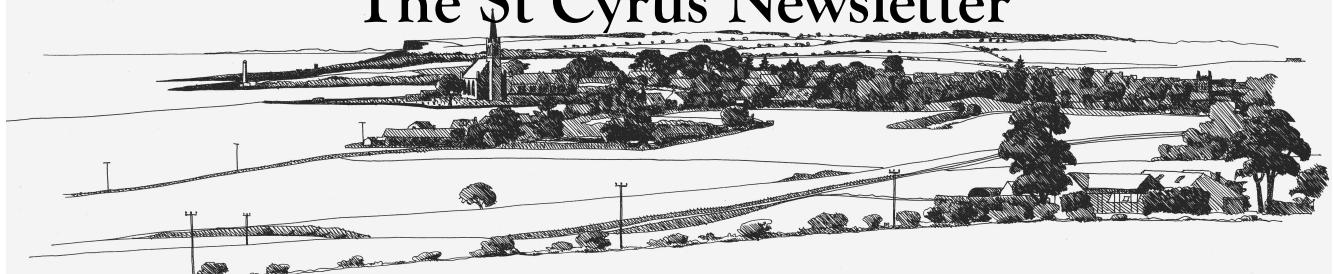


The St Cyrus Newsletter



Volume 5 Issue 6

February/March 2008



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Also at www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk

You donated £1,567 for Christmas lights.
What initiative would you choose to support next?
**Join your Community Council
or attend the meetings
to make your voice heard.**

Have a say in the future development of
YOUR VILLAGE

- Planning for Real Aberdeenshire council *listening to YOU*
- Future housing development, *where, when and how much?*
- The Playing field *more facilities for example goalposts, floodlights?*
- The old railway cutting ??
- Measures to control speeding traffic !
- The coastal footpath
- Adopted roads, Overhead electric lines, Parking, Dog fouling,

The AGM is 12th February 7pm Public Hall

We need a committee of twelve and many more regular attendees.

St Cyrus Public Hall AGM 7pm on Tuesday 4th March

The Annual General Meeting of the Management Committee will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 4th March at the hall. Meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss matters relating to the running and maintenance of the hall.

The Committee is made up of representatives from hall user groups and volunteers from the community. This is an opportunity for anyone interested in helping to run this community facility to come forward and form the new committee at the AGM. New members are always welcome.

To find out more attend the meeting or you can contact the Secretary

The St Cyrus newsletter is made possible by your donations, sponsorship and the business directory advertisements
and is issued: April/May, June/July, August/September, October/November, December/January, February/March.

Editorial Policy Statement

The St Cyrus Newsletter is a free community newsletter produced and distributed every two months by volunteers to households and businesses in St Cyrus and district. The aim of those involved is to produce an informative, accurate and entertaining journal for those who live, work and visit in this area. We are supporting an integrated and inclusive community with information, entertainment and discussion. Letters and articles published in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Production Committee and they reserve the right to shorten, edit or not publish any item. Contributions will be attributed to the author. Vested interests will be declared where applicable. Articles should be between 200 and 300 words and the content should be original work relevant to St Cyrus and the environs. The St Cyrus Newsletter Group obtains written parental permission before including any photographs of children in the newsletter. When photographs of children are included they will not be given a full name and will not relate to an individual. The principal reason for this policy is because the newsletter is made available on the Internet as a downloadable PDF file. This policy is standard practice in all schools in Scotland. Photographic resources donated to and collected on behalf of The Newsletter Group remain the property of the group to illustrate the newsletter and may also be used to support village charitable fund raising. Entries for the Business directory are charged at £5 per issue for the single line entry of name, service and telephone contact number.

Production Committee

Maurice Forsyth-Grant: Chairman

Pam Harrison: Treasurer

Mike Burleigh: Editor

Lyn Hunt: Secretary

Mary Singleton

Bernard Tuck

Robert Flann

Elizabeth Leslie

Richard Leiper

Tom Dalziel

Website Team: Frances Johnson and Bernard Tuck



Distribution Team:

Organiser John Barrie supported by: Bob Flann, Andrew Hamilton, Mike Burleigh, Robert Smith, Heather Jenkins, Bev Rae, Bert Skinner and Liz Leslie.

Contributors to this edition

Tom Dalziel	Pam Harrison	Andy Turner
Wilma Jobson	George Hastie	Linda Babbs
Julie Kelly	Cathy Gillies	Lorna Grubb
Mary Singleton	Donald Gillies	Ian Hunter
Wendy Sparrow	Andy Vinten	Mike Burleigh
Alison Couch	Wilma Jobson	Michelle Fraser
Liz Leslie	Frances Johnson	Yvonne Buck
Allan Robertson	Harry Bickerstaff	
David Smith	Lina Forsyth Grant	
David Robertson	Ged Maybury	
Dorothy Tuck	Bernard Tuck	
Bob Flann	Bert Skinner	MAC
Neil Thomson	Bill Howatson	
Lindsay Kerr	Durward Tavendale	



Editorial

We printed the following on page 9 in the December 2007-January 2008 issue:

"All of the cost of the improvements to the bowling club has been paid for by the hard work of the club members, some of whom also put in lots of effort to obtain various grants. None of it was handed out by the council as was implied in a letter to the editor in an earlier newsletter".

However we must thank Councillor Howatson for bringing the following to our attention:

"since September 2005, I am pleased to say that St Cyrus Bowling Club has been granted £9,762.50 by Aberdeenshire Council. £7,580 was awarded by the Education Committee Grants Sub Committee (25% of the cost of the new surface and the purchase of a surface cleaning machine) and following that two awards were made from the Kincardine and Mearns Area Top Up budget - £1,147.50 and £1,035."

Cllr Howatson added: "I wholeheartedly supported all three awards which I believe to be a good use of public money and a recognition not only of the importance of the club, but of the hard work done by club members in raising funds".

The accuracy of the information we publish is important to the Newsletter Group which is why committees should ensure the exactness of the facts they provide. The editor is responsible for truthful content, the quality of English and presentation and we do have several persons proof reading which helps with regard to local knowledge but we cannot be expected to verify every detail especially when it is supplied by a committee.

Editor

DEADLINE !!!

Articles and information for the next issue
should arrive at the latest March 24th

Write to us at: Email: stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net
13 Scotston Place, St Cyrus DD10 0BZ



Letters to the Editor

Greetings to St.Cyrus from Brisbane, Australia. I'm a writer originally from New Zealand and very proud of my Scottish ancestry, but know very little about it. I have an ancestral record of my father's line (surname Grieve) that traces back to the 1701 birth of a James Grieve recorded at Montrose. St. Cyrus then shows up for 5 subsequent generations; from his wife Marjory Creig or Greig (b.1702) through to a William Grieve (b.1834) who then moved on. Other contributing St. Cyrus surnames (the various wives) were Brown, Grant, Bran or Brau, Smith, Brown again, and Ferrier; all becoming Grieve. Their husbands were all agricultural labourers of one kind or another. To complete the story my grandfather, Peter Sidney Grieve, emigrated to New Zealand from Aberdeen(?) about a century ago, while another branch of the family moved to Canada. I'd be delighted to hear from any of you who can trace a common ancestry or can offer me any insights into the life and times of these historical characters who have contributed to my story. Thank you. Sincerely Ged Maybury Contact me at: gedmaybury23@gmail.com or 3 Glenn Street, Slacks Creek, Logan, Queensland 4127, Australia.



