

Foveran Community Newsletter

April 2016

Issue 143



To publicise the Formartine Floral Trail, Formartine Partnership will shortly be approaching local primary schools and gardening groups. To encourage them to take part in the Trail, the Partnership will provide a flowerpot person. It would be great if local businesses and individuals could join in and display a flowerpot person outside their premises to show support for the gardening groups in our area which are:

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Secretary Report for March / April 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 on the back page.

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.

Janet Jones has joined the council, representing Foveran, and Katrin has taken over the treasurer's role from Pauline.

To the final new residents of Sinclair Park we welcome you to our community.

Gallowhill Sports Hub continues to be successful and is available to all, not just the residents of Newburgh, with Football, tennis, netball available, as is the hire of the pavilion for private and community meetings. A defibrillator will be installed shortly to be available in case of an emergency

The boardwalk from the beach car park to the top of the dunes has received remedial work to the edges.

Fancier Foveran will administer the annual £500 grant to Foveran under the tidy village scheme.

Thanks go to all who deliver the newsletter, especially to Newburgh Scouts, and those who deliver up remote farm tracks.

Newburgh Christmas lights would not be possible without the efforts of TT Electrical Services who do the PAT testing, and Romar, John Duncan Plant Hire, and Keith Watson Electrical, who provide the equipment and labour to erect and dismantle the lights.

Thanks are also due to Formartine Christmas Trees who this Christmas did not charge for the tree in Newburgh.

Unfortunately dog fouling is again on the increase in Newburgh and the other villages

There is no excuse for this, the selfish acts by a few dog owners in not cleaning up after their dog, means for the rest of us filth on our pavements, children's shoes and pram wheels.

If you are a member of the Green Dog Walker group, free dog poo bags are available both from Aberdeenshire Council offices in Ellon, and from Ythan Waves on Main Street, Newburgh.

The fines for dog fouling or throwing away bags of dog poo will soon be £80.

Plans are in place for the removal of both the Spalding Bridge and the old tennis pavilion during 2016.

An application for grant funding to increase the insulation in Foveran Church Hall has been submitted.

There are vacancies on the board of Formartine Partnership (www.formartinepartnership.org.uk) based in Ellon, which promotes rural development throughout the Formartine Area.

Meetings are normally every 2 months, on a Tuesday morning.

If you are interested in joining this organisation then please contact Caroline Rennie carolinerennie@formartinepartnership.org.uk

Glen Douglas

Councillor Richard Thomson.

Flood Grants

The recovery across Aberdeenshire from the floods of the New Year continues. Many of those affected will be facing weeks if not months out of their homes while insurance claims are progressed and works get underway to repair the damage.

There are a number of issues still requiring to be dealt with in the longer term, whether that involves rebuilding flood defences or improving our drainage infrastructure. A local flood recovery plan is now in place for Formartine, which sets out the actions which need to be taken before the area can consider itself to have returned to normal again.

For those who experienced flooding in their home or business premises, grants of £1,500 for individuals and £3,000 for businesses are still available through Aberdeenshire Council and can be claimed through an application form available at: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding-grant-scheme> . Meanwhile, further financial support is available through the Foundation Scotland at www.foundationscotland.org.uk/flood-recovery-appeal/apply-for-funding.

City Region Deal – Delivered!

As I'm sure everyone will be aware by now, the long-awaited City Region Deal between Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils, and the Scottish and UK Governments, has been unveiled.

As things stand, the £250 million promised on a 50/50 basis between the Scottish and UK Governments falls some way short of the hoped for £2.9bn overall package of investment. Nevertheless, taken alongside the additional £254 million promised by the Scottish Government over and above this for housing and improved rail journey times to the Central Belt, and taken beside the planned £400m investment for harbour expansion in Aberdeen, it still amounts to a substantial and much needed package of investment for the north east.

One of the most significant parts of the package is actually the smallest – a £5m contribution towards the cost of carrying out transport feasibility studies. Being realistic, as things stand, many of the major transport investments which we might want to make in Aberdeenshire – such as dualling the A90 from Ellon on to Fraserburgh or re-opening the Buchan-Formartine railway – are nowhere near being

funded by government, due to the fact that the necessary studies and cost/benefit analyses simply haven't been done.

What this £5m will do is allow us to get those projects up to the same level of preparedness as many other potential future transport projects in Scotland. Once there, they will be in a position where they can win funding from the Scottish Government ahead of other projects, on the basis that they can be proven to represent the best possible value for their future investment.

Budget

Aberdeenshire Council set its budget in February for the year ahead. Amidst all the headlines about spending reductions of £28 million, it's worth reflecting on the fact that the council is still an organisation spending in the order of £700 million annually across its capital revenue and housing revenue accounts.

That still gives us a great deal of choice as a council in terms of how to use that resource. I'm pleased to say that while there were some important differences between the budgets presented by both the administration and the opposition, both sets of proposals which were presented on the day were able to concentrate on finding savings which managed to protect frontline services and jobs.

In amongst this, one of the most important changes which came out of the budget process for me was the doubling of the area committee top-up budget. This fund, which at around £50,000 last year, is allocated by local councillors to help community groups and local projects who apply for support in this way.

Across Aberdeenshire, the funds will allow for a focus on local economic development, as well as in building the capacity of communities to do more for themselves. With each of Aberdeenshire Council's 6 Area Committees now having a sum of over £100,000 for these purposes to help those who apply, the potential to benefit many more groups in more ambitious ways is clear.

NEWBURGH

NICER NEWBURGH GARDENING GROUP

Over the winter months, it may seem that the group members are sitting at home away from the winter weather – but don't be fooled. There is still some maintenance and improvement works to be done, and of course the plotting and planning for when the weather warms up.

We hope to expand on the work achieved over the last four years and continue to make our village more attractive to residents and visitors.

As you know, we came first in Formartine in Bloom for our category and, if we enter again this year, we would hope to get the same positive praise from the judges.

While we are happy to mow, weed and plant, there is one job none of us enjoy. Picking up the amount of dog waste that we experience is not a favourite! Checking over grass before it is mowed and flower/shrub beds before weeding, has now become a habit.

Worst are the dog owners who pick it up and bag it then throw the bag into flower beds and shrubberies. When you clear up after your dog, then please dispose of it in the many bins the Council has provided. The dog-fouling in the village is a disgrace. It is anti-social and also an offence.

The majority of owners do bag and bin it but a small number of owners fail to. It would be so good to see an improvement.

I will end on our usual note to say we are always grateful for all offers of help – even a small amount of time can make a difference.

Contact me, Agnes Kinloch, on 01358 789527 or Graham Waters on 01358 789024.





Jogscotland Newburgh continues to thrive in the village and we currently have around 35 members, including 12 new members who have joined us since January 2016

We are currently running three different groups on a Wednesday evening – Beginner Level 1 (for those new to running), Intermediate Level 2 (working up to running for 40 minutes by the end of the 10 week block) & a Social Run for some of our established runners where we run 4 – 6 miles. If you see lots of people wearing head torches on a Wednesday evening then the chances are they are in one of our groups!

Lots of our members have entered races this year, including some entering their first Marthons and Half Maratons. We also have lots of members who have entered the forthcoming Beach Bash in the village at the end of March 2016. We're looking forward to seeing lots of photos and medals as the year progresses.

