



As summer fades into autumn, there is change all around us in Lower Deeside and it starts right here with this edition of the Newsletter being the first to carry local advertising. It is hoped that you the reader will find it useful and encourage you to support local businesses as they are supporting the local community. The landscape is also changing as anyone halted by the temporary traffic lights in the Drum crossroads area will no doubt have noticed and wondered about the car showroom and workshop about to emerge. And finally a very "weel kent" face in our community – the minister's – will change at the end of October when the Rev Jim Scott leaves the parish for a well-earned retirement

Editor



Farewell to Rev. Jim Scott

Jim Scott, the much loved Drumoak-Durris Church minister retires on the 31st October 2010. He will be sorely missed- not only by the Kirk members- but also the wider community.

He has been the parish minister for almost 19 years, and a cornerstone of the community. A tireless pastor, a natural facilitator and a gifted teacher and preacher, he has touched many of our lives. has been tireless in his pastoral duties as well as a very thought provoking preacher. It is estimated that he has baptised 130 babies; married 60 wedding ceremonies; and conducted 250 funerals along with the visits and meetings that are connected with these. On Tuesday afternoons he visits those in hospital, but also spends considerable time bringing comfort and support to those who are house bound. He also visits both Drumoak and Durris schools weekly as school chaplain. All in all, a very busy and dedicated pastor who has never been afraid to speak out against unfair situations in the community, whether it be tenant evictions at Park or the adverse impact of Council decisions on people's lives. He has been there to listen, to support, to comfort and many in the community have had cause to be grateful for his support whether or not they were Kirk Members.

Not only will the community lose Jim, they will also lose Roz, his wife. An oft heard remark among church folk is that Drumoak-Durris has been blessed in having two for the price of one. Jim and Roz have worked tirelessly for the good of the community since they arrived all these years ago. Whether you were a church goer or not, if you needed something from Jim or Roz they would help you out however they could, and Roz, renowned for her boundless energy and her recruiting abilities was always able to rustle up a few volunteers.

The two churches of Drumoak and Durris have one congregation. It did not start out that way but Jim's patient leadership and example, supported by Roz, has forged two different communities into a single Church family determined to demonstrate that the church is alive and well in Lower Deeside.

Peter Richardson, the Session Clerk details the arrangements for their "leaving do"

To mark their going, and to say thank you for their work there will a "sort of a party" on Saturday October 23rd. From 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm we'll meet in Drumoak Church where we'll wish them well with some songs and speeches. Then from 7.00 until 9.00 pm we'll adjourn to the church Hall for some refreshments and your chance to say a personal farewell to Jim and Roz. Everyone is very welcome.

If you would like to contribute towards a gift to mark this occasion, and to remind Jim and Roz of their eighteen year ministry in Drumoak and Durris, you can post a cheque payable to Drumoak-Durris Church to:-

Drumoak-Durris Congregational Board,
c/o Mrs Marion McNeil,
10 Sunnyside Gardens
Drumoak,
AB31 5EZ,

Or if you would prefer, donations can be made at the Post Office or the showroom of Drumoak Kitchens. Similarly, donations can be made at either of the Churches, and special donation envelopes will be available, and can be placed in the collection.

Charity Fund Raising

Next, are two local fund raising activities one a bit more sedate than the other.

**Come to the
Largest Coffee
Morning in the
Country**

Drumoak Church Hall

**Friday 24th Sept 2010
From 10.30 to 12.00**

**All are very welcome for
coffee and a tasty home
bake and visit the sales
table and the 2nd hand
books stall**

Donations for the sales table
and the book stall are needed
also help with the coffees
please call

Jill Gow 01330 811 495

Macmillan is an independent charity that exists to help improve the lives of people living with cancer and their families and carers. 1 in 3 of us will get cancer, we are all affected, and many of us will be grateful for Macmillan nurses.

Every year the Macmillan Nurses hold a fund raising coffee morning all over the country.

