

Issue 166
Feb - Mar - Apr 2015

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Milltimber Bieldside Cults

NEWS

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Copy Deadline : 01 April Distribution in May 2015

NB : the editorial content for this issue should be relevant for reading in mid-May thru to end of July 2015 and beyond

Send your copy as an email attachment and keep photos separate to: mbcnews@cbmcommunity.org.uk

OR POST TO :

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c/o 1 North Deeside Road,
Bielside, Aberdeen AB15 9AD

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Volunteer Wanted

Do you have a few hours to spare?

If you would like to volunteer to join the team and help Fiona with the advertisements the MBC team would like to hear from you.

Contact Fiona on
Tel 01224 865489

Editorial:

As the weeks of 2015 rush by it may seem a little late to wish you all a Happy New Year but it also seems appropriate as I, being the new editor of MBC News, take on this role at the beginning of this new year. Over the last seven years Maureen has given her time and skill to deliver an informative, entertaining and polished publication and I'd like to say thank you to you, Maureen, and best wishes for the future, from all the MBC community.

I have lived in Cults for four years and we chose it because it is a quiet residential suburb of the city and yet it is also a vibrant, self-contained neighbourhood. When MBC News dropped through my letterbox I was delighted to find it was an inclusive, welcoming community where interest and participation in local events, organisations and council issues were actively promoted.

Just before Christmas this year I went along to the 'Carols in Cults'. Organised by the Community Council, it brought together the churches, local businesses, local groups and, of course, the residents of the MBC area, who gathered for no purpose other than to sing alongside their neighbours and friends. Of course, Christmas is a time when we think of others and the spirit of community and goodwill is prominent. However, with the busy lives we lead throughout the year it can be difficult to remember the enjoyment of belonging and participating within the community. Hopefully, MBC News serves to remind us that a wealth of activities and interests are on our doorstep. So whatever is your bag, be it a new sport or keeping abreast of community and local council issues, read on and remember we want, and welcome, your comments, letters and articles. So, if something inspires you, don't just think about it, write about it!

Carol

**Friends of the Guides
Coffee Morning
Saturday 21st March
10 am till 12 noon
in the scout hall.**

There will be tea, coffee, home baking. A cake decorating competition and lots of stalls with toys, books, bric a brac, a chocolate tombola and games. We hope it will attract a wide range of the community in Cults. Everyone welcome.



Reduced fees for 2015/2016

- (i) The annual fee for a new member will be £47.50
- (ii) For a family with one or more children the composite fee for the whole family will be £95
- (iii) The annual fee for members under 21 will be £10

**Please contact Findlay Baxter at 01224 868263
or at - findlaybaxter@onetel.com
www.cultsbowlingclub.weebly.com**

**WELCOMES
NEW MEMBERS**

News from the Cults Bielside and Milltimber Community Council



We are already well into 2015 but it may still be useful to reflect on the past year while looking forward.

I trust you enjoyed the Carol concert last December. The event was blessed with fine winter weather and the ministers, choir, band and helpers were in splendid form. So were you, the public, singing your hearts out and donating a collection of £394 to the VSA in the process – thanks to all of you.

The Cults, Bielside and Milltimber area is gearing up for a period of change. Last year we already saw the onset of the changing local scenery with the start of a major residential development in Cults. This will be followed in the current year with the start of similar developments in Milltimber and in the Countesswells area. Also the first signs of construction of the AWPR motorway through the western edge of the CBMCC area became apparent in 2014 and no doubt we will see this major landmark grow visibly during 2015. Although not everybody is always comfortable with the idea, ‘change’ is unavoidable in our world. It is important though to control the manner of change so the results have a positive effect on the overall quality of life as much as possible. The community council has worked hard in the past years trying to prevent initiatives that would be undesirable in that respect and proposing modifications to improve the quality of other plans. Once plans have been approved, the work of the CC will not stop, as there are always details, amendments and extensions to be considered.

Last year also saw the start of the More Blooms initiative. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our treasurer and generous donations, there will be sufficient funds to continue and expand this activity in 2015. All we need is helpers to take care of and talk to the plants in the neighbourhood. Make this your late New Year’s resolution.

Speaking about New Year resolutions, I need to mention the community council elections that will come up in the second half of 2015. It is never too early to bring to your attention that for the community council to continue to exist a minimum number of candidate councillors are required. If you feel that CBMCC is a useful forum, positively supporting community life, you may like to put future membership on your list for 2015 or persuade another suitable resident to do so.

Have you visited our website page on www.cbmcommunity.org.uk or our Facebook page. Many of you have liked the latter and responded to requests for comments,

for which we thank you - but please keep it up. Short of attending the CC meetings this is an excellent way for residents to bring new ideas or concerns to our attention, helping us to serve the community effectively. Recently CBMCC discussed the desirability of preparing an outlook for the area, i.e. what CBM should look like in the near and more distant future. We need your input for that view to become realistic.

Guus Glass

Community Council Members			
David Anstee	Cults	864466	
Eleanor Brennan	Cults	862262	
Norman Burt	Milltimber	865420	
Colin Caldow	Cults	867213	
Tracey Davidson	Cults	869502	
Guus Glass	Cults	864925	Chairman
Christine McKay	Cults	0779 402 0622	Secretary
Graham Payne	Cults	868827	Treasurer
Derek Robb	Bielside	868797	Vice-Chairman
Peter Roberts	Bielside	868524	Planning Liaison Officer
Margaret Stewart	Cults	862114	
Nigel Williams	Milltimber	862639	
Yvonne Black			Youth Member

Future Meetings	Venue
26 February 2015	Deeside Christian Fellowship Office
26 March 2015	Cults Community Centre
23 April 2015	Deeside Christian Fellowship Office
28 May 2015	Cults Community Centre
25 June 2015	tba



Email: cbmcc@cbmcommunity.org.uk
 Mail address: CBMCC, c/o Secretary, 290 North Deeside Road, Cults, AB15 9SB
 Website: www.cbmcommunity.org.uk
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/cbmcomcouncil
 Other useful contacts details
 Cllr Marie Boulton 522178 / 734712
 Cllr Aileen Malone 522356 / 868690
 Cllr Tauqeer Malik 346615 / 07732 172225
 Police (non emergencies) 0845 600 5700



Planning Matters!

Looking back it seems 2014 was another busy year for Planning Applications in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber. It was very similar to 2013 in overall numbers and in 2014 there were 183 applications (188 in 2013) in Lower Deeside, and 127 (155 in 2013) relating to Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber were reviewed. Letters of objection were submitted on 10 applications (7 in 2013) and these were mainly in connection with the large developments proposed for the area. Over a quarter of the applications (37) related to building new houses; some were connected with the major developments taking place, see below, but most involved the demolition of an older, smaller house and the building of a new larger house or houses on the same plot. The other main category for applications was for building extensions and smaller numbers for conservatories/sun lounges, garages, patio/decking, fences, agricultural/commercial and tree work.

When the Community Council submits an objection on an application for major development, the comments are not about stopping the larger developments progressing, hard to do once a development is part of the Local Development Plan, but about raising certain issues for the Aberdeen City Planners to take into consideration when reviewing the application. Some individual new build applications were objected to because it was felt they were inappropriate for the area; fortunately in these cases the Planning Department agreed.

