



Drumoak & Durris NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the Spring edition of the Drumoak and Durris
Newsletter



[Drumoak Durris Warm Space has turned out to be a great success.](#)

Started in November last year it runs every Friday from 11.30am to 3.30pm until 14th April at Drumoak Bowling Club. Everyone is welcome whether you need to keep warm or not! It doesn't matter, a warm welcome awaits everyone from organisers Ann, Gillian, Helen,

Mary and Shelagh, alongside 6 to 8 volunteers. We are proud

that we have around 24 willing volunteers able to support our warm space. We were fortunate to have been awarded funding from Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Fund to run the Warm Space which pays for the hire of the bowling club and refreshments. In addition, Tesco supply us with milk, bread, butter and at times special treats, mince meat pies went down very well.

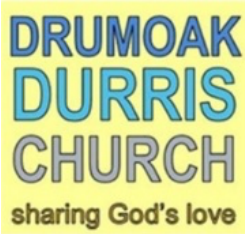
We start with light refreshments followed by a generous bowl of lovely warming soup, made by our talented professional chef Mary. After the soup we have entertainment followed by another cuppa and a fine piece. So far, we have been entertained by Morag and her hand chimes, Syd and his pal, Kyle and Shelagh and even a string quartet. Talks by Robert Harper our local fishing gillie and Dr Jennifer Sudder. The drama workshop with the P5s from Drumoak School went down a storm. Between guest entertainers we have played musical bingo and bingo and tried our hand at Mahjong and much more. We have more booked up and that information is on the DDGC fb page each week. We haven't yet used bowling mat snooker table or telly, there's just so much else to do.

Usually, we have around 30 people but there is plenty room for more in the Bowling Club. While most folk stay for



the whole time you are welcome to pop in anytime for a bit of craic, we have folk from Drumoak, Durris and all parts in between, even a lady from Tain visiting her daughter in Drumoak - haste ye back Pat.

Everyone leaves the Warm Space with a warm tummy and happy hearts so if you would like to come along on Friday from 11.30am or you know someone who you think would enjoy our Warm space then a warm welcome awaits



Drumoak-Durris
Church of Scotland
Church News



[Message from the Manse](#)

They were very much afraid and got down with their faces to the ground. The men said to them, "Why do you look for the living One among those who are dead? He is not here. He is risen. Do you not remember what He said to you when He was yet in Galilee? He said, 'The Son of Man must be given over into the hands of sinful men. He must be nailed to a cross. He will rise again three days later.'"

(Luke 24:5-7 New Life Version)

The spring bulbs are beginning to bloom, the bird song is appearing earlier in the mornings and lasting longer in the day and there are more buds sprouting from the branches on the trees. The early days of spring are with us, yet winter is still trying to bite our fingers and remind us to wrap up warm outside for just a little longer. There is hope of the warmth to come, but just not yet.

I wonder if that is how the disciples felt on Holy Saturday. They had seen Jesus crucified on Good Friday and his body laid to rest in the tomb. Now on Saturday, they are in their homes, resting on the Sabbath. Mary might well have been mentally preparing the body of Jesus for burial, as was the custom. Peter, James and John might have been pondering the future and how they could go on. As they rested and reflected on their time with Jesus I wonder if they remembered too that Jesus had said he would have to die but rise again three days later. There was a hint of hope, but could they see it yet?

All that changed on Easter Sunday when Mary ran to tell Peter and John that Jesus was alive. She had seen him and spoken with him, and she was bursting to share the news. What a transformation for those early Christians! The promise of something to come had been fulfilled and they were changed forever.

For some, Good Friday is a difficult day. It is the day Jesus was crucified. He died in place of us, so that we can be right with God again. We have a new life but only in his death. Saturday comes with a day to remember what has gone and where we each are in life and it can be all too easy to forget to move onto Easter Sunday, with the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of new life.

Do you get stuck at Easter time? You see the brutality of suffering and death on a cross as well as in everyday life. You can reflect upon this and even block out the cruelty, but you struggle to believe the hope and the rejoicing of the resurrection and new life in Jesus for yourself? You get stuck at Holy Saturday.

