, ideally someone from Foveran / Cultercullen/ Udney Station areas, as Newburgh is well represented at present.

We also have a vacancy for a youth member to join the Community Council, they must be under 18 and still at either Ellon or Meldrum Academies.

If you are interested then please contact me.

Glen Douglas

Councillor Richard Thomson.

While I'm sure we're all delighted to see the progress being made with the AWPR, it's fair to say that there's been a number of issues along the length of the bypass route with the damage being caused to side roads by the additional heavy construction traffic. Following some detailed discussions, I'm pleased to say that the Construction Joint Venture responsible for building the AWPR and Balmedie-Tipperty project has now agreed to contribute towards the ongoing costs of maintaining local side roads that are being damaged by the associated construction traffic.

Although I'd hoped that this might be carried out during the summer months, there is now a contract in place. Aberdeenshire Council will continue to work closely with representatives from the AWPR project to ensure we have the road network in the best possible state prior to the onset of winter. Meantime, if you notice any particular issues with the state of the road network, I am happy to make sure they are taken up.

At a recent meeting of the Formartine Area Committee, members were asked to approve a new mobile phone mast to replace the existing structure at the junction of Main Street and Eider Road in Newburgh.

The growth in the number of phone cabinets on that site is an issue which the Community Council raised with me a few months ago, following the installation of a new BT Fibre box. Unfortunately, despite my best efforts, BT was unwilling to relocate the box, which from some angles obscures views out over the Ythan. We all appreciate the convenience which faster internet and better mobile signals bring to our daily lives. However, the resulting clutter at this site is not a good advert for the way our planning system deals with these apparatus. I hope that when the matter comes back before councillors, that the various companies involved will be willing to start siting (or better still, sharing) their infrastructure so that the resulting visual intrusion can be minimised.

Council Budget

It's coming up to that time of year again where Aberdeenshire's councillors are preparing to set the budget for the financial year ahead. Although the actual budget setting meeting won't take place until February, there's a huge amount of work for councillors and council officers to go through before then in terms of coming up with and testing various proposals.

Traditionally, the various political groupings on the council all kept their budgets as closely-guarded secrets until budget day. On the day itself, there would always be a huge amount of empty grandstanding as a demolition derby took place between a set of virtually identical proposals, to leave only the administration's version of the budget standing.

It always struck me as a complete waste of time and energy to carry out business that way, which is why we changed things last year. By setting out indicative plans at an earlier stage, the opportunity will be there for better working between the various political groups as we come to terms with the budget pressures and challenges we know that we all face in maintaining good public services.

NEWBURGH

Nicer Newburgh Gardening Group



Once more we are into the winter season, and the colourful beds and planters of summer have been changed to polyanthus and bulbs.

The group are very pleased to report on a successful 2016.

We entered Formartine in Bloom for the 4th year, in the medium village category, and were delighted to win first prize. Same as last year, which is quite an achievement, if you have ever visited or driven through other villages entered in this group, you will see that the standard is very high.

The main improvement has been the very large planting at the South entrance of the village, opposite Newburgh Hotel and Spring Gardens. Anyone who enters the village at this point could not help but be impressed by the colours over the last months

Our 2nd achievement was hosting a Show and Tell Coffee Afternoon on 1st October in the village hall.

We would like to thank all who gave their support to this venture, residents, visitors and local businesses.

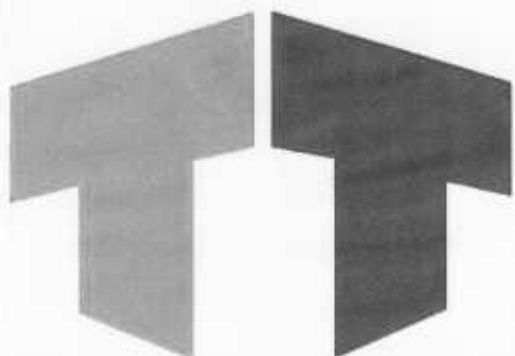
I hope all who came along enjoyed not just the cuppa, the cake and candy and craft stalls, but the achievement of the group over the last years. Even we forget how big a job we tackled until we see photographic evidence.

We continue with the maintenance over the winter months, and the planting of 3000 crocus bulbs, on the grass embankment at the school. We hope these will help to brighten the area when they bloom in spring.

The group is always grateful of all offers of help, a few hours work when there are greater numbers can really make a big difference.

