

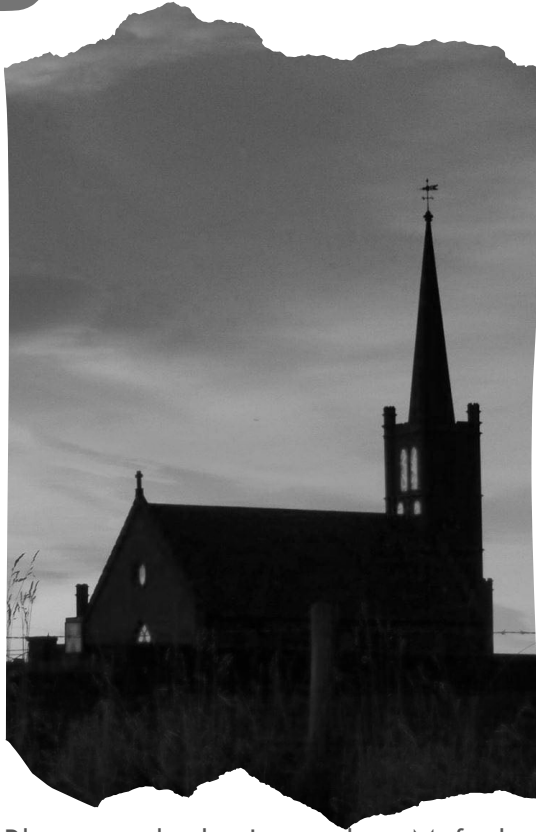
11 DECEMBER 2023

ST CYRUS NEWSLETTER

BREAKING NEWS...

Newsletter Returns

The team here at the St Cyrus Newsletter would like to warmly welcome you to the first edition of your new look community newsletter. First things first let's meet the team. On the editorial side of things we have Donna B, Donna W, Frida, Michelle, Steph, and Beverley. We also have a dedicated delivery team who will be undertaking the delivery of the newsletter throughout the village. As some of you may remember the previous newsletter published their last edition in December 2021. We listened to the feedback from the community, old and new, and we also really feel it is a much missed resource for our community that not only kept us up to date with local news but was also a platform for local businesses to advertise.



Photography by Jacqueline Mcfarlane

Therefore, we are excited to relaunch the newsletter as we believe it is the perfect way to let everyone know what is happening in our community. Whether it is Community Council business, social activities such as Gala Day or the various clubs that meet in the Village Hall. If it's on in the village we want you to know about it.

We also want you to be part of the newsletter so if you have something to share about St Cyrus, be it a group that you are involved in to tales of local history, then please get involved and make a submission. Particularly as the village is growing in numbers and there may be some who want to learn more about this fantastic place we all call home.

Copies of the first edition will be dropping through letterboxes from the 11th of December. However, should you not receive one, copies will also be available for collection from the church, the village hall, the St Cyrus Village Inn, and the McColls shop. A digital version will also be shared to the Community Council where it will be shared via their Facebook page.

If you want to make a contribution to the next edition please drop us a line at stcyrusnews@gmail.com. We hope you all enjoy your new newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Editorial Team

*well
well
well*

Coastal Path Update

Our News...

The last couple of months of stormy weather has brought considerable damage to some parts of the path.

Storm Babet brought lots of rain and extremely high Easterly winds, causing landslides and coastal erosion. Then a week later there was the highest tide of the year coupled with more strong Easterly winds, causing more coastal erosion and throwing a large amount of pebbles, seaweed and rubbish up onto the low lying areas.

The path at Tangleha Bay is the lowest lying part of the route and was particularly affected by the high tides and strong Easterly winds. The path itself is barely damaged, just a few patches of surface erosion.

Huge amounts of Kelp were washed up after the initial storm and then the high tides brought it all onto the path. Behind the seaweed then came 100's of tons of pebbles, building up a metre high mound.

The seaweed has now been cleared and used for mulching the trees and bushes along the path's edges.

There has been a landslide on the cliff top path between Woodston Burn and the Woodston Fishing Station.

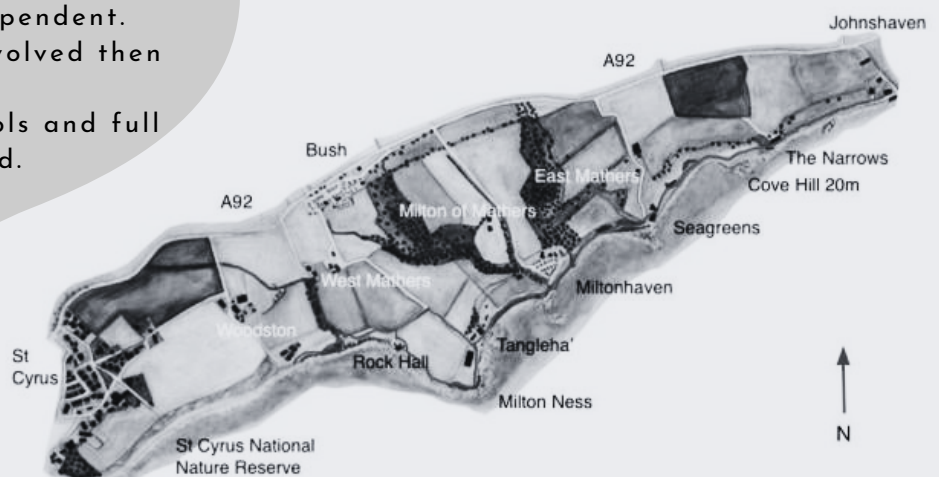
Extra care is required if using the cliff top route. There are steep drops in some places, the surface of the path remains muddy in sections and there is a risk of further landslides (especially during wet and frosty periods).

Quarterly Newsletter sign up here <http://eepurl.com/ia0e1n>.

Further updates can be found on our Facebook - Mearns Coastal Heritage Trail.

Up and Coming Events

Learn to Scythe training. No previous experience is required. We scythe the route between St Cyrus and Johnshaven twice a year, in June and then again in October. The days that we go out are weather dependent. If you are interested in being involved then please get in touch artiststangleha@gmail.com. Tools and full training will be provided.



St Cyrus in Bloom

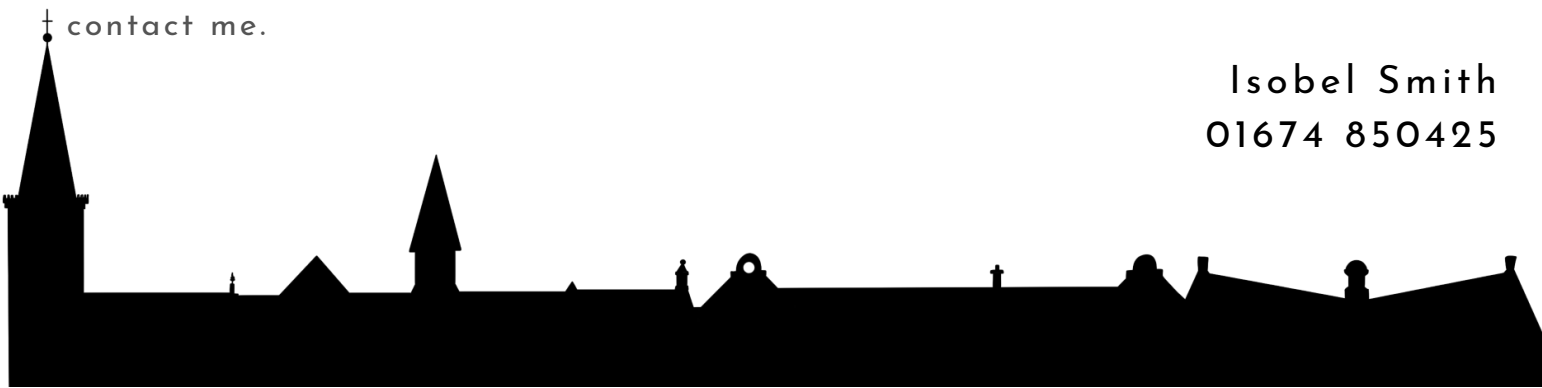
HELP REQUIRED

Do you have green fingers and some spare time?

