

Foveran Community Newsletter

August 2016

Issue 144



Peter Chapman MSP in Udny Station with some of the patients of Udny Station Surgery. See page 31.

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Secretary report for July/August 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 interests 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.

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

The list of community councillors is given below and scheduled meeting dates are 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.

Gallowshill 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.

In recognition of the sterling effort by Ian Alexander and Ed Rennie to get the facilities constructed, both were invited in early July to attend the Palace of Holyrood House to the Queen's Garden Party.

Unfortunately dog fouling continues in Newburgh and the other villages.

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

Funding applications from Developers Obligations to increase the insulation in Foveran Church Hall and provide additional goals for the Gallowshill Sports Hub were successful.

By the time this article is published, the efforts of the various gardening groups throughout the area will be enjoyed by all. You may see flowerpot persons also in the area, which are there in support of the gardening groups.

You can follow Fred the Flowerpot person who travelled from Settle in Yorkshire to the Formartine area to search for his flowerpot relatives on the Formartine Partnership Facebook page.

There is a floral trail that can be followed, details on www.formartinepartnership.org.uk

Glen Douglas

FOVERAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2016

| | | |
|------------------|---|--------------|
| Chairman: | William Grant, Bank House, Udney Station AB41 6QJ | 01651 842791 |
| Secretary: | Glen Douglas, 23 Eider Road, Newburgh, AB41 6FD | 01358 789761 |
| Treasurer: | Katrin Prager, 1 Hardhillock Cottages, Tillycorthie, Udney AB41 6SD | 01651 842197 |
| Kate Duncan, | Thistlyhill Steading, Udney Station, AB41 6QN | 01651 843777 |
| Pauline Winslade | 24 Eider Road, Newburgh, AB41 6FD | 01358 788922 |
| Pat Smith, | Newburgh | 01358 789821 |
| Tommy Hart, | 5 Marshall Road, Newburgh. AB41 6DR | 01358 788971 |
| Liz Hancock | Cultercullen | 01651 842813 |
| Janet Jones, | South Minnes, Newburgh. Ellon AB41 6BB | 01358 742304 |
| Youth Member: | Emma Sleith 12 Mavis Bank, Newburgh, AB41 6FB | 01358 789143 |
| Youth member: | Daniel Leask The Old Mill of Fiddes, Udney | 07738 166731 |



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Future Governance Report

For the past year, I have been chairing a special committee of Aberdeenshire Council charged with reviewing how the council's decision making process ought to work in future.

The 'Future Governance Working Group' was made up of 14 senior councillors, all selected by their colleagues. Together, we looked at a number of options for how elected members could seek to take decisions in future. In the process, we have come up with a package of major reforms which we hope our colleagues will agree to implement

In its recommendations, the group rejected adopting the 'cabinet' – style structure which has become commonplace elsewhere in recent years in favour of a substantial revamp to main council committees and their responsibilities. As part of this, Area Committees are proposed to get wide-ranging scrutiny powers over local services, while policy committees such as those in charge of education and infrastructure could, for the first time, have the responsibility for the budgets they spend.

Another big proposed change comes regarding procurement. Presently, councillors are only involved in 'rubber stamping' large parts of council spending at the end of the tendering process, when all the work has already been done and the only real remaining options are to accept or reject what is in front of us. In future, councillors will be involved at a much earlier stage, which can only help to improve the scrutiny and oversight of how the council spends its resources.

Although still subject to approval, the proposed changes would, if enacted, represent the biggest change to Aberdeenshire Council since the authority was created away back in 1994. The package represents a significant shift in power away from the centre and means that all councillors, no matter how 'senior' they are or what party group they sit in, will be able to play a major role in how taxpayers money is spent and how services are delivered, both locally and Aberdeenshire wide.

CAT/Surplus Asset Policy

Another recent change to the way Aberdeenshire Council does business came recently with the approval by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee of a new combined Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and Surplus Asset Policy.

Aberdeenshire Council owns a large amount of property, some of which is in regular use and some of which either is, or may soon be, surplus to requirements. While there is a clear need to manage this effectively, this must also be done in the context of the right for groups to seek Community Asset Transfers of buildings or land, and also sit alongside the requirements of the new Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.

Increasingly, local authorities are going to have to take a good look at what they do and how best to serve the needs of communities with the budgets they have available. Part of this will inevitably involve looking not just at the services they provide, but also at the properties they hold and deciding whether the best use for each individual asset is to retain it for the delivery of public services or to sell it and re-invest the proceeds elsewhere.

Within this, there are big opportunities for community groups to get involved in the running of assets – for example, through transferring management responsibility through short or long term lease arrangements or even transferring outright ownership. In many ways, well-run local groups are often in a position to make better use of an asset for the community than the council, and are also able to access improvements grants which are not available to the council.

There has always been a tension between the desire to get financial 'best value' for an asset and the desire to get what might be the best overall outcome. By combining these elements, Aberdeenshire now has a policy on council-owned assets which works in the best interests of all.

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NEWBURGH

Rose Moroney and the other members of the old Hall Committee would like to thank all those who came to the meeting in April. A new committee has been formed and the chairman is Scott Baxter. The future of the Hall is assured.

NEWBURGH RURAL

President Mrs Jean Robertson welcomed members and guests to our April Business Meeting and announced that Newburgh's Co-operative entry had won 1st prize in the recent Show and Mrs Pearl Elrick had also won the Silver Platter for most points in the Produce Section. After thanking the retiring Committee she then handed over to Mrs Joan Burbeck, President of Dyce Institute, to conduct the meeting. We were entertained with a variety of quizzes, songs, poems and sketches while the voting papers were counted and a new Committee elected. Following a delicious supper the new President, Mrs Kate Duncan closed the meeting.

At the May meeting our scheduled speaker was unable to travel so Mrs Duncan stepped into the breach and instructed members on the art of "Spikkin Doric". Quite a few of us are not local so this subject was much appreciated by incomers who learnt many new words and their meanings. Her talk ended with us singing of a song in Doric – a very amusing, educational and entertaining evening for all.

Last year we were visited by Rev James Falconer, a resident Chaplain at ARI, who spoke about a new Roof Garden being constructed there. This was recently officially opened and our members were invited to view the result on 23rd May when quite a number arrived at the hospital. The roof garden is above the Emergency Dept entrance, sheltered on three sides by high hospital buildings so is protected from strong winds and is a very peaceful place for long term patients to get some fresh air and enjoy the tranquil garden atmosphere. A part time gardener has been employed to maintain it and replace some seasonal plants.

Vice President, Mrs Isabel Smith conducted our June meeting and introduced our speaker, Roz McCurrach, the Offender Outcomes Unit Manager at the new Grampian Prison. She gave out brochures containing information on the various sections as well as colour photos of individual cells, open areas, workshops and family visitors' centre. Roz spoke of her career in the prison service to date and how she deals with inmates in her current role. She obviously enjoys her job and we now have a much better understanding of how the Peterhead prison works.

Meetings resume on 6th September when Newburgh will be hosting a Quiz Night with other institutes. Details can be obtained from Mrs Rose Moroney on Tel: 01358 789353

Jan McAndrew, Press Secretary



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

Our Monday evening meetings this term have been about getting out and about whenever we can – we've had the girls out running & working on their agility badge and we've also been completing a Seaside Challenge badge which has led us down to the beach where we gathered shells, gathered pebbles to paint, we played in the dunes and we finished the term toasting marshmallows.