Please contact Graham at 01358 789024 or contact nicernewburgh@hotmail.co.uk

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.
Agnes Kinloch



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NEWBURGH RURAL

The first meeting of the autumn session took the form of an Inter-Institute Quiz Night and a total of ten tables took part in the quiz, ably compered by Mr Clive Moss. At halfway point tea was served and the raffle drawn, the quiz questions then resumed . Team points were given out and the 1st, 2nd and “booby” prizes distributed. President, Mrs Kate Duncan, presented gifts to all who helped make it an enjoyable evening and thanked all who attended. A short business meeting was held and among other items discussed it was decided that the MacMillan Coffee Morning this year will be delayed until 14th October.

The October meeting took the form of a Members Night with Kate Duncan, Sue Edwards and Margaret Buchan preparing unusual fruits and vegetables which are now regularly available in supermarkets but which people are a bit reluctant to try for themselves. The ladies demonstrated methods of cooking celeriac, fennel mash, courgette spaghetti, endamame beans, kale and samphire. We then tasted pomegranate, passion fruit, Sharon fruit, papaya and physalis. By the end of the evening some of us were persuaded to try something new at home.

On 1st November President Kate Duncan introduced our speaker for the evening, Mr Scott Baxter who is involved with the Aberdeen Cyrenians and had come to speak about his work. In 1960 a group of Aberdeen University students set up a soup kitchen for homeless folk and from that small beginning It has grown to providing night shelter for over 3000 annually, day centre, women only residence, drug rehabilitation project with waiting time reduced to 2 weeks as well as residential project focusing on alcohol misuse (Wernham House).

There are now 56 full time salaried workers and a core of 90 volunteers rising up to 250 when needed. Funded primarily by specific fundraising activities, local charities and supported by supermarkets they provide a daily hot meal. Being strictly non-denominational they are able to engage and work with all faith groups here in the north-east. There are also Cyrenians operating now in both Edinburgh and Glasgow.

On meeting due on to be held 6th December instead will be High Tea and a visit to Ellon Panto for members only. Our regular meetings resume on 10th January 2017, contact Mrs Rose Moroney for information on Newburgh Rural on tel: 01358 789353.

Jan McAndrew, Press Secretary.



Since starting back after the Summer Holidays we have been busy and welcomed 9 new girls to our Unit and at Christmas will say goodbye to 3.

In September we visited the beach where the girls had to follow clues to find the hidden treasure. It was not the best evening in terms of weather, but they all brought a spade and managed to find all the gold coins hidden in the sand.

During this term the girls have made Marshmallow Igloos and Edible Fireworks as part of the Roundabout Seasons badge. They also designed posters for the annual Girlguiding Gordon Art Competition, made candles to celebrate Diwali and made fat balls for the birds to eat.

The girls took part in a themed session this term to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter. Each girl brought something linked to Beatrix Potter or found out a fact about her and at Rainbows they then each created a new character and we made up some short stories.

If anyone would like to find out more about Rainbows, whether to register your child or to volunteer, information can be found at https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx or if you would like information about joining or volunteering with 1st Newburgh Rainbows please contact Lynsey on 07743 797377.

Also, we would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped out over the year and hope everyone has a Merry Christmas. Lynsey, Sophie & Louise.

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Raymond Birnie

1st Newburgh Guides continues to be a busy unit with around 18 girls and 2 Young Leaders. We have girls from Newburgh, Foveran & Colliston.

As we returned to guides after the summer holidays we tried to get out and about as much as we could to make the most of the light nights. As part of this we've completed a Seaside Challenge Badge which involved doing lots of fun activities at the beach but also highlighted the importance of being safe while we are at the beach.

In September we completed the Traditions of Guiding Interest badge which had us walking at Scouts Pace, practicing our flag work and tying knots amongst other activities. We were also kindly lent lots of guide memorabilia from June Macrae who had completed her Queens Guide award a few years ago and who had thought current guides would be interested in seeing what guides was like in the 70s & 80s. We also have a visit from Gillian Martin MSP who used to be a Newburgh Guide and it was lovely for her to share her memories with current Newburgh Guides.



As we head towards Christmas we're now going to turn our attention to Christmas activities & our end of term party.

For any girls who are interested in joining our unit then you must register your interest on the Girlguiding website - <https://enquiry.girlguiding.org.uk/>

We are always on the lookout for new leaders and unit helpers and if anyone is interested in joining we'd love to hear from you. More information can be found at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/home.aspx> or you can contact Karen on 01358 789523

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Gallowshill Community Sports Centre

The Gallowshill Community Sports Centre (GCSC) held its first AGM on April 12th 2016 in the Newburgh all-weather Village Hall. Meetings with the Committee have since been held in the Sports Hub Pavilion every 6 to 8 weeks with the various Sports Sections presenting reports on their activities.

At present the facility offers football (Youth Club, Amateur and Junior grades), tennis and netball, with other local sports and events being promised for the future.

