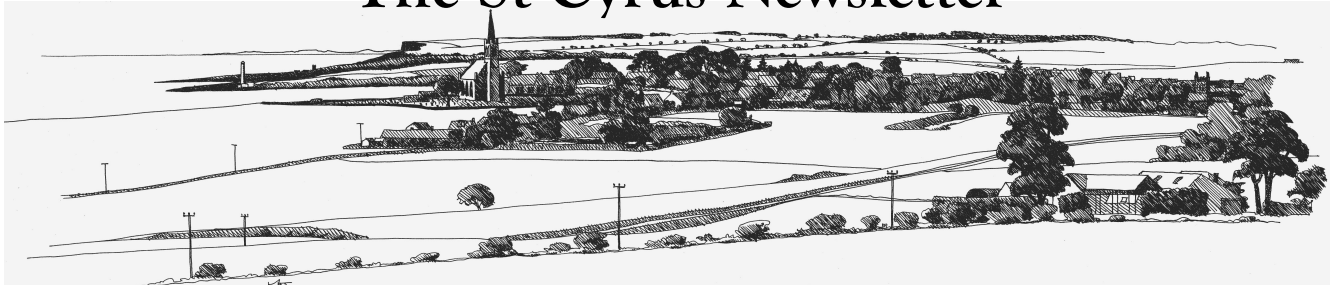


# The St Cyrus Newsletter



Volume 5 Issue 5

December 2007/January 2008



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Also at [www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk)

## Your Christmas Lights

### Christmas Lights Appeal

The Community Council first organized roadside decorations for Christmas 2003 with the help of grants from Aberdeenshire Council and donations from individuals and businesses.

Aberdeenshire Council continues to pick up the bill for the electricity used but rightly expects that villages take responsibility for developing their own image. Our appeal two years ago raised the money for repairs and purchases to give us sixteen motifs and last year we managed with our own maintenance to avoid having to ask for your help. However due to their age our lights required professional attention this year and this involves significant expenditure.

This is year 5 for our lights and the manufacturers expect a maximum life of about five years before replacement is necessary. This year we found a company able to renovate ten light motifs at an estimated cost of £600 (One estimate to refurbish the ten lights was £986). We need to raise the monies to pay this bill and also to purchase replacement lights. Ideally we would like to be able to purchase a further four units to give us a show of twenty lights.

Just to remind you of the costs involved, the decoration for one lamp-post, for example The Santa Claus motif, cost the Community Council £429 and the new LED\* decorations are double this cost.

Aberdeenshire Council plans to renew all lamp standards on the main road with steel in 2008. These will have special sockets for Christmas lights.

Our plans are for a dozen lights along the main road, two in Lochside Road, two in Ecclesgreig Road (one thanks to Mr and Wark of Burnside House) and one each in Beach Road and Mercury Terrace.

Money raised from this appeal will also help to increase the number of motifs to twenty with eventually every motif being different.

A contribution from everyone would enable us to make a colourful display over Christmas.

Inside this copy of your newsletter you will find an envelope which you can put into the box on the counter at the Spar shop or leave with Bert Skinner:

(Cheques should be made out to 'St Cyrus Community Council Christmas Lights')

Envelopes with  
cheques dropped in to  
or posted to:

Bert Skinner  
Greenburn  
St Cyrus  
DD10 ODE

or put in the box on the counter at the Spar shop.

Any surplus left over after the cost of the refurbishments has been met will enable us to replace old lights and hopefully purchase more motifs to make up to a total of twenty (new light motifs will be LED which should be brighter). \* Aberdeenshire Council now require that all replacement Christmas lights are LED because they operate at a lower wattage & are lighter in weight, however they are much more expensive.

Bob Flann and Bert Skinner on behalf of the Community Council

Please find enclosed a Flower Show Schedule and  
a Christmas Lights Appeal envelope

**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 it reserves 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	Liz Leslie	Andy Turner
Wilma Jobson	George Hastie	Linda Babbs
Richard Leiper	Lindsay Kerr	Lorna Grubb
Mary Singleton	Donald Gillies	Ian Hunter
Isobel Smith	Mary Helson	Mike Burleigh
Alison Couch	Wilma Jobson	Lenny Lawrence
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Yvonne Buck	Allan Robertson	
Harry Bickerstaff	Georgina MacDonald	
Allison Sutton	Heather Jenkins	
Dorothy Tuck	Bernard Tuck	
Bob Flann	Bert Skinner	John Gavin
Veronica Dickson	Bill Howatson	Robert Smith
David Smith	Durward Tavendale	



### Editorial

Interesting that such a lot of fuss could be made in the press about the shade of green used to paint the roadside railings when we have the problem of traffic racing through the village at measured speeds of 58mph! Traffic speed is the real issue and although individuals could perhaps make telephone complaints to haulage company head offices we must first ensure our own driving is safe and within the speed limit.

During Christmas we have the decorative lights so perhaps the drivers might slow down to enjoy the display as they do at Blackpool but seriously the chicanes created by parked vehicles seem to be having more effect in lowering traffic speed through the village than warning signs!

Few of us seem to be concerned about these dangers if we are to consider the attendance at Community Council meetings or the absence of letters to the editor on the subject. These are both actions which individuals can take.

Those who go to the trouble of attending CC meetings speak about speeding lorry and tractor drivers clutching mobile phones. These behaviours point to an accident waiting to happen. The Community Council needs to know your views.

### DEADLINE !!!

**Articles and information for the next issue  
should arrive at the latest January 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

### Letters to the Editor To Liz Leslie:

Ref: Genealogy



Dear Elizabeth, I read your parish newsletter with great interest and noted your piece about genealogy.

I live in New Zealand and have a couple of relatives who were married and born in St Cyrus.

My great grandfather John Fyfe, son of William and Margaret Fyfe (nee Watt) was born there on 23 February 1855. Also Margaret's parents James Watt and Catharine Falconer were married there on 26 November 1814.

The families moved all around the Kincardine district as agricultural labourers and ploughmen.

I'm writing a booklet to explain the family history to my children and grandchild and would be very pleased to know a little bit about the area at that time and maybe even to include an early photo of the area. If someone could help me with this I'd be most grateful.

We live in a farming district in Canterbury near Christchurch and I find the rural history very interesting. If anyone of the Fyfe name and family remains in the area I have a painting of John Fyfe which might be of interest to them.

Regards, Mary Helson

(See page 15 for details)

The St Cyrus Newsletter Group complies with the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 by providing copies of each issue for the National Library of Scotland.