Looking at the major developments in our area:

Countesswells - the development was approved, subject to legal agreement, at the full council meeting on 8 October 2014. As a reminder, Countesswells will be a new town with up to 3000 houses, primary and secondary schools and commercial buildings. Phase 1 Infrastructure application was approved at Development Planning committee on 6 November and it is expected the application for the first tranche of homes in blocks C1/C2 will be reviewed early in 2015. One partner in the consortium (Heron) is proposing a second access route for the development to the north, connecting to the Kingswells roundabout, as well as the proposed new road to the Jessiefield junction and an application for this has been submitted. This appears to be a sensible proposal, avoiding constraining traffic to exiting the site at a single junction.

Friarsfield - this is a development of up to 270 homes in three phases. Phase 1 for 81 homes has been approved and construction by Cala is well under way. Aberdeen City Planning has some concerns over plans for Cala Phase 2; discussions between Planning and Cala on Phase 2 have progressed and they are expected to be concluded in January 2015, with the application coming to committee in March. The application for Phase 3 by Stewart Milne was submitted and subsequently withdrawn in 2014 pending further discussions.

Oldfold Farm - the Oldfold development in Milltimber is for 550 homes by Cala. The application was submitted in March 2013 and recommended by Planning for approval in April 2014 subject to conclusion of the legal agreement. Discussion on the conditions has

run through 2014 and the agreement has still to be resolved and signed but the Planning Department are hopeful this will be achieved early in 2015. The first phase of building is expected to be 70-80 houses on the land closest to the North Deeside Road

Marcliffe Hotel - the initial application for the demolition of the hotel and construction of an office has now been withdrawn. An application from Stewart Milne to build 189 residential flats is currently under review by Planning. There will be a mix of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments built in 5 blocks. The footprint of the buildings will fall within the northern part of the site and the green space down to the North Deeside Road will be much the same - some modification of the driveway will be required. The details can be seen under application 141672 on the Aberdeen City Council Planning website.

Looking forward, a key task for the Community Council will be the review of the draft updated Aberdeen Local Development Plan, expected to be issued in January 2015. Another item for review will be the plans for traffic management along the North Deeside Road when construction of the junction with the AWPR at Milltimber begins, expected to be in March or April 2015. Please don't hesitate to contact the Community Council if you have any questions or concerns about a planning application; I am pleased to say a number of you did this in 2014 and we had some useful discussions.

Peter Roberts



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**Contact Fiona on
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Deer in Cults, Bielside and Milltimber Area

A number of residents have raised concerns about the number of deer in our area which are causing damage to gardens and introducing ticks into public areas, with the possibility of spreading Lyme disease. (On average there are between 200 and 300 cases of Lyme disease reported in Scotland each year.)

In its October Meeting the Cults Bielside and Milltimber Community Council received a presentation by the Aberdeen Countryside Officer Ian Talboys on deer management in the city area. Mr Talboys explained the

aims and objectives of deer control and emphasised the responsibilities placed on landowners by the 2011/2012 Act. He also answered questions on the deer control operations carried out in nature reserves and forests owned by the city or the Forestry Commission around the city.

Aberdeen City Council monitors deer numbers on its own lands but they do not have any reliable data for private lands in our area. The recommended density is 4-8 deer/100 hectares. When the numbers get larger than this the deer can cause damage to local vegetation.

We would like to get a better understanding of the number of deer in the Cults, Bielside

and Milltimber area and ask that you submit information on any deer sightings. This can be done by commenting on the Community Council Facebook page or by sending an email to Peter Roberts at roberts.peter53@gmail.com.

Please tell us: how many deer, where you saw them, the date and time of day.

We know that the deer move around and that this is not a scientific standard of survey but it might give us a feel for the extent of the problem. Thank you.



Sainsbury's opening in Cults

Sainsbury's have entered into an agreement with the Kelly family to lease their Kelly's of Cults store on North Deeside Road where they hope to open a new 'Local' convenience store this summer.

The Kelly family retain ownership of the building and this decision was only taken after careful consideration by them. Sainsbury's are well aware of the long-standing retail tradition that has been established by the Kelly family and they will work closely with them to ensure that the changeover takes place smoothly.

Councillor Marie Boulton said "Kelly's is clearly an institution in the area and a locally much loved store, it will be sadly missed but things do change and we wish the Kelly Family well and thank them for their long service to the community. Whilst we say goodbye to Kelly's, we offer a welcome to Sainsbury's".

Photos of 'Carols in Cults'

Janette Glass, Tiffin Jones and Eleanor Brennan enjoying the festive cheer.



Santa drops in to say hello to the younger carol singers.

Blairs 2014 Christmas Tree Festival



On 6th December Blairs Chapel held the 2014 Christmas Tree Festival to raise money for the Blairs College Chapel Trust Building Restoration Fund. Water had previously leaked into the Victorian chapel and damaged the internal walls. Although the chapel is now watertight work must still be done to restore the paint and plasterwork.

A display of 26 Christmas trees filled the chapel. All were beautifully decorated to represent each of their local sponsors, from painted fir cone creatures by St Joseph's School to a tree full of diggers and earth-movers by WM Donald. Visitors enjoyed browsing the trees and the younger children were able to take part in fun activities. In addition to the homemade cakes and warm drinks that were on offer, the Blairs Museum was also open. The highlight of the evening was a performance by Rock Choir, which everyone very much enjoyed,

followed by community carol singing and an entertaining rendition of The 12 Days of Christmas.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who took part – tree sponsors, helpers, cake bakers and visitors. We look forward to welcoming you to the next festival.

News from Councillors

Marie Boulton and Tauqeer Malik

We have started 2015 with reasonably good weather, but we know there have been some icy mornings and that concern has been raised over the lack of gritting in some areas. Aberdeen City Council is responsible for providing winter maintenance on 550 miles of roads and over 1200 miles of footways and we are sure you will readily understand that a sensible and practical priority system has to exist. We thought it may be useful to give an outline of the resources at the Council's disposal and the priority system that is in place. Aberdeen City Council currently has 16 gritter/ploughs, 18 tractor mounted footway gritter/ploughs and over 800 self help grit bins around the City. There are three priorities of road network, Priority 1 covers principle roads carrying heavy traffic flows or serving as public service bus routes. Priority 2 are principal or classified roads that carry medium traffic flows or give access to community or public facilities but of a non urgent nature. Finally, Priority 3 covers access/minor roads, which it could be expected that road users may use to make their way to the nearest higher priority route. Treatment is determined by each weather situation, is monitored 24 hours a day and overnight treatment normally only occurs on the busiest arteries, with early morning treatment occurring between 4.45am and 7.00am. This ensures that main roads are treated before the rush hour with early morning treatment covering 10 carriageway routes and Priority 1 footway routes, with other footways treated from 7.45am on need. During prolonged adverse weather the majority of roads and ground staff work on winter maintenance, during severe weather, resources are concentrated on high priority areas. Weather forecasting is provided by the Met Office and there are also six sensors which provide additional road temperature data locally. We feel sure that the weather will not remain kind to us; with this in mind please find below contact details for obtaining community salt bags. Please email: RoadMaintenance@aberdeencity.gov.uk or telephone the Tullos depot on 01224 241500. We have had a terrific uptake this year on the salt bags and stocks may, at times, be limited. Grit bins will be in place as before; salt mix stocks are already in the Council's depots across the city and grit bins are being filled. Should the box near you become empty, please call 0845 608 0919 to get it filled.