In May we had a very successful camp at Fyvie Guide House, the weather was really kind to us and we explored Fyvie Castle, had a 60s themed disco and had lots of fun baking, crafting and playing games.

In June we were asked to help out with children crafts at the The Store's Open Farm Day along with 1st Newburgh Brownies. We helped the children make cute sheep and grain pictures and everyone who attended had a great day.

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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This term we celebrated the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The girls came dressed as Princesses or Queens and decorated crowns with helpings of glitter glue and jewels. We also looked at the Queen's descendants and tried to guess which grandchildren and great-grandchildren belonged to which family.

To help raise funds to refurbish Fyvie Guide House, we took part in a special Challenge Badge. The Rainbows had to choose 4 activities to complete. We held a Teddy Hospital, designed a tartan picture, played duck themed games and finally went on a Scavenger Hunt round part of the Village.

Our final challenge for the Festival Roundabout Badge they have been working towards over the past year, celebrated carnivals and the girls decided to make and decorate masks – glitter and sparkles being very popular this term.

Also during this term we have looked at first aid skills, with the Rainbows practising the recovery position, made pen pots for Father's Day and enjoyed playing at the park. Finally, we welcomed 1 new Rainbow to make her promise and said goodbye to 5 girls who "Jumped over the Rainbow" to head off to Brownies or new adventures.

Thank you to all the parents who have helped out over the past couple of terms, it has been very much appreciated.

We hope you all have a lovely Summer and look forward to welcoming lots of new girls who are waiting to join Rainbows after 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.



Newburgh Gala 2016

The weather this year could not have been better. The sun shone for virtually the whole day. There was a light breeze which kept everyone cool enough to enjoy the array of festivities organised. The event was well attended and it seemed that most of the village's friends and family attended. There was a great community feel about the day.

A big thank you to all who contributed to the day giving their time and energy which made the day such a success. As always, Foveran Parish Church Corner Café produced marvellous teas and home bakes and everyone enjoyed Watsons Family Butchers burgers from the BBQ. The annual kid's race and Castle Canter run proved popular as always. The stage show had a variety of excellent performances including some new acts such as Drumming Bands. For those adventurous enough to give it a go there were Bungee trampolines and wandering amongst the crowds were the Balloon mannies making models of different sorts. There was also an opportunity to see a variety of owls at close range and many children enjoyed 'face painting'. There were a wide range of activities and demonstrations ranging from windsurfing to tennis. The overall impression was that there was something to suit everyone....adults and children alike.. and for avid readers there were many bargains to be had at the bookstall..

Thank you to our generous sponsors whose names can be found on our website.

The money made from our gala will be put back into our community and we have already agreed give a donation to Newburgh Mathers School and towards Christmas lights for our village.

The Newburgh Gala will only happen if we have enough volunteers to help on the committee. We are currently looking for new members on our committee. If you are willing to get involved or have any suggestions for the gala in 2017 we would love to hear from you. If you are interested in helping please contact Pat (07793 500768/01358 789821 or apatmsmith@gmail.com).

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NEWBURGH THISTLE JFC

It gives me great pleasure to produce this report on NEWBURGH THISTLE JFC after our first season playing at Gallowshill under our previous name of Bridge of Don Thistle. I would like to start by giving you some history and background as to how the football club began playing in Newburgh.

Two seasons ago after many years of playing our home games out of Hillhead we were informed that the owners (Aberdeen University) would not be renewing our lease on the park and therefore we had to find a new home at the end of season 2014/15. That season was a strange one as the club was victorious on the park and were winners of the first division title getting promotion to the Super League but at the same time everybody was worried that we would not be able to find a park which was the standard required for semi-professional football.

The answer to our prayers came along. Our General Manager Lewis Muirhead was in contact with the committee of Newburgh Thistle Amateurs and eventually a project was put together by the two clubs to allow Bridge of Don Thistle to play out of Gallowshill. This along with an agreement with the HUB (which is made up of local people from the community that look after the running of Gallowshill on behalf of Foveran Council) allowed us to move to the village.

Much hard work was put in by all concerned to make the park a facility that the people of Newburgh can be proud of.

Bridge of Don Thistle played all their games at Gallowshill season 2015/16 and in that time we have had teams visit us from as far as Inverness, Rosyth and Dundee as well as local favourites such as Banks o' Dee and Culter plus many more. Summing up the season we have maintained our position in the super league and did very well in all the cup competitions we competed in. Players Liam Burnett and Clark Petrie were signed by Highland League Club Formartine United and we have high hopes that this will be just the start of players going on to bigger and better things from the club.

This now takes us to the present and after being welcomed by the people of Newburgh and playing our home games at Newburgh we thought it was only right and proper that we showed our support and commitment to the HUB and to the village. From now on the club will be known as NEWBURGH THISTLE JFC and we hope by doing this that people in other parts of Scotland will know that semi-professional junior football is being played in the village and that the local community can take pride in their club.

In closing it would be good to see more spectators from the village come to the games to support the THISTLE and if by any chance anybody would like to join the committee just make yourself known to myself or any other committee member.

Yours in SPORT,

Bobby Jarvie PRESIDENT NEWBURGH THISTLE JFC



Jogscotland Newburgh continues to thrive in the village and we currently have around 35 members. We're also delighted to welcome two new jog leaders to the group with Jill Stander and Niall Findlay, recently undertaking the jog leader training.

We recently completed another successful 10 week block covering three different levels – Beginner 2, Intermediate 2 and our Social Run group for some of our established runners where we run 4 – 6 miles.

We've also seen lots of members running at events over the last few months including 10kms, marathons and half marathons. It's great seeing how Jogscotland helps members achieve their running goals.

In May 2016, in conjunction with Active Schools, we also started Juniorjog at Newburgh Mathers School, hopefully we'll help to inspire the next generation of runners in Newburgh.

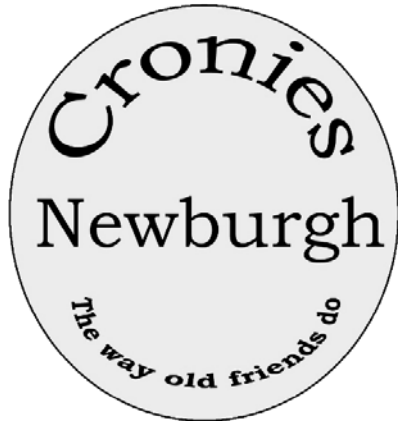
Our next blocks will commence in August 2016 and information will be posted around the village and on Facebook.

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.



The Ythan Cronies Club - Jan to July 2016

Thanks to the formation of the new hall committee we will continue to meet in the Newburgh Village Hall every two weeks starting on Wednesday the 14th Sept. 2016 13.30 hrs.

January 20th we were captivated with a talk on a migratory bird census expedition by Moray Souter, a local ornithologist who volunteered his services in a remote area of Greenland.

February 17th Nicer Newburgh showed us their outstanding achievements in such an unassuming manner from the restoration of the links garden to the tubs we see every day on the main street. 'You see what the gardener does - you don't see the gardener' was the motto and right enough what they have done for Newburgh is absolute magic.

