

The St Cyrus Newsletter



Volume 4 Issue 4

This is a free newsletter but donations are welcome

October/November



Inside this issue:

Newsletter fund raising	2
Public hall diary	3
Our Geese	4
Red & Grey Squirrels	5
Weather	6
Youth Club	7
'ICE' your mobile	9
Butterfly Summer	9
Farming Calendar	10
Community Council	12
Business Directory	12

Also:

- Page 2 Editorial
- Page 3 Churches
- Page 6 Computer help
- Page 8 Gift Boxes
- Page 9 Craft Fair
- Page 10 Calendars
- Page 11 Poppy Day
- Page 12 Scott Forbes

Christmas "shoe-box" Parcel Appeals

New Hope Trust

Contact Wendy 850739
page 1

&

Blythswood Boxes

Contact Heather 850533 or
Ian 850313
page 8

Coffee Morning St Cyrus Public Hall

.....in aid of the **NEW HOPE TRUST.**

.....with proceeds sponsoring a truck to Romania

Saturday November 18th.....10am 11:30am

Stalls, Home Baking, Bric-a-brac, crafts, ra

....Entry £1.20 school children 50p

Further information from Mrs Wendy Sparrow 850739



Help the National Squirrel Survey and record sightings of red or grey squirrels with the enclosed free post recording form.

Talk by Dr Mel Tonkin Squirrel Survey Co-ordinator 7:30pm Wednesday
25th October Columba Hall, Montrose (behind St Margaret's Church)
Admission £2.50 children £1 refreshments afterwards.

Some of the Flower Show Winners with Angus Whitson who presented the prizes



Editorial Policy Statement

The St Cyrus Newsletter is a free community newspaper produced and distributed every two months by volunteers to households and businesses in St Cyrus and district. The aim of those involved is to produce an informative, accurate and entertaining journal for those who live, work and visit in this area. We are supporting an integrated and inclusive community with information, entertainment and discussion. Letters and articles published in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Production Committee and they reserve the right to shorten, edit or not publish any item. Contributions will be attributed to the author. Vested interests will be declared where applicable. Articles should be between 200 and 300 words and the content should be original work relevant to St Cyrus and the environs. Photographic resources donated to and collected on behalf of The Newsletter Group remain the property of the group to illustrate the newsletter and may also be used to support village charitable fund raising. Entries for the Business directory are charged at £5 per issue for the single line entry of name, service and tel contact number.

Production Committee

Maurice Forsyth-Grant: Chairperson

Kate McMillan: Treasurer

Mike Burleigh: Editor

Lyn Hunt: Secretary

Mary Singleton

Bernard Tuck

Robert Flann

Elizabeth Leslie

Pam Harrison

Distribution Team:

Stuart Martin, Bob Flann,

Andrew Hamilton,

Mike Burleigh,

Heather Jenkins



List of contributors

Heather Jenkins	Mary Singleton
Brian Jaffrey	Durward
Rev Hastie	Andy Turner
Scott Forbes	MAC
Norman McIntosh	Liz Leslie
Donald Gillies	Mike Burleigh
Dr Mel Tonkin	Harry Bickerstaff
Tom Dalziel	Donald Gillies
Isobel Smith	Andrew Christie
Maurice Forsyth-Grant	Yvonne Buck
Van Leiper	Morag Dalgarno
Georgina MacDonald	Mary Brownlow
Andy Wakeling	

Editorial

Sadly there were no entrants for our 'Writers Competition'.

As an 'incomer' I find much pleasure in being part of this small community because you north east folk enjoy living the simple day to day life. We all enjoy meeting friends and neighbours with time to chat over a cup of coffee and a pastry. Our aim is to get some of those memories and stories into writing.

We give you photographs of village life in years gone by and ask you to write us some of the memories they revive. There will be even more for you to read and discuss at our next coffee morning when once again coffee tables will be littered with pens and pencils so that you can add your comments and stories about the photographs. We may even have some more ex St Cyrus people as surprise visitors for you to relive those memories with. Meanwhile we would appreciate you searching for any photographs we could copy for the next event. You may eventually write your own village history book?

DEADLINES

Articles and information for issue 5 should arrive at the latest

25th November

Write to us at:

Email: stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net
13 Scotston Place, St Cyrus DD10 0BZ

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello, My name is Hector Christie and I've recently moved into St Cyrus. I wonder if you'd be kind enough to place me on your circulation list - the newsletter seems particularly important to newcomers (though we're not total strangers as we lived in Montrose up to 1971 for many years before moving South) to get a grasp of what is happening locally.

Congratulations to all concerned in its production - it's a good and informative piece of work and shouldn't be taken for granted by any one, as no doubt a lot of work will go into each edition. Thanks. (address supplied)



The St Cyrus Newsletter Group Coffee Morning raised £285 thanks to you all.

