



In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love

The snowdrops are at their bonniest, the earliest of our daffodils are ready for flowering, the days are getting longer, and perhaps spring will soon be upon us. Whilst Spring might stimulate the young men's hormones, this Spring is stimulating the builders, developers, and planners. Spring 2009 is the culmination of the Local Development Plan - LPD2009 - where all the builders and developers will vie with each other to have their development bids incorporated into the LDP. Undoubtedly this will impact on the future for many of us, so this Newsletter will deal extensively with the development bids in Lower Deeside. These are contained in a four page insert.

The bidding is an interesting procedure. Planning Services invite development proposals, apparently without much constraint - rather like inviting the children to take over the sweet factory. Then the Planners will then decide which schemes will be rejected and which will be the preferred schemes that meet the planning objectives and policies. Then the whole process will be subject to an enquiry.

Why should it matter to us, the residents? Well the successful bids are virtually cast in stone and it is almost impossible to make sufficient objection to have the actual planning application refused. So in reality this is the first and last time to make objection and get a bid rejected or significantly modified. Planning legislation also favours the developer, stating that there is a presumption in favour of development provided it is within policy and guidelines.

Then there is an other aspect that should concern us – the impact on our existing infrastructure. It's all very well doubling up the size of our local communities, but where are the additional school places, the road, power, water, gas and sewage infrastructure, the shops, the medical centres and the recreational facilities to support these large developments. We, in Drumoak, are only too well aware developers are only interested in building and selling houses and like to leave the infrastructure to others even when planning consent places conditions upon them as the debacle over our local sewage plant extension proved.

Then there is a public perception, supported by much anecdotal evidence, that the Local Authority is very weak in ensuring that key planning consent conditions are actually adhered to. It seems, in some Parkinsonian law, that the larger the development,

the less likely the planning officers are to exercise the powers they have. In other words the garden shed syndrome: it is easier to pursue the individual over his or her deviation on a garden shed than to take on the big boys over deviations on a multi-million building development.

A further concern is the scale impact on our communities as the proposed bid plans in this newsletter show. The total land area proposed for development in our community is 143.52 hectares or 355 acres – in other words, in aggregate terms, these developments will remove the land of a good sized farm from productive use, and the Planning Authority talks about sustainable development! Also, the most frequently quoted housing density quoted in the development bids is 25 houses per Hectare. This implies some 3500 additional houses – a small new town.

Lastly, in this time of great economic turbulence and uncertainty, development time scales must surely be an issue for us. Recession must have some impact on the demand for houses and indeed one of the Banchory-Leggart bids make specific reference to this. There is also some considered opinion saying that given the houses already developed in the past few years, the forecasting of future demand may be over optimistic. The worst implication for our communities would be that, if approved, many of these projects would reach some low level of completion leaving the communities with "battlefields" of unfinished work and over-stretched infrastructure and services. In the commercial world this risk can be minimised by the use of performance bonds. Perhaps the Local Authority could adopt this principle, it would certainly give the public a bit more confidence in their control ability.

As our Local Authorities have been used to ever increasing growth, there has been little requirement to check on the viability of housing developments. Perhaps there should be. In my travels overseas to areas that have experienced economic downturn for some reason or other it is a very depressing sight to see acres of abandoned half built houses, and we should avoid this at all costs. A related issue is the competition between development bids. Take our proposed 3500 houses. They could be competing with the Banchory-Leggart plan for 3000+ houses, and it could be argued that the latter's location adjacent to the Aberdeen City boundary makes it a preferable development in terms of sustainability. Clearly there will not be enough "sweeties" in the sweet factory to satisfy all the developers' bids, and in compiling the final local plan our Planners will face the most challenging task for decades – as will our Councillors who carry the ultimate responsibility on our behalf. But if our democracy is to work effectively we also have a collective community

responsibility to speak up, to let our Elected Councillors know what we think and for them to challenge the Planners – and developers - with our consensus opinion. Collectively we are all responsible for our environment, and we will know the system is working well when the Councillors' probing challenges give the Planners a "hard time", and when meetings over-run with genuine debate.

So, dear reader, the first step is to think through the implications of each bid, decide what you either support or object to, then let your Community Councillors know. They in turn will make sure that the Councillors take the message back to the Planners and the Planning Authority. The good news is that we still have a Community Council despite the fears of its demise expressed in the last newsletter.