30th of March was the Easter Tea and the WRVS pull out all the stops to serve up a fine piece whilst we were entertained by Maria Shand with couthy anecdotes and brilliantly played accordion music from the Western Isles or wherever Scots settled in far distant Canada, Australia and the Falkland Islands. We thank our visitors for their support.

'The story of Country and Western Music' was one of a series of annual talks on various eras of music put together for the Cronies Club syllabus. What you get is a wee bit of research presented with a nostalgic sing-along projected on a screen. We thank our visiting friends from Balmedie and the Newburgh SWRI for 'giving it laldy' and again the WRVS for putting on a fine spread. Gordon also made souvenir DVDs; the show and discs were produced in conformance with current copywrite law on playing music in a public place.

Betty and Isobel compile the Cronie Quiz and present it with school mistress like charm. June the 8th with pencils poised questions came and facts got noted. After the brain box work out the winners got their sweeties and the losers were graceful, of course they were!

On alternate fortnights we just have a right blether with whist, bingo or bowls for the first hour then in groups for Scrabble, Uno or Canasta after our fine piece served by the WRVS.

The year closed with the 'Cronie Outing' where at 10.30 AM we were off to Dunecht for lunch at Jaffs Bar & Restaurant then on to the Raemoir Garden Centre. It rained all the way there and back but our spirits never dampened. Thanks to Connie for organising the trip that we were never far from shelter and we were home in Newburgh by 4.30 PM.

Thank you Doreen & Charlie for raising £138.50 with a quiz sheet of bird anagrams and a further £249.20 by recycling bags of clothing. Thanks also to Jean raising £100 on a whisky sheet and to SWRI Newburgh donating £67 from the sale of their concert DVDs. Finally, thank you Betty Wood from us all for your 40yrs dedicated to the Cronies WRVS.

Gordon Porter
Member of the Ythan Cronies Club - Newburgh



Registered Charity # SC006790 Newburgh Preschool
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Newburgh Playgroup has recently undergone a rebranding. With effect from 27th June 2016 Newburgh Playgroup is now known as Newburgh Preschool.

Along with the new name we have a super new logo, which has been designed by Clare Terris of Blue Wasp Creative. The logo features on our new signage and uniforms. See also below for details of our new email address.

We do hope you are having a good Summer break and are feeling refreshed ready for another busy year.

The last term was busy as always. The children went on summer trips – the Rising 5's to Collieston Beach and Playgroup to Haddo.

The Rising 5's had their Sports Day / Graduation celebration at the Gallowhill pavilion and the Playgroup sports was held at the School playing field. Both events went well.

As the weather has started to improve the children have been able to enjoy playing outside in the garden area complete with new mud kitchen.

The AGM was held in June. We elected a new committee and all the positions were filled with exception of vice chairperson. We have a great team to take things forward for this coming year, and are very grateful to all those who volunteered to take on a committee role. At the AGM we celebrated another successful year at Playgroup and acknowledged the dedication and commitment of our staff, committee, parents and wider community who supported us so well throughout the year.

The Newburgh Duck Race was held on Sunday 19th June was a great success. Thanks to all who bought tickets for the race. The winning duck was number 353!

To co-incide with the release of the new Bridget Jones Movie we will be holding a screening of Bridget Jones' Diary on Saturday 3rd September 2016 at The Victoria Hall, Ellon. The night will be fun packed with quiz, drinks, raffles and photo booth. Save the date and join our Facebook page to ensure you keep up to date with all our forthcoming events.

Playgroup will resume on Tuesday 16th August, in line with the start of the new school term.

We are pleased to have healthy numbers in all our groups running next term;

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



The crew of the Ellon Fire and Rescue Service hand over the new defibrillator for the Gallowshill Sports Complex.

NICER NEWBURGH GARDENING GROUP

I hope you have all enjoyed the splendid colours of the shrubs and bedding plants over the last weeks and it has helped to brighten the days for residents and visitors.

We purchased replacements for some of the older tubs and added a number of flower cradles. These we purchased from Parkhill Garden Centre and we are grateful to them for dealing with the delivery to Newburgh,

Our work over the last few months has been the planting of shrubs and annuals at the south entrance to the village and scented roses and annuals in the bed at the links. We have also started to improve the path through the plantation opposite the bottom of Knockhall Road at the north entrance to the village. In the future, we would also like to reinstate the gate on the road edge. We also lifted polyanthus and bulbs and replaced them with summer bedding in tubs and beds.

Over two years ago, we issued an invitation for you to join us and have a cuppa at our Nicer Newburgh Gardening Group Show and Tell. We plan to repeat this on Saturday 1st October from 2 -4 pm in Newburgh Village Hall. Look out for information and posters nearer the date. Please come along and be astonished at the before and after pictures and see the transformation in five years. There will be a Cake and Candy Stall, Crafts for sale and Teas and Coffees will be served. Donations for all of the above would be greatly appreciated.

Agnes Kinloch.



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FOVERAN

The staff and pupils of Foveran School presenting Mr David Rennie with a cheque and a plant to mark his retirement after twenty two years as hall keeper of Foveran Hall.



The Fancier Foveran Gardening Group has been hard at work making Foveran look beautiful.

L-R: Christine Fordyce, George Leslie, Alison Leslie, Gladys Rennie, David Rennie, Charlotte Rait, David Rait, Marian Joyce.

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UDNY STATION AMENITIES GROUP

FORMARTINE IN BLOOM

Once more we will be entering the competition. Judging will take place in August when we hope to have the village looking its best. A big thank you to everyone who has helped with the planting and to Barbara for her input regarding the floral designs. We will be part of The Formartine Trail which gives people the opportunity to view all the displays of those towns and villages taking part in the competition.



RAILWAY BENCH

We were fortunate to take ownership of an original bench from the days when we had the railway station. It was in desperate need of restoration and Ron Davis offered to take on the project. After many hours work the bench has been restored and I'm sure everyone will agree it looks terrific and now has pride of place in the centre of the village.

BEST VILLAGE GARDEN

The judging for the above will take place at the end of July. Hopefully last year's winners will do the judging. This hasn't been a great year weather wise for gardeners but I'm sure there will be many lovely gardens to consider.

SPRING FLOWERS

We will be planting spring bulbs and flowers again in the autumn. We had many positive comments about this year's display and it certainly cheered everyone up after the long winter.

VOLUNTEERS

Every year we always hope we can encourage more people to get involved with the Amenities Group so that we can continue with the work we do. There is no obligation to attend the meetings, but we could do so much more to improve the village if we had more hands. We hope to continue replacing the flower boxes as and when funds become available, and we hope in future to replace the picnic bench that was in the football park, as the old one had to be removed owing to safety concerns. The play equipment in front of the centre and the goal posts in the football park will be repainted over the summer. If anyone is interested in helping out please contact Alice: 01651 842268.

CULTERCULLEN AND UDNY STATION SWI.

The guest speaker at the May meeting of the Cultercullen SWI was Port Chaplain Howard Drysdale. The members enjoyed an informative and educational talk from Howard which covered his career path, work with the Seafarers and his work as the Port Chaplain.