Our current blocks are due to finish at the end of March and we'll be planning the next blocks in the coming weeks with a view to starting them in April 2016.

A little bit of information on the philisophy 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.



Jenny Weston, Chair of the Aberdeen Branch of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, presenting Sandy Anderson (88) of Newburgh with the Club's 2015 Branch Recognition Award for services to ornithology in the North-East. Sandy helped to found the Aberdeen Branch of the SOC 68 years ago in 1947, and served for many years on the committee, and as its secretary and chairman. Sandy worked for Aberdeen University at Culterty Field Station and was closely involved in ornithology in the North-East throughout the last 70 years. Photo: Nick Picozzi.

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Newburgh Playgroup, Rising 5's and 2's Group
Registered Charity No. SC006790

Newburgh Playgroup children are now settled in after the Christmas break and are enjoying a fun filled session of events.

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes with the children and made a lovely stir fry for Chinese New Year. Most recently the children were given the opportunity to make their own fish fingers, following a demonstration by a parent who is a chef. The children love to get involved in helping prepare food and this can encourage them to try different foods and get excited about eating.

Earlier in the year the children enjoyed a Burns Celebration at Playgroup where they had the opportunity to sample some traditional Scottish Cuisine. A 'Burns For Bairns' event was also held by Playgroup in the village, which was well attended by over 50 children.

A Valentine's Day Draw was held with one lucky person winning a romantic night at Ardoe House for 2. In order not to make the children feel left out over Valentines weekend, a Children's disco was held for the children of the village.

The Children will be undertaking their annual sponsored obstacle race in April to raise funds for the playgroup.

The Children and staff are all looking forward to the better weather so they can get outside more and play in their recently upgraded outdoor play area. Thanks to a grant from the Formartine Area Committee we were able to replace the fencing and form a mud kitchen, where the children can enjoy making mud pies and potting plants for their garden.

Please keep your eyes and ears open for future fundraising events. We welcome the support of the local community at events.

We are pleased to have almost all of our groups full at present and our recent admissions week resulted in a healthy number of applications for the future. We currently offer sessions as follows:

Rising 5's – Monday to Friday 8.45am – 11.55am

Playgroup – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 12.30pm – 4.30pm

2's Group – Tuesday – 12.30pm – 2.30pm

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.

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 Playgroup in the dialogue box.

Should you require any further information please either telephone the playgroup (01358 789461), contact us on e-mail (newburgh.playgroup@ymail.com) or visit our '*Friend of Newburgh Playgroup*' Facebook page.

Many thanks, as always for your continued support.

Newburgh Playgroup Staff and Committee



Since starting back this term, Rainbows have decided to work towards their Mission Spectacular badge. This is a special badge to help celebrate 100 years of the Senior Section.

Our first challenge was about strength, where we talked about muscles and exercise. We had fun trying to say tongue twisters to exercise our facial muscles. The girls then split into two groups and made a circuit to help exercise different muscles.

The second challenge chosen was to celebrate achievements. This included many things from riding a horse, riding a bike, dancing and scoring a goal. All the achievements were fantastic. Well done Rainbows.

For the third challenge, Rainbows will be making a giant art picture to replicate the Senior Section Spectacular logo. They are well on the way to earning their Mission Spectacular badge.

The girls are also continuing to work on their Festivals Roundabout Badge. This time they chose to hold a Teddy Bear Meeting. They all brought in their favourite teddy or soft toy to join in the fun. We also designed our own bear, played a relay game with the teddies and also found out about the equivalent of Rainbows in South Africa – they are called the Teddies and meet in Units called Dens.

At the end of March we will have an Easter Tea Party to celebrate 100 years of the Senior Section and complete our badge. We are also hoping to have a visit to the beach and toast some marshmallows before the holidays.

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



1st Newburgh Guides continues to be a busy unit with around 20 girls and 2 Young Leaders. We have girls from Newburgh, Foveran & Collieston .

Firstly we'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who supported our fundraising at the end of 2015 - we held a Partylite Candle Party at the end of June, the guides made & sold Sweetie Cones and again we offered our Christmas Card Delivery service in Newburgh during December which kept us busy for a few weeks (& we found places in the village which we didn't know existed!). As part of this we'd like to say a bit thank you to Stewart Mitchell at Costcutters for letting us put our "postbox" in the shop.

This term we're working on a special badge "Mission Spectacular" to celebrate 100 years of the Senior Section. The girls chose the clauses that they wanted to work on and so far we've tried our hand at "Mindfulness", we've been creative with our hand prints and we've got a party planned for the end of term.

We've also just celebrated "Thinking Day" on the 22nd February and we had great fun playing problem solving games, setting personal challenges and sending positive messages to each other.

We continue to help girls work through their Baden Powell (BP) Challenge Award, the highest award in Guides and two of our guides, Lauren Moroney & Emily Austin are in the process of completing their challenge and we have two girls just embarking on the award.

In May we're going to Fyvie Guide House for an indoor camp – we're going to work towards two Challenge Badges over this weekend "Being Happy" and "Fyvie House Challenge Badge

For any girls who are interested in joining our unit then you must register your interest on the Girlguiding website - <https://enquiryym.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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Newburgh Gala Day

Saturday 21st May 2016

Newburgh Mathers School Playing Field 1-5pm

The months are flying past and it won't be long before Newburgh Gala Day. Please put the date in your diary. It looks as though it is going to be a day with lots of exciting events.

Fundraising

We have had several fundraising events such as the Tree Lighting/ Soup and Pudding event which was enjoyed by those who attended. The Beach Bash takes place on Saturday 26th March and at the time of writing this article it is fully subscribed, proving to be a very popular event for runners. We are looking for donations of home bakes for this event. So if you feel like contributing please contact Pat (01358 789 821 or apatmsmith@gmail.com) or on our facebook page. Many thanks to our generous sponsors who can be seen on our website.

Gala Day

Check out all our activities on our website: www.newburghgala.com. This year we have a variety of new events such as bungee trampolines, balloon magicians, cardio tennis taster session to name but a few. This is in addition to the usual bouncy castle, Football/Netball tournament, Dog Agility demonstration, Book Stall and the ever popular tea, coffee and home bakes provided by Corner Café.

Volunteers

If you are willing to help on the day or beforehand it will be appreciated.

Any donations of second hand books or home baking are very welcome. Please contact Pat (01358 789 821 or apatmsmith@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing everyone on the day.

Newburgh Gala Committee 2016

NEWBURGH RURAL

In November last year Mr Colin Parker, Chief Executive of Aberdeen Harbour Board came to talk about their plans to build a deepwater port at Nigg Bay to cope with the growing trend for bigger multi-purpose vessels required by the oil and gas industry; this would also attract larger cruise ships to visit Aberdeen. It is hoped construction will begin early 2017 with full completion by 2020-21. One new attraction to the harbour area is Dolphinwatch which RSPB runs each summer at Torry Battery.

One 1st December we had our annual Christmas party for members only with all food and drinks provided by the committee members. Everyone received a raffle prize and the meeting closed with carol singing.