St Cyrus Church of Scotland Services are at 10:00am Sundays.

Services at 11.30am in Johnshaven.

There are family services on the first Sunday of each month.

Last December we said farewell to Dawn Sherman our church organist for 19 years making a great contribution to worship, weddings and funerals. She and Jack, now both 70, are retiring to Laxfield in Suffolk. We will probably no longer have a

permanent organist but will be on a rota with other churches.

In the Cottar's Saturday night, Burns comments on a family reading their bible and taking their faith seriously and says, "From scenes like these, auld Scotia's grandeur springs." Though Burns had an ambivalent relationship with the unco guid and Holy Wullies of his day, he knew the value of faith. At the beginning of the new year we like to have an aim or watch word to guide and lead us. I suggest Psalm 31.24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, all who wait on the Lord.

Parish Register: Funeral; Betty Bleas.

Baptisms; Amy, Jessica and Douglas Barr

The Good Friday service is at Bervie Church

George Hastie

Scottish Episcopal Church

St Mary's + St Peter's Montrose

8am Sunday Said Eucharist

11am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 10:15 Said Eucharist

Inverbervie: St David's

Sung Eucharist 9:30am Sunday

The Living Rooms

Christian Centre and Coffee Shop

Prayer requests welcome

Services of worship Sundays at 7:30pm

Also SALT (Seeking And Learning Together) Men's Group
2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 8-10am
with breakfast.

Church Street, Inverbervie, DD10 0RU

Email: enquiries@thelivingrooms.org

Catholic Services:

Saturday 6.30pm St David's Episcopal Church: Bervie
Sunday Mass at 9am and 11am St Mary's Stonehaven

Special service, **Benholm Kirk** 5pm Sat 23rd Feb.

Rev Baruch Maoz, the pastor of Grace and Truth Christian Church in Rishon-le-Zion, Israel, will preach on "The Law and the Gospel".

St Cyrus Announcements

Please inform the editor before the deadline if you wish to include an obituary, announcement of a birth, Christening, baptism, death, engagement, wedding, birthday or achievement in this newsletter

Betty Bleas. 1924-December 2007. Betty was born in Johnshaven. She and her sister Agnes were both very musical. Betty was a wonderful piano player and church organist at Benholm, Johnshaven and St Cyrus. Betty worked her way up from office junior at Hugh H Souter & Co to the position of legal secretary and cashier. Donald looked after the butcher's shop at St Cyrus, they were married in 1955 and moved here in 1957. They had Elizabeth, Don and Moira. Betty was a great help to Donald with the shop working tirelessly behind the scene, her steak pies becoming a legend in the area. She often worked well into the evening of Hogmanay making pies for customers' New Year dinners when Donald, who never liked to let anyone down, had sold all the pies that had previously been ordered.

They were also a great team at tennis playing doubles for many years at County standard being unbeaten for 2 consecutive years. Betty joined St.Cyrus WRI where she was president for many years. She and her WRI friends formed an entertainment group. There was probably not a village hall in the county in which Betty had not played the piano. Her public playing continued up to the concert party last year. Betty and Donald's service to the community was recognized by an invitation to the Queen's garden party in Holyrood in 1983. During their retirement Donald and Betty enjoyed some travel abroad.

Betty was proud of her grandchildren, Valerie, Peter, Kirsten, Niall, Shaun and Ross and became great grandparents two years ago when Valerie's son, Kieran was born.

Diagnosed with cancer almost a year ago, Betty did not dwell upon it keeping a cheerful face for everyone. She was nursed and died peacefully at home as she wished on the last Sunday of December.

George Hastie

The Free Church in St. Cyrus

Quotation from the Bible: Proverbs 3: 34

"[The Lord] .. mocks proud mockers,
but gives grace to the humble. . ."

...the dictionary definition of humble is someone who does not think that he or she is better or more important than others, Grace is God's undeserved favour. Why not look into this? It's better than "mock the weak"!

Outlines of meetings for February/March.

Worship & Learn Preacher - David Robertson.

3pm Sunday 3rd February St Cyrus Public Hall.
Communion Service.

Refreshments.

Mid month meeting

3pm Sunday 17th February
St Cyrus Public Hall Study Group.

Refreshments.

Worship & Learn Preacher - T.B.A

3pm Sunday 2nd March St Cyrus Public Hall
Refreshments.

Mid month meeting

3pm Sunday 16th March St Cyrus Public Hall
Study Group

Refreshments.

Weekday Personal Bible Studies: By arrangement. One to one or small group. Informal. Contact - Cathy Gillies,



My Memorable Trip to Romania with New Hope Trust.

On November 30th I joined a team of volunteers with New Hope Trust in a visit to Timisoara in Romania to deliver Christmas Shoe Boxes and Parcels to children and adults. Computers, Televisions, Educational Games and Stationery were also distributed to schools in the area.

After a 14 hour journey from Aberdeen, via Amsterdam and Budapest, we were welcomed by Wendy Smith from New Hope Trust who had prepared for our arrival. The truck with the aid from Scotland had been unloaded into a container based at a church where other large parcels and aid items were already stored.

We used a minibus to distribute the aid and travelling was difficult at times as some roads were rough, unmade dirt tracks. We made daily visits to the church to collect the parcels we needed for distribution. During our stay we travelled 100's of miles visiting 11 different locations, to deliver 1160 shoeboxes and parcels all within 5 days. Schools, orphanages, old folks homes, shelters for the homeless, homes for abused girls and protected children and homes for young people with learning difficulties were just some of the places where we delivered parcels and aid to provide a little Christmas cheer.

We also took food and aid to some individuals and families who were living in poverty in substandard housing in appalling conditions. Most of the state residential homes we saw provided better living conditions and were in the process of being upgraded to comply with E.U. regulations. Basic facilities are provided but the homes are often overcrowded and lack many of the comforts we are used to in the UK.

The support and generosity of the people of St Cyrus contributed to some of the Shoeboxes and aid we distributed. Money raised in this village from Coffee mornings, stalls and donations raised £1500 towards the £5000 needed by New Hope Trust to deliver a truck load of aid to Romania.

There will be an opportunity to hear more about this visit and see some of the photographic record of the trip at a presentation in St Cyrus Public Hall on Thursday 14th February at 1.30pm.. Please come along and continue your valued support for New Hope Trust so that these unfortunate people in rural Romania can be helped to have a better life.