The football facilities include 2 full-size pitches, and shared use of the all-weather multi-use games facility (MUGA). The record wet weather enjoyed last winter caused havoc with our pitches, and steps were taken to address the problems of excessive subterranean as well as surface storm water discharge. Topographical and cadastral surveys were made which clearly set out the Centre's boundaries on the ground, as well as confirm through the contours, the flow characteristics of the storm water flows. With this information a soil investigation was recommended and this, with a submission from an interested contractor, will be studied shortly with the plan to have the remedial work completed possibly by August next year.

A Master Plan was prepared for the Committee's approval covering the development possibilities for our magnificent 3 hectare site, and this will be the basis on which future developments will be carried out. Discussions with the neighbouring Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club Committee on minor boundary adjustments and shared parking facilities for mutual advantage are continuing.

A Fibrillator has been installed and a team of 8 members have been trained in its use.

Our Finances are in a healthy condition but, with remedial work on the football pitches mentioned above, fund-raising efforts will need to be made in the ensuing months.

We welcome new members and ideas for further sports and leisure activities – for juniors and seniors wishing to participate in healthy activity. For further information, please contact me (mail@gordonbenton.com). With this in mind, we have a vacancy for a volunteer Social Secretary which will help us take the Club forward.

Gordon G Benton,
Chairman, GCSC"

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Jogscotland Newburgh continues to thrive in the village and we currently have around 35 members. As the nights darken you will see lots of runners with headtorches running round the village on a Wednesday evening!!!

We recently completed another successful 10 week block covering three different levels – Beginner 1, Intermediate 1 and & our Social Run group for some of our established runners where we run 4 – 6 miles.

We continue to see lots of members running at events over the last few months including 10kms, marathons and half marathons. Its great seeing how Jogscotland helps members achieve their running goals.

Our next blocks will commence in January 2017 and information will be posted around the village and on Facebook on the new blocks.

As a group we are currently fundraising for a defibrillator for the centre of the village and would be delighted to welcome any runners who would like to join us to help us achieve this goal.

A little bit of information on the philosophy of Jogscotland

jogscotland, which was established in 2002, now comprises a network of thousands of runners, right across the country. Members take part in friendly volunteer-led jog groups based in the community, sports centres and workplaces, doing everything from a short, gentle jog/walk to marathon training.

Nobody is “too slow” to join **jogscotland**. Groups are available for joggers of all levels, from complete beginners to long-distance runners. Beginner sessions include a combination of gentle jogging and walking, with a gradual increase in jogging as fitness and confidence begin to build. Within 20 weeks of starting as a complete beginner, you will probably be able to run 5K (three miles). The emphasis at every **jogscotland** group is on enjoying exercise and supporting one another in a friendly atmosphere.

If you have any questions or for more information please contact us on jogscotlandnewburgh@outlook.com or www.jogscotland.org.uk. We also have a Facebook Group – “Jogscotland Newburgh” where we share plans for the week, provide information, share ideas, motivation etc and provides lots of support.



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The Ythan Cronies Club - Aug to Nov 2016

The new syllabus is up and running as we continue to meet in the Newburgh Village Hall every two weeks where we started on Wednesday the 14th Sept. 2016 at 13.30 hrs.

August the 31st 2016 the WRVS/Cronie committee members met in the back room of the Village Hall. Like it was the Vatican all that was needed was the wee puff o' white smoke and so the Ythan Cronies Club Syllabus 2016/17 was created.

September 14th could have been first day back at school as we were given the product of a busy time for Connie and the WRVS to whom we give our thanks for the new term:

The Ythan Cronies Club Syllabus – Session 2016/17		
Date	WRVS	Main Activity
Sep. 14 th	Grp 1	Whist
28 th	Grp 2	Bingo - Raffle
Oct. 12 th	Grp 3	01 Outing - Happy Plant Garden Centre
26 th	Grp 4	Bowls - Raffle
Nov. 9 th	Grp 1	02 Speaker – Ann Reid from Balmedie House
23 rd	Grp 2	Whist - Raffle
Dec. 7 th	Grp 3	Bingo
14 th	Grp 4	03 Christmas Lunch at the Newburgh Golf Club Large Raffle – Entertainment – <i>‘Sounds Familiar’</i>
<i>The Cronies break for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year</i>		
Jan. 11 th	Grp 1	Beetle
25 th	Grp 2	04 Entertainment – Ann Wally
Feb. 8 th	Grp 3	Bowls
22 nd	Grp 4	05 Speaker – Martin Gorman - Raffle
Mar. 8 th	Grp 1	Whist
22 nd	Grp 2	06 Entertainment – <i>‘Audacity’</i> - Raffle
Apr. 5 th	Grp 3	Bingo
19 th	Grp 4	07 Easter Tea – Entertainment – <i>‘Folksingers’</i> - Raffle
May 3 rd	Grp 1	Bowls
17 th	Grp 2	08 Cronie G Porter – <i>‘Music from the Musicals’</i>
31 st	Grp 3	09 Cronie Quiz – <i>‘Betty & Isobel’</i> - Raffle
Jun. 14 th	Grp 4	10 Summer Outing

October 19th Sadly the Cronies attended Stan's funeral; *‘How that man loved to sing’* is how we will remember him.