Our 2016 session started on 5th January with a demonstration of tatting by two of our members, Mrs Sue Edwards and Mrs Michelle Jorro (who was accompanied by her daughter Zoe). These ladies are all experts in the craft and showed examples of beautiful work done by themselves and family members. They also helped demonstrate the art to anyone keen to try for themselves.

In February local resident Gordon Porter conducted a "70s Night" for our entertainment. He had put together a video showing the popular music of that decade and we all sang along to some much-loved but almost forgotten songs. Gordon is very knowledgeable on music and had lots of information about the people who made it memorable.

Details of our forthcoming meetings can be obtained from our Secretary, Mrs Rose Moroney on tel: 01358 789353. Meetings are held in Newburgh Public Hall on first Tuesday each month at 7.30pm.

Jan McAndrew
Press Secretary.

NEWBURGH INN COMFORT FACILITIES

Many thanks to Newburgh Inn who have agreed to let people visiting the beach use their toilet facilities.

NEWBURGH PUBLIC HALL

VERY URGENT APPEAL

Unless a new Hall Committee can be formed, the Hall may have to close. The present members have served for over 30 years and are going to retire. Letters are being sent to all the clubs and organisations who use the Hall to ask for two members from each group to come to a meeting in the Hall on **Monday 18th April at 7.30pm** to discuss the situation and hopefully form a new committee. This invitation extends to anyone in the village who thinks they may be able to help. If you need any more information please contact Rose Moroney 01358 789353

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Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club

(Website address: <http://www.newburghgolfclub.co.uk>)

Spring is in the air!

Well I hope by the time you read this article that we have seen the back of the rain and snow that has plagued us over the last few months. Not that it deterred the golfers (especially the seniors) who are here come rain or shine.

Our Annual “Club Captain v Manager” match which was due to be played on 2nd January succumbed to the weather and this has been re-organised for Sunday 11th July.

Our green keeping staff are hard at work getting the course ready for the new season and have been busy renewing some of our bunkers over the winter, so golfers beware, you may need an extra piece of equipment slotted into your golf bag!

Our Open Competition Schedule always proves popular with members and visitors alike and this can be viewed on the Club’s website. Spaces are filling up fast for the most popular Opens so don’t delay getting you entry in.

We offer 50% reduced rate green fees available to holders of the Scottish Golf Membership Card and also offer discounted rates for Group Outings to party sizes of 10 and over. Costs can be obtained by calling the office on 01358 789084 (option 2).

On the Social Front, our caterer (Martin Buhler) has put together a new “Summer Menu” and this will start on Friday 18th March along with our extended opening hours which will commence on Monday 28th March.

We offer free function facilities to club members and the clubhouse is the ideal venue for holding Weddings, Anniversaries or Birthday Parties.

Our monthly Quiz Nights and Bingo Nights are the perfect opportunity for you to meet up with family/friends and maybe even win some money/prizes at the same time. Sandy Penny and his bar staff are always ready to serve you with a welcoming smile.

Membership of the Club is available to both golfers and non-golfers and should you be interested in membership then please come along to the clubhouse and speak to either Shona Reid, Club Manager, or Heather Harper, Administrator, who will be delighted to show you round our facilities.

We both look forward to welcoming you to our Club.

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FOVERAN

HALL KEEPER URGENTLY REQUIRED

Due to illness, Mr David Rennie, who has been hall-keeper for the past 22 years, has had to retire. Unless the position can be filled, the Hall will have to be closed and there won't be anywhere in Foveran to have parties, celebrations or concerts. Please consider applying for this very desirable position and contact Mr Rennie on 01358 789426.

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CULTERCULLEN and UDNY STATION

Cultercullen S.W.R.I.

At the **November** meeting of Cultercullen S.W.R.I., the members enjoyed a talk by Pat Edwards. Pat showed the members a series of photos. A delicious tea was provided by Muriel Milne. The competition results were as follows:

Raisin and Oat Muffins:

1st Moreen Alexander, 2nd Carol Ritchie, 3rd Carol Hay

Photo of a local scene:

1st Carol Ritchie, 2nd Sheila Johnston, 3rd Helen Thain

Flower of the Month:

1st Carol Ritchie, 2nd Sheila Johnston, 3rd Moreen Alexander

The **December** meeting of Cultercullen S.W.R. I. was a celebration of the groups' 85th birthday. The members took part in a variety of Christmas crafts, poetry and quizzes. Following this, the members enjoyed a beautifully birthday cake.

Yule Log 1st Carol Ritchie, 2nd

Christmas Cracker: 1st Eileen Andrew, 2nd Helen Thain, 3rd Carol Hay

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

At the **February** meeting unfortunately the scheduled speaker was unable to attend. Instead members used the meeting to discuss the upcoming bulb show and quiz.

The competition was judged by Alywn Webster.

Valentine's Card: 1st Carol Ritchie, 2nd Eileen Andrew, 3rd Carol Hay

Jar of Orange Marmalade: 1st Helen Thain, 2nd Eileen Andrew, 3rd Carol Ritchie

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

At the March meeting, the annual quiz took place. A number of teams took part and answered questions on a wide range of topics. The results were:

1st Newburgh, 2nd Rural Riff Raff Newburgh, 3rd Triers Tipperty

UDNY STATION AMENITIES GROUP

Floral Displays

At last it seems like spring is just around the corner after one of the wettest winters on record. We can now begin to think about the new planting season and look forward to our flower displays come summer. This year we hope that the spring flowers and bulbs we planted in the autumn will provide a much needed splash of colour.

We will be adding to the wooden block containers in front of the Centre and the hope is that we can continue to replace the old containers as the funds become available.

Village Tidy Up

We will be having our annual tidy up in April and are always looking for volunteers to help out. It's only for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning so please come along if you can spare the time. Date has yet to be decided but notices will be put up in the village.

Volunteers

At present we are a very small group but we are always looking for more people to join us. There is no requirement to attend the meetings but a few more willing hands to help out with the weeding and planting over the summer months would be most welcome. If you are interested please call Alice on 01651 842268.

Udny Station Pre-school and Playgroup

What a busy year it has been for Udny Station Preschool and Playgroup. We thought you might like to hear a little about all the fun the children have been having.

With activities ranging from “forest school” sessions in the woods in Udny Station, to a trip to Macduff Aquarium and Duff House playpark and a visit to Santa’s reindeer in Ythanbank, there has not been a dull moment.

The children have helped with a charity appeal at Eat on the Green in Udny Green, and have had a whole variety of visitors ranging from a bee keeper, to a diver, a story maker, a biologist from Aberdeen University, a Critter Keeper - who encouraged them to handle creatures ranging from snakes to giant cockroaches - and of course Santa.

Our four highly qualified members of staff (they have more than 50 years of experience between them!) have also enjoyed all the experiences while looking after the children, who range in age from 2.5 years to 5 years.

We were thrilled with our Care Inspectorate report in 2015, which described Udny Station Preschool and Playgroup as having a “warm and caring atmosphere” and said the staff interacted in a “caring, nurturing and responsive manner with the children”. The group was given scores of 5 for the quality of care and support, environment and staffing.

Those children who moved on to primary school in 2015 benefited from the strong links between the group and the local schools. Teachers visited the preschool children before they moved on, ensuring a smooth transition.