Thank you, Wendy Sparrow.



In the last issue we invited readers to become writers and recommend books we might read. Our hope was that someone would make a contribution which would encourage us to read to improve our understanding as opposed to those internet texts which only bombard us with information, try to sell us something or entertain to pass the time.

Thanks to David Robertson who responded with this article reviewing the personal agendas of some important authors of children's literature. He has perhaps set the focus for the next newsletter issue.

The New Culture Wars – Are our children being indoctrinated?

Two of the most fascinating things about some of the most popular children's authors are that adults love them and that they all write from a religious perspective. In this short article I want to reflect upon that and to ask if we should be concerned that some kind of subtle indoctrination is occurring.

CS Lewis's Narnia books, Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, J.K Rowling's *Harry Potter* series and Philip Pullman's *Dark Materials* are the most popular authors and the best examples of this trend. Lewis and Tolkien write from an unashamedly Christian perspective, J.K Rowling was accused of advocating witchcraft but maintains that Christian themes run through all her books (she is a member of the Church of Scotland) and Philip Pullman is an unabashed atheist even describing his books as anti-C. S Lewis. The one thing that all of these authors have in common is that they are cracking storytellers and superb writers. They entertain and educate at the same time. We should be thankful that such quality writing is available to our children. Despite all the new technology, a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children.

But what about the dangers of indoctrination? The fear of this often stems from the mistaken belief that human beings are or can be neutral when they discuss these matters. Or even a fear that our children are not interested and should not be exposed to these kinds of questions. Ironically it may be that parents are in danger of instilling their own prejudices and fear of thinking on their children. The beauty of all these writers is that they know that these basic questions of life are the very things that make life and literature interesting even, or perhaps especially, for children.

Personally I do not agree with Pullman's fundamentalist atheism; JK Rowling's more 'liberal' type of Christianity is not my cup of tea; Tolkien's Catholicism raises questions in my mind as well and Lewis's evangelical Christianity is more my cup of tea. But I would encourage my children to read all these books and to question and think for themselves. Perhaps as adults we should set them a good example by being more widely read, tolerant and willing to listen to different perspectives and points of view.

0845 90 90 999

GIVE BLOOD

www.scotblood.co.uk

Join our 3x Promise 2008



an enamel badge !

Donating 3 times a year can help save or improve the lives of 9 people!



Laurencekirk
Thursday 14th February 2008
St Laurence Hall
3.00pm-5.00pm
6.00pm-8.30pm

The City Hall, Brechin
Mon, 4th Feb 08, 3.00pm to 8.00pm
Tue, 5th Feb 08 5.00pm to 8.00pm

The Sports Centre, Inverervie
Thur, 6th March 08
5.00pm to 8.00pm

Aberdeen regular sessions
Foresterhill Road
Tuesday & Wednesday
4.00-7.30pm (walk-in or appointment)
Wednesday 8.40am - 3.30pm
(appointment only) Tel 01224 685685

Gardening Club



18th December meeting

We all had a great evening with Arlene Rushmere doing her 'hands on' DEMO making a Christmas Wreath. Everyone had a go at making their Christmas Wreath which was great fun with lots of laughter. A big 'thank you' to Arlene for a super night with everyone taking away Christmas wreaths to display on their front doors. Durward commented there was a better display around the village this year so perhaps we made an impression!

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed baking as there were mince pies, shortbread, stolen cake, sandwiches, Christmas and cherry cakes enough for all. These meetings are really made by everyone making a contribution ranging from bringing the mounds of variegated greenery we used to make the wreaths to giving lifts to Anne & Eric Buchanan and Georgina on the night and taking them home afterwards. Eric always provides the entertainment with his quips and enjoyed being our Santa for the evening.

Tuesday 15th January: Alison Couch, Nature Reserve Talk

There was a marvellous turn out of folks on the evening. I am sure you will all agree that Alison gave a wonderful, interesting and exciting talk about the Nature Reserve and all the things they get up to there with some beautiful photos shown on the projector. She spoke of what brought her in the first instance to live in St Cyrus, then went on to speak about the birds, butterflies, caves, wildlife, walks, Beatties Graveyard and many more. This ended in lively discussions from the floor with everyone joining in. There are so many topics that she can speak about, however, time was against us, so without a doubt, we will be asking Alison to come back again. Thank you Alison.

Gardening Club Members List – New Members We are pleased to say that our Gardening Club Membership List is growing fast each month which is great news. A hello to our new member Mary Cunningham and also Pamela Karner who as Head of the St Cyrus Nursery school hopes to find ways of having the children take part in some of our projects. She is a member of the Eco School Committee.

SYLLABUS – 2008 A big thank you to Liz for organizing and printing the syllabus which comes with your membership.

19th February - Composting Talk by Tony Archer from Aberdeenshire Council on Home and Community Composting, also at this meeting for members to take home to prepare cuttings from will be Geraniums which have been grown on for us.

18th March, 'Vital Veg friends' a talk by Dr Wendy Seel. During this meeting we will begin compiling the list of questions be put to our Panel of Experts during the April meeting Gardeners Question Time, so have some ideas written out ready. (Perhaps we might invite answers to some questions through the Newsletter and publish correct answers and winners?)

Also this month will be an Open Garden Visit - Georgina Davidson, Sea Green (date to be decided) **MEMBERS ONLY** Georgina has very kindly agreed for small groups of six people to come and visit her garden. She will be showing you how to plant seeds. Visits could be arranged for weekdays or weekends. If you are interested in visiting Georgina's garden please contact myself Pam Harrison or Sue Waddicor. If you don't have a car we can share. So if you are not a member, don't miss out in the fun, hurry up and join.

15th April Gardeners' Question Time – Ian Small from Arbroath + Panel of local experts. Any problems/questions you have about your garden ask our Panel of Experts. **Also on 15th April a Raffle** – We have not had a raffle for a few months, so we ask that you bring a little something to raffle off. Again this raises money towards our funds.

20th May To be decided.

In case you haven't discovered yet, Eric is a mine of information about gardening, for example, ask him how his compost wormery is developing.

17th June To be decided.

July Open Garden Visits – Margaret Hadden, Isobel Smith and Dodd Anderson, finishing at Dorothy & Bernard Tuck for refreshments(date to be decided) **MEMBERS ONLY**

August, Open Garden Visit – Lina Forsyth-Grant, Ecclesgreig Estate (date to be decided) **MEMBERS ONLY**

21st October Ornithology - Study of Birds Harry Bickerstaff - Harry has very kindly agreed to come and share his knowledge and give us a talk on Birds. He will also tell you about feeding and shelter ie bird boxes.

Community Council – area of ground across from Post Office. Bob Flann from the Community Council visited a recent Gardening Club night. Along with other people he is looking for volunteers to help improve/tidy up the area of ground across from the Post Office, perhaps making it into a raised bed. **Allotments** We are talking with Bob Flann regarding the possibility of Allotments in our area.