Regards from Gordon Porter
Member of the Ythan Cronies Club - Newburgh

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Registered Charity # SC006790 Newburgh Preschool
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Newburgh Playgroup has now completed its name change to Newburgh Preschool.

The summer feels like a distant memory as we returned to the preschool after the October holidays. The children have been collecting signs of autumn and have used these to make some lovely autumn artwork to display.

Over the October break the staff have made some changes to the room to enhance the children's learning experience. Smaller furniture means all the resources are easily accessible to the children and the new quiet corner is a cosy place to read a book or talk to friends.

The children have been enjoying learning about autumn and there is a trip planned for the Rising 5's to Auchmacoy Forest School next week.

The committee have been busy raising funds for the preschool, with our Bridget Jones cinema night, which was held in September being a huge success and raising over £2000. The next big event will be fun for all the family at our Christmas Fair which will be held at the Newburgh Village Hall from 2-4pm on Saturday 3rd December. Please come along for a wonderful Christmas shopping experience with lots of stalls and even a special appearance from Santa in his grotto. Thank you to everyone that has supported us throughout the year and we look forward to seeing you all at the fair.

We are pleased to have healthy numbers in all our groups which run as follows:

Rising 5's Group, Monday – Friday from 8.45 am to 11.55 am.

Playgroup will run Mon, Wed, Thu and Friday from 12.30 pm to 4.30 pm

2's Group, Tuesday 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm.

If you have a child who does not attend one of these groups at the moment and you would like to make enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Playgroup staff on Tel: 01358 789461. There may still be places available in some of our groups, and we welcome new applicants.

Also, if you shop on-line and do not already support a group or are looking to support another one, please remember that easyfundraising.org.uk is a great way to raise funds and does not cost you anything. Lots of retailers subscribe to this service and offer a percentage donation to

your chosen cause. It's easy to use; just remember to make purchases via the easyfundraising website and enter Newburgh Preschool in the dialogue box.

Should you require any further information please telephone the playgroup (01358 789461) or contact us on e-mail (newburgh.preschool@yahoo.com).

Many thanks, as always for your continued support.

Newburgh Preschool Staff and Committee

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Gala News

Following the successful 2016 gala, the committee is delighted to announce that next year's gala will go ahead on **20 May 2017**. Preparations have now begun to ensure that funds are raised to finance the gala. These events are crucial to supporting the gala and are also great fun for all. What's more, a portion of the funds raised is returned to the community. This year, Newburgh Mathers School received £500, £250 was put towards a Community Defibrillator and £1000 was used to purchase the Christmas lights for the village.



Dates for your diary:

Newburgh Christmas Lights Switch On – Sunday 4 December 2016

Come along to Holyrood Church at 4pm to join the countdown to the switch on. Then join the Newburgh Mathers School Choir as they lead carol singing around the tree. Finally, get cosy in the Public Hall with soup and sandwiches generously donated by The Newburgh Inn. Tickets (on sale at the door) are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children and include soup, sandwiches, home bakes and a hot or cold drink. Volunteers are also required for this event to help set up and serve. If you can spare a few hours that afternoon, it would be a wonderful way to spread some festive cheer so please do get in touch via the website or Facebook. Furthermore, if you would like to donate a prize for the raffle, please get in touch and a committee member can collect. Finally, if you would be willing to donate home bakes, we would be delighted to serve them. Donated baked goods can be dropped off at the Village Hall from 1pm onwards on 4 December.

Newburgh Beach Bash – Saturday 18 March 2017

Whether you are a seasoned runner or seeking an event to train for, the beach is calling! 10K followed by well earned soup and home bakes.

Gala 2017 – Saturday 20 May 2017

The gala committee is in the process of organising 2017's gala day. We are looking forward to the return of the Castle Canter, netball tournament, face painting, football tournament, barbecue, singing and dancing plus many brand new attractions and events. Enquiries are welcome from anyone considering holding a stall at this fantastic event attended by hundreds of locals and visitors.

Further details and updates are available on www.newburghgala.com and the Newburgh Gala Facebook page.

