



# Drumoak & Durris NEWSLETTER

Published Independently.  
Distributed by Drumoak-Durris Church of  
Scotland

Issue 109  
June 2023

## Welcome to the Summer edition of the Drumoak and Durris Newsletter



[Drumoak, Durris & Crathes Bowling Club](#). Our outdoor season began on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April with the opening of the green, with a reasonable turnout and a dry day.

We currently have approximately 30 playing members with a few welcome new faces. As with many other bowling clubs, it is getting harder every year to keep the club running without new faces to replace older members who sadly are not able to participate any more.

We've had a very busy start to the season with the usual competitions where successful bowlers from the previous year qualify to play in Bowls Scotland finals. These finals are one of the biggest competitions at the start of any season and Drumoak Durris Crathes Bowling Club have been selected to host the finals of all the Gents competitions on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June! This is very prestigious and as



a club we are honoured to be chosen this year. We certainly hope we can make these finals days as successful as we can.

We also hope to hold a Try Bowls Day at the club to try and entice some new members – young and not as young... Please look out for events which will be advertised on our Facebook page and if you don't use social media, please keep an eye out for posters, or just ask locally, or come along to the club and ask for more information.

Outwith the bowling activities there are always events in our social calendar, such as bingo nights and quiz nights for fundraising, as well as our licensed bar, open Friday's and Saturday's

7-11pm. It only costs £10 per calendar year to be a Social Member and we have darts and a pool table available and a TV for football or rugby matches.

You also don't need to wait for the Try Bowls event to give bowls a try either - we are a welcoming bunch so please come along some fine summer evening on a Tuesday or Friday at 7pm for our 'Hat' nights. Just bring flat shoes and we will have plenty of bowls you can borrow. If we can get enough people interested, we could even have a day for potential new members and have some coaching and encouragement from some of our existing members.

Finally, all I ask is please have a go and if it's not for you then at least you tried.

"USE US OR LOSE US"

Kevin Anderson

Club President

=====



[Drumoak-Durris](#)  
[Church of Scotland](#)  
[Church News](#)



We sadly said goodbye to our Minister Jean on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Jean was our Minister for the past 7 years, during which time we greatly appreciated her leadership, her thoughtful services and compassionate pastoral visiting. She worked closely with both local Primary Schools and Banchory Academy, was involved with Church Groups, including Messy Church and the Friendship Club and also other local groups who use the Church Hall. During this time of change in the Church of Scotland we very much appreciated the fact that Jean involved the congregation in discussions about our future in view of the Presbytery Plan and encouraged us to prayerfully consider the various options available to us.

We now await the appointment of an Interim Moderator to guide us through the next few months. This appointment will be made by the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles who will also ultimately decide our future as a church. Discussions are ongoing to find the best possible solution for our congregation.

In the meantime, services will continue as before at 10am. Services on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month will be held in Durris Church and on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Drumoak Church Hall. All services during July will be held in Durris Church and all services in August will be held in Drumoak Church Hall. Everyone is most welcome to come along.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June the service will be led by members of our Home Group. This will be Sanctuary Sunday, which is a Sunday in June aimed to give us an opportunity to share love and prayers to all refugees and asylum seekers. It is a chance to raise awareness of the difficulties they face and ways we can show Christian love and support.

It is with regret that, at the present time, we are unable to take any new bookings for the Church Hall.



[The Drumoak-Durriss Friendship Group](#) The first meeting after the summer break will be on the first Monday in October. Please note that Amy's new telephone number is 01330 828582.

[www.drumoakdurrisschurch.org](http://www.drumoakdurrisschurch.org)

Find us on 



### DURRIS SWI

As you may know Durriss Women's Institute meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month from September to May at 7.30pm at Kirkton Hall, Durriss. We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members along and have some interesting speakers and activities lined up for the new session, including making sweets for Christmas, learning how to weave, and a talk from an NHS worker about staff experiences during Covid-19. If anyone wishes to join us, please give our Secretary, Winnie Reid a call on 01330 824524 or email: [winniereid49@gmail.com](mailto:winniereid49@gmail.com). You can also find us on Facebook at **Durriss Womens Institute** where we post some photos of what we are up to.

We met in April and were entertained by Finzean Ukelele Group and the Silver Linings singers. It was a fun evening, with the Durriss ladies joining in the singing. This was followed by our usual tea and cakes.

May saw us getting down to business at our AGM and Taste and Try supper. All the members brought a dish, and we started the evening with a lovely supper followed by entertainment from Glassel & Campfield WI who brought along 3 talented young ladies from the Couatts School of Dancing. The Glassel ladies were our tellers, and a new committee was formed for the 2023/2024 session.

We will be meeting up on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> June for a visit to Maryfield Flowers on the kind invitation of Rebeccah Stripling which we are all looking forward to and if anyone wishes to join us, please get in touch with our Secretary, Winnie Reid. We will have a walk around Rebeccah's lovely flowers followed by a wee picnic (hopefully outside).

Although we do not meet in the summer months, we are still busy. Durriss WI has always supported the Banchory Show, which will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 and our ladies are busy knitting, sewing and crafting, baking and flower arranging so we can enter the Industrial Show

as individuals and as a team. We were very successful last year, so fingers crossed for another good year. If you see us there, come and say hello!

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We will be holding a coffee morning in Kirkton Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 from 10am to which you are all very welcome. Come along and sample our home baking and bring your friends. We are hoping to have some informative stands from local groups for you to peruse.



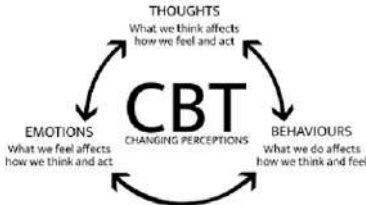
FourSeasons – Scotland  
Established in 2019 that has expanded in size due to word of mouth. we are a professional team dedicated to providing a first class service. Our team are highly trained in Lawn care , garden maintenance, power-washing, tree surgery, gritting and snow clearing, both private & commercial, in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

Tel:07895398788  
Email:office@fourseasons-scotland.co.uk  
Web:www.fourseasons-scotland.co.uk

## Grampian Talking Therapy

I am a Registered Mental Health Nurse and Cognitive Behavioural Therapist. CBT is the NHS recommended treatment for various difficulties including anxiety, depression, obsessive compulsive disorders, low self-esteem and bulimia nervosa.