**St Cyrus Church of Scotland** Services are at 11:30am Sundays.  
 Services at 10am in Johnshaven.  
 There are family services on the first Sunday of each month.  
 Christmas services at St Cyrus:  
 16<sup>th</sup> December 11:30am Christmas play by the children.  
 Christmas Eve 7pm carol service at St Cyrus.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> there will be an 11:30am service at St Cyrus however from January 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 the St Cyrus services will be at 10am.  
 Calum Webster was the piper at the Remembrance Day Service with wreaths being laid by Councillor Howatson and George Murray.  
 We now have a grant and permission to renew the church roof next summer. There will be scaffolding up for a while but we hope to keep the church open for worship each Sunday.  
 Our thanks to the Gala and Newsletter Committees for their donations to the building fund of £250 and £500.

Anyone wishing to make a donation make cheques payable to 'Mearns Coastal Parish Church of Scotland' and send them to Mrs. Thomson, Quarry mouth, Lauriston, St Cyrus DD10 0DJ

In 2009 it is hoped to upgrade the electric circuits and lighting, install a toilet and repaint the church interior.

George Hastie

### **The Living Rooms**

Christian Centre and Coffee Shop

Prayer requests welcome

Services of worship Sundays at 7:30pm

Church Street, Inverbervie, DD10 0RU Tel 01561 362953

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

### **St Cyrus Announcements**

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

### **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 Free Church in St. Cyrus**

Quotation from the Bible: Proverbs 3: 19

" By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations,  
 by understanding He set the heavens in place. "

*Let no-one tell you that evolution has been proved as a complete answer to where we came from - science has always changed its position as new evidence comes in. But the Bible has always taught us not only about God's creative and saving work, but about so much more of life too. As C.S Lewis said; "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else".*

Outlines of meetings for December/January.

**Worship & Learn** Preacher - Derek Lamont

3pm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December St Cyrus Village Hall.

Subject "Elisha". There will be refreshments afterwards.

**Mid month meeting** 3pm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December. House group at 8 Invergarry Park (I Paterson).

**First meeting of 2008** 3pm Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
 House group at Muirhead Cottage.

**Mid month meeting** 3pm Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Venue to be intimated in Montrose Review.

**Weekday Personal Bible Studies.**

By arrangement. One to one or small group. Informal.  
 Contact—Cathy Gillies

An obituary for:

### **JOYCE THOMSON.**

It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Joyce Thomson on 31<sup>st</sup> October, a few days short of her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. She played an active part in the life of the village. She was a regular attender at Church, although she professed a belief in Spiritualism. She was an active member of the Guild, a meeting of which she attended only two days before her death, and she was also a regular at the Friendship Club where she enjoyed her games of Scrabble.

She was a great walker and loved swimming at St.Cyrus beach, a pastime she continued until fairly recently.

Joy was born and brought up in Edinburgh where she attended Bourromuir School. In 1937 she and Jim were married in Grimsby, where he was working in Customs and Excise. She spent most of the war in Edinburgh, though she did join Jim, who was for a while based in Torquay in Air/Sea Rescue. After the war Jim returned to Customs and Excise in Grimsby, before moving to St.Cyrus in 1953. After her children, Dorothy and Ian, had grown up Joy took a degree in Commercial Studies in Dundee. She started teaching at Mackie Academy before moving to Mearns Academy where she taught Commercial Studies until her retirement. After her retirement she still kept in touch with some of her pupils. Sadly her daughter Dorothy died in America but she still enjoyed getting news of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Joyce and Jim celebrated seventy years of marriage this year, and we extend our sincere sympathy to Jim, Ian and his family, grandchildren and great grandchildren in this country and in America. We will all miss her, but have many happy memories.

John Gavin



## St Cyrus National Nature Reserve



### St Cyrus National Nature Reserve

Over the last year Alison and the staff and children of St Cyrus Nursery have been working together to transform a small green space alongside the school. Mr Smith, head teacher, has provided financial backing to get the project started. The plain grassy strip has become a wildlife friendly garden that the children can play in and use for outdoor learning.

The garden has raised beds for growing vegetables, fruit bushes, a story circle marked out with herbs and strawberries, two picnic tables, provided by Aberdeenshire Council, so the children can eat their snacks in the garden which is accessed through a beautiful wrought iron archway and gate.

Minibeasts are taking up residence in the habitat piles of decaying wood and the nursery children are learning about composting by putting all the compostable material from their snack times into compost bins, provided by Aberdeenshire Council.

Already for their snack time, the nursery children have tried some of the vegetables they've grown. The jacket potatoes have proven particularly popular! In October the nursery children helped Alison harvest some more vegetables to show off at their harvest festival on the last day of term including:

Potatoes, Beetroot, Carrots, Turnips, Onions, Runner beans, Purple cauliflower, White cabbage

The garden has become an important resource helping the nursery children to learn about ecology, sustainability, healthy living and citizenship, while enjoying all the benefits of the outdoors.

It has been amazing and very satisfying to see the variety of fruit & vegetables the children have grown in such a small space. Over the winter Alison will be helping the nursery get ready for the next growing season and looking forward to a bumper harvest next year.

Alison Couch

### Notes

The Cliff path will be closed for a few days during November (dates not available). This is to allow footpath contractors to install revetment to the lower path to prevent sand spilling from the slopes above. During the closure the nature reserve and beach can be accessed via Woodston path to the north.

The Ghurkha bridge will also be closed for around 2 days in mid November for essential maintenance work. Andy Turner

## DO BIRDS COUNT?

You may not be aware of it, but the time has come when your birds will count.

Let me explain:

The British Trust for Ornithology is organizing a count of as many birds as possible, and every one of us can contribute.

There are four different types of records with which you can help.

You can take part in the 'Bird Atlas' which lasts from 2007 to 2011

You can take part in the 'Nest Box Challenge'

You can take part in 'Bird Track'

You can take part in 'Garden Bird Watch'

If you are interested and have a PC, go to <http://www.bto.org/birdtrack/>

When you have done that, you will see a section saying,

'What Are Your Options?'

You will see, as you read the instructions, you can simply record what you see at your own post code - or you can be really ambitious and go for a 10Kilometre square!

It is really up to you.

Even if you don't see yourself as a birdwatcher, but you know a Robin when you see it, you can simply record the Robins you see; carrying nest material, carrying food, or feeding young.

Basically, it is possible to take part at almost any level of bird watching ability.

If you go to the section marked, 'How to Take Part' and then look in the box on the left side of the page, where it says.

'IN THIS SECTION' you'll see 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS'.