This year the Drumoak fund raisers hope to raise a record amount in Drumoak Durris so come along and help them. Its such a good cause.

THANK YOU FROM MARION McNEIL

I would like to offer my thanks for all the cards and gifts which were sent to mark my recent graduation from the University of Aberdeen. I would also like to add a special note of thanks to everyone who helped my family and me to celebrate the occasion in early July. In spite of the somewhat inclement weather, your presence ensured a very memorable evening which marked a most special event for us. Once again, many thanks for all the good wishes - without all of you, there would have been no party!

Marion

Education Education Education

When former Prime Minister, Tony Blair was asked about his new administration's priorities, he famously replied "education, education, education", and to the ordinary man in the street this seemed a rather obvious priority. However as far as Scotland is concerned he was, of course somewhat behind the times. We have had an educational priority for over 400 years. It is something remarkable and to be proud of, and we owe it all to the Reformed Church whose 450 year anniversary was celebrated in August this year. In 1561 John Knox and other early Reformation ministers decreed that each parish church should have a school master attached to it. The reasoning was simple. The Reformation was a back to basics religious movement based solely on the bible, and to secure this faith it was necessary that as many people as possible were able to read the Bible. This ambition was slowly but steadily achieved and by 1616, the Scottish Privy Council decreed every parish must have a school.

So it came to pass that our wee nation became the most educated in Europe long before any other country had universal education. This had enormous spin offs. Educated Scots were in great demand all over the world. They were at the forefront of technical advance, banking, trading, colonial development, and the military, and of course the Age of Enlightenment, Burns, Hume, Adams and a host of others producing world class arts and philosophy. Through the centuries great Scots have won fame and acclaim far disproportionate to the population, and it is all down to the vision of these early religious reformers.

One wonders what Knox and the other visionaries would make of two recent Scottish Government statistics:-

40% of prisoners in our jails cannot read or write
1 in 4 of the population are considered to be illiterate.
Let's hope that the new Curriculum for Excellence being introduced in our school this term will help improve matters.

**Sponsored Bike
Ride**

**Braemar and Back
On behalf of
Kidney Research**

**The challenge is to cycle to
Braemar on the 19th of
Sept returning 20thSept.**

**the start and finish will be
in the Irvine arms car park.**

**A commitment of £25 is
required from all
participants**

Are you up for it?

**Contact Tom Taylor
01330 811 508**

Dona Anderson
one of the
organisers with
Tom Taylor says

I chose the Kidney Research because there are a lot of people in the area who either know someone who has had kidney problems or are experiencing them themselves, my Dad and Duncan Wight have both had transplants I think that the more awareness raised, the better. The more research into kidney disease, its causes and the treatment of it, the more lives can be saved and improved

Sleepless in Seattle

On the 21st of July this year I went to the city of Seattle with a group of teenagers and leaders from 'The Edge' – the joint Church youth group in Banchory. We went for 2 weeks to take part in a project called 'Urban Plunge'. We linked up with the University Presbyterian Church (UPC) in Seattle. The UPC has a membership of 5 000 and own a whole building block as their Church! They also have an 'Edge' youth group and Banchory 'Edge' and UPC have many connections.

After being awake for almost 24 hours we finally reached Seattle on a gorgeous summer evening! (Nice change from Scotland) We headed to their 'Edge' youth group that evening to meet everyone and to meet our host families for the next few days. For the first 4 days we were able to relax by sharing in various leisure activities and seeing Seattle, so we could experience America and get to know the American group that we were participating in the project with. In those few days we went to beach clubs, Lake Washington, Green Lake, Rattle Snake Ridge, had a bonfire at Golden Gate Beach, went to the Bainbridge Island, had Pool parties, outdoor movies, went to see The Seattle Mariners and the Red Sox baseball game (Mariners won!). We also visited the UPC and were introduced.

After the introductory days and fun, came the 'Urban Plunge' work week. We moved into the church for this week sleeping on the floor of some of the spare rooms. Around 30 girls in the same room....mayhem!