If you would like more information please call or message 07780841181, email [grampiantalkingtherapy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:grampiantalkingtherapy@yahoo.co.uk) or see my Facebook Page.



THOUGHTS  
What we think affects how we feel and act

EMOTIONS  
What we feel affects how we think and act

BEHAVIOURS  
What we do affects how we think and feel

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

CBT



## Firewood available

Large and small quantities for sale  
Contact us to arrange uplift: [compass@cwt.scot](mailto:compass@cwt.scot)  
or come to our site Monday- Friday, 9am-5pm  
Produce and plants also available in our weekly Produce Pop-Up every Thursday, 2pm - 4pm  
Compass, Craigton Road, Cults, AB15 9QD  
[www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/compass](http://www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/compass)



Compass

Support us!  
[localgiving.org/CWT](http://localgiving.org/CWT)

Donate now!

## Compass Directions



Local medical charity, Camphill Wellbeing Trust (CWT), launched Compass in September 2020 to transform the former Waldorf School site on Craigton Road into a centre demonstrating practical solutions for healthy and sustainable lifestyles. Thanks to the support of our **local community** and over **5586 hours** donated by **515 volunteers**, our project continues to grow.

We are delighted to confirm our polytunnel, funded by **The National Lottery's Together for our Planet Award**, has been granted planning permission and is now up ready for use. This new growing space will provide an area for bringing on seeds, potting up plants and for growing produce needing some protection in our NE climate, such as tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers.



We have a wide variety of fruit and vegetables already growing outside, some almost ready for harvesting. Unfortunately, we have had a number of dog fouling incidents in our fruit and vegetable growing areas. While we welcome walkers passing through the site, **please make sure to keep all dogs on leads** so our growing areas remain safe and pleasant for all!

Volunteers have recently taken part in #30minworms by **uksoils** who promote soil science



skills in the community. An earthworm survey of Compass has been submitted to the project to help determine local populations of worms across the country. The site is also taking part in Scotland Wildlife Trust's Saving Scotland's Red Squirrel initiative.

Compass also welcomed participants of **NESCAN's Climate Week North East** onsite

for an afternoon of learning about beekeeping, composting, wormeries and no-dig gardening methods this April. Despite the wet weather, we received positive feedback from the event: *"I enjoyed the wormery and no-dig workshops. Great event, staff were very knowledgeable and I'm excited to start the no-dig method at home."* If you'd like to learn more about our methods, come along to one of our volunteering sessions – the best way to learn is by doing!

### [Volunteer with us!](#)

We spoke to our volunteers about their experiences of the project. Watch our video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/8BgFOLCyfT0> or join our volunteering sessions to discover the benefits for yourself!

- ✓ **Weekdays: Wednesday** (1.30pm – 4pm) or **Thursday** (9.30am – 12noon)
- ✓ **Saturdays:** check our website for the next **monthly volunteer day** (9.30am – 4pm)

**Produce Pop-Ups:** We have seasonal plants, including rhubarb crowns, and produce available on a donation basis. Pick yours up onsite or at our Murtle Estate Pop-Up. We also have large quantities (£105 per m3) and bags (£10.50/bag) of **firewood available** for sale. Contact us for more information!

[www.compassaberdeen.org.uk](http://www.compassaberdeen.org.uk) or email: [compass@cwt.scot](mailto:compass@cwt.scot).

<https://localgiving.org/charity/CWT/project/CWTCompass/>

Facebook @CWTCompass

### [About Camphill Wellbeing Trust](#)

CWT is a medical charity providing an extended and integrative approach to health and wellbeing. It aims to address illness, build resilience and maintain wellbeing.

---

### [Coming up at Crathes Hall](#)



LAUREN COLLIER BAND SATURDAY 26 AUGUST 2023 DOORS 7.30PM TICKETS £18
--

Lauren Collier is a fiddle player and singer based in Glasgow. The Lauren Collier Band's debut album is due for release early 2023. It features songs and tunes which Lauren has collected from around the world. The fresh compositions and arrangements, combined with technology, create a blend of music encompassing flavours of traditional, world and electronic music.



**Our season of beautiful flowers  
is about to begin.**

From April onwards we look forward to offering stunning bouquets for every occasion, or for the enthusiast why not try a bucket of flowers and foliage to arrange yourself.

Wedding flower options are available

Please contact Rebecca on  
**07720 294103** or  
[Rebecca.Stripling@btinternet.com](mailto:Rebecca.Stripling@btinternet.com)

**VANS 2 U @ DRUMOAK GARAGE**  
**VAN & TIPPER HIRE**  
**GARAGE NOW OPEN FOR CAR**  
**& VAN REPAIRS & SERVICING,**  
**BODYWORK & TYRE FITTING**



**Mark Crawford: 07738 857412**  
**Drum Station Road, Drumoak**  
**[mark1garage@aol.com](mailto:mark1garage@aol.com)**

=====

[Tales from the Riverbank by Robert Harper](#)

2023 River Dee spring salmon fishing season, February to end of May, has been disastrous once again, an extremely poor return of spring fish, the crisis deepens, not only on the Dee but for many Scottish rivers. On the Dee we now await to see if the summer run of salmon and grilse materialises, we can only hope.