It really does answer your questions and explains how knowing just a little, is extremely valuable, if you enter the information on the website.

It is interesting and you'll see birds in a different way, when you start to count them and record how they behave.

Maybe I'll see you, as I drive round the south western part of the village and this will explain the strange man who drives past your house, checking out the birds with his binoculars, but not paying any attention to what you're doing! In North America, this type of activity is called, Citizen Science'

Why not try it for yourself? If I can help you get started on a survey please contact Harry Bickerstaff.



## Farming Calendar

Other shepherds are busy with tupping. It seems strange that we aren't this year. However I only have twenty-two ewes left, seven of which were culls last year. The rest, though doubtless willing, are getting too old to breed. The risk of breeding from geriatric ewes is that they tend to conceive triplets or quads and that puts far too much strain on their bodies.

I made the decision several years ago to go out of sheep by not keeping replacements. It's entirely the wrong way to do it if you are only looking at economics but all my ewes are home bred and extremely tame so there is no way I would sell them on to someone else and lose control of their welfare.

As it happens, I feel this is the right time anyway when you look at the state of the industry. We've already adapted to all sorts of new rules, regulations and compliances – ear tagging, movement records, feed mixing registration to name a few – and it's only going to get more restrictive. We managed to get spectacular results muddling along the way we did before and the more we are bossed about by bureaucrats the less we feel like carrying on.

The whole system is contracting and abattoirs have closed rather than spend thousands on upgrading their facilities so it is becoming increasingly difficult to get stock killed humanely within reasonable distance of home. I haven't traded sheep through a Mart for many years but the way things are going it could maybe become the only option.

Quite apart from those problems there seems to be the constant threat of falling victim to some horrendous disease. My closed flock shouldn't be vulnerable to scab but there's no way I could prevent foot and mouth or blue tongue if they come in on the wind.

It's much better to leave on my own terms, I think, but waving goodbye to my girls after all these years and having empty fields to walk across alone will be immeasurably sad.

Mary Singleton

## The Big Herdsman of Etive: a day spent 'bagging another Munro'

From the A82 west of Rannoch Moor I walked south towards Buachaille Etive Mor, or Big Herdsman of Etive.

The mountain's four peaks sit in a long meandering line running roughly south-westerly, with the peaks at either end forming the two Munros. Stob Dearg was the nearest and Stob na Broige lay unseen at the far end.

Stob Dearg's rock face rose from the junction of Glen Coe and Glen Etive to its 3,350 foot summit, but there was an easier route up adjacent Coire na Tulaich.

In the corrie I encountered a boulder field, struggled up a precariously steep scree slope and finally climbed rocks to the bealach at the top.

A stag bellowed nearby as I made my way east from the bealach up boulder strewn Stob Dearg. A blustery wind blew light snow and ice was forming, but I was rewarded at the summit with a commanding view east across Rannoch Moor.

Returning to the bealach I headed up Stob na Doire. Its summit lay one mile to the south and the route was simple enough over turf and light scree, but it was a fair climb.

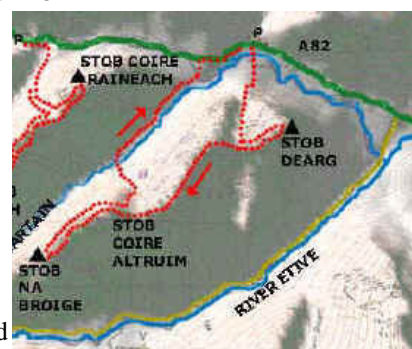
In the west the high peaks of Stob Coire nam Beith and Stob Coire nan Lochan were capped in snow and to the northwest lay the formidable toothed ridge of Aonach Eagach.

One mile further west I passed over Stob Coire Altruim and a short distance to its south I finally arrived on 3,136 foot Stob na Broige.

Doubling back to Stob Coire Altruim, I descended northwest following a risky path over slabs in the rain and returned to the A82 north-easterly through boggy Lairig Gartain.

I had enjoyed the challenge and met other walkers on the mountain, including one vulnerable soul who carried hardly any gear and wore trainers!

Lindsay Kerr



Snowy peaks of Stob Coire nam Beith & Stob Coire nan Lochan from Stob na Broige on Buachaille Etive Mor.

## Over the Garvock Hill you will discover:

A family-orientated two-act production of "A Christmas Carol." at Auchenblae Village Hall on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm (matinee). Tickets are priced at £5 (adults) and £3.50 (children and OAPs) and can be reserved by emailing [achristmascarol@auchenblaedramagroup.co.uk](mailto:achristmascarol@auchenblaedramagroup.co.uk).

Alternatively, they are available to personal callers at Metelski's Store or the Post Office in Auchenblae.

## St Cyrus Gardening Club



The inaugural meetings of the St Cyrus Gardening Club have been very well attended with a wide range of village gardeners, from beginners to experienced coming to share their knowledge.

The club meets every third Tuesday of the month in the small hall from 7.30pm to 9pm. At each meeting members can swap cuttings, bulbs and seeds or use the growing library of books and magazines that they can borrow. Tea time is a chance to discuss questions members have about any aspect of gardening and hopefully find an answer.

It's hoped that every month a guest speaker will give a short presentation or demonstration on a gardening theme. Georgina Davidson came along to the October meeting and entertained everyone with stories about her garden, grown entirely from seed and seemingly safe from blight and aphids!

During the November meeting Isobel Smith instructed and entertained us all with her flower arranging skills, knowledge and artistry, and kindly donated dahlia tubers to challenge us to take on their cultivation. In December remember to bring along broom, ivy, holly, wire, ribbon etc as Arlene Rushmere will be helping members create their own Christmas wreaths.

The small committee are putting together a guest speaker syllabus for 2008 and we hope to cover a variety of themes including organic gardening, vegetables, local formal gardens and wild places. If you have any suggestions or know someone who would like to give a talk or demo let us know!

The gardening club aims to make a contribution to the wider village community and has started by helping the Flower Show Committee lift the geraniums from the flowerbeds and containers along Main Road. It's hoped that the club can also build links with the Eco Schools committee at the village school and encourage more children to get interested in gardening through projects benefiting both the school and village as a whole.

So if you are interested in gardening, whether you have a window box, flower bed or a big plot, why not come along to a club night and see what's going on!

18<sup>th</sup> December – Arlene Rushmere, Christmas wreaths.

To cover the cost of hall fees and shared resources the annual membership is £5 but occasional visitors are very welcome for £1 on the door.

To join the St Cyrus Gardening Club contact Pam Harrison.