If you want to follow up on any of the bids please look at this website
<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/localplan/dpproposals.asp#Kincardine>

Editor

The following article is best read in conjunction with the 4 pages of plans. All the plans shown are in the public domain as they are downloaded from the above web site.

Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC)

Local Development Plan 2009 (LDP2009)

CDDCC were asked by Aberdeenshire Planning Policy and Environment to comment on the Development Bids for this community and to indicate any areas where they might wish to have specific designations. CDDCC have been very busy checking on public opinion and writing comments on the plan. They divided their activities into two parts

- 1 Drumoak /Park
- 2 Crathes/Durris.

Part 1 was based on the responses from previous public meetings

Part 2 was based on a public meeting on 28th Jan. 2009 in Crathes Village Hall attended by over 70 people including members of all three parishes, a representative of Aberdeenshire and City Council Planning and Environmental Services, representatives of Dunecht Estates and a member of the press. In the interests of good communication, the two written responses on the development bids are reproduced in full.

Part 1 - Drumoak, Park and Surrounds

This reply is based on responses received by email and in person. It also draws upon relevant comments from the public meeting held to consider the location of a replacement Drumoak School.

References below are to the map at <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/localplan/Drumoak.pdf>

Local opinion and CDDCC have over a period of years been consistent in opposing:-

- Ribbon development which would encourage the urbanisation of a rural area
- Over-development of a rural area

The ideal for the community would be to limit development to that needed to support strictly-local growth in demand. However, some **modest** growth beyond this would be supportable without adversely changing the character of the area.

In line with the above, CDDCC offers the following comments:-

- Site K62 (if it is, as proposed, limited to six low-density dwellings) would seem acceptable, but any further development of Park should be banned, since such a small settlement would be overwhelmed by further development.
- Some, but not all, of the development encompassed in the sites designated K126 is supported, subject to the provision - from central Government funds - of adequate infrastructure (including shops, sewerage, medical centre) for Drumoak as a whole:-

Referring to Figure 5 (the "Indicative Land Use Masterplan" in the Ryden Property Consultants Development Bid document), the sub-sites numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 seem acceptable, since they are cloaked from short- and long-distance views by the lie of the land

Sub-sites 7 and 8 are not supported, as they would contribute towards ribbon development.

Sub-site 5 is less-preferred, as it would tend to close the gap between Drumoak and Park, although if the view of this site from the North Deeside Road were to be completely obscured – from an early date – by trees, it could be acceptable.

Sub-sites 10 and 11 are not supported for housing, because they form a natural bridge to the existing recreation area of the Glebe and could usefully be annexed thereto, making a feature of the wetlands area supplied by the irrigation stream from Park Estate and providing a corridor between central Drumoak and the Glebe. Allotments (as already proposed) could be a useful part of this mix.

- K133 is acceptable for its proposed use as a site for the replacement Primary School for Drumoak
- K134 is ideal for its proposed use as an extension to the cemetery at Drumoak Church
- There must be sufficient provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of local people who are less-advantaged.

With the exception of the sites explicitly mentioned above, CDDCC and local opinion do not wish to see any further housing development in the whole of the Crathes, Drumoak and Durris area.

In the terms used in your letter, (Team Leader Planning Policy and Environment) the area should be regarded as "protected", for reasons which include:-

- Preservation of the natural beauty and environment of the area
- Protection of historically-significant built environment
- The inability of the road infrastructure (particularly the South Deeside Road) to safely accommodate any significant traffic growth
- The evaporation of demand for new housing as a result of the economic recession
- The need to concentrate development in areas which are truly – as opposed to notionally – sustainable..

The only exceptions to the generality of all the above are:-

- the construction of additional **single** houses on sites and with a design which strictly limits the visual and other impact of the house. An example of this could be an individual house constructed in existing permanent woodland.
- the extension or reconstruction of existing dwellings, subject to the normal planning rules to prevent inappropriate or excessive development.

Part 2 – Crathes and Durris

Summary of Public statements:

There is almost no public support for any further significant increase to housing to any of these villages. Most objections are related to lack of local infrastructure, lack of local need for additional housing, lack of adequate public transport and inappropriate roads.