The urgency how the salmon crisis would be looked into by the Scottish Government fell completely flat, their urgency and words meant nothing, as I was well warned they would be, but having attended a meeting April 2022 at the Lower Crathes fishing hut, where the River Dee was very well represented, the Association of Fishery Boards in Scotland and others attended, with the main player Mairi Gougeon MSP for Rural Affairs, now a Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, present. I believed her words and urgency, it was as though she cared and wanted to help the River Dee, the RURAL AREA and ECONOMY, but now I truly fear for our wild salmon industry and countryside ways of life, to my knowledge Mairi Gougeon hasn't even had the decency to respond to any correspondence regarding the April 2022 meeting, saying that the same can be said for many of the other local MSP'S who either just don't respond or ignore if you write to them, they have their own agendas. Interestingly on television the other night, and it looked like the interview was at Park bridge, a gentleman from

SEPA was saying how there was to be conservation areas designated around some of the salmon fish farms on the West Coast of Scotland, these fish farms have been an environmental disaster for so many years on the West Coast, scandalous it's taken so long for action. To finish, the River Dee has been a designated Special Area for Conservation for Salmon, Otter's and Fresh Water Mussels for many years, two of the three are acknowledged to be in crisis, yet an SAC means nothing to the Scottish Government, another scandalous situation, in my opinion wild salmon and Fresh Water Mussel's, have very little chance of survival, I am very saddened to say.

=====

### Drumoak in Bloom

You may have noticed the two big planters at Keithmuir and by the time you read this they will be full of bonnie flowers to cheer us up. The plants have been donated by Aberdeenshire Council, compost kindly donated by Mains of Drum and Duncan White has kindly lined them and added mulch. You will see other planters spring up along the village. Perhaps you have noticed our lavender plants near Sunnyside drive behind the bus stop. An area planted with perennials is beside No 1 Sunnyside Drives garage and a further, border near Sunnyside Lane, all are bee friendly plants and should fill up the areas as the years go on. The P6s from Drumoak primary planted 10,000 crocuses back in November. It was a freezing cold day and all credit to them and their teachers for being so enthusiastic on the day. Not a great show this year but hopefully next will be fuller. DDCG have a small team of ladies who are behind the planting, and we would welcome others to come on board, especially for the watering during the summer months. It would be great to see more planters as the years go on, but we need you to help us do this.



Contact Shelagh if you are interested in volunteering 07977134057.

=====

### Drumoak Durris Coronation Event

After the success of the weekly Drumoak Durris Warm Space, held at the Bowling Club, which ended on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, the Warm Space Team decided that it would be a great thing to hold an event to celebrate the Coronation.

The Warm Space Team comprises Shelagh, Gillian, Mary, Helen, and Ann. We set out to lay on an event for all of the community. It was a ticket event, but the tickets were free, and we welcomed over 100 people of all ages on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May.



The Drumoak Bowling Club generously gave their great facilities for free and operated the bar during the event and the Drumoak Durris Community Group helped with the raffle, helped with the planning of the event, and helped on the day with setting up.

So therefore, we had rows of beautifully set out tables and a myriad of willing helpers from Warm Space and Drumoak Durris Community Group and Drumoak Bowling Club – a real team event. We enjoyed prosecco with strawberries and cream, tea and coffee, freshly baked scones and sausage rolls.

To cap it all we had a coronation cake which was ceremoniously cut by one of our oldest friends, Janet Smith.

Afterwards we had a huge raffle, to which lots of folk had generously donated prizes, and lots of folk bought tickets on the day.

The result of that, and the donations made at the door, was that we raised £500 after expenses. It has not been decided how to spend that money yet, but we'll let you know in due course.

The Warm Space Team, The Bowling Club and the Drumoak Durris Community Group Team would like to thank everyone who came to the Coronation Event – we all had a great time – and especially to all the helpers who generously gave their time to layout the tables, serve the food and drinks and clear up afterwards. They are so cheery and efficient and are a treat to work with.

We'll be hoping to run another Warm Space during the coming winter so WATCH THIS (warm) SPACE for news later in the year!

=====  
[SIR ISAAC NEWTON: A DURRIS LINK!](#)



*Sir Isaac Newton*

I suspect that there will be few readers of this article who have not heard of Isaac Newton – one of the most famous and influential scientists of all time. What few readers may be aware

of is that had it not been for someone with links to Durris, we might never have heard of Newton. The key person here is the 17<sup>th</sup> century laird of Durris - Sir Alexander Fraser. Sir Alexander was educated at Aberdeen University, received his medical training at Leyden University in Holland and Montpellier University in France and admitted as a Fellow of the College of Physicians in 1641. With his reputation rapidly increasing he was promoted to be one of the principal physicians to Charles I in 1645. With Charles I's execution in 1648 Fraser fled to Holland where he presented himself to Charles II who appointed him as his physician. It has been claimed that Sir Alexander played an important part in the formation of the Royal Society which comprised the most learned men in the country at that time. The Society was formed in 1660 and included such men as Christopher Wren, Samuel Pepys and Isaac Newton. Fraser played a critical role in the life of Newton by enabling him to retain his place at Trinity College, Cambridge. What is the evidence to support this claim? Whilst Trinity College was quite relaxed as far as most of its regulations were concerned, it was insistent that anyone wishing to continue as a fellow of the College, had to become ordained into the Anglican Church. But Newton was unwilling to be ordained even though he knew that such a refusal would lead inevitably to him having to leave Cambridge.

There was a possible solution. The statute with respect to ordination could be set aside by a royal dispensation. In 1674 a student at Trinity College had attempted to obtain a dispensation of the kind that Newton sought. However, it was the view of the Master of Trinity College that such a dispensation, if granted, would undermine the principal purpose of the college which was the creation of clergymen. The Master was confident that such a dispensation would be refused and so it proved.

There is in existence the draft of a letter written by Newton to Sir Alexander thanking him for his support for the dispensation. It is worth noting that Sir Alexander's son, Charles Fraser, had been elected to a fellowship in Trinity in 1673 and would have known of Newton and his unique abilities. By 1675 Newton had almost given up hope of remaining at Trinity College. Then at the last moment the situation changed. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1675 and with the full support of Charles II, a draft of a special dispensation was sent to the Attorney General for his opinion. On the 27<sup>th</sup> April that dispensation was granted and because this was a Royal Act it could not be challenged. The point should be stressed that ample evidence shows that Sir Alexander was more than just a personal physician to Charles II but a close confidant. If Sir Alexander had made a strong case for granting such a dispensation, Charles II would have listened.