A delicious tea was provided by Sheila Johnston

The results of the competitions were as follows -

Beanie Hat 1st Eileen Andrew 2nd Carol Ritchie 3rd Liz Webster

4 Pieces Swiss Milk Toffee 1st Carol Ritchie 2nd Carol Hay

Flower of the month 1st Eileen Andrew 2nd Carol Ritchie 3rd Liz Webster

For their June meeting the members of Cultercullen SWI visited Inspire Soaps in Inverurie. The ladies heard from Mo, a support worker at Inspire, and Maisy and Andrew who attend Inspire about the soaps, candles, hand creams and tie dye bags that are made at Inspire, and had a very enjoyable time.

The next meeting of Cultercullen SWI will be on the 6th of September with a talk from Jane Kennan about screen painting. All are welcome.

SAVE OUR SURGERY

Grampian Health Board is presently conducting a survey of all dispensing GP practices within the region. The surgery in Udney Station falls into this category. It is a small practice of about 1,700 registered patients compared with over 12,000 at Scotstown, Bridge of Don. The practice was established in Udney Station over 70 years ago by a Dr Thomson who dispensed to his patients. The practice has continued to dispense since then.

The question being asked of patients is:-

“If dispensing of medicines was not available at your G P practice, would you have a serious difficulty in getting your dispensed medicines from a community pharmacy?”

The nearest pharmacy to Udney Station is in Tarves but to anyone without a car, or unable for any reason to drive on the day they receive a prescription, they would experience serious difficulty. Many of the buses turn round at Tarves to return to Aberdeen and there is only 3 minutes between arrival and departure, not enough time to get your medicines dispensed and get back on the bus. This would involve waiting until the bus returns to Aberdeen and returns back to Tarves. This is not an ideal situation for an elderly or sick patient especially in the middle of winter. A better option may be going in the bus to Aberdeen to get the prescribed medicines as there are more places to shelter. To patients without a bus pass this would involve cost of bus fares just to obtain prescribed medicines.

In order that the GP practice continues to dispense medicines to all patients it is essential that there is a large response to the questionnaire which can be obtained at the Udney Station Surgery.

The income from dispensing medicines is required by small rural G P practices in order that they can operate profitably. The Udney Station practice has 4 part time employees in addition to the doctors. Any loss in dispensing could put these jobs at risk.

A number of health boards throughout Scotland have undertaken similar reviews and where serious difficulty was found and the G P no longer permitted to dispense medicines the practice has also closed.

The best example of this is the Haddo Practice in Tarves, a practice of about 4,000 registered patients. When a pharmacist opened in Tarves the local GP practice found it uneconomic to continue without the income from dispensing so the practice closed forcing patients to go to Pitmedden to see the doctor but as there is no pharmacist in Pitmedden they have to travel to a pharmacist in another town or village to obtain their medicines.

In Scotland, the Health Boards can instruct general medical practitioners to dispense medicines to patients in areas where patients would have serious difficulties in having their medicines dispensed.

In England if a surgery is more than 1.6km from the nearest pharmacy the doctor is duty bound to dispense medicines.

Perhaps we should all be lobbying our MSP's to change the law in Scotland to the same as south of the border before we lose any more dispensing surgeries.

I have written to Malcolm Wright, Chief Executive of Grampian Health Board but the reply took 20 days and only re-iterated what I already knew. I have had a meeting with Gillian Martin, MSP who is supportive and has requested a meeting with the chief executive.

On 9th July Peter Chapman, list MSP for North East Scotland visited the village and spoke to a group of residents who would have serious difficulty in obtaining medicines. He has a number of issues in several North East Villages which he also is taking up with the Grampian Health Board.

In addition to the surgery, questionnaires can also be obtained from Brian McDougall, Hunters Rise, Pitmedden, Glen Douglas 23 Eider Road Newburgh and William Grant, Bank House Udney Station.

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Hi, I'm Fred

Have you a moment? I've something I'd like to ask you.

I've come up from Settle in Yorkshire to the Formartine Area to try and find family and friends of my late Grandparents. Allegedly my great-grandfather was evacuated to Turriff, met a local lass, they married, had family and settled in the Turriff Area.

I anticipate that most of my family will be from the Formartine area. Must say I'm impressed with what I've seen so far, can understand why Grandad decided to stay.

I found the Formartine Floral Trail on the internet last year and this got me thinking that I would come up this summer, try to trace my family and hopefully get to know a bit about my ancestors. I started my search in Turriff at the Turriff Golf Course where I was lucky enough to bump into George, who told me about Hamish who also lives in Turriff. I've arranged to meet up with Hamish next week – he thinks his Mum (Yvonne) might be able to put me in touch with someone who has already traced their family.

*I'm so excited – I've got off to a great start, but **I really do need help from the local residents.** The Formartine Partnership -they organise the Floral Trail - have kindly agreed to let me use their Facebook page so people can get in touch to let me know if they have seen any members of my family in the area – I'm hoping they will send in a photograph but just knowing where to look will be a big help. You can follow my story if you like.*

If you have any information please email: carolinerennie@formartinepartnership.org.uk

In the meantime, thanks, and maybe we will bump into one another. I am going to be at the Formartine Partnership's office at 29 Bridge Street, Ellon.

Information on the Formartine Flowerpot Family and Floral Trail

Allow me to introduce you to **FRED**, the Formartine Partnership's Flowerpot Character.

We are hoping you can help answer his simple question and get involved.



The Formartine Floral Trail was launched last year and will be repeated this year, and available for download from the 29th July 2016, it will also feature in the Daily Mail on 5th August on the Visit Scotland page. A copy of last years is available from our website www.formartinepartnership.org.uk.

Due to the success of the Floral Trail we have now introduced *The Formartine Flowerpot Family*.

How you can get involved with this fun project.

- Make your own character ensuring that your character includes at least one flowerpot in its creation, but feel free to use other materials. The use of recycled goods is encouraged and your imagination is your only limitation. If you are looking for inspiration on what to create we suggest you look at www.Pinterest.com.
- Flowerpot Characters need to be in their location by 29th July 2016 at the latest to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to see them and take their selfie. The sooner your one is in location the more publicity you will get. Please ensure that they are in a safe location to allow people to stop and take photographs.
 - Do you remember the fun everyone had with the Dolphins in 2014?
- Please don't forget to let the Partnership know where your character is located so we can let people know how many to look out for in the different areas. If you send a photograph of your character to Formartine Partnership we will add you to the Formartine Flowerpot Family Members List and include them in Fred's story on Facebook he has already had over 3000 visits since he started his search a week ago.
 - Email: carolinerennie@formartinepartnership.org.uk.
- We will be using Facebook to advertise this event, along with local newspapers and community newsletters. Can you please ensure that any photographs submitted which include people have their permission to be used for this purpose. **If companies position their character beside a sign with their company name on it – great publicity every time the picture is viewed and shared.**

Who is joining in the fun?

Local Businesses, Community Councils, Formartine in Bloom Annual Competition Entrants and the Primary Schools have all been invited to create their own Flowerpot Character.

Follow **FRED** on - Formartine Partnership's Facebook page to see how his search for family and friends is getting on.

Any questions please call Rod Gunson or Caroline Rennie on 01358 720584 – Formartine Partnership Ltd, 29 Bridge Street, Ellon. AB41 9AA

Branklyn Gardens and Nomocharis.