Monday was our first work day. Our wake-up time was 6am every morning, sometimes earlier, sometimes later. We were split into groups of around 10 teenagers and 3 leaders. The first day our group went to a children's holiday club called 'Urban Impact'. There I worked in a pre-school class and helped them with writing letters and numbers. The kids at the club were from all different backgrounds. We helped out there for the rest of the day. I met some amazing kids, many of them didn't have much but were so happy just to be able to go somewhere fun and safe like 'Urban Impact'.

On our second day we went to a place called the 'Recovery Café'. The cafe is for people who have and are getting over Alcohol and Drug addictions and any personal problem that is affecting them. The cafe runs classes such as art classes and dance classes. It also holds supportive meetings. It is a place where people can find a caring community and support. We were there to help with whatever needed done. They had trees and a tiny bit of garden outside that needed cleaned up, so we raked and pulled weeds and lay bark on all the ground around the café. We also had the chance to meet many people who are

members there. Later that day we went to the Union Gospel Mission Men's homeless shelter. There we were in charge of serving food and clearing up. We served around 260 meals in the hour. The shelter let anyone come in for a meal who were homeless and living on the streets. It was extremely shocking and eye opening to see the amount of people, in a 'first world' American city, who walked in there with literally nothing. There are 67,000 homeless people in Seattle! When we were serving, a fight broke out on the table right behind me - it was terrifying. In seconds everyone was out of their seats and crowding round. We found out later that it happened because one of the men had the tiniest bit more meat than him.

Throughout the rest of the week our team worked in food banks, thrift shops and we travelled around Seattle, visiting different shelters and support centres and meeting people on the street. We visited the YWCA (YMCA but for women and families). The average age of a homeless person in Seattle is 9 years old. When I found this out I was sooooo shocked. That meant that there were loads of kids under the age of 9 on the streets homeless. Some families are so desperate to get a roof over their heads they will live in awful circumstances to do so. The average age of a prostitute in Seattle is 12 years old. The statistics we heard and people we saw I will never forget.

I think when you visit a huge city like Seattle you are likely to see the good and wealthy areas but the problems are mostly hidden. I think that goes for every city. It changes when you view the city from a completely different perspective. Being in Seattle this year completely opened my eyes to kind of problems cities face that I never would have imagined. All of the projects we worked for were doing amazing work and changing and helping so many lives. Obviously we can't change these problems in an instant but even doing the smallest thing will make a little change for the future. We were told a story when we were there. 'There was a little boy on a beach and there were thousands of starfish washed up on the shore, and the tide had gone back out. This boy was picking up the starfish one by one and placing them back in the sea. His Dad came over to him and said, "Son what is the point, you are never going to save all these starfish." The boy replied "I know," and then picks up a starfish and places it in the sea and says, "but I can save that one". Then he picks up another one and says, "and I can save that one and that one, and that one" as he continued to pick them up one by one.'

This sort of represents what we were doing in Seattle, even by doing a little and gaining awareness, it can help us to make more changes which make a small difference to individual lives, others and ours. I loved Seattle to bits and would definitely love to go back

there soon.

I would like also to say 'thank you' to all those in our church and community who gave support and donated money to help make this trip of a lifetime possible.

Chloe Hutchison.

Meanwhile a recent "immigrant" from Aberdeen, Aileen Reid explains why she loves Lower Deeside

Mysteries of Drumoak

Since moving to Drumoak from Aberdeen three and a half years ago, the beauty of the countryside has delighted me in ways I never imagined. The progression of the seasons, with the wild flowers, changing colours and even the weather systems looming low over the Durriss hills gives me great pleasure these days, rather than shopping! Although I have needed a quick education in the hundreds of beasties that inhabit my home whenever they get the chance, and the massive house spiders that took a liking to my living room last autumn could have easily doubled for Dr Who extras.

