



The St Cyrus Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 1

April 2006

Supporting an integrated and inclusive community with information, entertainment and discussion.



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Where have all the pages gone? Previous issues had up to 20 pages & we give you 12 pages here BUT with a proposed 6 issues over the year **delivered** to 600+ homes you will agree that **everyone** gets to read the newsletter more **frequently**.



Hello I hope you will welcome your new editor, new to the village (here a year now) new to Scotland, born and bred over the border in Northumberland and new to being retired ... it's great (I was teaching primary and special education in London).

Now I'm either helping my son in Drumtochty Glen or sailing/fishing out of Stonehaven. I'm delighted to be leading the newsletter production team and hope you will talk/write to us about your ideas. We have had help printing this issue whilst our application for a grant to purchase our own printer is considered by the Awards for All Scotland committee.

We trust you will all help to make our newsletter interesting, enjoyable, useful and representative of our community by contributing letters to the editor, information from your club or interest group, articles, recipes, poems, seasonal nature/walk diaries especially photographs and drawings. Please send birth, death, betrothal & marriage announcements plus achievements of loved ones as these draw together a caring community.

Community Newsletters are free to all households and we hope to be able to issue bi-monthly. However there are production costs which link the number of pages we print to your support and we cannot guarantee to include everything we would like. You will find this & any future issues on the Internet at: www.mearns.org

Finally our apologies for the smaller type sizes but we are trying to ensure a good balance between presentation & the number of your contributions we publish plus production costs. Apologies to those we were not able to include in this issueEditor.

STOP PRESS: Please collect **TESCO 'Computers for Schools' vouchers** before the scheme finishes on 14th May. **Please** hand in/send them to St Cyrus school office.

The next issue will include contributions from St Cyrus primary school & feature **The Gala**.

We cannot charge for Community Newsletters however production costs for this issue were £40 for paper plus £24 for toner ink. The printing costs of normally several hundred pounds were sponsored for this issue. **Many villagers & friends gave their interest, skills and time to create, produce, print & deliver copies to 600+ houses in the parish. We hope you will enjoy reading our efforts, respond by contributing and send donations for the newsletter to continue.**

Cheque donations covering issues for a year should be made out to 'St Cyrus Community Newsletter' & addressed to The Treasurer, Newsletter Committee, Robinsfield, Lochside Road, DD10 0BB (give your address for a receipt).

Mearns Coastal Church News

St Cyrus services are at 10am every Sunday and you will be very welcome to come along. Johnshaven services are at 11:30

There is a service for Maundy Thursday at St Cyrus on Thursday April 13th at 7:30pm with a communion for people from St Cyrus, Johnshaven and Bervie.

Bervie church has a Good Friday service at 7:30pm

Easter Day at St Cyrus: 10am Sunday April 16th

The next communion at St Cyrus is 10am on Sunday June 11th

The Rev. Georgie Baxendale preached at St Cyrus & Bervie in February as a candidate for Bervie parish. The congregations voted for her and in June she will take up her Bervie post. Why does this concern St Cyrus?

Because in five years, when our present minister is retired, Georgie will take over as the minister here. This has been agreed with the other churches and means we won't have a two year vacancy as experienced by the Bervie parish. The new parish of Bervie and Mearns Coastal will be geographically large and hopefully this will be echoed with large, regular and active congregations.

The Plant Sale will take place in St Cyrus Public Hall on Saturday 27th May at 10am (doors open 9:15 for those setting up stalls) Contact Mrs Thomson 850161 for details.

Rev G Hastie



The Burns Supper

By Wendy & John Sparrow

A very successful Burns Supper raised £620 for the Church roof fund.

Our thanks to the 70 folk who came to enjoy a traditional menu of Cock-a-

Leekie Soup, Haggis, Neeps & Tatties, Coffee, short-bread and a dram. Thanks to the St Cyrus Hotel proprietors Hamish and Ina Dawson who allowed the use of their kitchen. Thanks to Rodger McMullan for piping in the Haggis, to Rev George Hastie for giving the Selkirk Grace, to Mrs Davidson who addressed the Haggis with such vigour, to the Rev. Farquarson for giving us 'The Immortal Memory', thanks to Bill Howatson who toasted the lassies and Sheila Simpson for her spirited reply. Kathleen Masson's singing was a joy with her accompanist Betty Blease and of course what would the evening be without music and dancing led by Joan Davidson master of ceremonies.



A free fish Supper?

Write to: Lisa Stephen either by e-mail or to the address below and ask for a free copy of 'Haddock' a special collection of tasty recipes from Grampian and Aberdeenshire chefs. There are grill, bake, steam, poach and fry recipes in this nicely illustrated recipe book.