Infrastructure comments focus on overcrowding of educational establishments and the lack of sewerage treatment. Many people also point out that living in these areas necessitates the use of a car as there are no local shops. It is interesting to note that there is also little or no support for the Local Plan 2006 applications for additional housing at either Crathes or Woodlands of Durris which is already viewed by many as overdevelopment, a situation greatly exacerbated by these new bids. Where development is supported, the provision for an appropriate proportion of affordable housing is also supported.

Community Council Statement:

In addition to the public meeting output and the summary above, the community council would also like to add the following.

Important in the appraisal of local infrastructure is the lack of access to gas. This necessitates the need for other forms of heating. Which in almost all cases requires the transport and storage of such fuels further compromises environmental impact as well as adding more HGVs to unsuitable roads.

Furthermore, the Community Council notes that the pressure for significant increases to the size of these villages is driven entirely by the Structure Plan Vision and housing allocation. While the Community Council understands and supports the vision for Aberdeenshire and City, it does not support the overall percentage allocation of Aberdeenshire housing targets to Local rather than Strategic Growth Areas. These currently represent around 48% of the overall target of 36,000 houses required by 2030.

This Community Council feels that this percentage completely emasculates the strategy essentially giving carte blanche to develop anywhere in the shire. 10-15% is felt to be more appropriate. Even at 10-15%, any allocation at all to Local Growth should only come into force once the Structure Plan Strategy is seen to be successful following its application to the Strategic Growth Areas in the first period to 2016. In other words the Local Growth area target should be 0-5% to 2016 increasing thereafter after if the effectiveness of the strategy is proven.

**D Morrish
on behalf of
Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community
Council**

CDDCC survives!

Last edition reported that the Community Council might collapse after the AGM on 2nd December when in accordance with its Constitution all serving councillors were required to stand down, and lack of volunteers prepared to serve on it might cause its demise.

In the event, twenty members of the public turned up at the AGM and sufficient volunteers were found to keep it going. This Lower Deeside community are therefore indebted to the following public spirited individuals who have carried CDDCC forward:-

Chairman	Tony Butcher
Vice Chairman	Douglas Allstaff
Vice Chairmen/Crathes Planning	David Morrish
Secretary/Durris Planning	Jean Downie
Member	Nicola Chamberly
Member	Jenny Watson /

/
Member Diana Robertson
Drumoak Planning Geoffrey Atkinson
Drumoak Planning John Baillie
For more details on our new councillors see the
CDDCC web site. <http://www.durris.net>

CDDCC and Police Relations

At the CDDCC AGM, Insp. Jim Gordon was invited to explain the recent organisational changes and their effect on policing in Lower Deeside.

Insp. Gordon, who is based in Stonehaven, said that with effect from 7 December, new “community-focussed” policing arrangements were being put in place. Drumoak and Durris were to be policed from Portlethen: Crathes would continue to be policed from Banchory. If there were to be a report of a serious incident, however, the nearest-available unit would be sent, irrespective of base location.

PC Wayne Smart (based in Portlethen) had been appointed community-focussed officer for Drumoak and Durris. Insp. Gordon said that it would be “a challenge” to cover Drumoak, because of the distances involved, but we should see how the service operates in practice.

CDDCC 2009 Priorities

At the first meeting of CDDCC in the Irvine Arms on 6th January, the members reviewed the activities of 2008, and agreed the following priorities for 2009

- Road Safety
- Affordable Housing
- Youth Amenity
- New School for Drumoak
- Continued successful operation of Crathes and Durris School
- Engagement of CDDCC with its Constituents

Travellers' Camp at Jackieshillock

CDDCC were advised of credible reports that Aberdeenshire Council proposed to overturn the covenant that restricted the use of Jackieshillock to training and to convert it into a travellers' encampment. Cllr Peter Bellarby confirmed he had heard a similar story and had asked Willie Munro (Area Manager, Kincardine & Mearns) for clarification. Cllr Graeme Clark undertook to obtain a definitive answer on this issue from Willie Munro

Chap jumping the Gun?