My young children, husband and I absolutely love walking along the Deeside way, whatever the weather. Jumping in puddles, listening for crickets and wood pigeons, noticing how much the ferns are uncurling to fighting our way through them means that we are never bored. However, some mysteries in Drumoak prevail. We must have fed the three geese many hundreds of times, yet we do not know their names (nor have ventured to give them any as knowing those geese, I would not want to be around if they objected). What about the wire over the river, what is it for and is it ever used? What about the Follie on the other side of the river? Who built it, why and can you walk up it?

Perhaps a short historical introduction to Drumoak could be included in the next edition. However, I realise however that the eternal enigma of the sewage system might be a question too far?!

AR

Spiders

You either love them or hate them! I happen to love them. Hopefully arachnophobic readers, those who have managed to read this far that is, will think about them a bit differently after reading a few facts about their fascinating lives.

Kings and Goddesses Spiders appear in many myths and legends. In Greek mythology the Goddess Athena turned a talented but vain weaver named Arachne into a spider after she showed

disrespect towards the Gods by weaving scenes depicting them as flawed and immoral. This myth gives the group of animals spiders belong to the name Arachnids. And legend has it that King Robert the Bruce won the Battle of Bannockburn after being inspired by the perseverance of a spider building her web.

Growing pains I recently had the fortune to watch a spider go through the whole process of shedding its skin. Unlike us, when a spider grows its skin doesn't. So it has to cast off its old skin just like a snake does. It took about an hour for the spider to break out of its skin to reveal a very vulnerable looking creature. It then crawled up into a corner of my window and sat there quietly until its new skin had hardened up.

Spiders in love As all spiders are predators life can get a bit difficult for the male of the species when he's trying to woo a female. Obviously he wants to persuade her that he's not on the menu, but how? Some spiders dance in front of the female, others stroke her web gently and evenly so that she knows he's not a struggling fly. Some wave their legs as a signal of intent and there are even species that offer the female a wrapped up "gift" of dinner.

Baby love Spiders lay between 2 and 1000 eggs depending on the species. Almost all eggs are protected by a silk crib and woven blanket and many mothers care for their newly hatched young, called rather cutely "spiderlings". Wolf spiders carry their young around on their backs for weeks and if one falls off the female will stop and make sure it crawls back on again.

Home sweet home All spiders produce silk from organs at the bottom of their body called spinnerets. Not all silk is the same. Spiders can produce sticky, dry or fine silk, as well as special silk for wrapping eggs or securing prey. Webs come in many forms. Garden Spiders circular orb web is designed to catch flying insects, while the Tube Web Spider make funnel shaped webs where the spider lurks in the base of a strong tunnel waiting for an unfortunate crawling creature to get trapped. Many species of spider eat the web when it becomes damaged and "recycle" the silk. Webs can be truly beautiful. The best way to appreciate them is early morning when they glisten in the dew.

So next time you're dusting and come across a spiders web, spare a thought for the incredible creature that has put so much hard work into making it.

*Fiona Milne
NTS Senior Ranger
Crathes Castle*

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Drumoak & Durris Newsletter

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Local Websites

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

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police Station* 0845 600 5 700

Crime Stopper 0800 555 111

* All police Stations are accessed from the Grampian Police Call Centre which can also be accessed by e-mail

servicecentre@grampian.pnn.police.uk

Community Policeman

Wayne.Smart@grampian.pnn.police.uk

Aberdeenshire Council 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

Office Bearers

David Morrish	Chairman	01330 844 610
Diana Robertson	Secretary	01330 811 833

Hall Bookings

Drumoak Church Hall	Andy Coutts	01330 811 418
Kirkton Hall Durris	Eric Melvin	01330 811 352