Future Topics Propagating, Cuttings, More garden visits, Landscaping, Attracting wildlife, Ponds, Basket weaving and Medicinal and culinary herbs (if you know of anyone with knowledge of this topic please get in touch with myself or Sue Waddicor)

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AT OUR NEXT GARDENING CLUB MEETING

bring along anything for discussion including new ideas for the syllabus.

Next meeting: Tuesday 19th February 2008 at 7.30pm, Public Hall
Tony Archer, Aberdeenshire Council – Composting etc

Pam Harrison Sue Waddicor



St Cyrus National Nature Reserve



St Cyrus National Nature Reserve

Cattle Wildflower Plan Aims to be Blooming Marvellous

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will be employing cattle-power to help manage an area of grassland on St Cyrus National Nature Reserve.

The southern part of the reserve, is dominated by whins and coarse grasses. Although this provides cover for rabbits and some birds, the NNR is most important as a refuge for a wide variety of plants.

There is an ample wildflower seed source from elsewhere on the nature reserve, and a good seed bank in the soil, but the taller and more vigorous whins and grasses prevent the wildflowers from taking hold by out-competing them for nutrients and sunlight.

Work to clear around 3 hectares of whins will take place at the end of January, and will involve the use of forestry machinery to remove the hardy plant. This will be followed by stock proofing the area before Highland cattle are introduced by a local farmer in late 2008 or 2009.

Cattle are non-selective grazers and should be the most effective way of keeping the vegetation shorter and limiting the amount of coarser vegetation. In turn, that will allow a greater range of plants to be visible, not only to human visitors, but to the greater variety of insects and birds that will be attracted to the more varied grassland.

SNH has sought specialist advice from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and cattle breeders before developing the management programme.

Although St Cyrus NNR is one of the most varied stretches of coastline in north east Scotland, and now one of the least disturbed by human activity, the presence of cattle may rekindle memories for some visitors.

Before the reserve was established in 1962, part of the area was grazed by cattle from time to time. As farming intensified, grazing such relatively poor land became less worthwhile. There was a short-lived use of ponies to graze the reserve around 20 years ago but that could not be sustained.

On other grassland parts of the reserve, SNH has used controlled burning to limit whins and coarse grasses, but this has the disadvantage of killing most overwintering insect larvae. The grazing management technique complements the burning management and both should give the best overall results for the greatest variety of wildlife on the reserve, while adding another interest for visitors.

The area south of the visitor centre will not be accessible to the public, for safety reasons, while clearance work takes place, although safe access will be available to the remainder of the reserve.

Once the work is completed, there may be temporary access restrictions for animal husbandry reasons but any restrictions will be short-term and signs will be posted to inform visitors.

Andy Turner



Lenticular clouds have the shape of lenses or almonds: often very elongated and usually with well defined outlines. Such clouds appear most often in cloud formations areas of orographic origin (i.e. near mountains) but may also occur in regions away from mountains. These clouds are sometimes referred to as **Spaceship clouds**. Lenticular clouds occur at just about any level. When, at high level, they come close to the jet stream and very fast winds they appear to move at very high speeds. What in fact happens in some of these situations is the clouds dissipate and then reform down stream in more or less the same shape. Occasionally the clouds get picked up by the wind and because of their shape will move quickly. In this case the clouds will dissipate fast giving the impression that they have flown out of sight. This is one case where it is hard to believe your own eyes. MAC

The Newsletter Website needs your help, please, please.....

**Please,
please,
please, we try....**

.....please, we try to keep the Website up to date, but **we can only do that if we have the information.** Each of the recreation/interest groups in the Village has a nominated representative designated to receive email enquiries from the website. We will be sending out emails next week to all group representatives. If you are one of these people and you receive an email from the Website Team PLEASE

respond by looking at your group page/s on the website at stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk Are you happy with the way in which your group is represented on the site? Can you give us more up to date information ?

Have you any special events planned that we could 'advertise' for you?

Would you like us to display more images/photos? Can you give us more up to date information ?

The Website Team

Gala Day Preparations: fund raising



GALA SPRING DANCE

5th April, To be held at the Public Hall. Tickets from the usual outlets.

For your diaries:

ST. CYRUS GALA DAY 21st JUNE

Details of Ladies Day to follow in next edition of the Newsletter.

Benholm Mill Project: A keek through the Mill window.

**Gardens,
Teas,
&
Bees.**

If you were to wander down to Benholm of a winter morn, you might see a light in the Mill tearoom.

And if you were to rub the frost off the pane and look in, you might just see a couple of very special trainee chefs, using their new recipe book, getting on with the baking for events for the new season at the Mill.

The first event is on Saturday 9th February with a "Big Heap Day" Workshop.

Learn composting (10:30 am) and beekeeping (1:00 pm) skills from the experts! Teas and lunch are available. To book any of the workshops please contact Tony Archer of Aberdeen Forward email - composting@abzforward.plus.com
Andy Vinten
Mill of Benholm

Mearns FM: An opportunity to begin training as a radio programme maker

"Given a minimum of 4 people to participate they will come to St Cyrus and run a class on "How to make your own radio programmes"

Do you like listening to the radio?

Are you one of the people who would like to have a go at making your own programme or programmes for Mearns FM?

You may be surprised how easy it is. All you require is your own computer and a microphone. Even the ones you can buy for £1 from discount stores like *Poundland* often give acceptable results.

Next you will require some software and that recommended by Mearns FM is "Audacity," which is *Open Source* and therefore free. If you do a "Google" for "Audacity Tutorial" you will find there is plenty of material on the web telling you

how to use it.

Even better, Mearns FM are enthusiastic to encourage participation because *the richness of the station output will depend on the creativity of the community*. If they can find a minimum of 4 people to participate a Mearns FM member will come to St Cyrus and run a class on "How to make Your Own Programmes".

The software is so easy to use that one evening's tuition should be enough to set you on the path to programme making.

If you are interested please email

ian.hunter@mearnsfm.co.uk

Arctic Conditions on Beinn a'Chaorainn

When viewed from the south across Glen Spean from the slopes of Chno Dearg, the 3,442 foot Munro of Beinn a'Chaorainn, or Hill of the Rowan, appears as a lofty, majestic cone, with its size and shape both dwarfing and out-classing all other hills in the vicinity.

Pronounced 'byn a choerin', this prominent mountain forms a ridge that rises from Loch Laggan and runs for a distance of 4 miles northwards from the A86, about 20 miles northeast of Fort William.

At dawn on the morning of Sunday 6th January 2008, I left my car opposite Roughburn on the A86 and followed a forest track for almost 2 miles northwest then east to a fire break, where I turned north to clear the forest and head up the hill.