Culter was selected to receive one of only five WW1 Memorial benches and the bench can be seen and enjoyed at the War Memorial in Culter. After a request from a resident, Aberdeen City Council have agreed to erect a handrail along the full length of the path up to the memorial, which will enable some of our older or less agile residents to continue to visit it. This will be supplied in the spring.

There are still complaints about irresponsible parking at local schools and shopping areas and we would again ask that people are considerate to residents and pedestrians in these areas. Another complaint that really doesn't seem to disappear is dog fouling and we would again appeal to dog owners to pick up after their dogs. We are also working with the police to try and stop dangerous driving on some internal roads in Bieldside, where cars have driven down one-way streets in the wrong direction, often at speed and where pedestrians have had to take evasive action to prevent injury.

We would strongly urge drivers to refrain from doing this.

We would just like to remind pupils of secondary school age that the opportunity has been created for them to use the facilities on a Friday night at the community wing at Cults Academy which includes the gym hall, artificial pitch and community room, amongst other things. We see the opportunity to add additional offerings which can be tailored to the young people's ideas. We don't want to be prescriptive in what the youngsters can do and want them to take the lead on perhaps setting up a football league for the Friday night, or indeed any other sporting league they may wish to build. The hours of operation are from 6.45pm until 8.45pm. There will be a £2 admission charge and drinks and snacks available to purchase.

Councillor Boulton



Councillor Tauqeer

PS: I am currently working with S6 pupils from Cults Academy on a project to change/improve a set of shrub beds in Cults. Working together with the group of very enthusiastic pupils, we are currently in the process of putting together a public communication leaflet and a media strategy, a planting scheme which will hopefully incorporate a piece of public art and finally, an ongoing maintenance plan. The pupils will put an article in the next edition of MBC News, along with some photographs.

Another matter that is receiving my attention is increased traffic on the North Deeside Road, a concern many people have raised recently, particularly with the potential for additional disruption with the impending start of the AWPR. I have written to the ACC Chief Executive Angela Scott and requested further traffic modelling takes place on the stretches of North Deeside Road coming through Culter and Milltimber leading to the proposed sets of traffic lights and onwards to the AWPR junction at the back of Milltimber. Hopefully, plans can be drawn up to minimise the inevitable congestion that will occur in this area.

Councillor Boulton



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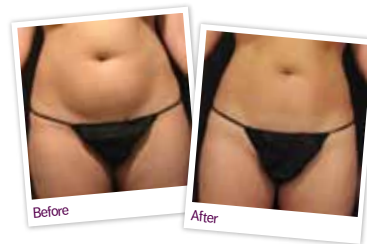
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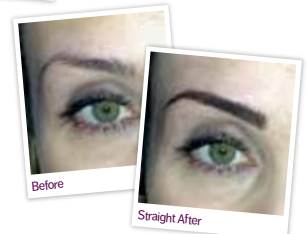


Before

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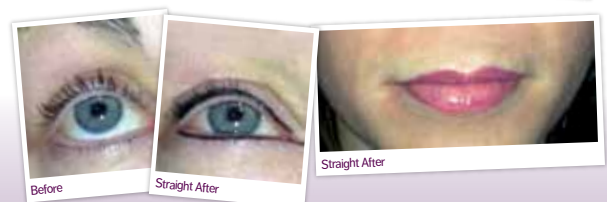
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News from Councillor Aileen Malone

Hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a Good New Year. At the time of writing this article we were having a relatively mild winter.Hopefully that is still the case!

Dealing with traffic issues in Cults Avenue

Residents alerted me to the difficulties in crossing safely at Cults Avenue and Broom Park junction. The main problem is the "blind corner" at this junction. Children and parents use this walking route. In order to try and help with this safety issue I had 'Children Crossing Ahead' signs installed. These are on Cults Avenue on either side of Hillview Crescent. This is to alert drivers to the possible presence of children crossing in the area and will hopefully have an impact on improving safety.

Whilst on site we carried out a survey of vehicles using this route to and from rural Kirk Brae. It was noted that the number of through vehicles was very light. In addition, the driving speeds recorded were well within the desired limits. Because of the information gathered, no consideration would be given to introduce traffic calming features or crossing places at this point.

Residents in Cults Avenue have asked me for 'speed bumps' in their street. These are now being investigated as a safety solution. However, these measures require statutory consultation and nothing will happen until all residents in the area have been consulted! There are many traffic related issues and problems in our area. Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Petition for New Pedestrian Crossing on North Deeside Road

Last year I was approached by residents worried about safety hazards when crossing North Deeside Road near the junction with Abbotshall Road/ Westerton Road. This is a pertinent place to cross to reach the bus stop and the bowling green. I have heard various concerns about this location and have had several surveys carried out over the years, however there are strict criteria that must be met to justify a crossing. Unfortunately, each time I raise this issue, I am told that the amount of footfall at this point is not sufficient for a crossing. I feel there are substantive concerns for pedestrian safety here. Some have said to me that it is only a matter of time before an accident happens because of the constant increase in the number of vehicles travelling on North Deeside Road and I have reiterated the fact that it only takes one accident to have a tragic outcome.

Armed with this information, residents took the initiative to gather signatures for a petition to the Council's new Petitions Committee. To date (prior to Christmas) they have gathered over 150 signatures of people crossing at this point. This has not been an easy task and I am highly impressed with the determination of local folk in pursuing this serious matter.

Unfortunately, the petition needs 250 signatures before it can be heard by the committee. These signatures have to include postcodes or clear addresses. It is a major undertaking to gather so many signatures. The Lib Dem Group previously

lobbied for the 250 requirement to be reduced to a more reasonable amount, such as 50. We felt, and still do, that the requirement for 250 signatures makes it too difficult for any local "street-based" issue to gather sufficient support before it can be submitted to the committee. This was not accepted, so 250 remains as the requirement. Maybe that is why in the two years since the committee was formed there has only ever been ONE petition submitted and heard!

If you can help by signing this petition please get in touch and I will pass your details on to the residents who have raised this. It will be good to work together on this.

Bench on Cults Avenue

Some of you will have noticed that the bench at the junction of Cults Avenue/North Deeside Road has been removed. Since the opening of Florence Court, some residents are finding it something of a struggle to get to the local shops and back. I have been asked if I could have a bench placed on the pavement west of Cults Avenue. Initially, the plan was to remove the old bench and replace it with a new bench in the new position.

However, on closer inspection of the existing bench I noticed an inscription and did further research. A resident of the area remembered that the bench had been placed as a memorial to Major Maitland Gray. He was in charge of the war-time Cults Home Guard.

The Home Guard was disbanded in 1945 when there was no longer a threat of invasion. A few years later about 1956, Maitland Gray died. It was discovered that some funds remained in the Home Guard account. They decided to use the money for the bench as a memorial to their colleague and leader. It was installed in 1957 and has been there since. Those were the days when things were made to last!

