

# THE SOUTH DEESIDE VIEW

## Spring/Summer 2006

### Contents:

Page 1.....	Welcome
Page 2	Local History
Page 3	Toddlers/Playgroup
Page 3	YouthCafé
Page 4	Schools
Page 5	Scouts/Guiding Groups
Page 7	Social / Leisure
Page 8	Social/Leisure
Page 9	Churches
Page 10	Church + Carriage Driving
Page 11	Beannacher
Page 12	MP's/MSP'S/Councillors
Page 13/14	Ditto
Page 15	Road-Sense
Page 16	Road-Sense
Page 17	Embattled Tavish
Page 18	Buses/Plant Sale
Page 18	PICNIC/GAITHERIN'
Page 19	NKCC
Page 20	NKCC
Page 21	SD View - Contacts
Page 22	Maryculter House
Page 23	Banchory-Devenick
Page 24	Solstice Nurseries
Page 25	Contacts

**Welcome** to the Spring/Summer issue in a slightly different format. There's now a Main Contacts list on the back page otherwise phone numbers are at the end of each entry. All phone numbers are Aberdeen listed (01224) unless otherwise indicated. We've got news of even more leisure and social activities e.g. yoga and dog-training classes as well as more local history (thanks to Mike Harris)!

Since the resurrection of the View in 1998, the circulation has increased substantially and the print run is now 800 for this twice-yearly, free publication which hopefully brings together the communities of Netherley, Cookney, Banchory-Devenick and Maryculter and provides information on what's what and what's going on in the area. Unfortunately there's "nae a fa's fa" or, translated "Who's who" – it'll be up to each of us to introduce ourselves and be neighbourly and hopefully meet one another at the **South Deeside Gaitherin/Picnic (see Page 18)**. The Community Council organise deliveries and would welcome volunteers to assist them cover every home in the area. The income from advertising is quite modest, but we are grateful, and our thanks go to the anonymous donors who have provided funds to cover the printing which is our only cost. It is hoped to raise funds through the Plant Sale (see Page 18) but if anyone feels they could assist in fund-raising, all donations and help would be greatly appreciated.

As you all probably know the South Deeside View is an independent newsletter bringing you local news and we appreciate your help. But we'd love to hear from you with more stories and snippets of days gone by and for me, I love the Doric and/or poetry.....my Granny was a great story-teller and would recite Scots poems for us grandchildren sat around the fire but mainly at WRI concerts as her party piece and I'm sure there are folks in our community with stories and tales to share or some old photographs tucked away in Grannie's kist! We'd be really interested to hear from you ( Carolyn 01224 732026 or Hazel 732738

Also, "are you making use of the local notice-boards and do you know where they are?" The Community Council (NKRCC) ones are outside the three primary schools as well as the former Maryculter East School. There is another inside Corbie Hall with a new one to be erected outside it soon.

These are available for anyone to use. Keys for the NKRCC boards are held by each school and the nearest community councillor. Just don't cover the NKRCC Minutes as these have to be displayed and please remove your notice once the event is over.

The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) is on all our minds just now – there are four contributions on this. The best way to keep informed is through the Road-Sense website

([www.road-sense.org](http://www.road-sense.org)) and attendance at the local pressure group meetings. Hopefully internet users are keeping their non-computer user neighbours up-to-date.

So please read on and enjoy the local news .....

*LOCAL HISTORY...from  
Mike Harris, The Gables, Netherley.*

### **The Causey Mounth Road**

Mounth signifies a pass over the Grampians. The word is an English rendering of the Gaelic 'monadh' meaning moor. The first Chapter Aberdeen received from King William the Lion (1171-85) mentions all his burgesses 'dwelling to the north of the Mounth' – referring to the Grampian range.

There were 15 ancient passes:

1. The Causey or Cowie Mounth
2. Elsick Mounth – Stonehaven to Drum; from Fetteresso via Netherley to Tilbouries ferry
3. The Slug road – Stonehaven to Durriss
4. Cryne's Cross Mounth – Laurencekirk to crossing at Mills of Drum
5. The Stock Mounth – Glenbervie to Strachan
6. Bvi'lg Mounth – Glenfarquhar to Deeside – an old drove road
7. Cairn o' Mounth – Fettercairn to north – ancient main road from Edinburgh going north
8. Forest of Birse Mounth – from Cairn Corsse to Birse on Deeside
9. Fir Mounth – Glen Esk to Glentanar
10. Mounth Keen – Glen Mark to Deeside (the higher of the passes)
11. Capel Mounth – Glen Clova to Glen Muick
12. The Tolmounth – Cairnwell road into Angus via 'Jock's Road'
13. The Cairnwell road – from Perthshire via Glenshee, Braemar going north
14. Glen Tilt route – from Blair Atholl to Linn of Dee
15. Glen Derry drove road – from Strathspey

Throughout centuries this route was known as the Cowie Mounth being the roadway from Cowie to Aberdeen. It was also known as Causey Mounth from the French 'chaussee' because part of it was a raised paved road or causeway over an extensive moss. The present main road south was built in the 1790's. The old road lay west of the dual carriageway. It crossed a bridge at the Cowie water, it crossed over main road along the west side of Cowie House. The road then formed a boundary between Cowie and Urie; it runs the entire breadth of Wester Logie farm. It crossed a bridge at

the Limpet burn. It went from there to the Muchalls burn; it passed north close to Muchalls Castle.