It appears that not only have Chap Homes been busy advertising the merits of their proposed ECO Village on television, they had erected large signposts on the South Deeside Road to further advertise their proposal. This gives the public the impression that this ECO village is a done deal – whilst in reality the consultation period has hasn't finished, and certainly no LDP 2009 has been authorised. After CDDCC investigation, it transpired that the signs were erected without planning permission and have since been removed.

Chap may well be rather proud of their innovative proposal as an alternative to quarry reinstatement, however, what sticks in the throat of many local residents is the quiet hi-jacking of a name. Chap might well have called their quarry Park, but for many locals this does not give them the right to take over the name for the ECO village when there is already a Park Village across the river in Drumoak. They ask what is wrong with the name of the farm which will be in the middle of this ECO village - **KINCLUNY**

Affordable Housing at Durris

CDDCC have just been notified of a late planning bid for circa 16 houses at Denside of Durris – well past the deadline for planning bids and comments thereon. It appears that builders and developers received an extended deadline to 6th February for last minute additional bids.

Mains of Drum Animal Shelter

SSPCA have applied for planning permission for an Animal Shelter mainly for dogs. CDDCC have advised Planning Services that they will wish to comment on the plans once all the details are available on the planning website. This animal shelter is in addition to their development bids. Currently there are concerns over flooding and noise.

Drumoak School Union Health and Safety Inspection

CDDCC were informed that H and S representatives of the Teachers Union have inspected the school subsequent to a recent School Inspectorate report which whilst very favourable on every aspect of the school's activities, once again commented on the sub standard accommodation. The representatives are currently preparing their report, which they indicate will be adverse. Councillor Graeme Clark confirmed that a new school for Drumoak is in the Council's Plan

Introducing our Community Policeman Wayne Smart

Hello, I am writing to introduce myself as your new local Community Officer for Drumoak and Durriss area. My name is Wayne Smart, 35 years old, married and have a young son who is almost three. I have been with Grampian Police for 6 years, currently based at Portlethen Police Office. I have been at Portlethen for almost a year, having previously worked at the Stonehaven Office for over three years.

I started my Police Career working out of the Banchory Office and as such I have a fair knowledge of the Drumoak, Durriss and Crathes areas, which is why I was nominated as the Community Officer for the area.

As most of you are possibly aware the Drumoak and Durriss areas are now covered from the Portlethen Office, which brought us into alignment with the Aberdeenshire Council areas. I can re-assure you that if any serious incidents do occur within the area the nearest available Police unit would attend. Banchory and Portlethen Units will also carry out patrols in the Drumoak and Crathes areas whenever possible and I have been across the hill a few times myself recently patrolling the area.

On a security note, I would like to highlight the fact that there have been several Housebreakings in the Durriss, Banchory Devenick and Blairs areas over the last few months. The housebreakings have occurred at remote properties and appear to have occurred either during the day or whilst the occupiers were away on holiday. Items taken in the previous Housebreakings include Laptops, computer consoles, digital camera's and portable televisions. Enquiries into these housebreakings are ongoing.

With regards to this, some things I would recommend as a security measure would be to put any valuable items out of view of anyone looking in a window or attending at your door and also if you have an alarm or any other security devices fitted, it is always best to set them as you leave as they are a great deterrent.

Other incidents of note, which have occurred in the area during the last few months are mainly four traffic collisions, all on separate dates, two in December and two in January, which resulted in the A93 being blocked. Two of the collisions appear to have occurred due to driver error, the other two due to the slippery road conditions at the time. Other wise it has been a fairly uneventful few months in the Drumoak/Durriss and Crathes areas, since I have become the Community Officer. Hopefully this will continue.

If there are any problems, queries or community issues from local residents, I am more than happy to help and can be contacted on 0845 600 5 700 or by e-mail at Wayne.Smart@grampian.pnn.police.uk.

I look forward to meeting you when I am in the area and assisting with any local problems where possible.

**PC Wayne Smart G0318
Portlethen Police Office**

The National Trust for Scotland like many other organisations is feeling the chill wind of economic recession and is having to trim its finances drastically. Diana Robertson, the Head Gardener at Drum Castle faces a monumental task in keeping the grounds of the castle in pristine order.

