

Foveran Community Newsletter

April 2017

Issue 146



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Secretary report for March /April 2017 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, Udry Station and Cultercullen, and everything in between.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you to the Silver Darlings (Briggies quiz team) who donated £142 which they asked to be allocated towards maintaining the Christmas lights in Newburgh

Dog fouling is again on the increase across our communities, so can we appeal to dog owners to **PLEASE** clean up their dog mess, and don't throw bags containing dog mess into the shrubbery

We had expected the Spalding Bridge and the old tennis pavilion to have been removed by now, however we have constantly been given erroneous information by Aberdeenshire Council over the last 2 years regarding these removals, and at time of writing still have not been given accurate information as to when the removals will take place

As an example the consultation period for the application by Aberdeenshire Council to Marine Scotland for permission to remove the Spalding bridge runs until 28th March, and only after then will the application to remove the bridge be considered by Marine Scotland.

Thanks to Martin McKenzie, Romar International, and John Duncan plant hire for the assistance in removing the Newburgh Christmas lights on the 6th January.

I have been asked if the lights could be extended further along Main St to the North, however the cost of converting the lamp posts to accept the lights is expensive at about £450 / lamppost, additionally additional motifs would be required, so we cannot justify this.

At present we are going through 2 /3 motifs a year due to failure both of lights and when being PAT tested for safety.

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

The AGM of the Gallowshill Community Sports Hub will be on 11th April 2017 at the Gallowshill pavilion at 7.00 pm, all are welcome to attend this meeting of the group who manage the sports hub on your behalf.

After many years Liz Hancock has had to resign from the Community Council due to pressure of work, however we welcomed her husband David to the Council who will represent the residents of Cultercullen

Glen Douglas



FOVERAN NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

I've been editor of the newsletter for over 25 years and would like to hand it over to someone more computer literate and with new ideas. There are only three editions a year. Glen Douglas is in charge of the advertising side and all you have to do is email people for articles and put the newsletter together – and get it to the printers. Please, if you think you could be the new editor, email Glen, or me or any member of the Community Council and tell us the good news.

The next newsletter comes out at the beginning of September and articles should be with the editor by the 7th of August. You can still send them to me – and I'll forward them to whoever takes over. If possible, send articles in Word.

Janet Jones

j.jones110@btinternet.com

01358 742304

From Councillor Richard Thomson

Aberdeenshire Council passed its annual budget in February, setting out spending plans for the year ahead.

We're all familiar with the language of austerity these days. Nevertheless, the scale of the council's budget – even in these straightened times – will still see almost £550 million spent directly on local services, as well as a capital investment programme of £132 million. That's still a lot of money to provide the day to day council services which we just tend to assume will always be there when we need them.

Inevitably, it's the big numbers which grab the headlines, such as the £3 million set aside for a local business rates relief scheme. However, there are smaller numbers in there too, such as the £150,000 for active travel measures, the £100,000 for sports development and the £150,000 for traffic calming outside rural schools, which will still make a big difference to people's lives.

A Move From Aberdeen?

Earlier in the year, councillors took the historic decision to move ahead with plans to relocate Aberdeenshire Council's Headquarters from Woodhill House in Aberdeen.

It may seem hard to believe, but if it proceeds, it is a move which will save the council around half a million pounds each year in reduced running costs. Currently, Woodhill House sits around one third underoccupied and will soon require major refurbishment. Meanwhile, Gordon House in Inverurie is also in a poor condition, requiring a multi-million pound investment if it is to remain a suitable modern working environment.

Instead of throwing good money after bad and leaving the council with far more office space than it needs, councillors have backed plans to move out of both Woodhill House and Gordon House, in favour of a much smaller building in Inverurie. Meanwhile, major investments are also planned to invest in council offices in Stonehaven, and to consolidate council offices in Ellon into a new building on the site of the old academy.

With a more dispersed workforce, the economic benefits of the council can be spread more widely around Aberdeenshire, at the same time as diverting much needed monies away from maintaining old buildings and back towards providing front line public services which can benefit all.

A 'Hub' For The Arts

I was delighted that councillors recently backed an initiative to establish a 'hub' for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Aberdeenshire.

Later this year, Fraserburgh will become just the second of the Conservatoire's 'fair access' hubs, following the launch of a similar initiative at Ayrshire's Dumfries House last summer. The new hub will include local access to the Junior Conservatoire's programmes in music, dance, acting and film.

The North East is home to some very talented children and young people who we want to nurture from primary school up so they have a chance to develop not only their artistic skills but also their self-confidence. Having a facility like this on our doorstep will be transformative for many young people – not just in terms of accessing opportunities for perhaps the first time, but also in terms of reducing the amount of travel they would otherwise have to make to the Central Belt and even further afield for similar opportunities.

By working closely with the Conservatoire, which is recognised as one of best places in the world to receive an education in the performing arts, access to these world-class opportunities and experiences will be opened up to generations of children who might not otherwise realise, far less achieve, their full artistic potential. Classes at the hub will begin in September.