Many years ago, the St Cyrus Flower Show Committee agreed with the previous Community Council that they would undertake the organisation of Aberdeenshire Councils plants that are annually allocated to each community. Initially we received 1500 plants but due to cuts this number has now been reduced to 500. We personally supplement this amount to make sure the village has some colourful displays during the summer months. The purple crocuses in the spring were donated by Laurencekirk Rotary Club to highlight Purple4Polio, their campaign to eliminate Polio. This was gratefully received. We are also grateful to the roadside householders who water barrels over the summer.

In previous years the gardening club maintained the large green planters but when it disbanded, they were then added to our list. The Flower Show then also wound down, however, some members agreed to still assist with the plants. Unfortunately, over the years and as our age has caught up with us our numbers are dwindling further still. Thankfully two of our husbands have agreed to help with the heavy work as we would not have managed to carry on otherwise. With the barrel containers now disintegrating and our reducing numbers we would like to know what the village would like to do in the future? As it stands, a plant order was sent to Aberdeenshire Council in September for our plants in 2024. This may be the last time if we cannot encourage more people to join us. If you are interested and feel you would like to help, please contact me.

Isobel Smith
01674 850425



A message from Mairi Gougeon MSP



"As your constituency MSP for Angus North and Mearns, I understand how difficult the last few weeks have been following Storm Babet's devastating impact on the area, as it caused flooding and the temporary closure of the Lower North Water Bridge. I have received a lot of correspondence from my constituents about how the closure of the bridge had significantly disrupted their lives. People who did not have access to a vehicle were suddenly unable to travel to health appointments, to work or to do their weekly shop as the buses were cancelled. Moreover, even people with their own car were obliged to take a long diversion route which increased the cost of their weekly fuel bills. This created a sense of isolation in St Cyrus which was very worrying for local residents. Consequently, I was very pleased on Friday 10th November when Aberdeenshire Council re-opened the bridge. Whilst significant repair work is required, the bridge will only be closed at non-peak times to minimise the disruption caused to people's daily travel plans. On the days that the bridge is closed, A&I Coaches will operate the service 100 bus which will travel between Johnshaven, St Cyrus and Montrose. This will help to ensure that people remain connected even when the normal bus services get disrupted by the closure of the bridge. I understand that many local people are concerned about the future resilience of our local transport infrastructure. Consequently, I have written to Aberdeenshire Council to enquire about what their future plans are for both the Lower North Water Bridge and the Jubilee Bridge in Inverbervie. Over this winter I know many people will struggle to cope with the rising cost of living and this may make it difficult for them to afford their energy bills. I urge anyone who is struggling to contact my office, as I may be able to help in some way. If you need support, please feel free to contact me by calling 01356 626942 or by emailing mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot. You can keep up to date with what I am doing in the constituency by visiting my Facebook page or by following me on X/Twitter.

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HAIGS MOBILE SHOP VISITS ST CYRUS VILLAGE EVERY THURSDAY AND CAN BE FOUND IN THE CARPARK OF THE TWO RETAIL SPACES, MAIN ROAD 8.45AM - 9.15AM

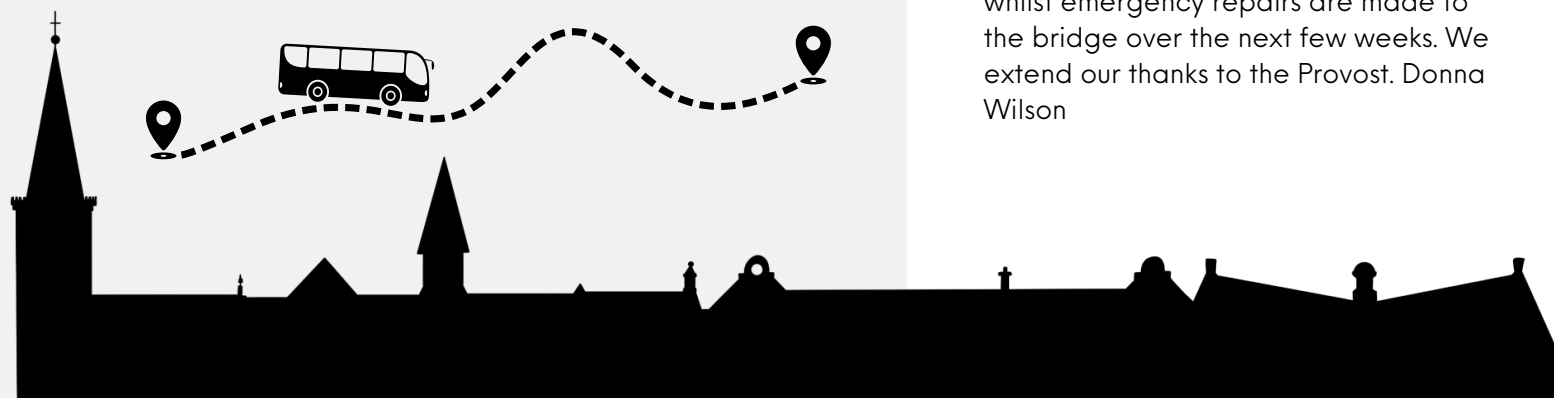
PRE-ORDER AT [HAIGSDIRECT.CO.UK](https://haigsdirect.co.uk)
OR TURN UP AND SHOP!

New Message

To St Cyrus Newsletter

Subject Judy Whyte Visit

Visit of Aberdeenshire Council Provost – Judy Whyte On Wednesday 8th November 2023 members of your Community Council hosted a meeting in the village with Aberdeenshire Provost Cllr Judy Whyte to discuss the impact of flooding during Storm Babet including the closure of the bridge on the A92 into Montrose and also the closure of the road from Marykirk to Laurencekirk. The combined effect of these closures resulted in St Cyrus residents having to make a significant diversion via the A90 down to the North Water junction and into Hillside to reach Montrose. The Provost heard about the challenges and impact on St Cyrus citizens. As a direct result of this meeting the Provost took action with Aberdeenshire Council which resulted in the part time opening of the bridge, which is the joint responsibility of Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils, whilst emergency repairs are made to the bridge over the next few weeks. We extend our thanks to the Provost. Donna Wilson





Photography by Jacqueline McFarlane

Travellers pass safe and free along this bridge

Forefront in our minds over the last couple of months and quite debated since storm Babet was the condition of the Lower North Water bridge. Is the bridge open today being a question which occupied a considerable amount of our time and became quite the conversational hot potato. Thanks go to Marion Townsend for her research skills in bringing you this informative article.

Our beautiful Lower North Water bridge provides a vital link between Aberdeenshire and Angus and further afield. In the aftermath of the recent storms, we as a community certainly missed it whilst it was closed. Built by engineers between 1770 and 1775 by John Adam, John Smeaton, and Andrew Barrie. At one point it was a tolled bridge and housed an octagonal toll house.

Canmore Archaeology notes describe it as "an exceptionally fine 7-span bridge with segmental arches and triangular cutwaters". It has certainly withstood many changes in the almost 250 years since its construction and I am sure everyone hopes it can be suitably restored to withstand a further 250.

In the few short years that it took to complete the bridge there were many memorable historic events, births and deaths of now famous people, it was also a time of massive social change. Constructed during the Enlightenment period, and when the Industrial Revolution and the American Revolutionary War took place, our bridge may seem somewhat small in comparison. However, the recent events show just how very important it is to our communities.

-Marion Townsend

For those that may be interested here are some historical facts that coincide with the bridge construction.

1770

Birth of William Wordsworth

Birth of Sir Walter Scott

Haggis served in honour of a Scottish officer's birthday onboard the HMS Endeavor, Captain Cook's ship anchored off New Zealand

Captain Cook made the first eastbound circumnavigation of the globe

James Robertson, botanist from Edinburgh, made the first ascent of Ben Nevis

The first edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica was published in Edinburgh

William Arkwright begins the development of cotton mills

1772

Birth of Robert Stevenson, Lighthouse Engineer

Death of James Brindley, Canal Engineer

Construction of Edinburgh New Town begins

1773

Penny Post introduced in Edinburgh

Sailing ship Hector sets sail to Nova Scotia carrying 189 immigrating Highlanders

London Stock Exchange opened

Words of the hymn "Amazing Grace" were written

1774

15-year-old Robert Burns is inspired to write his first poem

Luke Hansard begins printing transcripts of the parliamentary debates

1775

Death of artist J.M.W. Turner

Death of author Jane Austen

The Battle of Bunker Hill, American Revolutionary War of Independence

Councillor Alison Evison

In 2022 I was elected for the first time as one of your ward councillors. I live in the Mearns myself and my family are regular users of the local roads and buses. Several years ago my daughter worked in St Cyrus Coffee Shop and regularly performed at the St Cyrus Gala with her dance school. I taught for a few years at Mearns Academy.