The committee extends an invitation to anyone interested in supporting these events. Whether you would like to join the committee, volunteer at any of the events or simply have a suggestion, we would love to hear from you via the website or Facebook page.

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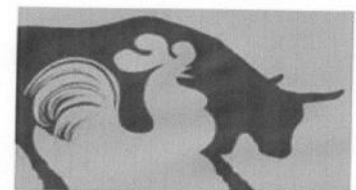
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CULTERCULLEN and UDNY STATION

Members and visitors of Cultercullen SWI met on 6th September 2016 in Udney Station Community Centre. Members enjoyed a talk and demonstration by Jane Keenan of screen painting. Jane demonstrated using screen painting to make pictures, lampshades and cushions and displayed samples of her work. Following Jane's talk and demonstration, the ladies enjoyed a delicious tea provided by Liz Webster.

Competition results were as follows:

Oat Biscuits: 1st Carol Ritchie, 2nd Maureen Alexander, 3rd Carol Hay

Wine Charm: 1st Carol Ritchie, 2nd Carol Hay, 3rd Maureen Alexander

Flower of the Month: 1st Carol Ritchie, 2nd Eileen Andrew, 3rd Maureen Alexander

At the October meeting of the Cultercullen SWI the ladies enjoyed a talk by Pat Edwards on the life and times of Jimmy Shand. The members were entertained with the story of how Jimmy Shand started out and stories about his music.

Following this, teas were provided by Carol Ritchie.

Competition results were as follows:

Coloured Picture- 1st Carol Ritchie, 2nd Moreen Alexander.

Broccoli and Stilton Soup: 1st Helen Thain, 2nd Moreen Alexander, 3rd Eileen Andrew.

Flower of the Month: 1st Moreen Alexander, 2nd Helen Thain, 3rd Eileen Alexander.

The next meeting of the Cultercullen SWI is on the 8th of November with a demonstration on Flower Arranging by Margaret Grieve. All are welcome.

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UDNY STATION AMENITIES GROUP

FORMARTINE IN BLOOM

We were very pleased to receive a highly commended certificate at the annual Formartine in Bloom awards. Wullie Grant attended the ceremony at Meldrum Academy and collected the award on behalf of the group. A big thank you to everyone who helped with the floral displays in the village.

VILLAGE BEST GARDEN

This year's winners were Bob and Dottie Dunbar. Congratulations to them both. They were presented with the cup and a cheque for £30. We would also like to thank Karen Mair, last year's winner, for taking the time to judge the gardens.

PLANTING SPRING BULBS

Once again the Council has provided us with bulbs and spring flowers. We hope to extend the planting this year and look forward to a colourful display in the spring.

We are always looking for more people to help out so please feel free to join us. There is no obligation to attend meetings and you will be made most welcome.

The Amenities Group would like to wish everyone A Very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.



Review of Dispensing GP Practices

For the vast majority of patients in NHS Grampian, medicines are prescribed by GPs and dispensed by local pharmacies.

Where patients have a serious difficulty of access to a pharmacy the NHS Board can require the patient's GP to provide the dispensed medicines direct to the patient. NHS Grampian requires nine GP practices to dispense for their patients.

The NHS Board is only legally allowed to require a patient's GP practice to supply medicines and appliances where it has been formally agreed that the patient will have a serious difficulty in obtaining such medicines or appliances (other than scheduled drugs) from a community pharmacist.

The term serious difficulty is not defined but the Board can consider the distance to the nearest community pharmacy, issues of communication and other exceptional circumstances.

The NHS Grampian Board has agreed to the proposed review for six dispensing practices in Grampian, including Udney Station.

NHS Grampian ran a comprehensive consultation during July, August and September. We would like to thank everyone who came to meetings and drop in session and responded to the consultation.

A Review Group will be analysing all the responses to the consultation and will make recommendations to the Board of NHS Grampian.

The Review Group would like to invite any group or individual in the communities affected by the consultation – including Udney Station - to make representations or presentations to the members of the Group.

The Review Group will be in attendance at the following location on the date and times shown below:

Udney Station	Tuesday 29 November 2016 in the Udney Station Community Centre, Udney Station, AB41 6QJ, at 1330 - 2000 hrs
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If your represent a

group or organisation in the area served by this practice, or you are an elected public representative, an independent contractor to the NHS or an interested individual you are invited to make a representation or presentation to the Review Group.

If you would like to do so please email nhsg.involve@nhs.net or write to Freepost, NHS Grampian. You will be allocated a time and to ensure that the maximum number of people have the opportunity to participate.