We can follow it from St. Ternan's Chapel, Muchalls entering the parish of Portlethen near Gillybrands Farm (formerly Jeally Bran's Inn in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century). It passes Bourtree Bush, northward to Berryhill, then near the stone circles or old Bourtriebush and Auquhorthies Farms. On to the high ground at Craighead Farm (a mile west of old Portlethen station), on past the Badentoy Stone Circle. It now passes across flat country where the old Aberdeen moss used to be. It passes close to Clifton quarry, a quarter of a mile south west of Blue Hill Cairn. It goes over the ridge of the hill through woods past the old Banchory Devenick schoolhouse. Now in sight of the city, it passes Tollahill farm and down a steep hill emerging at the South Deeside road at Den of Leggart, a quarter of a mile west of the Bridge of Dee.

For centuries, Aberdeen had to maintain this route especially over the boggy ground. There is still a Causeyend, marking the old limit of the paving. (There was 3/4 of a mile of this paved causeway.)

Landowners adjoining the route were urged to contribute to its upkeep but not always successfully (the first recorded appeal was in 1378). In 1634 Aberdeen Council made it a toll road, the Causey Port was built in 1634. It was 1 1/2 miles north of 'Auchorties' for the collection of tolls from passing horse transport. It served for over a hundred years. It is located near Causeyport farm on the Badentoy estate.

The first mail coach between Edinburgh and Aberdeen was in 1787. The Causey Port was found to be in the way so it was demolished in 1760.

For the same reason in 1774 the Stone Port at the Bridge of Dee was removed. It served as the main road for 25 more years.

Boswell and Johnson came this way in August 1773. In 1787 Robert Burns came this way travelling south. He remarked that Aberdeen was a 'lazy town', but he had only been there for three hours!

## LOCAL FORDS ACROSS THE DEE

( thanks to Mike Harris, Netherley)

There are 36 in all, in the historical records but I will only mention the 8 most local ones.

1. The Fords of Dee, east of the Bridge of Dee (not used after the Bridge was erected 1520-1527). Deeford House is the local indication of this crossing point. A former Church of Scotland centre, it is now being turned into flats.
2. The Snab Ford at Banchory Devenick. (A snab is a rock projecting into a stream or river.)
3. Ford at Inch of Culter
4. Coblestock Ford, Culter – serving Maryculter and Netherley
5. Old Ford at Tilbouries, opposite the Roman camp (used for Drum by way of Cairnton).
6. Ford at Dalmaik Farm. (Used for droving as well as wheeled traffic until Park Bridge was erected.)
7. Ford at Mills of Drum, the most important crossing on the lower reaches of the river.
8. Ford at Balbridie, nearly opposite Crathes Castle



### **Babies and Toddlers,**

Parents with little ones from birth to 3 years old meet on Thursdays during the school terms from 9.30 to 11.30am in the Maryculter-Cookney Church Hall. Join us for tea or coffee in a friendly atmosphere and for get-togethers during school holidays.

Contacts: Jill: 739235 and Alison: 899703

### **Maryculter Playgroup**

This well established group is open on weekday mornings between 9.30am and noon during school terms in Corbie Hall,

Maryculter. Children are welcome from 2 and a half years old, and the group follows the national curriculum for 3 – 5 year olds. Activities include story time, show and tell, painting (with their artwork decorating the hall for other users too), house corner, sand and water play, puzzles and games as well as snack time. There is a securely fenced outdoor play area and off-road parking. The group are currently looking for an additional play leader for at least three mornings each week. Applicants with a child care qualification are preferred, but others will be considered.

Contacts: Jill Greenlees Tel: 739235( for the vacancy), Sheona Warnock Tel: 739602 or 07765 525317 (the mobile number during Playgroup mornings).

### **The Youth Cafe**

All children from P7 to S6 are invited to join the fun at Maryculter-Cookney Church Hall every Thursday from 7.00pm to 9.00pm



### **Maryculter Primary School**

We are enjoying another active and challenging session with a role of 53 children in three classes in school and 20 children in nursery. The nursery has changed its times and now runs every weekday morning from 9.15 -11.45

The pupils are progressing with their curriculum, inviting visitors in and enjoying visits to other places. However, they are now becoming interested in the new school development, planned to open in spring 2007. A group has been organized, led by Mrs Kate Reddish to plan a closing celebration of the life of Maryculter School.

There is an active Consultative Group with various members from the two schools and community, contributing to the planning of the new Community School, chaired by the Portlethen/Stonehaven Education Network Manager. Our pupils are looking forward to being shown the plans and our eco-group becoming involved with planning the landscaping, and considering the siting of recycling and composting bin, and wildlife garden etc. as part of their Green Flag Environment Award.

Our middle and upper school have again participated in National Science week in March. The Upper stages pupils are looking forward to joining with Banchory -Devenick and Netherley schools and spending a week on a residential activity trip to Dalguise, Perthshire in May. We are also hoping to send a choir to the Aberdeen Music and Drama festival.

Congratulations must go to all members of staff who successfully took part in the Scottish Health at Work scheme, gaining a bronze award. We are now trying to maintain our healthy lifestyles as a positive model for the children.

### **Banchory-Devenick Primary School**

Thanks to money donated by the School Board, the whole school enjoyed a trip to His Majesty's Theatre in February to see "The Jungle Book". This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, adults and children alike.

A Spring Fair is to be held at Banchory-Devenick School on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm until 4 pm. This is being organised by the School's Parent Teacher Association.

Our lower stages teacher Miss Humphrey has been teaching Lacrosse to the P 5/6/7 pupils at lunchtimes since the Summer.

They are now to test their skills in a Lacrosse Tournament on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March at the Beach Leisure Centre.

Money donated to us by the company Exxon Mobil for Mrs Johnstone's (a parent) work in our school has been used to buy new signs for the playground. These have really brightened up the surroundings for the children.

As in previous years we are joining with both Maryculter and Netherley Primary Schools for a Residential Trip to Dalguise in May. The children will have great fun trying out new activities and making new friends.