Just recently, I have been supporting many residents who contacted me about the storms. During the time the Lower North Water Bridge has been closed, I have responded to concerns about the availability of public transport and the condition of roads being used as diversion routes, as well as trying to identify help for people facing financial challenge.

The storms have shown the importance of communication across a community - so I extend many thanks to the team behind this newsletter.

Many people have fed back that it wasn't clear how to get information from the Council and there is learning for us from that. For ease of reference, some handy phone numbers are below.

Many people will remain concerned about increases to our cost of living. The Council has developed a resource called Worrying About Money which can direct you to a support or advice agency that can help. This can be found at <https://worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/aberdeenshire>

I hold a surgery on the second Monday of most months, 6.30pm-7.30pm, at differing locations across the Mearns. Please contact me for more details of these or for support with local issues.

With best wishes

Alison Evison, Email cllr.a.evison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk Telephone 07855682845

Facebook: Cllr Alison Evison, Mearns Ward, Kincardine and Mearns

Twitter @AlisonEvison

POWER OUTAGES - SSEN ON 105

NON-URGENT MEDICAL ISSUES - NHS ON 111

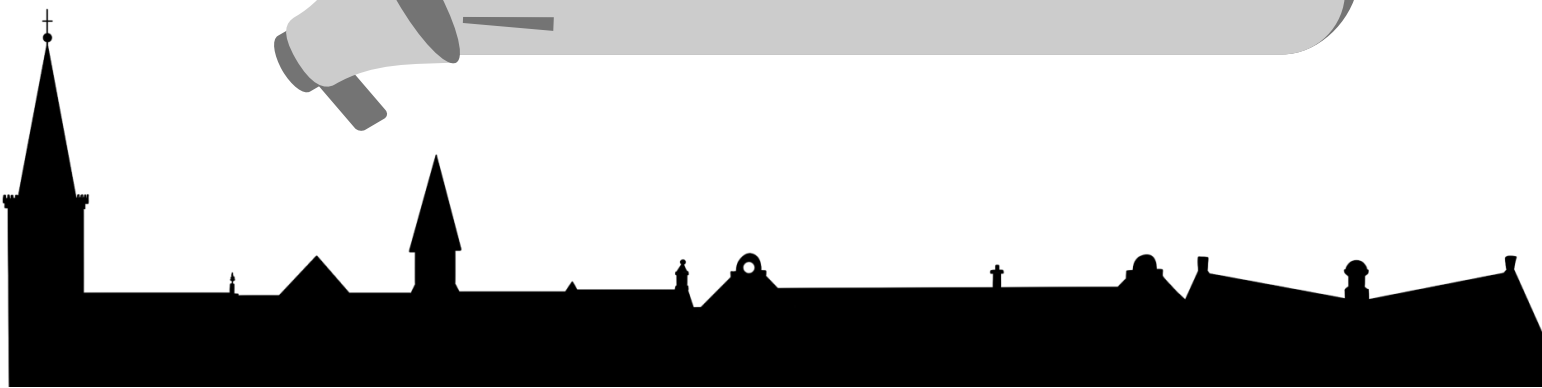
EMERGENCY COUNCIL HOUSING

REPAIRS - 03456 0812 03

EMERGENCY SOCIAL CARE - 03456 08 12 06

SCOTLAND'S 24-HOUR DOMESTIC ABUSE AND FORCED

MARRIAGE HELPLINE 0800 027 1234





St Cyrus Solos Running Club

We are a local running club and meet on a Tuesday and Thursday at 19:30 in front of the St Cyrus village hall, all abilities are catered for 😊 people are welcome to get in touch to find out more info.

Contact stcyrussolos@gmail.com
website stcyrussolos.webnode.page

CREATIVE CLASSES

Sasha mannin

Pottery & Multimedia Artist

Sasha Mannin , Potter and Multi Media Artist offers a selection of one off classes at the inspirational Tangleha in 2024. A fun way to start the New year with some creative arts and crafts classes (for Adults).

No previous arts experience needed for these one off classes every one can work at their own pace. Please dress warmly and for the rain most of the time we will be in the workshop which is heated but it is large. All materials provided as well as teas and coffees.

All Workshops £35 per person.

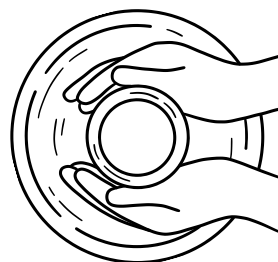
To book please contact Sasha - sashamannin@gmail.com/07510 033 112

07 January 2024

Make your own Mug Pottery Workshop (Adult)

10am-12.30pm - £35pp

Clay Hand building using slabs, oil and pinch pot techniques



20 January 2024

Sketch book Workshop (Adult)

10am-12.30pm - £35pp

Using the beach and its surroundings as inspiration and colour palette we will (weather permitting) make observational sketches and select interesting objects from the beach for still life sketches back in the workshop. By the end of the morning you will have the the first few pages of your sketch book for 2024

03 February 2024

Fashion Jewellery making

10am-12.30pm - £35

We will collect some interesting organic materials from the beach to add to the diverse collection from the workshop you will be able create your unique set of earrings ,brooches necklace and bracelets.

17 March 2024

Lino Print Making Workshop (Adult)

10am-12.30pm £35

No previous experience needed I will guide you through the basic techniques of designing and drawing to your Lino block to cutting and then printing you will print a good paper copy and a set of (X6) unique greeting cards and envelopes. We will be taking inspiration from the season and coastal environment as a starting point but I am obviously pleased for you add your twist to it.

THE WORK HAS BEGUN...



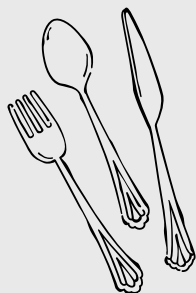
...After being forgotten about and neglected for years, works has started at the Mill of Benholm again. The Mill of Benholm Enterprise (MoBE), has submitted their request for Community Asset Transfer of the Mill of Benholm, which is currently owned by Aberdeenshire Council. This request has been validated by Aberdeenshire Council. The public consultation period ended in October and resulted in 63 supportive representations from the community. No opposing representation were submitted. The next steps will be for the relevant Council Officers to write a report based on the information submitted by MoBE and Aberdeenshire Council's own data. This report will then be voted on by the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee. A decision has to be made latest by the 29th of February 2024, but hopefully earlier.

To use the time until the final decision by Aberdeenshire Council will be made, MoBE and Aberdeenshire Council have agreed on a License to Work for the site. MoBE will reinstate the toilets back to working order during this phase and clear the mill pond of the excess plant growth, so that the mill pond can supply water to the wheel again. Volunteers have started to clear rubbish and broken items from the site and started to cut back years of overgrowing vegetation. On Sunday the 10th of December MoBE invites everyone to Christmas in Benholm in the historic Benholm Kirk. A musical afternoon with performances from Johnshaven Primary and Lathallan School, Christmas Carol singing, stalls and seasonal refreshments throughout. St Cyrus Primary had unfortunately to withdraw their planned performance. For more information on Christmas in Benholm, future Volunteer Workdays or other news please follow us on Facebook or visit www.millofbenholm.scot