With this information I asked for the bench to be restored and placed in the new position. This work is being carried out at the moment and the bench should be in place in a few weeks. I think this is a fitting memorial to a prominent and public-spirited local resident, so I am pleased it can be restored.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me about any issue. I will always do what I can to help. My contact details are as follows where you can get in touch at any time:



Councillor Aileen Malone
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10IFY

Tel: Office 01224 522356
Home: 01224 868690

Family Events

March 15th 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service
March 29th 4-4.45pm Afternoon Family Service



EASTER

March 29th 10.30am Palm Sunday
Friday 3rd April 10.30am Good Friday Family Service
April 5th 10.30 am Easter Day Family Communion



Welcome to our regular services:

Sunday @ 8.30am: Holy Communion

Sunday @ 10.30am: Main service

- 1st Sunday: Family Service
- 2nd Sunday: Holy Communion
- 3rd Sunday: Morning Worship
- 4th Sunday: Holy Communion
- 5th Sunday: Morning Worship

Thursday @ 10.30am: Holy Communion

Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Club @ 10.30am Sunday service

Fun afternoons 3.30 - 5.00 pm



18 Jan, 22 Feb, 22 March, 26 April, 17 May

Friday Friends Coffee Morning
First Friday of the month
9.30am—12noon @ St Devenick's



6 Feb 6 March

For more information please contact:

Rev Paul R Watson on 07552 177690

paulrobertwatson@gmail.com

News from Cults Academy Parent Teacher Association

The PTA's last big social and fundraising event was our Christmas Gift evening in November. It was such a happy event with a relaxed atmosphere and lots of socialising along with present shopping. We had a large diversity of stalls with an inspiring range of gifts on offer. Our stallholders told us that they found the evening most enjoyable and not just because of the positive impact on their bottom lines! This year we served Prosecco and Christmas treats such as stollen in place of our traditional mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone seemed to take this change in their stride!

Our revamped raffle was extremely well supported. Thank you so much to everyone who bought tickets. Our cash prizes were greatly increased this year and were really something to write home about. First prize was the substantial sum of £500!! Second prize was set at £100 and third prize at £50. We are so grateful to Kippie Lodge who continue to sponsor our raffle generously.

All- in- all we raised over £4,000 towards school funds. This money will be used to:

- fund transport for pupils to sports and educational events
- buy Maths and Modern Language resources
- purchase sports equipment
- fund the School Sports Day
- pay for the "Live and Learn" programme.

Thank you to the Senior Management Team and the administrative and janitorial staff for their enormous support of our PTA. Thanks also to the PTA Committee for all their hard work and commitment. To all the parents and members of our community who attend our events and support our school students – a huge THANKS!

Our next event will be a quiz night in May.



Cults Sports Complex

Cults sports complex is a multi-functional facility shared with Cults Academy with a range of sports facilities open to the public. Our opening hours are 16.00-22.00 Monday-Friday & 08.30-17.00 on weekends.

- The Fitness Suite has a wide range of equipment including C.V, Free weights and resistance machines. There is a qualified Fitness Instructor available on request who can provide tailored Fitness Programmes & Inductions.
- There are several exercise classes running including Legs, Bums & Tums: Monday- 19.15-19.45, Body Blast: Thursday- 19.15-19.45 & Metafit: Thursday- 19.50- 20.20. Perfect for shaking off the winter blues.
- The 6 Lane Indoor Swimming Pool is open for Lane Swimming 8.30-10.00 am and Public Swimming 10.00am-12.00pm Saturday & Sunday with additional hours advertised during school holidays.
- There are 2 Indoor Sports Halls & Dance Studio available for Hire; perfect for any activity including; Football, Badminton and Dance classes.
- The AstroTurf pitch is ideal for any outdoor team sports. The half or full pitch can be hired out from 17.00-22.00 Mon-Fri and 09.00-17.00 subject to availability.

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W: www.sportaberdeen.co.uk

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Slapping wave after wave...sea, sand, stones,
Pounding, pummelling, buffeting, battering.

A furious assault along the western shoreline
Exploding over and over again, gathering to
Detonate white sea shrapnel, sprayed skyward.

Slapping down, thumping over barrier and slab,
Relentless, fierce, savage as it surged and attacked
Snatching the land, annexing, grabbing it seaward

Hour after hour assailing... until slowly settling,
Exhausted, drained ...yet harbouring its strength
That immense, immutable, immeasurable force

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Letter

I must say it is a pleasure to live in the MBC area, although one aspect disappoints me on almost a daily basis. Why in such an affluent area, where you expect people to be courteous and keen to uphold a high standard of behaviour, do people have such disregard when parking outside the shops in both Bielside and Cults?

At Bielside people routinely park on the double yellow lines beside the Bielside Inn. Not only is this discourteous and illegal, but the manner of leaving the tail-end of the car hanging out into traffic is seriously dangerous. However, my main bugbear is people parking on the double yellow lines outside Broomhill Nursery. My son attends this nursery and visibility is poor at the best of times when leaving the car park. On many occasions I have spoken to people about this; some move on, others either ignore me or reply with a torrent of abuse.

This behaviour is perhaps surprising in one of the most affluent areas in Scotland. Is it so bad these days that lack of manners and disregard for other people's safety is the norm? Please if you read this, think before you park. A few more yards walk would do many of us a world of good. One disappointing aspect of these events is they tend to involve: professional looking people; parents with children in their cars; people in their 50's or older; all groups of people that society would consider 'decent'.

Regard
Very Disappointed Father

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The New Season beckons- The Club will open its doors for the outdoor season on Saturday 18th April at 2pm when we hope that the sun will be shining for the traditional game of the President's team versus the Vice-President's team. This is always a great social event with a meal to follow a few ends of bowls. The season has begun! Cults Bowling Club offers games, both friendly and competitive with other clubs, in-house tournaments, Scottish ADLBA and BBA games, pizza nights and a barbeque. All games are played keenly but always in friendship—the essence of the game of bowls.

Winter Activities- Members and friends have so far enjoyed our St Andrews Night, the Christmas Party and Burns Night. Of course, the Games night on Tuesdays and the whist on Wednesdays continue until Opening Day. The Bridge Club, meeting on Mondays, also goes on until the outdoor season begins. On 21st February, we are holding a special event in the Cults Kirk Centre. We are to be entertained by Ocean 3 with the songs of Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Ella, Dean Martin, Judy Garland, and many others from that golden era! Ocean 3 are the Rat Pack!! If you wish to book a ticket or a table, please contact David Steele at 868485. Bring a party to a party! We conclude our winter programme with a talk about Iceland on Saturday, 14th March at 7pm for 7.30pm. This will be delivered by our local expert, Shirley Milton, who regularly takes tours to Iceland.

Membership Fees- The annual fee for the season 2015/16 is £95, with under 21s paying only £10. Once again, we are encouraging new members to come and try out the game of bowls by offering reduced fees. New members will pay only half the annual fee in their first year. There is also a special rate for families: for the first two years of membership, a family pay only one annual fee for all members. Coaching is available for young children.

An Open Club- Cults Bowling Club welcomes every expression of interest—for bowling, for social events or for both. You will find we are an open club with friendly members. You will find details of our programme and more at www.cultsbowlingclub.weebly.com. Alternatively, please contact Findlay Baxter, Tel: 01224 868263 or at findlaybaxter@yahoo.com.

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WORSHIP

All are welcome to join us for worship each Sunday at 10.30am. Your child may stay in the crèche or use the indoor play area during the service. A separate service is held for young people of school age.

"When the Sun goes Down". February 1st, March 1st and April 5th at 6pm. A gentle, reflective service which explores the idea of "A Strange kind of Fight".

Holy Week. Our services will be publicised nearer the time.

Imagine a room full of people of all ages: making things, doing things, saying things to each other, helping each other and finally sharing a meal together.



Some are church members, some are not. Some are young, some are not. Some are a family, others are not... All are enjoying themselves. Why don't you come and see what's happening?