Alison Couch

### Allotments: Did you know that

- There are 211 allotment sites in Scotland;
- there are 52 individuals on the waiting list for allotments in Aberdeenshire;
- Local authorities have a statutory duty to respond to demand for the provision of allotments;
- It only needs a minimum of 6 residents on the Electoral Roll to make representation in writing.



From 'Finding Scotland's Allotments' 2007 published by SAGS The Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society [www.sags.org.uk](http://www.sags.org.uk)

## Recycle your Christmas trees on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>



Green waste collection by Aberdeenshire Council in Ecclesgreig Park has now finished for the current season. The service – and the manner of its delivery by individual members of the council's waste team – has been well received and the use of a larger capacity vehicle has gone a long way to accommodating genuine local concerns about the previous system.

The vehicle and those who have operated over the later spring and summer have been instrumental in keeping the car park tidy during the periods of operation. Many individuals have spoken to me and members of St Cyrus Community Council about the high level of personal service and assistance they have received from staff on the ground. It was with pleasure that I have several times passed on the remarks.

It's the old story – the reputation of any organisation, public or private, rests on the performance, attitude and response of its frontline staff.

It has emerged that the total amount of green waste collected in St Cyrus this summer has been less than in the past. This may reflect a greater degree of home composting, or simply the fact that refuse is being "diverted" to other areas of disposal. That said the service is arguably an important part of serving the community, and I personally look forward to its return next year. I would also be keen to hear from any constituents about how it might be improved for the future.

Although there will be no general green waste collection over the winter months two special collections are to be held for used Christmas trees on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. They will be collected, stripped and composted as part of the council's recycling initiative).

In the bigger picture, Aberdeenshire's record on recycling and composting is improving from a low base. Last year recycling increased to 21.2% - a rise of more than six percent, but there is still some way to go to meet the national total of 25% in 2005/6.

The presence of the weekend vehicle and regular refuse collection lorries is having an impact on the surface of the car park and the council will endeavour to ensure that the surface is maintained in an acceptable manner.

The village orderly scheme was repeated again this summer and has again been an important factor in helping maintain the appearance of our community. This service has been extended to other parts of south Aberdeenshire and it is my view that the council should continue to support and enhance the operation of the orderly scheme.

Any comments would be much appreciated.

Councillor Bill Howatson

## CHRISTMAS POTS

### PROCEDURE:

1. Place wet oasis into flower pot. If this is a terracotta pot with drainage hole then line it with polythene/plastic to avoid seepage.

2. Place the centrepiece in the middle of the oasis.

### First arrangement

The centrepiece is a tree decoration, hanging fixture removed and a cane inserted which is then placed in the oasis.

Sprigs of holly were then arranged round the edge of the pot. The holly used was Silver Queen.

Western Hemlock was then added, any fir/spruce could be used.

Dried orange slices were wired and positioned through the foliage.

Wired cones were the final components. You could use apples, clementines or baubles if you wish.

### Second arrangement

The centrepiece is a candle which has 3 cocktail sticks taped at the bottom to allow the candle to be placed without making a large hole in the oasis.

Ivy leaves and flowers are then arranged over the oasis.

Variegated holly is spaced through the ivy. The holly in this pot was Golden King.

Red berries are put in the arrangement. Holly and skimmia were used.

Ribbons were the final additions. Red or yellow spray carnations could be alternatives.

There are lots of variations for the use of pots. Three small ones as a table decoration or on a window sill. If you do not like the terracotta they can be sprayed in seasonal colours.

Why not go outside with a really large pot with a branch with lots of twigs as the centrepiece. It could be decorated with large cones or food for the birds?

Enjoy your Christmas flower arranging.

Isobel Smith






## Update Page:

The St Cyrus Newsletter

## 2008 Flower Show



Keep the enclosed Flower Show Schedule to remind yourself about the categories you plan to enter.

This year the Flower Show Committee is trying to reach more people who might be interested in taking part in the village show.

With this Community Newsletter each household will receive a flower show schedule for 2008.

Please keep it in a safe place so that you can refer to it if you think you might enter some items for next year.

The schedule will no longer give you free entry to the show. £1 admission will be taken at the door on Show Day.

Please look at the schedule as we would like to see some new exhibitors next year.

Many thanks to the Community Newsletter network for their help in this change.

Isobel Smith

## Planning for Real Next Meeting Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January in Small Hall



The Planning for Real themes are: Traffic and Transport - Work, Training and the Local Economy - Leisure - Community Facilities - Health - Housing - Crime and Safety - The Local Environment.

At the full session in the Hall in the Spring you the Community will choose

from the topic cards and place them on the map.


All your ideas will be recorded.

The map is currently being assembled by the school and the youth club.

There will be a preview probably about the end of

Bob Flann

## 2009 Calendar Competition



Start sending us your photographs for the 2009 calendar.

The 2008 calendar has been a great success and we now look forward to receiving your entries for the 2009 calendar.


The changing seasons offer many opportunities for exciting photography in and around St Cyrus.

Please send any suitable photographs, digital or prints by e-mail to: [stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net](mailto:stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net) or by post to Tom Dalziel 38 Invergarry Park, St Cyrus DD10 0BU Any aspect of village life will be considered and we would

very much welcome pictures taken by children and young people. Thanks to all who made the 2008 calendar so successful and we look forward to seeing your entries for 2009.

Tom Dalziel

## War Memorial



Donations are still required and any surplus will be sent to the War Memorials Trust, a registered charity.

Since my article in the October/November issue, I have received some support and donations for my proposal to add missing names to the War Memorial.

Further research has disclosed that one name,

that of Pte James Watson, appears on the Marykirk memorial so the proposal is now to add the names of the Jolly brothers only.

The cost was estimated at under £150 and there having been no objections raised I now

intend to put the work in hand.

Donations are still required and any surplus will be sent to the War Memorials Trust, a registered charity.

Richard Leiper



**Book Recommendation:  
The Reader by Bernard Schlink**

Gordon tells us that there will be no mobile library service on the Mondays 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Winter evenings are here; perhaps you are already reading all snug by the fireside with the rain beating on the window pane.

For most folk reading aloud is something you enjoyed or enjoy with the children.

When reading was a skill limited to the learned few, the Saxon historian 'The Venerable Bede', for example, was held in awe for being able to read without sounding the words!

Nowadays reading aloud is either for the Performance Artist, Pastor or Teacher.

However there are some fortunate adults who read aloud for the benefit of another. They are twice blessed.

Reading to a friend or partner externalises the process. Not only do we catch otherwise missed nuances but we get to see things from another person's point of view and to reflect upon our own.