Local Numbers

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

**Deadline for next Newsletter
Thursday 25th November**

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	VENUE
07 Sep	First guild meeting	2.15	Durris Log Cabin
07 Sep	CDDCC Meeting	7.30	Kirkton Hall Durris
12 Sep	Fungi Fact & fiction ranger walk	10.30-12.30	Crathes Castle
12-19 Sep	Wood turning craft exhibition and demonstrations	19.00 – 5.00 daily	Crathes Castle
19 Sep	Braemar Bike Ride	tba	Irvine Arms
19 Sep	Gordon Highlanders Beating the Retreat	2.30 & 3.30	Crathes Castle
20 Sep	Guild Meeting	7.30	Drumoak Welcome Area
21 Sep	Durris Indoor bowling commences	7.00	Kirkton Hall Durris
21 Sep	Drumoak Indoor bowling commences	6.30	Drumoak Bowling Pavillion
24 Sep	Largest Coffe morning in country	19.30 -12.00	Drumoak Church Hall
30 Sep	Crathes v Fife Croquet Match	10.45-4.00	Crathes Casrtle lawn
02 Oct	Race Night	7.30	Drumoak Bowling Pavillion
04 Oct	Friendship Club (over 60s)	2.00 – 3.30	Drumoak Church Hall
05 Sep	Guild – Focus Mtg	7.45	Drumoak Church Hall
06 Oct	CDDCC Meeting	7.30	Crathes Hall
23 Oct	Farewell ceremony for Jim and Roz	6.00-7.00	Drumoak Church
23 Oct	Farewell Party for Jim and Roz	7.00-9.00	Drumoak Church Hall
24 Oct	Rev Jim Scott's Farewell Service	19.00	Drumoak Church
01 Nov	Friendship Club (over 60s)	2.00 – 3.30	Drumoak Church Hall
03 Nov	CDDCC Meeting	7.30	Crathes Hall
10 Nov	Musical concert	7.30	Drumoak Bowling Pavillion
14 Nov	Remembrance Sundry Service	10.00	Drumoak Church
26 Nov	Dae ye mind yon time Exhibition	2.00 – 4.00	Drumoak Church Hall
27 Nov	Dae ye mind yon time Exhibition	10.00 – 4.00	Drumoak Church Hall

*At the other end of the spectrum from spiders
Angus and Nell Adams tell about puppy walking
Guide Dogs for the Blind Association*

We first started puppy walking back in 1973 when our children were small. We had just returned from a two year stay in Holland. For the first time in our lives we were without a dog, having had to leave our beloved pet behind when posted abroad. Uncertain if our return to the UK would be permanent, we could not face the thought of having to part with another pet. That was when we first heard of the Guide dogs scheme on the BBC's Blue Peter.

The Blind Association discovered early on that puppies raised in kennels till mature enough to start serious training (roughly 12 months old) were ill equipped to deal with every day situations. They had never experienced hoovers, washing machines, traffic sounds, crying babies or toddlers in full tantrum mode ...to name but a few.

It was then decided to place pups in ordinary homes where they could grow up absorbing all the sights and sounds from a very early age. Puppy Walkers take on the pups at 6-7 weeks of age on a voluntary basis, although feeding and vet costs are met by Guidedogs.

We receive support from our PW Supervisor based in fOrfar with regular workshops in Aberdeen and home visits. We are expected to take our charges with us everywhere we go including shops, restaurants, and concerts. Wherever possible we use public transport. Trains can be pretty scary at first and buses become increasingly difficult as the dogs grow – 45 kilos of dog does not fit in the space between the seats! Open stairs can present a challenge as the dog can see through them and needs encouragement to take the first step. We have been known to disrupt shoppers with one of us at the top of the stairs and one at the bottom.

Our many pups have been made welcome by the congregation and minister of Drumoak-Durris Church, causing amusement by sleeping through the service and yawning at in appropriate moments. One Christmas when children were allowed to bring toys, a particularly large German Shepherd acted as a parking space for cars wheeled in and out between his legs as he slept.

Basic obedience like a reliable recall, making contact with the owner after free running is essential. Walking in the right position just slightly ahead in a leading mode and not to heel. Toilet training is another important aspect as the unsighted owner must be confident the dog will not foul while working. The young puppy learns to "spend" on command in a chosen location before working or when given permission during the day.