Why was Newton so opposed to being ordained into the Anglican Church? One tentative answer has been advanced and that is that around 1672 Newton had become an Arian. The Arian doctrine, first proposed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century by Arius, stated the belief that Jesus was more than man but less than God. In other words, Arians did not believe in the identification of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost, so they did not believe in the doctrine of the Trinity. Newton

believed that the Roman Catholic Church was misguided in its interpretation of Christianity and had returned to idolatry and whilst he partly approved of the Protestant Reformation, he felt it had not gone nearly far enough to return Christianity to its original state.

Holding heretical views of this kind would almost certainly have led to him losing his post at Trinity College. There is a certain irony in the fact that Newton in rejecting the concept of the Trinity nevertheless remained a fellow of the *College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity!*

Had Sir Alexander not intervened and had Newton not remained at Cambridge, the scientific world would have been deprived of the thinking of one of the world's greatest scientists. The laird of Durris perhaps merits belated recognition for the importance of his intervention.

Robin Jackson

---



**Drumoak Kitchens design,  
manufacture and install kitchens and  
other furniture in the North East of  
Scotland and beyond.**

Since 1972, we have specialised in custom made kitchens in a wide range of both classic and contemporary styles, creating both unique and personal solutions for our customer's requirements.



**DRUMOAK  
KITCHENS**

**Book an appointment with one of  
our experienced designers today.**

**Our Showroom is open 7 days:**  
Monday to Friday 9 – 5pm  
Saturday 9 - 4pm  
Sunday 10.30 - 4pm

Drumoak Kitchens, Drum Station Yard, Drumoak, Aberdeen, AB31 5AJ  
01330 811 555 | sales@drumoak-kitchens.com  
[www.drumoakkitchens.com](http://www.drumoakkitchens.com)

---

## [Ready to refresh at Crathes Hall](#)

Following the lifting of the final Covid restrictions last year, things have returned with a bang at Crathes Hall.

Since June 2022 there has been a steady influx of functions, fitness classes and events at the Hall which has made us one of the busiest in the Shire, averaging about 120 hours of hire use per month, which is hugely appreciated by the Trustees and the Community.

Over the course of the last year, we have had 31 children's parties, 10 band rehearsals, 9 funeral teas, 4 craft fairs and a wedding amongst a variety of other bookings as well as ongoing regular hires. Throughout lockdown and the early part of 2022, a



small group of Trustees were working hard to progress the project to build the new Hall for the Community. As the years wore on it became increasingly apparent that sources of funding were few and far between especially when it was apparent that lockdown and other factors had caused the price of materials and labour to increase to a point where the build cost for the new Hall had risen by an estimated 80 %.

At a Trustees meeting in November 2022, it was agreed that the new Hall was not a realistic proposal at this time, so the decision was made to stop the project and instead, turn our attention to refurbishing the existing Hall. The decision was circulated to and supported by the Community.

Since then, work has been ongoing to clarify what requires to be done to secure the Hall in the short and medium term with one eye on potential long-term improvements. Surveys undertaken by Business Energy Scotland have identified ideas that when implemented will enable the Hall to run far more efficiently than before and at reduced costs. The report also opened sources of funding that were not otherwise available to the Trustees for the new Hall project.

The upshot of this work means that the Hall will be closed from early July until the 10 August this year to allow works to be carried out to treat areas of wet & dry rot, install insulation in the walls, install new windows, new fire doors and to paint the building inside and out.

As far as possible the works that have been quoted for have been awarded to local trades to further enhance the Community engagement of the Hall. Outside the Hall, work has already started. A work party in early June, with the help of a large digger(!), moved the plants and soil from a flowerbed beside the Hall to an area at the opposite end of the car park where it is hoped the flowers and plants will flourish.

Work has also been ongoing to finalise the purchase of the 2.2 acres of Station Wood, the area of trees that surround the Hall car park on the south side of the A93.

With a grant from the Scottish Land Fund, the transfer of ownership is being processed and is hoped to be completed soon.

It is hoped that in the fullness of time the area can be used by the Community for outdoor learning, environmental development and maybe picnics!

As for ongoing events, regular updates are posted on the Crathes Village Hall Facebook page as well as the website [www.crathes-hall.co.uk](http://www.crathes-hall.co.uk) keeping everyone posted with what is coming up.

For those that would like to be added to the Hall mailing list, please make use of the "Join Us!" button on the front page of the website where you can become a member of the Hall. It doesn't cost anything and doesn't commit you to anything; it just ensures you are notified of upcoming events at the Hall.

We are entering an exciting period for our beloved Hall. It is only with the help and support of the volunteer Trustees and members of the Community that we will ensure the Hall remains a valued and cherished facility for generations to come.

If you would like to know a bit more about what we do, any of the events at the Hall or ways in which you can help or support any of the upcoming work, then please do not hesitate to contact us via the website, Facebook or email – [hall.crathes@gmail.com](mailto:hall.crathes@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you at the Hall!

Kindest regards

**Neil McHattie**

**Convener**

**Crathes Public Hall Trust**

**Board of Trustees**

---

### [Crathes Drumoak and Durris Community Council Update.](#)

It's been another busy quarter for the Community Council, with a vast array of topics on the table. There doesn't seem to be a week go by without one of us being out and about attending meetings, be that meeting residents to discuss ideas and suggestions as well as concerns, to meeting with representatives from local organisations and officers from the council, there's plenty happening just now and whilst it's not all positive news, there are so many great things happening in the Community, we are thoroughly enjoying being part of them.

Our usual work on items such as; our ongoing Road Safety Campaign, our fight to re-open Park Bridge, our work to improve issues at The Glebe and trying to implement developments for the communities with the likes of our Path Network project and delivery and installation of several new Defib units across the area, as well as keeping up to speed with the communities opinions and plans

for the proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm and the proposed new overhead powerlines by SSEN is what keeps us so occupied.

