



# Drumoak & Durris NEWSLETTER

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**Welcome to the Summer edition of the Drumoak and Durris Newsletter.**



## **WHAT'S THE LATEST NEWS FROM DRUMOAK**

**CHURCH?** - Well, to put it bluntly – not a lot. As you know, work has been temporarily suspended whilst approvals and consents are being sought from the Local Authority Planning Department, Historic Environment Scotland, and the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

This process is now required as it has become

abundantly clear that those of us who are involved with the refurbishment project now face a much larger programme of works than earlier planned. Rather than phasing the project, it is clear we should be researching the feasibility of entirely restructuring the Drumoak Church building. This will obviously increase the timescale for the work, and inevitably the cost. However, I would like to put a stop to the rumours which have come to my attention over recent weeks. **YES!** work has stopped for the time being, whilst we gather all the necessary information and approvals. **YES!** it is going to increase the cost substantially, but **NO!** work has not stopped due to a lack of funds. Money is not the issue right now, it is the seeking of the necessary approvals to move forward with a more ambitious plan. Do we have all the money we need? **NO**, of course we don't, but we **CAN AND WILL** raise the necessary funding from a variety of sources including the readers of this Newsletter and the members of this community. So, watch this space.

*Marion McNeil, Session Clerk*



### ***Message from the Manse -***

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:*

*a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,...*

*Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4*

*(NIV)*

I am struck by the changing seasons just now. We had a very long, cold winter this year, followed by what seemed to be a short spring and then we have had some lovely summer weather. As I write, I can report there has been little rain, though this might change by the time you read this. How the seasons change and how, in life, we change from one season to another, often barely noticing these changes!

I wonder what season of life you are in. Perhaps you are in the Spring of life, looking forward, anticipating much to come. Maybe you are in the Summer of life, enjoying the fullness of life and the warmth of the days. Or perhaps you, before you know it, are in the autumn of life, reveling in the joy of an Indian summer. Or are you in the winter of life and able to look back over the years and reflect upon life from a different perspective.

The lines above are from a poem from the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible. The writer suggests there is a time for all things; for all activities in life there is a time. You might well agree with these sentiments.

Sometimes though, I struggle to understand why events happen, the good things in life as well as the not so good, perhaps you do too. It is not easy to understand, yet we seem to be programmed to try to comprehend the world we live in and to fathom out the part God plays in it.

Ecclesiastes ends with a summary. We live in an amazing world and life is an amazing gift. We are encouraged to live life to the full and accept the gifts the Lord gives to us as well as the limitations placed on us. Throughout it all though, we are reminded that the Lord will endure forever, and we can trust in Him.

Where ever you are in life, may you be blessed with many good gifts. May you have joy always as well as perseverance and endurance through difficult times.

May you live life to the full, knowing that this life is only the beginning of eternity with the Lord God Almighty, through Jesus Christ.

May you know His love for you and receive His best gifts, now and always. Amen.

**With love in Christ, Jean Boyd, Minister of Drumoak-Durris Church**

## **SOME EARLY APPEALS IN READINESS FOR AN ANNIVERSARY IN NOVEMBER**

When the battle's over is a classic Retreat March composed by Pipe Major William Robb and it quickly became established in the pipers' repertoire. It remains a very popular tune with pipers and it will be played at 6-00am throughout the UK and the wider world as part of the *Battle's Over* unique tribute on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Both Drumoak-Durris Church and the Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council would like to invite any local pipers to get in touch if they would be willing to help out with this very special memorial tribute. The Community Council would like to join others in the early morning tribute, but Drumoak-Durris Church would very much like one or even more pipers to lead a procession from Drumoak Church to the War Memorial on the morning of Remembrance Sunday. If you would like further details, please contact the Secretary of the Community Council – James O'Flynn, [je\\_oflynn@hotmail.com](mailto:je_oflynn@hotmail.com) or the Session Clerk of Drumoak Durris Church – Marion McNeil, [marionmcneil24@yahoo.com](mailto:marionmcneil24@yahoo.com)

## **DRUMOAK-DURRIS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

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

The Sunday services during July will be held in Durris Church, and throughout August in Drumoak Church Hall