The good news is that God is still Sovereign today, despite all the difficulties of this world, He is still the Almighty. As surely as winter ends, spring comes. It reminds us of the changing seasons and that God turns the seasons from one to another. Good Friday turns into Holy Saturday and Holy Saturday changes at the dawning of Easter Sunday.

This Easter time, as Holy Week unfolds, may you journey to the cross, then on through Saturday and into Easter Sunday afresh. May you be blessed with joy and rejoice anew with the Good News. Jesus is alive and offers promises for today as well as eternal life through the good news of Easter morning.

Easter Programme



The following services will be held over Easter:

Thursday 6th April at 6.30pm - Maundy Thursday
Communion Service in Drumoak Church Hall

Friday 7th April – All are invited to join with Banchory
Ternan East Church on the Easter Cross Walk starting at
7.30 and followed by refreshments.

Easter Sunday 9th April at 8.15am - Early Morning Outdoor
Service at Durriss Church followed at 9.30am by coffee, tea and hot cross buns served prior to
the 10-00am service in Drumoak Church Hall.

Lent The congregation are kindly requested to bring gifts to each to the services during Lent. These gifts will be donated to the local Foodbank and could include items such as non-perishable foodstuffs, toiletries, pet food, laundry products, etc.

The retiral offerings from the Easter services will be given to the Banchory Foodbank.

Craft, Coffee and Chat

We had several meetings in Drumoak Church Hall in the Autumn/Winter months and warmly welcomed new and original members.

Apologies that we haven't been able to hold any sessions for the early part of 2023, but we hope to be in a position to restart after Easter and we will contact our members by email to suggest the proposed dates.

Just a reminder that this group is open to everyone in the Drumoak and Durriss area so please feel free to come along. We meet at 10.00 am till 12.00 noon on alternate Tuesdays in Drumoak Church Hall where there is plenty of parking.

If anyone would like more information or to check when the group will restart, please contact Marion Nixon on 01330 811663.



Drumoak-Durris Friendship Group



The Group meets as usual on the first Monday of the month.

At our Christmas meeting we had a lovely time with the Drumoak School pupils and two of their teachers. The boys and girls played and sang to us and also had some great interaction with Jean our Minister. This was followed by tea and mince pies etc.

At our February meeting we were entertained by the Ballater Singers and had another enjoyable afternoon. Over the winter we have lost some of our older members but have had four new faces recently. New members are always welcome. Any queries to Amy on 01224 732575

www.drumoakdurrischurch.org

Find us on 

Durris W.I.

The ladies have had a busy past few months with their Burns Supper in January, a Pilates Session in February and a talk by Aberdeen Mountain Rescue in March.

Our meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the Kirkton Hall, Durris at 7.30 pm. Meetings coming up are: - a visit by The Banchory Ukelele Group in April and our AGM and Taste and Try Supper in May. We usually have a garden visit or walk in June, which is yet to be confirmed.

We always welcome visitors and new members. Anyone wishing any information please get in touch. Carol Melvin, Press Secretary 01330 811408



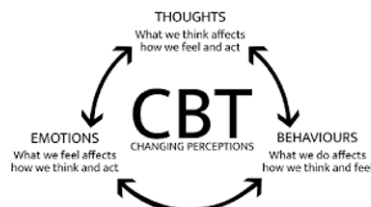
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News from PARK SHOP



It's hard to believe that the present incarnation of PARK SHOP is now in it's sixth year 🤔 We took on the lease in 2017 and I don't think we ever envisaged how popular it would become. Our 'local' clientele stretches from Aberdeen to Aboyne, and it has become a destination shop for many of them, but our prime motivation remains to provide a much-needed facility for the village and surrounding area.