Lisa.Stephen@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Request your free copy of the haddock recipe book from:

Lisa Stephen
WPO/Clerical Assistant
Economic Development
Aberdeenshire Council
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen
AB16 5GB

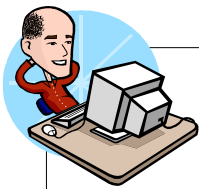


Free Travel: Remember that from April 1st anyone over 60 can use their entitlement to free bus journeys anywhere in Scotland.

Haven't got your card yet? Pick up a form from the post office



The card is the size of a credit card and will show your name and photograph. It will also have the 'C' logo showing your concessionary entitlement. The Entitlement Card is electronic and in the future may be used to access other local council services.



Letters to the Editor page

Dear all..... it's your editor again with some suggestions as to how you can use this page.

Think of all those village topics of common interest you discuss during the day and consider sharing your thoughts so that we can all benefit. We invite contributions from everyone in the parish. Letters to the editor might be grumbles but folks round here being cheerful there will be more that sing praises. I'm sure there are some who can even grouse with wit and style and if there are I'll bet there are others who could reply with a cheerful argument. Then there is the ongoing debate as to what we sing, Flower of Scotland or Highland Cathedral or ? Other letters may start a sequence of articles anything from tracing your ancestors to the history of the village. You may enjoy drawing or poetry or think that our print quality might do justice to your photographs of the village or villagers. Perhaps the fishermen amongst us could celebrate a good catch with a photograph and a retelling so that we just have to believe them? There may be dog and other animal breeders, horse and pony riders sending us photographs of champions sporting rosettes and gardeners sporting champion roses. Mums may be declaring us the ultimate sanction threatening a 'name that untidy bedroom' competition whilst kids could claim their kite's altitude makes them Heide o' the village. There are over 1,000 of you St Cyrus folks reading this, we ought to be snowed in with letters and e-mail for the next issue! Don't be surprised if there is competition for space from outside the area as ex-patriots will be reading this newsletter on the Internet and writing to us **I hope!**



Dear Editor, I am seeking information about or contact with descendants of William JOHNSTON (1762-c1845) of St Cyrus and his wife Elizabeth/Elspeth DUNCAN (1769 ?) They married at St Cyrus 05 Nov 1788 and had 10 children most of whom appear to have migrated to Montrose and beyond over the generations. My connection is via their son John JOHNSTON born 1790 and his wife Philadelphia HODGES. We are also interested in any history relating to the Bowstrips area of St Cyrus as this has JOHNSTON connections.



Contact: D Bray on (0161) 431 4762

Dear Editor, I don't meet many people on my walks along the cliff top and I wonder if this is because others like me have found the descent to the bridge over the Woodston Burn much too slippery for anyone but the young. There are some nice steps on the north bank of the burn but the muddy path on the south side makes it very difficult to get there!
Name and address supplied

Dear Editor, how nice to see that little band of people clearing the railway cutting a while back.. We would just like to let them know that we oldies appreciate their efforts... BUT... it is now collecting litter.....from where?!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
A friend from Johnshaven was proudly showing off how they have converted their railway cutting into a community garden.
Perhaps The Beechgrove TV Team could help us? name supplied

Dear Editor, the Community Council meeting is obviously much trusted by the village majority judging by the small attendance at the meetings. Alcuin

St Cyrus Public Hall Committee is responsible for the General Management and control of the Public Hall.

The management committee consists of both elected and representative members. Each organisation in the Parish of St Cyrus that is a user of the Public Hall is entitled to appoint a representative member to the committee with an entitlement to vote at any committee meeting. In addition to representative members, seven members are elected to the committee at each AGM. All members retire annually at the March AGM, but are eligible for re-election. Public Hall committee meetings are held at least every two months to discuss forth coming events and Hall maintenance as well as seeking opinions from the community as to the general running of the Hall. These meetings are open to anyone who lives in the Parish. Meetings are advertised in Snippets in the local press and posters.

Contact details for office bearers are displayed on the Public Hall notice board.

The Public Hall provides a meeting place where the community of St Cyrus can use the facilities to enhance their education and health as well as providing a focus for recreational and social community activities.

The Hall is open for rental by all groups and is also available for private parties and family functions. It is currently used by all sections of the community, from Mothers & Toddlers through to Youth Club and Senior Citizens Groups.

Each year the committee holds various fund raising events to raise money towards the upkeep of the hall and at the same time providing a social event for the community.

The focus of current fund raising is the eventual replacement of all the hall windows with double glazed units. The work on the windows will reduce draughts and heating costs, reduce condensation and increase the general comfort of all those using the hall.

Secretary Public Hall Committee

Not everyone uses the public hall and reads the notice boards therefore interest groups such as **The St Cyrus & Mearns Youth Football team and the Rainbows** are reminded that the newsletter will be delivered to all households and will have a wider readership. Interest group organisers should contact the editor with any details for inclusion in the next or future editions.

Save money this year.... Don't buy plants..... Get them for nothing.....to find out more read on

When I was a kid my dad used to take cuttings from the plants in the grounds and gardens of the historic houses we were visiting. We never questioned having to tuck these into our coat pockets! But of course there weren't garden centres back in those days.