Thanks to everyone who supported us with preparations, catering, donations and attendance, this was judged by many to have been a very successful gathering. There was much animated discussion of old photographs provided by Jim Davidson, Liz, Bob Smith, Maurice, Irene & Angus McHardy and Andy & Meg McKenzie called in to renew old acquaintances. Sir Robert Smith MP who supported our successful funding bid came to wish the Newsletter Group continued success and observed "I was impressed by the enthusiasm with which the community got involved with the project. It was a good start to building a record of life in St Cyrus and an opportunity to ensure local knowledge is kept alive."



St Cyrus church services are at 10am every Sunday

15th Oct 10am Dedication of Blythswood boxes (see page 8)

22nd Harvest Service 11:30 at Johnshaven for whole parish

29th Oct 10am whole parish service at St Cyrus

12th Nov Armistice Service 10am St Cyrus (see page 11)

The Free Church in St Cyrus: Who are we?

The Free Church of Scotland currently has over 100 congregations in the UK as well as others worldwide. The main emphasis of our worship is the preaching of the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. Our worship is based on simplicity, spirituality and Christ-centred Biblical teaching. In fact, we believe so much in teaching the Bible that we actually call our 1st Sunday of the month service "Worship & Learn"! To help people to find out more about Christianity, we also offer a home course called 'Christianity Explored' to local people as well as providing opportunities for Bible studies on a one to one or group basis. The services are focusing on Christian Living see programme below:

Scottish Episcopal Church

St Mary's + St Peter's Montrose

8am Sunday said Eucharist

11am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 10:15 said Eucharist

Inverbervie: St David's

Sung Eucharist 9:30am Sunday

The free church of Scotland in Angus and the Mearns Worship services at St Cyrus Village Hall Theme: 'Christian Living'

3pm Sunday 1 October - Worship & Learn 'Why do Good Things Happen to Bad People?' – Psalm 73 Speaker: Rev Bob Akroyd Sunday School available. Tea & Coffee

3pm Sunday 15 October - New mid month slot. Discussion over tea/coffee.

3pm Sunday 5 November - Worship & Learn 'Sharing our Stories' – Psalm 107 Speaker: Rev Alasdair I MacLeod, St Andrews Sunday School available. Tea & Coffee

3pm Sunday 19 November - Mid month discussion over tea/coffee.

3pm Sunday 3 December - Worship & Learn - Communion Service 'While Humble Shepherds....' - Psalm 23 Speaker: Rev David Robertson, Dundee Sunday School available. Tea & Coffee.

3pm Sunday 17 December- Mid month discussion over tea/coffee/seasonal food.

You are very welcome to our activities.

Tel Donald Gillies, 850607.

Catholic Services:

Saturday 6.30pm St David's Episcopal Church:
Bervie

Sunday Mass at 9am and 11am St Mary's
Stonehaven

Please inform the editor if you wish to include an announcement or obituary in the newsletter.

What's on at the Public Hall

Bowls Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Country Dancers Mondays 7pm-9pm.

Tea Dancers Fridays 1.45pm-4.15pm.

Playgroup Mon-Thurs. 9am-11.30am.

Toddlers Fridays 10am-12noon.

Keep Fit Wednesdays 8pm-9pm.

Whist Club Wednesdays 6.30pm-9pm.

Friendship Club Wednesdays 9am-1pm.

Youth Club Fridays:

Juniors P5 P6 P7 6.30pm-8.15pm.

Seniors S1 S2 S3 8.30pm-10pm.

Free Church 1st Sunday in month 2pm-5pm.

WRI 1st Monday in month 7pm-10pm.

Community Council 2nd Tuesday in month 7.30-9pm

Also:

Inverbervie Doctors surgery from 12noon.

Appointment only Clinic Monday 2nd October.

Flu Clinic 1.45pm-2.30pm Monday 23rd October.

Flower Show AGM Committee room in hall Wednesday 4th October 7pm.

Rainbow Whist in aid of Hall windows Fri 27th Oct from 6.15pm

St Cyrus Gala Day Committee's Halloween Disco (fancy dress optional) Sat 28th Oct 8pm-12 midnight.

Playgroup Soup and Sweet Saturday 4th November 11am-2.30pm.

Tuesday 7th Nov 'Introduction to Colour Analysis' 8pm £6 per ticket cheese & wine (Heather Jenkins 533)

Church Auction Saturday 11 November from 9am.

New Hope Trust coffee morning Sat 18th Nov 10am.

St Andrews night Sat 25th Nov 6.30pm-12midnight.

Craft Fair Saturday 25th November 10am.

St Cyrus Gala Committee's Party Lights Monday 27th November 7.30pm.

Yvonne Buck 850160

Hidden Treasures: The Montrose Wildlife centre

'OUR' GEESE

When September comes, there is, one morning, a strange wonderful, sound from outside. **The geese are back!**

And so it is across the Northern Hemisphere.

In some places, it is the Snow and Canada geese.

In others, it is the Bar-headed Goose.

But here, it is the Pink-footed Goose. It's a bit difficult to see those feet, isn't it? So how do we know what kind of geese they are?

Well the call is a bit like a wee puppy dog yapping, although I always think they are calling, 'Ink Ink'.