Important news for members regarding the Communion Services

At its recent meeting, the Kirk Session discussed the dates and times of the Communion Services. Recently the number of people attending the evening Communion Services has regrettably been declining. In view of this, the Kirk Session has decided for the time being there will be no evening Communion Service. In addition, the Kirk Session has also decided to stop delivering invitations to members. The services will still be notified to you in the Church News section of the Newsletter, and as always will take place during the months of May and October. *The next Communion Service will be in Drumoak Church Hall at 10-00am on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018*

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2018 - CASCADE OF POPPIES - CAN YOU HELP?**

Drumoak Durris Church will meet for the Traditional Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Drumoak Church Hall, and to mark this anniversary is proposing to display a cascade of hand crafted poppies.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

If you are able to knit, crochet, sew or have some other crafting skills, then please do make contact with the team who are determined to produce and display a collection of poppies similar to those seen in this picture. Full details and printed patterns are available on request from: Marion Nixon 01330 811663 or Norma Menzies 01330 844542

#### **To knit a poppy you will need**

4mm needles, any DK red yarn, black

Button

**Cast on** 60sts using 4mm needles and

DK red yarn.

**Rows 1-8** (K2, P2) to end.

**Row 9** (K2tog) to end. [30sts]

**Row 10** (S2kpo) to end. [10sts]

Break off yarn, leaving a long tail.

Thread

tail through remaining 10sts and pull tight, then fasten off yarn.

Join the edges of the poppy together and

sew the button in the centre of the poppy.



#### **To crochet a poppy you will need**

3mm hook, red yarn, black button

**Rnd 1:** ch2. Make 10dc in 2<sup>nd</sup> ch from hook. Join with a slst in 1 st dc (10sts)

**Rnd 2:** \*ch1 dc ch1 2tr in next st, 3tr in next st, 2tr ch1 dc in next st, slst in next 2sts. Rep from \* once again.

**Rnd 3:** \*ch1 3dc in next 2sts, 2dc in next 5sts, 3dc in next 2sts, slst in next 2sts. Rep from \* once again.

Fasten off. Attach button in the centre.

## Crathes Hall consultation gives the go ahead for a rebuild.

Despite the scorching sun outside, 50 people came along to the consultation sessions on 29 and 30 June organised by the Board of trustees at Crathes Hall.

Aberdeenshire Council's South Aberdeenshire Local Action Group have funded the Board to carry out a feasibility study over the course of 2018 to determine whether to refurbish the hall or build a new hall. The study has involved employing an architect to produce drawings and also a quantity surveyor who has produced costs, which were on display to the public at the consultation. The costs for a refurbishment are £550,000 including VAT and a new build is £750,000 including VAT. The Board gathered written and verbal comments from all those attending the consultation.

The Board met on Thursday 5 July to consider all the comments and unanimously decided on the new hall option.

The next stage will be to refine the plans and apply for planning and building warrant approval. Then the challenge will be for the Board to raise the funds needed to build a brand new hall, which will meet the needs of the local community for many years in the future.

Moira Hamilton

Convener, Board of Trustees, Crathes Hall

6 July 18

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**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**LADIES FASHION SHOW AND POP UP SHOP**

*on*

*THURSDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 at 7.30pm in Kirkton of  
Durris Hall.*

*In aid of Drumoak-Durris Church Building Fund.*

*LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION POSTERS*

## Farming in 2017

January 2017 was an extremely wet month, with the ground often too wet for ploughing although there was very little snow or frost it continued through February, March until April. Spring sowing of barley and oats was quite late-practically all sown after the middle of April. Early May was reasonably warm with the crop in Aberdeenshire and North East brairding quickly and off to a good start. The summer that followed was the opposite of what we are having at present, rain every week right through August, September and October.

In spite of that no farmer could ever remember tatties growing so fast as last year. Once through the ground they simply mushroomed! Although October was a slightly drier month, the harvest of both grain and tatties was prolonged, one good day and then two bad. Acres and acres of straw lay in some cases for 3 weeks before being able to bale. Amazingly, in Aberdeenshire, grain yields surprised folks, being quite a bit higher than expected considering the lack of sun. Tatties were a grand crop, massive yields and some farms over 17 tons per acre.