We all enjoy showing off our gardens to visitors why not take it in turns to host a group of village gardeners ?

You can show them round

your garden and whilst you're in the kitchen making them a cup of tea they can raid your borders for cuttings or seed heads!

I have often swapped plants with colleagues at work and our gardens benefited as did our pockets.

Pam on 283 has been very brave and offers to start the idea off so give her a ring to express your interest.

When she has several names and telephone numbers or e-mail addresses she can organise some times and dates to meet.

Pam's particular interest is in growing and collecting the herbs she uses in her cooking.

She is also interested in swapping seeds and is planting some in order to have plants to exchange later in the year. Editor



Whilst you're making them a cup of tea they can raid your borders for cuttings and seed heads.

Is there a neighbour whose quality of life could be improved if we helped?.....

Please contact John Gavin or myself if you know of someone who is unable to get to the shops, mobile library or the kirk.

Take a friend or neighbour when you shop in Laurencekirk or Montrose.

..... Adopt a neighbour. share your car.

Save the planet & your pocket by using 1 car instead of 2

start a shopping group Editor

"Save the planet & your pocket by using one car instead of two"

Say "Yes Please" if they offer you this option.....why? This hospital is 'State of the Art'... The nursing care excellent....

I sat recently in the A&E Unit at Ninewells Hospital witnessing persons the worse for alcohol abusing staff and wondered why more of us don't praise and cherish our free health service which is the envy of the world.

Two villagers have further evidence of the excellence of our NHS.

They would like to recommend that if you

are given the option of going to 'The Waiting List Hospital'

TAKE IT!.....

The Golden Jubilee National Hospital exists to overcome waiting lists.

Glasgow is less than 3 hours by car and travel expenses are reimbursed. A companion is given free hotel accommodation in an attached hotel five minutes down a corri-

dor. They will have good meals in the staff canteen at prices they couldn't cook at home for.

Built as a private hospital now owned by the NHS you will have your own room with TV, excellent nursing plus the reassurance that MRSA is controlled by a rigorous regime requiring even visitors to wash their hands! Editor



**For more information on the Golden Jubilee National Hospital go to:
www.show.scot.nhs.uk/gjnh**

Rubbish Collection and Recycling in St Cyrus

Complaints about insufficient rubbish collection?

Some tips on how to have a half empty wheelie bin each fortnight rather than one that is overflowing!!

1. Use 'Bag for Life' carrier bags, the supermarket will replace them when they break.
2. Put accumulated bags in supermarket recycling points. Tesco in Montrose has one by the checkouts.
3. Rinse & recycle all glass containers and put in the recycling box.
4. Rinse & recycle all drink and food cans, metal takeaway food containers, and put into the recycling box
5. Rinse & recycle all squashable plastic liquid containers take off the lids, rinse them out and these can all go in the recycling box -You cannot, at the moment recycle the cartons you buy supermarket pre-packed fruit, veg and meat in.
6. Recycle all your newspapers, magazines, junk mail, old greetings cards etc. If there are too many to go into the white bag, tie them up with a piece of string and leave on top of the recycling box. Make sure you tear up small or shred any paper that has personal details of bank accounts etc on first for security. When you recycle envelopes you need to tear out the plastic windows from them first.
7. Flatten and recycle all thin cardboard such as tissue boxes, pizza boxes, cereal boxes, washing powder boxes, outer packaging from ready meals, toilet roll and kitchen roll centres, egg cartons. This can also go in the white bag or if it is full be tied up and left on the top of the box.
8. If you have a garden, even a small one, recycle all your grass cuttings and household fruit and veg waste, cooked and uncooked, dead flowers, autumn leaves etc. into a compost heap. This keeps huge amounts of rubbish out of landfill sites and also provides you with valuable compost to improve the soil in your garden. The council will provide you with two different types of compost bins for a very small cost. Contact them free on 0800 600 5 333 to find out how to get one.
9. Flatten and save all thick cardboard cartons. Next time you go to Montrose or Laurencekirk take them to the fantastic recycling centres they have there. They will be recycled into new cardboard cartons!
10. You can also take to these recycling centres garden waste you cannot compost such as woody twigs and branches and perennial weeds, which will re-grow if you put them in the compost heap. Don't forget to take your Xmas tree there next year. It will be recycled into woodchips.
11. If you have a neighbour who is unable to get to a recycling centre why not do a good deed when you are going yourself and take their waste too. This is a good community to live in so lets help one another and the environment in this extra way too.
12. Montrose recycling centre will also take all kinds of used batteries, clothing not fit for giving to a charity shop, and long life fruit juice and milk cartons and you can put polystyrene packaging (which cannot sadly be recycled at present) into a big general skip there too.