With the crags of Meall Clachaig on my left and the domed peak of Meall Bhaid-eanach on my right, I splashed my way across a sodden, boggy moor to the lower south slopes of the steeply rising grassy ridge.

The slope rose in a series of large ridge-like humps towards the cloud-base, giving the effect of many false summits into oblivion.

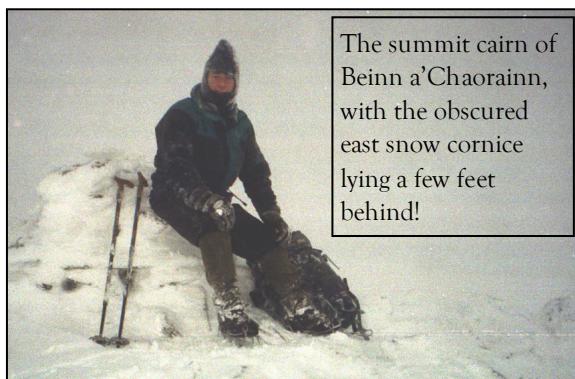
I hit the snow-line at the first hump, where I attached the crampons, and from

then onwards progress became progressively more exhausting. The snow got deeper. I often sank to my knees and at one point the snow almost reached my waist as I ploughed through a drift.

On the summit ridge, low cloud, snow and spindrift combined to create a near whiteout. Keeping the dangerous almost invisible snow cornice on my right I eventually groped my way to where the middle cairn marked the summit.

I did not hang about. With ice forming on my rucksack and spindrift stinging my eyes I followed my compass bearing off the mountain.

Lindsay Kerr



The summit cairn of Beinn a'Chaorainn, with the obscured east snow cornice lying a few feet behind!

Some Advice for Hill Walkers from Sport Scotland

Hill walking results in almost three quarters of all mountain incidents.

February and August show a relatively high number of accidents, possibly reflecting the number of participants at these times.

Navigation is the most commonly cited cause of all incidents (23%), closely followed by bad planning (18%) and inadequate equipment (11%).

There is an increase in the proportion of incidents where poor or absent items of equipment is a contributory cause.

From:
Scottish
Mountaineering
Incidents
(1996 – 2005)
Research Digest no. 102
A research study for
sportscotland
By Dr. Bob Sharp FRGS
www.sportscotland.org.uk



St Cyrus WRI

Visitors, former and new members welcome.

St Cyrus WRI members had a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the George Hotel on Sunday, 9th December and then, on January 7th, we celebrated our 79th birthday with a buffet supper provided by committee members. Joan Stirling and Margaret Pirie cut the birthday cake. The meal was followed by a quiz, a recitation by Ethel Ross and a novelty raffle.

The evening ended with a short game of Bingo conducted by Kath Scott. On January 27th, Joan Stirling will skip a team at the Kincardineshire Federation Curling competition and at the beginning of February St Cyrus will be represented at the Federation's annual quiz night.

At our meeting on February 4th, Margaret Budge will be giving us a talk about her time in the classroom. The bulb competition will be judged during the evening and members will need to remember to bring their display along with a limerick about schooldays and also fancy pencil.

Then on March 3rd, we have Jim Ritchie coming along to tell us about the salmon fishing at St Cyrus over the years. That meeting the competitions will be a fish pate, a pretty shell and a flower of the month.

Members are saddened at the recent loss of Betty Blease who has been a very loyal and hard-working member of the institute for over 60 years. She will be remembered with great affection and very sorely missed.

Moyra Brown Press Secretary

Crossroads, what does the name mean to you? I thought of a television soap my granny used to watch, a place where roads meet or a point of many decisions in your life, certainly not a charity. That was until February 2007.

When 6 months pregnant with our third child I fell down the stairs and badly fractured my ankle. After 10 days in hospital, 2 months of hopping with a cast approached and my Zimmer frame arrived.

My husband goes to sea for 6 weeks at a time, so how would I cope with two young children when it took me 10 minutes to hop to the phone? Granda and Crossroads to the rescue.

Granda is the best, but going from an independent widower to a live in cook, bottle washer, nanny and taxi driver is not easy. Crossroads arranged for a carer to come and give Granda a respite four afternoons a week, letting him

A sponsored slim for Crossroads

have some time for the details of his life which he has had to put to one side whilst looking after us.

So what does Crossroads do?

Crossroads gives those who care for others short breaks when required, by providing appropriately trained substitute carers within the home. This greatly helps to relieve the stress on those caring for elderly relatives or those with special needs or disabilities.

There are currently 6 people in the St Cyrus area receiving help through our local branch of Crossroads.

Interested in becoming a volunteer helper?

Contact Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme, Kincardine & Deeside, 44-46 Barclay Street, Stonehaven, AB39 2FX,

Without Crossroads and the help of two lovely care assistants (Linda and Helen) we would have found it much harder to cope through this difficult period (and Granda to complete his 6 weeks of purgatory!)

I therefore want to raise money for Crossroads and increase awareness of, Crossroads.

From 1st January to 1st July I will be doing a sponsored slim to lose a minimum of two stone. If you would like to sponsor me please use the link below or sign my sponsor form at:

www.justgiving.com/juliekelly1

I appreciate the time you have taken to read this and so should my waist line! Nothing like a bit of pressure for a good cause.

Julie Kelly

History Society

IT was encouraging to read that Scottish history is to be returned to the heart of the school curriculum. The official announcement chimes in with the growing interest in understanding the past and underlines the old concept that history is a dialogue between the past and the present.

Arguably before society understands where it is going, it is important and instructive to have a sense of where it has come from. That is why the idea of setting up a St Cyrus History Society is such a vital cog in the wheel of raising our collective knowledge of what lies around us and establishing the stories behind it.

Our immediate area offers a rich seam of history and the process of recording it either in written, oral or pictorial form is part and parcel of safeguarding it for the future and, at the same time, helping memory hold the door. Historians have long been concerned about the need to record passing traditions and if the history group was able to play its part

in that tradition, it could contribute greatly to understanding how the past has such a strong influence of our landscape and background.

One of the first tasks facing the group would be setting the geographical area to be covered, and in pondering that issue one of the surest reference points is the excellent local history – Duncan Fraser’s *Portrait of a Parish*.

Published in 1970 by the Standard Press, Montrose – and then priced at 25 shillings – Duncan Fraser’s book offers a treasure trove of the incidents and happenings that forged the story of St Cyrus and its environs from the 17th century onwards. It represents the very best traditions of solid local histories, focusing on the locality and its people and viewing the lives of working men and women from the bottom up and not from the top down. National events form a discreet backcloth, and set the context, they do not dominate the text or obscure the geography the local

economic factors that matter to every day folk.

Ranging from St James’s Loch in the North to the Lower Northwater Bridge in the south, to Marykirk in the west and the coast as far north as East Mathers, Fraser graphically fills in the past story of an area he was able to describe with a natural ease.