I think we have had more summer weather here in the last month than in the whole of last year, and on one of those glorious days my cousin and I decided to visit Branklyn Gardens near Perth. It is one of my 'all time' favourite gardens as, apart from having the most beautiful trees, it has a wonderful collection of shade/woodland plants, and a beautiful scree bed, both supporting stunning unusual plants. Anyone out there, that has read my articles, will know by now, that I am a complete plantaholic – and therefore getting myself passed the 'plants for sale' benches can be pretty tricky, let alone negotiating a garden full of must have treasures.

One of the beauties of Branklyn is its size – it's tiny compared to the usual stately home garden open to the public – so one should be able to get round it all in a comparatively short space of time. SHOULD being the operative word here as, if like me, you need to examine each and every treasure, three hours can easily disappear. It was so cleverly designed, near the beginning of the 20th century, that the boundaries are hidden so it appears much larger than it actually is, and in 25deg heat, the shade provided by stunning Japanese Maples and Magnolia – to a few – was most welcome to both plant and visitor.

There are several plants that I have longed to grow, but have struggled either to source or germinate seeds from. One is called Nomocharis, it is a beautiful, delicate flowered form of Lily that grows in cool shade, and even the specialist nurseries sell out quickly. Of course Branklyn had several beautiful species flowering, on special peat beds alongside stunning slipper orchids and other acid loving plants – that took time! As did the large swathes of blue poppies – Meconopsis – again in various different species and forms. One of the 'Mecs' that I used to have and have now lost, is called Meconopsis quintuplinervia (harebell poppy) it looks like a giant Scottish harebell, but the one that really caught my eye was called Mec. cookeii. Visualise a small, soft crimson hanky that has been picked up, and held by the centre so that it hangs down, one flower to each stem – just beautiful, and definitely a 'must have'!

Then there were Primula, all different species of candelabras, growing in glorious sweeps around the ponds and under trees, large banks of species Lily, Rhododendron, Azalea, Crinodendron and Enkianthus. All breath-taking, as it is every time I visit, and it doesn't seem to matter what season I go, there is always something of interest, although I do think it's at its best during late May and June.

One of the highlights for me this visit was to get chatting with the head gardener, who came across us as I was drooling over the Orchids and Nomocharis. This led to a behind the scene visit to their propagation section, and a promise of a plant swap. Gardeners are a generous lot and the like-minded amongst us are always eager to swap plants, especially if there is the promise of something one doesn't already have.

I may yet achieve my Nomocharis!

Happy Gardening

Lesley Barnett.

A Walk on the Wildside

Oh dear, oh very dear, here we all are well into the second half of 2016, but the evenings are still light enough to get out and about to enjoy the great outdoors, just forget about cutting the grass and relax watching wildlife.

As I write in mid June there is little sign of a sizzling summer but who knows, fingers crossed? Sizzling or soggy to come, a week ago when the sun was shining I predicted an excellent summer and with luck it will be. My reasoning was based not so much on the weather but from a sighting of a superb painted lady by the name of *Cynthia*, and she was not in the 'red-light' district of Cultercullen! The painted lady is a butterfly, and not only is it a real stunner but an amazing wee beastie. The wings are patterned in black with a few white spots but also a lot of orange, how is that for a stunner? But now you have to believe the unbelievable as this butterfly gets to Foveran by flying all of the way from North Africa, honest! Owing to the huge distance (well huge for a wee butterfly) they normally get this far north in mid summer or later, and to see one during the first week of June, caused me to make the prediction of a good summer. The same week that I saw my painted ladies I also saw a single red admiral, and this is another species that reaches us from Africa. So keep a butterfly eye open when you are out and about, both species will come into gardens no problem. I should also add that my elation at seeing the painted ladies was heightened because it is a few years since I have seen any at all. They tend to have spasmodic 'abundance' years and it is then that they appear with us in huge numbers. So butterfly wings crossed, this *will* be a good summer. Oh yes, *Cynthia*, well that is the Latin name of the painted lady, ha, ha, honest!

By the time that this edition of the Fav News drops through your letter box, the terns will be packing their wee suitcases and booking a flight with southern-air to get away on their summer hols, as where they are going to it will be summer. Down through Africa and across the Atlantic to South America and even way down into the Antarctic Circle phew. But the farmer's friend the grey geese, will be moving in to replace them. By the beginning of September the first geese will be planning which fields to adopt for B & B. Yes we are heading into the 'all change' period.

There will be some plants still flowering and the heather will be blooming on Forvie moor giving bees and other insects a free late feed. Most of the plants there are not true heathers, (known as the *Ericas*), but something called ling heather – *Calluna*. The true Scots heather, or bell heather that *is* an *Erica*, is there but in very small amounts, as is the lovely cross-leaved heath that prefers damper areas (also called bog bell-heather). The true heathers are 'constructed' to only allow long-tongued bumblebees access to the pollen and nectar. But other bees have a sneaky way of getting their share of the sweet treat. They bite a hole at the base of the flower and slurp! If you do find some of the real heather you may well see that there are tiny holes around the base of each small bloom, clever little devils insects?

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

Bob Davis - 18 September, 2016

1st Foveran Scout Troop (Newburgh)



On the left of the lady in black at the back is Alex Cruickshank and on her right is John Cruickshank. The gentleman cutting the ribbon is Mr Scroggie who was a miller at Mill of Gight. If you can name anyone else, please contact the editor, 01358 742304 or email: j.jones110@btinternet.com

Recently, while shopping in Ellon, Fiona Boamah happened to go into the Ellon Market. While browsing there she discovered a blue hard covered note book with a red spine binding. On perusing the note book she then discovered its contents recorded notes on the 1st Foveran Boy Scout Troop – Newburgh, the initial date in the note book being May 6th 1940.

Fiona purchased the note book priced at £1, indeed being short of loose change the lady in the shop accepted 60p. Fiona returned later, having discovered the notes of great interest, and paid the full sum, leaving the shop ladies with a box of cakes also.

The note book contained short notes on scout meetings from May 1940 through to September 1942. Included in the note book were about thirty six photographs of troop members and others, as well as activities at a scout camp at Gight, near Methlick in the summer of 1940.

Also included in the note book was a Tenderfoot test card which is likely to have been a possession of Ian Yeats of Leslie House, Newburgh.

Fiona placed some of the photographs on Newburgh's Facebook page and I saw them as some interest as part of Newburgh's history. I contacted Fiona who was kind enough to lend me the

note book. The note book contains hand written notes recording scout meetings and are written by the scoutmaster a Doctor/Lieutenant Surgeon Ward RNVR. His signature could not be deciphered but the initials may be F G. Doctor Ward (civilian title) was based at Kingseat Hospital, New Machar which was a Royal Naval Hospital during World War Two. He may have lived in rented accommodation at St. Helens, Newburgh.

The local committee for the scout troop consisted of Major Smith, Newburgh House, Mr Duncan, Mr Andrew Lyall, school headmaster and Mr George Laing, customs officer of Roseville, Newburgh.

Via e-mail I contacted the Boy Scout Organisation in London, who were kind enough to check the archives and gave what little information they had

1. 1st Foveran Scout Troop registered 18/1/1934 and closing in 1936. The scout master was the Reverend Arthur C Gordon of Foveran Church, meetings being held in the Church Hall. The assistant scoutmaster was a James Duncan and there were fourteen scouts.