Another hint is, there are about 30,000 in this area. They all look the same and it would be very difficult for them to be 30,000 of any other kind.

The short, chocolate-coloured neck is an excellent pointer to which kind they are.

Where do they come from? Well, the short answer is; here! OK they go away to Iceland (and some to eastern Greenland) to breed and rear their young, before returning, but here's where they start off.

They spend about 7 months here and then head north.

By the time they head back north, their numbers don't seem so big and the reason for that is; the big numbers, more or less, arrive at the same time and descend on places like our own Montrose Basin. However, in the spring, they form smaller groups and that's what we see at that time.

The total will still be about 30,000, but they're just spread out a bit by the spring.

The reason they spread out is simply because of food.

When they arrive here, their first choice of food is the Eelgrass in the Basin. That amount of birds soon gets through the Eelgrass and then they go for the spilt grain, which is left behind by our farmers. As they consume that, they start to spread out; searching for more food and eventually that brings them into conflict with our farmers. It's certainly not funny to see a host of geese descending on your fresh young plants when you are a farmer.

Even worse, is when the geese are in very wet ground, trying to graze the young plants, but actually pulling them up, because the ground's so soft. In the process, they step on the plants and beat them down, to our farmer's potential loss.

At that point, they are certainly not 'beautiful' geese!

And yet, throughout the ages, people have looked for the returning geese.

Some saw them as food, pure and simple. Others took a more spiritual view and saw them as the spirits and embodiment of their ancestors. Many native people have special ceremonies, to welcome them back and I certainly love the sight and sound of their return.

If you want to see them at closer range, you could do worse than meet at the SWT Montrose Visitor Centre on Sunday 29th October, for the 'Goose Breakfast'.

From the Centre we go on to the Reserve to watch the 'Pinkies' fly out to feed and then return to the SWT Centre for a light breakfast. There is, for a small charge, a light breakfast provided, although the walk itself is free.

Meet at the Centre at 6:45 – 8:45 approx.

'Our Pinkies' normally return about 12 September, this year they didn't start to arrive until the 26th September, this is a first!

Harry Bickerstaff

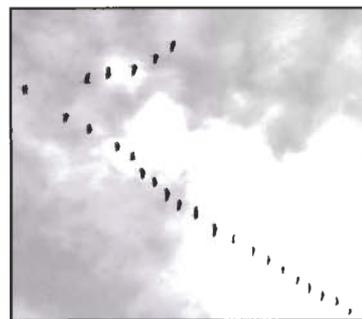


Photo by Andy Wakeling

Calendar of events at The Montrose Wildlife Centre

Visitor centre: 16 November to 14 March 10.30 am to 4.00 pm (Friday to Sunday only)

Reserve Winter daylight hours

17th October 7:30pm at the Centre Illustrated talk on Wildlife crime. For details contact Caroline Hendry 01674 676336

1st Nov to 24th Dec Friday, Saturday, Sundays only 10:30am to 4:00pm Christmas shopping: Free access to the Gift Shop

St Cyrus's help needed for red squirrels By Dr Mel Tonkin Survey Co-ordinator, Scottish Squirrel Survey

Squirrels in Angus The low lying lands of Angus, like those of Fife, are not blessed with much in the way of large forest areas, with the one exception of Montreathmont Forest, and so woodland creatures, such as the red squirrel, have very fragmented populations over most of this area. The upland spruce forests in the Angus Glens are larger blocks, but fairly isolated up the glens. The upside is that many of the lowland forest blocks that Angus does possess, have been planted with Scots pine, which seems to fruit abundantly on the sandy soils, and appear to support unusually high densities of red squirrels as a result. The high densities are probably also in part due to the difficulty of moving out of isolated woodland blocks, such that numbers build up as young animals are forced to stay in the home wood.

The downside is that small isolated populations are also very vulnerable to extinction if faced with environmental challenge, as they are less likely to be replenished rapidly from distant neighbouring woodlands. As grey squirrels began to colonise Angus in the early 1970s, from long-standing populations in Perthshire to the west, the larger, more mobile and more adaptable squirrel began to pose a threat to the fragmented populations of native red squirrels.

Grey Squirrel Puzzle When trying to piece together the history of squirrels in Angus from the records, we encounter some puzzling features. From 1973, the first record of grey squirrel in Angus held on the national squirrel database, it was only 7 years before grey squirrel records were scattered right over Angus apart from the Glens. In any one year, there were only a handful of records. Why were the numbers not building up? Was it that people tended to shoot grey squirrels on sight, making it difficult for populations to get a foothold? Or was it that very few people were recording squirrels?

In the 1990s we began to get records of grey squirrels moving up the woodland fringes of Glen Isla, to be followed by Glen Clova, Glen Prosen and Glen Esk by 2000. Then from 2000 to the present, we have no further records of grey squirrels in these Glens. More recent records are mostly confined to a zone running between Dundee and Loch of Lintrathen, with just a few sightings in Kirriemuir, Forfar, Arbroath and Brechin. Of 134 squirrels reported since January on the Scottish Squirrel Survey's Freepost leaflets, only 7 are of grey squirrels. Are grey squirrels on a declining phase? Or are they just not being reported?