Finally please remember that we now have our own village recycling centre in the parking area at the park in Ecclesgreig Road. It takes glass, paper and thin card, food tins and plastic. As a resident of Ecclesgreig Road who lives near the park, can I please ask you, on behalf of everyone who lives in this road also the young people who play there, to keep this facility clean and tidy. Please do not leave rubbish that will not go into the recycling bins on the ground next to or between the bins, including carrier bags. Whenever there is a high wind unhygienic litter spreads all over the park, the road and neighbouring gardens, and becomes very unsightly until we neighbours who live here clear it up on behalf of everyone !!

The motto in our house is not to throw anything into the wheelie until we are sure we cannot dispose of it in a more environmentally friendly way. Every little bit we do helps protect our precious surroundings and resources for future generations as well as giving us the satisfaction of knowing that we are doing our bit to help.

Article jointly written by :

Paula Mossman, Ecclesgreig Road and Lorna Hogg Recycling Officer Aberdeenshire Council

My apologies to the young people in the village for writing on YOUR PAGE but YOU need to send us material to publish. You can do with the page what you will as long as it entertains and informs in good taste.

You may decide to send in anything from poetry to a face pulling competition. Here are a few ideas to start you thinking:

- A mini saga competition (where the stories must be EXACTLY 50 words)
- Action pictures of your football team and descriptions of the match.
- An art and or photograph gallery (there would be a prize)
- Questioning a grandparent about the past is always fascinating...write about it
- Sensible ideas for the Community Council to consider.
- Description of a day out on the Caledonian Railway from Brechin.

**There will be writing competitions with PRIZES!
These competitions will be for the holiday periods.**

Meanwhile why don't you take advantage of the opportunity to be published?..... Editor

Young Archaeologists Meet monthly at the Marischal Museum in Aberdeen

This very popular club is currently oversubscribed but get your names down NOW and they will inform you when a place becomes available.

They meet on the last Sunday of the month.

Our Current Programme

January - June 2006 This year we will be exploring the world! You will be issued **With** an 'around the world' passport which will be stamped at the end of meetings attended. Who will have the most stamps at the end of the year?

Sunday 29th January New Zealand and Australia
Sunday 26th February Canada
Sunday 26th March Ireland

Sunday 30th April: Italy Workshop looking at the Roman life - gladiators, centurions and much more.

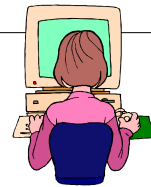
Sunday 28th May Middle East Conservator Amy Crossman helps us discover more about the archaeological secrets of the Middle East. You will learn some Arabic and impress your friends.

Sunday 25th June Scotland Field trip to explore the archaeology of Scotland - more details available nearer the time.

YoungArchaeologists@Aberdeen meet once a month, 2.30pm - 4.30pm, at Marischal Museum unless otherwise specified above. The membership fee is £3 for the session (January - June).

YoungArchaeologists@Aberdeen is for anyone aged 8+. If you would like more details please contact Claire Smith Volunteer Leader at Marischal Museum: youngarchaeologists@abdn.ac.uk Tel: 01224 274309 Also try www.britarch.ac.uk/yac/index.html

**Look in the June Newsletter
to learn how a pipeline helped archaeologists
learn more about our local history. ... Editor**



**Parents,
there is a safe place for your kids on
the internet.**

**Kids,
you get to talk to other children from
all over the world.**

**Parents,
KIDLINK is for children from age 8
go and check them out for yourselves:**

KIDLINK @ <http://www.kidlink.org/>

**Kidlink was founded by teachers from
around the world as a safe place on the
Internet for children**

Read the description on webpage:

<http://www.kidlink.org/english/general/overview.html>

Each student must register for participation in **Kidlink** by answering these basic questions about life, which are then published for everybody to see:

1. Who Am I?
2. What Do I Want To Be When I Grow Up?
3. How Do I Want The World To Be Better When I Grow Up?
4. What Can I Do Now To Make This Happen?

Since 1990, students in [over 164 countries](#) have submitted their answers.

Another useful page to help you understand KIDLINK is:

www.kidlink.org/english/general/backgrnd.html

They even have regular international meetings to discuss topics.

www.kidlink.org/english/general/kidcom.html

There are chat rooms but only for KIDLINK children and they are moderated to ensure good language. Here is an example:

www.kidlink.org/english/voice/war/irc.html

Parents can observe but because they are adults cannot participate.

I can strongly recommend KIDLINK as a safe and challenging place on the internet for children and young people to meet others from across the globe. This is a charity managed by teachers and young people volunteering their time. Editor



We should all be using the Mobile Library

Gordon Wood calls every MONDAY with the Mobile Library van at ST CYRUS. He is most helpful and provides an excellent service we should all make good use of to ensure that Aberdeenshire Council knows how much it is valued. His times are:

Invergarry Park	3.00	3.20
Hall	3.20	3.40
Croft Place	3.40	4.10

Membership

Each borrower is issued with an automated library card upon completion of a membership form. As with branch libraries proof of name and address must be shown. If a child wishes to join the library the membership form must be signed by an adult member of the library service. There are no charges to join the library service for adult or junior borrowers.