We thoroughly enjoy the different challenge each puppy brings, and although the partings are always

sad, the knowledge of the freedom and independence our charges bring to their new owners makes it all worthwhile.

Anyone can puppy walk as long as they have a fenced garden and are home all day or have a dog friendly work place.

Angus and Nell Adams

Durris Indoor Bowling Club

The new session starts on **Tuesday 21st September at 7.00 pm**

New members will be very welcome
Contact Eric Melvin **01330 811 352**

<p style="text-align: center;">Durris Indoor Bowling Club Scottish Concert Kirkton Hall Durris Friday 22nd October 2010 7.00 for 7.30 pm start Refreshments – tickets £5.00 – Raffle</p>
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Drumoak Durris Crathes Bowling Club

The Bowling Club is now entering its final month of the outdoor season. The Closing of the Green will take place on Saturday 18th September with play during the afternoon from 3.00pm. This will be followed by a meal and social evening in the Bowling Pavilion which will include our presentation of prizes for both the outdoor and indoor sessions held over the past year.

We look forward once again to our autumn and winter programme of events and especially to inviting the local community to our Race Night on Saturday 2nd October and to our Musical Concert on Wednesday 10th November.

Our Burns Supper is to be held on Saturday 15th January 2011 and we look forward to a large attendance for this event.

A number of local groups have taken the opportunity to hire the Pavilion for functions and events and we are happy to make the Club available for this purpose. Please telephone the Club Secretary, **Margaret Campbell on 01330 810199** with regard to booking enquiries.

Our indoor season starts on Tuesday 21st September and we would encourage all those interested to come along and register for the indoor bowling from 6.30pm that evening. A warm welcome awaits all those who wish to take part.

*Dave Stuart
Club President*

A Word from our Local Policemen

Hello again from PC Smart and PC Henderson, your Local Police Constables as we are now known. We have changed from being called Community Focused officers but we are still community minded and will still be responsible for the same areas and carrying out the same duties.

As you may have seen from my recent crime reports on the local website or heard locally, there have been a number of break-ins and thefts within the Drumoak, Durris and Crathes areas over the last few months. There have also been similar break-ins in the surrounding areas of Blairs, Maryculter and Banchory Devenick.

Most of the break-ins have occurred to isolated properties on the outskirts of Drumoak, although two have occurred in the Kirkton of Durris area. There have also been a few Thefts reported within Drumoak itself, one involving wheel trims being stolen. Enquiries are still ongoing into these crimes, although unfortunately most have occurred whilst the occupier is out.

I would urge you to contact Police immediately if you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area, especially if they are walking down isolated roads or tracks or in vehicles. Recent reports show a red estate style vehicle has been seen in suspicious circumstances in the area and this is being investigated. If a similar vehicle is seen in the area and the occupants appear to be acting suspiciously then let Police know and we can attend to trace them.

Things that can assist us greatly, if a person or vehicle is seen in these circumstances, are to note down the registration, make, model, and colour of vehicle and any details of the persons within or even a description of the person if they are seen on foot. If a registration is noted this can help us track down the owners and ascertain why they were there.

As a security precaution, I would advise you to make sure you lock doors, windows, garages, sheds, etc, if you are going to be out for the day or away on holiday and if you have an alarm fitted make sure it is set before leaving as they are one of the best deterrents. Also if you know you are away or will be home late, leave a light on within the house or fit a timer to lamp as this makes it look as though someone is in and make the thief think twice about approaching, especially with the early dark nights

rapidly approaching once again.

Since the last newsletter I have only managed to hold one Police surgery, mainly due to the fact I was away on annual leave and then unfortunately off due to a minor injury. However I have two surgeries planned on Wednesdays 1st September and 6th October. A mobile Police office will be parked in the bowling club car park for the the surgeries from 6.00 to 8.00 pm. and I again urge you to come along to report any ongoing issues I may be able to assist with or even just for a chat.