We were lucky enough last year to be able to stock up on a whole array of new outdoor toys, bought using fundraising money, including bikes, scooters, giant outdoor building blocks and more. When the weather allows the session begins with outdoor play in the garden area.

Other highlights of 2015 included a summer BBQ, when the children enjoyed a bouncy castle, face painting, lucky dip and more. Fundraising activities over the past year have included our popular annual Christmas fayre and raffle and a lively quiz night. As always, parents have had plenty of involvement in the group, which is run by committee. There are termly meetings when parents and staff can discuss future plans and ways to make further improvements.

The daily sessions at Udney Station Playgroup run from 9.10am until 12.20pm during term time. During the session there is a focus on free play, with planned activities ranging from show and tell, children's choice, arts and craft and baking.

A healthy snack is provided to the children each morning, and the session ends with circle time with a story, singing and conversation.

The group uses Numicon to aid early mathematical skills and the feedback from schools shows this has greatly helped improve numeracy.

Each child has his or her own key worker as well as their own profile, which includes examples of work, photos and statements from the children themselves. It is available to view by parents at any time and is given to the child when they leave the group as a memory book.

Parents are kept up to date through a weekly email and a private Facebook page. A public Facebook page and website are also available for new parents to find out about the group.

If you would like to find out more please do get in touch. You can contact our group manager on 07884 033316 during the session or email playleader@udnystationplaygroup.co.uk.

THE SNOWDROP

I have a passion for *Galanthus* – otherwise known as the snowdrop. Not only are they the harbinger of spring, but they have the most exquisite little flower. If one looks on the underside of the flower there are a variety of coloured markings, individual to the species. Some have marks – usually green – on the outside petals also, thus making it very difficult to identify the different varieties. There are so many varieties, that one could have snowdrops flowering in the garden for months.

Never be tempted to plant the dry bulbs available to buy in the garden centres in the autumn, they will struggle to come, as they hate being dried out. In fact, I am not sure why they even sell them as the success rate is minimal. Far greater success can be achieved by planting growing flowering bulbs from nurseries in the spring – in the green, as they are known by. If they are planted in little clumps to the same soil level as lifted, the following year they will look as if they have always been there. At the walled garden we have planted many trays of bulbs each year, so now there is beginning to be a carpet of them in the woodland garden, as they start to seed themselves.

My first snowdrops were flowering in early January, and that particular variety is still flowering several weeks on, not showing any sign of fading. I am trying to collect a few different species, and I see one clump of special ones bought last year, are popping their heads above the ground. The common snowdrop – *Galanthus nivalis* comes in various forms including a double form and one with a yellow stem and ovary. I am not very good at telling them all apart as, the differences can sometimes be the shape of markings on the inner petals, but I must have a few different varieties, as the flowering season is quite long. I have some that are only just poking through the soil at the moment whilst others have been flowering for weeks.

On my bucket list, would have to be, to see them growing in their natural habitats. There is something quite breath-taking to see a carpet of them growing in a woodland setting, as nature intended. Not that all varieties naturally grow in a woodland setting – there are species that grow on alpine meadows. Several species come from central Caucasus, where they grow on exposed scree slopes, but most come from wooded areas.

Unfortunately, they do not really like to be picked and put in a vase, although worth it for the wonderful perfume for the couple of days they survive, and the bees love them too. It always amazes me that they can be completely buried under inches of snow, and still be flowering, albeit slightly battered, when the snow melts. When allowed to

naturalise, and if planted with Aconites, dwarf Iris reticulata, and early species Crocus – the early spring display is spectacular. Certainly enough to rival any summer bedding riot of colour, in my opinion.

So there is my argument for every garden to have snowdrops planted somewhere within! I hope you agree, and will maybe go and look more closely at the humble snowdrop.

Happy New Gardening Year!!

Lesley Barnett

A Walk on the Wildside

With New Year now a very distant memory all that I can say is Happy Easter everyone. I hope that all of you dedicated Fav News readers are well and remain so, having coped with a monsoon January. Phew, it was rather damp? But now we have spring to look forward to and enjoy as at this time of the year there is so much going on, you MUST get into the great outdoors and enjoy it.

The geese that we have become so accustomed to seeing and hearing over the previous months, will still be hanging around, but they will be paired up just waiting their opportunity to zoom off to their breeding grounds and 'get on with it'. They spend the majority of their lives here in Scotland and will only go back to Greenland for a few months, in which they have to settle down, find a patch of snow free ground and raise a family. They have to do all of this before contemplating a return to the North East and bringing their newly fledged sons and daughters with them, it is all go for them.

Meanwhile at the other end of the globe Arctic terns will have packed their wee suitcases and will be heading here. This bird that is hardly as big as a pigeon, never experiences a winter. That is not a bad idea, but first you have fly right round the world annually, and that is without an aeroplane to help you! The Arctic tern breeds along our coast and they also travel up to the edge of the Arctic Circle (hence the bird's name). But once our summer is over they will take to the air and head for another summer, this time flying upside down in the southern hemisphere. The year's offspring of little more than three months of age, complete that amazing journey side by side with their mums and dads, not bad eh?

By the time that you sit and read this edition of the Fav News, outside in the real world there is already new life on the go. A few 'early birds' will be putting the finishing touches to new des-res, but Mrs. Basil Brush will already be feeding her new brood of cubs. If you had been out and about of an evening in the first months of 2016 then you may well have heard the blood-curdling scream of a vixen, echoing round about. It really is a sound that you will not forget and if you have never heard it then think again. It is so evocative of dark nights that just about every TV programme that features a scene of someone somewhere in the countryside during the hours of darkness uses the scream of a vixen as a sound effect. There must be foxes everywhere, but in reality there is! While the vixen screeches the dog fox barks just like a, well like a dog. Normally it does so three or four times and then stops, repeating the call as necessary. As foxes do not mate for life they have to wander the fields and hedgerows during January, calling out to each other in the hope of meeting up and starting a family.

I know well enough that foxes do take young lambs during the spring, and so they are still persecuted. But they are clever animals having evolved over hundreds, no probably thousands of years to cope with such persecution – as wily as a fox? Lambs yes but the dear old bunny is one of its main sources of fox-food and already rabbits will have young. Everyone knows just how fast rabbits breed so Basil helps to keep their numbers down a wee bit. Buzzards will also take them, badgers are expert at digging out nests of young, then there are the stoats and the weasels, phew it is little wonder that the rabbit produces so many young. Rabbits are great at burrowing especially in the links where the ground is sandy, but they will also live above ground below dense whins or other cover. During the soaking January I would guess that a lot of them would have given up in a water-filled burrow and taken to the surface to avoid being drowned. However when breeding, Mrs. Bunny always goes underground. She digs a special hole known as a stop. This is a single hole a metre or more under the surface, and at the end of which she will form a nest and line it with her own fur. Her four to six babies (rarely more) are born there and once they have had been suckled she will leave them, come out of the hole and close it up – ‘stop it’ with soil. She will re-open it once a day and feed the young. This will happen until the young are weaned and they leave the stop to make their way in the cruel world. If they survive then a few months later they can produce their own families, yes breeding like rabbits is appropriate!