Red Squirrel Confusion The picture of the red squirrel's response to the incoming greys is also hard to interpret. As far as it is possible to tell, only the red squirrel populations in Dundee appear to have been completely displaced by greys – that is, until the Dundee City Council's Red Squirrel Project began to monitor and remove grey squirrels, as a result of which red squirrels can now be found in many places within the City boundaries, although grey squirrels are also still plentifully reported. For the rest of Angus, the picture is confused. We have no records prior to 1960. For the next 30 or so years, most of the red squirrel records lie in a broad sweep across Strathmore, with a couple of sightings to the south east. 1991 saw a spate of records in the south west quarter of Angus, after which the records are sparsely scattered mainly across the south west and a few in Glen Isla and Glen Prosen. Since the Scottish Squirrel Survey began to promote the recording of squirrels in 2004, red squirrel records have come in from all parts of Angus, although still very few from the Angus Glens.

The Need for Better Recording This story highlights the difficulty of understanding the processes governing squirrel distribution in an area like Angus. At a time when central government is gearing up to address the conservation of red squirrels nationwide in a strategic way, the lack of proper recording over the years makes it hard to know whether red squirrels are doing well in Angus or not, and whether grey squirrel populations are expanding or not. Government is hardly likely to provide funds for the control of grey squirrels in Angus on the basis of just 7 greys out of 134 squirrels recorded outside of the Dundee Project so far this year.

Clearly we need a concerted effort to record grey squirrels to try and find out what is going on – and this includes grey squirrels that people are culling. At the same time we need good standard recording of red squirrels in woodlands where they do still occur, so that we can repeat the surveys in a few years time to determine whether their populations are diminishing under pressure from grey squirrels, or if they are continuing to thrive. The recently re-formed Angus Squirrel Group has made a good start in encouraging the public to record more squirrels, but a lot more is needed. Replication of standard surveys like those carried out by the Dundee Red Squirrel Project volunteers is also needed in woods across Angus. Local volunteers have already started on some in woods near Auchterhouse and in Montreathmont Forest. We need more.

St Cyrus in Double Jeopardy St Cyrus is situated in a position where the inhabitants can expect grey squirrels to encroach both from the south and the north. The nearest records we have to the south are from Brechin (including one this year). To the north, the grey squirrel population in Aberdeen that first gave us records in 1967, expanded quite rapidly up the Dee valley to Banchory, and then down the B794 towards Angus. Again we might suspect under-recording, since the latter records all come from a route that people regularly travel, whereas the large forests of Fetteresso and Durriss might well be carrying grey squirrel populations out of sight of passers-by. As far as we can tell, the first greys to move due south from Aberdeen moved a few kilometres by 1994, and then right down near Stonehaven by 1995. Since then there have been a few more records just to the south of Banchory, with a couple from as far south as Fettercairn and Auchentlae. In the meantime, our red records for this area to the north are very sparse over the years, and also tend to be from along the Dee and down the B794 – the same areas as the greys! Again – is this a case of under-recording, or is the area between St Cyrus and the Dee not very good habitat for red squirrels? We just don't know. Continued on page 11



WEATHER

Thank goodness for our cold North Sea. These clouds are what you would expect to see over the North Sea more or less at any time of the year. With these clouds you will get light rain or showers at any time from spring through to autumn and in winter this could turn to snow. The most you could expect in the way of rain is about 1 inch in 6 hours. Just to give you some idea of what 1 inch or rain is: 1 inch of rain is equal to 1 foot of snow.

Photograph by Tom Dalziel

Now look at this cloud which was one of the lead clouds which came onshore ahead of hurricane Katrina last year in the southern part of the USA. As these clouds moved onshore they brought with them up to 21 inches of rain in 6 hours and winds over 85MPH with gusts over 135MPH. Along with this were very large hail, tornados and flooding just to name a few bad things and all of this came about because of the very warm water of the Gulf of Mexico.

THANK GOODNESS FOR OUR COLD NORTH SEA.
By MAC



Contact Mike or any of the committee if you have photographs you can loan the Newsletter Group

The Internet has become an inviting place for criminals to obtain identifying data, such as passwords or even banking information. This advice section is some basic tips on how to stay safer on the internet. It is not exhaustive advice but a few tips to help to prevent this from happening to you.

The first thing to look out for is **Phishing**. This is a process where you get emails from fraudsters masquerading as genuine companies or banks. This is to trick you into giving personal information that they can use. If you get an email asking to type in a password or type in personal details, this is probably fraudsters as banks never ask you to do this.

To avoid being a victim of Phishing don't reply to these type of e-mails instead log into your online bank and credit accounts regularly. This means you are more likely to discover growing plots to defraud you before it gets serious.

With enough identifying information about you, the criminal becomes you in a virtual world. The fraudster can make false applications for loans and credit cards, fraudulent withdrawals from bank accounts etc. If you are not careful with your personal details when you go online, you could easily become the victim of identity fraud.