The quality of silage which is so important for winter keep was lower than usual, wet and soggy. Very little hay was made, some was snatched in August which did not help. Grain dryers working right through October and November resulting in huge diesel costs. Cattle prices were acceptable until mid-September but due to the wet harvest the value of store cattle for wintering was 6 to 100 pounds lower right through to October, November and December. One of the largest causes was the lack of dry bedding for cattle. As winter progressed the price of straw was enormous often selling at 20 pounds per bale, double from the previous year. Our farming neighbours in the SW especially Ayrshire and West Lanark were much worse than Aberdeenshire and some farms had practically no silage. Some got a small cut in October, combining barley and oats right through to November. Mr. Jim Barclay from Brock Loch in Ayrshire said he got finished in the second week of November and a near neighbour had nothing combined at all. Combines kept sinking and bogging down. With the lack of winter keep, 6 to 10 herds of suckling cows were reduced by 50%.

### Now the sheep year

Sheep year is so important to Scotland, lambing prices from Jan to Mid-April were lower than folk expected rising from April onwards by 15 pounds a head. Lambing weather was fairly good with a lot of twins, giving a respectable lamb percentage all over. Because of the lower lamb prices from December to mid-April many of the hog feeders scarcely made a profit. Hogs are lambs under 1 year old born March and April and sold for mutton next winter. Consequently, farmers selling lambs at centres such as Lairg, Dingwall, Stirling and Thainstone were quite worried their prices would fall quite substantially. Joyce Campbell from Armadale in Sutherland, who was featured in the TV programme Landward during the lambing in April one of the biggest consigners at the Lairg lamb sales, had that fear as well. However, if turned out not to be that bad, some flocks were back 2-4 pounds a head, some others were 3-4 pounds.

Sheep shearing last year was delayed, sheep dry one day and wet the next. Durris has always been synonymous with sheep clippers and for 4 decades the Petrie family of 5 brothers from South Brachmont hand clipped thousands upon thousands of sheep, year in, year out. Joe Petrie said a year before he died they

had the distinction of clipping 900 black faces yews on a very hot day in Glen Esk, a tremendous feat. Joe passed away 2 years ago. Now my nephew John Blackhall, also from East Brachmont himself and 4 other shearers get through approx. 14000 sheep annually but with electric shears. His oldest brother Alan Blackhall, for a period of 25 years did likewise mostly shearing in Perthshire and Angus as well as Aberdeenshire.

Returning to Lairg, Sandy Petrie from Brachmont and Mr. Joe Burnett from Cairnbank, Riccarton was a flock master that mastered 6 flocks, mostly new hogs for farmers in Sutherland. They used to leave the Brachmont at 4.30am for Lairg, Mrs Burnett used to pack 6 hard boiled eggs in their piece box and I remember Sandy saying they always stopped at the top of the Sooie Hill at approx. 9am and the eggs were still hot. After folks got their lambs sold, Joe used to go around the sellers and get paid for their last year's wintering. With 6 shepherds to pay, financially this could not happen today. I always admire Joe Burnett for achieving that. The cheviot new hogs which would be put in lamb in November were returned to their owners in Sutherland in the last week of April. I was at Cairnbank with my father delivering seed oats in early May, after the shepherds had gone to their other farms until November and I had the pleasure of seeing 14 collie dogs in one huge kennel, all looking well.

I have probably scribbled enough now, I have scribbled plenty. About as of now, 2018 could not be more different. With the lack of grass and grain crops shriveling up although the sunshine is most welcome, there is serious worry for winter fodder. In the next article I will try and mention fruit farming and vegetables, bulbs and daffodils, as the acreage is increasing annually. Environmental issues, laws and conditions are a big topic now and we will leave them for another day. Thanks for now.

W. Blackhall.

### From Councillor Sandy Wallace

In the first year of this version of Aberdeenshire Council, to my mind the biggest single decision we had to make concerned whether or not to build a new Civic HQ in Inverurie to enable us to move out of Woodhill House in Aberdeen. It's big because once taken, we cannot go back on it, and because from that decision follows other more local decisions regarding council presence in our towns like Banchory and Stonehaven. It's also big because whatever we chose, it would cost the price of a new academy. As work patterns change, we need less floor space to do the same. Doing nothing was not an option.

Some favoured the Inverurie option, in part because Woodhill House is not actually in Aberdeenshire, they felt our HQ should be in our own authority. To me this did not matter. Woodhill however is too big for our needs and securing tenants is difficult in today's climate. It would be a valuable site if sold off, although not as valuable as ten years ago. It sits immediately above Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and to my mind, it was vital that we retained it in public hands to permit ARI or the Universities to expand at some future point if needed.