We have been involved in National Science Week (March 10-19) in a number of ways. The whole school 'Created a Tree' from card and paper, with prizes for the winners. We also had two other projects; a 'Wheels' workshop and a 'Creative Science from recycled materials' workshop.

P3/4 are involved in a national potato growing competition, supported by farmer Brian Dow. The aim is to grow the largest weight of potatoes between Feb-May, the winners receiving a digital camera.

Our Primary 5/6/7 Pupils led by the Class Teacher Miss Gray have submitted an entry to the Ro-Tech Challenge. They have been working on this project since before Christmas and have input a lot of hard, but very enjoyable, hard work.

We had the Primary 2 and 3 Pupils from Netherley Primary with us until early March while a new portacabin was installed at their School. They were accompanied by their Class Teacher and Classroom Assistant and enjoyed making new friends.

By the time you read this the ceilidh at Ardoe House Hotel on March 17 should be a happy memory. This was held as a joint fundraiser for Maryculter and Banchory-Devenick Schools, organised by the PTA's

One of our parents, Clare Howard, had applied to the Beechgrove Garden to have part of the school grounds made over. On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February we had a visit from Carole Baxter, the presenter, the Director and one other member of the team. Although initial indications were that we were too big a job for them to take on, they were very keen to help in some way possibly through another programme or in another section of the Beechgrove. We hope to hear from them soon.

Our senior pupils are involved in a film project with Netherley and Maryculter schools. We are scripting, storyboarding, acting and filming a short film under the heading of 'From the Mountains to the Sea'. The winners will have their film shown at a local cinema!

We are once again collecting "Active Kids" vouchers from Sainsbury's. If you have any vouchers you would like to donate, please hand them into Banchory-Devenick School Office. We are collecting them for playground equipment and every one counts.

### **Netherley Primary School**

Well they said it was going to be a bad winter – the school road was so bad that Jack the bus driver had a horrible time trying to get children in and out – in the end we had 3 tractors and 2 snow ploughs trying to extricate the bus from drifts and ditches outside the school. I don't think Jack will forget his last days at Netherley in a hurry. He is leaving on Friday 20 March initially to go into hospital following this he will enjoy a well-earned rest in retirement but he will be much missed. Jack has been a friend to pupils, parents and staff. Nothing is too much trouble and nothing phases him – thank you Jack from all of us.

The new school at Lairhillock is going ahead and hopefully we will move Jan 2007.

Congratulation to Mrs Greig who has passed her Scottish Qualification for Headship.

Senior Pupils from all three school have had their joint story outline Bravehearts accepted for turning into a short film by Aberdeenshire's Film Unit. Rachel Smart, Bethany Byrne-McCombie, Rowan Ah-see and Marielle Baxter have already had 3 days training on Script writing, tutored by professional writers. The finished video will be shown at the Belmont Cinema and it is hoped to involve many other pupils with acting parts for adults also.

### **Scouts and Guides**



**Friends of Guiding Daffodil Tea at Corbie Park on 6th May 2006, 2-4pm** ( teas, cakes, homebakes, bottle stall, raffle, lucky dip, lots of other games etc) Entry adults £2, children £1.

### **Maryculter Rainbows**

The Rainbows are girls aged 5-7 who meet in the Maryculter Scout and Guide Hut on Thursdays from 5.15 - 6.15pm for crafts, games, singing and good fun. There are ten of us at the moment and we welcome new members.

Leaders are: Sue Dunlop Tel: 739117 and Lorraine Logie Tel: 01569 731959

### **Maryculter Brownies**

We are still running at full capacity and have spent the winter on a variety of badges involving cooking, entertaining, and being great hostesses. At the moment we're practising for a concert for Thinking Day and looking forward to a trip to the Gang Show. Then it won't be long before those warm light summer evenings arrive and we can get outside.

We meet on Thursdays in Scout and Guide Hut from 6.30 - 8pm. Please contact Elaine Davies Tel: 01569 730374 for further information.

### **Maryculter Guides**

Our meetings are in the Scout and Guide Hut on Tuesday evenings from 7.30-9.00pm. Contact is Dianne Brown Tel: 734687

### **Maryculter Rangers**

We are now up and running and planning our summer programme. We meet in the Scout and Guide Hut on alternate Mondays from 7.30 - 9.30pm. For details please contact Jackie Cowan Tel: 869668 or Elaine Davies Tel: 730374

### **Maryculter Beaver Colony**



The Beavers are as healthy as ever with 19 attending most weeks. Just before Christmas they experienced a joint evening with the Scouts who 'entertained' the Beavers to a Puppet Show. The evening was a riotous success with the Beavers proving they can make far more noise than the Scouts.

Bettina Caffyn and Liz Kirk have volunteered their services as assistant leaders following Aileen Uwins' departure. They bring fresh ideas and are proving invaluable in running the weekly meetings of games, crafts, songs and stories.

The Beavers meet at the Scout and Guide Hut on a Tuesday evening from 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Anyone wishing to add their name to the waiting list should contact Kathleen Paterson on 868676

### **Maryculter Cubs**

Unfortunately the group are still without a Cub Leader. At least 2 persons, are required to get this section of the Scout Movement for boys aged 8 to 10 off the ground again. Unfortunately there is not a pool of Leaders just waiting to fill our vacancy. It will need fresh volunteers – probably from within the local community to come forward. Our Secretary Pauline Scott 735857 would be delighted to hear from anyone with an interest in the youth of the area who might like to consider the position of Cub Leader.

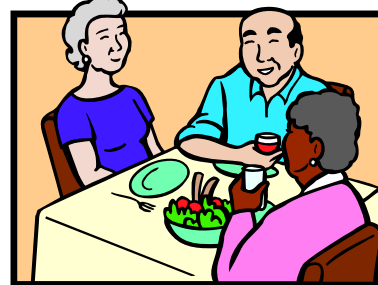
### **Maryculter Scouts**

The Scouts are looking forward to their Spring and Summer programme when they can get out of doors. During the winter, two parents made the mistake of mentioning they were expert sweetie makers and immediately ended up demonstrating and passing on their skills to the Scouts. The Mechanics badge has been obtained by many, and the Scout Leader's car is now well and truly serviced .