Fraser wrote, on the publication of *Portrait of a Parish* almost 40 years ago : “You might ask, of course, why anyone should write a book about such an ordinary place as St Cyrus. And yet oddly enough there are folk who say that, once you get there, there is more to be seen in St Cyrus than on the moon or Mars. Some assert it is more exciting than the average South Sea island, though the sand and the sea are undoubtedly colder.”

From the Sheriff’s Kettle, where a sheriff met a grisly end, to the middle aged lawyer who went down to the Nether Kirkyard and blew out his brains for love, to the water kelpies of the North Esk, there is much – and more – for a history society to consider.

Bill Howatson

Seasonal photography: St Cyrus Community Calendar 2009

2007 has just gone and 2008 has just begun but we are already looking towards your entries for the 2009 calendar.

The Newsletter group has agreed to help Durward with his competitions for children by providing two small digital cameras over the next year as prizes. We hope this will help some youngsters contribute photographs for the Calendar Competition.

A number of folk have said they meant to submit a picture last year but didn't get round to it. Here's your chance – don't just think about it – send them in now.

Any aspect of village life will be considered. Although the beach may be the obvious place to look you might also consider buildings, birds, wildlife and fauna and even people. (Please note if people photos are submitted you should obtain written permission from the person/s photographed.)

Photographs can be submitted as a print (minimum size 7" x 5.") to me at 38 Invergarry Park, St Cyrus, DD10 0BU

(Please include a s.a.e. if you wish your photograph returned)

or

digital images may be submitted via the St Cyrus Newsletter website <http://www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk/>

or

by email to: stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net

Closing date for entries will be 31st May 2008.

It is hoped that once again we will be able to produce a draft calendar in time for the St Cyrus Gala where orders can be taken.

Once again I would like to thank Gordon & Margaret Duncan at The Old Bakery & Coffee Shop for their invaluable help with the publication and distribution of the 2008 calendar and to all those who contributed photographs.

Thanks also to Durward for his perseverance in pursuing prospective submissions whilst doing his rounds.

(Look out – the postie's about.)

Tom Dalziel

Christmas decorative street lighting appeal:

Thanks to the installation team and to Martin Ross of Ross Agri who, every year, donates a teleport tractor and his own time over two days to put the lights up and another day to take them down.

You will all be as delighted as I am that you gave £1,567 for the maintenance and purchase of new lights. One hundred and ten envelope donations were made and thanks to all the kids who put their change in the box; it was noticed! Glaxo SK also gave a donation of £350.

I received a very nice letter from our Councillor and Provost, Bill Howatson, congratulating us on our excellent display. Bob and I are hoping to make your money go as far as possible with careful purchases and perhaps some DIY construction of lights to our own design. Would you let us know through the Community Council whether the village would like to donate in this way next year with perhaps a maximum donation of £1 per household which ought to net us over £600 if every household contributed?

Bert Skinner



Inverbervie Medical Practice

Personnel

Dr Mackenzie is going on annual leave and then maternity leave from 5th March 2008 – October 2008.

Dr Steven Terwey is replacing Dr Mackenzie for that period.

We wish her well with the birth of her 2nd child.

Practice Nurse Margaret retired from the

practice on the 31st December 2007. Margaret worked for the practice for the last 14 years and I am sure she will be greatly missed.

However Margaret is going to help the practice with the asthma/cold and diabetic clinics for the next few months.

Practice nurse Julie Wood joined the team on 5th November 2007. we wish her well in her new career at Inverbervie Medical Practice.

Over the next three months we will continue to have locums working in the practice. The following GPs will work for the practice. They have been with the practice for the last six months.

Dr Magro (male)
Dr Ledlie (male)
Dr Robertson (female)
Dr Terwey (male)

The doctors and staff at Inverbervie would like to thank all the patients for their kind gifts and cards received over the festive period.

Lorna Grubb

Community Council Page

The Newsletter Group recognises the importance of Community Council business being made known to the whole of the Parish for which the Community Council are responsible and have, therefore, invited us to occupy a full page of the newsletter on which to bring to you a distillation of two months of received information, discussions, agreements and decisions.

We are grateful for this opportunity because so few of the village attend our meetings to take part and help us with our tasks. Our hope is that this page will interest you and over time may attract many of you to join us as an interested public contributing your views, opinions, ideas and judgements to the meetings.

On 12 February, 2008 the Community Council will be holding their Annual General Meeting. We will be reflecting on 2007 and setting out our plans for 2008. We would like to use this opportunity to urge you all to try and make some time to come to our meetings. They last some 1.5 hours, once a month. Time well spent to make a real difference to the village.

With a revival of interest in community matters in recent years, such as the Gala, Newsletter and Gardening Club, we understand that there is a big demand for people to become members of the various committees but please remember the Community Council needs you as well!!!

Currently we are trying to establish the ownership of the Railway Cutting. While we're waiting for the outcome we will get a working party together to erect a new fence at the top, do some clearing and start planting trees and shrubs as soon as weather permits.

Bob Flann Chairman and Frances Johnson Secretary

W e b s i t e

When did you look at the **St Cyrus Newsletter Website** last? Most likely it was to have a look at the 'Latest Events'. Bernard Tuck spends a lot of time and effort keeping it up to date and accurate.

Have you seen that the Community Council also has a category on the site? We have a page for the Agenda, one for the Minutes and a page where we post relevant Community Council correspondence.

Maybe you thought this was only for Council Committee Members, but you'd be surprised to see how much actually goes on in the Council that concerns **you**. Open www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk and have a browse. Don't forget to bookmark it.

Frances Johnson

To all 14 to 18 year olds !

You know how everyone is talking about making the world a better place?



Why not start in St Cyrus?

St Cyrus Community Council feel that it is important that the make-up of the Committee should be a reflection of the population of St Cyrus.

Did you know that persons in your age range are eligible to become a full member of the Community Council?

If you want to make your voice heard and make a difference in your community, this is the way to go.

We can use some young blood.

For instance, how do you feel about a youth shelter somewhere in the village where you can socialise without getting wet when it rains? Or what would you like to see in the way of facilities in and around the Playing Fields..... goalposts?automatic floodlighting during the hours of darkness when you want to kick a ball around on the football pitch?

We will be really pleased to welcome you at the Community Council meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. If you would like more information before you make a move, why not send us an e-mail.

Please include your telephone number so that we can call you back.

Bob Flann and Frances Johnson

The new railings across the railway cutting were put in place on Sunday 27th January by 3 **volunteers** from your village (Aberdeenshire council are funding the materials). **YOU** are welcome to join these guys on Saturday March 1st to help clear the cutting and plant trees. Come in boots and bring gardening gloves. keen helpers about three hours.