The Council decided by majority to commit to remaining in Woodhill and to offering space to NHS Grampian and other public sector partners like the Police. A minority favoured delaying making a final decision. We now have to look at what this means for our town presence. Inverurie badly needs new offices, smaller but more town central than before, Ellon likewise needs to consolidate a dozen tired old offices into one modern site with NHS presence. Stonehaven also needs to have a smaller footprint, ideally more town central. Beyond that, we should be looking to Banchory. As society goes online, fewer people than ever drop into council offices to pay bills or report problems, it no longer justifies a building, but sometimes these face to face services are still needed and we need to find new ways of providing them, either in our schools, our libraries or NHS facilities, possibly even more locally than before.

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[Anyone for Badminton?](#)

The Drumoak Badminton Group meets at Drumoak School on Wednesday nights 1900-2100 during term time. It is a mixed group of age and ability, but it is for the enjoyment of the game we play for. The school has two badminton courts, so everyone gets a few games. If interested just come along on the night, first night is free then subsequent weeks will be £5. See you on the court!

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## Park Shop Update

It's hard to believe that six months have passed since I wrote the last article about Park Shop. Hopefully by time you read this we might even have opened. It has taken too long to get where we are, and for that I apologise. We were probably too optimistic on our timescale but the change of focus from a small deli-type shop to incorporate an off-licence and artisan coffee facility has necessitated a redesign of the interior, some challenging decisions on equipment, not to mention lots of application-form-filling and consultation with external bodies.

Over the last few months we've been inundated with people stopping to ask how we're getting on. Many locals - old and new – serious Lycra-clad road cyclists, recreational cyclists, and walkers on the Deeside Way, have all stopped to introduce themselves and enquired as to our progress. This has been a fantastic encouragement and a great excuse to get to know some of our future customers. And what a lovely bunch of neighbours we have at Park! It's a village within a village and it has been a privilege to get to know everyone around us who are eagerly looking forward to their new local facility.

Opening in July has proved impossible with the trades fortnight delaying the worktops we required to finish the project. The great weather over the last two months hasn't helped either – after all, who wants to be painting and plumbing inside when it's so nice outside? The picnic table I assembled at the back of the shop has been tempting us every warm evening and weekend to stop work for a cool drink. In fact, we've discovered just what a sun-trap this area behind the shop actually is. That should prove quite a draw - for the walkers and cyclists in particular - who might want to sit outside with their coffee and cake or a cool beer on a nice afternoon. Let's just hope we don't have to wait another 30 years for a decent summer.

I should stress that we're not turning Park Shop into a café. The lease and the council licence don't permit that and, to be honest, the facility isn't really suited to such a trade. Park Shop is now quite simply an artisan licenced deli. Any seating provided outside is incidental and whilst the garden and car park may be available for customer use, there will be no food or drinks service outside. The take-away coffee should be a revelation to anyone who believes they have tasted 'proper' coffee. Once you've experienced quality beans properly brewed, you'll never consider a tax-dodging mainstream brand again.

If you visit the shop over the coming months, please feel free to ask if there's anything in particular you would like us to stock for you. We'll keep a paper and pen behind the counter for suggestions. We can't guarantee to satisfy every demand, but we'll do our best if it's feasible. Aside from the essentials, we're not planning to stock any brands you can buy in the supermarkets but eventually it's the customers who will decide what Park Shop becomes.

Hope to see you soon!

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## Co-op funding improves art display

Camphill Wellbeing Trust's exhibition space has received a makeover thanks to over £2500 raised by the Peterculter Co-op and its shoppers.

CWT was chosen as one of three charities to receive funds raised from March to September 2017 through the Co-op Local Community Fund.



Co-op Members were able to choose CWT as their cause to receive the Co-op's donation of 1% on all sales of own-brand products. Money from shopping bag sales bags plus 1% from members who had not actively selected a cause was also added, making a grand total of £2,597.81. To find out more visit: [www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-community-fund](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-community-fund)

The Co-op money was used to install new lighting in the Camphill Medical Practice waiting room and corridors to focus on the art displayed as part of CWT's Art in the Waiting Room project.

"The new spotlights have made a real difference," shares Catherine Redgate, coordinator of the art programme. "Having a flexible system means we can adjust the lights to optimise the viewing experience at each exhibition."

"The project promotes both local artist's work and our charity whilst providing a rich visual environment for patients." explains Aileen Primrose, CWT Manager.