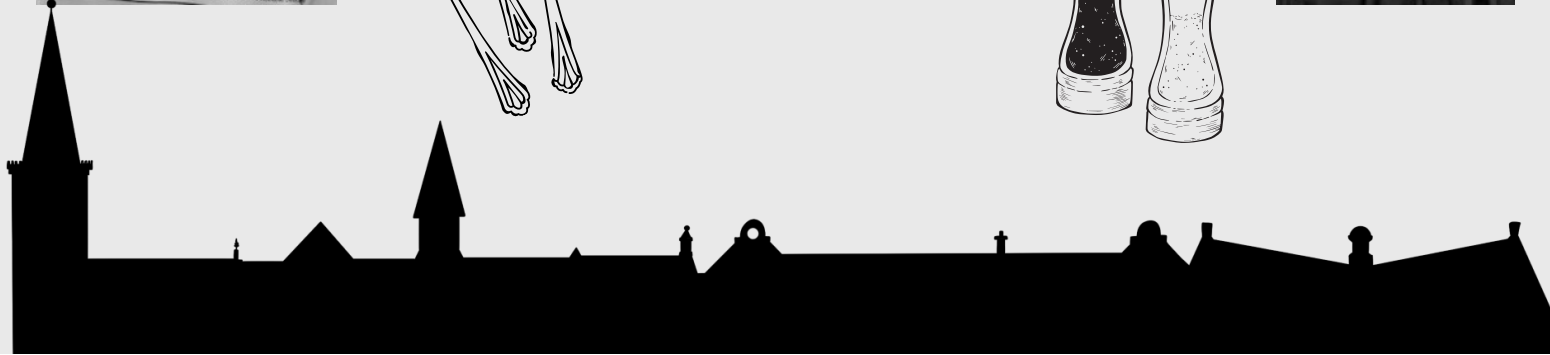
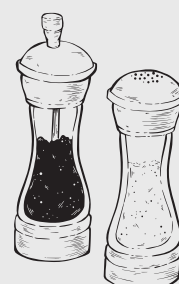


St Cyrus Village Inn achieves Restaurant Guru Recommendation

WHY NOT POP IN FOR SOME GREAT HOME
COOKED FOOD!



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ST CYRUS

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All types of joinery and home improvements undertaken.

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📘 facebook.com/stcyruswoodwork

🌐 stcyruswoodwork.com

YOGA

Yoga happens twice a week in our village hall and brings together local folk of different ages and gender with complete beginners practising along side the more experienced. It is always interesting to discover why people come to class as it really hi-lights the diverse benefits that can come from practising yoga regularly. While most people first come to improve their flexibility or strength or heal from injury, they usually find that the benefits to the mind outweigh the physical perks. Indeed, the reported effects on the nervous system are particularly useful in our busy, modern world.

There is now much evidence to show how regular yoga practice can really help us to cope with and heal from stress and trauma.

You do not need to be naturally flexible, strong, thin, young or calm to practise yoga. In fact, the more stiff, stressed and weak among us could well reap the most benefits! So what do we do in each class? Each class lasts 75minutes and includes some gentle movement, physical postures, breathing exercises and a short relaxation to finish. The classes require a mat and blanket and cost £7. (Concessions available so please ask)

We meet on Monday evenings at 7pm and Friday mornings at 9:30am.

Do not hesitate to get in touch, if you have any questions or would like to come along.

Sarah (07763678393)





AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL SHOP

As many of you may be aware McColl's is now part of the Morrisons family. Some may have already noticed there have been changes in the last few months. However, the most exciting change will be the one happening in January.

We will be closing on the 8th of January to give the shop a bit of a makeover. We will then be relaunching, all going well, on the 19th of January as a Morrisons Daily. We will be bringing you the same great service but with some exciting new products in store.

In the meantime, here are the last Royal Mail posting dates to make sure all your Christmas gifts and cards arrive in time for the 25th.

2nd Class/2nd Class Signed for 18th December

1st Class/1st Class Signed for 20th December

Special Delivery Guaranteed 21st December

Special Delivery Guaranteed on a Saturday 22nd December

Please see in store for our festive opening and closing times.

Wishing all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.
Kenny and the team.

FITNESS & WELLNESS BUSINESS

Hi it's Denise from The Fitness and Wellness Business here,

I have worked within healthcare and fitness industry for over 30 years. Working as a Personal Trainer and Pilates Teacher along side physical and mental health teams with in NHS including as a Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy Assistant with in NHS and the local councils.

We all strive to be well and maintain movement so we can go about our day to day activities. We sometimes loose strength as we get older. This can be due to barriers - stress, sleep deprivation, family commitments, work, stiffness and or medical conditions. It can feel quite overwhelming to keep ourselves well.

I am able to bring you some practical hints and tips, including information on sleep health, healthy eating, home movement programs unique to your abilities. These can be provided on a one to one basis, small groups or semi private.

I want to offer you help over the coming months. I want for you to gain and maintain the ability to be healthy, mentally and physically. To help you manage your day to day activities of living.

My passion is for all to a better version of themselves on a day day basis.

Do you strive to be better? Or maintain your abilities?

Don't miss out on my 2023 offer
2 hour free consultation to help guide you on your path of reaching your goals.

The Fitness and Wellness Business
Denise 07777658178

Denise@thefitnessandwellnessbusiness.com



Montrose Minis St cyrus



Toddler Group

Suitable for children aged

0-5 and their

parents /carers

We would like too welcome all to our

St cyrus session

Come along for some coffee and chaos

Teas and tantrums

And lots of fun and activities for your little ones

no need too book just turn up

Every Thursday
10.00 till 11.30am
St cyrus village
Hall

£3
Per session
Snack
included

ST CYRUS YOUTH CLUB

Run by local parents, the St Cyrus Youth Club runs every Friday evening (term time) from 6:30 - 8:15 pm in the village hall for children and young people in Primary 4 to S3. Membership is £5, with a weekly session fee of £2 to cover hall rental and activity costs. We have a tuck shop. £1- £2 tuck shop money is more than sufficient per child.

We do lots of exciting activities such as snooker, table tennis, air hockey, video games, discos, arts and crafts and sports such badminton and hockey. Lots to keep your child entertained!

If you haven't been before the first session is FREE, however, we do ask that children are registered before attending their first session.

If your child would like to attend, please register using the QR code below:

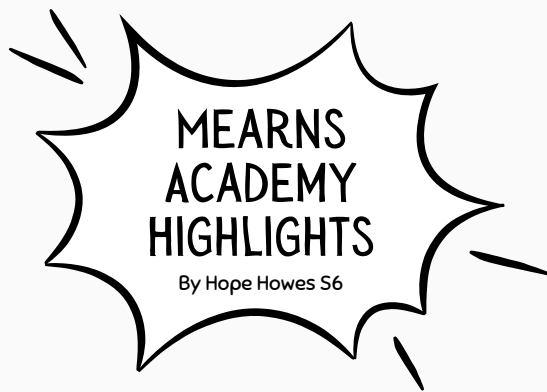


"All the children and young people would like to say a huge thank you to the St Cyrus Solos Running Club for their generous donation of £50 towards a bluetooth speaker for the youth club. THANK YOU SOLOS!!!



St Cyrus Rainbows and Brownies have had a very busy end to this year and it's great to be able to share what we have been up to. During 2023 we have been to Montrose Playhouse, Blair Drummond Safari Park, had adventures around the village, had a sleepover in Jump In, Aberdeen and earned a heap of badges! We have girls from 4 to 10 years of age. We are a friendly group of local volunteers and we try to plan a mixture of activities so that there is something for everyone. Additional support needs are catered for and we are happy for anyone to get in touch with us. All these activities are only possible with local support and fundraising, if you can help us with this we would be very grateful. This year our Brownie Leader walked 4 Kilt Walks! If you would like to register child or volunteer with us, please visit Get involved – Girlguiding Scotland. Thanks and hopefully see you soon, Sally & Kirsty





When Storm Babet hit the East coast of Scotland my peers and I were thankfully in America on the Wild West trip, organised and run by Mearns Academy. The first leg of the trip entailed a tour round LA's well-known sites from Beverly Hills to the Hollywood sign, from the Griffith Observatory to the Hollywood Walk of Fame. We had an extra day to explore Universal Studios and unexpectedly nearly bumped into Taylor Swift at her movie premier! For the second part of the trip, we hopped over to Nevada for a night in Las Vegas, and a visit the Hoover Dam. The third destination was Arizona where we stayed in a small sleepy town named Williams, after that we then ventured to the Grand Canyon, Sedona and finally the last stop a Ranch. Here we had a taste of the real Wild West experiencing Western horseback riding and keeping cool in our canoes. We spent two days and three nights at the ranch and in my case, I spent the evening hunting down snakes, spiders, scorpions and skunks.