So, what's new? Well, for the last six months it has been all about bread 🍞

We've always had difficulty sourcing *good* bread, but the recent addition of Wild Hearth breads and pastries has resolved that issue, bringing a welcome boost to customer numbers too. Wild Hearth's bread was described by Andrew Fairley as being the best sourdough in the world; they still supply Fairley's Restaurant at Gleneagles, along with many other 5-star hotels and restaurants. It was fantastic to speak with the guys at Wild Hearth (who are based 120 miles away in Comrie) to discover they were aware of PARK SHOP and wanted to supply us. If you haven't tried their sourdough, we get two deliveries per week, on a Wednesday and a Saturday. The pastries are also incredible and don't usually remain on the counter for more than a day, so you need to be quick.

With Spring approaching it would be nice to have somewhere in the village to go for a refreshment in the sunshine. It's an open secret that PARK SHOP now has a full drinks license so you can sit in the garden with a glass of wine, a GnT, or a craft beer 🍷🍺. We've not advertised this for the simple reason that we don't want people driving here to have alcohol - so don't tell anyone!

What if the weather is a bit cooler? We've now got that covered too - literally. Some of you may have noticed our new pergola, or *Sitooterie*, at the back of the shop. It's somewhere sheltered to enjoy a coffee when the weather isn't so favourable, perhaps doubling as a beer/prosecco tent in the lighter summer evenings.

It's fair to say that after 6 years running the shop I could do with a wee break. I'm therefore on the lookout for someone to help *manage* the shop for two or three days a week. If you know of anyone (preferably local) who has an interest in retailing the good things in life, and who is passionate about customer service, ask them to come and have a chat!

Chas

Upcoming Music Events at Crathes Hall 2023



ADAM HOLMES
FRIDAY 2 JUNE 2023
DOORS 7.30PM
TICKETS £18
For tickets contact Jen McHattie:
jenmch@btinternet.com
07815 412742

Adam's 4 albums, Heirs and Graces, Brighter Still, Midnight Milk and Dreamweaver have cast an impressive shadow across the UK Folk Scene and gained him Scottish Album of the Year Nominations (in 2014, 2017 and 2018) and BBC Radio 2 Folk Award Nominations. His songs have featured widely on BBC Radio 2 and Radio 3, BBC Scotland, Edith Bowman's BBC Scotland Quay Sessions show and Virgin Radio, amongst many others. Has shared a stage with many musicians, including, Karine Polwart, Eddi Reader, John McCusker.



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.

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Coucillor Surgery -Councillor Dawn Black

I am now holding a regular Councillor Surgery, the first Tuesday of every month (ex. Jan & Aug) at the Drumoak Bowling Club from 6-7.30pm. No appointment is required.

Cllr Dawn Black
Ward 18 - Stonehaven & Lower Deeside
Aberdeenshire Council



**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

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[Spectacular Spring Bulbs by Paula Horne](#)
[Plant Area Supervisor, Mains of Drum Garden Centre](#)

Spring is my favourite time of year. Bulbs produce a riot of colour, buds on trees and shrubs grow bigger every day ready to burst into life. A lovely bright palette of ever changing colours to help us shake off the long, cold, dark winter.

As the saying goes you can't improve on nature, but you can give it a helping hand in your garden. Have a look around. Are there any bare patches where you could add a bit of colour? Bulbs are the ideal choice. After any bulbs you already have finish flowering it is the perfect time to split up the clumps and spread them to other parts of the garden. If you don't have any or simply want to add more, they are available to buy, growing in pots at the moment. Alternatively, you can wait until autumn and buy the dormant bulbs, so full of promise for the following year.

Bulbs produce a succession of colour in your spring garden over several months. Starting in January and February with snowdrops, crocus, winter aconite and dwarf iris. Moving on to daffodils, snakes head fritillary, hyacinth, and finally tulips and bluebells in April and May. This leads on to the summer flowering bulbs, allium, and lilies, but that is a story for another day.

If you would like to try something different there are Erythroniums, known as Dog tooth violets. They get their common name from the shape of the bulb which looks like a canine tooth. We have several varieties including Old Aberdeen, White Beauty and Sunshine.