I'm sure you can imagine for a small group of volunteers it's no mean feat, and any support we can get from members of the community to assist us with any one of these matters is really appreciated – you don't have to join the Community Council to support us. We have several people who work with us on some of these projects purely to do their bit support our endeavours and make a difference for the community and we'd love to have more of you do the same.

### [Defibrillation Units](#)

One of our Community Councillors, Shaun, has worked very hard over the last few months, pulling together funding, to deliver a project to install more defibrillation units across all of our

### [Communities.](#)

With funding from both the Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Fund and Aberdeenshire Councils Kincardine & Mearns local budget, we have been able to purchase an additional 4 Defibrillation units which is fantastic news.

We're also very grateful to the support receive from Ener-G Services, who have very kindly agreed to install these units for us, which has been a fantastic support.

The locations of these new units are Crossroads Nursery – Durriss, Durriss Primary School – Woodland of Durriss, Sunnyside Construction – Park, The Hair Hut – Drumoak.

### [Funding](#)

We continue to fund local projects through the Mid Hill Windfarm community fund, with two progressing currently for the Drumoak and Durriss Community Group. Our last financial year has seen over £14000 awarded between our three communities. Application details on for funding can be found the CDDCC website - [www.crathesdrumoakdurrisscc.org](http://www.crathesdrumoakdurrisscc.org)

### [Road Safety Update](#)

Our regular meetings with Aberdeenshire Council on our Road Safety project continue to be ongoing. It's been great to see that so many of the concerns raised through our Road Safety Campaign in late 2021 being looked at and in most cases, actions taking place. At the last meeting, we were provided with an update that the speed limit in Kirkton of Durriss will be lowered to 40mph, which is a great result after many years of campaigning. There are many other good results, perhaps too many to list here, but we will try to find a way of conveying the results thus far in the near future.

### [Community Paths Update](#)

Tying in nicely to Road Safety, our work on building a path network between our communities continues. We've recently held meetings with a few of the landowners, to see how they can support us in improving safety in communities as well as developing leisure opportunities, with the provision of paths. We will shortly be on the lookout for support from residents to form a group that can actively help support, volunteer, create and maintain path networks in our area, like we see in other surrounding areas.

### [Proposed New Overhead line by SSEN.](#)

By now we hope that you are aware of SSEN's proposals to install a new overhead line, running through the heart of our community. Many of you have contacted us to make us aware of your opinion which is great, please continue to do so. The big ask we have however, is to ensure that you respond to your local councillors, MSP's as well as SSEN during any consultation periods and should any planning permission be submitted to ensure your voices are heard, it's really important that whatever your opinion, you take the time to fill in the form, write the email or submit the feedback, please don't assume your opinion will already be known or that it won't make a difference.

### [Park Quarry](#)

We visited the JKR (formerly Chap) quarry this month to see progress on reinstatement. We were pleased to see considerable material on the west side where reinstatement has begun. It will take some considerable time though as 80% of the material brought in is recycled, with the remaining 20% going to reinstatement. Extraction is virtually complete with just a small area left. JKR's lease from Chap is for a period of 10 years (8 ½ to go) and reinstatement is due to be complete by then. However, we can't forget that Chap may still have a proposal for Kinclun Village (1500 houses) in the pipeline and it is anticipated that this will be revived as soon as reinstatement is complete and JKR clear the site.

### [Park Bridge](#)

The structural assessment of Park Bridge is due for completion now and Aberdeenshire Council have been contacted to find out the status. The assessment has not yet been received by the council and an update on the timing of it is awaited.

### [Hill of Fare Windfarm Proposal](#)

By the time you read this, it is likely that the next - and final - round of public consultations on the Hill of Fare Windfarm proposal will have taken place. However, the closing date for comments is not until 06 July, so we would encourage you to make any comments known to RES by then. You can do this by emailing Gavin Shirley, Project Manager, at [gavin.shirley@res-group.com](mailto:gavin.shirley@res-group.com). Previously, the development was planned to include 17 turbines, each 250m in height. RES has amended the design which now shows the turbine tip heights being lowered from 250m to a mix of 180m and 200m turbines, and turbine numbers being reduced from 17 to 16. This is a significant proposal for our area which requires careful consideration. The survey results from the last round of public consultations illustrates that 76% object to the proposal, with 15% undecided, 4% neutral, and 6% in favour. In majority terms therefore the community was strongly opposed to the proposal as it was described at that time. Please note that comments submitted to RES by 06 July are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit), they are for the purposes of communicating your opinions with RES alone. There will be an opportunity to submit

representations to the determining authority once a planning application has been submitted, which we expect will be later this summer.

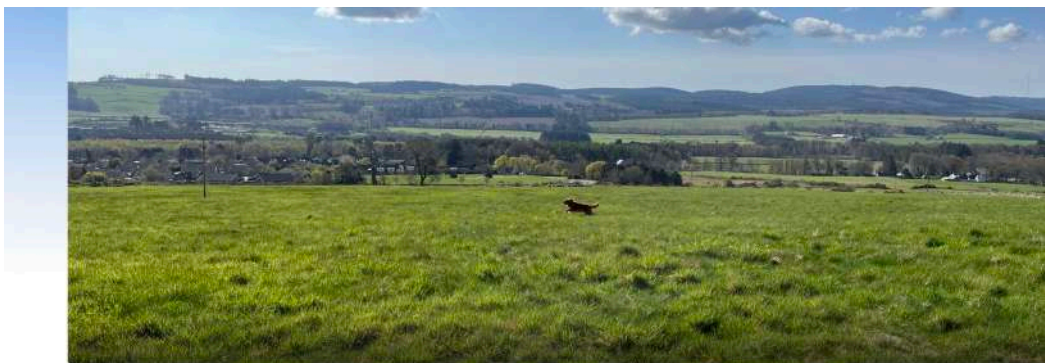
The Community Council would love to hear your views which you can share at any time using our email address: [crathesdrumoakdurrisc@gmail.com](mailto:crathesdrumoakdurrisc@gmail.com).