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1st Foveran Boy Scout Troop part 2

During World War 2 there were many who would have said it was the most exciting time of their lives and others who would look at it with despair and look back in horror for lives lost.

Newburgh and Foveran, like many other villages and parishes played their part in raising funds for the many organisations involved in the protection of civilians, the needs of prisoners of war, and for the arming of the military.

Viewing newspapers of the period was an enlightening experience. My main purpose in this was to find more information on the Boy Scout troop in Newburgh. Like many others the boys did their bit for the war effort.

Concerts, plays, whist drives, dances and many other forms of entertainment were held by organisations such as the Red Cross, Lifeboat (RNLI), Military and Naval Hospitals and local groups such as the Newburgh and Foveran War Work depot. School children operated a salvage scheme for paper and indeed Newburgh Mather's School came out top having collected more paper per pupil than any other in the east of the county.

Newburgh First Aid Post and Air Raid Precaution (ARP) held whist drives and dances as did the Newburgh Musical Association.

The Boy Scout Troop were involved in this and did their bit by holding a concert and dance on March 7th 1941 in the public hall. Much practice was to go into the preparation during the months previous to this concert.

Due to the on-going war, circumstances could change at any time.

October 20th Monday

Meeting in Newburgh School

The S/M was able only to start the meeting and Mr Lyall was also unable to attend. This meeting was run by Gordon Burr and the P/Ls. It was going well when interrupted by about 8pm by an air raid warning and the arrival of the First Aid party and this meeting had to close.

The following Thursday had been intended for 2nd class testing but S/M was detained at Kingseat (WW2 Naval Hospital).

Monday Dec 30th, (1940) Jan 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, Feb 3rd, 10th (1941)

Meetings fairly well attended except Jan 20th and 27th when the weather was extra ordinarily serious the village being cut off for 4 days.

No scouting was done as we concentrated on rehearsal for a troop show to be given at the end of February. No midweek meetings were held but instead PLs and Seconds were encouraged to attend first aid classes (Red Cross) given by the S/M. Sandy Gilmore, Forbes Auld and Ian Yates attended regularly and George Cruickshank attended early lectures. The tumbling (gymnastics) improved considerably and the other half of the programme, camp fire singing went quite well.

David Adams lost interest in the troop and was an infernal nuisance at rehearsals and his place as PI was taken by Ian Yates who after nearly giving up in December had become one of the keenest and most useful members of the troop.

The troop conducted their own rehearsal on Feb 10th when the S/M was on duty at Kingseat.

During the year memorial parades were also held often along with the Home Guard Company.

Sunday November 10th

Church Parade

14 present

We paraded with the Home Guard at Cruickshank's Garage and marched behind them to Foveran Church. The marching of the troop was distinctly poor and created a bad impression but the presence of the troops at the parade was appreciated. After Church the troop proceeded at Scout's pace – a very shoddy one ahead of the Home Guard.

Sunday February 9th

A memorial service for Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell (Died 8/1/1941) attended by the troop and the (Home) Guard company was held in the Church Hall, The Rev Stuart officiating. The service was an abbreviated form of that laid down for use by all scouts in this country. Mr Stuart in a short address reviewed the life of "BP" and showed how he survived ridicule and difficulties in the early days of the movement and how he lived down his mistakes in allowing his head to appear on the stamps of Mafeking.

16 members of the troop and 6 guides: with Miss Keith and Miss Cameron. Mr Lyall and the S/M were also present.

There was no indication that the marching had improved this being surely down to the input from the scoutmaster and constant practice. If you watch Armistice parades at the present you may note that things have not improved – marching not being taught at all as far as I can tell.

Monday Feb. 17th

A very cheery and successful rehearsal. The first half of the tumbling went through much better and in the camp fires scene Douggie Grey played his accordion very well and the two Cruickshanks sang the "Old Sow" with zest.

The subsequent meetings were all rehearsals for the show and in spite of apparent unpreparedness a week before the dress rehearsal was a decided success, even Ian Cruickshank splitting his clown pants.

Monday March 7th

The troop show and dance was held in Newburgh Public Hall at 8.30pm and proved an overwhelming success, £11/4/3 clear profit being handed over to the Newburgh War Work Party. Every member of the troop performed as never before and were helped by a large and enthusiastic audience.

The show was advertised as the 1st Foveran Troop show and dance featuring the "Newburgh Ninepins", "Hit and Miss the famous clown", "Bellowing Bessie the performing cow" and "The Campfire Cronies".