A camp is being organised at Braemar in May and this year's Summer Camp is set for Alyth. Andrew, our young leader, is off hiking in the Himalayas in the summer with the Deeside Explorer Scouts and we hope he has a great time.

Not having a Cub pack due to a lack of leaders continues to break the continuity of the boys progress through the Movement from Beavers to Cubs then to Scouts. However, boys wanting to join the Troop will be very welcome and can contact Les Paterson on Tel: 868676

*Look out for our fund-raising event later in the spring It is still at the planning stage and we will advertise it on each notice board.*



### **Maryculter WRI**

Meetings are at 7.30pm in the Corbie Hall, Maryculter on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May. Our April evening subject is good health while the annual business meeting is in May, with bus outings in June and August.

Secretary – Sheila Bissett Tel: 01569 731708

### **Netherley WRI**

Meetings are in Netherley school at 7.30pm on the third Monday of the month between

August and May. They celebrate their 76<sup>th</sup> birthday party in march, followed by a session on craftwork using buttons in April then an illustrated talk by Glencraft in May.  
Secretary – Margaret Carmichael Tel: 01569 764330

### **Church Guild**

See churches section

### **Friendship Club**

We are having a Basket whist Drive on April 21 in the Corbie Hall, when the summer programme of bus outings will be available. These are on the first Thursday of each month between May and September, all to places of interest with fine scenery on the way.

Tel: Peggy Paterson 734888

### **Meals on wheels**

A small group of ladies deliver meals in the area on Tuesdays and Thursdays between noon and 1pm. We would be pleased for other volunteers to join us.

Tel: Carol Masson 733583

### **Corbie Hall and Sports Field**

The Corbie Hall continues to be well used and has recently had a new kitchen fitted. Recent meetings of the Committee have been dominated by the imminent requirement for us to have a Public Entertainment Licence for the Hall. The intention of Aberdeenshire Council is to ensure any Public Hall is properly maintained and that the Committee and Hirer are fully aware of all aspects of safety. The consequences are still being thrashed out with the Council, but it looks like more red tape and costs all round.

The plans for the additional changing rooms had to be re-drafted due to a higher specification of shower being required. This has caused a slight delay. Once we have approved plans we hope to apply for Lottery funding and assistance from Aberdeenshire Council. Only if and when this has been secured will the building work start.

Despite the occasional moan about users leaving the hall less than spotless and litter

being left on the field, we are pleased to report that the vast majority of users continue to support the Committee by keeping the Hall and Field tidy and damage-free.

Anyone wanting to hire the Hall or Field should contact the Booking Secretary, Carol Masson, Tel: 733583.

### **Yoga**

Ilse Elders runs a yoga class on Tuesday evenings in the Corbie Hall. Anyone interested in joining should phone her to ensure that a place is available.

Tel: 868301

### **Dog Clubs**

All meet in the Ardoe Hall at 7.30pm.

Tuesday The Bon Accord Kennel Club

Tel: Susan Stewart, 01330 860569

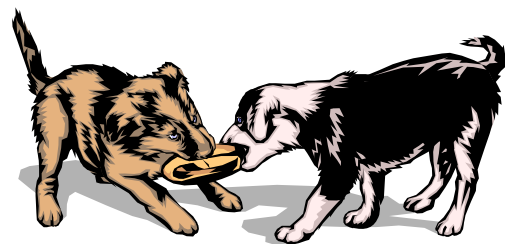
Wednesday The German Shepherd Club

Tel: Isabel McInnes, 582413

Thursday Training for showing group

Tel: 632856

### *NORTH BURNSIDE KENNELS & CATTERY*



*"where part of your family  
becomes part of ours"*

*Tel 01224 733474*

*Netherley Road, Burnside,  
Maryculter*

# Dingle Dell

## Gift & Garden Centre

Storybook Glen, Maryculter, Aberdeen, Tel: 01224 732941

- Garden Equipment
- Good Quality Hardy Plants
- Childrens Toys & Gifts
- Pet Food
- Large selection of Cards & Candles
- Large free Car Park

No Entry Charge for visiting Garden Centre or Restaurant

# 20%

Discount for Garden Centre on production of this advert



## Macmillan Coffee Morning –



### Date for Diary

**Friday 29 September 2006** at

Storybook Glen (1030am – 12 Noon).

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Stalls ~ Raffle ~ Bring & Buy

Donations at the door – all the money goes to Charity! Contact Sheila Stuart 734222.

## Storybook Glen

Well known to us all by now as a popular play area for families with young children. Where else can you find nursery rhyme and cartoon characters alongside a wide variety of very much alive birds, and if you are very quiet, squirrels and roe deer? Season tickets are available and valid for a year from date of purchase. Opening times are from 10.00am to 6.00pm daily. Tel/Fax: 732941 and [www.storybookglen.co.uk](http://www.storybookglen.co.uk)

## Blairs College Museum

This is in the former Roman Catholic Seminary buildings at Blairs College on the South Deeside Road, some four miles from Aberdeen. It contains objects and paintings relating to Mary Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie, as well as superb church metalwork and vestments. The museum opens at the weekends or by appointment. David Taylor, Visitor Services Manager, Tel: 863767 E-mail: [curator@blairs.net](mailto:curator@blairs.net)

## Stonehaven Open Air Swimming Pool

Will open for its 72<sup>nd</sup> Season on Sun 4 June. Opening Ceremony to be performed by Ian Black, Aberdeen's own Olympic Medal Winner.