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Raymond Birnie

Nicer Newburgh Gardening Group

Hopefully, by the time this edition of the newsletter drops through your letterbox, we will have left most of the winter weather behind. Although there are days when not a lot of outside work can be achieved, sometimes we are lucky to have a dry, sunny day. On a few of these, we have started work on resurfacing the paths at the Links play area.

The timber edges of the planting beds are rotting, and we have made a start on building up the paths so we are able to slope the beds, and therefore do away with edging. So far two loads of 10 tons of stone have been used, and another 15-20 tons will be needed finish. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to any residents.

In our plans for the coming months is the planting of 270 plants for the North end of the village. This will increase the bed display and simplify the mowing. Further vegetation has been cleared from the pathway at plantation North end, and it is hoped to plant wildflowers.

The gates at both entrances are badly rotted, and it would be good for the one at road edge to be replaced. If there is any handy person available to help we would be grateful. Beds at the South entrance need to be widened as the shrubs are growing and we still need room to plant the annuals that give us the colourful display as you enter the village. 1000 plants were in the display last year and I can assure you it is worth it for the effect it gives.

At the end of last year we made the decision to purchase a ride-on mower, and make our grass cutting easier, as the majority of our group are people of a certain age. This was funded by a grant from Formartine Partnership, Donations and our own fundraising. We thank all the residents who comment on the improvements we make to our village, and to those who help. All offers of help are greatly appreciated.

If you would like to help contact Graham 01358 789204 or mallardrd@hotmail.co.uk

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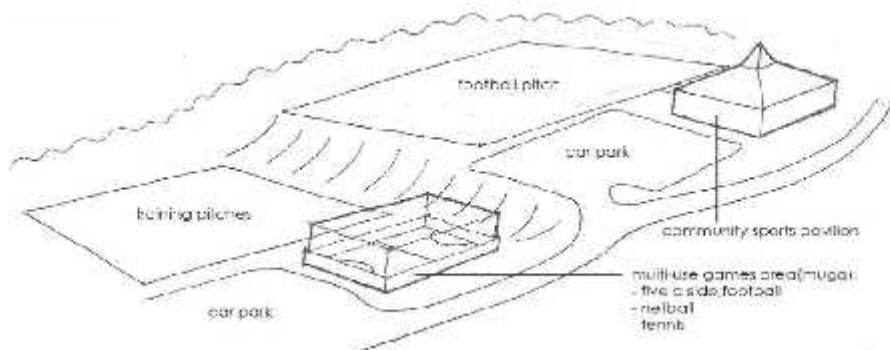
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Gallowshill Community Sports Hub


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 football : £35 / hr (£15 juniors)

 netball : £35 / hr (£15 juniors)

 tennis : £ 5 / hr / person

pavilion:

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building hire : £10 / hr

pitches:

Home of Newburgh Thistle AFC, Newburgh Thistle JFC & Thistle Youth FC

To book contact: 07710 893 222

For info: www.gallowshill.co.uk



Anyone fancy netball?

If you're looking for a fun, friendly and sociable way to stay fit, why not join our bounceback to netball session?

-) Every Monday 7.30pm-8.30pm
-) @Gallowshill Community Sports Hub
(Beside Newburgh & Ythan Golf Club)
-) £4.50 per session (1st session free)
-) All ages (over 16) & abilities welcome
-) No previous netball experience needed

Join our Facebook group:

Bounceback to Netball Newburgh

or email:

bouncebacknewburgh@gmail.com

Gallowshill Community Sports Centre (GCSC)

Notwithstanding what has been recorded as one of the driest and warmest winters on record, we at Newburgh's own Sports Centre are looking forward to an early Spring and increased sporting and leisure activity. Committee meetings have been held regularly at two-monthly intervals, with the improvement of the playing quality of the playfields being the main subject of discussion.

The facility offers facilities for Football at all grades, and plans are well ahead to include girls along with the large numbers of boys in the Thistle Youth FC. With over 150 players, there is the growing problem of finding pitches to cope, ones that are conveniently close by. The two grass pitches at the Sports Centre even in the best weather conditions clearly are stressed when the needs of the Newburgh Thistle Junior FC and the Newburgh Thistle Amateur FC have also to be addressed. The opportunity to share the all-weather multi-use Astro-turfed court with the Tennis and Netball Sections has been fortunate ...

... which brings me to the matter of the usability of the grass pitches especially during wet weather conditions. Once a topographical survey had been completed it was clear that the whole GCSC property was subject to rainwater runoff and subterranean flows feeding in from a large area out with the boundary, and although literally on a giant sand dune, with nowhere to go, the rainwater remained on the pitches making them too often unplayable and with the carparks having to be continually repaired.