Another issue I have been advised about is the problem of motorists speeding on the streets within Drumoak. I have previously arranged for a speed survey to be carried out in the area and although it highlighted that wasn't a lot of incidents of speeding, there were still some motorists who were travelling above the speed limit for these streets and mainly in an area where there are young children living and playing. I will continue to monitor this to ascertain if it is occurring at a particular time or day.

Please contact me if there are any problems, queries or community issues from local residents that you feel I can assist with or should know about. I can be contacted on 0845 600 5 700 or by e-mail at Wayne.Smart@grampian.pnn.police.uk.

Thanks and hopefully I will see some of you at one of my Police surgeries.

PC Wayne Smart G0318

Dae Ye Mind Yon Time

A large number of the district's senior citizens were at the Irvine Arms on the 21st June for a taster exhibition of old photographs organised by Ronnie Mitchell. The afternoon was a great success and many of the attendees brought along further photos and a great many memories.

Ronnie has been delighted with the response so far and is now hard at work organising the main exhibition which will be in Drumoak Church Hall on Friday 25th November 2.00 to 4.00 pm: Saturday 27th 10.00 am to 4.00pm and Sunday 28th 2.00pm to 4.00pm. It will be a wonderful record of the changing face and faces of Lower Deeside and a great piece of contemporary history.

Triggering memories is a case in point. Last issue showed a picture of the Durris celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Bill McHardy has provided a copy of a press cutting of the day's celebrations.



You will be able to read all about it at the exhibition

Local Development Plan

The LDP is now in its final stages of consultation. The development bids which the Newsletter reported last year have now been “cut to size” by the Planners in line with City and Shire strategic plans, and the revised plan approved by the Council. It now enters its final phase of consultation where support for or objections to the revised LPD will be considered up to prior to a public enquiry. The situation for our settlements is as follows

Crathes There is considerable anger in CDDCC over the Crathes plan as it transpires that the Councillors have overturned the draft recommendations for 25 houses in Crathes and approved carrying forward a plan for 45 houses. To date all of the three Councillors involved Jill Webster, Karen Clark, and Linda Clark have so far failed to provide satisfactory explanations, nor have the planners. It is suggested that this may be something to do with 45 houses are required for a new sewage treatment works. An ironical statement given the Drumoak saga.

If this issue is not resolved quickly and openly it is likely to undo the level of trust that the community has developed with the councillors concerned.

Drumoak By comparison the Drumoak situation is much healthier. All the existing amenity facilities have been identified and classified as recreational amenities. The site for the new school and an extension to the cemetery have likewise been identified as has limited housing provision to the north side of Sunnyside – some 35 houses in all. Neither the proposed development at Park nor the ECO Village in Park Quarry made the cut – to use a golfing term.

However, with the example of Crathes before us, and a public enquiry still to come you may be sure the developers have not given up. Our Community Council will need to remain vigilant. As will we all. If you want to see the plan electronically go to <https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/finalised/index.asp>

Durris There are no new developments planned for Durris

Planning Gain

Readers might remember that planning gain is the monies paid by developers to compensate/assist with the amenities and infrastructure. Councillor Graeme Clark advises that the “Drumoak Planning Gain account” Stands at some £177,000. CDDCC reminded to use part or all of it to complete the footpath

from Sunnyside Drive to Drum Crossroads. If you have any other ideas contact your community councillor Diana Robertson.

Change of Venue and Meeting Day for CDDCC

The next meeting of CDDCC will be as usual on Tuesday 7th September. The following meetings are planned for first Wednesday of the month in Crathes Hall commencing on Wed 6th October. Apparently CDDCC can get free use of the hall.