Opening Times: Afternoons Only until 1<sup>st</sup> July when it opens 7 days a week 10am-7pm thru to August then afternoons only again till 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Enjoy a wonderful swim in this fabulous heated Olympic-sized salt water, art-deco pool or join the "all weather dippers" an intrepid group of ladies who visit most mornings at 10am for a "quiet hour" i.e. no music over the tannoy! For further information contact Sheila Stuart 734222.

## Drum Castle

Opens Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2006  
Afternoons Only – April/May/June & September.

Daily Sunday-Saturday – July & August.

Events:

Sun 16 April	Easter Funday for Children
Sun 7 May	Mayday Celebrations
Sat 20/21 May	Wood Fest.
Sat 17 June	Special Gardens Scheme
Sun 23 July	Teddy Bears Picnic
Sun 30 July	Jaguar Day
Sun 13 Aug	Country Skills
Sun 17 Sept	Harvest Festival.

Anyone interest in helping as a volunteer either in the gardens or at any of the special event weekends please get in touch with Diana Robertson (Head Gardener)  
T 01330 811204

## Library

Aberdeenshire Library Service, based at Old Meldrum, runs a mobile library van service in the area, visiting Netherley, Banchory-Devenick and Maryculter every fortnight on Wednesdays or Thursday. Tel: 01651 872707, Jaqueline Geekie or Pearl Morrison for dates and times.

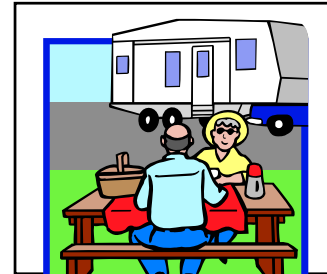
[www.aberdeenshiregov.uk/alis](http://www.aberdeenshiregov.uk/alis)

## Scottish Accordion and Fiddle Evenings

These toe-tapping evenings are held in Durriss village hall on the second Sunday of each month. Visitors are welcome, but phone ahead to check time and availability of seats, as they are very popular.

Contact: Bill Cooper, Westview, Drumoak  
Tel: 01330 811266

## Lower Deeside Caravan Park



- **On-site shop**
- **Fresh bakery supplies**
- **6 berth caravans**
- **45 touring pitches**
- **Pinelodges**
- **Short breaks available**
- **Childrens play area**
- **Pets welcome**
- **Games/TV/Snooker**

**Tel 01224 733860**

[www.lowerdeesideholidaypark.com](http://www.lowerdeesideholidaypark.com)

**Banchory-Devenick & Maryculter-Cookney Parish Church**

Rev Bruce Gardner, Tel: 735776  
E-mail: [MinisterofBDMC@aol.com](mailto:MinisterofBDMC@aol.com)

**Sunday morning services**

Banchory-Devenick Church at 10.00am  
Maryculter-Cookney Church at 11.30am

**Informal Evening Service**

Maryculter-Cookney Church hall at 6.30pm

**Sunday School** welcomes children aged 3 and over. They attend the church service for around 20 minutes then go out to Sunday School for the rest of the hour.

B-D contact, Jane Ah-See, 863301

M-C contact, Helen Anderson, 780352

**The Men's Breakfast Fellowship** meet in the Church Hall each Saturday from 8.00am to 9.30am. All welcome to share company with tea/coffee and a roll.

**The Guild** meet in the Church Hall on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm from September to November and February to May.

April 3 - Business meeting

May 3 - Supper in the Ardoe Hotel

Contacts: Sheila Bissett, Tel: 01569 731708

Mina Morrison, Tel: 861544

Work on the hall extension has begun and should be finished by the end of May, weather permitting. If all goes to plan we will hold a Fair on May 27 to celebrate the opening as well as the new Glebe park field. This is a half-acre of church ground taken back into use for the Church, community and uniformed organisations. If you wish to use this field at any point, please contact the minister or Anne Massie, Tel: 732071.

There is an ongoing competition for four age groups in local schools, to design mobiles to decorate the interior of the new, enlarged hall. Cash Prizes from £8 for the little ones, to £25 for Seniors will be given, with up to £10 costs supplied towards

making the prize-winning designs. The Primary School theme for the hanging mobiles is: "*Jesus and the Children*", while the Secondary School one is "*Jesus in the Modern World*". The prize-winners, their parents and close family will be invited to a special showing of the winning mobiles, and the works will permanently carry the artists' names, as in any Art Gallery'.

Plans for developing Banchory-Devenick Church have taken a first, big step forward with a prospective plan, in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council, for new paths at Banchory-Devenick Church and Cemetery, which is due to be extended, and a car park for over fifty vehicles on the West side of the Church. The Church itself is likely to be developed in the next two years, focusing on the interior of the sanctuary.

We have a website! [www.bdmc-parish.org.uk](http://www.bdmc-parish.org.uk) Designed and maintained by Webmaster Peter Thorne, of *Go For It Associates*, the aim being to develop it with the help of our friends. If you have history, views (or whatever) to add in, don't hesitate to call the Webmaster (see the site) or the minister.

**Blairs Chapel of St. Mary**

Mass is held every Sunday morning at 9.00am, to which all are invited.

Father George Hutcheon is the new Priest in Charge and is based at Our Lady of Aberdeen in Kincorth. The ministry team now include deacons Peter Macdonald and William Joss, as well as three Fransiscan Sisters.

Father Hutcheon Tel: 876704, and Deacon Macdonald Tel: 780351



St Ternan's, Muchalls  
Scottish Episcopal Church. Diocese of Brechin

### **ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH MUCHALLS**

St Ternan's is the northern most Scottish Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Brechin. We are part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion. The church is located to the WEST of the A90 approx. a mile from Muchalls village on the Causey Mounth where the road branches off to Cookney and Netherley. Until a Priest in Charge is appointed St Ternan's are operating with a Ministry Team under the direction of the

Rev Canon Ian Stewart as interim pastor.