Try this out at home. Choose a film/play which demands some concentration, set a DVD for subtitles and follow them.

Can you watch the film all the way through with family or friend without having to replay in order to check someone's understanding or find agreement? This is best done with works by authors such as Shakespeare!

All too often the pace of a filmed story carries us over the points we might have stopped to reflect upon had we been reading. We are used to giving more consideration to the written word because we can dictate the pace to match it with our understanding.

The musicality of certain authors works lend themselves to being read aloud and although this is not the special feature of 'The Reader' by Bernard Schlink it

does read well.

Set in post-war Germany this award-winning novel by German law professor and judge Bernard Schlink has been translated into 37 languages, was recommended reading for Oprah Winfrey's Book Club and is referred to in the UK Basic Skills Agency report on illiteracy.

The Library Service has six copies of this book but is also organised with an extensive list to support Book Groups of which there are four registered in Aberdeenshire.

Perhaps someone might like to start a St Cyrus Book Group?

or

would someone like to write us a book or DVD Film review for the February/March newsletter?

Editor

**The Bowling Club**

Another outdoor bowling season is over and while the weather was not very kind to us, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the members. All the club competitions were completed on time and club meetings on Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon were very well supported throughout the season.

The club has completed installation of the surrounding fence which has made a huge difference to the comfort of the players in terms of protection from the wind. This along with the new playing surface means it is a pleasant way to spend a summer's afternoon or evening. We would love to see more people come and join us next season.

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.

Our congratulations go to the Scottish disabled bowling team, who used our facilities to practice for the world championships in Australia in October. They won one silver and two bronze medals, and the team achieved a very creditable third place in the overall points table behind South Africa and Australia.

Our prize giving was held in the St.Cyrus hotel on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Robert Smith .  
Club President

The Newsletter Group has demonstrated that we can help village interest groups by printing the materials you need, for example, Flower Show Schedules, Gardening Club posters, Youth Club, Public Hall and Church fund raising calendars as you can see below where Maurice Forsyth-Grant is pictured presenting cheques for £500 to Joan Davidson representing the Public Hall Committee and Rev George Hastie for the Church Roof Fund.



## Please help us to help others.

However you have hardly begun to take advantage of the website we have created for you!

We are a very small group and would very much appreciate more help. For example we need a sub-committee dedicated to fund raising, a small group of people who will take responsibility for organising coffee mornings and generally finding the means for us to continue beyond 2008.

Our website team would appreciate another helper, preferably someone with some computer knowledge.

The editor continues to look for others to work with him with the aim of building an editorial team.

Talk to a committee member about how you think you might help us. We are:

Maurice Forsyth-Grant: Chairman  
Mike Burleigh: Editor  
Lynn Hunt: Secretary  
Pam Harrison: Treasurer  
Bernard Tuck—Website team  
Frances Johnson - Website team  
Tom Dalziel: Calendars  
John Barrie: Distribution  
Mary Singleton: Proof reading  
Van Leiper: Planning for Real  
Bob Flann: Community C Liaison  
Liz Leslie: History research

Mike Burleigh  
Editor

**Local History: ‘The Tollie’.** A little bit of local history recently came to light when men working on repair work on the Lower North Esk Bridge uncovered what is left of the old toll house, known locally as the ‘Tollie’.

In a fascinating letter to ‘The Courier’ the other day Mr Eric Reid told how he had lived there with his parents, brother and sister for a short time in the 1930s. No Electricity. No running water! I had a nice chat on the phone with Mr Reid and he told me that his mother sold lemonade and crisps to local farm workers. His Father was orraman at Stone of Morphie and the children walked daily to Hillside School. He told me that his mother Sarah Wills had been a St Cyrus Dowry Bride in 1923 when she married his father William. He also said that he had heard that a family of seven children lived there about 1900.

Liz Leslie

## **DISABILITIES: Regulations demand the spending of money which some councils may not have.**

During all my time riding an electric disabled scooter I have been wondering how travelling could be made easier for wheelchair users such as myself. Aberdeenshire Council have made a start by putting raised platforms at the bus stops to enable disabled people to use the bus service.

Buses with adjustable access step heights are now operated in Aberdeenshire and many Scottish towns and cities. These steps or ramps are hydraulic and can be made to go up or down as necessary to match the pavement height thereby making it possible for wheelchair users to use public transport.

However although a wheelchair or scooter user can drive on a bus in Aberdeenshire they cannot drive off in Angus!

After telephoning Angus Council

Planning & Transport and speaking to Chris Boyle, transport officer, I was informed that they received money last year to do raised kerbs at the bus stops in Montrose High Street. They used the money for other things but have promised me in writing that they will put four of them in the high street in Montrose before the end of the current financial year.

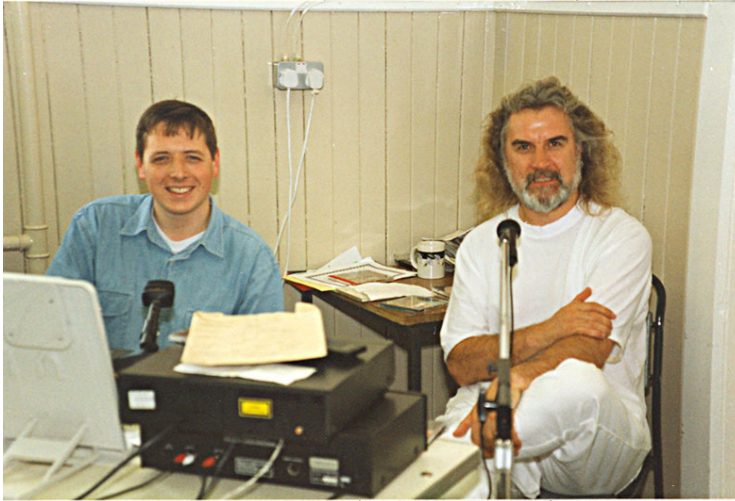
These will also be installed along the Monifieth – Carnoustie – Arbroath corridor this year where the buses used are all low floored and wheelchair accessible.

It is also hoped that, should finance be available in 2008/2009, additional key bus stops in and around Montrose will be upgraded. The area that will cause the biggest problem is the railway station as this is private land.

Although it is now statutory that councils provide disabled access to transport facilities they are dependent upon the availability of public funds to implement these regulations.

For example, the roads department in Perth assure me they are making improvements when the money is available and when the roads need to be upgraded. There are buses with hydraulic ramps operating in the city of Perth. However there are currently no raised paving platforms at Perth bus stops. Perth council have told me they are obliged to prioritise the spending of available funds on paving juts at the bus stops to prevent the parking of private cars. When they have resolved this problem they will be able to focus on installing the raised ramps which you now see at bus stops throughout Aberdeenshire.