---



**Twhandmadecreations.** I design Jewellery, Mugs, Coasters and different variety of products.  
Check them out on Facebook **Twhandmadecreations**  
&  
the website **Twhandmadecreations.com**  
**Hope to see you all there soon.**

[Deeside Against Pylons](#) This is a FaceBook group set up to give the latest information about the



**Deeside Against Pylons**

proposed new 400kV Over Head Line (O.H.L.) which is proposed to run through the Scottish Countryside from Kintore to Tealing on the East Coast. The size of the new pylons on average is 4m short of the Scott



Monument in Edinburgh, that is what will creep through our countryside. Please make your voice heard



PROMOTING HEALTH  
*the natural way..*

**Dr Jennifer Sudder**  
MBChB MRCGP Dfip PGDip Nutr Med MFhom

*Promoting nutrition & lifestyle as the foundation for health, holistic homeopathy & hypnotherapy - offering a natural approach to your health. Remote consultations available.*

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Teenage health
- Female health
- Insomnia
- Bowel issues
- Strengthen natural immunity

Tel: 0777 367 5014  
jennifer@promoting-health.co.uk  
promoting-health.co.uk



Jill's Childminding  
10 Keithmuir Road  
Drumoak  
AB31 5EB  
Telephone 01330 811881  
Hours from 8-00am until 5-30pm  
(can be flexible)

- Qualified Nursery Nurse
- SCMA member
- Care Inspectorate Registered

Part-time, full-time and occasional placements available



**Heather Dale Garden Design**  
www.hdgardendesign.co.uk  
Tel. 01330 811989



Creating beautiful gardens



**Free Range & Dry Plucked and hung to give you a mature succulent bird for that special festive meal**

order on line at;  
[maryfieldpoultry.co.uk](http://maryfieldpoultry.co.uk)  
 or speak to Jill;  
 telephone 01330822836  
 for Christmas and New Year  
[www.maryfieldpoultry.co.uk](http://www.maryfieldpoultry.co.uk)



**CUMMING FIRE & SECURITY Ltd**

20 Aquithie Road, Kemnay

Tel: 01467 - 643917

Email [cfs.ltd@dial.pipex.com](mailto:cfs.ltd@dial.pipex.com)

**"FREE ADVICE & QUOTATIONS " " EVENING SURVEYS "**  
**WE WORK TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS**



**Intruder Alarm Systems.**



**Fire Alarm Systems.**

**Fire Extinguishers & Blankets.**

**Fire Risk Assessments**



**All types of Electrical work**

**Key Cutting**

**Portable Appliance Testing.**

**Watch Batteries Fitted**



**CCTV & Door Entry Systems.**

**Window & Door Lock Replacement.**

**Safes and Cabinets.**

**Safety Signs & Equipment.**

**QUALITY WORK & COMPETITIVE RATES**

**For Peace of Mind At Work or Home - Call Us Now**

**Volunteer with us!**

**Compass Project**  
 Navigating healthy, sustainable living

Compass is transforming the former Waldorf School site into a centre demonstrating practical solutions for healthy, sustainable lifestyles.

With four buildings to refurbish and a 4.1 acre site including woodland and grassy areas, we plan to turn the site into a community space with productive gardens including orchards and bee-keeping.



**Want to get involved?**

- ✓ **Outdoor work:** gardening, woodland maintenance, composting, bee-keeping
- ✓ **Indoor work:** stripping out, reuse / recycle
- ✓ **Professional-led workshops** e.g. dry stone walling sessions
- ✓ **Produce Pop-Ups:** firewood & organic food
- ✓ **Join us:** Wed PM / Thu AM / Monthly Sat

Find out more & get involved:  
[www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/compass](http://www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/compass)

Follow us: **@CWTCompass**



Compass  
 Craighton Rd, Cults  
 Aberdeen AB15 9QD

Compass is a project of local charity, **Camphill Wellbeing Trust**. The Trust provides medical and therapeutic services to help patients and their families address illness, build resilience and maintain wellbeing.



Camphill Wellbeing Trust is a business name of Camphill Medical Practice Ltd  
 A limited company registered in Scotland No.SC120539 Charity No. SC016291  
 Registered office: St John's, Murtle Estate, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9EN

**SUPPLIERS OF TOP QUALITY NATURAL STONE**



Drumoak | 01330 811580 | 07718 419282

[www.cmdstone.com](http://www.cmdstone.com)

## **Grant Wilson Joinery Services**

Corsehill Cottage, Durris,  
Banchory, Aberdeenshire AB31 6EB

### **All Building and Joinery work undertaken**

New builds, Conversions, Extensions, Kitchens, Windows, Doors, Flooring

### **All trades supplied**

Contact: 01330 811786

Mobile: 07971 416806

E-mail: [imbanchory@aol.com](mailto:imbanchory@aol.com) or [grant.wilsonjs@aol.co.uk](mailto:grant.wilsonjs@aol.co.uk)

### **HOMEOWNERS – IMPORTANT NOTICE**

In February 2019 the Legislation relating to smoke detection in your home changed.  
All domestic properties in Durris/Drumoak could be affected.

You need to have the following: -

- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes.
- One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallway and landing.
  - One heat alarm installed in every kitchen.
  - All fire alarms are to be ceiling mounted and must be interlinked.
- Carbon monoxide detectors are to be fitted where there are carbon fuelled appliances (such as boilers, fires, open fires, heaters, stoves, or a flue).

### **The Regulations came into effect in February 2022.**

For a free survey and quotation, please contact: -

Cumming Fire and Security Ltd

01467 643917 or email [cfs.ltd@dial.pipex.com](mailto:cfs.ltd@dial.pipex.com)

For Peace of Mind in your Home – contact us now



# TREES ARE US Tree Surgeons



All aspects of tree work undertaken from tree felling to site clearance including dead and dangerous tree removal.

Suppliers of hard and soft firewood.

We also supply branch logs for the smaller wood burning stove, kindling and wood-chip mulch.