Camphill Wellbeing Trust is a local medical charity providing an integrative approach to health which aims to address illness, build resilience and maintain wellbeing. To support equality of access, CWT relies on the generous support of donors and fundraisers.

CWT would like to thank everyone who supported the Co-op's Community Fund during Summer 2017. You have helped support a project that benefits patients and the local community. We hope to see you at our next Art in the Waiting Room open night where you too can experience our brighter exhibitions!

Find out about our current exhibition and upcoming open nights on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/artinthewaitingroom](https://www.facebook.com/artinthewaitingroom) or by contacting us on admin@cwt.scot / 01224 862008.

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

Who would have thought it - following the great amounts of snow on the hills during the past winter keeping water levels in the Dee good till May – alas, no significant rain since when???. Now early July and we are facing very low water conditions within the river. Most if not all Scottish rivers are experiencing the same, resulting in some very difficult angling conditions. And spare a thought for the poor fish with morning water temperatures around mid 60's and evening ones into 70's - difficult times.

The season itself has been hard going for most beats. Early spring this year, like last season, saw a shortage of anglers on many parts of the river resulting in lower catches again. Along with many other rivers the Dee's main run of spring fish hasn't been strong and now with the very low and hot water conditions, only small numbers of fish are being caught. Hopefully fish are waiting to enter rivers when the rain comes. We badly need rain and a fair bit of it. Yes, I know, it's been a lovely summer but well, if it rained at night, we would all be happy. It is what it is.

I smiled at River Development Officer Ross Macdonald's recent fishing report "The heat-wave continues. I have been hearing rumours that Deeside chickens are laying hard-boiled eggs and the cows are producing evaporated milk. Camel sightings are unconfirmed". Well done Ross, never easy doing weekly reports when things are slow.



Up until the end of June this year 987 salmon have been caught. The best being a fish of 29lbs caught at Commonty during June. Congratulations to the fortunate angler. And although not on the Dee but also well worth a mention, was a 35lb salmon caught on the River Tay at Glendelvin in February. Wow! - that was some spring salmon, one that fishing dreams are made of.

In 1976 (my first season) many will recall the drought and our beat water level gauge dropped to 3 inches. In 2003 it was down to 4 inches. At present we are at 5 inches although we know that following Storm Frank changes to the river bed may have altered comparative level recording to some degree. Nevertheless, it's very low for early July and lowest levels normally come late August/September. We have to wait and see. I've been rain dancing for a while

now, and no, you don't want to see! Joking apart, difficult times for the fish, the anglers and farmers as well. Night time rain please.

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DDCG's committee consists of a small group of locals who meet each month to discuss smaller issues within the community and who work closely together to arrange a variety of local events to suit all ages and essentially to bring everyone together in a fun way. Some events are fundraisers, and some are purely to encourage community spirit and a good opportunity to meet others. Please find us on the DDCG Facebook page and join in.

<https://www.facebook.com/drumoakdurriscommunitydeesideddcg/>



## Date for your Diary

The Drumoak and Durris Community Group Grand Auction is to be rescheduled to

**Saturday 1st September 2018 starting 14:00 until late.**

Chairman Duncan Wight said " We were given 80 fantastic items to auction at our auction night in May some of which were worth in excess of £500 and one worth £1200. However, we only had around 40 people and it was felt that we couldn't really hold a viable auction that would do justice to the hugely generous donations we had received and decided to postpone the event until September 1st.

There were so many competing events that evening which took many people away from our local event. We are going to hold a combined Auction and Family Funday during the day on Saturday 1st September starting at 2pm. There will be a licensed beer tent, Bouncy Castle, children's games, BBQ, and stalls to entertain the whole family. It should be a great day with lots going on as well as a chance to bid for a bargain at the auction.

Local groups and charities are invited to set up a stall of their own at this event in the field and should contact Duncan to make arrangements for this. It is hoped that the community will rally behind the Drumoak and Durris Community Group whose aim is to bring locals together at such social events and use any money raised to provide equipment and items of use to all in the area.

Duncan said "The DDCG has a Facebook page and we will be using this page to publicise our own events and those of other groups in the area, so please go on and have a look and follow us on Facebook. We need more members for the group and volunteers to help out, and if you wish to get involved in any way at all please contact me on 01330 811459 or 07831 855916 or Sandra White secretary, 0796 434 5310.