2. The only other record available was for a 1st Foveran Scout Troop registered 29/4/1943 and closed in 1950. There was no other information, the presumption being the original file card of 1943 had been lost.

Unfortunately there appeared to be no information on a scout troop between 1940 and 1942 and no record of a leader by the name of FG Ward. According to the returning e-mail, at least not easily found, the records being a card system of no doubt thousands of cards.

However it would appear that the 1940/42 troop was official, there being several mentions of meetings and visits by the District and Assistant Commissioners. They may be recorded in the photographs, but are not identified in the photographs. It would appear the photographer was the scoutmaster so there are no photographs of him.

The troop was split up into three patrols and subsequently four patrols as more boys joined. The boys were measured for and supplied with uniforms and on June 10th 1940 they were welcomed into the Scout Movement by the Assistant County Commissioner Dr. Stephen of Methlick. The County Commissioner was also present as was the local committee president Major Smith.

The troop met mainly at weekly intervals using the facilities of the Church Hall and the local school. Occasionally meetings were held outdoors, either on the Links using the shelter as a base, or at what was called Foveran Copse, a clutch of trees to the left of the A975 when leaving the village while travelling towards Aberdeen.

Quote from: ~~Monday~~ (sic) **Thursday June 13th**

“A meeting was held in the school of the full troop. David Adams was appointed PL and took William Duncan as his second and then patrols were arranged as follows:-

| | <i>Seagulls</i> | <i>Curlews</i> | <i>Peewits</i> | <i>Ravens</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>PL</i> | <i>Gordon Burr</i> | <i>George Cruickshank</i> | <i>Alex Gilmore</i> | <i>David Adams</i> |
| <i>2Nd</i> | <i>Forbes Auld</i> | <i>Ian Yates</i> | <i>Chas Davidson</i> | <i>W Duncan</i> |
| | <i>Douglas Grey</i> | <i>Ian Cruickshank</i> | <i>David Laing</i> | <i>Felix Park</i> |
| | <i>David Keith</i> | <i>Ben Duffus</i> | <i>Iain Henderson</i> | <i>Alec Ross</i> |
| | <i>George Elder</i> | <i>Jimmy Stewart</i> | <i>Allan Robb</i> | |
| | <i>William Ross</i> | <i>Alex Smith</i> | <i>James McHardy</i> | |

Patrols went to corners of the playground. PLs instructed their patrols in the Scouts Promise and Law. The patrol numbers were made equal by redistribution and a message relay game played. Patrols then observed an old school blazer and the contents of the pockets for two minutes. They wrote down their findings and conclusions. This difficult exercise well-done, particularly by George Cruickshank: though some conclusions, notably by Iain Henderson being by very slender threads of evidence. After this, as there was not time left for the projected stag-hunt we had some games.

Blind Pirate- Bang your neighbour and the very popular Chinese wrestling and Pull in Pull out.”

This meeting had made four patrols, each of six except Ravens which was the one made up at this evening’s meeting.

The meetings consisted of training mixed with games which were also a form of training consolidation. Knot tying, tracking skills, basic cooking and various games etc.

Quote from: **Monday June 24th**

Meeting on golf course

“A few were absent owing to their families taking advantage of the last holiday.

Patrol corners concentrated on knots adding the clove hitch to the bowline, reef and sheepshank already being taught. The ensuing knotting relays showed that a great advance had been made since the previous week. A succession of stag hunts followed with Mr Lyall putting in some pretty shrewd stalking and teaching some of the finer points, particularly patience. This result was again an improvement and one or two scouts notably Allan Robb and Ben Duffus putting up a very good show. After a “Kim’s game” in which the enquiries was “The number of the S/m’s car”, a patrol description of his day and a description of a boy in another patrol the meeting ended at 9.10pm. The lateness was justified by the very long fine evening.”

During the period of **August 3rd to 11th 1940** a scout camp was held near Mill of Gight by the Little Water Burn. Twelve scouts were taken to the camp, by the use of a John Cruickshank's cattle float. At Methlick a stop was made to borrow and collect the Methlick troops' camping equipment. As bicycles had been loaded at Newburgh some of the boys cycled from Methlick to the Gight camp led by George Cruickshank, patrol leader of the Curlews.

With some help from Mr Scroggie, the miller at Gight, a bridge building exercise was undertaken and completed within the first few days. This exercise included the felling of suitable trees before construction of a foot bridge which was completed by mid-week on Wednesday 7th August a visitor's day was held. Several parents and others travelled from Newburgh for the occasion, the official opening being carried out by Mr Scroggie cutting a ribbon, after a suitable speech and a rendition of "Bridge by the Mill"*.

**("The old Rustic Bridge" ref Ian Cruickshank: I suspect Dr. Ward had trouble with The Doric accent)*

Afterwards tea was made, by the boys, which included "*some delicious sea trout*" which had been brought by Mr Alex Cruickshank.

During this period the boys were assisted by two seamen from the Polish Navy, Berthold whose surname was undecipherable and Leading Seaman Pria. Uncle Bethold (as he was known) was a recuperating patient having had broken some toes while serving as a submariner. Of Pria there is no note other than thanks for his help in setting up camp. Another visitor was a Miss Brasher, a young lady who was a member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment, who was also likely to have been working at Kingseat Hospital. There is a rather nice photograph of this young lady crossing a bridge of a single plank of wood concentrating on her feet movements and holding onto a strand of rope across the burn. Personnel from the VAD units were volunteers who assisted alongside trained staff in hospitals etc. during times of war.

Quote: **Sunday August 11th**

Camp Commentary

"The troop settled down very well and quickly to camp life in the fine weather at the beginning with the experienced aid of Mr Pria and acquitted themselves very well indeed throughout the week, considering that none had been to a scout camp before. The foul weather of the last weekend did little to damp the spirits of the troop and the speed of packing up was exemplar. Here again the aid of Mr Pria and "Bert" were invaluable."

Quote: **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.”

Monday November 4th

Meeting at Newburgh School

“This meeting was also interrupted by an air raid and the arrival of the First Aid party, but we carried on with the meeting and staged a Kim’s game in which the First Aid party was persuaded to join much to their amusement. Iain Henderson was the winner with 16 out of 18 articles.

After this we gave the First Aid party and our scout First Aid Team a “dummy run” followed by constructive criticism by the S/M. The whole affair went most successfully and served to pass a rather boring evening for the First Aid party.”

As can be seen by the above quotes war issues made things difficult for all concerned and co-operation between all was a necessity.

There is much more in this notebook and more will follow at a later date.

Charles M Catto.

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A continuing issue of concern to the local community is road safety and anti-social driving behaviour. As we enter into the school holidays and are likely to see more youngsters out on the roads whether on foot, bicycle or cars, I would like to reiterate that Road Safety and Road Crime are priorities for Police Scotland. Our aim is to reduce road casualties and reduce road crime by following objectives

- Effective patrolling of the roads
- Improve road user behaviour
- Detect and deter road crime
- Tackle antisocial use of the roads

A high visibility presence on the road network has a significant impact on driver behaviour and contributes to a feeling of reassurance in our communities. This is the responsibility of all operational officers. Responding to incidents on the trunk road network is a core function of the Trunk Road Patrol Group and we will endeavour to clear incidents as soon as possible and keep traffic flowing.