We flew back home at the tail end of the storm where we were greeted with closed roads caused by the floods. A shared group experience that everyone loved was when we went to Knott's berry theme park. At the end of the day everyone on the trip went on the ghost rider roller coaster, seeing everyone having a good time screaming our heads off was definitely a peak moment of the trip. We are extremely grateful to the members of staff who put so much time and effort into organising and planning such an amazing event; a true once in a lifetime trip we will never forget.

ST CYRUS PARENT COUNCIL

The Parents and Friends of St Cyrus Primary School (formerly the PTA) was newly formed in Jan this year and have been busy doing fundraising events throughout the year, we have had 3 extremely popular end of term discos which the children have all loved, we ran a stall at the St Cyrus Gala and recently held a Clairvoyant night. With the funds raised we have been able to purchase the P7 leaving gifts, the P7 hoodies, donated £100 to each Nursery - P7 class so that the teacher can buy art supplies for the class.

The school pupil council have suggested that our bigger fundraising funds should be put towards playground improvements and we will raising money for sensory trails, improved seating in the playground and fix the climbing equipment.

We are also organising a Christmas Fayre to be held in the village hall on the 30th Nov, this looks to be a great event with lots of different stall holders, the school and church choir in attendance and a Santa's Grotto - will be a great night for all the village. We are always on the lookout for new members, if you are interested please contact stcyruspc@gmail.com

PETS CORNER



A letter from Bramble Moir

Dear St Cyrus fellow animals,

My Dad says there is going to be an animal section, "Pets Corner or Animal Farm", in each edition of the St Cyrus Newsletter. Articles can be from any animal, domestic or working, who live in the St Cyrus Community area. I told dad that I cannot type but I am quite vocal, so I have dictated this to him.

I am Bramble Moir, a 7-year-old Border Terrier girl who was born in Wales and I have a brother who is Gille Moir, who was also born in Wales, and he is 6 years old. We originally lived in Reading in the south of England but we both moved to St Cyrus in August 2022 and live at Roselea, Ecclesgreig Road, opposite the playing field which we visit most days.

My family name is Princess Sunshine as I just love sunbathing and I can always find a sunspot where I can relax and top up my tan. Although I am slightly smaller than my brother I am in charge and usually grab Gille by his collar and drag him around the floor. He does not mind and is a totally chilled out Kid. His family name is Prince Chipolata as he will do anything for a sausage. I must take daily medication and have trained my dad to put my pill in a cocktail sausage which we get for breakfast each day along with our Kibble. That way we both get sausages every day. I chew mine like a gentle lady dog, but my brother swallows his whole, without even chewing it!

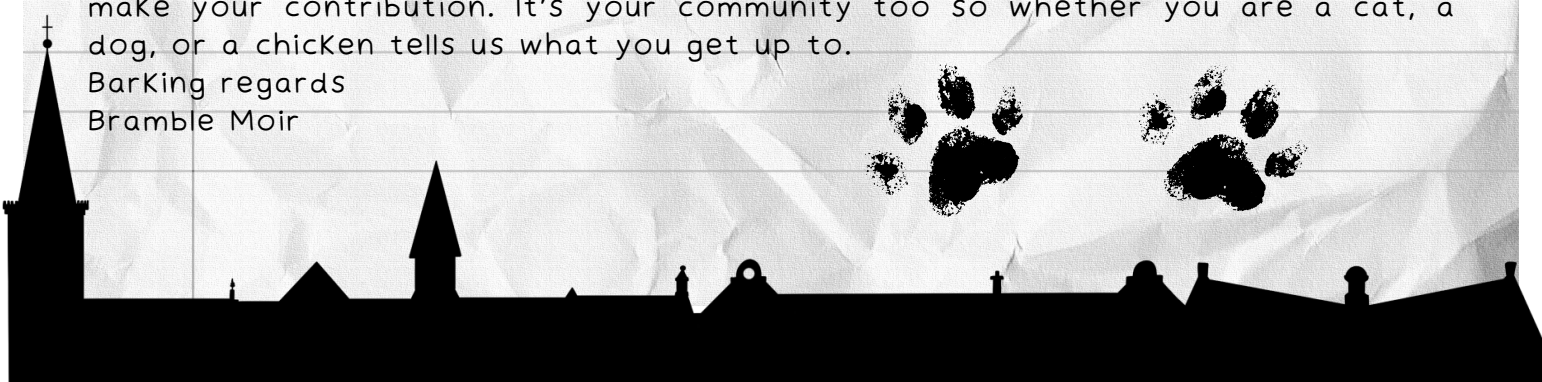
We are lucky because our next-door neighbours are also Border Terriers, Monty and Ruby Wallwork. We often talk to each other over the garden fence. The one thing I do not like is the big refuse collection lorries that empty our wheelie bins on Fridays and when they park in the playing field on Saturday mornings in the Summer. But I have learned to give them a good barking to when they are in my vicinity, you may have heard me?

Dad often takes us for an adventure in his car on a Sunday and he is currently doing tours of the northeast of Scotland, which we enjoy. We get to sit, well sleep actually, in the back seat of his car and only have to get up for toilet breaks.

Finally, last week dad took us both up to Lucy at Denside of Davo for our Christmas haircut and groom. It was there that I met Charlie the Australian sheepdog! He is such a handsome fellow he is. But despite my best chat up lines, like do you bark here often, I could not understand him. Then dad explained that Charlie had come all the way from the Moray Firth to St Cyrus for his haircut. Well, I thought to myself, an Australian pooch from the Broch, spikin the Doric, nae wunner I couldnae unerstand the loon. Anyway, fellow creatures of St Cyrus, please write to me at pmoir@byinternet.com or contact the newsletter team and make your contribution. It's your community too so whether you are a cat, a dog, or a chicken tells us what you get up to.

Barking regards

Bramble Moir



HILLHEAD HAVERS

Two things happen after the clocks change: bonfire night and the geese. In the village square, the church, school, manse, and dominie's hoose, coorie-in against the cold. In the evening light they seemed to have slipped back in time. The triangle of grass has lost its grazing sheep and it's a long time since The Three Bottles Inn served a glass of claret to coach travellers, but old St Cyrus still lingers there. As the torches of bonfire-goers flicker, giggle, and dance to the field: it feels timeless. I walked down in my wellies, one foot in the past and the other in the muddy grass and watched the fireworks hold off the rain. Grant Ritchie has magic powers, I think.

The next day, tumbling out of the steel-blue sky cackled the geese. They settled in growing party groups in the stubble outside the cottage like there was going to be a goosey Woodstock and every hippy gosling was hitching a ride to Scotston of Kirkside Farm, to 'get back to the land.' They lifted grumpily as I wandered out, settling back down after a minute like so many old roadies lamenting the price of the beer, "mutter, mutter ... sigh."

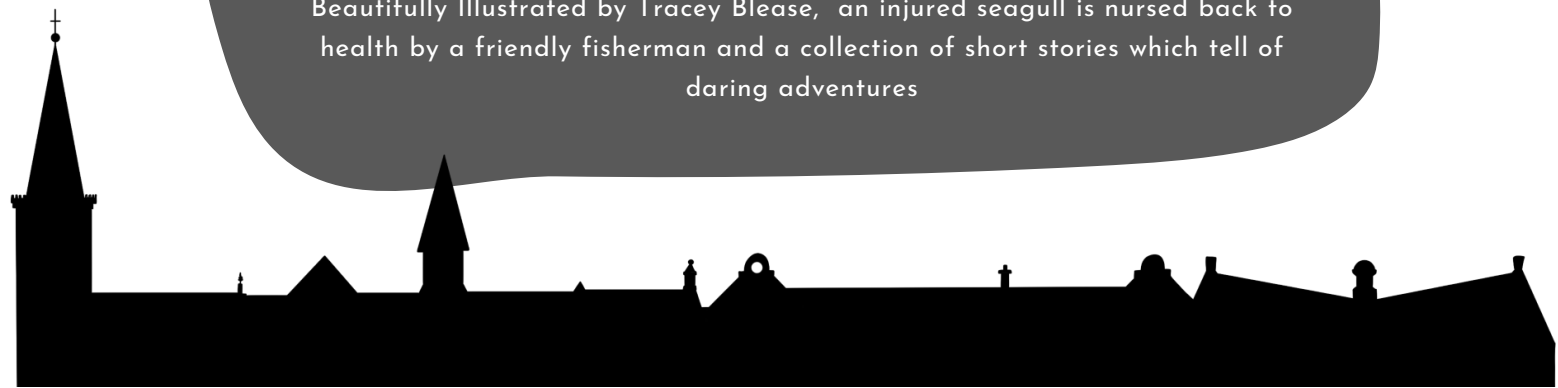
I met Fin McCaw with his drone on the road yesterday. He's keeping a photographic record of the evolving village and has done so for years. We blethered about the changes we'd seen. I told him of an old aerial photograph of my cottage, the farmer's brown Morris van parked on the lane and the man himself leaning on the wall. I'd found an old Morris van hubcap in the woodshed the day before, and there we were blethering, leaning at that same wall. We laughed. Above us, the geese returned with a sound like so many rusty cartwheels. As Violet Jacob put it ...