The work will take these 3 fellas 3 days or 20

Editor



Public Hall Bookings

Should be made with Yvonne Buck Hallkeeper
Fees paid to Lina Forsyth-Grant Treasurer

The letting Charges are:

Committee Room	Small Hall	Large Hall
Regular Users: £4.50/hr	£4.50/hr	£6.00/hr
Occasional Users: £8.50/hr	£8.50/hr	£10.00/hr

The Public Hall is available for hire to all local residents. Occasional users are required to pay a deposit of £50 together with the fee for hire of hall prior to the event. Deposit is returnable if the hirer has complied with the terms and conditions of hire.

EVENTS TO BE HELD IN HALL: Feb/March

Tuesday 5th Feb 7pm Public Hall Com Meeting
Tuesday 12th February Community Council AGM

Thursday 14th February 1.30 to 3.30 Talk by
Wendy Sparrow on her trip to Romania.

Friday 15th February Planning for Real
Cheese and Wine 5pm-8.00pm

Tuesday 19th February Composting
Thursday 21st February Newsletter AGM

Saturday 23rd February Planning for Real
Coffee morning and afternoon 10am-4.00pm

Tuesday March 4th 7pm Public Hall AGM
Tuesday 18th March Vital Veg Friends

**Found in the Public Hall
after the Burns Supper
an item of jewellery. Dorothy Tuck**

Public Hall Users:
Please notify the secretary Georgina MacDonald
850896 of any changes or announcements you
wish to see on this page

Would there be sufficient users amongst existing and new interest groups to fund a broadband connection in the Public hall?
Editor

**TIMETABLE OF REGULAR EVENTS****Weekly:**

After school club Mon-Fri 3-6pm

Playgroup Rising 3's

Playgroup	Monday	9.30am - 11.00am
	Monday	11.15am - 2pm
	Tue, Wed, Thur	9.30am-12.00am
Toddlers	Friday	9.30am -11.30am
Friendship Club	Wednesday	9.00am -1.00pm
Country Dancers	Monday	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Tea Dancers	Friday	1.45pm - 4.15pm
Youth Club	Friday	6.00pm - 10pm
	Juniors P5 P6 P7	6.30pm-8.15pm.
	Seniors S1 S2 S3	8.30pm-10pm.

Keep Fit Wednesday 8.00pm -9.00pm

Whist Club Wednesday 7 until 9pm and continues to Easter
Free Church 1st & 3rd Sunday every month 3.00pm -5.00pm

Monthly:

WRI 1st Monday every month 7.00pm - 10pm

Senior Citizens 2nd Monday the month 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Hall Committee 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm -9.00pm

Community Council 2nd Tues every month 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Gardening Club 3rd Tuesday of the month 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Gala Committee 1st Wednesday of every month 7.30 - 9.00pm

St. Cyrus Public Hall Fund Raising Update

Nearly two years ago we started our project to replace the old windows in both halls. The cost of the new windows totalled £13431.43. Last year we received financial support of £10,000 from Awards For All. Along with our raised funds of £3431.43 it enabled us to replace the old decaying windows in the Small and Large Halls with wooden double glazed units. Hall users are benefiting in many ways from this project: warm and user friendly environment (a number of positive comments have been received), safety aspect (in the Large Hall toughened glass was installed in the lower window panels to prevent glass shattering from inside and outside), and energy efficiency (last energy bill already demonstrated energy savings comparing with last autumn's bill).

Fund raising has amounted to an entire community effort. In donations from hall users, local businesses and community members, and a range of fund raising events, i.e. Whist Drive Nights, Coffee Mornings, Burn's Supper, Ceilidh Dance, we met and exceeded our target of £3500 to cover the difference between the cost of replacing the windows and the Award. In two years we raised over £6000!

At the last meeting the Public Hall Committee agreed that the remainder of £2576.85 from the Windows Fund would be transferred to the Floor Funds. We would like to express our appreciation to every member of our community for their support, help and dedication; and to thank Sturrocks Joinery Ltd for a good quality job.

This venture has proved what can be achieved when a community pulls together. Now we have another ambitious project ahead of us: to replace a 100 year old floor in the Large Hall. We hope that your enthusiasm will continue.

The Burns Supper held on 26th January raised an additional £600 For Hall funds.

Lina Forsyth-Grant

Farming column – update on October/November 2007 and June/July 2007 issues

Someone mentioned to Mike that there might be a link between our use of what they must have misread in my article as glyphosate on the wheat and the reduction of numbers in corn bunting sightings. My first reaction, obviously, is that they clearly hadn't read the product label because there's only one ph in glyphosate!

That aside, I can tell you glyphosate is about the least toxic weedkiller around. Its LD50 is less than that of table salt and a hundredth of nicotines. Where its use can cause problems for wildlife is that it destroys vegetation so creatures living in dense cover lose their habitat. From that point of view, yes, we plead guilty, but only where we apply it and that is generally on land about to be ploughed up anyway. In other places on the farm we have sown grass margins and wild bird mixes which maybe atones for taking advantage of this useful management tool.

The other point to mention, I'm afraid, is that corn buntings haven't been seen on the NNR for 20 years. That should be an ideal place for them to live so I think there must be other reasons for their disappearance – don't you?

Last June I wrote about farm gate sales of local produce and I was therefore pleased to see a number of notices appearing at the roadside recently. Wearing my mystery shopper hat on your behalf, I've checked them out.

Heading up the road a couple of miles towards Inverbervie you will find a green shed on your left where you can buy potatoes, carrots and other vegetables. I got some lovely leeks and a red cabbage on my first visit but both were out of stock on my second. Green cabbages and savoy were available so I guess the lesson is to go with an open mind.

Taking the road over the Wide Open, there are eggs, jams and home-made products advertised at Sillycotts and plants, jam and marmalade a little further on at Spittalmyre.

Going downhill towards Laurencekirk, Balmakelly, on your right, sells a wide range of tatties, leeks, carrots, cauliflower, neeps and other more exotic produce so you should find something to your taste there. The only place I've seen beetroot is Gilrinvie on the Brechin/Montrose road but that was last year.

When you shop at any of these establishments remember to take plenty of small denomination notes and coins. They all have honesty boxes for money and you won't want to put in £20 and come away without change. Mary Singleton

BIRD and BAT BOXES.

By the time you read this, the local birds will be seriously thinking of nesting.

There are a few things you can do to help them and first amongst these is; clean your bird boxes out - **QUICKLY!** They should really have been cleaned in October, as that would have provided a cosy wee overnight home for some birds over the winter (one bird box was found to have 32 wrens overnighting in it!)

If you still need to clean the box, use rubber gloves and, after you've emptied last year's nesting materials, scald the inside with at least three rinses of hot water. Let the box dry out and, at that point, you can add some wood shavings or straw to the dry box. Now re-hang it; preferably on a site which faces north or north-east.. Anywhere else tends to expose the chicks to too much heat once summer arrives. Clean your hands thoroughly now.