**Sunnyside Farm,  
Drumoak, AB31 5EE  
Office: 01330 811459  
Email: [info@treesareus.co.uk](mailto:info@treesareus.co.uk)**

Fully Insured | NPTC Qualified  
All work to BS3998 | Free Estimates

**No job too big, no job too small**



Find us on Facebook and Tiktok



**Greenstar**  
Gardening Services Ltd

**LANDSCAPING  
BUILDING  
FENCING**

-  **LOCK BLOCK**
-  **MAINTENANCE**
-  **TREE SURGERY**
-  **DECKING**
-  **TURFING**
-  **GARDEN DESIGN**
-  **PAVING**

**All work undertaken**  
Domestic - Private - Commercial

**M. 07955 749013  
T. 01224 732966**

[www.greenstargardeningservices.co.uk](http://www.greenstargardeningservices.co.uk)  
[admin@greenstargardeningservices.co.uk](mailto:admin@greenstargardeningservices.co.uk)



# DUNCAN BLACKHALL JOINERY

TEL: 07772538451

EMAIL: [duncanblackhalljoinery@live.co.uk](mailto:duncanblackhalljoinery@live.co.uk)

ALL TYPES OF BUILDING PROJECTS  
UNDERTAKEN

EXTENSIONS  
CONVERSIONS  
GARDEN ROOMS  
INTERIORS

**ALL TRADES  
SUPPLIED**

WINDOWS &  
DOORS  
KITCHENS,  
BATHROOMS

ASPEN VILLA CROSSROADS DURRIS AB31 6BX



## Belskavie Farm Caravan Storage

Drumoak  
AB31 5AQ

Tel: Joyce on 01224 732236

Email: [info@belskavie.com](mailto:info@belskavie.com)

[www.belskavie.com](http://www.belskavie.com)

## DANSCENTRE

@WESTHILL:KINGSWELLS  
@CRAIGIEBUCKLER  
@CULTS: PETERCULTER  
@CITY CENTRE



# SUCCESS STARTS NOW

33 YEARS OF DELIVERING EXCELLENCE

Enrolling now  
Email: [enquiries@danscentre.com](mailto:enquiries@danscentre.com)  
Tel: 01224 647341 - [www.danscentre.com](http://www.danscentre.com)



## Lava Jewellery Design



## Remodelling

At Lava Jewellery Design you can discuss repairs and remodelling options directly with our own highly experienced jewellers who will be carrying out the work, ensuring that the end result is exactly what you are looking for.



Lava Jewellery Design  
265 North Deeside Road  
Peterculter, Aberdeen AB14 0UL

Studio open: Sat 10am - 2pm  
Tues - Fri 10am - 5pm  
Tel: 01224 735000 (m): 07847 056 661



[www.lavajewellery.co.uk](http://www.lavajewellery.co.uk)  
[info@lavajewellery.co.uk](mailto:info@lavajewellery.co.uk)



## Grace Rust

Hurlestone, Drumoak, Banchory,  
Aberdeenshire, AB31 5AG

M: 07879 605053

E: [gcranna34@gmail.com](mailto:gcranna34@gmail.com)

[Drumoak and Durris Community Group](#) with Summer slowly unfurling its sunny temperatures (very slowly!), we are working away to arrange an event later in the summer. Plans are underway for Bonfire night and a Burns Supper at the start of next year. If you don't want to join the Community Group, you may want to volunteer to help at some of the events. If so, can you please get in touch with any member or drop an email to [drumoakdurris10@gmail.com](mailto:drumoakdurris10@gmail.com)

If you want to join the Community group, come along to our meeting at the bowling club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 1930 and introduce yourself.

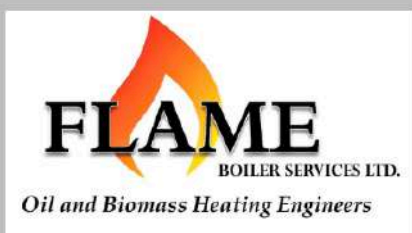
---

[From the Editor](#) Lots of things happening around the area and not all good! With the proposed SSEN new 400kV line slicing through the countryside, we need to get our voice heard. Write to your MP, MSP and SSEN to be heard. There is a lot of information on the Facebook Page Deeside Against Pylons. There is a number of groups all over the proposed route of the lines, all joining up to fight this monstrosity that gives nothing to the local economy long term, just destroys the countryside. As Kevin said earlier about the Bowling Club, Use it or lose it! It is the same with the countryside, once it is built over, there is no turning back. Please help preserve the countryside for future generations not just short term profit for a few.

Thanks everyone.

Kevin McPhee-Smith

---



- Family business covering Aberdeenshire
- Oil & Biomass boilers serviced
- Boilers installed with 5/10-year warranty
- Air source systems installed
- Oil fired Aga cookers serviced
- Heating systems powerflushed
- Breakdowns & Callouts please phone

01975 571775 07792 830780

[www.flameboilerservices.co.uk](http://www.flameboilerservices.co.uk)





57-59 N Deeside Road, Bieldside, Aberdeen, AB15 9DB

**We are open!**  
Wed - Fri, 10am - 4pm  
(dependant on COVID restrictions)

**Donated goods & volunteers welcome!**

**RESERVE & COLLECT!**  
View items for sale in our shop window, listed on our Facebook page and on our online gallery at [www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/the-blue-door](http://www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/the-blue-door)  
Check the website or our Facebook page for the latest updates. 

**Please do not leave donations outside the door when we are closed!**

*The Blue Door raises money for Camphill Wellbeing Trust - a medical charity supporting an extended approach.*

Camphill Wellbeing Trust is a business name of Camphill Medical Practice Ltd. A limited company registered in Scotland No.SC120539 Charity No. SC016291 Registered office: St John's, Murtle Estate, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9EP

 [www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk](http://www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk) 01224 862008

#### DRUMOAK & DURRIS NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter has been published quarterly for over 20 years. Firstly as a community service by Drumoak-Durris Church of Scotland, and more recently by the Drumoak & Durris Community Group. It is produced and delivered FREE by volunteers to all households in Drumoak and Durris.