Allan Robertson



A Highlight from Stonehaven Community Radio.  
Ross Gilligan interviewing Billy Connolly

## Mearns FM [www.mearnsfm.co.uk](http://www.mearnsfm.co.uk)

Community Radio is coming to the Mearns!  
Ofcom has awarded a five year license to Mearns FM, which is a registered charity committed to being owned by the community it serves.

It has developed from Stonehaven Community Radio, which had three one-month licences in the 1990's. In those days it broadcast from the Stonehaven Community Centre and proved to be a popular activity with all ages but particularly with the young. The present initiative is considerably more ambitious – with centres planned for Stonehaven, Inverbervie and Laurencekirk and working towards coverage in the area bounded by Newtonhill in the North, St Cyrus in the South and Fettercairn to the West.

The new IT technologies make this an exciting time for Community Radio. It is now possible for smaller communities to have their own studios linked to the central studio by broadband. Good quality programmes can easily be made at home using a computer, free software and a very affordable microphone. When the programme is finished it can be sent via the internet to the station. Getting it on the air will be easy because Mearns FM wants broadcasting to be open to all.

Community Radio in the Mearns will present many opportunities. It will be a shop window for local arts, particularly music and radio drama. It will afford an easy and inexpensive way to promote events and make public service announcements. It will help local commerce as small businesses will have access to low cost targeted advertising. There will be greater opportunities to have people's voices heard in discussions on local issues which should encourage increased community participation. Live "Outside Broadcasts" are possible and a monthly "Community Question Time" from varying locations is envisaged. Church Services and home and away Sports Match commentaries can also be featured. News programmes from individual towns and villages is something to aspire to and a weekly "St Cyrus Events" programme would be warmly welcomed!

Above all Mearns FM will be local people entertaining and informing local people, increasing in a small way our sense of community and helping us to be more appreciative of the history and culture of our area.

The present members of Mearns FM hope that the community will fully exploit the possibilities of community radio. There is no reason for anyone to be shy and those involved with the earlier efforts will confirm participating is fun. It gives those taking part the chance to learn many new skills including Presenting, Sound Production, Computer Audio Editing, Management and Administration. Those presently involved with the station are keen to help with training and hope Mearns FM will become a focus of opportunity for the many talents required in broadcasting.

Mearns FM is an ambitious initiative and getting on the air is going to require a lot of organizational effort. More help is urgently required to assist in applying for funds and planning the project. It is estimated it will cost £40,000 to launch. If you are willing to help please contact Charlie Sands [charles.sands@mearnsfm.co.uk](mailto:charles.sands@mearnsfm.co.uk) or Ian Hunter [ian.hunter@mearnsfm.co.uk](mailto:ian.hunter@mearnsfm.co.uk) or come to the open meetings at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month at Stonehaven Community Centre.

Ian Hunter



### Inverbervie Medical Practice

Private Blood tests - If a patient wishes a private screening test or a blood group test, the price will increase to £40.00 per test from 3rd December 2007. This price is the price set by Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service and payment must be made before the test is carried out at the surgery.

Christmas Holidays - The surgery will be closed on both days - Tuesday and Wednesday 25th and 26th December 2007 and again Tuesday and Wednesday 1st and 2nd January 2008.

If you require a doctor in an emergency on these days you telephone NHS 24 on 08454 242424. Please remember and order your repeat medication in plenty of time.

Inverbervie Medical Practice has employed a new practice nurse. Julie Wood joined the nursing team on Monday 5th November 2007.

Inverbervie Medical Practice received their annual visit on 19th November from NHS G to ensure that the quality of the GP Contract Quality and Outcome Framework was achieved. The practice received very good feedback on all clinical and non clinical areas from the visiting team of GPs and non clinical members.

Lorna Grubb



**0845 90 90 999****GIVE BLOOD****www.scotblood.co.uk**

One hundred and nine people turned up to donate blood on 8<sup>th</sup> November at Inverbervie and that figure included six new donors.

We are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time to attend.  
The next sessions for the St Cyrus area are:

**The Academy: Portlethen**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 07  
Bruntland Road  
4.30pm-8.30pm

**IF YOU CAN NEVER FIND  
THE TIME TO GIVE BLOOD  
HERE IT IS.**

**The Town Hall, Montrose**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 08  
2.30pm to 8.00pm (both days)

**Laurencekirk**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 08  
St Laurence Hall  
3.00pm-5.00pm  
6.00pm-8.30pm

**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

## St Cyrus Newsletter Website

<http://www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk>

This is the brainchild of the St Cyrus Newsletter Group, and has been developed by the Website Team with the invaluable support of a professional website designer who gave his time and expertise free of charge to set up and develop the site. Thank you David.

Have a look at the website and let us know what you think of it. We need to receive your comments as they can highlight areas where we might improve the site.

The Website Team has tried to make this site fun, informative, and useful for the people of St Cyrus who supplied us with much of the information that is included.

Looking at the 'Home' page there is general information with links in green to a number of contacts. Click on any of these links to go to a contact page where you can leave your comments or queries. These links continue right through the site so you can contact a representative from any of the local groups featured

Did you know that you can send an 'e-postcard'?

Click on E-cards, halfway down the list and follow the links to make your choice from six cards. We intend to change the pictures occasionally. At the moment the 'reply to sender' facility does not work, but we are trying to sort it.

'What's on in St Cyrus' links in with the right-hand column of the home page and shows current and forthcoming events in the village. N.B. you see the date and time first, and below that the Group concerned. Click on the green text and you'll find more information about the event.

The Gallery contains five albums with local pictures, old and new, Gala Day and the Flower Show 2007.

In the Transport section you will find links to the train timetables and buses to and from St Cyrus and if you dig deeper, to anywhere else you'd like to go. There is a route planner in case you travel by car.

The section "Useful Contacts" gives links to the emergency services and a list of organisations that can help you.

A proper website (such as ours!) is forever changing and hopefully improving but we do need YOUR help. If you are a member of one of the local groups represented on the site have a look at your pages regularly. Is the information there correct and up-to-date, or is there something important that we have missed? Please let us know.