Of course, you might wonder why the government doesn't just bail her and the Trust out – just like the banks. The truth is the Trust is a charity that receives no government funding. It would however be a pity if it went to the wall – especially in this widely acclaimed Year of the Homecoming. So read Diana's plea.

Editor

News from Drum Castle Gardens

: We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate all our volunteers! I estimated that I will require 104 volunteers to cover the cut in seasonal hours of 65% by 2010 so if anyone knows of anyone who might be able to help us in the gardens, please please get in touch. You don't need to be skilled, just enthusiastic and outdoorsy!

We are also looking for volunteer guides in the castle and recruiters to help in reception. These posts would suit folk interested in history, paintings, furniture and antiques and who love talking to the public about their interest.

We are keen to engage with young people and would like to hear from anyone aged 16 to 25 doing their MV (Millennium Volunteer award) who might be willing to come for two hours a week at the weekend or over holidays to help in different roles in the castle. This is a great opportunity to add to your cv.

We also have two spaces for Duke of Edinburgh volunteers to work on the garden/ estate side of operations and have planned a series of garden days to which they can come for up to three hours. We already have two local 14 year olds coming and they have helped with a scrub clearing session in deep snow.

Go to the Trust's web site to register and find out more or contact me direct on drobotson@nts.org.uk

Diana Robertson
Head Gardner
NTS Drum Castle

Meantime please note these events

Easter Sunday : April 12th

Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

May 10th:

Scotland's Garden Scheme day Tulipmania

June 25th:

Midsummer's Night Dream (Illyria theatre company)

Children's activity sheets available over school holidays and at weekends

Diana

It is with the greatest pleasure that I welcome back a sorely missed contributor after a prolonged absence through illness. The Country Loon has made a wonderful recovery, but is still undergoing treatment at home. He tells me that he feels a bitty better each day, and is delighted to write some more articles for the Newsletter- jist tae keep his brain busy

Editor

Observations of a Country Loon

In May last year I saw the first pigmy shrew I'd seen in many a year, sadly most shrews I see these days are dead ones killed by predators then just left, mostly because of the foul-tasting glands they have in their skins; I am afraid the pigmy shrew I saw had met the same fate, and, "maist likley caucht bi mi ain cat becis it wis left close tae the hoose door." A pigmy shrew weighs about the same as a 5p coin - 6 grams. The best area to see the pigmy shrews alive is to walk through a well grazed field when sheep have just been taken off during the summer months. "Ye can kill twa birds wi the ae steen fin lookin for shrews; fan their getting the insects aff the sheep dung, ye can gedder dung for yer pot plants. Aye! That taks back a memory or twa."

There have been many suggestions as to why there has been so few birds at feeders this autumn and winter months, those living in Aberdeen and coastal villages up and down the country were worst hit by the scarcity, even in our own area, they were starting to become fewer in numbers by mid autumn; recently there have been reports of more small birds than normal around the Braemar area, flocks of redwings and goldfinches have been seen, which is most unusual. "Ah weel! The birdies weel kent thir wis tae be a spell o caul wintery widder on its wye wi a caul easterly win, garrin them move inlan or intae forestation far they can get gweed pickens amang the trees."

Some of the trees were also prepared for a more severe winter to come; the holly trees have produced far more growth on their prickly lower branches, giving even better protection for small birds than most years. "On sic years I like to layer a fyeow o the boddam brunches about the biginin o aatumn, sine ye get braw strong plants for plantin on the neist winter."

The common ash tree can often have both male and female on the same tree but on separate twigs. Driving through the countryside at the present time we can see which trees were the bearers of the male and female flowers, they are the trees which have their seed still hanging firmly to their branches, keeping each single seed with its single wing well protected until ground conditions improve. During the summer and autumn months' a carpet of seedlings will often grow under the parent tree, a few single seeds will have flown further afield giving them a chance to be stronger plants for maturing, while the carpet of seedlings becomes rabbit food next winter.