If you love spring bulbs as much as I do, I can highly recommend a visit to Keukenhof gardens just outside Amsterdam. It is renowned for its outstanding displays of over 7 million bulbs, planted annually! Simply spectacular and sure to inspire you.



The Directions of Compass



Local medical charity, Camphill Wellbeing Trust (CWT) launched Compass in September 2020 to transform the former Waldorf School site on Craigton Road. The project has made great progress towards demonstrating practical solutions for healthy and sustainable lifestyles thanks to the support of our **local community**.

Over **3660 hours** have been donated to the project by **354 volunteers** who have supported our 5-strong team with growing, harvesting, dry stone walling, construction of compost bins and more. Compass gardens are producing a bountiful harvest of organically grown produce which, along with plants, bulbs, small trees and firewood, are available to volunteers and members of the public through our **weekly Produce Pop-Ups** every **Thursday afternoon**, as part of our **monthly volunteer Saturdays** or by placing an order for produce by email. Compass produce is also available to the Torry community as part of our partnership with River Dee Medical Group.



Compass welcomed its first patients onsite this autumn as part of its new **Compass Skills for Health: Social Prescribing Service**. Piloting the scheme with River Dee Medical Group, our service offers range of activities designed to improve health and wellbeing, particularly for those experiencing stress, anxiety and mild depression. Get in touch to find out more.

We are currently awaiting the outcome of our planning application for aspects of refurbishment including **new multi-user access** to our multi-Purpose Hall, a **polytunnel** and **two composting toilets**. We continue to welcome new volunteers or interested tradespeople who can help us with our refurbishment of the site.

Volunteers can join us:

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

www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/compass or email: 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.

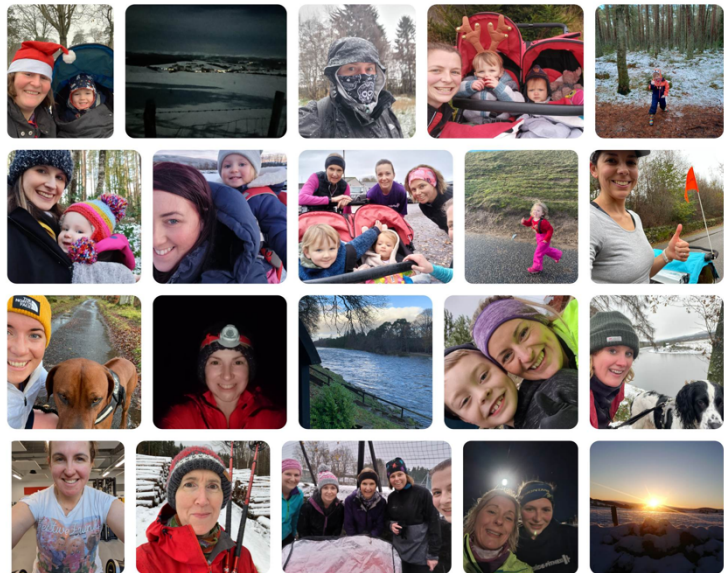
	<p>Firewood available</p> <p>Large and small quantities for sale</p> <p>Contact us to arrange uplift: compass@cwt.scot or come to our site Monday- Friday, 9am-5pm</p> <p>Produce and plants also available in our weekly Produce Pop-Up every Thursday, 2pm - 4pm</p> <p>Compass, Craigton Road, Cults, AB15 9QD</p> <p>www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/compass</p>	<p>Compass</p>  <p>Support us!</p> <p>localgiving.org/CWT</p> <p>Donate now!</p>
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Deeside Fitness Christmas Challenge

Back in December a group of Deeside Fitness participants took on the 12 days of Christmas challenge. The Group had to run (or walk, cycle, swim) 5 km for either 12 consecutive days, or 12 days during the month of December. The format of the challenge was quite open to allow everyone the opportunity to take part, no matter their work, family commitments, fitness level and location, one member took part all the way from Uruguay! The main aim of this challenge was to keep each other motivated and keep fit through December which can often be a tough month.