The Ministry team is as follows:

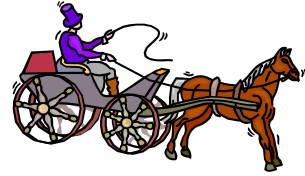
Rev John Allard	01569 731767
George Masson	01224 733583
Prof. John Usher	01569 731608
Eric Hargreaves	01569 730302

Please contact any of the above for help or information.

Though the congregation have at this instant no Priest in Charge they continue to support the various action groups operating within the charge. All are welcome to participate in them.

A very successful Burns supper was held in Muchalls Hall.

You are welcome to join us in worship at the 10.30 Family Eucharist on Sundays. Weekly services are held on major Saint days and are advertised on the Church Notice boards and in the magazine.



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### **Beannachar**

How often have you seen the sign on the South Deeside road by the gatehouse entrance, and wondered what lies up the drive? Elisabeth Phethean of this Camphill Community was happy to satisfy our curiosity. The large earth mound covered in beech trees at the approach to the house was once a motte and bailey castle, built by Alan Durward, Regent of Scotland in the 13th century.

The present house, built in 1840 for Alexander Thomson on the site of a 17<sup>th</sup> century dwelling, was originally called Banchory House. John Smith, known as “Tudor Johnnie” who designed it, was City Architect in Aberdeen and used a similar design to his previous extension of Balmoral Castle.

The estate was bought in 1872 by John Stewart, an Aberdeen comb manufacturer, then passed to Sir David Stewart five years later. He became Lord Provost of Aberdeen from 1889 – 1895, during which time Union Terrace was completed. We can see his coat of arms above the front door of Banchory House. The estate passed from the Stewart family to Captain Lumsden, and was sold with 27 acres of land to the Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools in 1978. It began as the school farm, but soon became an independent charitable company in its own right with a separate management council.

Beannachar Camphill Community cares for 22 young people with special needs, aged between 17 and 30. Funding is based on the students’ individual DSS benefits, with the balance being met by their local authority services. All staff and their children share life with the students in the main house, divided into two units, ‘Silver Birch’ and ‘Sycamore, as well as in ‘Rose’, a purpose-built house nearby. 10 places are available for day students. The 9 long-term resident staff form the management group, supplemented by the visiting Anthroposophical (Science of the spirit) doctor. A further 13 voluntary resident helpers stay for at least a year. Some are participating in the 4-year B.A. in Curative Education run jointly by the University of Aberdeen and Camphill. Others participate in the in-house Induction Course and Foundation Course offered at Beannachar. The community also employs an administrator, secretary, driver, wood workshop leaders, gardener, herb workshop assistant, mending lady and visiting therapists in speech, art and eurhythmy (a therapeutic form of dance).

The needs of the community are met by the joint efforts of all its members, the more able helping those less able to participate. This provides a sense of community and personal satisfaction, as well as encouraging the development of latent abilities. All work in teams - cooking, cleaning and laundry work provide services for the entire community. Those working in the weaving workshop produce fabric and wall hangings. The herb workshop team grow and process medicinal plants into herbal products. The candle workshop operates during winter months to produce beeswax candles, which, with the herbal products, can be purchased by mail order - see the website below. The largest group are active on the small farm and organic garden, producing vegetables, soft fruit, meat and eggs for consumption in the community. Twice-yearly changes of placement give everyone a variety of work experience.

There are plenty of social and leisure activities too. Each house arranges a weekly event such as an outing or picnic and all birthdays and festivals are celebrated. There are craft and hobby groups, folk dancing, music making, games and outings to swimming pools, concerts and the cinema. Contact between students and their families is maintained through phone calls, letters and visits.

We are all invited to their annual Open Day on Saturday June 17, from 10.00am to 4.00pm, just when the walled garden is at its peak. Students take great delight in showing visitors around and in demonstrating their healthy vegetables, ripening fruit and each workshop with its products. But greatest of all is their sense of participation and pride in the process, demonstrating the meaning of Beannachar as ‘Blessed Community’.

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

## **Local industry and the North Sea** **Robert Smith MP**

I recently attended the inauguration of the Rhum Field which was considered, until now, the largest remaining undeveloped gas reservoir in the North Sea. Much of the conversation I had that evening revolved around just how aware we are of the role oil and gas plays in the life of the North East. The development is 240 miles off Aberdeen 350 feet below the waves. Very much out of sight in our daily lives back here.

There is a danger that what is out of sight can also become out of mind when it comes to public policy. When the field was discovered in 1977 no-one could see how to develop it because of the high temperatures and pressures involved. Now those skills have been developed here on our doorstep. It would be interesting to know just how many readers of the South Deeside View owe their living in part or in whole to the activities of the oil and gas industry.

Raising awareness of what is being achieved locally is not only important when it comes to shaping Government policy. Such greater awareness can help young people at school to consider this industry when looking at a future career. It is particularly at the local primaries where decisions start to be made about the direction of study that can influence career choice. The skills of the next generation will play an important part in influencing what kind of business will invest here in the North East.

Whilst there is still considerable scope for new development in the North Sea many of the skills developed locally are finding markets globally. There is a growing awareness of the export potential for what has been learnt facing the challenges on our doorstep. The important message for the Government is for them to recognise that we will only benefit fully from that export market if we maintain our own base at home.

There will always be a greater link

between Government and industry when it comes to oil and gas than in other sectors because the resource involved belongs to the nation. The resource is only of benefit if investors are persuaded to make the commitment to bring it ashore. Only then does the country earn any tax revenue and the consumer get access to the energy supply.