The show began with Tumbling and after a brief parade and a good tableau then followed forward rolls, back rolls, cartwheels and then a succession of diving acts culminating in a magnificent dive by George Cruickshank as the clown "Hit". His cousin Ian as "Miss" of course made a glorious hash of it and as usual brought the house down. The second half of the show consisted of more difficult acts by individuals such as double rolls, "steeple falls" and "dive over roll" by George C and Douggie Grey interspersed with handsprings over Ian Yates back (kneeling) and of his knees lying down, Ian assisting with his forearms. George C did a couple of excellent handsprings off Sandy Gilmore's back. In addition to this "Battling Bill" McHardy and "Tiger" Stewart had a spirited boxing match with large long gloves made for the occasion.

Then followed the hit of the evening: in "Bellowing Bessie the performing cow". Some of the kids present seemed to have seen such a thing before and it was a long while before the noise subsided sufficiently for "Bessie's" plaintive bellowing to be heard. Sandy Gilmore was in the head and Charlie Davidson the tail and David Laing having acted as trainer with the clown helping or hindering throughout. After a brief extra act by the clowns came the final tableau.

The whole show went without a hitch from start to finish and further Charlie Davidson deserves much credit for his organising back stage. The clowns were excellent George C being outstanding both in his tumbling and in his very spirited rendering in dumb show (miming) of the "Magic Hair" act.

Ian C fitted his part perfectly, never where he should be but always had to hurry across the stage and throw everything into confusion in true clown spirit and his clowning through the tricks he knew he couldn't do followed by a graceful bow to the audience was very good. Of

the others Ian Yates was literally a tower of strength in the tableau which were slickly performed and well held. Sandy Gilmore was a very useful, as was David Laing in the odd jobs required to keep the show running smoothly.

The second half of the show was staged in darkness except for a realistic campfire. The troop sang scout songs interspersed with acts, such as "The Rocket" and the "Red Indian Attack" and individual acts by George Elder – harmonica, Douggie Grey – piano accordion, which was very popular and a rendering by George and Ian Cruickshank of "The old Goat". The audience were also made to sing lustily and delighted in "John Brown's Flivver" and "3 Blind Mice" with omission and action.

After "Auld Lang Syne" Major Smith as chairman of this troop made a short speech to which the S/M replied. The whole show went through so smoothly that it finished in just over 75 minutes and there was a long wait till the band arrived (late) for the dance but this didn't matter as all the audience went home for tea. The dance was the usual success and Ian Yates, George Cruickshank, Douggie Grey, Ian Laing and George Elder and others worked hard at the "Oh" bar and with this added assistance of some excellent sandwiches from Mrs John Cruickshank collected a further 18/- profit.

As can be seen activities at scout meetings were to develop skills in the various tasks along with physical strength, agility and self-confidence.

Thanks to Fiona Boamah for the loan of the notebook from which the italicised notes are taken. The notes are as written, with parts in brackets my own to clarify.

Charles M Catto



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A Walk on the Wildside

Fit like folks? I trust that you all answer 'very well', and long may that state of affairs continue. As we head downhill to the end of the year do not despair at the thought of dwindling daylight, frosty nights and perhaps snowy days, oh how boring! Of course not as the natural world will always have something in store to cheer you up.

Skies grey with geese and not always clouds, flashes of brilliance as flocks of golden plover perform their aerobatics way above, and in the quiet of early evening the haunting call of whooper swans winging their way to their watery bedrooms. Oh yes and if you are out and about later in the night the silence could be broken by the blood-curdling screech of Mrs. Basil Brush, real spooky stuff!

A brisk walk down to the shore is always rewarding despite the lack of fish-diving terns at this time of the year. You can ogle the seals at the estuary mouth and try your skill at identifying the two species present. It is amazing how their numbers have exploded over the years. In the good old days when I worked on Forvie, to walk around John's Hole Point and see twenty common seals was a notable event, honest. Now that twenty is more likely to be one thousand and twenty! The other big change is with the species as grey seals were a very rare sight, you might see the odd one offshore but never in the estuary mouth, now they are more numerous than common seals.

As you might guess grey seals are green in colour! It is a wee bit confusing as common seals are also grey. Grey seals are on the whole larger than their neighbours but the main difference between the two species is in the shape of the head. The head of a grey seal is long and bluntly pointed, like a huge 'Roman nose'. From the top of the head to the tip of the nose is a straight line, very distinctive. But the head of a common seal is more like that of a large dog it dips at the level of the eyes before ending at the snout.

The large numbers of eider ducks that are another feature of the estuary will have dwindled considerably by now. A good proportion of the breeding flock will have moved out of the estuary and made their way down the coast for the winter. But other duck species will have replaced them and these make 'duck spotting' a good pastime. One species that is worth looking for is the long-tailed duck, a lovely smallish black and white duck, and it is the males that have the *very* long 'sticky-up' tail, feathers. They are a sea duck that breed way up in the Arctic Circle, migrating here for the winter. They tend to like the lower end of the estuary along with the other sea ducks.