**Editor's message**. Thank you to everyone who has given feedback to the newsletter and to all the contributors and advertisers for supporting it going forward.

Over this long hot summer everyone has been enjoying the outdoors, be it a BBQ in the back garden or in the countryside, we have to care with fire. With the tinder dry vegetation, it only takes a spark from the bonfire to set up a potential devastating wildfire. Please be extra vigilant during this extra dry time. There have been a number of fires set at the Glebe and the grass has been severely damaged. If you are setting a fire outdoors, remember to dig a pit first for the fire to sit in and then you can replace the grass after you have finished. This allows the area to replenish itself and not leave a scar. Always leave the areas as you find them, take all litter home.

KMS

Next newsletter will be Winter edition, any articles, photos please send to me by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

[editorddnews@btinternet.com](mailto:editorddnews@btinternet.com)

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## Bowling club news

The Club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017 and as we look to the future we have to think of new ways to increase our membership. Some of you will have already attended our family sessions taking place on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8pm where we have invited families along to have a go at bowling. These sessions will be repeated in the future. Our club would also like to start a Junior Section and have purchased a number of sets of bowls for this purpose. The Club is in the process of applying for a restricted club license for the sale of alcohol to members and to that end we will be open to social membership in the future, in order to increase our Club's sustainability.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August we have our Open Triples Competition when we hope to attract some 32 teams from the Aberdeenshire area and beyond. This event will be licensed and we welcome spectators from the local community to come along and enjoy the occasion. We also hope to have a

Concert in the autumn in aid of Club funds. A bingo night will also be arranged for later in the year.

Should anyone wish to participate in bowling we have friendly hat nights on Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7pm. The Club Pavilion is also for hire and anyone wishing to do so should contact Lena Sim on 01330 811374.

Dave Stuart, Vice President



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## DURRIS WI

### April

What an enjoyable and interesting evening we had visiting The Tin Coo at Banchory Devenick. Kenny gave us a great talk on the family business, how it all began and how it has grown and expanded over the years. We were then invited to try out the many delicious cheeses and oatcakes that they produce along with a pot of tea and some lovely home bakes. We were then let loose in the shop and left with an array of tasty treats

### May

At the May get together we welcomed visitors from Raemoir WI who joined us for our Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck Taste and Try evening. The ladies kindly judged our competitions, carried out the telling of the vote for our new committee and entertained us with a very amusing sketch and finished off with a good old sing song.

The year's competition points were added up and prizes awarded as follows.

Single bloom competition 1st Sandra Blackhall and Maggie Simpson, 2nd Winnie Reid, 3rd Aileen Melvin Abernethy Cup was won by Winnie Reid, 2nd Sandra Blackhall, 3rd Maggie Simpson Frances Smith Plate was won by Tricia Law, 2nd Carol Melvin, 3rd Winnie Reid and Sandra Blackhall. Well done to all

### June

Our June get together was held in the form of a visit to one of Scotland's Open Garden Scheme gardens at Inchgarth in Aberdeen. The owners made us feel very welcome and gave us a great tour of their wonderful garden. It is clearly evident that a lot of love and hard work has been put into it. After the tour we enjoyed a cup of tea and some delicious home baking.

The owners chosen charity this year is the Robertson Roof Garden at ARI and the Archie Foundation

The next meeting is on 10th September, in the Kirkton Hall at Durris at 730 pm.  
There will be a talk by The Forget-me-not group

Anyone interested in joining the Durris group, please contact Linda Robb (07703469667) or check out our Facebook Page, Durris Women's Institute



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## Durris School News.

We have had another very busy term at Durris School. The whole school have been involved in learning about the Global Goals – a set of 17 international goals set by the UN to improve the standard of living for all by the year 2030. The children shared their learning with parents at an open morning in May. This included looking at choosing Fairtrade items when shopping and thinking of ways to reduce our consumption of single use plastic, being more Eco aware.

We also shared with parents about our learners having a Growth Mind-set when learning something new and tricky. We looked at ‘The Learning Pit’ – how learning something new is difficult and good for our brains as it helps them to grow. If you are interested in more about this you can find some interesting clips on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IMUAOhu078> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiiEeMN7vbQ>

We have been working really hard this term to learn our lines and songs for our school show ‘The Pirates of the Curry Bean’. The children were fantastic during our performance in Kirkton Hall and thankfully no one had to walk the plank!