Stock

Each mobile holds 2,500-3,000 items of stock. Mobiles have a selection of books, videos, talking books and music CDs. A proportion of this stock is changed on a fortnightly basis.

Borrowing Books and Multimedia

Each item borrowed is issued for a period of 4 weeks. If the item is still required after this time it is possible to renew the item on the mobile. Any overdue items will incur a charge. Currently members are allowed 8 books and 8 non-book items. (CDs, Videos etc)

Reserving Books and Multimedia

Members of the mobile library can request any item within the Aberdeenshire library service free of charge. The computer at the Inverbervie library can also be used to order books.

Vehicle Maintenance and Breakdowns

Wherever possible vehicle maintenance is carried out on a Friday when the mobile library is not on the road. Occasionally the mobile library has a breakdown and requires assistance resulting in it being unable to continue with its normal service. In event of this happening we will contact you by telephone to let you know the mobile will not be calling. Please ensure we have your contact telephone number so we can keep you informed should anything happen.

Adverse Weather

Our mobile libraries operate in some very rural and remote areas of Aberdeenshire. In the event of adverse weather conditions (bad snow) it may not be possible for the mobile library to provide a normal service. If this should happen the Mobile Services Librarian will contact Northsound Radio (96.9FM) to make announcements with regard to where the mobile will not be calling that day.

Service for Housebound

This is a service provided to those who live alone and are unable to make use of our regular mobile libraries. A box containing a selection of books is made up in Library Headquarters according to your reading requirements. This box will be delivered to you on a monthly basis by one of our mobile or delivery drivers. Unfortunately we cannot offer this service to anyone with a friend or family member able to visit the library on your behalf. Please contact the Mobile Service Librarian for further information. Mobile Service Librarian Tel: 01651 872707 Email: alis@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Another Use it ...or Lose it!

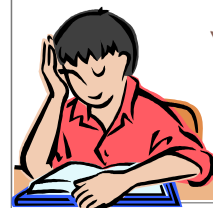
The monthly surgery in the Public Hall

Next one is Monday April 3rd Between 12 and 1pm

BUT

you must phone the surgery to book an appointment

Future dates will be announced here



Our nearest Accident and Emergency Services are:

Aberdeen Royal Infirmary A&E 36 miles

Dundee: Ninewells Hospital A&E 37 miles

There is the Minor Injuries and Illnesses Unit at Montrose Links Health Centre in Frank Wood Way which provides a 24-7 cover, telephone 01674 832192 The out of hours service hours are Monday to Friday 8pm– to 6am and weekends from 6pm to 8am **HOWEVER you should ring NHS24 on 08454 24 24 24 for direction as to which location Montrose, Aberdeen or Ninewells A&E is the more appropriate for the injury/illness. Stracathro DOES NOT have an accident and emergency unit**

In the event of someone suffering a heart attack in St Cyrus The Ambulance Service cannot reach us within the crucial 8 minutes the resuscitation should be taking place.

Many Scottish rural communities are organising self help and first aid groups

Do you think we need qualified St Cyrus people we can call upon in emergency?

A first step towards this would be to attend a 2 hour afternoon course:

HEARTSTART DISCOVERY COURSES.

HEARTSTART DISCOVERY COURSES teach a set of actions needed to keep someone alive until professional help arrives and gives the casualty the best possible chance of survival.

No medical knowledge is required in order to undertake one of these FREE courses which may someday help to save a life.

These two hour long training sessions in Emergency Life Support are available for members of the public

The first is to be held in The St Cyrus Public Hall on Wednesday 17th May at 1:30pm

contact THE EDITOR if you would like to join them

The course will be led by Helen Brady the Heartstart Project Co-ordinator

PLEASE NOTE :THIS IS NOT A FIRST AID COURSE

Given sufficient interest in the Heartstart course we might next consider raising the £3,500 to purchase a defibrillator pack

This kit is used by a five person (minimum) volunteer group **who would be your:**

First Responder Team.

A First Responder Scheme is a locally managed group of volunteers

These volunteers may choose to elect a Local Co-ordinator and plan their own "on-call" rota to cover their own community

Other communities organise themselves to have 24-hour cover, 365 days a year

Volunteers would be trained in defibrillation and other life-saving techniques is provided. The training lasts approximately 16 hours. Due to advances in medical technology, First Responders using new equipment can now carry out many life-saving interventions previously performed only by highly-trained individuals. These include easy-to-operate automatic external defibrillators.

The Scottish Ambulance Service supports the volunteer First Responder Team which must have a minimum of five volunteers.

We would welcome your views on a First Responder Team and offers to take part

BUT FIRST

**we need to see how many show interest in
the HEARTSTART DISCOVERY COURSE!?**

"When I do die I shall be glad to get away from loud pop music and motor cars, but I shall miss - insofar as when one is dead one can miss anything - the beautiful kindnesses of those people to whom courtesy comes naturally".