The Drumoak Sewage Saga

Readers might recall that the Chief Executive has written to our MSP Mike Rumbles, about progress. He said ““*we have a scheme within our new Investment Programme to make improvements at Drumoak wastewater treatment works and this is being promoted as a high priority growth project. The scheme is currently moving through our CAPEX process, which is the process all of our schemes go through to ensure that they are making the best use of our financial resources. At this stage we are investigating the technical options for upgrading the treatment works before we can move on to the design phase.....meantime, if you would like to discuss any concerns about Drumoak, please contact Mike Allen, our strategic account manager, on 07875 873 048.*”

This the newsletter has done, and established that:- the Regulator has approved Scottish Water's 5 year plan which also includes Drumoak WWT

Stewart Milne Homes have paid SW their agreed funds for the 69 houses

the design is not yet defined as the housing growth of the LDP and the Quality of the treated water is yet to be finalised.

Mr Allan also stated that he was not aware of any current development projects with full planning permission that could nor go ahead. Having noted the New Irvine Arms and the Nether Sunnyside developments he has agreed to meet with both of these developers to update them further. But dates are yet to be forthcoming.

Meanwhile this Byzantine process – more akin to the former Soviet Union's discredited central planning system continues to frustrate our developments – and probably many others throughout the country. Our MSP, Mike Rumbles, continues to be on the case, and the Newsletter has also asked for the assistance of our local list MSPs, Nanette Milne, Maureen Watt, and Alex Johnstone. Sadly only Nanette Milne has responded and undertaken to write to the Minister on our behalf. Remember this well.

Forestry Commission Scotland Expands Durriss Forest.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has recently acquired grazing land to expand our national forest. The location is at West Brachmont, Durriss and the land was purchased from Dunecht Estate. If you would like to see a map of the area access, go to www.friendsofdurrissforests.co.uk/home.html

Action Earth

On Saturday 17th July FDF volunteers were out in force at Pitcowdens in support of the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Action Earth project. The event was organised in partnership with FDF, FCS and supported by Community Service Volunteers (CSV). The enthusiastic volunteers planted wildflower plugs, gathered stones to help create a dry stone dyke and prepared a habitat suitable for native bluebell bulbs.

Supported by Morrisons supermarkets, Pitcowdens was one of 100 projects in Scotland awarded a SNH grant, aimed at encouraging Scottish biodiversity through practical environmental projects. FDF has purchased 1,500 native bluebell bulbs with their £250 grant, which will be planted on September 17th as part of Durriss Primary School's Eco-week activities.

The United Nations has declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. As part of the year long celebration CSV Action Earth is committed to raising awareness of the importance of protecting our natural resources. By supporting CSV Action Earth together we will make a real difference.

John Muir Trust Award

FDF members have supported Durriss Primary School over the past year, delivering outdoor education in the form of Forest Schools. They have now decided to tailor the programme slightly differently for the P6 & 7's by introducing the John Muir Trust Award. To achieve the Discovery Level the children will need to do a range of activities that involve the following four challenges – discover a wild place, explore it, do something to conserve it and share their experiences.

Techfest

FDF are working in partnership with FCS and Forest Education Initiative (FEI) to help deliver a series of workshops at Techfest, in Aberdeen Beach Leisure Centre, from September 13th – 19th 2010. The theme is 'Seed Circus as the Climate Changes'. So come along and take part in the Seed Circus on either Sat 18th or Sun 19th! Discover the weird and wonderful ways in which seeds move and whether climate change may put new obstacles in their way. For further information go to www.techfestsetpoint.org.uk/tis

Forest 4 People Challenge Fund

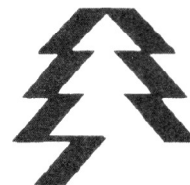
FDF reported in the last newsletter, that we had submitted a proposal to Forest 4 People (F4P) Challenge Fund. The aim of the project is to deliver a Forest School Programme to 9 Aberdeenshire primary schools over the next 3 years. Well, good news.... We have successfully been awarded part funding from F4P and we eagerly await news from the second funding body, which hopefully will be at the end of September (fingers crossed).

Julia Mackay

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