There are of course many other businesses and services not connected with oil and gas that are, also, very important to life locally. Many of those will have a future long after oil and gas has declined and there will be others yet to develop that will take its place. Nevertheless we should make sure that we get maximum benefit from the once in a lifetime opportunity that this generation has been afforded from the North Sea. If it is allowed to run down prematurely there will not be a second chance to start it up again.



**Waste collection.**

**SandyWallace**

The introduction of the new waste collection regime has given me the biggest postbag I have received on any given issue. What is frustrating is that I support the policy, I am prepared to take my share of the flak for it, but the implementation has been a fiasco. Four years ago Aberdeenshire Council led Scotland in waste management, then did nothing for three years. Eventually the Council sought to draw down Scottish Executive funding to allow a move to a more sustainable waste management policy. The Executive gave them seven months to spend money which they had anticipated spending over three years.

The plan of rolling out the wheeled bins 500 houses at a time and expanding the availability of recycling points and collections prior to moving to fortnightly collections, was compressed to seven months, with the fortnightly collections imposed simultaneously.

I supported the proposal reluctantly to avoid losing the Scottish Executive funding, as increasing fines for landfill and failing to meet recycling targets mean that we cannot continue as we are. The fact that Government at higher levels has done nothing to reduce the amount of waste we must dispose of or to make re-cycling financially viable is a source of frustration to me. The seven month roll out meant that recycling was not sufficiently advanced to allow an easy transition to fortnightly collections. The speed of the roll out prevented each rural household being surveyed to see if road end collections were viable, or if they obscured visibility, involved bins being placed on third parties property etc. or if the private roads were fit for HGV traffic. Overworked staff at low levels were expected to show leadership beyond their capabilities and had to endure abuse they were ill equipped to handle. Promises that Christmas would see a relaxation of the rules about bin only collection, were made by those who were unaware that you cannot load new lorries except from a bin, so additional bags must be loaded into an empty bin before being loaded. Lorries which are full cannot load waste regardless of the promises made, so crews limited themselves to taking bins only when their lorry neared capacity. I could go on but I am sure you get the picture. In summary, the policy is forced upon us and is in any case sound, though the implementation was a fiasco. The Council will be giving you a reduced service, but there are sound financial and environmental reasons why it must do so. Now if the Council get over its foolish desire to spin this as an improved service, I think most of you would accept it.

## **Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route Mike Rumbles MSP**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005 the Transport Minister, Tavish Scott, announced his decision on the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) around Aberdeen. His surprise decision not to go for the preferred 'Murtle' route near to the Camphill community was widely welcomed by the many people who had campaigned long and hard on their behalf. However, the decision he made to take the road along the Milltimber Brae route and add to it a so-called 'spur' from Stonehaven to Maryculter has caused huge upset for all those directly affected.

I have always supported the AWPR in general and on balance, the Murtle route in particular, provided that the Camphill Community was avoided and special protection measures were undertaken to ease the worst effects of the road noise. I met with the road engineers who were designing the road and I was impressed with the special mitigation measures they were building into their plan to ensure that Camphill was protected. The Murtle route was also the favoured option of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils, Scottish Enterprise Grampian and the Chamber of Commerce.

There is clear public support across the North-east for the building of the AWPR to ease congestion around the city and to avoid the development of so-called 'rat runs' by motorists. It has been delayed for many years because successive governments in London refused to come up with the resources to build the road. It wasn't until we had our own devolved government in Scotland that we have now been promised the necessary funding for the project.

Wherever this road went there was bound to be controversy. Indeed that was why it was so important to have a proper consultation process and I welcomed the decision made by Nicol Stephen, the previous Transport Minister, to consult the public on the five routes that were identified as suitable by the experts.

Over 10,000 consultation documents were sent out by the AWPR team and over 7,000 people took the trouble to give their considered opinions on the five routes put before them.

It was obvious after the results of the consultation were published that the line of least public resistance, where the least number of people objected to the road, was the Milltimber Brae option. There was also very little support for the route from Stonehaven northwards which took the road west of Peterculter and which would involve huge extra cost and much more road building than was necessary.

I was shocked however to be told just the day before the announcement was made that the Transport Minister had chosen the Milltimber Brae route and added to it another road from Stonehaven, ploughing through Netherley to Maryculter. I am of the view that we are getting two roads when only one was necessary. I cannot understand the reasons why the Minister has chosen this particular hybrid route for the road given that this was never an option which was consulted on.

I have met with the Minister to voice my opposition to the so-called "spur" road through Netherley and Maryculter. Unfortunately, he has made it clear that he will not reconsider his decision. He did however agree to look at moving the road so that as few homes as possible will be affected.

I continue to oppose the spur road in principle, but we must accept that there is a very real chance that it will be built. This being the case I will also press the Minister to take people's concerns seriously, and if this road is to be built, it must be wherever it affects the fewest people possible.

## **Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route**

### **Sandy Wallace, Councillor for Lower Deeside**

The announcement by the Transport Minister of his preferred route for the AWPR was undoubtedly welcome to the Camphill Community, some householders who were previously, but not now, threatened, by its proximity, and by every supporter of the AWPR who completely misunderstands what it is about. The new route is wholly un-surveyed and this process will take at least a year, delaying the project, costing another million or so before a sod is cut, and incidentally, leaving hundreds of householders in limbo, unable to sell their house, build as much as a conservatory, or plan for the future until they know exactly where the route will go. Quite how a minister can publicly consult on five routes then announce that he has chosen a sixth one, nowhere near his good friend Nicol's house, is beyond me.

The cost of this un-surveyed route is impossible to guess at, although Tavish offers £395m as a ball park figure, a bit more than the £120m that Aberdeenshire Council's Chief Executive quoted me two years ago. Actually, if this comes in under £400m including legal and technical costs, I will eat my hat. The problem is that each local council has allocated £21m to it (9% of £240m – last years figure) so who funds the increased costs is of interest.