There is still work to be done to make further improvements to reduce road casualty figures. Research into illegal driving behaviour concludes that among regular risky and illegal drivers, there is a lack of acknowledgement that driving as they do is really illegal, that they are 'real' criminals or that their 'crimes' have real social impacts. One of the key roles of the police is to enforce road traffic law and this will continue to be our focus in an effort to change illegal driving behaviours.

Detecting and deterring criminal activity on the road network remains a high priority and there is evidence to link criminal driving behaviour, such as driving whilst disqualified or without a licence or insurance, to the incidence of collisions. In addition, the majority of serious and organised crime involves the use of the road network, including the movement of stolen vehicles, plant or other goods or contraband, drugs and other forms of illegal trafficking.

Many of our communities have identified tackling antisocial behaviour as a priority and Police Scotland has a commitment to reduce such behaviour. The antisocial use of vehicles is a problem that impacts on community wellbeing and the incidence of collisions caused by illegal driving behaviour. Where communities highlight concerns regarding driver behaviour, such as speeding, careless and dangerous driving and excessive noise, we will take the appropriate action to tackle these problems. Our enforcement actions will include robust enforcement of antisocial driving legislation, using the powers contained within the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004, and the seizure of offenders' vehicles.

Operation Zenith runs from 25 March and 30 September and focuses on improving riding behaviour, particularly around the contributory factors which result in riders being killed or seriously injured on Scottish roads. Officers will be adopting a proactive approach when dealing with dangerous and antisocial riding/driving practices.

Operation Zenith looks to promote safe and responsible motorcycling throughout the roads network, to reduce the number of casualties resulting from road collisions and improve driver/rider behaviour and awareness.

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

A Secret Garden in Ellon.



Many of you may not be aware that there is a wonderful walled garden - right in the centre of Ellon. Dating from the late 17thC, the outstanding feature of the garden is the collection of English yew trees, some of which are reckoned to be at least 600 years old.

The garden has been taken over recently as a community owned facility and the Board have set about the process of restoration and conservation. A gardener, Tilly Robertson has been appointed and has achieved amazing results in a short time. She welcomes voluntary assistance, particularly on Wednesdays. There are also regular volunteer Saturdays to which you would be most welcome. There is a lot still to do!

Although the garden is not yet open to the public, because of H&S concerns, we have regular open days and regularly have over 100 visitors.

For details of how to become a member or a volunteer or when the next open day is, visit our website: www.elloncastlegardens.org

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FOVERAN PARISH CHURCH: SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The VARIETY CONCERT on Saturday 28 May in the Church Hall was enjoyed by a most appreciative audience. We had a great selection of music played on fiddles, guitars, flute, piano, and saxophone, and also songs and Scottish dances - all from extremely talented local folk of all ages. The social committee would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the concert, which enabled us to raise approximately £150 for the work of Christian Aid.

Looking ahead to the autumn:

In November (provisionally Saturday 19th) it will be time once again for the annual **Kirk Roup**. We shall later be appealing for donations of items for the auction sale and sales tables – please keep this in mind over the summer, items you no longer need yourself may be just what others are looking for! Further publicity will appear later in the local press and on posters throughout the local area, or you can contact me if you would like further information in the meantime.

Mary Smith (Social Convenor) Tel: 01358 742234

dubbystylemary@aol.com

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



An old photograph of the quay at Newburgh

Are you interested?

Throughout Scotland there are many local Members' Centres and Friends' Groups which support the work of the National Trust for Scotland. Joining a centre or group is a great way to learn more about the work of the NTS, both locally and across the country – and to make new friends!

The North East Aberdeenshire Members' Centre was established in 1977 and has a total of approximately 100 members. The Centre organizes a varied programme of talks, social events and excursions throughout the year. Both members and non-members (for a small donation) are welcome to attend these events, many of which take place in either Haddo House or Fyvie Castle. The Centre gives financial and practical support to our three wonderful local NTS properties: Fyvie Castle, Haddo House and Pitmedden Garden.

If you are a member of the National Trust for Scotland you can get more out of your membership by joining our friendly Centre for an annual membership fee of just £7 a year and new members will be made very welcome. So if you would like to enjoy interesting talks and musical events in the wonderful surroundings of Haddo House or Fyvie Castle please do come along. The first events in our autumn programme will be in September and October, and details will be advertised in the local press.

If you would like further information in the meantime, or to join the group, please contact either Margaret Alexander (Vice-Chairman): margretalexander@btinternet.com or telephone 01651 872659, or Mary Smith (committee member): dubbystylemary@aol.com , telephone 01358 742234.

Mary Smith

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Replacement permadri garage roofs.



Obsessive Chicken Disease

I am self-diagnosed with OCD – Obsessive Chicken Disease. Mention chickens and whoever I happen to be talking to is immediately subjected to a lecture on their habits, their egg-laying capacity, the characteristics of different breeds, the various sounds they make, the fun they have rolling in dust baths or descriptions of the joy chickens experience when an out-of-date corn on the cob comes flying through the air into their run. I admit that once I get into my stride, I can clear a room in minutes but, in my role as champion of the domestic fowl, I know in my soul my duty is to convert the uninitiated and enrich people’s lives with knowledge of these extraordinary birds which for 8000 years have supplied us with food – and, for me and other chicken enthusiasts, a lot of pleasure.

Worldwide, there are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of breeds of chickens, bred and developed over the years for exhibition, egg production, consumption or cock-fighting. (If you Google “Chicken Breeds” you’ll see photos of the Frizzle, the Scots Dumpy, the Silky, the Marsh Daisy and many more.) I’ve got four Barnevelders, four Wyandottes, a Welsummer, a Vorverk, and a Speckled Sussex – all girls because I don’t want chicks - cute as chicks are.



The Wyandotte



The Vorverk



The Barnevelder



The Welsummer

Wyandottes are big bustling friendly self-important birds originally from America and have a strong urge to go broody at the drop of a hat. This tendency would be useful if there were eggs to incubate but can be a nuisance as the hens weld themselves to the nesting boxes making them unavailable to other birds who want to use it for day-to-day laying. In order to break the broodiness pattern, I put the hen into a stable with food, water and grit but no bedding. After 48 hours in the “cooler”, motherhood seems like a very bad idea. (A farmer friend told me to dunk them several times in a bucket of cold water but I can't bring myself to do that.)

Barnevelders are medium-size chickens with dark brown feathers. When the sun shines, however, you can see that they have red, orange, black and gold feathers as well. Quite beautiful. They lay dark brown eggs and are usually too busy looking for tasty morsels in the garden to bother about motherhood. Suits me.

Vorverks, classed as a rare variety in Britain, have black heads and tails and buff coloured bodies. Their eyes are an orange-red colour and they have small white earlobes – so sweet – and, unlike my other posh chickens, lay all year round. They are also excellent flyers.

The Sussex has been popular for centuries both as an egg producer and as a table bird. The Speckled variety, which I have, has a lovely mixture of brown and black feathers interspersed with white ones.