Place. Cults Kirk Centre. When: 1st Thurs of every month from 3.30pm-6.00pm. No admission. Contact: Debbie Gordon on 863472 or sdebbieg@hotmail.com

MUSIC TO REMEMBER

Once a fortnight a group of people who suffer from Alzheimer's and their carers meet to sing those old songs that are so rich in memories. After we have sung we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a 'fine piece' together.

Place. Cults Kirk Centre. When: Tues, Feb 10th and 24th, Mar. 10th and 24th, Apr 14th and 28th, from 10.15pm to 11.45pm. run from 10.15 to 11.45 in Cults Kirk Centre. Contact: Rosa Laing 868156. or Lilian Brown 01224 742532.

BIRTHDAYS, MEETINGS, CLASSES, AWAY DAYS

Do you dread having your son's birthday party in your home? Is your club looking for a regular meeting place? Do you want a room for a class?

The parish church might be able to help you. It has rooms at both the Sanctuary and the Kirk Centre which you could rent regularly or occasionally. They vary in size from 25-100 people seated and have access to kitchen or refreshment facilities. Ring the church office.

WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS

We welcome all enquiries and are happy to meet with couples and families.

Minister.
Rev. Ewen Gilchrist, 1,
Cairnlee Terr., Aberdeen,
AB15 9AE

Worship Centre,
1, Quarry Rd.,
Aberdeen, AB15 9EX

Cults Kirk Centre and Church Office,
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Aberdeen and District RSPB Members' Group

2015 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Aberdeen and District RSPB Members' Group - an association of supporters of the RSPB who enjoy outings and indoor meetings with very friendly, like-minded people. The group currently has around 250 members, many of whom live within the MBC area.

In this area there are many other RSPB members, who have not joined the local group, perhaps because they don't know enough about us or feel they are not "expert" enough to join. We are not made up of "twitchers" and are at all levels of ability in bird identification and knowledge. Our outings are designed to help everyone see and appreciate the fantastic wildlife of our area and every effort is made to ensure that all the participants are included in sightings and instruction is given on identifying species. We organise two trips per month, (except December) one Sunday and one mid-week. These vary from Inchgarth Reservoir in Cults, to the isle of May. In addition, we have a long weekend further afield in the UK, and a week-long overseas trip. This year will be the Uists and Estonia respectively. We also have regular practical conservation work parties at RSPB reserves - ranging from gardening in Loch of Strathbeg to the rebuilding of an island which was colonised by over 50 pairs of terns this year.

Indoor meetings range from bird oriented travelogues through art, to talks on specific species. All are very sociable evenings with a chance to chat with other members of the group. These are held on the second Tuesday of the month from October to April.

As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations the Group has hired the Aberdeen Music Hall on Tuesday 10th March and have booked Chris Packham of Spring and Autumnwatch. He will be giving an informative and entertaining talk on wildlife. This talk is open to the public and will hopefully remind people about the importance of our wildlife and raise awareness of RSPB and the Local Members' Group.

A few tickets at £20 (adult) £15 (U16s) remain for RSPB members, otherwise they can be purchased from the Aberdeen Box Office at £22 and £16.50 respectively.

For further information contact Mark Sullivan on geolbird_abz@btinternet.com.



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Cults Hillwalking Club



Many walkers accepted the challenge to demonstrate their festive spirit, with Angus William MacDonald excelling himself in the role of Santa (the people of Banchory are no doubt still discussing the sight at the bus stop). Due to challenging and changing weather conditions that preceded the day, Plan C was adopted which involved a very festive walk from Invercauld to Crathie. Our group of 37 walkers were rewarded with a lovely day walking through the ancient pinewoods on the Balmoral estate. A capercaillie was seen as well as groups of red deer. The lowlanders followed the tracks through the estate and past many historical sites and sights, whilst the highlanders (in two groups), ascended through the trees up the famous Balmoral hill (known and feared by the 10k community) and out into the sunshine. A splinter group also took in some of the many cairns before

descending to the bus, ably driven (as always) by Bill from First. A longer than usual stop in Ballater was undertaken for refreshments (it was our Christmas walk after all) before our return to Cults.

Evening meeting Cults Community Centre 7.30 pm		Sunday Walk Various pick up points	
5 Feb 2015	The Night Sky... It's How Far Away? Talk by Neville Browne :	15 Feb 2015	Coastal walk, Burghhead to Lossiemouth Meal afterwards at Skerry Brae Hotel, Lossiemouth 6 & 8 miles
21 Feb	Ceilidh/ Supper Dance Kippie Lodge, Start 7.30 pm		
5 March	The Work of the Cairngorms Outdoor Trust Talk by Murray Swapp	15 March	Lord Arthur's Hill 8 & 10 miles
2 April	Upland Birds – Identification and Ecology Talk by Ben Darvill	12 April	Ben Rinnes 9 & 10 miles

New members are always welcome. Why not come along and see, for yourself, the varied programme we offer? The club website <http://www.cultshillwalkingclub.org.uk/> has details of the 2014 – 2015 club walks and other activities or contact. **Chairman**, Mags Watson on 01224 325788, m.c.watson@abdn.ac.uk or **Membership Secretary** John Adams on 01224 868402, john@adamsnet.co.uk

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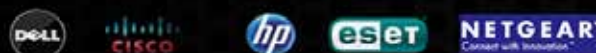
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May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy 2015?

We are delighted to welcome Dr Jill Newman who will be joining the Partnership at Cults Medical Group. Jill will work with us five sessions per week on a Monday, Tuesday and a Friday and will start at the beginning of January.

Due to the Ebola outbreak, we are asking patients who have recently returned from West Africa and who have a temperature of over 37 degrees not to visit the practice but to contact us by telephone.

The surgery will be closed for Protected Learning Time on the afternoons of Wednesday 11th February 2015 and Wednesday 11th March 2015. In case of an urgent medical emergency during that time, please contact NHS24 on 111.

In the near future we will be trialling contacting patients with test results by text message with the patient's consent. If you are happy to be contacted by this method, please ensure that the practice has your mobile number and indicate your consent. Please speak to one of our receptionists who will take your details.

Finally, we would like to thank all our patients who very kindly handed in presents to both doctors and staff over the festive period. This is very much appreciated.

Tracey Wilson
Practice Manager

Active Schools update for Cults Associated Schools Group (ASG)

It has been a busy term with an increase in the number of participants taking part, with tennis and table tennis returning after a break in the summer. The club overview has been issued and posters can be found in your child's school and on notice boards in both sports centres in the ASG. There are always opportunities to get involved with clubs, so if you are keen to get involved or would like more information, then please get in touch.

I would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate the success of four individuals. Parent volunteers, Elaine McGennis, Fiona Charles, Catherine Robertson and Mandy Ross were presented with the sportscotland Grampian Region: Volunteer of the Year Award 2014. They were nominated for the time, commitment and enthusiasm that they have given to netball over the years at Cults Primary School. They have developed the skills of many girls in the Cults ASG: the lunchtime netball club at Cults Primary has progressed to an ASG club in partnership with Active Schools and now forms the Cults Netball Club. Thank you to you all and well done in your achievement.

Active Schools Coordinator (Cults ASG): Magnus Moncrieff
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Summer bedding displays carried on longer this year due to a lack of early frosts but then replanting was delayed because the lower temperatures froze the soil in the planters. A point to be learnt for future years. That, and personal circumstances have meant that, at the time of writing, the Bieldside planters still need to be replanted!