Frances & Bernard The Website Team

To contact the website team:- [stcyrusweb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stcyrusweb@hotmail.co.uk)

Google analytics:-

1,227 Visits by 471 Visitors

UK (1181), New Zealand (10), Netherlands (9), Canada (9), USA (8), Germany (4), Australia (3), Cyprus (1), unknown (2)

9,743 Pageviews with an average of 8 pages/visit

24.37% Bounce Rate

[Average Time on Site](#) 7 minutes

38.39% New Visits





**Public Hall Bookings** made with Yvonne Buck Hallkeeper  
Fees are paid to Lina Forsyth-Grant Treasurer

Letting Charges:	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. The deposit is returnable if the hirer has complied with the terms and conditions of hire.

#### **FUNDRAISING EVENTS TO BE HELD IN HALL: DEC/JAN**

Burns Supper and Ceilidh Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2008.

ST.CYRUS PUBLIC HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup>

~ IMPORTANT ~

Hall User Group representatives are requested  
to attend

Georgina MacDonald—Secretary

The Community Fund raising event Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November was a very successful day much enjoyed and appreciated by all those who attended either as stall holders or visitors.

#### **TIMETABLE OF REGULAR EVENTS**

Playgroup Rising 3's

Monday 9.30am - 11.00am

Playgroup Monday 11.15am-1.45pm

Tuesday 9.30am-12.00am

Wednesday 9.30am-12.00am

Thursday 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

Free Church 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month 3.00pm -5.00pm

WRI 1<sup>st</sup> Monday every month 7.00pm - 10pm

Senior Citizens 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday every month 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Public Hall Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month - 7-9.00pm

Community Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday every month 7.00 - 9.00pm

**St Cyrus W.R.I** meet at 7:30pm.

Visitors, former and new members welcome

Please contact Mrs Thomson Secretary.

Kathleen Masson is President



W.R.I.meetings :-

3rd. Dec "Entertainment by Auchenblae W.R.I."

9th. Dec Christmas Lunch at "George Hotel."

2008

7th. January with our 79th Birthday Party

4th. Feb "Talk on Schooldays" speaker Margaret Budge

New members and visitors always welcome.

#### **St. Cyrus Public Hall Fund Raising Update**

This year we have received generous donations from hall user groups amounting to £575. Since March the fund raising events have added another £881 to the hall Windows/Floor Fund. This includes £50 for tables booked for the Community Fund Raising event on November 24<sup>th</sup> and £270 from sales of refreshments. On December 1<sup>st</sup> the income from the St Andrews Dance should increase this fund further.

Thanks from the committee to everyone who has supported the events in any way.

Date for the Diary. There will be a Burns Supper and Ceilidh at the hall on Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Tickets cost £10 each and will be on sale at St Cyrus Hotel from early January. You can also contact John Sparrow, Joan Davidson or Dorothy Tuck to buy tickets.

**BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL:** Many, many thanks to everyone who filled and donated a shoe box for this years Blythswood appeal. A total of 167 shoe boxes, three large cardboard boxes of beautifully knitted blankets and one large bag of lovely knitted dolls and toys left St Cyrus on the 13th November and will be at their destinations in time for Christmas. Special thanks go to Mrs Thompson, Mrs Ledingham, Mrs Church, Mrs Carcary and Mrs Beveridge for their valiant efforts and wonderful knitting.

Heather Jenkins



Helping you with:

## HOUSING PROBLEMS YOUR RIGHTS COMMUNITY ISSUES

SATRA was formed in 1953 when council tenants in Stonehaven met together and formed Stonehaven Municipal Tenants Association. The Association had a constitution giving council tenants the right to be members on an elected committee and offered support to the tenants in any grievances they might have with the Council in Stonehaven.

Since then the service has developed and been extended into the area surrounding Stonehaven and now caters for all tenants regardless of landlord. The name of the Association was changed to **South Aberdeenshire Tenant Resident Association (SATRA)** when membership was extended to include Deeside.

If you live south of the city or west along the Dee valley you are eligible to join. Membership has widened to all residents in this area as many of the issues we tackle affect the whole community. We are involved in various activities that are community based, like operating a weekly collection point for the North East Scotland Credit Union.

Over the last two years we have undertaken many surveys including a large **Community Audit** covering 2000 homes asking residents for their views, opinions and ideas. You may also be aware that we undertook the **Railway Cutting** Survey between Mercury Terrace and Morpie Drive in St Cyrus.

We are involved with **Disabled Persons Housing Service (Aberdeenshire) Ltd, Kincardine & Mearns Community Safety Group**. We have set up a branch of **North East Scotland Credit Union** and are also active members of **Kincardine and Mearns Area Partnership**.

The following outline explains Credit Unions, what they are, and how they can provide a service to you all.

A Credit Union is a financial cooperative owned by its members, in other words a community bank. It has a volunteer Board of Directors democratically elected by the membership at an Annual General Meeting. The aim of the Credit Union is to encourage members to save and give them access to borrowing at lower rates of interest. Profits cover running costs of the Credit Union and dividends to members. Young people under the age of 16 years are encouraged to join as junior members, often through schools, to establish the regular habit of saving.

For further information please contact us at:-

Community House, 1 Highfield Court, Castlefields, Stonehaven. AB39 2PL

**Tel: 01569 766108** [satr.a1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:satr.a1@tiscali.co.uk)

Lenny Lawrence

## ST CYRUS YOUTH CLUB

Juniors: P5 - P7 - 6.30pm to 8.15pm during School term. Seniors: S1 - S4 - 8.30pm - 10.00pm during School term.  
Yearly Membership is £6.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> child and £3.00 for any other sibling thereafter. Weekly subscription £1.50

“Members Only” are eligible to go on any Youth Club trips.

The Youth Club Committee has extended the age group to include S4 pupils. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please come along to the next session.

### “A BIG THANKYOU”

The St Cyrus Youth Club would like to thank the Committee of the St Cyrus Newsletter for sponsoring the printing of the Photo for our Fund Raising Calendars. It was greatly appreciated.

### New Committee Members

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Youth Club Committee are looking for more parents/guardians to join our committee. If you would like more information or would like to help out, please get in touch with Morag or Wilma. (Mums or Dads).

**Weekly Timetable:** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November: Juniors & Seniors – Movie Night. Hot Snack: popcorn.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December: No Youth Club.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Juniors & Seniors. Football Coaching at Montrose Sports Centre with M.F.C. (12.30pm – 2.30pm).

We finish for the term on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

**New Session Starts** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008: Juniors & Seniors – Normal Night. Hot Snack: Pizza

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008: No available information

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008: No Youth Club.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2008: Juniors & Seniors - Forfar Ice Skating Arena

**Seasons Greetings** The St Cyrus Youth Club Committee would like to wish all A Merry Christmas & A Prosperous New Year and thank all those who have helped out with the running of the Youth Club for 07 sessions.