So what can you do to try and stop this from happening when you go online? Firstly don't store your credit or banking details on your computer and when entering your information on a web page when paying for something make sure the web address in the address line starts with https:// instead of http:// this means you are likely to be on a secure server. Check to see who provides the ssl certificate, the main ones are **verisign** and **thwate**, the logos are usually present, this means they have 128bit encryption for your details. If you are unsure go no further.

Before you buy or sign up to anything online, be certain about the company privacy policy so your details will only be sent to other companies if you agree to it. Finally when putting together passwords don't use whole words which are far easier to crack, use a combination of letters and numbers and mix the lower and upper case letters together. I hope that these simple tips are helpful if you need further advice about any content here log on to www.andrewspcadvice.co.uk where you will find links to further information or fill in the inquiry form with your questions.

If you want more about identity fraud, go to the Home Office website (www.identitytheft.org.uk).

Andrew Christie



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
TAKE THE CHALLENGE

~ St Cyrus Youth Club ~

The whistle blows... "handball!"
What's the time on the stopwatch,
Jenna? GOAL!

Jenna Thomson is assisting the
Youth Club in their senior session
football at the Village Hall to-
night, as part of her Duke Of Ed-
inburgh Award work. The game is
approaching half time.

A 4th year pupil at Mearns Acad-
emy, Jenna heard about the
scheme at assembly and it
sounded like fun! For the award,
she must complete one module in
community involvement, one in a
skill and for physical recreation
she has chosen badminton and
squash. Each of these modules last

for at least three
months, so this is a seri-
ous commitment!

Half time. One of the
teams disappear, Jenna
goes to round them up,
her friend Amy
Jamieson assists.

Amy and Jenna are
good friends. Although
not officially taking
part in the scheme her-
self, Amy heard about
it through Jenna and
has been attending the
Youth Club to help out
with the work. Amy
lives in Bervie,

which has some youth work going on,
although it doesn't cover as wide a range
of age as the club here in St Cyrus.

The game re commences. Amy throws
the ball into the centre to kick off. Stand
back if you value your life!

Well, it can't be any more sweat than the
last activity Jenna must complete for the
award. Two full days camping and trudge-
ing Glen Dye!

Then....at last.... the certificate!

Keep up the good work guys!

Donald Gillies.



~ St Cyrus Youth Club ~

Sessions

Junior Session Primary 5 to 7 6.30pm—8.15pm

Senior Session Secondary 1 to 3 8.30pm — 10.00pm

Every Friday during school terms

For further information contact Morag Dalgarno 01674 850656

BAGS 2 SCHOOL

Our last collection made £185.00 which was divided between the Church and Village
Hall Funds. This success encourages us to arrange the next collection for 16th No-
vember 2006 with the money raised donated as before.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: To raise funds for the youth club

STARS IN THEIR EYES:

The Youth Club are beginning to work on their acts for a concert in February

IKEA: Trip to Ikea (Glasgow) on Sunday 19th November 2006. Cost £10

Leaving 7:30am from Public Hall. To book contact Linda Fraser 850502

Gift boxes for Eastern Europe: 'Blythswood boxes'

The church is collecting shoe boxes with gifts for people in Eastern Europe on Sunday at 10am morning service. Each shoe box should contain gifts for either a boy, girl, man or woman and labelled to indicate this. Gifts which would be appreciated might be new items of clothing such as socks, tights, hats, scarves, gloves, soap, tooth-paste, colouring books, stationery, household candles, household tools, kitchen utensils, sewing equipment, toiletries, sweets but no chocolate, do not pack liquids, or talcum powder. The boxes must be handed in by 10th November. They are driven out for Christmas by Blythswood drivers.

To have your boxes collected Contact Heather Jenkins 533 or Ian 850313

Church Repairs Appeal: £8,000 has been raised this year thanks to St Cyrus Gala Stall, The Toddlers walk, Friendship Club, a concert, the Beach fun day and donors.

There will be an AUCTION in the Public Hall on Saturday 11th November at 2pm

Contact Mr Alexander 6 Invergarry Park, 850464 regarding donation of items which should be delivered to the Hall on Saturday between 10 and 11am.

St Cyrus W.R.I. - 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

2nd.October: Floral Art - Flair the Florist

6th.November: Various Crafts - Chris Milne

4th.December: Entertainment by Catterline W.R.I.

~ Flower Show 20th Anniversary: 20th August 2006 ~

The 20th St Cyrus Flower Show was held on Sunday 20th August.

Entries were on a par with 2005 with cut flowers featuring well despite torrential rain on the Friday night previous to the show day. Overall income from the show was down. Torrential rain in the middle of the afternoon brought the plant stall to a premature finish which accounted for most of the reduction in takings. All in all a very good Flower Show.

NEXT YEAR:

Anyone interested in becoming more involved with the Flower Show is invited to attend the AGM on Wednesday 4th October at 7:30pm in the Public Hall.