Whilst funds were available to patch up the pitches and the carparks, a more permanent solution had to be found. Normally an engineer's report as to the extent of the problem, offering remedial solutions would have been the next step, but the Committee, thinking about the possibility of getting grants for this work, agreed to first study a submission from a company which is expert and experienced in such matters. Once this comes to hand, the next phase of the work should be able to get started.

This is all with the view to getting our grounds in a fit condition throughout the year, with a solution that is within our financial capability.

Our funds, meanwhile, are in a sound state.

The GCSC's second **AGM** is taking place at **7.00 pm on Tuesday April 11** in the Clubhouse. Everyone will be warmly welcomed; we would like to have a good discussion on how the citizens of Newburgh and twal' mile roon' would like to see it to develop from what has been a promising start. Refreshments will be available. We look forward to meeting you all.

Gordon G Benton

Chairman GSC

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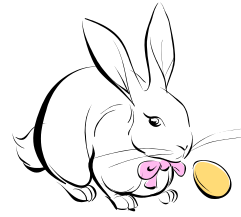
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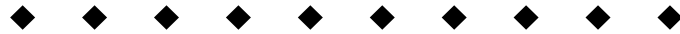


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Happy Easter from Lindsay and Bentley

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01358 789793

Gala News

As we prepare for Newburgh's fifth gala, the committee would like to share some information about how the gala is funded and how the gala benefits the community throughout the year as well as on the day itself.



committee
the gala is
throughout the

So what's on offer at the 2017 gala?

Every year, the gala provides local companies and groups the opportunity to showcase their services. Booking forms for stalls are available on the Gala website (www.newburghgala.com) now. In addition to this, you can look forward to a range of entertainment and activities including the Castle Canter, the netball tournament, the football tournament, tennis demonstration, dog agility demonstration, face painting, the Inverurie Wind Band, the Inverurie Pipe Band, Yee Hung Ga, a magician, the grand raffle, barbecue, bouncy castle, inflatable assault course, bungee trampoline and archery. New for 2017 there will be a beer tent, the Critter Keeper is visiting and we'll be joined by a special guest from Paw Patrol.


It's fantastic when people and their families come along and support the gala and the village should be proud of this display of engagement with a local event. However none of this can go ahead without costs such as marquees, a stage, First Aiders, insurance and a licence. All in all, the gala costs in excess of £5000 per year to run. In order to fund all of this, we must organise fundraising events. These are very much enjoyed by those who attend and they are crucial in ensuring the gala goes ahead. In December we organised the village Christmas tree lights switch on. Newburgh Mathers' choir led the carols around the tree and this was followed by soup, sandwiches and home bakes at the public hall. At the time of writing, the Gala Committee members are preparing to support the Newburgh Beach Bash by organising catering for the participants. The sale of raffle tickets also generates money to fund the gala. Details of prizes are coming soon and tickets will be available from local shops and from committee members selling them door-to-door.

How does the community benefit?

In the past, the Gala has donated money raised on the day back to the community. Proceeds from the 2016 Gala allowed £500 to be donated to Newburgh Mathers School. What's more, £1000 went to the Community Council so they could buy Christmas lights for the village. More recently, the Gala Committee was able to donate £250 to the village defibrillator. To date, we have donated over £5000 back into the village.

Moving forward...

As always, the committee is very keen to hear your suggestions. Get in touch via the Facebook page or by calling Pat on 07793500768. New committee members are always welcome. If you would like to help with the gala but are unable to commit to joining the committee, we would love to hear from you. Again, contact us via Facebook or give Pat a ring.

 image1.jpeg

The new Newburgh Village Public Hall committee would like to thank the village for its continued support. In December, we held the first of our fundraisers, Festive Fizz. The ladies who attended had a

fantastic evening of cocktails and dancing. We managed to raise an amazing £1800. In February, we held a comedy evening with Patrice and Mcruvie, again everyone had a fun evening and helped us raise £850.

The committee have used this money to employ an architect to draw up plans to refurbish the hall. We are planning an open evening to invite the villagers to come and see the exciting plans.

As [from 1st April 2017](#), we have revised our hall fees - Main hall hire £10 p/h, small hall hire £5 p/h and a one off kitchen hire fee £10.

If you'd like to book the hall please contact either Leigh Allan [01358 789836](tel:01358789836)/07876 656996 or Karl Watson [07939 327887](tel:07939327887)



ythan bakery

BERTIE



This is a photo of a very corpulent gentleman called Bertie who used to stand outside Watson's on Main Street in Newburgh. He had great presence and everyone loved to see him out on the pavement inviting customers into the shop. In many ways, he was the heart of the village. Before coming to Newburgh, Bertie did a stretch in Peterhead Prison (where he was restored) then it was on to Jimmy Tawse Butcher in Methick. In the early 90s, he came to Newburgh and continued to carry out pavement duties this time for Wullie Reid (Reid Bros). When Wullie passed away, Bertie was retired. The Watsons and the people of Newburgh were really upset and tried hard to find him but had no luck until recently when a wee bird whispered something about Bertie being in a Care Home near Newmachar. It seems he would love to come back to work – his knees are so much better these days – and everyone in

Newburgh would be so pleased to see him again. To show Bertie's carers how much he is missed, *please* sign the petition in Watson's. Thank you.