Wilma Jobson

## VILLAGE HISTORY:

Mary Helson In New Zealand has so far collected the following information on her connections with St Cyrus.  
**"Fyfe family"** (see letter to the editor)

William Fyfe - born Garvock 1829 - parents William Fyfe and Ann Middleton. 1841 working for Garvies at Upper Ferneyflatt (sic) Kinneff. Margaret Watt born Garvock 1834- parents Watt and Catherine Falconer.

1841 census:-living with David and Christina Watt- no trace of parents in that census William Fyfe and Margaret Watt married at Arbuthnott 26.12.1851. both working at Cluseburn farm, Arbuthnott.

John, 3rd child born 23.2.1855 in St Cyrus, had three brothers, William, James and Thomas.

1851 the family was living in Fordoun, William was a ploughman. 1876 he married Jane Turnbull in 1878 in Newcastle on Tyne and Margaret Watt Fyfe my grandmother was born there on 14.8.1884.

**Anyone reading this who can supply any further information please do so by writing to the editor.**

With Christmas coming soon I thought I would explore the world of gaming computers. Unlike games consoles computers come in various different specifications. This can be very confusing especially when trying to decide your best budget option which will run the latest games.



Computer games particularly the latest incarnations like 'Crysis' and 'Call of Duty 4' have for some time pushed the computer hardware market and have kept sales of contemporary computers going.

The latest gaming computers can cost a small fortune up to and in excess of £2000. However these machines are in my opinion over engineered for the maximum demands placed on them from existing software. There are computers available for example that have 80 times the processing power of the latest games consoles. This is an example of how computers are accelerating past all expectations and current demands.

Where does this leave the consumer who wants to buy a machine that will run the latest games for Christmas. There is a multitude to choose from, there are multi core processor chips available and graphics chips that can perform the special effects games produce for a fraction of the price quoted above.

If we look at Crysis for example it is a game that has just been released which according to the computer gaming fraternity is pushing the envelope of computer hardware and if you want to run it the way it is meant to you can expect to spend around £700.

As demand is placed on computers to deliver high performance graphics so does the demand for power. One rule of thumb is to identify what wattage of power supply is in the system you are considering. For gaming you will benefit from 600 watts but the bigger the better, up to 1000 watts is more than acceptable. An ideal amount of random access memory would be 4 gigabytes but 2 gigabytes will work. Graphics chips like Nvidia's Geforce 8600 GTS is ideal but the 7900 GTS will work well. The core processor should ideally be at least 3000 mhz or the intel equivalent. The ideal processor would be Intel's quad core family but dual core will manage the work load.

One thing to remember is that the demands of a computer game can be scaled down by turning down the graphics and performance settings from within the game but it will not look like how it was intended and will not resemble what is displayed on the back of the game's box.

I have only given basic advice here as the permutations of computer hardware that are flooding the market can be a difficult one to determine, particularly when deciding which is best for the money without compromising quality. As a consequence I am offering free advice to anyone in St Cyrus about whether the machine you are considering to buy for Christmas is up to the challenge of running the games your kids and you want. E-mail me at [compgames@andrewspcadvice.co.uk](mailto:compgames@andrewspcadvice.co.uk) with the computers' specification and the game you want to run on it and I will advise you the best I can.

Andrew Christie

## St Cyrus Primary School

Mon 17 Dec 9.30am

End of term service in the Church

Tuesday, 18 December 1.40 p.m.  
Open Afternoon.

Friday 21 December End of term.

Term starts Mon, 7 Jan 2008

St Cyrus footie team posted a convincing win over Glenbervie in the McLean Cup on Saturday,

David Smith Head teacher  
Tel: 01674 850215

## Children's Corner



Where has Postman Pat stopped for his rest today?

The correct answer will win some young person a voucher to spend at The Old Bakery.

Send your answers to the editor at:

13 Scotston place,  
St Cyrus,  
DD10 0BZ.

**Your Community Beat Officer:**

Whilst attending at the Community Council meetings in the coastal villages, members have voiced concerns regarding the speed at which vehicles travel on the A92 and within the villages themselves.



**GRAMPIAN**  
P . O . L . I . C . E

*Keeping our communities safe*

St Cyrus was no exception, with some members being of the opinion that a number of local residents also need to be reminded of their responsibilities in this regard. Can I remind you that Officers from Roads Policing continue to carry out speed checks in the village. This will now be supplemented by local Officers who have been trained to use the handheld radar device. Those who are detected can expect a minimum of a £60 fine and 3 points on their driving licence.

Grampian Police have recently acquired a number of mobile Police Offices, with one being allocated to Aberdeenshire Division. I will be making use of the office on Tuesday 11 December to hold a Police Surgery in the village. If there are any concerns/issues that you want to discuss please come along.

Community Beat Officer Neil Thomson

## Christmas decorative street lighting appeal:

Please use the addressed envelope you found in the centrefold of this newsletter to make your contribution.

Put your envelope into the box on the counter at the Spar shop or hand/post to:

Bert Skinner  
Greenburn  
St Cyrus  
DD10 ODE

Cheque and money donations will be acknowledged in writing if requested.

### Business Directory

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

**Electrician:** David West 01674677365 mobile: 07759347353

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

**Computer problems?** Ring Andrew 01674850326 / 07793107612 [www.andrewspcadvice.co.uk](http://www.andrewspcadvice.co.uk)

**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](mailto:dodmelvin65@tiscali.co.uk)

To advertise your business in this space please contact the editor Mike Burleigh at: [stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net](mailto: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.

St Cyrus Community Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Public Hall.

Please contact the secretary Frances Johnson [stcyrus@hotmail.com](mailto:stcyrus@hotmail.com)

Minutes of CC meetings can be found on the St Cyrus website [www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk)

Members of the public and CC Committee public should visit the Community Council web pages prior to attending the meetings in order to read the agenda, minutes and correspondence and also to view the planning applications. This does help us to make the best use of the committee meeting time. Frances Johnson

**Talk to your Community Council,** tell us how you feel about traffic speeding through the village. We feel that the present measures have not significantly reduced traffic speeds and there are some who say that only successful prosecutions such as can be obtained with a speed camera will ensure drivers respect the speed limit. Write to us with your views either through the newsletter or directly to:

The St Cyrus Community Council; Secretary; Frances Johnson: 3, Scotston Cottages, St Cyrus, DD10 0DA

or [stcyrus@hotmail.com](mailto:stcyrus@hotmail.com)

Bob Flann - Chairman