Editorial Team  
Kevin McPhee-Smith  
Elaine Harkins  
Marjory Taylor

e-mail: [editorddnews@btinternet.com](mailto:editorddnews@btinternet.com)

#### Useful information

Drumoak-Durris Church      [drumoakdurrischurch.org](http://drumoakdurrischurch.org)  
Drumoak & Durris Community Group      [drumoakdurriscg.org](http://drumoakdurriscg.org)  
Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council      [crathesdrumoakdurriscc.org](http://crathesdrumoakdurriscc.org)  
Aberdeenshire Council      [Aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://Aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

#### Useful telephone numbers

Drumoak-Durris Church  
Minister 01330 811031  
Session Clerk 01330 811350

#### Police Scotland

Emergency 999  
Non-emergency 101  
Crime stoppers 0800 555111

#### Interested in playing social badminton locally?



Drumoak Badminton Club meets every term-time Wednesday evening from 1930hrs until 2100hrs at Drumoak Primary School.

We are a social bunch of mixed levels and we would like to increase our core membership.

Open to anyone over 16, or a bit younger if accompanied. Whilst we can coach beginners to play we are mainly about playing and staying fit, the play standard is not aggressive club level unless we all improve with practice miraculously.

**Try out night free.**

**We run during the school term until July.**

Sporadic players can play by exception at £5 a night but we cannot run without the core membership commitment so we prefer to ask for payment in advance in term blocks for courts and shuttlecocks, currently that will be £75 from January until July with a rebate if we get enough new members.

That works out much cheaper in the long run than paying weekly.

Interested? Contact Matt on [matt.dr@btinternet.com](mailto:matt.dr@btinternet.com) or come along on a Wednesday evening

### **Brian Smith Funeral Services Ltd**

Reg No. 235696  
Funeral Directors –  
Monumental Agent - Pre-paid Plans  
Private Family Business Since 1992

Directors – Brian, Angela,  
Shauni and Sam Smith

The Square,  
High Street, Banchory, AB31 5RW  
- 01330 825400

317 North Deeside Road,  
Peterculter, Aberdeen, AB14 OUL  
- 01224 732530

Aboyne Business Centre,  
Huntly Road, Aboyne, AB34 5HE  
- 013398 86625

## Dee Valley Caravans

The North East's Longest  
Established Caravan Experts  
since 1966

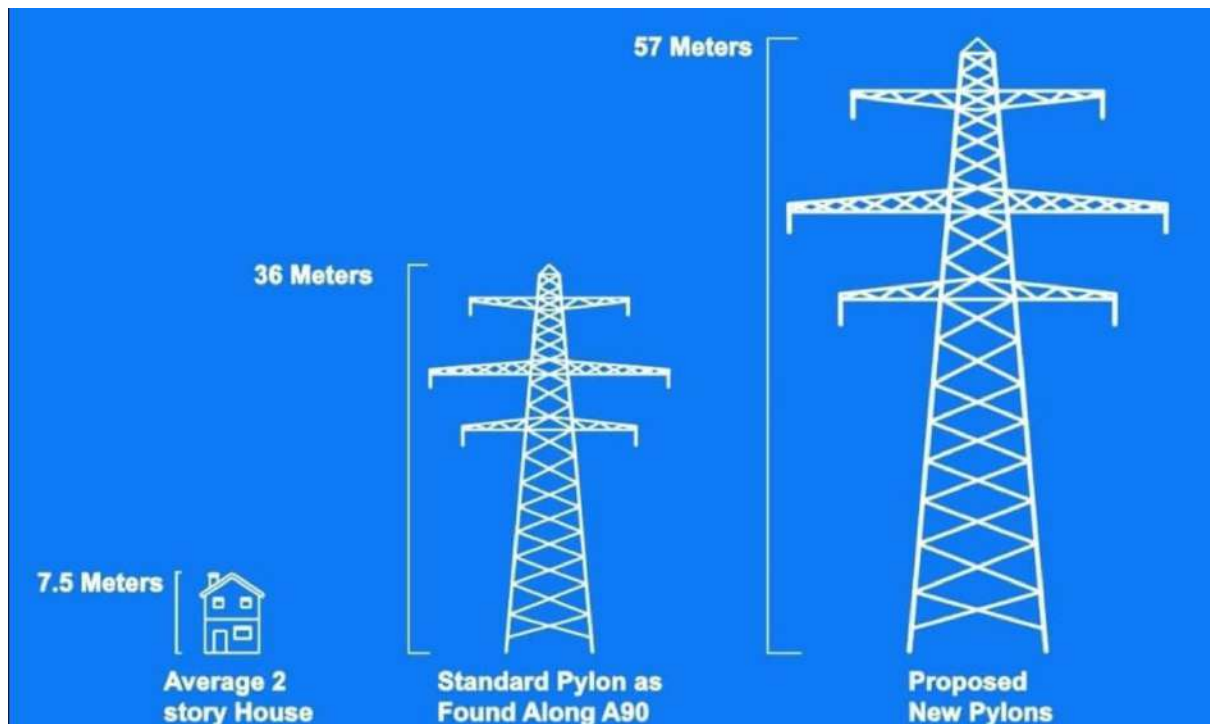
Drumoak by Banchory  
Aberdeenshire  
AB31 5AU

[www.deevalleycaravans.co.uk](http://www.deevalleycaravans.co.uk)

Tel :01330 811351

**We can transport tourers or statics  
to anywhere in the UK**

## Some more info on SSEN 400kV route over the countryside



This is a scaled photoshop to show the new pylons against the size of the houses in the foreground. We need to be heard to stop the march of the pylons through the countryside.

We cannot stay silent on this issue, please write to your MP, MSP and SSEN to raise your objections to this plan.

Opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Editor is not responsible for the contents of any advertisement placed nor the reliability or quality of any goods or services offered. Inclusion in the Newsletter should not be taken as an endorsement of the advertiser by the editor