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With the Easter holidays approaching, we have begun the transition of our Rising 5's children into their primary schools. Back in February we celebrated Chinese New Year and the children learned that it was the year of the Rooster. They also enjoyed tasting Chinese food and making lanterns. Our focus this term is numeracy, involving both the children and parents, and learning how numbers and shapes are used in everyday life. The children have brought in items from home which encourage numeracy and have helped to make colourful numbers to display around the room. In preparation for Spring planting, we are planning to make improvements to our outdoor area over the next few weeks.

The Committee have been busy organising our next fundraising event, which will be Rock & Roll Bingo on Saturday 1st April at The Victoria Hall in Ellon. Tickets are £15 which includes 4 games of bingo and a 90s/00s disco. There are some excellent prizes to be won so please get in touch if you would like a ticket.

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

Rising 5's Group, Monday – Friday from 8.45 am to 11.55 am.
Playgroup will run Mon, Wed, Thu and Friday from 12.30 pm to 4.30 pm
2's Group, Tuesday 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm.

If you have a child who does not attend one of these groups at the moment and you would like to make enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the 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

NEWBURGH MATHERS



PRIMARY 7 1980



1971

NEWBURGH MATHERS



NEWBURGH MATHERS 1937



BUILDING THE EXTENSION TO NEWBURGH MATHERS



NEWBURGH CUBS. (Date unknown. Can anyone help?)



FOVERAN HALL

Support your local hall! Foveran Public Hall, known to some as Foveran Village Hall, has been a meeting-place for the community for many years. While other halls built at the same time (three that I know of) have been allowed to fall into disrepair and have even been demolished, Foveran Hall has been looked after well by its conscientious management committee and diligent hall keepers. It is in excellent condition, having a lovely floor, big stage, small committee room, efficient heating, modern toilets, a disabled toilet and disabled access.

We need more users as some groups have dwindled, for example our Community Club had a large indoor bowling section but members left for the bigger venues and a handful struggled on until too few were left to cover the hire of the Hall. The Youth Section of the Club has met on Monday nights most years when the teenagers play badminton, pool or 5-a-side football. Foveran School uses the Hall for PE, a Dog Group has met for many years, now on Wednesday evenings, and we have a flourishing new Baby and Toddler Group.

If you would like to join the Community Club activities are: Monday afternoon - Scottish Country Dancing
Monday evening - Youth Section
Tuesday or Thursday evening (depending on interest) - Indoor Bowling

Please contact John or Christine Fordyce (01358)-789236 or for the Toddler Group Lynn Bowman (01358)-788932.

If you want to book the Hall for e.g. a party please contact the Hall keeper Joanne Stevenson (01358) -789697.

The Hall Committee is putting on a Variety Concert on Saturday 25th March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children. We are hoping to hold a Dance in June.

You can find more information on the Foveran Hall Facebook Page.

Christine Fordyce, Secretary, Foveran Hall Committee.



CULTERCULLEN SWRI.

Members of the Cultercullen SWI met on Tuesday the 10th of January. Due to unforeseen circumstances, however, they had no speaker. Instead, the ladies discussed business matters and their plans for the forthcoming bulb show.

Members then enjoyed a lovely tea provided by hostess Carol Hay.

Competition results were as follows:

Meat Loaf with Garnish: 1st Moreen Alexander. 2nd Eileen Andrew. 3rd Carol Ritchie.

Farm Animal: Moreen Alexander.

Flower of the Month: 1st Muriel Milne. 2nd Moreen Alexander. 3rd Eileen Andrew.

**

Members of Cultercullen SWI met on Tuesday 14th February and enjoyed a talk on the history of chocolate by Kira Pirie. She gave the ladies tips on using chocolate for baking and had some samples available to buy. A lovely tea was supplied by Sheila Johnston and Barbara Reid.

Competition results were as follows:

Valentine Verse: 1st Eileen Andrew. 2nd Liz Webster. 3rd Moreen Alexander.

Chocolate Dessert: 1st Carol Hay. 2nd Eileen Andrew. 3rd equal Moreen Alexander & Carol Ritchie.

Flower of the Month: 1st Eileen Andrew. 2nd Moreen Alexander.

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1st Foveran Boy Scout Troop part 3

Effects of WW2 and loss of Scoutmaster

As I said in my previous article there were those that saw war as an exciting time. During the first period of World War 2 there was of course a great fear of invasion. Means of halting or impeding this involved putting in defences and of course introduced many people to the area. Shipwrecks occurred and crews had to be rescued, ships refloated and repaired for further war service or scrapped to allow the material to be reused.