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

Bob Davis - 29 March, 2016



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Forvie National Nature Reserve



It's finally Spring, so let's think about Mad March Hares! The brown hare is most often seen on lowland farmland, is noticeably larger than a rabbit and of course has magnificent long ears. Hares rely on their good eyesight, camouflage and high speed to avoid predators and don't live in burrows. Instead they prefer to create individual shallow scrapes in the grass or earth which are known as "forms". Unlike the mountain hare, which is native, the brown hare is thought to have been introduced by the Romans, but may have been present in the British Isles as early as the Iron Age. Both hare species are protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. This law makes it illegal to kill, injure or take either hare species during their close seasons or to poach these species (and rabbits) at any time. Brown hares are also a UK Biodiversity Action Plan species, because the British population continues to decline from changing farming practices and persecution in the form of illegal hare coursing. The current population is believed to be only 20% of the 1880 total, when there was an estimated 4 million brown hares in Britain. However, you may be lucky enough to spot a hare bounding across fields in our area, so enjoy the sighting and don't take it for granted! Report any suspicious activity involving people with lurchers in fields to the police immediately on 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

We have a few events planned at Forvie in the coming months, although more will follow when the seasonal staff return.

Spring Beach Clean – sponsored by Greggs (cakes will be provided!) Friday 15th April, 11am to 3pm. Meet at Waterside car park at the A975 road bridge or join in through the day!

Another beach clean will leave the same car park on Saturday 16th April, hosted by Aberdeenshire Earthcatchers.

Sunday 15th May, Formartine Ranger David Brown is leading a walk around the historical sites of Forvie, the details will appear in the Energetica Walking & Wildlife Festival programme shortly.

Thursday 14th July, Discovery Day at Forvie. 3 fun events are taking place to help you improve your natural knowledge.

10am to 12noon - family bug and beastie hunt

11am to 1pm – birds for beginners

2pm – 4pm – wild plants and their medicinal and edible uses

For more information, drop me a line!

Annabel Drysdale, Reserve Manger

Annabel.drysdale@snh.gov.uk

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Dove Paterson 1860 – 1916

William Paterson was born on February 25, 1860 in Newburgh, Parish of Foveran to Margaret Paterson and Joseph her husband. Joseph an agricultural labourer originally from Huntly had moved around the County to find work. At one point he was employed at the farm of Kirkhill before moving his family to Newburgh where he remained till his death in 1892. Unfortunately Margaret Paterson died shortly after the birth of her son, the cause of death being hysteritis. The following year Joseph re-married, his second spouse being Jean Marshall, a spinster of twenty eight years and a domestic servant. They lived in Newburgh probably in the area around Erroll Place and later with their daughter and son in law in McBey's Buildings.

William Paterson would have attended Newburgh Mathers School, at that time in the building which is now Holyrood Chapel. At the age nineteen William D Paterson married Helen Philip Ewen of Keig. Helen was also nineteen. William is a draper's assistant and Helen is a domestic servant. The marriage took place at 26 St Catherine Street, Aberdeen under the auspices of the Unitarian Church. They had three children Alfred, Winifred and John. Dove and Helen divorced in 1894 leaving Dove with the children.

William now has the letter D to signify a middle name in the marriage registration document. The D is only written as a full name once in other documents and signifies Donald. However William Patterson became known as Dove Paterson and is in that way he will be described from now on.

Dove Paterson was employed as a draper with a company by the name of William Morrison's Economic Stores, more commonly known as Raggie Morrison's. This company started life in the area of Black's Buildings in the Lower Denburn, an area long gone and now covered by the Denburn Car Park. The shop suffered fire damage and the business moved to 101 Union Street for a short time before moving to St Nicholas Street/Netherkirkgate. Many older readers may remember it before it was demolished to be replaced by Marks & Spencers enlarged store in St Nicholas Street.

Dove had many job titles at his place of employment, assistant draper, draper, barker and leading salesman. The barker title is interesting since it may be from there that he developed other talents as an elocutionist. A barker being someone who encourages would-be patrons to enter the premises – a little light entertainment might assist with this encouragement.

Dove is employed as a draper in 1881 and in following censuses up to 1901 as a draper's assistant, it seems a promoted post.

During 1892-3 Dove travelled to Canada and the United States with the Royal Edinburgh Concert Company and in his own words learned "a little of the hustling propensities of the Yankee". He also travelled in Europe. He was a perfectionist in many things being an abstainer from alcohol and a strict disciplinarian in the work place.

His hobbies were photography and elocution and like many others he turned his hobbies into financially rewarding work. Dove had practiced elocution from childhood, photography would have come later when he had enough income to purchase a camera and equipment to show lantern shows. While still employed he became a part time entertainer. Dove Paterson was listed on a concert bill for February 11th 1887 giving recitations on behalf of the Ancient Order of Foresters at Newburgh in the Public School. If the programme is to have the star turn on last then he was the star of the show giving a total four recitations throughout the evening. A list of the artists on the programme can be found in A Portrait of the Parish of Foveran by Janet Jones.

Dove Paterson's life is closely linked to William Morrison for nearly twenty years, Morrison being his employer. Things were to change however. William Morrison's wife Catherine died in 1890 and consequently that lead to many changes in Morrison's life.

William Morrison had a new house built at 54 Kingsgate Aberdeen called Hazel Hurst in 1892. He was also known to have taken holiday breaks in hydropathic spas from time to time. In the late 1890s he met a Selina Tupman the adopted daughter of a naval captain, and they married at Kilmalcolm Renfrewshire on July 5, 1899. It may have been around this time that William Morrison retired from the business since the trading name of the company changed to Morrison's Economic Stores. By this time he had a talented manager by the name of James Mearns who eventually bought over the business. And it was he who developed the business into what became an emporium par excellence for many years. William Morrison moved to England along with his family, having sold Hazel Hurst to a Mr James Davidson in 1900. He died in Bournemouth in 1922 leaving effects to the value of £2,500. This may be put into

perspective by the value of his home at 54 Kings Gate Aberdeen which was built in 1892 for the sum of £1,225 and is now known as the Atholl Hotel.

Change of Career

It was in the 1901/02 Post Office Directory that Dove Paterson advertised elocution lessons directly from his home and not from the premises of Morrison's Economic Stores. He did so until 1906/07 when he added cinematographer to his accomplishments. In 1908/09 he was now listed as a cinematograph bureau and continued as such in the later directories.

Dove Paterson had been in the entertainment business for many years prior to this albeit on a part time basis. He had been making a name for himself in the north east for some time.

1897 in the Music Hall on a fundraiser in which Scott Skinner was the star turn.

1898 again in the Music Hall with other pioneers a "tremendously popular cinematograph carnival was provided" by Robert Calder of Glassel and Dove Paterson.

In the meantime Dove had also been appearing in the Alhambra on Guild Street and also at performances in connection with the Temperance Society. The Alhambra featured a winter zoo and when the zoo returned to its summer premises at the beach, films continued as before through the summer.