On the positive side, an allocation of bulbs from Aberdeen City Council has been received and planted. Some 800 daffodils have been planted in the grassy areas either side of the junction of Cairn Road and North Deeside Road. Thanks are due to helpers from the Hillview Community Church who did the planting. More daffodils have been planted by members of Newton Dee. Also, about 250 crocus bulbs have been given to each of the Cults Parish Church, St Devenick's Church, the Hillview Community Church and the Deeside Fellowship Church for planting in their grounds. The variety is "Remembrance" which is pertinent to the centenary of WW1.

It is still hoped to get more planters for the North Deeside Road. The more that is put in place, the more essential it will be for additional helpers to be called upon for maintenance and new planting. So if you like what has been achieved to date and want to see more in the future, please consider offering your help. If you are able to give an hour or two once or twice a week or even a month, we are only looking for a small group of volunteers to help. Join us on facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/MBCBM and if you would like to get involved please contact Graham Payne, tel. 01224 868827.

Photo – The Hillview bulb planters



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The partners and staff are delighted to welcome our new Practice Manager to the team. Mrs Christine Dowall joined us in early January. We wish her a happy career at Peterculter.

Our seasonal flu vaccine campaign clinics were well attended again this year, with the Saturday morning sessions proving particularly popular.

Please do visit our practice website www.petercultermedicalpractice.co.uk There are many of you now using online appointment booking, and if anyone is interested in this please see details of this online or ask at reception. The online repeat prescription request service is now available, ask at reception for details of this. These services allow more convenience for you, and help to take pressure off our phone lines at busy times.

With thoughts of early spring perhaps not too far away, it is never too early to be thinking ahead to any travel immunisation requirements which may need to be planned for the summer holidays. Our practice does offer a travel service, although this requires forward planning. Reception will give you some forms to complete, and the travel nurse then plans your requirements and an appointment is made to discuss and plan these in more detail. Nowadays there are several private organisations (e.g. pharmacy businesses) which provide an excellent comprehensive travel health service, and these are probably being increasingly used, partly due to the convenience they offer.

Wishing you a healthy 2015!

Dr Douglas Harris, Peterculter

St Devenick's Playgroup News

January 2015

Last term ended with lots of Christmas sparkle at St. Devenick's. As well as the usual Christmas crafts there was a Santa's workshop where the children made their own toys out of wood.



The grand finale was a Concert-Nativity where all the parents and family came to watch the children sing the songs they had learnt with the music teacher and have a surprise visit from the Man in Red himself.

The children of St. Devenick's continue to explore, and play in their amazing garden. Over the autumn/winter term, the staff were treated

to lots of delicious muddy pies which the children could even bake in the outdoor oven! Thank you to the families who have donated old microwaves and play kitchen sets, much joy continues with to be had with them. The children have also been making camps, measuring, fixing and generally having an adventure in the garden. There is also a playground area where the children can play with the prams and trucks, seesaws and trampolines, as well as ride the scooters and trikes.

As well as muddy pies, the children also have the opportunity to do some real cooking and in conjunction with last term's ongoing theme of trees they made bird nests. Playgroup is fortunate to have a staff nutritionist who shops for all the snacks and plans the weekly snack schedule.

The playgroup committee will be holding their annual Quiz Night on Friday 27th February. Please contact playgroup for tickets.

St. Devenick's Playgroup is based at St. Devenick's Church Hall on Baillieswells Road. Playgroup runs Monday to Friday from 9:10am-12:20pm, with an optional Wednesday lunch club 12:30-1:30pm. Rising Fives is on Tuesday and Thursday, from 12:30-3pm.

The Playgroup Tots and Toddlers runs on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30am. All mums with little ones are welcome to come, have a cup of tea, and say hi to Emma while the wee ones play. If you would like further information about any of the above please contact playgroup on 01224 867431 or Justine at 01224 733055 or stdevenicksplaygroup@gmail.com.

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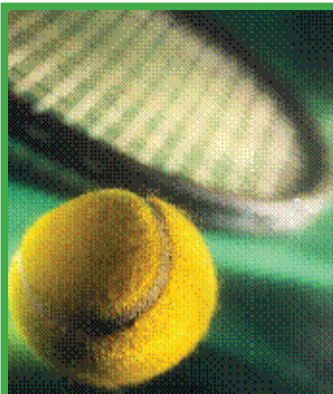
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 Contact the Coach Gareth Rennie at g.rennie@cultstennisaberdeen.co.uk or on 07714753607 for coaching details



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News from Cults LTC

Open day- Our open day in March heralds the start of the season. Predominantly to show the community at large what we offer, it provides the opportunity for budding players to meet members and have a go for free. The date will be advertised on our website. However, feel free to pop into the club at any time for a chat or email Dan (address below) for a trial session. Our focus is very much on tennis for all ages and levels with a warm welcome guaranteed.

The coming weeks will see the start of our court renovation project. Our two show courts are scheduled for resurfacing this spring, followed by the remaining four as and when funds allow but hopefully within the next two years. The club will be launching an ongoing programme of fundraising events within the community and we hope you feel able to support us.

Wimbledon Ballot- March is busy and exciting as we await the draw of the Wimbledon Ballot with great anticipation. Last year 30 sets of tickets were allocated to the club. Among them were pairs for the men's semi-finals, ladies' and men's final, no less. Let's hope for similar golden tickets this year!

Competition Season- The competition season soon begins anew but our juniors have kept busy over the winter too with Lucy Whelan (winner U16), Ben Soutar (R/U U16) and Jamie Connel (R/U U12) performing well at the Stewart Milne NE Indoor Tournament.

A full schedule will shortly be underway, starting with the Scottish Cup rounds in mid April. In the local leagues we will be fielding an amazing 6 men's teams this year and 4 ladies'.

Coaching continues throughout the year with, thus far, reasonable winter weather enabling play.

Gareth already has the Easter holiday camps planned. These are always very popular and it's wise to book well in advance.

Social tennis for members is on Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm and on Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am to 11am – come along and play!

Fundraising- Finally, we will be holding a fundraising event in aid of local cancer charity CLAN in the coming weeks – please watch the website for details.

For coaching activities contact head coach Gareth Rennie at g.rennie@cultstennisaberdeen.co.uk

For further information contact the secretary Dan Packham at d.packham@cultstennisaberdeen.co.uk or visit us at www.cultstennisaberdeen.co.uk or www.facebook.com/cultstennis



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ABERDEEN ART GALLERY... what are they doing?

Recently we signed up for a tour organised by Aberdeen Art Gallery during which we were to see the areas of the museum which are normally closed to the public. We did not really know what to expect, except the staff we had spoken to said that these tours were very popular and well received by all.

As it turned out, it was a great opportunity to see exactly why our municipal gallery is in such need of refurbishment and repair. All the staff spaces are cramped and inadequate and the old building is plagued by leaks and drainage issues. One decrepit service lift shifts staff, paintings and disabled members of the public. Many fine paintings and other artworks rarely see the light of day, because there is nowhere in the public galleries to show them. Aberdeen has an historic jewellery collection with locally made pieces which date from the Medieval era to the present day. These items and others are stored away and really deserve to be on display.