The other goal was to raise a little bit of money to support Banchory Area First Responders. Who are a team of local volunteers that are on call and dispatched by the ambulance service to provide immediate lifesaving care, until ambulance crews arrive, they then work with crews to assist. They cover the area from Aboyne all the way to Maryculter, where they do a truly amazing job, saving life's in rural locations when ambulance services can take longer to reach patients.

The majority of the challenge participants started on the 1st of December. If you cast your memory back to the first couple weeks in December it was very wintry. With participants having to navigate ice, snow and very chilly conditions. But we didn't let this stop us, and certainly made it a much harder challenge! There was a great group atmosphere, with everyone encouraging and motivating each other, with daily



updates and photos, inspiring each other. It was also fantastic to see many people involving the whole family, kids on bikes accompanying their parents, dogs taking advantage of their faster paced walks, mums getting out with their babes in buggies (who knew a buggy would make the icy runs much easier, acting a bit like a zimmer frame!). The group also met up at the weekends to complete their run together, which was great fun, and the chatting made the miles fly by. As a group over the month, we covered more than 1070 km and climbed over 42177ft.

We were blown away by the generosity of friends, family and lots of kind people who sponsored us. We raised an amazing £1700 for the Banchory Area First Responders, far above our expectations. This money goes directly to supporting the lifesaving work which this voluntary charity provides in our area. The sum raised could allow a new kit bag with a

defibrillator to be purchased. So could save the life of a friend or family member in our local committee.

On Boxing Day one of the group participants experienced first-hand the amazing work of these volunteers, when a relative staying with her became ill, requiring an ambulance. David Wood Coordinator of Banchory Area First Responders arrived within 15minutes to help, providing vital treatment and stayed with them until the ambulance service arrived 1 hour later. Thankfully her family member has made a great recovery due to the speedy response. Just reiterating how important and valuable this service is in our local remote villages.

We have also planned a CPR Training/fitness session with Claire Ellis, a Christmas challenge participant and Resuscitation officer for NHS Grampian. I'm sure this event will be well attended and very useful. I can't think of anything more important to learn than the skills to save a life.



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No Name Walking Group

Since the last newsletter, written in October 2022, the NNWG has maintained its programme of Tuesday walks. We alternate “long” and “short” walks; the former averaging around 17km or 18km but going up to 35km and the latter around 7km. The longer walks are usually in the hills and could be said to be more challenging whilst the shorter ones might be in the hills but are very rarely “up” the hills.



An example of a so-called longer walk which didn't involve the hills was our trip down to Montrose to walk around Scurdie Ness to Boddin, taking in Elephant Rock. Interestingly, there's another rock formation at Boddin which, to us at least, was evocative of a gorilla's head hence we claim to have so named it. Unusually for a hillwalking group, we came across a whale

Most of us are familiar with the hills above Tarland with an enjoyable ridge between Baderonoch and Pressendye. The group took a different look at the ridge by going up from the Mill of Culfork to the north of Pressendye, over Broom Hill then west over Green Hill to the Lazy Wells Lochs and over Baderonoch Hill, northwards past Gallows Hill and down to the minor road. Another pleasure from hill walking is discovering why the features such as the Lazy Wells are so called; the Gaelic speakers among us will know that the name is derived from *lasaidh* meaning glistening or sparkling. Gallows Hill seems obvious but some reference books distinguish between Gallow Hill and Gallows Hill, the latter having “provision for hanging more than one criminal at a time.”

We finished 2022 with two gentle walks along the river on the Blackhall Estate side and around Loch Kinord, and started 2023 with a familiar walk around Carnferg from Birse. The common route is west and north past Birse Castle and NE to Carnferg, returning via Glencat. However, we've started going anticlockwise around a small hill called Lamahip, past Ythanside before turning SE to approach Carnferg from the NE. In early January, it was a dreich day indeed but better out in the hills than not.