By 1908 an opportunity arose to rent premises in the Shiprow which was named The Gaiety and became Aberdeen's first permanent cinema. Initially to open only during winter, public enthusiasm ensured that opening all year round was possible. Greatly reducing entrances prices because of increased audiences may have also helped as well as quality improvements to equipment and films. Moving pictures were a novelty and drew large audiences to see them, as well as the other vocal entertainments. These were gradually dropped as film and newsreels took over more of the programme. As well as showing silent movies there were also other entertainments. In 1910 a young elocutionist from London was introduced by the name of Marie Louise Pascoe. She came to Aberdeen to fulfil a four week engagement at the Gaiety and ended up marrying Dove Paterson in February 1911.

Dove Paterson never forgot his origins and frequently visited Newburgh to entertain but also to become a benefactor. Over the years he assisted either by entertainment or financially to provide in

1905 – Seats on the links, plus Doves Rest and flag pole

1910 – Pavilion on the links, which still exist,

1912 - A form of gas lighting to illuminate the interior of Holyrood Chapel.

The seats on the links included what was known as Dove's Rest. Although the seat has gone and its location is not known, a photograph exists showing the villagers with their children gathered at the official presentation.

In 1914 Dove Paterson met James F Donald a young future entrepreneur, who was about to buy cinema equipment. Dove was said to have told James F Donald "that he had missed the boat". How wrong could he be?

Mind you if were to look at the present day, all of the Donald cinemas are gone or in another guise, but Dove Paterson's Gaiety is still in existence although rebuilt as the VUE.

Dove Paterson had many other business interests. He was involved with the cinematograph concerts in the Music Hall, expanded into the Coliseum, Belmont Street and showed films in the country areas. He was also involved in promoting many new innovations to improved viewing. A show in Turriff and also in Ellon celebrated the "Turra Coo" incident. Although some suffragettes took exception to its showing, more from the political point I suspect than supporting the farmer involved with the non-payment of National Insurance.

Dove Paterson as well as being an alcohol abstainer was of an athletic nature, being a keen all weather swimmer. Swimming in the North Sea is not for the faint hearted, and it was on June 28, 1916 while swimming at Aberdeen Beach that he was to have an accident which ultimately ended his life. Swimming some 400 yards off the shore near the beach bathing station he was observed to be in some difficulty. As reported in the Aberdeen Journal the following day, others went to his aid and he was transferred to the Royal Infirmary. Also reported on the June 10 was a slight improvement, but his condition was reported as "fair". He died on June 16 of pneumonia as recorded on the death registration. He was interred at Springbank Cemetery, Aberdeen the funeral

service being conducted by the Rev. T McWilliam of Foveran Parish and Rev. Andrew Dickson of Hilton U F Church, Woodside.

As the Aberdeen Weekly Journal said on Friday 23 June 1916 "Newburgh has lost a kind benefactor. He was loved in the village where he was born some 55 years ago".

Of his benefits the pavilion still stands maintained by villagers and is still a place to sit and enjoy the view whichever way you decide to look.

Charles M Catto



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Local Police Inspector Jamie Harrison

I'm really pleased to say that we continue to experience low levels of crime in Formartine. One ongoing issue that is of concern to the community is online safety. I am often asked for advice with specific concerns involving children becoming the victims of online crime and more mature members of the community who can be less knowledgeable about IT issues and may fall victim to online Scams.

I have included guidance which is aimed at younger children, older children and some online safety guidance, which I hope you will find useful.

Stay Safe Online Top Tips for staying safe on the internet for 9-12 year olds:

- Tip 1 - Keep your phone, laptops or tablet secure - use a password or PIN.
- Tip 2 - Don't do anything online that you wouldn't do face to face"
- Tip 3 - Learn what is ok to post and share on the internet. Comments, photos and videos you post or share are always recorded even if you delete it so it could be seen by someone in the future.
- Tip 4 - Don't talk to strangers or make friends with strangers on social media – you never know who they really are
- Tip 5 - Never feel forced to do anything you don't want to do
- Tip 6 - Block people who send nasty messages and tell someone about it
- Tip 7 - Also don't send or make nasty comments about someone else online
- Tip 8 - Don't open links and attachments from people you don't know
- Tip 9 - Never arrange to meet someone you have on the internet
- Tip 10 - Tell an adult or someone you trust – like a friend – if you feel frightened or worried about what's happening to you online.
There is always someone who can help you.

Stay Safe Online tips and advice for 13-16 year olds:

- Keep your phone, laptops or tablet secure - use a password or PIN.
- Don't do anything online that you wouldn't do face to face
- Think about what you post – would you be happy for people to still see it in 10 or 20 years. Comments, photos and videos you post or share, make up your digital footprint, even if you delete it so there is still a record of it.
- Do you really know your online friends? Think about why and how you know people and if you are not friends in the real life you shouldn't be online.
- Never feel forced into doing anything you don't want to do
- Block people who send cruel or offensive messages and tell someone about it
- Don't open links and attachments from people you don't know

- Never arrange to meet someone you have only met on the internet
- Sexting is never a good idea. Once images have been taken and sent to others, control is lost of them and they can end up anywhere. Just think – if you wouldn't print and pass these images around your school or show your mum or dad, then don't share by phone or other technologies.
- If you receive an indecent image or 'naked selfie' from someone, do not send this image onto others or respond with one of you – report it.
- If you are upset or worried about an image you have sent or received, you can call;
Childline on 0800 1111 or Police Scotland on 101
- **Most importantly - You need to know that you won't be in trouble, whatever you have done, just tell someone you trust and they can help sort it out**

Keep Safe Online - General Adult Guidance.

So much of our daily routine is now online, such as banking, shopping and social networking. However, this has provided criminals with opportunities to exploit people in various ways. The advice below provides additional information regarding how you can protect yourself from scams whilst online.

How can I protect my identity and surf the internet safely?

- Keep your computer browser and security software up-to-date and use firewall and spam filters.
- Block spam emails.
- Use securely encrypted Wi-Fi at home – if you can access it without entering security data then so can someone else nearby. Be cautious if using public space Wi-Fi and NEVER enter passwords or personal data.
- NEVER click on an e-mail link from an unknown source. Opening fake emails can infect your computer with a virus allowing someone to remotely access and control your system and data.
- Avoid risky websites, including supposed investment sites.
- Always change default passwords at the earliest opportunity and replace for strong passwords with random characters. Avoid passwords like dates of birth and mother's maiden name.
- Don't respond to unsolicited e-mails or telephone calls asking for you to provide some of your personal information i.e. name, date of birth, national insurance number – see more information below.
- Banks and financial institutions do not send emails asking you to verify your bank details by clicking on a link. Do not trust such emails, no matter how authentic they appear. You can always call your bank using the phone number on a genuine piece of correspondence.

What should I think about when using internet on my Mobile Devices?

- Set security protocols to the highest level and use PIN codes to lock SIMS, keypads and voicemail, particularly when your mobile device contains personal data.
- Take care when charging your mobile on someone else's computer or a charge point – many chargers are combined with data connection so you could have your data stolen without knowing.
- Avoid downloading apps from non-official sites - they can be used to install malware.
- Be watchful for others looking at your screen.
- Users should be aware that photos taken from many phones have embedded location information.
- Never respond to spam messages received via SMS or bluetooth, even to text 'STOP.'
- Don't scan a Quick Response (QR) code that looks as if it may have been interfered with or stuck over with a replacement, or is not from a trusted source – it can leave your phone open to a security attack.

What is Phishing?