At Durris we sponsor a little girl called Chantal, in Burundi to go to school. This supports the UN Rights of the Child, Article 28 – for all children to receive a primary education. To help fundraise for this we had a crazy hair day where pupils and staff had lots of fun creating some interesting hair styles.

Our rescued battery hens Candy and Caramel have had nearly a full year being looked after by Durris pupils and their families– and they are certainly looking far better now than when they first arrived with us. They regularly lay eggs – with half a dozen costing £1 – so if you are ever passing the school please pop in see if there are any available.

Our Community Group have also been learning about Geocaching this year and have worked in partnership with Drum Castle to hide two caches. Geocaching is similar to treasure hunting using GPS to locate hidden finds – a great activity for all of the family. We would love you to have a go at finding our new caches in Drum over the summer – all you need to do is download the free app and you are ready for action! Here is a good clip on what geocaching is all about and how to do it- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuFiLhhCNww>

## Peterculter Medical Practice

The practice is very pleased to introduce our new GP colleagues to the team! Dr Ewan Paterson joined us as a partner in June – he has a wealth of previous General Practice experience behind him and has an ongoing significant role in undergraduate medical education with Aberdeen University. Dr Jennifer MacDonald joined us as a salaried GP in July – she has most recently been working in a similar role at Alford. We warmly welcome our new doctors and wish them both a happy time working with us at Peterculter.

We have been involved in a pilot project over the last 2 years or so to test out so-called 'online consultation' (known as Web GP), which many of you have tried. This was accessible via our practice website and allowed an online message to be sent to the practice seeking advice about a medical query or problem – the duty doctor would then process the request within 24 hours, resulting in whatever action was deemed appropriate. In our experience of the pilot project, which has now come to an end, often the resulting action would be for a medical or nurse appointment to be made in the traditional way to assess the problem more fully. Occasionally a direct prescription was possible, depending on the nature of the request. Overall however we did not feel this service was used sufficiently to continue with it.

Recent acts of vandalism to our building have been an upsetting development here, such mindless actions are incomprehensible. The police are dealing with those incidents currently.

Best wishes

Dr Douglas Harris

=====



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*Responding to community needs*

## CRATHES DRUMOAK & DURRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### VACANCY FOR MINUTE SECRETARY

Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council is looking to appoint a Minute Secretary to record the business of the Community Council at its regular monthly meetings.

This post offers a payment of £30-00 per meeting, and the Community Council meets on the second Wednesday evening of each month (except in July) at 7-30pm. The meetings are scheduled to last approximately 2 hours.

The successful applicant will be required to take notes during the meetings and produce shortly afterwards a draft minute, which would be circulated to those members present at the meeting for verification. Thereafter the minute would be circulated by the Secretary of the Community Council, along with the Agenda for the following meeting, to all members of the Community Council.

This post may well prove to be attractive to a younger member of the community who is currently a student at school or college.

For more details, please contact:

Marion McNeil, tel. 01330 811350 [marionmcneil24@yahoo.com](mailto:marionmcneil24@yahoo.com)

[www.crathesdrumoakdurriscc.org](http://www.crathesdrumoakdurriscc.org)  
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## Heather Dale Garden Design

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## Another Date for your Diary from DDCG

### Bonfire Night – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Top o' the hill (Sunnyside Farm Field)

Wrap up warm, bring a torch, and a penny or two for hot food and drinks and look forward to a very popular night of the year. The amount of people who attend this event increases hugely every year and the sound of excited children (and adults) is great to hear. The bonfire creates a lovely atmosphere, the fireworks are always bring a gasp or two and the refreshment stalls are busy the whole night.

## **DRUMOAK & DURRIS NEWSLETTER**

This Newsletter has been published quarterly for over 20 years as a community service by Drumoak-Durris Church of Scotland.

It is produced and delivered FREE by volunteers to all households in Drumoak and Durris.

Editorial Team

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### **Useful Information**

Drumoak-Durris Church drumoakdurrischurch.org

Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council

crathesdrumoakdurriscouncil.org

Drumoak & Durris Community Group drumoakdurriscg.org

Aberdeenshire Council aberdeenshire.gov.uk

### **Useful Telephone Numbers**

Drumoak-Durris Church of Scotland

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Session Clerk 01330 811350

Police Scotland

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