On February 7th we walked from Glen Dye to Charr Bothy and then down to Clatterin Brig where the tearoom has sadly closed. The memorable event from that day was seeing a golden eagle but wonderfully that was topped on February 21st when we walked from Braenaloin (close to Gairnshiel Bridge) to Corndavon Lodge, over Tom Breac, An Creagan and back to Braenaloin. While having a break at Cornadavon we saw two golden eagles which spent some time looking at us looking at them.

It's our custom to have a wee celebration in December in some or other bothy, usually Charr. This time, December 2022, the ice on the tracks put us off but Robert Harper, the Durriss Ghillie of these pages, kindly let us use his fishing hut where we had a few carols and mulled wine. Then, in January or February we've regularly walked from 'Bervie to Johnshaven to the Anchor Hotel for a long lunch; people can join from 'Bervie, Gourdon or Benholm. This year, two of the attendees were members of choirs and gave us a rendition of Loch Lomond which was very well received, even by the other diners.



Readers who are familiar with Glen Tanar will know of Etnach at the western end of the glen. Many folk will know Mrs Janet Smith whose family have farmed at Spyhill in Durriss for many years. Janet's father was the shepherd for Glen Tanar Estate from 1947 to 1969 and he would use the bothy and the sheep fold on the slopes above Etnach throughout the summer. Knowing that Janet would love to visit the area again the writer contacted Mrs Bruce and asked if we could drive up to Etnach. Rather than giving us permission to drive up Mrs Bruce took us up to Etnach and up the slope to the bothy, with the Ranger Eric

Baird, and spent the whole morning talking about times gone by, people who lived and worked there. It was a day to remember and we can't thank Mr and Mrs Bruce and Eric enough.

No doubt there are readers who feel that hill walking is not for them, or perhaps no longer for them. Perhaps, but in this area you can't shake a stick, or a walking pole, without bumping into a group out walking. There are groups catering for all levels. The NNWG is informal but takes its walking seriously, offering challenging and relaxing walks. All it takes is the first step

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[HANGING AROUND ON BELLADRUM BRIDGE!](#)

[BELLADRUM BRIDGE: DOWN RIVER](#)



Anyone travelling a while ago on the by-road that connects Kirkton of Durriss with the Slug road might have seen a rather unusual sight. On Belladrum bridge, which goes over the Sheeoch Burn, there were some ropes attached to a number of weights resting on the pavement on the west side of the bridge. If you had looked over the bridge, you would have seen two buckets of water and a

man clad in heavy waterproofs and equipped with a scrubbing brush and a video camera. You might be forgiven for wondering what he was doing? Clearly, he was not 'hanging' around for no purpose!

It so happens that the previous day this same man – a professional steeplejack - was suspended from ropes from the roof of the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh, where he was checking for loose fragments of masonry on its outer façade. Apparently, bits of the Gallery had been falling off and just missing passing pedestrians below! What, you are entitled to ask, was this steeplejack doing on Belladrum Bridge? The answer is simple.

Around four hundred years ago, Thomas Fraser, an erstwhile resident of Durriss had clearly stipulated the following in his Will:

Item: forty pounds for building of a stout bridge at the Mill of Balladrum or higher up if the landlord will suffer my name and coat of arms upon it.

Incidentally, it was this same Thomas Fraser who had generously gifted a silver communion set to Durriss Kirk. This rare object is now part of the Silver Collection in Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum.

It is known that Thomas Fraser had drowned, when the ship he was on board sank in a storm in the Straits of Gibraltar, on the 19th February 1694. There are good grounds for believing that he was related, in some as yet unrevealed manner, to the laird of Durriss – Sir Alexander Fraser – the personal physician of Charles II.