Phishing is when criminals use fake e-mails or web links to acquire sensitive personal information, such as passwords, usernames, or bank account details. This is used to commit fraudulent or even criminal acts in your name, leaving you responsible for the consequences. Such emails and linked websites often appear genuine but are designed to trick people into entering personal details to access your identity, steal from your bank account or infect your computer with a virus which allows them to control your system.

What kind of things might indicate Phishing?

- E-mail uses generic terms like 'Dear account holder'.
- Email is threatening and states that urgent action is required.
- Email contains an unrecognisable link.
- Email from a company you normally have dealings with but suggesting your payment method or credit card details have failed to register.
- Spelling errors contained within the email.
- Email address is different from trusted company website.
- Unexpected e-mails from a company you have no business with.
- No padlock sign on website and no https:// at the beginning of web address.

What should I look for when buying goods or paying for services online?

- Use common sense - if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- Use secure websites - look for https:// in the address line and the padlock image.
- Does the company have a real address and phone number? What are their returns and data privacy policies? Call them if you are in any doubt.
- Use a secure payment option such as PayPal or a dedicated or pre-pay credit card for all on-line purchases.
- Be aware that sponsored links at the top or side of search pages pay to be there. These are not always reliable and can be used by criminals.
- Ensure the web address shown on the search matches what appears on the bottom bar when you hover over the link - if it doesn't you could be taken to a phishing site.

For more information about how to use the internet safely and securely, visit www.getsafeonline.org

I hope that the advice will be useful and should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Formartine Community Policing Team.

Police can be contacted by calling 999 in an emergency, 101 or be emailing the Community Policing team at EllonDistrictCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

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WINTER MAINTENANCE IN ABERDEENSHIRE



- **The roads don't look like they've been gritted. It's freezing outside and roads and pavements are slippery. What are you doing about it?**

Planned and proactive treatments are at the heart of winter maintenance in Aberdeenshire.

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Combined with our local knowledge, these sources of information help us to make the best possible decisions when it comes to treating our roads. The operations team work in shifts to deliver a 24-hour emergency service seven days a week.

Gritting is only effective in certain conditions as salt is less active when temperatures fall below zero. It takes the movement of vehicle tyres to break the salt down and improve effectiveness.

If there is a high level of residual salt on a road from previous treatment, and the forecast predicts dry and milder weather, then a road will usually not be gritted.

- **My road hasn't been gritted yet. Where do all the gritters go?**

We have to prioritise which routes are gritted and ploughed owing to the vastness of our road network which consists of 3,3000 miles of carriageway.

We have a Primary Treatment Network made up of 32 different gritting routes that cover around 30% of Aberdeenshire's total road network – almost 1000 miles. These routes are mostly 'A' and 'B' class roads and other busy commuter routes.

This means that in times of severe winter weather, there may be a delay before we are in a position to treat more minor roads and residential streets.

For more information and route maps, please see [our website](#).

- **At what time do the gritters go out?**

When adverse weather is forecast, our gritter crews are sent out and the Primary Treatment Network receives precautionary treatment.

Morning gritting usually starts at 5.30am and ends around 8am. Evening gritting start times vary depending on conditions but we generally aim to start before evening rush hour and finish before 10pm.

These times are only a guide. Variable weather conditions mean that it is not effective to follow a rigid timetable. However, we always try to treat roads before peak traffic times occur.

- **How do you deal with snow on the roads?**

As well as pre-treating primary road routes in anticipation of severe weather, we also have to respond to changing weather conditions as they happen. This includes snow.

Ploughing is the most economical, effective and environmentally-friendly way to remove snow from the road. Gritting is only effective when snowfall is very light.

Our response depends on the severity of the weather but busy commuter routes and other primary routes will be prioritised.

Council staff are supported by over 120 tractors operated by farmers with blades supplied by the council. These farmers play an important role in the overall winter maintenance plan and provide the initial snow clearing response across our more rural network.

Residents and businesses are responsible for dealing with any snow banks caused by ploughing. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to clear snow banks from driveways and rural access roads.

- **My street hasn't been gritted – what can I do about it?**

Residential streets are a lower priority in bad weather as our focus is on keeping the main routes within Aberdeenshire operating.

However, your community can get ready for winter by agreeing what you, your neighbours and your colleagues can do, on your own and collectively, to minimise the effects of winter weather where you live and work.

We urge communities to get together and assist each other in clearing snow from paths and ensuring that the more vulnerable members of our community are assisted.

There are approximately 1,330 grit bins located at strategic points within Aberdeenshire's towns and villages as well as at recycling centres. This resource is provided to assist with clearing/gritting public roads and footways and is not for private paths and driveways.

There are no legal issues preventing members of the public clearing snow from public footways.

Transport Scotland's advice for clearing paths and pavements:

- Start as early as possible – it's much easier to clear fresh loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it.
- Don't use hot water – this will melt the snow but may replace it with black ice which increases the risk of injury.
- Be a good neighbour – some people will be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property.
- If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels.
- Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first so that you have a clear surface to walk on.
- Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming – table salt or dishwasher salt will work but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it.
- Pay particular attention to steps and steep gradients.
- Use the sun to your advantage – removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath. You will however need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight.
- If there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives.

- **How do I know if a road or snow gate is closed?**

Roads and snow gates are closed and reopened on our advice and with the authority of Police Scotland

The roads controlled by snow gates within Aberdeenshire are:

A93 Perth to Braemar

A939 Tomintoul to Cockbridge

B974 Banchory to Fettercairn (via Cairn O'Mount

Police Scotland's Twitter feeds are the best source of live information when snow gates, as well as roads, are closed and reopened.

Please follow @PolScotRoadsNE for the latest updates. We will also share Police Scotland's information via our own Twitter account @aberdeenshire.

- **Why aren't you gritting every footway and cycle path in every town and village?**

Unfortunately we do not have the resources to treat all roads (3,300 miles) and footways (990 miles) in Aberdeenshire.

Roads, footways and cycle paths are categorised into three priority levels. The Primary Treatment consists of priority 1 and 2 roads.

Our aim is to keep priority 1 roads passable at all times unless weather conditions are abnormally severe. These roads are always gritted before any others, including priority 2 roads.

We aim to keep priority 1 footways in a safe condition for pedestrians, except during storm conditions. These footways are typically in busy urban areas, near shops, businesses, and medical and community facilities.

Priority 2 footways are treated after priority 1 footways, and only when conditions are severe and expected to persist for more than 24 hours.

Cycle paths are prioritised and treated in a similar fashion to footways.

- **How much do you spend on winter roads maintenance?**

The delivery of the annual winter maintenance service costs Aberdeenshire Council in the region of £6-9 million, depending on the severity of the winter.

- **How many gritters do you have?**

We have in the region of 100 gritters/snow ploughs available at any given time. All vehicles engaged in gritting are also capable of being mounted with snow ploughs.

In addition, we have over 50 compact tractors to carry out gritting of footways and other areas as required.

- **How much salt do you use?**

Over the winter period, we expect to use between 40,000 tonnes and 60,000 tonnes of salt.

It is ordered during the summer and then topped up by regular deliveries from our UK suppliers during the winter.

We also have a reserve store of 30,000 tonnes in our quarry at Balmedie.