The result is that a major scheme has been approved, but as is the way of such things, it has proved controversial. The majority of the budget is being devoted to the repair and refurbishment of the existing premises, but the fact is that the money could only be raised if new accommodation was also built. This explains the inclusion of the strange copper structure on the roof of the museum which looks so incongruous to the classically proportioned original. This new floor was not the idea of the gallery staff or even our much criticised Council. This was the brainchild of Historic Scotland who insisted on this union of two wholly divergent architectural styles, with the result that not many people seem pleased with the result. It is worth speculating if this Edinburgh based custodian of taste would have enforced such an important and surprising idea on the top of W. H. Playfair's National Gallery buildings (with their strict classically inspired forms), dislodging Queen Victoria and replacing her and her sphinxes with 'patinated' copper. When that museum was comprehensively re-developed a number of years ago, the



external changes were done sympathetically to the original design. HS do not have to live with the consequences of their decisions on a daily basis, we do.

The other controversial issue has concerned the marble staircase at the entrance to the gallery. It transpires that this is in fact a wooden staircase which has been clad in marble, but is severely cracked in places. Once the staircase is demolished, the marble will be reused in the project. The loss of this impressive staircase will change the feel of the museum, but given its wooden structure, it may not be such an important feature after all.

Unexpectedly for us, the tour confirmed that there is a compelling case for this project and though the result is a bit of a compromise, this has to be better than what is there at the moment!

The McLennans

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Promoting mental health and wellbeing in our community

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“My get up and go has got up and gone”

Along with other supportive initiatives we will be holding a Well-being Festival in April/May 2015. We are looking for volunteers who would like to be involved in promoting positive mental health and resilience. If you would like to share what makes us happy and stress-free with your community, then please get in touch. Just email your contact details to Teresa Dufficy, Health Development Worker at Teresa.dufficy@acvo.org.uk or tel.07815 008700

You can also find us on twitter - @WeLoveLDeeside and on Facebook - We Love Lower Deeside. Feel free to follow us - we will follow you back and retweet your news!



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The Deeside Choristers

“So much more than just a choir”

The Deeside Choristers are an enthusiastic, friendly choir of some thirty girls, boys and adults.

We had a very busy Christmas season singing ‘9 lessons and carols’ around Aberdeenshire in Tarland, Blairs and Cumminestown as well as Carol singing in Sainsburys!

We welcome keen singers of all ages but particularly young trebles, tenors and altos from age 7 upwards. Please come along to see if you like it on Wednesdays 6.30-8pm during term time at Murtle Estate in Bieldside.

Please contact Nancy Paul with any enquiries on 01224-741378. Or look at our website deeside-choristers.org.uk

Photo: Singing with real monks at Pluscarden Abbey !

MBC festival 2015

2015 has only just begun but if there is to be a Festival this year it is time to ask for your suggestions and requests. The first planning meeting will be on Tuesday, 10th March at 2.30pm in Cults Kirk Centre, 404 North Deeside Road, Cults. We would very much like any individual, club or organisation representative interested in helping or organising an event to come along to the meeting or to contact John Page (tel.01224 867988) or Joyce Wright (tel.01224 867398). We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Rotary Club of Aberdeen Deeside News

Our Club has continued to have a busy programme of very enjoyable social activities, interesting speakers at club evenings, and fund-raising for charity during the last quarter.

The social committee organised an excellent Christmas party night at the Deeside Golf Club, with enjoyable music from Mike Smith and light-hearted games. Funds, food and drink were collected on the night for Instant Neighbour. In late October, a lively and humorous company of around 20 articulate foreign students from RGU joined us on our International Night and the following week we enjoyed a ‘partners’ visit to the Blairs Museum.

On the community front, around 20 members took part in the Cults Carol Concert early in December, collecting money for charity, distributing carol sheets, and taking a lead role in singing – all great fun. Several Rotarians also assisted with the ‘switch-on’ of the Culter Christmas Lights in late November, an event with which we are regularly connected.

As usual we have had some very talented speakers visiting us. I am always amazed by the level of talent amongst those locally who can put on an outstanding presentation. Malcolm Webster showed superb panoramic slides of Scotland’s majestic high peaks and wonderful coastline, perhaps equal in standard to those of Colin Prior, the widely acclaimed guru of Scottish high peak photography.

John Curle, chief area inspector of the SSPCA, gave us great insight into the considerable challenges of animal welfare work in the North East, including visits to ‘midden-like’ houses infested by cats, and cases of poisoning of birds of prey. He was also frank and informative in answering many questions.



Together with other local Rotary Clubs, many of our Rotarians engaged in

fund-raising for CLAN and other local charities through the Bon Accord Centre Car Raffle. Well over £50,000 was raised, a great achievement, and on December 24 the draw gave a winner from Orkney an early Christmas present of a spanking new Mini Clubman.

Forthcoming events include our Burns Evening on January 28 at the Cults Hotel. On February 18 we are joining with other Rotary Clubs in the North East at the Beach Ballroom where we will share camaraderie, and cooperate on future fund-raising for Guide Dogs. Also please come along to our Charity Race Night on February 13 at the Ashvale Chipper for lots of fun and fellowship - last year’s event was a great night out.

Our Charity Art Evening will be held at the Tree Tops on May 17. We sadly will no longer have the excellent Marcliffe venue that Stewart Spence has made available for many years, but the new location promises to be just as good. Jonathan Wheeler will feature as the ‘active’ artist for the evening and his paintings and prints will also be available for sale. As a way of involving the community more in this event we would be delighted if several local ‘supporters’ joined us in helping to organise and run the evening. This would also offer an opportunity to find out more about us, what we do, and to see whether you might like to become a Rotary member.

The Club meets on Wednesdays at 6.15 pm in the Cults Hotel and guests are very welcome. Please contact our secretary, Quentin Tweedie, 07764 939752 or qtweedie@btconnect.com, or myself at ianreid6@aol.com. Alternatively, visit our website at www.aberdeendeesiderotary.org.uk. You can also make links through Dave Anstee, Graham Payne and Derek Robb (all Community Council members).

Ian Reid, Club President

Photos show members at a goat house they built. They also gave goats for Easter Anguston VSA. The Christmas party at Deeside Golf Club where food and drinks were collected for Instant Neighbour



Sunday Services

- 9:30am & 11:30am – Morning Service
Crèche, S1-2 Bible Class
Junior Church 9:30am
Celebration Group 11:30am
- 6:00pm - Evening Service



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Church Office: 01224 733979 – www.dcfchurch.org

Weekly Activities – Term Time

We have many groups happening throughout the week that everybody is welcome to come to.

Including: The Ark baby and toddlers group, 55+ coffee morning, Mission Craft Workshop, C-Nights, Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study, Friendship in Art and Divorce Care.

We also have Explorers (P1-P3), Challengers (P4-P7) and Impact (S1-6).

For more information on any of these groups, please contact the church office, look on our church website, or download our church app for FREE on your smart phone – Just type in 'DCF Church' into your app store.



Community Workers

Elmer and Kathryn Rojas are happy to meet people in the community for a chat or just get a chance to say "hello". Feel free to telephone the Church Office on 01224 733979 or you can contact them directly on 07712326049 (Elmer) & 07889538972 (Kathryn).

Easter Services

You are also invited to join us for our Easter Services:

Good Friday April 3rd
at 7pm

Easter Sunday April 5th
at 9:30am, 11:30am & 6pm



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The Mixing Bowl's Mega Mince Pie Making Marathon

On 29th November 2014, The Mixing Bowl led a mince pie making workshop. Eleven ladies and gents arrived with their aprons ready for a fun evening to share some Christmas community spirit, learn something new for some people and kick off their food preparations for the holidays.