On a related issue, the question of whether the route joins the A90 at Charleston or Hillside has exercised many better minds than mine. The Engineers behind the project seem fixated on Charleston, originally because the existing flyover would be a saving, but increasingly it seems because they are unwilling to admit they might be wrong. Professionals who have looked at the matter are fearful it could be a complete bottleneck.

Meanwhile, I have faced criticism for not opposing the Stewart Milne plan to build a flyover at Hillside to serve the 840 homes he has permission to build.

I am frankly a bit narked at that. I opposed the decision to zone that land for housing, through three levels of committee, opposed the outline permission, received precious little support from other local councillors, then find them asking that the Milne group have their detailed permission refused. Frankly, such 'concern' is a bit late. You cannot refuse permission for a legal proposal on land zoned for development, which has outline permission, on the grounds that at some point in the future we might have a better idea. Does anyone really know when the AWPR will be a finalised proposal? Had Milne been denied permission, he would have been within his rights to appeal, he would have won, the Council would have been charged costs, lost the planning gain package and control of the development.

So, where to from here? I remain one of only two councillors who publicly opposed the AWPR. Not on NIMBY grounds, but on environmental, transport and financial ones. I will not express a preference for which of my constituents gets their life ruined by this, so will not be expressing a preference for which variant on the route is chosen. I would welcome some support from other councillors.

## **Road Sense?**

As I look out of my window at the landscape to the west of Maryculter, through the driving sleet, I am filled with despair and anger at the latest announcement by the Transport Minister, Tavish Scott. This whole area is now blighted by his proposal that two major roads should pass through it and join to form the new Aberdeen by-pass. It is not so much the announcement itself which has upset me but the way the whole decision was arrived at, and the political ineptitude that lies behind it. We had five routes which went out to public consultation under Tavish Scott's party leader and former Transport Minister Nicol Stephen. It was clear that the innermost routes through Pitfodels and Murtle offered the best options in terms of benefits versus costs. Eleven million pounds had already been spent surveying the preferred route. But instead of taking a sensible decision Tavish Scott bottled out and decided to choose a new route of his own, driving not only through Maryculter and Milltimber but through Netherley and Invercrynoch as well!

Under the freedom of Information Act I have tried to discover the facts underlying this decision. Have any surveys been carried out on the new route? No! It is clear that these two new lines were simply drawn on a map by someone unfamiliar with the area. Will the new hybrid route solve the traffic problems of Aberdeen? No! The new route is too far from the City to act as a distributor road. Is the new route cheaper? No! It is much more expensive, even if you take the Minister's ridiculous under-estimate as valid. Transport Scotland, the government agency responsible for the route, has come up with no facts to support the new choice. I have pressed them to provide anything which supports the Minister's decision. But all they can say is that they cannot reveal any documents which might prevent Ministers having free and frank exchanges of views and advice from their officials.

To release the information I have asked for would prejudice that right. In other words, the Minister does not want to reveal the evidence he received before he drew the new line. Either there was no supporting advice, or he went against it. Tavish Scott feels under no obligation to reveal why he discarded the earlier options and chose a completely new route which brings no benefits to anyone. Why did he choose this route? I think we have to conclude that he and his officials looked at the map and decided that Maryculter, Netherley and Invercrynoch simply do not matter. There are relatively few of us. We would not complain. We are dispensable.

Can we rely on local MSPs to defend us? It would seem not. One has been silent. Another has accepted that the road will be built but has tried to design a route of his own, aimed at pleasing some of his constituents at the expense of others. And the leader of the Liberal Democrat party has distanced himself entirely from the decision and claims not to have been consulted on it. Hmmm! Perhaps the rarefied atmosphere at Holyrood has addled their brains? Do they think we are fools?

Over the last few weeks we could have been forgiven for thinking we live in a totalitarian state! We expect decisions by our government to be arrived at rationally, to be based on strong evidence and involve consultation with us. The Scottish Executive has mounted an initiative called 'Community Planning' which aims to engage the public and local communities in addressing local needs and local planning. Their own guidelines on major transport initiatives demand that there be structure and transparency in decision taking. 'Stakeholders in the community who will primarily be affected by the outcome should be aware of the way in which decisions are reached'. Well, we could now be forgiven for thinking that this is all hot air. We have not been properly consulted, it is not at all clear who took the decision on the new road,

and we still do not know why this route was chosen and other better routes rejected.

What do we do now? Well, we have a hard fight on our hands – but I believe it is one which we can win. Firstly, we have to impress upon our local politicians that *we* have been by-passed. We have been cheated. As their constituents we have a right to expect that important decisions will be taken in a rational way. That Ministers and MSPs will not doodle their own lines on a map and expect them to be taken seriously. Secondly, we have to show that this route will bring almost no benefits and will cost a ridiculously large amount – which taxpayers will have to provide. Neither of these arguments will be difficult but we will need to employ experts to make sure that our figures are sound and cannot be contradicted by the politically expedient numbers put forward by others. Thirdly we need to work together and to show that we mean business. Around 900 people attended the Road Sense meeting at the International School (which itself will be obliterated by the new route). Folk in this area have worked together before to defeat major development plans. The new town at Invercrynoch in the 1970s; the new towns at Banchory-Devenick and Blairs in the 1990s. If we are determined enough we can defeat this weak and foolish decision.

Road-Sense, has been set up to oppose the decision on the Aberdeen by-pass. It needs your support. Log on to

[www.road-sense.org](http://www.road-sense.org) or write to me at Kinraig, Blairs, Aberdeen AB12 5YT.

**Tony Hawkins**, Secretary of Road-Sense

Tel: 868984

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