- **The A90/A96 are icy –what are you doing about?**

The A90 and A96 are Trunk Roads which are the responsibility of Transport Scotland. BEAR is contracted to maintain Aberdeenshire's Trunk Roads, which includes gritting them.

BEAR can be contacted on 0800 587 1107 or visit its website.

- **Is school transport running as normal?**

Sometimes school transport is affected by winter weather. School closures, partial closures and changes to school transport can be found on our website.

- **How do I request a grit bin?**

To request a grit bin for your area, please contact your local roads office.

- **Who deals with car parks being gritted/cleared?**

We do not have the resources to grit or pre-treat car parks. However, we will clear snow in public car parks of significant importance if necessary. This will be done once out priority roads, footways and cycle paths have been treated.

- **The school playground needs gritted – who will do this?**

This is the individual school's responsibility. However, we grit and snow plough access roads, bus turning areas and slip roads at our secondary schools, with the exception of Meldrum Academy and Portlethan, which are maintained by contractors.

Foveran Parish Church: SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Towards the end of last year on Saturday 21 November the ANNUAL KIRK ROUP took place in the Public Hall, Newburgh. Our thanks to everyone who supported this event in any way; it raised approximately £1021 for church funds.

More recently on Saturday 23 January there was excellent food and wonderful entertainment at our annual BURNS SUPPER, once again held jointly with Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club in the golf clubhouse. The Bard's birthday was celebrated in word, song and music; the food was excellent and well served and the entertainment was much enjoyed by all. Several young family members were among the 80 or so people who attended, and it was another very friendly and sociable evening. We are delighted that it enabled us to raise £173 for the New Life Home Trust. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this possible.

Finally The Sound of Many Waters Gospel Choir raised the roof of Foveran Parish Church Hall in Newburgh on the evening of Saturday 27th February. Their enthusiasm for spreading the Gospel and praising God shone through during their dynamic, uplifting and moving programme. The church hall was packed with folk of all ages and bursting at the seams, as we listened to the talented singers. Foveran Parish Church was delighted to host the event and the Choir are very keen to come back to Newburgh to perform in the future. Our thanks to everyone who attended this event.

Note: Foveran Parish Church is the known name of Foveran Church of Scotland, Registered Charity No.SC011701

Mary Smith (Social Convenor) and Paula Hawthorn

Tel: 01358 742234

EDITOR'S NOTE

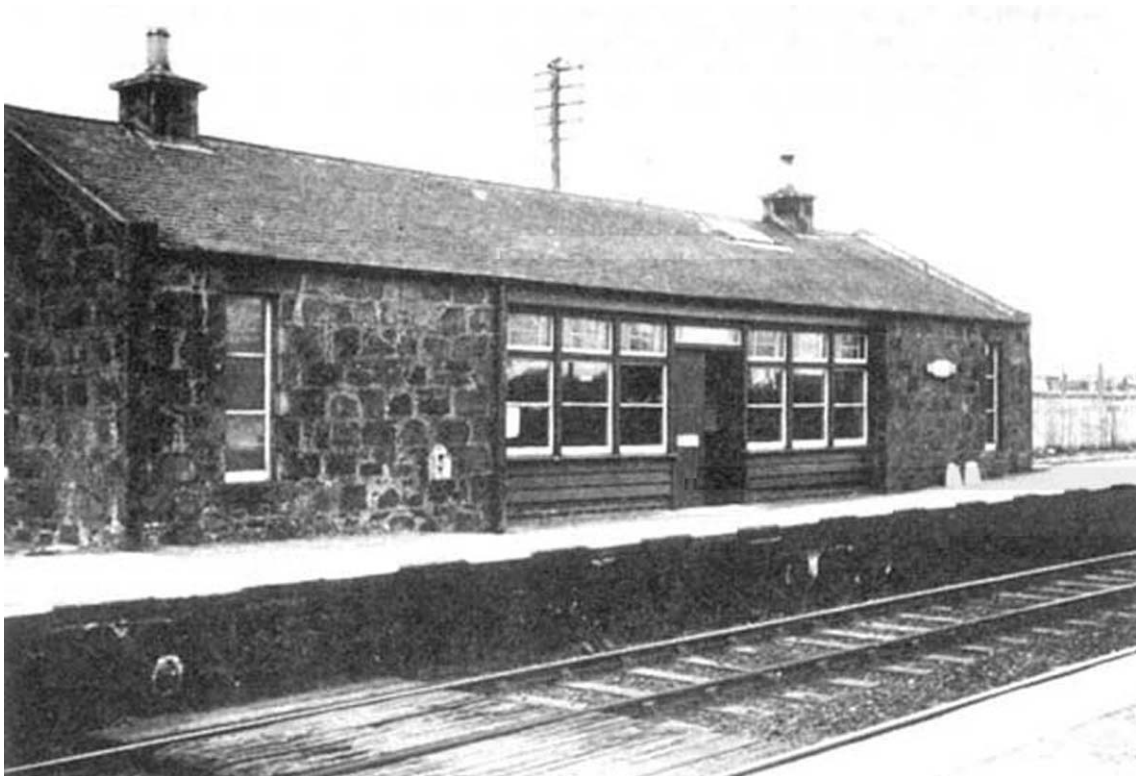
The next newsletter will be the August edition so please may I have your contributions by the 5th of July.

Email: j.jones110@btinternet.com

Tel: 01358 742304



TRAIN AT UDNY STATION



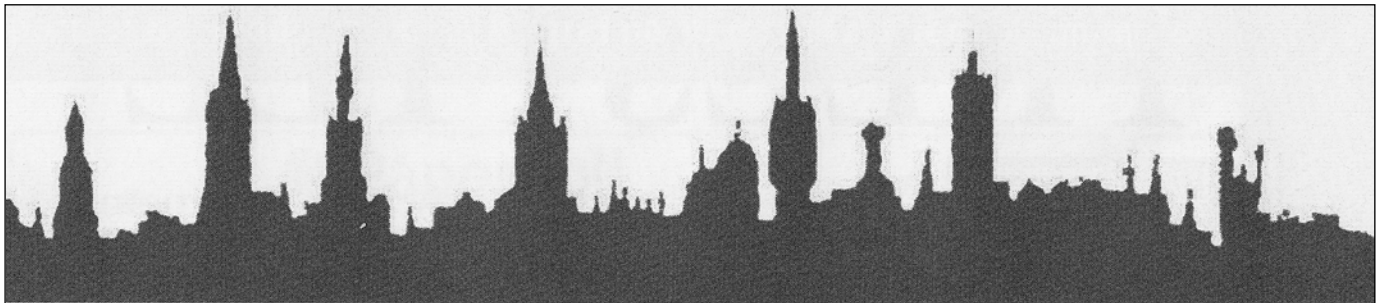
THE STATION AT UDNY STATION

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Youth member:	Daniel Leask The Old Mill of Fiddes, Udney	07738 166731

2016

23 March	Newburgh Mathers
27 April	Udney Station
25 May	Foveran School
22 June	Newburgh Mathers
24 August	Udney Station
28 September	Newburgh Inn AGM then meeting at 20.15
26 October	Udney Station Hall
23 November	Newburgh Mathers



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