Apart from Show day preparations we only meet 2 to 3 times during the year.

Why not come along and join us?

St. Cyrus Public Hall Committee

Our New Hall Keeper is: Mrs Yvonne Buck of Sillycotts farm 850 160

Following the resignation of Mrs Slesser, the Public Hall Committee looked for a suitable person to become Hallkeeper. We needed someone approachable, public-spirited and with a flexible attitude to hall users. Fortunately we didn't have to look far, Yvonne who already had experience of getting involved in the community as a member of the Gala Committee expressed her interest in the job. Yvonne lives at Sillycotts Farmhouse with her husband and her 3 Boxer dogs. She enjoys walking, gardening, cooking and DIY. Yvonne has lived in Scotland since 1995 when she moved from Cardiff to Stonehaven. Yvonne is enthusiastic about her new role in the Community and is looking forward to getting to know regular and occasional Hall users. Good wishes and good luck to you Yvonne from the Hall Committee.

Georgina MacDonald, Secretary

~ Christmas Craft Fair: Saturday 25th November 10am to 2pm ~

We have selected this year a wide range of Scottish crafts people many of whom are traveling quite a distance from all over the North East to bring you work in a wide range of materials from fabric and card, to metal, glass,

paint and pottery. The fourteen stalls in the Public Hall will represent a wide variety of Scottish Crafts. There will be decorative fabrics, textiles, pictures, handbags, Christmas decorations, cards, Victorian sweets, pastries, toys,

wood and metal artefacts three of the stalls ensuring a selection of jewelry in different materials, designs & prices which husbands can buy as Christmas presents for their wives!! There will also be a table organized by the Youth Club.



St Cyrus Primary school would much appreciate you collecting Tesco Sport for schools vouchers

Have you added an ICE number to your mobile?

We are encouraged by Paramedic teams to adopt this good practice:

Hi Mike, We launched this initiative locally at the end of last year. The idea I think originated from one of our sister ambulance services down In England. It's a great but simple idea which I am quite happy to endorse. Regards Brian Jaffrey: Scottish Ambulance Service: North East Division First Responder Scheme Representative

Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job easier with a simple idea. They are trying to get everyone to adopt ICE. ICE stands for "in case of emergency." If you would add an entry in the "contacts" list in your cell phone under "ICE" with the name and phone number of the person that should be contacted in an emergency, you can save them a lot of time and have your family contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time. Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately. ICE your cell phone now. Pass this along.

Butterfly Summer: A conversation with Andy Turner SNH Reserve Manager

Hello Andy,

Excuse my ignorance of wildlife! I have noticed quite a number of "peacock" butterflies recently and don't recall having seen these in this area before.

May be that I have been going around with my eyes closed for the last 47 years!

I notice the butterfly is also featured on the SNH calendar this year. Are these new to this area?



I would welcome any info you have
Cheers Norman

Hi Norman,
Don't worry, you haven't been walking around with your eyes closed!

Peacocks are most common in southern England but like many southern species they are gradually spreading north with the warmer weather.

Our butterfly transects from the 70's and 80's don't show any peacocks but in recent years they have become frequent.

Adults emerge around July time, feed like crazy on a variety of flowers

(they particularly like buddleia's) then hibernate over winter. They emerge from hibernation in spring

and lay eggs in May (or June in Scotland). The caterpillar mostly feeds on stinging nettles then pupates until emergence as an adult in July.

Some of the butterflies we get are migratory (peacock and red admiral are 2 such), so it may be that our peacocks do not over winter - I couldn't say either way as I haven't checked for eggs. As they feed and lay on stinging nettle (which is present across the UK) the only limiting factor to their spread is temperature: spring summer for flying/feeding and mild winters for successful hibernation.

Hope this is of interest!

Regards Andy

Peacock by Anne Youngman. Courtesy of Butterfly Conservation Scotland

A farming calendar

"Harvest Home"

I spoke too soon when I wrote about sowing in March because we didn't actually get going until mid April. Having said in the last Newsletter that we hoped to be well through harvest by the end of August, I began to think I'd "done it again" as the month wore on because the good summer weather had vanished.

Even when the combine had finally lumbered outdoors we were still plagued by unsettled weather and barley that was basically ripe contained a fair few immature "green peas", spoiling the moisture content and necessitating drying.

Then suddenly sunshine returned and eight days of frantic activity brought the whole harvest in with good yields and quality and our wheat in particular was cut drier than we've ever done it before. We finished on 1st September with towering grain mountains jamming every available shed due to lack of prompt uplift. However, lorries did come eventually and most of the barley has now left the farm

To make use of nitrogen fixed in the soil by our leguminous pea crop we follow it with wheat and this year we have sown Alchemy. Some set aside has also been turned over to Saffron winter barley. These are both new varieties with promising sounding trials results but, of course, being of a certain age, I'd happily have chosen them for their names alone!

Autumn is beginning, machinery is being cleaned and serviced and put away till next year and winter ploughing will soon be under way. Early ploughing, before heavy rains and frosts, gives Mother Nature her best chance to work on the bare soil and start the process of breaking it down in preparation for sowing in spring.