Newburgh's beach being in the midst of a flat sandy beach from the Forvie Salmon Bothy to Aberdeen was deduced to be a prime site for any possible invasion.

This entailed large numbers of military and civilians in covering these tasks.

The Foveran Scout Troop which was based at the village of Newburgh was also affected by the goings on, as we will see in the final stages of the notebook.

Monday March 17th

Meeting at Newburgh School

The S/M decided to stick as clearly as possible to the rules laid down in "Scouting for boys".

Summer 1941

This good resolution didn't last long and it was decided to build a summer hut at the Foveran House Coppice.

The preliminary cutting of timber for uprights.

Permission to cut dead and useless trees having been obtained was great fun but the work of digging out the bank for the hut went very slowly.

When eventually in August the hut was completed except for the roof thanks to the kind help of Mr Moir. The "army" suddenly took charge of the site and pulled all our work down to make way for their own machine gun nests.

Further searches for HQ in the village being unsuccessful it was decided to return to the school science room in spite of the restriction caused by the excess of glass cupboards in it.

It appears from this that gun site may have been in place to have a field of fire across the road leading into Newburgh from the south.

September

A weekend camp was held at the old site in Methlick. David Laing and Willie Murray and Ian Cruickshank went over with the gear in the S/M's car. The brothers Bill and Alec Ross, Felix Park and Benny Duffus cycled over in the moonlight. Mr Scroggie gave us a great welcome and helped to thaw out the frozen cyclists when they arrived. Only the S/M's light tent and hike tents were used, groundsheets being borrowed from Dr. Stephen of Methlick.

The field had been ploughed so we fitted the tents in on level patches of ground amongst the rock and camouflaged them with bracken. The grassy turf was beautifully soft but tent pegs were very difficult to put in and only light weight tents could have been pitched there. David Laing took charge of the evening meal of sausages.

Next day the Ross brothers cooked breakfast and Felix Park a most successful stew for dinner. Benny Duffus the rest of the sausages for supper.

We were very lucky in the weather and were able to pack dry tents early in the afternoon. After a treasure hunt we tried a "flag raiding" game then Kills being made by shooting Rowan berries through a reed blowpipe. However, "Cruicky" and Alec Ross were to expert at shooting for the rest of them and the S/M could not confirm as he was entertaining the District Commissioner Mr Robert Will who had come over to visit us from Methlick. This camp although short was a great success and very cheap for in thanks to Mrs Park's kindness in producing cakes for us and Mr Beaton's refusal to be paid for the delicious milk he provided for us and Mr Scroggie's gift of oatmeal.

It was a poor substitute for a full week's of camp but the change in school holidays had made this impossible.

September 16th

After a C of H meeting in which it was decided to go over entirely to Air Scouts Charlie Davidson and Douggie Grey and Iain Henderson reappeared at this meeting when the air scouts scheme was explained.

September 22nd

A moderately attended meeting.

It was decided to meet at 7 o' clock in -----

Instruction was given in the compass and in the use of the triangular bandage interspersed with games and finishing with tumbling.

September 29th

Only Bill Ross, Ronnie Gilmore and Ian Yates turned up, David Laing appearing later. The rest presumably thought the S/M was still ill in bed and couldn't come.

After a short go at Norse we had some fun with knotting and then played memory and word games till the First Aid Party came to turn us out at 8.30 because of a raid warning.

October and November

Weekly meetings were held in the school with moderate attendances.

Two meetings were devoted to aircraft spotting instruction. Mr James White from the Observer Post kindly came and showed silhouettes and gave instruction at the second of these.

George Cruickshank having taken up work as a bank clerk in Bucksburn left the troop and Benny Duffus took over the Curlew patrol.

Keeness was on the increase in this period and two meetings were run by PLs. The S/M being absent for one of these. Enthusiasm was further revived by the decision of the Court of Honour to run a show again in 1942.

1942

Meetings in January held twice weekly were all devoted to rehearsals for the Troop Show, but all work was stopped by the very heavy snow which kept S/M away from the village through being to be "on board" at RNAH Kingseat. One meeting was held at the end of February of an impromptu nature consisting mainly in the design and flying of paper aeroplanes and trying the effects of various control settings.

March 16th

*Meeting in the school 7.00pm. Impractical but fair attendance as the early ones went off as ----
- to deliver emergency messages for Mr Lyall. The rest played "Blind man's Bluff" to get warm. Then when all returned elementary height and distance judging was taught. We played a game of "Bombing Berlin"*

Following this we did 3-4 hand lifts and finally the fireman's lift of the conscious and unconscious victims.

Volunteers for message runners for Mr Lyall in the event of invasion

March 23rd

Meeting at Newburgh School 7pm

7 attended i.e. all the keen ones! Also, Ian Yates. Charlie Stables appointed PL of Seagulls.