During a mild spell in October I got a glimpse of a stoat with its almost normal winter coat, creamy-white with a few brown patches along the back. Experts maintain a cold snap of weather starts the change; I have often seen the stoat's coat changed at least a week ahead of a cold spell. When the cold weather arrives, we must try and keep a watchful eye for the stoats; if they have gone in ermine snow is sure to come, snow that will last for at least a fortnight (ermine is when the stoat is pure white with its black tail tip). "During December I wis bein telt bi freens, thit I kent were tellin the gospel truth" that they had seen stoats in ermine so they were well prepared for the snow we had. They can change back to the creamy and brown or completely brown coats almost immediately the snow is past; if more snow is to come they will stay in ermine, I saw one in ermine the other day; this being the 25th February as I write. "Fit cood that mean I winner." Stoats can carry four times their own weight, and are probably the most nervous and secretive animal in the world, they are exciting to watch zigzagging across an open space at 20mph in search of the scent of prey, or, "tae watch a mither teach a litter o acht tae reive eggs fae a hen hoose; a fascenatin happenin, an weel worth ilka egg they tak.

Wi birds nae jist as active as they shid be, native trees ey hinging on tae thir seed, stoats ey in ermin. It looks as if anither wintery spell is ey tae come."

The Country Loon

Glossary

acht – eight	gweed – good	boddam – bottom
niest – next	fan – when	reive – steel
fyeow – few	sic - such	garrin – making
wider – weather	gedder – gather	winner - wonder

Drumoak Durris Crathes Bowling Club

Our thanks go to the community for the very large support given to our Burns Supper Evening, held in the Pavilion on Saturday 17 January. It turned out to be a very memorable night with a power cut right at the beginning. I'm sure Rabbie would have marvelled at the speed with which candles were produced, allowing the evening to be conducted in a very authentic atmosphere.

The winter Indoor Bowling League is nearing completion. Unfortunately, Drumoak Pavilion has not competed quite so well this year. However, we look forward to the Open Triples Competition which commences on 14 March.

The Club Annual General Meeting takes place at 7.30pm on Thursday 19 March when a large turnout of members would be appreciated.

Our outdoor season commences with the Opening of the Green at 2pm on Saturday 18 April when we hope to see as good an attendance as there was last year.

An Open Day/Coffee Morning will take place at the Bowling Pavilion between 10.00 am and 1.00pm on Saturday 9 May. We would encourage as many people as possible to come along and have a go at bowling on the green. Flat bottomed training shoes will be allowed on the day and bowls will be supplied. So, if you are aged 12 and upwards, please come along!

There will, of course, be the usual stalls there on the day.

**Dave Stuart
President**

The other day I was strolling along a footpath when whoosh four mountain bikes whistled past me at a rate of knots. I got quite a fright having one of the four pass me by within inches that I almost stepped into a dog poo left by some thoughtless dog owner. Later I was talking to a neighbour who had a somewhat unpleasant encounter with an aggressive family taking a shortcut through his garden. Got me thinking about the Access Code. Fiona Milne of Crathes wrote an article on the subject some time ago. It is still valid today and part in reproduced below.

Enjoying the Great Outdoors Responsibly.

The new Scottish Countryside Access Code explains these rights and responsibilities. Access rights cover many activities for example picnicking, walking, cycling and horse riding. They do not include using any type of motorised vehicle, hunting, shooting or fishing. There is no automatic right of access to

buildings and their immediate surroundings, gardens, and fields with crops. Where there is a right of access it is vital that no damage is caused to the land.

The good old country code that I was taught as a child still matters...

+ Take your litter home – as well as being an eyesore it can be dangerous to wildlife. I have rescued hedgehogs tangled in plastic bag handles, birds from fishing line, and have had the unpleasant duty on several occasions of emptying dead mice, shrews and voles from discarded bottles and cans.

+ Treat places with care – think if your actions could cause damage or disturb others.

+ Don't disturb wildlife.

+ Keep dogs under proper control. Don't take it into fields with calves or lambs, and keep it on a short lead if other livestock are present. If your dog fouls a footpath, lawn etc clean up after it – but *please, please* don't leave the bag at the side of the path, hanging from trees, or anywhere else. Put it in a bin or take it home.

So next time your out in the countryside feel free to explore...**responsibly !**

Fiona Milne

Finally

What do you think about this Newsletter.

The reason for asking is that Aberdeenshire Council is planning to facilitate a mini conference with all the editors of local newsletters of which there are about a dozen.

The date and agenda are as yet unknown, but it will certainly be interesting to compare notes. It might also be a useful starting point to re-examine the purpose of our own newsletter in the light of ongoing changes in our own community and attitudes.