The cycle has begun again.

mary singleton

Postman Pat's Chat: As you can see I was back in the 'stocks' on my holidays at Bolton castle in Yorkshire (where Mary Queen of Scots once stayed). No Locals around to throw wet sponges BUT I did get a scare when a passing articulated lorry slowed down, for a brief moment I thought it was J.J in his cab following me to get his revenge earlier than planned. Prior to going on holiday I had a sporting time with some of the people from the village. First of all I brought my dart team up from The Black Abbot to play the St Cyrus Hotel team. A most enjoyable evening was had by all. If the Couatts brothers had taken their 'Doubles' on the night it could have been a different outcome!

Next up was the Annual Pairs Bowling match against the Stott brothers Bruce & Ian. This was a totally different outcome. My bowling partner for the match was Ethel Wood. Ian Bruce raced into a 4-Nil lead and never looked back. I took 5 single shots at the next five ends but Ian and Bruce held on to their lead to win the match 14-11 and the 'Bragging Rights' until next year! Well done lads.

Durward.



House of Dun Tel: 01674 810264

Friday 27th October 5.30pm Ghosts on the Coast (Under 16) Torch lit Tour and Ghostly stories and Supper.
Fancy Dress Competition Adults and Children £6

Saturday 28th October 8.30pm Ghosts on the Coast (Over 16) Torch lit Tour and Ghostly Stories - Prepare to be scared as this is a very different tour to the Children! Fancy Dress Competition. Adults £10 Concessions £6

Friday 10th November Matinee 2pm and Evening 7pm Celtic Circle presents Violet Jacobs Voices of Angus Featuring Jim Reid, Valerie MacMillan, Alex Dee, Vincent Guy & Tina Moskal. Adults £10 Concessions £8

Saturday 11th November Matinee 2pm and Evening 7pm Celtic Circle Violet Jacobs Voices of Angus Featuring Jim Reid, Valerie MacMillan, Alex Dee, Vincent Guy & Tina Moskal. Adults £10 Concessions £8

Sunday 12th November 7pm Celtic Circle Violet Jacobs Voices of Angus Featuring Jim Reid, Valerie MacMillan, Alex Dee, Vincent Guy & Tina Moskal. Adults £10 Concessions £8



War Memorials Trust

Remember the eleventh hour of the eleventh month

The War Memorials Trust

In journeying through the United Kingdom, only a very few villages will be found that have been termed "Blessed Villages", from the fact that in the conflict that tore the World apart between the years 1914 and 1919, all the men and women from those places who had been called on to serve, had returned from the war. In all the rest the bereaved and the survivors erected memorials to the lost ones. Later more names were added to many of these for the sacrifices of the Second World War and indeed later conflicts.

These memorials take many forms. Common are the crosses, the statues and other free standing monuments, often in the local church yard or village green or square. In some instances community halls, hospitals, sheltered housing and so on have been dedicated to the memory of the fallen. The memorial may take the form of illuminated manuscripts held in a public office or stained glass windows. There is in fact a railway locomotive dedicated to the railwaymen of the Royal Engineers who gave their lives.

In the passage of time weather and other factors, regretfully including vandalism, cause damage to some of these edifices, particularly in areas where the choice of material is local sandstones that do not weather well. Lettering is particularly prone to defacement by weathering if incised in the stonework and the commonly used lead characters do become detached. Some local authorities have a budget allocation for the maintenance of these memorials but sadly this is not the general rule.

The War Memorials Trust is a voluntary charitable body whose aim is to provide help in the upkeep of memorials where the community cannot meet the whole cost of necessary work. Regional Volunteers are appointed by the Trust whose brief includes visiting where possible memorials in their area to check on the condition of these and liaise with local authorities on any requirement for remedial work. The Trust does not run huge national advertising campaigns and is in consequence not as widely known as other charities. It does, however, depend on subscriptions from the general public for its work. If you would like to find out more, the Trust has a web site at www.warmemorials.org and the offices are at The War Memorials Trust, 4, Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0LA. Van Leiper at 15 Morphie Drive, is the Aberdeenshire RV and can be contacted on 850514

Helping the Scottish Squirrel Survey(continued from page 5)

Efforts in Grampian

The Grampian Squirrel Group is in the process of setting up volunteer squirrel surveys designed to better record grey squirrel distribution, and to start to monitor red squirrel densities in some of their important large forest blocks. It is likely that grey squirrel control in Aberdeen City will begin in the near future, to try and reduce the out-flow of grey squirrels up the Dee and the Don and down towards Angus. The realisation that grey squirrels in North East Scotland pose a threat to the Highland region's red squirrels, which so far have not had to contend with the invader, has given Aberdeen City and the Grampian Squirrel Group an extra burden of responsibility for preventing their grey squirrels from encroaching on fresh red squirrel territory over the county border.