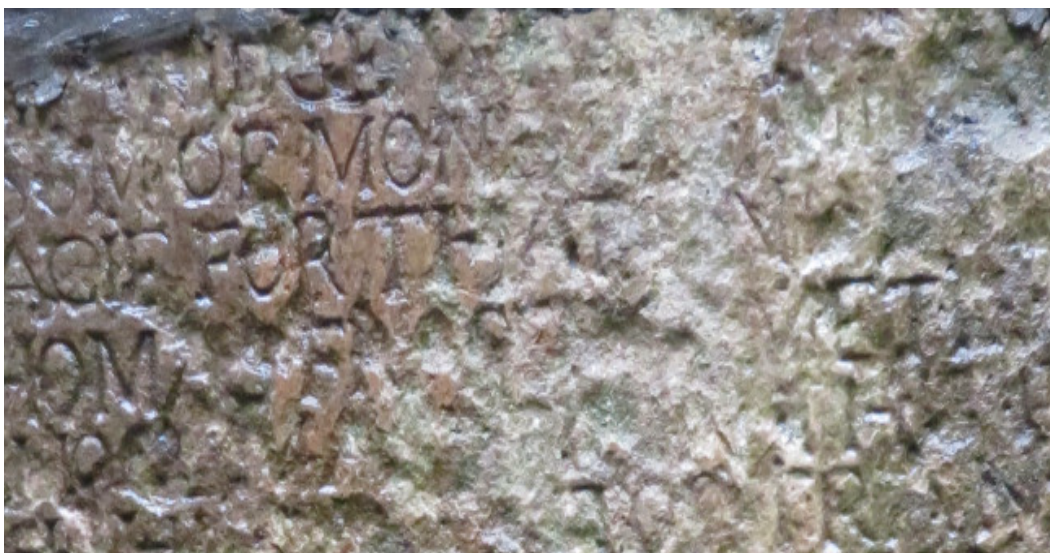
I would venture to suggest that there may be some residents of Durriss who have no knowledge of the existence of this plaque. At least I have the excuse of ignorance – being a foreigner – living in Drumoak!

But why were the services of a steeplejack sought? The principal reason was that the plaque – located on the western facing part of the bridge – needed cleaning. The lower part of the plaque had been particularly heavily mossed and lost its outer surface and nearly all of its lettering. In the opinion of Neil Pendrich, the steeplejack, it was the plaque's roughened surface that had attracted the moss.

It became apparent that a hole had been cut in the middle of the plaque sometime in the past. This may have been to re-secure the plaque to the bridge after it had been removed and refitted at some point. In Neil's opinion the cement applied around the plaque was fairly recent – possibly having been undertaken within the last 10-20 years. What I had thought, which Neil was too polite to say, was that the repairs had not been sympathetically undertaken.

[PART OF PLAQUE: BELLADRUM BRIDGE](#)

By exercising considerable patience and perseverance, it is possible to make out some of the letters on the plaque but very few whole words. However, roughly four 'lines' down it is just possible to discern the benefactor's whole name: THOMAS FRASER. It is also possible to see



the outline of but no detail in a coat of arms at the top of the plaque. Belladrum Bridge and the adjacent derelict Mill of Belladrum have been classified by Historic

Scotland as C listed buildings. By 'listed building' we mean a building that is of special architectural or historic interest and which is protected by law. The poor maintenance and renovation of the plaque and the evident and progressive physical disintegration of the Mill of Belladrum should be cause for concern.

The cleaning of the plaque, which was approved by Aberdeenshire Council, was generously funded by Mid Hill Wind Limited (Fred Olsen Renewables) which has among its aims the protection of local culture and heritage.

If you are contemplating visiting the bridge and its surrounds, can I caution you to take great care, as the ground around the bridge on both sides is very difficult underfoot.

Robin Jackson



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Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council

Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm



Following the windfarm exhibition in the Crathes Hall last November (by RES, the developer), local residents responded via the Community Council questionnaire. Despite the majority supporting renewable energy,

approximately 75% in our community were nevertheless against this development, most citing unacceptable visual and environmental impact in this prominent location. We all know that humanity is facing the twin crises of climate change and catastrophic biodiversity loss which means that we must reduce our carbon emissions whilst minimising the impact on local flora and fauna.

To do this we need more renewable energy and wind power, both onshore and offshore is a key strand, in both the UK and Scottish Governments 'energy strategies.

But how much is energy is required?