It is worth reiterating that the Newsletter is produced by the Drumoak-Durris Church and distributed free of charge to every household in the parish. It is financed mainly by an anonymous local sponsor and a grant from CDDCC. Printing costs are kept as low as possible which is why the rather plain format is used, and collation and distribution are done by volunteers. All this is done by the Church as a service to the community.

So if you have any comments please phone 811763 or e-mail don.keith@which.net I will be delighted to hear from you

**Donald Keith
Editor**

Drumoak & Durris Newsletter

Editor Donald Keith

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Local Websites

Crathes www.scotgold.com/crathes
 Durris www.durris.net
 Drumoak www.drumoak.com
 Drumoak - Durris Church
www.drumoak-durrischurch.com
 Community Council CDDCC
www.durris.net
 Aberdeenshire Council Planning
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning

Useful Telephone Numbers

Banchory Police Station* **0845 600 5 700**

Crime Stoppers **0800 555 111**

*Banchory Station is accessed from Grampian Police Call Centre which can also be accessed by e-mail servicecentre@grampian.pnn.police.uk

Our Community Policeman

PC Wayne Smart G0318

Wayne.Smart@grampian.pnn.police.uk

Ward 18 Councillors

Wendy Agnew Stonehaven 01561 361 364
 Peter Bellamy Stonehaven 01569 767 426
 Graeme Clark Banchory 01330 823 940
 Mike Sullivan Stonehaven 01569 766 922

Community Council CDDCC

Chairman Tony Butcher 01330 844747
 Vice C'man David Morrish 01330 844610
 Vice C'man Douglas Allstaff 01330 844442
 Secretary Jean Downie 01330 811 833

Hall Bookings

Drumoak Church Hall Andy Coutts 811 418
 Drumoak Public Hall Ian Pirie 811 348
 Durris Kirkton Hall Eric Melvin 811 352

Local Numbers

Drumoak Post Office 01330 811 201
 Park Shop 01330 811 463
 Irvine Arms 01330 811 423

The Drumoak & Durris Newsletter is published four times per year as part of the Parish Newsletter (Dec. Feb. May and Sep.) The Drumoak & Durris Newsletter is produced as a community service by the Parish Church.

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Location
10 Mar	Joint Focus/Guild Meeting Holy Land Pilgrimage		Drumoak Church Hall
11 Mar	Coffee Shop	10.30	Drumoak Church Hall
14 Mar	Open Triple Competition	10.00	Bowling Club
19 Mar	Bowling Club AGM	19.30	Bowling Pavilion
18 Mar	Annual Church Meeting and Social	19.30	Kirkton Hall Durris
21 Mar	Learning to Listen Course	10.00- 14.00	Dalvenie Centre
22 Mar	Mothering Sunday	10.00	Drumoak Church
31 Mar	Homecoming Coffee Day	10.00 13.00	Drumoak School
02 Apr	Organ Recital	19.45	St Machar Cathedral
04 Apr	Learning to Listen Course	10.00- 14.00	Dalvenie Centre
05 Apr	Palm Sunday	10.00	Durris Church
06 Apr	Over 60s Club	14.00	Drumoak Church Hall
07 Apr	CDDCC Meeting	19.30	Irvine Arms
08 Apr	Coffee Shop	10.30	Drumoak Church Hall
10 Apr	Good Friday Service	19.30	Durris Church
12 Apr	Easter Sunday:- all age family service	10.00	Drumoak Church
12 Apr	Easter Egg Treasure Hunt	14.00- 16.00	Drum Castle
18 Apr	Drumoak Durris Church Golf Outing	TBA	Ballater
18 Apr	Bowling Green opens	14.00	Drumoak Green
04 May	Over 60s Club	14.00	Drumoak Church Hall
09 May	Christian Aid Book sale	10.00	Queens Cross Church
10 May	Scottish Gardens scheme Tulipmaia	10.00-	Drum Castle
13 May	Coffee Shop	10.30	Drumoak Church Hall
06 May	CDDCC Meeting	19.30	Irvine Arms
09 May	Coffee Morning	10.00	Bowling Club
25 May	Contributions Deadline Next Newsletter Issue		don.keith@which.net