Vital Help from the Public

The deluge of records that has already come in since the issue of the Scottish Squirrel Survey's leaflets this January is clear evidence of the vital role that the public can play in helping us to get a better understanding of red squirrel distribution. What we really need is for the people of St Cyrus and the surrounding area to help us get to grips with what GREY squirrels are up to in this crucial area. Please send us records of any GREY squirrel you see (as well as reds), and do please explore new bits of woodland to look for squirrels. **You can use the Free-post recording forms to record single sightings**, or you can contact the Scottish Squirrel Survey Co-ordinator for a multiple sightings recording form – which you can also download from the website.

To get involved in surveys to the north, contact the Grampian Squirrel Group's Louise Simpson, Forest Ranger at Kirkton of Durriss: Tel: 01330 844393 Email: louise.simpson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk Or visit the Group's website at www.grampiansquirrelgroup.co.uk

To get involved in squirrel recording to the south and west, contact the Angus Squirrel Group's Graham Christer, Angus Glens Ranger at Glen Doll: Tel: 01575 550233 Email: rec_glendoll@angus.sol.co.uk

Or contact Mel Tonkin, Scottish Squirrel Survey Co-ordinator, based at the Scottish Wildlife Trust headquarters in Edinburgh: Tel: 0131 312 4733

Email: mtonkin@swt.org.uk Or visit the Scottish Squirrel Survey website at www.scottishsquirrelsurvey.co.uk



A St Cyrus Red Squirrel

Please tell those of your family and friends who have moved away from St Cyrus that they can read this newsletter in colour at www.mearns.org

Business Directory

Accountant: Ted Ripoll D&T Services, Little Newton, Old Rayne, Inch, AB52 6SE 01464851268

Architectural Technician, Norman. McIntosh, Architectural Services Ltd 01674 850187

Computer problems? Ring Andrew 01674850326 /07793107612

Plumber: Aymer McFarlane:01674850000 / 07956489660

Entries for the Business directory are charged at £5 per issue for the single line entry of name, service and tel contact number.

St Cyrus Community Council Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00pm in The Public Hall

If you are interested in the community you live in do please come along to meetings or if you have a subject you would like discussed please contact either Andrew Hamilton (Chairman) on ah@andyhamilton.com or 850284 or Norman McIntosh (Secretary) on norman.mcintosh1@virgin.net or 850371. Elections for membership of the CC take place in January/February of each year.

Some Advice from Scott Forbes your Community Beat Officer:

Many of you will be aware that since the last newsletter there have been several incidents in the village causing concern for members of the community.

Between 0230 hours and 0300 hours on Sunday 27 August a woman walking on Ecclesgreig Road was attacked by three men and dragged into Manse Lane where her handbag was stolen.

The three assailants are aged around twenty years and were all wearing hooded tops. They were last seen running in the direction of Ecclesgreig Park where they were lost to view.

During the early hours of Sunday 3 September a 20 year old local man was the victim of an alleged assault which took place in the St Cyrus/ Laurencekirk area. The man was found walking on a minor road near the A90 Aberdeen-Dundee road some distance from his home in a distressed state having suffered injuries to his head and body.

It is believed that the injured party had earlier attempted to attract the attention of passing motorists on the A90 and other roads in the area before being uplifted by a friend and taken to hospital where he was treated for his injuries and released later that day.

Grampian Police are making extensive enquiries into both these incidents and are appealing to anyone who has information to call on 0845 600 5 700 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Between 4 September and 11 September, property situated on the southern outskirts of St. Cyrus were vandalised by being spray painted. Some of the graffiti includes the names "Jango" and "The Laser." Any person with knowledge of this crime is asked to contact Grampian Police on 0845 6005700 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

After attending recent Community Council Meetings it has become apparent that some concern exists in relation to the deployment of Police resources once a call has been received. The following gives an insight into the criteria which is considered before a Police unit is instructed to attend:-

GRADE 1 - IMMEDIATE RESPONSE: This grade will be applied to incidents where violence towards persons is ongoing or appears imminent and immediate attendance is necessary to prevent injury to persons or preserve life.

GRADE 2 URGENT RESPONSE: Crimes or incidents which may or may not be ongoing but do not merit an emergency Grade 1 Immediate Response but require the deployment and attendance of a Police resource as soon as possible.

GRADE 3 – PRIORITY RESPONSE: Crimes or incidents of a type whereby a Police Unit should attend without significant delay.

GRADE 4 – STANDARD RESPONSE: Incidents that are historical or where the final outcome will not be affected by a significantly delayed response. A Police Unit will be required to attend at some point but, depending upon the demands of higher grade calls, it may be a number of days before the call is resourced.

GRADE 5 – NON ATTENDANCE: Any call which can be resolved without a Police Unit resourced to attend, or where the call is created for administrative, statistical or other purposes only.

Constable Scott Forbes Community Beat Officer for Inverbervie, Johnshaven, St. Cyrus and Gourdon.

servicecentre@grampian.pnn.police.uk

In summary, if you witness a crime, vandalism or instance of anti-social behaviour please call Grampian Police on 0845 6005700 as soon as possible and in a real emergency dial 999.