The St Cyrus Newsletter

On a lighter note

In Memory of Ivor Cutler 1923-2006

"The earth meets the sky over the hill, I was told by a sparrow with a lump on his head."



*I'll leave you with this thought.
No, I won't. It would not be fair.
- 'No, I Won't.'*

*Women of the world Take over..... because if you don't the world will come to an end.
..and we haven't got long. .. Men have had their shot and look at where we've got! (Cutler)*

A poem by Alexander Smith

On disturbing a mouse while spreading dung his intention was to kill it until he remembered that Burns spared his mouse;

The ither day while spreading dung
And deep intae the heap I digit
Oot jumped a moosie sleek and trim
A weel-a-wat it fairly trekkit.
I chased the moosie grape in hand
My ill-designs I meant to cairry
Afore I got the steel upon it
Intae anither heap it scurried.
The Moosies life I meant to hae
Should naething mak my plan miscairry
But what was that that whispered low
"Nae need the moosies life to herry".
Sae moosie ye may bless the day
That tae this world yer saviour drifted
For had there been nae Robbie Burns
Yer life may easy been short-shrifted.

This poem was recalled for us by Mrs Georgina Davidson who remembers learning it when she was 12. Her father Alexander often composed poems retelling events ranging from a wrongly blamed family dog to a runaway horse, and they only live on in her memory because he never committed any to paper although many were printed in the local press.

Mrs Davidson who has been a Magistrate, JP, President of the WRI and until 1990 a Judge in the Britain in Bloom competition still helps the St Cyrus WRI quiz team with her quite exceptional memory. She remembers with pride keeping pace with all the men's tasks on the family farm and a storm blowing away everyone else's corn stooks except hers because they were made exactly as her father had taught her. We celebrate the lives of those setting us such standards as Mrs Davidson who was 90 on the 26th March, a belated **Happy Birthday Georgina**

Has anyone a digital camcorder to make a record of Mrs Davidson?

WRI Programme:

March 6th An excellent attendance considering the weather. Thanks to Durward our village postman for a very interesting and amusing talk which we hope to give space to recalling in a later issue.

3rd April: Corn Dollies: Bill Watson

Competitions: Collage Picture/Tartan Novelty/Flower of the month
1st May: AGM Members night

Competitions: Lemon curd/Musical ornament/Flower of the month
May /June Outing being arranged

Sry Durwrdr mate, will fix it 4 U Nxt time.....Editr

Thank you John for your letter and the promise of entertaining sequels

I think John's travels.....

rival those of Jonathan Swift's Gulliver,
judge for yourself.....

Dear Editor,

For many years my sister in Australia has nagged me to visit. One day I hope to, meanwhile my replies suggest I have in fact been trying to get there but have so far failed. There follows a recount of my first attempt!

Dear Sister,

last week I thought I would make a surprise visit and seeing that you are only this far away on the map (fingers and thumbs apart) I packed 10 gallons of water and a box of bacon sarnies and rowed away from the St Cyrus Marina stopping for elevenses at The Bell Rock light. After two days rowing and a seagull pinching me butties I was towed by a submarine I'd caught when trying to fish for me tea. The navy were wanting to charge me for the tow to the Gairloch but I showed them me new bus pass! Rowing with one hand fishing with the other I caught nothing but a cold. During the night a shoal of herring jumped into the boat to escape some dolphin. I was just passing a rig so I smoked them in the gas flare and was enjoying the breakfast when I recognised the spire of St Cyrus church!!!! Naturally I pulled the boat up the beach and went home for a good kip. But I promise to try again next week Sis. Your loving (wet) brother John.

*We look forward to another episode thank you John.
Editor*

Farming Calendar Comments

You will have seen some frantic tractor activity in the fields around St Cyrus recently as ploughed earth was minced up and flattened and drilled—in much the same way as your own garden, although on a larger scale. Spring barley should all be sown by the end of March because the yield drops dramatically if it goes in later than that but potatoes, peas and neeps may not be planted for a while yet. Wheat, which was green and thriving before winter, has emerged from the cold snowy spell looking a bit peely wally and seriously in need of some sunshine and warmth.

Once our crops are growing well, we reach one of the more contentious times of the farming year. In order to maintain them in good health, we have to protect them with spray to control competitive weeds and diseases. These chemicals are costly so, as you can imagine, we use them as sparingly and efficiently as we can. We do our best to spray in ideal weather conditions because if pesticides drift off the crop or are washed away by rain they don't work. We scan weather forecasts avidly because of that and because we don't want to cause annoyance to other people. Believe! me, those of us with fields right beside the village tear our hair out each year waiting for favourable conditions to venture near gardens and it's a great relief when we know we have got it all done safely.