- Scottish Government target for onshore wind generation is a 20 GW by 2030
- There is already 9 GW installed and 14 gigawatts either in the planning/consenting process, awaiting construction or under construction, a total of 23GW.
- There is no real case for pressure on sensitive sites.

Is the Hill of Fare the right place?

Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Natural Heritage commissioned a study in 2014 to evaluate appropriate sites for onshore wind generation on the Grampian Outliers, of which the Hill of Fare is one. The study concluded the Hill of Fare has “a high value, high visual sensitivity, and high wilderness qualities, forming islands of wild land within the surrounding farmland. These areas would be unsuitable for wind turbine development beyond a domestic scale, less than 15m associated with farm buildings or tourist facilities and turbines should be sited at the base of slopes.”

So, if we need renewable energy to help replace fossil fuels why are so many of us against this huge development.

Offshore wind is now cheaper and more efficient than onshore wind – so we don't need to develop sensitive onshore *sites*.

There would be a significant loss of wild landscape, *habitats*, and amenities on the Hill, including *peatland*.

Any compensatory payments will be spread thinly over many communities.

for up to 25km away, affecting many homes in over 20 community council areas, as well as road users, cyclists, walkers, and runners.

The Hill of Fare windfarm is proposed to have 17 turbines, each 250m in heigh; this would be the tallest onshore windfarm in the *UK*.

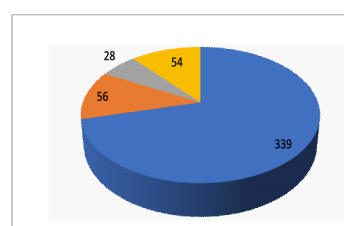
The development requires wide roads, batter storage and *pylons*.

Visual flicker, noise and vibration effects will be noticeable.

The Hill of Fare stands 250m-300m above surrounding land, and these turbines would approximately double the height of the hill.

Meetings are taking place between the other community councils affected by this potential development where questionnaire results are similar to those of our own community. Overall results:

Other	Percent	Subtotal
Object	71%	339
Undecided	12%	56
Neutral	6%	28
In favour	11%	54
Total	100%	477



If you haven't contributed to the questionnaire, you can still do so from:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeN5v1NMSIWvBzgxJmdb4BIvAYvd3bZnEGRpJ1LiTj13B1H2g/vie/wform?usp=sf_link

More information is available from the HoFWIG group at www.Hilloffare.org (This group is objecting to the development). The community council knows of no groups supporting the development at this time.

The community council can be contacted on crathesdrumoakduriscc@gmail.com and the article and the links above are available from the community council Facebook page @crathesdrumoakduriscc.

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.

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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

Follow us: **@CWTCcompass**

Compass
Craigton 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
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[Drumoak and Durris Community Group](#) As we look forward in the year, planning has started for outdoor events. All events will be posted on the Community Group Facebook page. Our page can be found if you search for Drumoak & Durris Community Group- DDCG. This will have details of all events and of all the visiting food wagons over the weekends.

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

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[From the Editor](#) Another mixed start to the year with the weather. As I type this, I am looking out on the snow covering the garden and watching both of our dogs tear about in it. One dog wants to be out there for as long as possible while the other dog wants to be as short as possible and come back into the warmth. They are more like humans than you care to state!

The newsletter can only be active with your input so if you have a story you want to share from the villages, please send them to me at editorddnews@btinternet.com

Not promising to print them straight away but could appear in future editions.

Thanks everyone.

Kevin McPhee-Smith

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Check the website or our Facebook page for the latest updates.



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

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DRUMOAK & DURRIS NEWSLETTER

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

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Useful information

Drumoak-Durriss Church drumoakdurrisschurch.org
Drumoak & Durriss Community Group drumoakdurriscg.org
Crathes Drumoak & Durriss Community Council crathesdrumoakdurrisscc.org
Aberdeenshire Council Aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Useful telephone numbers

Drumoak-Durriss 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.48@btinternet.com or come along on a Wednesday evening

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