If you don't have a bird box you can buy one, or make one. Here's a website which tells you how to make one:

<http://www.lincstrust.org.uk/factsheets/nestbox.php>

If you can't manage that you can, at least, make sure birds have nesting material. When you comb the dog, or other animal, leave the combings for the birds to find. They also love to use sheep wool but that can be a bit harder to come by in an area which is principally arable farming.

If you have the skills to make a bird box you could consider making bat boxes too. Go to:

http://www.countrysideinfo.co.uk/article_bats/index.htm which gives information on materials and sites for these boxes.
Harry Bickerstaff

Business Directory

Brechin Books: (try us first) Whinfield, Edzell DD9 7TN Tel 01356 648378 www.brechinbooks.org.uk

Computer problems? Ring Andrew 01674850326 /07793107612 www.andrewspcadvice.co.uk

Driving School: Brian A Thomson, Broombank. 01674-850177 or 07775727603

Electrician: Dave Smythe 07767 371 591 Approved NiC ELG Domestic Installer

Electrician: David West 01674677365 mobile: 07759347353

Fencing: Metal and Wooden: J S Gates and Fencing Jim Smith 01674 850529 mobile: 07887858249

Garden Supplies: Beechwood Services 01569 740010 Landscaping, Supplies, Hire. Mid Fiddes Farm, Fordoun AB30 1LL

Plumber: Aymer McFarlane:01674850000 / 07956489660

Window Blinds: Featherstone blinds: Dod Melvin 850 429 or 07900254542 dodmelvin65@tiscali.co.uk

To advertise your business in this space please contact the editor, Mike Burleigh, at: stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net or write to 13 Scotston Place, St Cyrus DD10 0BZ Entries for the Business directory are charged at £5 per issue for the single line entry of name, service and telephone contact number.

This column could pay all our production costs.

Please consider including your business address.

*Please note there is a separate charge of £5 per year to include your company in the website directory.



Your Community Beat Officer: ROAD SAFETY: Recently I have received a number of complaints from the local community in relation to persons, in particular young persons, cycling during darkness without lights.

The law states that at night, cyclists must show a white light to the front, a red light and red reflector to the rear of the bicycle and amber reflectors on the pedals. These lights and reflectors must be clean and working, when cycling on public roads between sunset and sunrise and, at other times, in conditions of severely reduced visibility.

I have spoken to a number of persons regarding cycling without lights and have found some of the bicycles being used to be in a very poor state of repair, especially in relation to brakes. In some cases both sets of brakes had been removed! When was the last time you checked to ensure the roadworthiness of your child's bike?
Neil Thomson Community Beat Officer

ST CYRUS YOUTH CLUB

Juniors: P5 - P7 - 6.30pm to 8.15pm during school term
Seniors: S1 - S3 - 8.30pm - 10.00pm during school term

Yearly Membership is £6.00 for 1st child and £3.00 for any other sibling thereafter.
Weekly subs £1.50.

Members only are eligible to go on trips.

New Committee Members

Due to unforeseen circumstances we are desperately seeking willing parents to join our committee. If you are interested or would like more information please contact any committee member or pop down on a Friday night. (Mums or Dads).

Weekly Events

Friday 1st February '08 - Juniors & seniors - Dodgeball

Snack: Hot Dogs

Friday 8th February '08 - Juniors & Seniors - Normal/Salsa Dancing

Snack: Tortilla Chips & Dips

Friday 15th February '08 - Occasional Day - No Youth Club

Friday 22nd February '08 - Juniors - Movie Night, Seniors - Karting Trip

Snack: Chicken Nuggets

Friday 29th February '08 - Juniors - Football, Seniors - Football/Badminton

Snack: Chips

Friday 7th March '08 - Juniors & Seniors - Normal/Craft

Friday 14th March '08 - Juniors & Seniors - Volleyball

Snack - Hot Dogs

End Of Term

We finish on Friday 14th March 2008 for the Easter Holidays.

New term starts on Friday 11th April 2008.

Carol singing: On Sunday the 23rd of December about ten adults and six children went out carol singing in St.Cyrus.

We went to four different locations, they were 1st to Lochside, 2nd to Invergarry park, 3rd to Mercury terrace and last to the church car park.

We had a mini CD player with the carol background music and sheets with the song words. We sang about four or five songs at each location then moved on.

If you didn't want to go to all of the locations you were able to join us when we arrived at the closest location to you. It was lots of fun.

We even got sweets from some kind people.

We hope to see more people join us next time.

See you then.

Michelle Fraser aged 11

St Cyrus Primary School

Primary 4/5 coordinated a "rag bag" recycling scheme that saw parents donate 42 bags of old clothing for recycling. The school will earn a fee based on the weight of donations.

The children are currently busy learning Scottish poems for our annual "Burns" recital competition. Seven finalists will be judged by Mrs Isobel Smith in early Feb. to choose two winners at p1-3 and p4-7 stage.

David Smith Head Teacher

Children's Corner



Well done Kieran who correctly entered that Postman Pat had in fact stopped outside the old bakery. When asked what he was to do with his voucher he promptly replied he was to put it towards taking his parents and younger members of his family out for lunch. Well done for one so young. Durward.



The Planning for Real Public Consultation is here!

Important events for your diary - 15th and 23rd February 2008.

You may already have some idea of the aims of Planning for Real. To recap, we have a model of the village, made by the Primary School and the Youth Club, as well as a map of the Parish. You will be encouraged to come and write on available cards your ideas about the things you would like to see happen, change, or even done away with!! If you want to have a say in the short and long term development of St Cyrus (and this includes the land designated for new housing!), let your voice be heard now.

The model and maps will show the areas of the village designated for housing development.

On Friday February 15th there will be a Cheese and Wine evening at the Public Hall from 5.00-8.00pm

A coffee morning and afternoon will take place at the Public Hall on Saturday 23rd February 10:00am to 4:00pm

The model of the village, pictured above, will be displayed together with maps of the parish.

If you feel a responsibility for the well-being of the village as a whole, please come along to these meetings. They will be great occasions to meet others and share your ideas whilst enjoying a glass of wine or a cup of coffee.

Thanks to all the young people of St Cyrus who made the model and to all those folk who left their cosy firesides on cold nights to attend the meetings which contributed to and organised this Consultation, They were: Marcus and Brian Clifford, Susie Brown, Richard Lieper, Bob Flann, Gary, Paul and Mark Jobson, Catherine Mcpherson, Linda Babbs, Cllr George Carr, Cllr Bill Howatson, Allan Robertson, Mary Singleton, Mike Burleigh, Morag Dalgarno, Frances Johnson, May Watson, John Sparrow, Ian Bayfield, Bert Skinner and Louis Perera.

Newsletter Group AGM: February 21st 7:30pm Public Hall Committee Room

We would like representatives of the various village interest and age groups on our committee. However since both our Secretary and Treasurer are retiring after two years excellent service we will be unable to continue producing this newsletter unless their positions are filled.