A few years ago I knocked on a door to warn the housewife that a high clearance sprayer was coming to put insecticide on our oilseed rape and she might want to take her washing in. "Where is the oilseed rape?" She asked, rather to my surprise, so I pointed out that it was immediately over the fence. Later I commented to her neighbour that this lady hadn't apparently noticed the dreaded aromatic yellow flowers and the neighbour then confessed that she herself had thought them so cheerful she'd picked a bunch for a vase in her living room.

Now those are the kind of neighbours we like to have!

MSS



House of Dun: Calendar of Events: Telephone to book 01674 810264

April 8/9th	Sat/Sun	Angus Tartan Week	11am– 4:00pm	Weekend Angus Craft fair	Entrance £1:00
April 16th	Sunday	Easter Bunny Hunt	1:00-3:00pm	Easter Bonnet Parade. Children's event in the grounds	£3:00
April 23rd	Sunday	SWT Camouflage and Adventure Trail	1:00-4:00pm	£2.00 per child. Booking advised	
May 7th	Sunday	Magic in May	1:00-3:00pm	Children's Event. Carl Howse Magician. music, games and dancing	
May 14th	Sunday	'Royal Connections' Tours of the house with an emphasis upon the Royal family.		Booking essential	
May 21st	Sunday	Craft Fair	10:00-4:00pm	Entrance £1:00 (1:30-4:00pm Plant Sale by The Angus Members Centre)	
May 28th	Sunday	'Doors and Drawers'	2-4pm	Tours of the house focusing on the antique furniture. Booking advised	
June 4th	Sunday	Music at the Mansion	2:-4pm	Cream teas in the Saloon to the backdrop of classical music	£3:00

Montrose Basin Wildlife Centre:Calendar of Events: Tel 0131 312 7765

All events unless otherwise stated are at the Montrose Basin Wildlife Centre

April 5th	Wednesday	Children's activities 'Pondamonium' Pond dipping	10am to 12noon
April 30th	Wednesday	Children's activities Easter activities and games	10am to 12noon
April 19th	Wednesday	'South Africa' Talk by Russell Nisbet	7:30pm
May 13th	Saturday	'Coffee morning' (this event held at Auld Kirk Montrose)	
May 14th		Outing to Darroch & Kinclaven Woods. Meet at car park Angus Hotel Blairgowrie	
May 16th	Tues	'Cairngorm National Park & Moorland Project' Talk by Gail Renwick	7:30pm
June 3rd/4th	Sat/Sun	'Made in Fife' Arts and Crafts fair	10:30am to 5pm
June 3rd/4th		Binocular Fair A chance to test out a range of optical equipment	10:30am-5pm



photo www.ian-paterson.com

St Cyrus Nature Reserve:Calendar of events in next issue

A helicopter was the most cost effective way to move 100 one ton bags of aggregate onto the dunes where specialist path builders are replacing and extending the original 224metres of access ways from the bridge to a new viewing platform nestled into the east face of the dune. Helicopters are often used in National Parks to deliver materials to difficult sites preventing damage to sensitive ground. The new low maintenance and less visually intrusive path replaces the raised boardwalk which had become rotten in places and difficult to maintain. Slightly wider than the boardwalk the new path includes passing places enabling people to walk two abreast. Disabled & less able visitors use a more gently sloped section also accessing the new viewing platform and seating arrangements made from 1 ton blocks — all airlifted into place! The path should be completed in early April.

Andy Turner Reserve Manager

We are now more aware there are connections between bird and human hygiene. Harry Bickerstaff has an interesting observation.....

IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO FEED THE BIRDS – IS IT?

Everyone does it; feeding the birds, that is.
Can't really get it wrong – can we?

Feeding birds is a pretty easy job and simply needs an eye kept on the feeders, to make sure they're full – right?

Well - - - nearly.

What about hygiene?

Birds, when they're feeding, naturally leave little deposits around: Yes, bird poo! Bird poo causes diseases in birds, diseases such as salmonella.

So what should be done about this?

- **Replace all food in birdfeeders weekly (at least) and the water in birdbaths daily. Clean up old food around feeders regularly (about once per week), and throw out food which has been out in feeders longer than a week.**
- **Decontaminate feeders by using a 10 percent solution of household bleach in water, preferably cleaned just prior to adding new food. (10 percent vinegar also works)**
- **RINSE THE FEEDERS WITH CLEAN WATER AFTER DOING THIS**
- **Replace wooden bird feeders with plastic or metal.**
(Or, if you can't afford that, scald the feeders with boiling water) Wood harbours salmonella bacteria and cannot be sanitised as effectively.
- **Use gloves when handling dead birds and bird feeders and wash hands with anti-bacterial soap when finished.**

This all a bit of a chore, but believe it or not, almost instantly results in more (and healthier) birds coming to your feeders.

And that's why you put feeders out in the first place, isn't it?