'A lang, lang skein o' beatin' wings wi' their heids towards the sea'
Some things never change.

-Andy Shanks

LOCAL AUTHOR PUBLISHES!

Delighted to celebrate local author & singer-songwriter Andy Shanks has published two new books "Queenie the Pleenie" & "Creels, Cannons & Coos" Beautifully Illustrated by Tracey Blease, an injured seagull is nursed back to health by a friendly fisherman and a collection of short stories which tell of daring adventures



Letter Received by the Community Council from The North Pole...



DEAR CHILDREN OF ST CYRUS COMMUNITY AREA,

I AM VERY BUSY COLLECTING AND WRAPPING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR YOU ALL. A BUNCH OF MISCHIEVOUS ELVES ARE ASSISTING ME WITH THIS IMPORTANT WORK ALTHOUGH THEY SEEM TO FIND SMARTENING UP THEIR RED AND GREEN UNIFORMS FOR OUR ANNUAL WORLD TOUR MUCH MORE INTERESTING THAN HELPING ME. THIS MEANS I OFTEN WORK LATE INTO THE EVENING BUT I AM STRENGTHENED BY EATING EXTRA MINCE PIES AND DRINKING GLASSES OF WARM MILK.

EVERY DAY I RECEIVE MANY LETTERS REMINDING ME OF WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS. LOTS OF YOU ASK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOW I WILL REDUCE MY CARBONS EMISSIONS GIVEN THE VAST MILEAGE I PUT IN EACH DECEMBER. WELL, I CAN TELL YOU THAT I DO NOT DRIVE A CAR OR VEHICLE OF ANY FORM AND MY CHRISTMAS DELIVERY IS CARRIED OUT USING REINDEER POWER TO PULL MY SLEIGH. MY NINE SPECIAL REINDEER ARE DASHER, DANCER, PRANCER, VIXEN, COMET, CUPID, DONNER, BLITZEN AND RUDOLPH. THEY ARE PREPARING FOR THEIR ANNUAL OUTING BY EATING EXTRA HAY TO BUILD UP THEIR MUSCLES AND GETTING THEMSELVES FIT DOWN AT THE ANIMAL GYM.

SO, I LOOK FORWARD TO VISITING YOU ALL ON THE 25TH OF DECEMBER. IF THE BRIDGE TO MONTROSE IS NOT FIXED BY CHRISTMAS, DO NOT WORRY. MY REINDEER, ELVES AND I FLY IN THE NIGHT SKY, COURTESY OF OUR SPECIALLY DESIGNED NORTH POLE ELECTRIC AEROPLANE TO GET CLOSE TO ST CYRUS FROM THE NORTH POLE. WHEN WE ARRIVE IN ST CYRUS WE SWITCH TO OUR SLEIGH TO GO HOUSE TO HOUSE. JUST MAKE SURE THE ST CYRUS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ARE BRIGHT SO I CAN SEE WHERE TO LAND MY AEROPLANE POLAR BEAR ONE. DON'T WORRY IF YOU LIVE OUT IN THE COUNTRY AS THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HAVE MADE UP A LIST TO DISTRIBUTE THIS NEWSLETTER AND THEY KINDLY SENT ME A COPY. I KNOW WHERE EVERYONE LIVES, INCLUDING ANYONE WHO WILL BE AWAY FROM HOME AT CHRISTMAS.

HOPE YOU ARE ALL BEHAVING YOURSELVES (UNLIKE MY NAUGHTY ELVES).

KIND REGARDS,

S CLAUS AND MY CHRISTMAS HELPERS

Community council constitution

In this the first Newsletter we want to explain where the Community Council sits within the political framework and the rules under which we operate. Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with the terms of Section 53 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 has a scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.

The functions of St Cyrus Community Council as set out by our Constitution are:

- To proactively identify and assess issues of concern to its focal community and either suitable action or convey its findings to the relevant authorities.
- To promote the well-being of the community resident within the Community Council boundaries and comply with equal opportunities legislation.
- To be a means whereby the people of the Community Council Area can express their opinions on any matter affecting their lives and their environment.
- The Community Council shall be non-party political and non-sectarian.

St Cyrus is a rural community area which starts at 'Narrows' on the coast just south of Johnshaven, goes north across the fields to Balhagarty Plantation, then goes south west over the fields to Brandshill Wood, and onwards south west via the Hill of Canterland to reach the River North Esk just to the south of Marykirk. From there it follows the River North Esk down past the Lower North Water Bridge and into the Montrose Bay. With an electorate of 1339 and area of 3,528 hectares there should be between 5 and 8 councillors. We currently have 7 Community Councillors who are volunteers: Donna Wilson (Chairperson), Donna Beveridge (Secretary), Brian Fleming (Treasurer), Lee Nimmons, Jenny Bevin, John Brown and Peter Moir.

The Community Council also has Ex-Officio Members, who are the Aberdeenshire Councillors for Mearns and are not eligible to vote or hold office in the Community Council: Cllr George Carr, Cllr Alison Evison, Cllr Laurie Carnie and Cllr Kevin Stelfox.

The Community Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 19.30 and welcomes public participation at its meetings. The Community Council also has powers to appoint sub-committees and determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition.

The Community Council does not make any decisions on planning applications. The Community Council will assist residents of the electorate in how to submit or comment on planning applications. You can make comments within the prescribed public consultation period, usually 21 days from receipt of the application. Each planning application on the register displays the expiry date for making comments.

Peter Moir

Community Council Members

Donna Wilson - Chair
John Brown - Vice Chair
Donna Beveridge - Secretary
Brian Fleming - Treasurer
Lee Nimons - Member
Jenny Bevan - Member
Peter Moir - Member

Contact us on: stcyruscommunitycouncil@gmail.com
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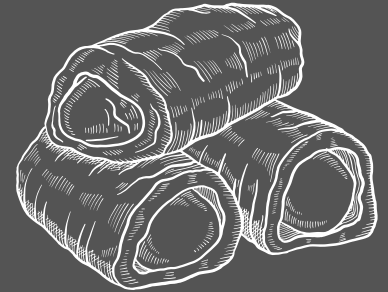


HOMEMADE CHEESE ROLLS

I don't eat meat so cheese rolls are my alternative for sausage rolls. Great for party snacks and delicious served hot or cold. These rolls are very simple to make and soooo cheesy with a mediterranean twist. If you love cheese....you'll love these!!!

Ingredients:

1 x pack of "ready rolled" puff pastry
1/2 tub of full fat cream cheese (any brand will do)
Sun dried tomatoes (the tubs with garlic and herbs work well)
Mature cheddar cheese (about 3 inches cut from a block)I've never weighed it!!
Some grated parmigiano cheese
Chia seeds
1 egg (beaten)



Method:

1. Cut the cheese in half and grate each piece so you have two equal amounts.
2. Chop up the tomatoes into 1/4 inch pieces (roughly...but not too big)
3. Unroll the puff pastry on a flat surface (keep the paper on)
4. Cut the pastry in half (from the long side)
5. Spread half of the cream cheese on each half of the pastry right up to the edges, leaving a 3/4 inch strip at one of the ends (beside the cut line works best).
6. Sprinkle over the grated cheese completely covering the cream cheese on each half.
7. Each half will be cut into 8 rolls, so place 3 pieces of tomato evenly on each strip (so 24 pieces on each half)
8. With a pastry brush, brush some beaten egg on the 3/4 inch strip with no cheese on it.
9. Turn the whole paper sheet so that a "cheese end" is closest to you and gently start rolling the pastry up making sure the cut edge is underneath the roll.
10. Do the same with the other side.
11. With a sharp knife "saw cut" each "tube" into 8 equal pieces, cleaning the knife before each cut.
12. Brush each roll with beaten egg and sprinkle a little parmigiano cheese on top, followed by a sprinkle of Chia Seeds.
13. Carefully transfer the rolls onto a baking sheet covered with greaseproof paper - spacing them evenly.
14. Bake for around 15-20 minutes, or until the pastry has risen and they are golden brown

Mental Health Matters...