We played games outside interspersed with a period of signal drill and "Parade Ground" drill and a chat on scouts ---. At dusk, we had a message relay and then a memory game followed by instruction in Schafer's artificial respiration

After revision of fireman's lift a fireman's lift relay was held culminating in an imperial crash by Felix Park and Iain Henderson.

Meeting closed at 8.30 for Court of Honour Meeting.

April 4th

The troop cycled over for the first of a fortnightly series of Saturday visits to RAF Dyce for Air Scout instruction. Ian Yates and 7 scouts were present. Felix Park unable to get away. Fl. Sgt Ross took charge and taught us some points of aerodrome procedures and the composition of the RAF and its organisation. Then took us round the airfield and took us over a big fighter. The turnout of the troop was not good and requires smartening up.

April 18th

Second visit to Dyce

We were directed to the control tower when Fl. Officer Shepherd kept us all intensely interested in the details of aerodrome procedures and the guidance of lost or damaged aircraft. It was a lovely day and all cycled over and back.

April 20th

Meeting at the copse at Foveran House

All lit fires and after instruction from the S/M cooked some very peculiar flapjacks but all were apparently edible.

This was the S/Ms last meeting before leaving the district, having been appointed to RNAH Sherbourne in Dorset.

After an informal chat encouraging the troop to carry on even with reduced activity and with good wishes for the future he departed leaving Ian Yates to finish the meeting

Ian Yates has now a warrant as AS/M and I wish him the very best of luck in carrying on the troop.

Signed; F G Ward, Surg Lt. RNVR

This was the last meeting by Scoutmaster FG Ward and the troop was handed over to the older scouts but unfortunately meetings slowly petered out. Due I think to young men being

called up for armed services and although Mr Lyall volunteered to take charge, in the words of Ian Yeats “no further progress up till now”.

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

Other boys joining after the initial intakes were: - William Murray (Loshties), Logan Baird, Ronald Gilmore (brother of Alex Gilmore and son of police constable), Charles Stables George Wood, and John Phillips.

The notebook is currently at Aberdeenshire Library Service, Melgum Way, Old Meldrum awaiting inspection by Aberdeenshire Archive who may include it in the Archive, otherwise it will remain with The Aberdeenshire Library Service in their research facility. Thanks again to Fiona Boamah

Charles M Catto



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What is Gliding?



Gliding is flying a silent aircraft which does not have an engine, and using your skill to locate air that is rising to stay aloft.

The glider is towed by a small aircraft to a height typically of 2,000 ft, and then is released and the glider pilot can then explore the sky.

There are 3 types of lift they are seeking.

Thermal: the rising air forms the fluffy white clouds you see in summer, and by circling under the clouds the glider will stay up.

Mountain Wave: the wind blowing over a mountain range such as the Grampians is forced up by the mountains, comes down the other side, then continues to oscillate up and down for many miles.

Hill Lift: where a gentle breeze is blowing onto a hill.

The UK National height record of 38,600 ft for a glider was set at Deeside Gliding Club at Aboyne

Gliders regularly fly cross country using all 3 types of lift to stay up, and in 2016 visiting pilots from Germany flew their glider from Aboyne to the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides (and back again)

Deeside Gliding Club provides training to become a glider pilot for persons of all ages and gender from 12 upwards, as you can legally fly a glider solo at the age of 14, and one of our members Maddy Draper became the youngest girl in Scotland to fly solo on her 14th birthday on 28th December

We have an active junior section, juniors only paying 50% of annual subscriptions, get free glider time, and can apply for sponsorship both from the club and charitable trusts.

Gliding can be the first step on a career of aviation and is what may make your CV different from others when seeking employment.

Trial lessons are available which can be paid for on the day, or purchased as a gift for a friend or relative.

All training is carried out in 2 seat dual control gliders with a fully trained and authorised instructor.

All instruction is free; you only pay for the cost of the launch and the time in the glider.

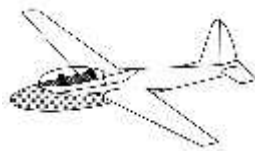
In summer we regularly host trial flight sessions for social groups including Scouts and Guides, these sessions qualify for discounted group rates.

As more gliders are now fitting Flarm collision avoidance technology, you can watch gliders flying worldwide by going to “spot the gliders” on your computer or tablet.

Full details regarding gliding at Aboyne can be found at:

www.deesideglidingclub.com. Or by phoning 013398 85339

We operate 7 days a week from May till end October, then weekends only over the winter.



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You can fly a Glider solo at 14, but you cannot learn to drive a car till you are 17

Buy on line at www.deesideglidingclub.co.uk, or phone 013398 85339

A Walk on the Wildside

Well folks I trust that you are all well, and find time to read this article now that there is so much to see and hear in the great outdoors. Surely having just returned from your regular 50 km walk watching wildlife in Foveran, you will be glad of a seat, a fly cup and of course this latest edition of the Fav. News.