As do Barnevelders, Welsummers originate from the Netherlands, and are truly beautiful. They have golden coloured necks and brown bodies and lay very pretty speckled eggs.

My gels have a large run and a big hen house but I what I really enjoy is seeing them oot and about. They inspect everywhere – underneath the bird table, the midden and the pony shelter just in case there's something edible – and I spend hours just watching them. (I realise by now you're thinking I should get out more but I'm unrepentant.)

My love of seeing them rootin' about and behaving naturally has its drawbacks however. By the middle of July, the crop in the surrounding fields provides excellent cover for foxes and, with cubs to feed, vixens are out on the prowl. Last year, I delayed restricting the gels to their run and one afternoon five chickens were taken. It was only because I happened to go outside and witness the massacre taking place that more of them didn't meet a similar fate.

One of the surviving chickens had a horrible wound on her neck. I swithered about what to do and in the end decided to give her a chance. However, when I sprayed the affected area with antiseptic, she closed her eyes and keeled over. I'd killed her with my amateur First Aiding – or so I thought. Much to my relief, a few minutes later she staggered to her feet, if a tad unsteadily, and headed for the feed dish. I think the pain of the spray had made her faint. She's made a complete recovery and is still one my best layers.

For most of the year there are only open fields surrounding my house so I risk letting the gels out of their run around lunchtime because, if they're going to lay, it's usually in the morning. They go back of their own accord in the early evening when I shut them in for the night.

In order to lessen the risk of raids by foxes, I have developed a cunning plan. This involves playing the radio at full blast when the chickens are at large – the thinking being foxes will assume humans are around and go somewhere else. I started with Northsound but had to graduate to Radio 2 because the repetitive advertisements nearly drove me mad. Radio 2 seems to provide a more useful combination of speech and music and, so far, so good. As soon as I turn it on, the gels line up at the gate ready to boogie to Adele – or whoever. (Radio 3 just doesn't cut it for them.)

In the early years of chicken-owning, all my gels had names. There was Tracy, Sharon, Doreen, Elsie, Nancy, Mither (a Wyandotte) and Fiona – amongst others – but after the fox episode, I decided not to call them anything. And they don't seem to mind. Perhaps they think they're all called "Come on gels" which is what I shout when I want them to go back into their run. I don't fool myself they are obedient chickens – it's the sound of me rattling mealy worms in a tin they can't resist. (Starlings are always on stand-by in case any are missed.)

Every few months it is necessary to worm the gels. This isn't difficult. All I have to do for a week is measure out a certain amount of grain and add the correct dose of worming powder. It means, however, that everyone has to stay in the run so I can be sure the treated feed is eaten. Last time I wormed the gels they were *so* bored. Whenever I appeared, they rushed up to me begging to be let out and I felt really sorry for them. I remained resolute, however, but admit to Googling "What can I do for bored chickens?" and up came a photograph of a smug brown bird sitting on a purpose-built swing. I placed an order at once and within two days it arrived. In my imagination, I could see a queue of eager chickens waiting in line for a "shottie" - with the Wyandottes having more "shotties" than the others because they are bigger and bolder. It turned out no one wanted a "shottie". I raised the swing, put it down to ground level and even tried holding one bird and trying to make her stand on it. To no avail. All I got were loud indignant squawks from one highly indignant bird. (I must remember to look more closely at the photograph on the web as I suspect the bird I saw was stuffed and sellotaped onto the swing.)

Chickens make excellent pets and children and adults alike adore collecting the eggs. All they need – chickens not children - is a secure run and a clean coop with nest boxes, lots of fresh water, grit and a good quality proprietary feed – and any kitchen scraps such as boiled tatties go down well. In return you'll get eggs Tesco can only dream of selling – eggs with yolks so yellow your Victoria sponge will look radioactive.

Janet Jones

What's on in the Parish of Foveran

I would like to make this page a regular feature so if you send me details of event, clubs, one-off happenings etc I will include them. I need the name, the dates/day of the week, the location, time and any other details you think may be relevant. Janet Jones 01358 742304 or

j.jones110@btinternet.com

YTHAN CRONIES: Newburgh Public Hall. Every two weeks starting Wednesday 14th September. 1.30pm. A report on what the Cronies get up to is on page ? of this newsletter.

S.W.R.I. (Newburgh) Will start again in September with an Interquiz Night. The WRI meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Public Hall.

S.W.R.I. (Cultercullen and Udney Station)

CORNER CAFÉ: Newburgh Church Hall, 10am -12noon, every Thursday.

RAINBOWS: Contact Lynsey on 07743 797377

NICER NEWBURGH GARDENING GROUP. Please note that on Saturday October 1st there will be a Nicer Newburgh Show and Tell in Newburgh Village Hall. Details in newsletter or contact either Graham (01358) 789024 or Agnes Kinloch (01358) 789527

nicernewburgh@hotmail.co.uk

GOLF CLUB: <http://www.newburghgolfclub.co.uk> 001358 780058

PLAYGROUP newburghplaygroup@ymail.com

UDNY STATION PLAYGROUP: Daily sessions during term time. Contact 07884 033316 or

playleader@udnystationplaygroup.co.uk.

UDNY STATION AMENITIES GROUP: Volunteers are always needed. Contact Alice 01651 842268

FORVIE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE: Contact Reserve Manager Annabel Drysdale for details of beach-cleans, guided walks etc. 01358 751330 or Annabel.drysdale@snh.gov.uk

FOVERAN CHURCH ROUP. Provisional date Saturday 19th September. Contact Mary Smith 01358 742234

This list is by no means complete so please help by emailing me with details.

NEWBURGH'S BRIDGES COULD SOON FALL DOWN.

This article appeared in the People's Journal on the 17th of November 1979. Changed days!

SAVE THE BRIDGES sounds like heroic order by an American general in a Second World War film, but for the people of Newburgh it's a costly problem.

The bridges are those over the Foveran Burn connecting the village with the golf course and the seashore.

During the autumn floods damaged all three and especially the most northerly, the Spalding Bridge.

It has been estimated that £4000 would be needed to repair it, while the other two would require around £1000 each.

The Countryside Commission, with a little help from Gordon District Council, have undertaken to pay for work on the middle bridge but the local people have been left to raise funds to foot the bill for the other two.

Due to the urgency of the situation, with more flooding likely during the winter, money for the project has to be raised as soon as possible.

Envelopes have been given to every household in the village, but the Newburgh Amenities Committee hope to receive contributions from farther afield.

And why not, since the bridges are also used by thousands of visitors during the summer time.

Contributions, no matter how small, can be sent to the Newburgh Bridges Fund at the Newburgh Branch of the Clydesdale Bank.



The Spalding Bridge as it was.



The Spalding Bridge today.

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

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| 24 August | Udny Station Community Centre |
| 28 September | Newburgh Inn AGM then meeting at 20.15 |
| 26 October | Udny Station Community Centre |
| 23 November | Newburgh Mathers School |

2017

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|--------------|--|
| 25 January | Udny Station Community Centre |
| 22 February | Foveran School |
| 22 March | Newburgh Mathers School |
| 26 April | Udny Station Community Centre |
| 24 May | Foveran School |
| 28 June | Newburgh Mathers School |
| 23 August | Udny Station Community Centre |
| 27 September | Newburgh Inn AGM then meeting at 20.15 |