G L I M M E R S

This is the essence of a glimmer, something so simple but so worthy being present for.

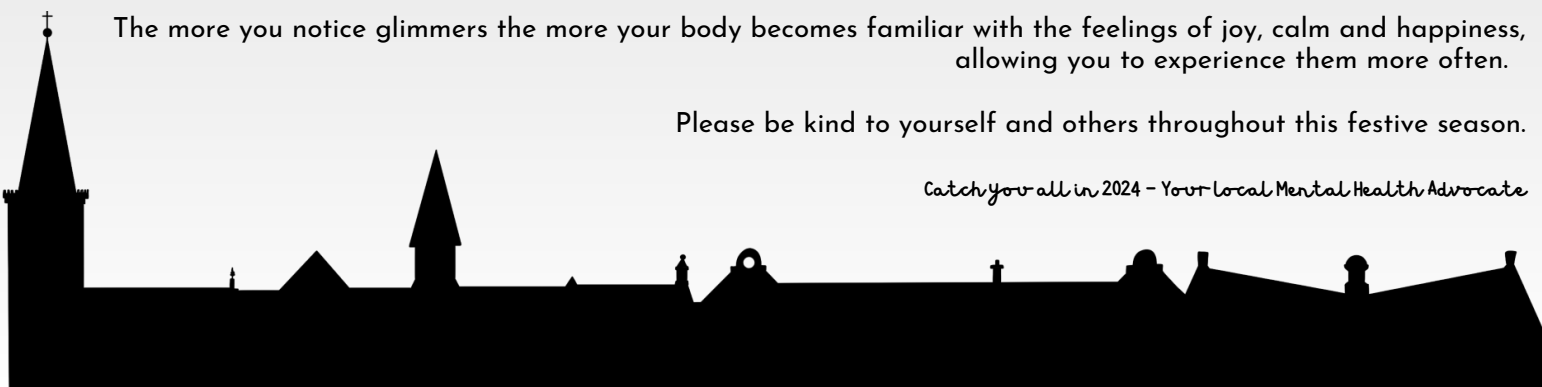
It could be a song you hear on the radio, the first sip of coffee in the morning, watching the snow fall or simply cuddling your pet...

So as this busy season is falling upon us lets try and be more present and bring awareness to the beautiful glimmers all around us, they can be used as a little pot of joy that we can dip into when needed.

The more you notice glimmers the more your body becomes familiar with the feelings of joy, calm and happiness, allowing you to experience them more often.

Please be kind to yourself and others throughout this festive season.

Catch you all in 2024 - Your Local Mental Health Advocate



The Scottish Country Dancing, Whist Club and Indoor Bowling run from September until March all the other groups run all year round although some do stop for school holidays. If you want to join in, just turn up at the Hall for the allotted time. You will be made most welcome at all of the groups and 'new to the game' are also encouraged. We have continued to run our 200 Club - it brings much needed funds to the Hall. Like everyone we are experiencing huge increases in our electricity bills but we were able to secure one-off funding of £1K from Tullo & Twinshiels Wind Farms Community Fund to assist. This has meant that we have been able to keep the rental fees at the same level for this year at least. Chair Christine Jamieson Committee Cherry Holland Vice Chair Peter Moir Tommy Mulholland Treasurer Ken Greig Roland Sayer Secretary Frances Whyte Beverley Simpson Craig Simpson Sam Will Monday Creative Space Yoga UK Small Hall 7-8.30pm Scottish Country Dancing Main Hall 7.30-9pm Tuesday Noreen-Marie Geddes School of Dancing Main Hall 4.15-7pm Indoor Bowling Main Hall 7-9pm Wednesday Arran Pilates Main Hall 10-11am Angus Tai Chi Academy Main Hall 12.30-3.15pm Noreen-Marie Geddes School of Dancing Main Hall 5.30-7.30pm Whist Club Small Hall 7-9.30pm Thursday Montrose MINIs St Cyrus (Toddler Group) Main Hall 10-11.30am Friday Creative Space Yoga UK Main Hall 9.30-11am Youth Club Both Halls 6.30-8.15pm We had to carry out a minor repair to the Hall roof recently and at the same time replaced the guttering at the car park side although this still needs some work. When there's heavy rain and wind Hall users get a shower as they round the corner towards the main entrance from the car park. That's after they've had to avoid the puddles which can be quite deep in one specific area but both issues are in hand and hopefully will be resolved soon. But back to our 200 Club. We are delighted to have 95 players this year with the first draw taking place on 31 October 2023 - next due 30 November.

OUR OCTOBER WINNERS WERE:

£100 Douglas Hamilton

£50 Alison Bosworth

£25 Charles Pirie

£15 Moyra Brown

£10 Kathleen Masson

Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to Mary Smith-Dutton of Angus Tai Chi Academy for completing the draw. And if you're feeling left out it's never too late to join in if you wish - just get in touch and we will get you an application form - £5 monthly. We wish all Hall Users and Newsletter readers a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2024 and hope to see you in the Hall soon.

Frances Whyte, Secretary

Greetings from St Cyrus Church of Scotland

It's really good to welcome the Newsletter back, isn't it?

We don't like to wait, do we? - Especially when it comes to Christmas! Wait till the night of December 24 to start celebrating Christmas? No way! So the supermarkets start with the Christmas decorations, the Christmas presents, Christmas food - when, in September, October? Then come the Christmas movies, the special 'Christmas' channels - lots of tear-jerkers to get you in the mood! The loudspeakers in the Malls and shops are belting out 'Have yourselves a merry little Christmas' and 'Rocking around the Christmas Tree'. There's this rush, this can't-wait attitude toward Christmas.

Here though, in the Parish Church, we are preparing for the four weeks of Advent; the four Sundays before Christmas Day, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. These four Sundays are recognized for four virtues and the Advent candles we light on the Advent wreath symbolize these: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. We take time to consider these virtues, using the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. The fifth candle in the centre of the wreath is often called the 'Christ Candle' and it's lit on Christmas Day, the day our Saviour was born. Our services during Advent are at the regular Sunday time of 10:00 am. On Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm we'll have our usual 'Carols by Candlelight' (and torchlight - bring your mobiles!), and the Church and Community Choir will sing for us too. Then on Christmas Day itself there will be a short service at 10:00 am. Please come and join us at any (or all) of these services, to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas - the birth of Jesus. For us in the Church, 2023 has been an eventful year. Numbers attending Sunday Services have grown, for which we feel very blessed and we've had visitors 'frae a' the airts' - Alaska, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and all over this country too, many of whom have family connections with our village and Church. The Wednesday Friendship Club is going well - I won't say any more about it, because I know the Club itself will be posting in this Newsletter, save to say how much I enjoy attending and joining in on a Wednesday morning.

The triangle field opposite the Church and School has passed the planning process to turn the field into a car park, which will be available to Church, community and visitors. The design is tastefully landscaped and also provides a drop-off/pickup area for those going to and leaving the school, while alleviating the parking situation on Beach Road.

Please remember that if you know of a pastoral need, if you would like me to visit, or if you would like to know more about any aspect of our ministry here in the Parish, and if you would like to be more involved in your Church, don't hesitate to contact me by phone or email, or by coming along to our services at 10:00 am every Sunday.

One last item: As of 31st December I will be retired. After seven happy years at St Cyrus Church I've decided to hang up the collar and, as the politicians say, 'spend more time with my family'! It's been a good seven years, getting to know the folk in the village and worshipping with you every Sunday. I'll miss you, but I'm sure I'll be back for services in the future ...