Now that we are into the season of altered hours and the daylight strengthening by the minute, the birds and the bees are already performing at the wish of Dame Nature. As I write this at the end of February, no one hereabouts can claim that it has been other than a good open winter, and natural events might be moving a wee bit earlier than normal. As for our returning migrants, the weather here will not bring them to us any earlier than normal; well perhaps a day or two, but for species that have remained with us then the situation can be quite different. I heard on the steam radio of a lady in Inverness, who phoned in to say that she had seen the first bumblebee – early in February! Wow that is early and I suspect that no one in Foveran can match that. But by the time that this publication drops onto your welcome mats, there may well be a bee on the go.

Insects are a fascinating group and each species has its own way of surviving the winter. For a start most insects do have one thing in common – their four-stage life cycle. The butterflies, and bees etc. that we see flitting around, together with the creepy crawlies like beetles and forky-tails (earwigs) can be considered to be the ‘adult’ insect stage. These mate and Mrs. Insect lays eggs – the ‘egg’ stage. The eggs hatch out to become the caterpillar: ‘larval’ stage, and after eating their fill, these larvae form a chrysalis – the ‘pupae’ stage. That is when the magic takes place as a caterpillar goes into a pupa case and out comes another adult insect, to start the process all over again. Off you go into the corner with the dunces cap on, all those who believed that insects are not amazing?

So insects can survive in either one of the four stages, and that is what they do. The small tortoiseshell butterfly ‘hibernates’ with us, a few other butterflies overwinter as an egg. Moths such as the emperor and fox moth (both found locally) survive the winter as a caterpillar. Finally there are those insects that overwinter inside a pupae case – a chrysalis.

I said earlier that someone has already seen a bumblebee, well that would have been a queen. They are easily recognised by the tiny crown on their heads! Bumblebees overwinter as adults, but it is only the queens, the females that do it, and they are already fertilised before they go to ‘sleep’. All of the other bumblebees die off, leaving the mated queen to wake up in spring, build a nest in which to lay her eggs and thus begin a completely new colony. You might find a sleeping queen buried in the soil of a flowerpot in your garden in the winter.

In order to give these early insects a good start to the year they need a hearty meal and together with the insects Dame Nature provides equally early plants that supply nectar. The snowdrops

will be on their way out now but primroses, coltsfoot and other flowers will take their place. Willows are excellent for early insects as some species flower at the end of February. Willows have male and female trees and grow flowers before any new leaves. That way the pollen from Mr. Willow can have its wicked way with Mrs. Willow using the wind for transport, but the early insects also give a helping hand in the process.

By the first week in April many of the 'early birds' will not only have caught their worm, but will have built their nests and be in the process of creating a new generation. Already at the end of February I have heard blackbirds and robins singing their wee hearts out in order to attract the attention of a potential mate. Smaller species of bird do not live for hundreds of years and they have a high mortality rate (eaten by predators). Therefore they often have two or three broods of young each year, and an early start is essential if they are to raise numerous broods successfully.

Yes it is all go out there, and all of you should go out there and enjoy it, no excuses now. Take care of yourselves and our wildlife until the next edition. Bye.

Bob Davis - 23 January, 2018

Mr Strop and His Berries



I have a stroppy, extremely clever (I think), Captain Mannering of the bird world living in the garden. Mr Strop is a Mistle Thrush who arrived in late October and has lived in the ivy on the wall all winter, shoos every other bird out of 'his' Rowan tree. I know birds can be territorial, but this beast has forward planning in mind!

Every other year, a flock of Mistle Thrush has arrived in autumn and stripped the tree of berries within a few days, but not this year. I have had to look at my

yellow berries all winter! He, or she, has eaten a few at a time and then gone to sit in the ivy to watch for any potential thieves. It seems to tolerate most birds, but blackbirds – being berry eaters too - are persecuted to within an inch of their lives. The larder is becoming empty now but, all this careful planning, has meant that there have been enough berries to last most of the winter.

Now I think that's clever. I know I'm being anthropomorphic, as we assume animals, or birds, can't forward plan, but this bird needs to be in MENSA. Flocks of bird species visit the berries on trees and shrubs all over the country and strip what they see, not thinking of the next meal. I have lots of different shrubs with berries and they are all stripped by descending flocks of birds as soon as the berries ripen. No, the very beautiful Mr Strop is clever – cantankerous, but clever!!

What great value to a winter garden berrying trees and shrubs are. I would hate to be without the bright Cotoneaster berries, or the beautiful orange, red or yellow of the Pyracantha fruits. Rowans come in several colours, most eaten as soon as they ripen, but the pink and white forms seem to last the longest – unless you have a 'my tree' Stroppy! I have a garden full of birds enjoying the fruits and shelter provided.

As we are down to the last few berries on the Rowan, I will need to look at my feathered friend through my new Christmas binoculars for probably the last time, before it leaves to search for another feast. Boy is he/she beautiful in close-up. I will miss seeing it lording the garden though, but it will be a more peaceful place.