Photograph courtesy of Bernard Tuck

*This routine is followed at Montrose Basin Wildlife Centre and has resulted in a significant increase in the number of small birds visiting the feeding stations near the centre.
Go and see for yourself. Editor*

.....Thanks Harry for this well informed advice on reacting sensibly to stories of birds spreading disease.....But how should we react if we find dead wild birds?

If you find one or more dead swans/wild fowl (ducks and geese), more than 3 dead birds of the same species or more than 5 dead birds of different species, in the same place, you should contact the DEFRA Helpline (08459 33 55 77). Currently the Helpline is available between the following hours Monday - Friday 8am to 8pm

Meanwhile what should we do in our own homes? The answer is to ensure our good hygiene habits are a defence against any flu virus

Don't worry about a new flu pandemic—make sure your family is always well prepared with good hygiene habits

**The first line of defence against flu is personal hygiene
Make sure your family is well defended**

Have your kids visited www.scrubclub.org and helped the scrubclub kids fight



....Influenza Enzo?

The free church of Scotland in Angus and the Mearns
 Worship services at St Cyrus Village Hall
 Theme: 'God's Mission to Earth'

- 3pm Sunday 2 April 2006
 The Resurrection of Jesus
 Speaker: Rev Bob Akroyd, Edinburgh
- 3pm Sunday 7 May 2006
 Jesus on the Road to Emmaus
 Speaker: Rev Alasdair I MacLeod, St Andrews
- 3pm Sunday 4 June 2006
 Jesus Ascends to Heaven
 Speaker: Rev David Robertson, Dundee
 Sunday School available. Tea & Coffee

Catholic Services:

Saturday 6.30pm St David's Episcopal Church : Inverbervie
 Sunday Mass at 9am and 11am St Mary's Stonehaven
 Weekdays: Mass 10am Wed, Thurs, Fri, and Sat 7pm Tues
 Confessions: Saturday after 10am Mass

Local councillor Bill Howatson can be contacted on 01674 830746
 or by e-mail - Cllr. W.Howatson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk - on any
 matter relating to council issues.

The Public Hall

List of contacts

Please inform the editor if you would like your contact details
 published in the newsletter.
 When compiled the new list will NOT be included in every issue
 as it will be presumed that back copies are kept for
 reference by each household.

Emergency tel numbers:

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 Harry Bickerstaff: Caring for birds
 Mrs Davidson: He spared the mouse
 John: A letter to Australia
 Claire Smith: Marischal Museum
 Gordon Woods: Mobile Library
 Patti Weeg: Kidlink
 MSS: Calendar Comments
 Andy Turner: Nature Reserve report
 Ian Paterson: Photo of Squirrel helicopter
 Donald Gillies: Free Church News
 Rover Reporter
 Next issue: Yourself, your thoughts & ideas



**How about a
 whole family
 contributing
 with descrip-
 tions of week-
 end walks
 they can
 recommend?**



SCOOP from our Rover Reporter

The following article has been leaked to us
 prematurely. It is destined for a national daily
 paper on the first of next month.

"A small unknown village in N.E. Scotland
 has been selected to pilot, nay pioneer, an
 amazing idea. For the dedicated dog walker
 who can't (won't) face the poop scoop, the
 solution is simple. **Nappies!** St Cyrus has
 been chosen to trial the idea next month in the
 whole village within the 30/20 mph. From the
 stroke of midnight no dog will be allowed out
 without the appropriate appendage. Dedi-
 cated (dogged) dog wardens will be on every
 corner to watch."

How many remember the terry towel and
 safety pin era? Is it a case of one size fits all?
 How do you fit one to 4 legs? Perhaps not.
 Perhaps the pampers people are behind us
 here and will be on hand to supply the neces-
 sities and possibly give advice or even demon-
 strations?

In some parts of the country DNA testing is
 being used to find the culprit and bring the
 owner to justice! Is this an alternative for St
 Cyrus?! What is the most reasonable solution
 if there is one? We live in hope of clean
 streets and clean feet. Next, horses!

Copies of the newsletter can be found at the
 Montrose, Laurencekirk and Inverbervie libraries
 and read in colour on the internet at
www.mearns.org

Newsletter Committee and Production Team

Mike Burleigh: Editor
 Maurice Forsyth-Grant: Chairperson
 Lyn Hunt: Secretary
 Kate McMillan: Treasurer
 Pam Harrison
 Robert Flann
 Elizabeth Leslie
 Bernard Tuck
 Mary Singleton

We would like two young people to join the team
 for our bi-monthly production meetings

Send your letters to the Editor
 before June 1st for the next issue

Write to us at:

Email: stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net
 Post: 13 Scotston Place StCyrus DD10 0BZ

Wanted Newsletter Distributors

With 600+ copies to deliver we would like to be able
 to acknowledge in this space a team of 10 to 20
 good and true door to door deliverers.

Would you give time to deliver in your area?

Contact Stuart Martin on 850227 or
martins0801@aol.com