All that remains is to wish each and every one of you a very happy and blessed Christmas.

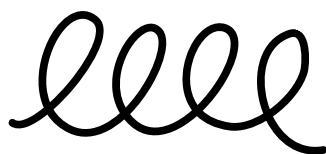
Blessings to you all,

Norman

Rev. Norman Trewren,

Minister

St Cyrus Church of Scotland



Friendship Club

St Cyrus Friendship Club meets every Wednesday 10am-1pm - in the Church Gallery (lift access available).

The morning starts with a welcome Tea/Coffee, quiz, gentle exercise, singing, games and finishes with a lovely two course lunch (provided by St Cyrus Primary School Canteen).

Members pay £1 per session inc. lunch.

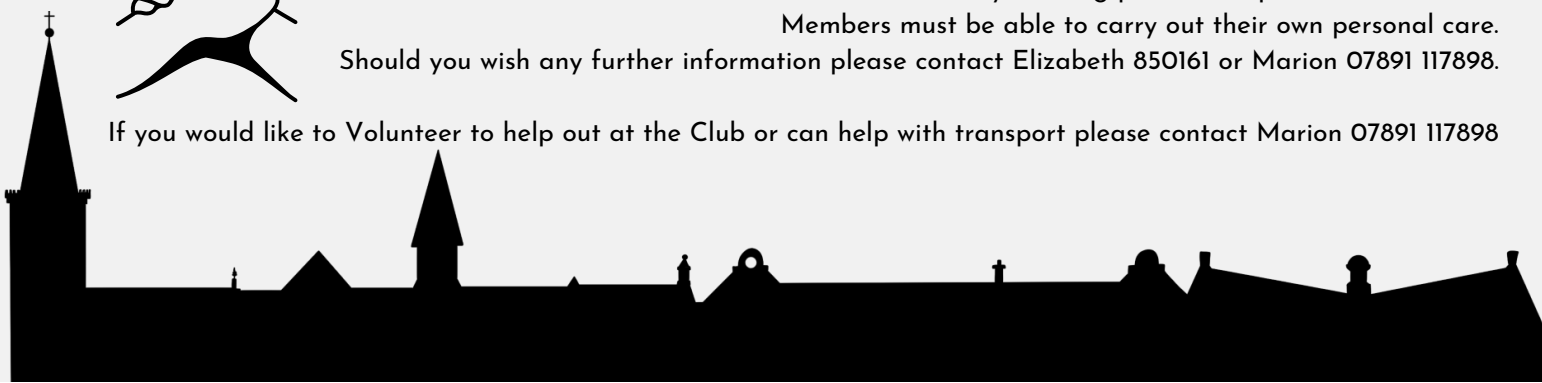
The Club aims to offer a warm friendly meeting place to help combat loneliness.

Members must be able to carry out their own personal care.

Should you wish any further information please contact Elizabeth 850161 or Marion 07891 117898.



If you would like to Volunteer to help out at the Club or can help with transport please contact Marion 07891 117898



A Message from St Cyrus Nature Reserve

I'm so pleased that the newsletter is back, and as before I'm writing with half an hour to go before the deadline, I just hope that the new editor is as forgiving as Frances Johnston!

Finally, 2023 has been the year that we are starting to feel a bit 'normal' after lockdown! The schools are coming back to the reserve and we started our events program in earnest, from birding for kids to moths and butterflies, then whooshing to more niche events such as fa's heid and fa's bones!

Our team has greatly expanded since the last newsletters, the carpark has grown and the facilities greatly improved....I just don't know where to start!

Firstly thank you to the people of St Cyrus for your care and respect for the reserve, keeping her safe and treading on her lightly. We couldn't do our jobs without you and as always we do our jobs for you and future generations and with up to 180 thousand people a year we need any help we can get!

We've had a year of some fantastic discoveries including the small adders tongue fern and the extremely rare elegant earth star! Keep an eye on facebook for more information!

Birds in brief! The peregrines didn't breed this year, for the first time in many years and we suspect a new pair are forming. Kingfisher were seen with juveniles regularly and Paul Baxter, our roving birder and bird ringer ringed over 200 red poll on the reserve the week of the 13th of November!

We built our beautiful enhanced accessible birdhide this year, completed the carpark works and changing places toilets projects and launched our all-terrain wheelchairs, all steps in improving accessibility to the site. Sadly we lost our hide to storm Babet....but all is not lost and we are salvaging the wreckage at the moment. You will also have seen improvements to some of the old 'ruined' bothies on the reserve.

We look forward to your input and help with taking these projects and others into the future!

A big thank you to staff, Hannah, Paula, Kate, Embark nature schools and Helen young, K and M ranger for all their hard work!





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KIDS PAGE

A page for Kids and hopefully soon written by Kids. If you want to show your art, share a good book or game then this is your space!

Please send entries to stcyrusnews@gmail.com

GUESS THE LANGUAGE:

How do you say Merry Christmas in...?
(answers at the bottom of page)

1. Frohe Weihnachten
2. Wesółych Świąt
3. Joyeux Noël
4. Buon natale
5. Vrolijk Kerstfeest
6. Feliz Navidad

MAKE AN ORANGE BIRD FEEDER!



Photo from shutterstock

1. Cut an orange in half and scoop the middle out to eat yourself
2. Use bamboo skewers as a landing spot for the birds by inserting them through the orange skin.
3. Tie some biodegradable string on to each end of the skewer
4. Fill your bird feeder with a mixture of bird food and lard (or leave the lard out)

New Year's Wordsearch

R E S O L U T I O N
R T M I D N I G H T
C O N F E T T I P U
F C A D R G U C A S
R T T R T E I C R M
A U C E R S S R T U
R W N T D F T G Y S
F I R E W O R K S I
O N W O D T N U O C
E T A R B E L E C A

CONFETTI MUSIC COUNTDOWN PARTY
CELEBRATE MIDNIGHT RESOLUTION FIREWORKS

Q: WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE BOOK?

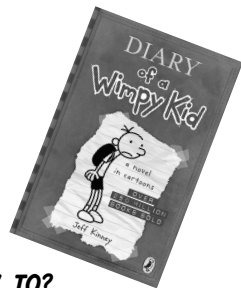
A: ITS FUNNY AND ENTERTAINING

Q: WHAT IS THE BOOK ABOUT?

A: ITS A CARTOON NOVEL ABOUT A BOY CALLED GREG WHO IS WRITING A JOURNAL ABOUT HIS LIFE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Q: WHO WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THE BOOK TO?

A: ITS FOR ALL AGES



INTERVIEW WITH BOY, 8 YEARS.



Answers - 1.German 2.Polish 3.French 4.Italian 5.Dutch 6.Spanish



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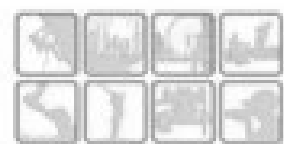
Lathallan Pathways gives parents of J1-J4 pupils a helping hand on the first step towards an extraordinary early years education at our school.



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St Cyrus Taxi

07889 740235

Local, long distance, airport
transfers, etc. phone, text or find
me on facebook
stcyrustaxi@gmail.com

Thank You

Thank you to all for reading we hope you have found the return of St Cyrus Newsletter informative and entertaining.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the return of this Newsletter, including businesses who have advertised with us, writers for their articles & insights, talented local photographers, the editorial team and of course our "boots on the ground" distribution team.

Also, a huge thank you to Simon @ Repro for saving the day & doing the print!

If you would like to contribute to future issues please do get in touch with the editorial team stcyrusnews@gmail.com

Editorial Policy Statement

St Cyrus News is a free community publication distributed every two months to households and businesses in St Cyrus and its surrounding areas.

Our aim is to provide information, appreciation and celebration of our rich and diverse community. Letters; and articles published do not necessarily reflect the views of The Editorial Team but we reserve the right to shorten, edit or not publish any item.

The Editorial Team will request full written parental permission before including any photographs of children. Photographic resources donated to & collected on behalf of The Editorial Team remain the property of the team. As a sub-group of the St Cyrus Community Council, all advertising or sponsorship transactions will be processed via the Community Council account.

Reflecting GDPR legislation, we will only share information once we have consent to do so.

Next Issue is out February 2024, any submissions due by 20th Jan 2024.