Looking at the garden, there are bulbs coming through - I have snowdrops, iris and crocus out already, and I have four glorious winter flowering shrubs that I couldn't be without. Viburnum x bodnantense has beautifully fragrant pink blossom, flowering all winter. Hamamelis (witch hazel) is also fragrant, I have the orange coloured flowering one, and in this case I would rather have inherited the yellow form, as it has a stronger smell. Daphne, that isn't quite flowering yet, but when it does will fill the garden with perfume, and lastly, the jewel in the crown – Sarcococca. This evergreen shrub has the most insignificant tiny white flowers, but the smell reaches every corner of the garden. Wonderful.

Maybe, as I say goodbye to Mr Strop until next autumn, spring is just around the corner, I think not, but it's been such a mild winter so far. Not good for some plants that like to be chilled though, and of course there are the pest populations ever expanding in milder winters. All the challenge of the next gardening year.

Happy Gardening!

Lesley Barnett

Foveran Parish Church

Some of you, of a certain age, may recall an advert on the TV for a famous Chocolate brand that went along these lines, - 'in the busy, frantic 70's, isn't it nice to know, that there is still 'C.....' chocolate, one of today's great tastes.' It went something like that, and a wee jingle too. What they were trying to sell was the idea of continuity, and stability. It was harking back to days when life was not so busy and confusing, and there was not the overload of information, true and bogus!

In today's world, that place of continuity and stability is offered by the Church. It is meant to be, amongst other things, a place of refuge. A place where you can reach out to God who you may have forgotten about until sadness strikes, or where you can find rest and peace for a troubled heart.

Some people want to make the Church fancy and modern, and that is fine just as long as we remember that the needs of mankind have not changed, and that cool water from an old well is as thirst quenching as the most expensive bottled water!

Why do I say that our needs are the same? Well consider these headlines.

'War in the Middle East'

'Another Genocide. Why did no one intervene?'

'The Union breaks! The North goes out on its own.'

'Famine strikes'

'Brother kills brother in fit of jealousy'

These could come from today's news, but they are all references to events in the Old Testament! Peoples' behavior doesn't change, that is why the Church is still so very relevant. The God who made us is the one who sent Jesus to save us. The cure is the same, because our needs are the same. That is one good reason to come to Church.

Ricky Reid

INVITATION TO CELEBRATE EASTER

We would like to invite you to join us this year in our Easter celebrations. As well as the traditional Easter Services in church, we have an uplifting and fun outdoor service on top of Gallows Hill bright and early on Easter morning. Meeting in the Newburgh Inn car park at 9am, we walk up the hill and have a short service of worship at the top. The kids then roll their eggs down the hill before walking to the Church Hall for coffee and croissants. The Easter Service in church is after this at 11am, where there is a competition for the best decorated eggs. Everyone is welcome.

Foveran Parish Church:

Foveran Parish Church is the known name of Foveran Church of Scotland,
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SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

On Saturday 19 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 £850 for church funds.

More recently on Saturday 28 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. Robert Burns was celebrated in word, song and music; the food was excellent and well served and the entertainment was much enjoyed by all.

Peter Morrison ably chaired proceedings, Don Hawthorn said one grace and then invited everyone to say the Selkirk Grace along with him. He then piped in the haggis carried by Chef Martin Bühler followed by George Adams bearing the Quaich. Peter Kiehlmann addressed the haggis in fine style and later Alistair Cruickshank toasted the Bard, telling us how performing To a Mouse and Tam O'Shanter appealed to him because of the agricultural connections. Some excellent entertainment followed with Alistair in his usual dramatic style, Alan Dalziel singing two lovely Burns songs, Richard Thomson skilfully playing a fiddle selection and the versatile Carole and Don Hawthorn playing accordion, small pipes and bodhran. Ricky Reid finished by thanking the chairman and all who organised the event.

Just over eighty folk enjoyed a friendly and sociable evening, which also raised almost £200 for the New Life Home Trust. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this possible.

Mary Smith and Christine Fordyce



Foveran Church of Scotland Dates and events

Services are held every Sunday morning at 11am in Holyrood Chapel.

- First Sunday of each month** - Evening Service in Holyrood Chapel at 6pm
- Last Friday of each month** Holiday Club follow on afternoon activities for 3 – 11 year olds.
Church Hall, Main Street, Newburgh 3.30 – 4.30pm
- Last Saturday of each month** - Saturday Café in Church Hall, Main Street, Newburgh
11am – 3pm.
- 9th April** - Palm Sunday – Holyrood Chapel, Newburgh at 11am
- 16th April** - Easter Sunday – Holyrood Chapel, Newburgh at 11am
Decorated egg competition for the children.
- 30th April** - Communion Sunday – Holyrood Chapel at 11am
- 7th May** - Stated Annual Meeting – Holyrood Chapel
This will be held after the church service
- 14th – 20th May** - Christian Aid Week.

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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

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

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
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