If bird or seal spotting is not your favourite pastime do not despair, as simply walking along the shore can be fascinating. Apart from the pieces of rubbish that wash ashore, you may find bits of dead bodies; shock horror! Dead men' fingers oh yes, lumps of swollen hand complete with fingers, real gruesome stuff. Not gruesome but amazing as these 'lumps' are in fact soft coral that

break off of the rocky shore northward and end up on the sand. 'Take a zillion lines' anyone believing that this time of year is boring, shame on you.

Take care of yourselves and our wildlife until the next edition. Bye.

Bob Davis - 25 October, 2017

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HAPPY GARDENING!

Having lived in this house for five years now, and having tried to reshape and manage some of the monstrous shrubs I inherited for each of the five seasons – this summer I came to the conclusion that I was fighting a losing battle. So with the decision made, sadly several have been removed – actually, maybe not so sadly for a couple of them, as they were still the remnants of her YELLOW plantings!

I now have a lovely space where an enormous YELLOW tree peony stood – it needed a machete attack every year to be able to get passed it, and my cousin has been nurturing a baby from her red tree peony for me. The red variety is a much more manageable beast, so hopefully the machete can be put away. In return for the tree peony she was given a very large beautiful yellowish Rhododendron that was planted far too close to the path and had to be pruned endlessly to be able to use the path. It has gone to live in a newly created woodland garden with plenty of room to spread its branches, along with another one that was too big for its space.

A monster of a YELLOW summer flowering Jasmine has been dug out, allowing me to move a suffocating Deutzia into its place during the winter months, when it's dormant. There were also two huge Viburnums, both needing major pruning each year, which removed the stems that would carry the flowers – so with one out and the other about to be removed, I am playing musical plants again. At least I have candidates that can be moved from their squashed positions, to allow them a bit more space to breathe, although I have treated myself to *Hydrangea paniculata*, a dwarf form, as they seem to do really well here, and I love the panicles of cream flowers that turn pinky red with age.

All this removal has reinforced the knowledge that shrubs need to be pruned from an early age, so they never reach the stage of 'drastic measures', assuming that the right plant has been bought for the right place. There is no point in buying an unsuitable candidate in the first place and expecting to be able to fit it in, as no amount of pruning will make the monster fit! That's not to say that the odd branch may need to be removed from a mature shrub, but, at least they should remain more manageable if regularly pruned, and in a limited space it's even more important.

The plant growth this year seems to have been amazing, there are shrubs that seem to have doubled in size. I have cut my *Clematis montana* three times this year and it's still growing, and in the rather full garden in Edinburgh that I advise on, the newly planted woodland bit has 'taken off' big time. Mind you the client has the 'must have' disease – and often doesn't read the label – so 'overcrowding' and 'too large for its intended space', is a perpetual problem anyway.

So I am about to start on the 'musical plants' game again, as soon as the movers have lost their leaves and are dormant. All good fun though as I enjoy the change it brings and so long as the moved specimens are treated with TLC and masses of water, very large plants can be moved without loss. Fingers crossed for all my movers.

Lesley Barnett.



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SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The annual KIRK ROUP will have taken place on Saturday 19 November before you read this newsletter. Thank you if you contributed to this event in any way.

We are now planning for our annual BURNS SUPPER which will take place on Saturday 28 January as a joint event with Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club, so please put this date in your diaries and look out for further publicity early in the New Year.

Meanwhile the committee wish you all a very happy and meaningful Christmas season, and look forward to welcoming you to our social events in 2017.

Mary Smith (Social Convenor)

Tel: 01358 742234

An invitation:

The North East Aberdeenshire Members' Centre supporting The National Trust for Scotland invites all members and other friends to a **Carols for Christmas** event in Haddo House Chapel on Sunday 4th December 2016 at 3pm.

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The next newsletter will come out in April 2017 so if you have anything you would like me to include, please may I have it by the 7th of March. You can email it to me or send it by post.

Janet Jones, South Minnes, Newburgh. Ellon. AB41 6BB. Tel: 01358 742304

j.jones110@btinternet.com

Foveran Community Council meeting dates for your diaries

All meetings start at 7.30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month

There are no meetings in July or December

2016

23 November Newburgh Mathers School

2017

25 January Udney Station Community Centre

22 February Foveran School

22 March Newburgh Mathers School

26 April Udney Station Community Centre

24 May Foveran School

28 June Newburgh Mathers School

23 August Udney Station Community Centre

27 September Newburgh Inn AGM then meeting at 20.15