All ingredients, equipment, music and refreshments were supplied leaving the attendees to just have fun... and make mince pies in the process! Everyone took home a box of about 12 pies each, which had been made from scratch, a jar of their



own "Mixing Bowl made" mincemeat and even a sample of Cointreau Butter to go with it! The recipes we used can be found in the 'Recipe' section of our website. Have a look at the photos too.... you can almost smell the delicious pies that were made! You will be pleased to know that unlike the original Minced Pies, as they were called back in the Elizabethan times, they were not filled with cows' tongues!!

The Mixing Bowl has a lot of exciting evenings waiting to be rolled out in 2015. Please check the website for further details – everyone is welcome. Website: www.mixingbowl.btck.co.uk and on facebook: 'The Mixing Bowl Aberdeen'

Cults Playgroup News

Happy New Year from all at Cults Playgroup. We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break. At playgroup we welcomed several new children into the group during November and December 2014 and look forward to more joining us in early 2015.

Last term was full of special days and celebrations. Halloween saw all the children doing 'spooky' art and craft, dressing up, and bobbing for apples. A special thank you to all who attended the Playgroup Halloween Fayre, for making wonderful home bakes, for donating goods, and for helping during a very successful afternoon.

Book Week Scotland, from 24th to 28th November, allowed the children to bring in their favourite books from home. The role play area was used for the 'Three Little Pigs' with big bricks, sticks and straw used imaginatively. Later in the week 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' set up house!



During December there was much enjoyment on the theme of Christmas. A wide variety of art and craft activities used large quantities of glitter and brightly coloured paints. A big thank you to our mystery donor who gave us a tree for the Cults Parish Church 'Christmas Tree Festival'. The children were very impressed with the Christmas message on the reindeer antler. It led to much discussion about how it had arrived at the North Hall! The children enjoyed making decorations, dressing the tree, and finally visiting the church. Thank you also to Minister Ewen, for taking the time to read the nativity story to the children. The end of term finished with a party and 'Sing-Along' Concert for parents, carers and friends which was enjoyed by all.

In amongst all these activities we have continued to use the garden despite the colder weather. Thank you once again, Elizabeth, for helping us sort and plant our bulbs. They are already poking their heads above ground and have been noticed by the children.



The playgroup committee continue to be busy and look forward to hosting the ever popular 'Burns Night Supper' on 24th January 2015. So dig out your kilt and dancing shoes in preparation for an exciting night!

Cults Playgroup runs each morning of the week in the North Hall, Quarry Road, from 9 am until 12.10 pm. If you would like to know more, then do get in touch: mobile 07842 470828 or email cultsplaygroup@gmail.com

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Friday Club : Fri 12.20pm - 2.40 pm

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milltimberplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

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FUNDRAISERS WANTED!



Do you have some spare time and would like to help disadvantaged children cope with the challenges they face? Nature Nurture are looking for people with fundraising knowledge and expertise to join their Friends of Nature Nurture group.



The Nature Nurture mission is to improve the life chances of disadvantaged and vulnerable children experiencing challenges at home, at school and in the community.

Many of the children they work with, aged from 18 months – 12 years old, come from families affected by substance misuse, alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Nature Nurture is an early intervention programme that tackles vulnerability and promotes resilience by combining free play and nurturing interactions in natural environments.

The project is a collection of programmes split into three age groups: 2 – 5 years, 5 – 8 years, and 8 – 12 years. Groups are kept small, with typically 10 children per programme and ratios of two children to each adult to ensure the best possible care and highly attuned support. They prepare detailed observations and chart the development of resilience in each child, providing quality reports and recommendations to referring professionals. They also develop good relationships with the wider family, with siblings, parents and grandparents. Parents are encouraged to join their child at Nature Nurture, not only to see what the project is about, but to be supported and benefit from time in nature themselves.

Each programme has a half-day session every week during term time. In the school holidays the 5 – 8 year olds and 8 – 12 year olds attend the Holiday Project, a five day intensive project that is run three times a year.

The project accesses a variety of natural environments in the grounds of Camphill Schools, Aberdeen. Programmes have carefully planned routes through environments that help children play and socialise, allowing them to explore and challenge themselves while giving them the freedom to be creative. Children are collected by minibus either from school, nursery or home, and brought out to the woodlands in Bielside and Milltimber, to experience the best natural environments this part of Scotland has to offer.

If you are interested in joining Friends of Nature Nurture more information can be found at www.naturenurture.org.uk/ and also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NatureNurture. Alternatively, please contact Beth Finnigan at Nature Nurture, Railway cottage Bielside, tel. 01224 868963/007977001078

Cults Cricket Club

By the time this article is published, cricketers in the North-East should be stirring from their winter hibernation and turning their thoughts to that wonderful game. Questions come to mind readily: does my kit still fit? In extreme cases, where is my kit? Have I oiled my bat? Cleaned my pads? Have I survived another winter? Do I want some exercise during the spring and summer?

If you are interested in cricket in the area please give me a call. Cults CC are a friendly club offering cricket for all levels of ages and ability. We are fortunate to have our own ground at the fabulous Allan Park. It is a great place to play cricket, especially when the River Dee is not in flood and the tide is out. As a purely amateur club, funding is always an issue. So if any businesses or individuals in the area wish to sponsor Cults CC please give me a call.

Ian Sutherland - Treasurer Cults Cricket Club
Call: 07815 637407
email: thesutherlandfamily@btinternet.com



The Milltimber O50 Club

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

The Milltimber O50 Club is an 'Over 50s' social group which was formed 15 years ago and has a current membership of around 90. The club is organised by its members and everyone is welcome to contribute in some way or other to its running.

We organise a wide range of activities throughout the year including talks, socials, theatre visits, walks of various lengths and standards, eating out and visits to places of interest. During the winter season we meet once a month at the Milltimber Community Association Building on a Wednesday at 2:00pm.

Our programme is displayed on the notice boards at the entrance to the MCA Community Building and across the road from the post box in Bingham Crescent. Members receive programme updates directly by e mail or post. Details of the monthly walks are notified separately from the programme. An extract from our programme is below:

Social Evening at Deeside Golf Club

Friday the 20th February

Talk : Surgery and Aberdeen; Carbolic, Vitamin D and MRSA
by Professor Hugh Pennington

Wednesday 25th February 2.pm at the MCA Hall

HM Theatre Visit

Jersey Boys: The story of Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons

Wednesday 4th March. Matinee at 2 pm (followed by a meal)

Talk : Scottish Castles by David Miller

Wednesday 25th March 2.pm at MCA Hall

If you are interested in joining us you can contact us (John & Janet Park, Tel. 01224 733057 or Robin & Aileen Dyer, Tel. 01224 733850) or simply come along to the Community Building at 2 pm on a Wednesday to one of our monthly talks.

We look forward to meeting you.

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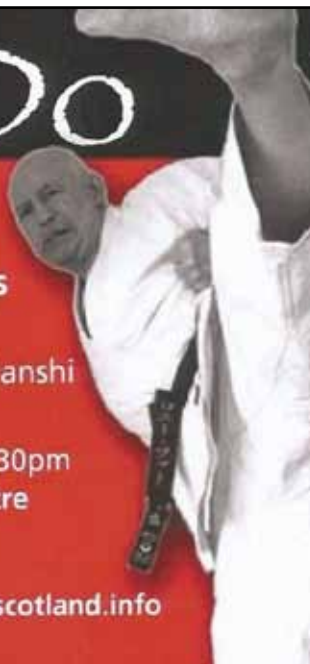
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Insecure Property Warning: It appears that there are still those of us in the community who feel that crimes like theft will not happen to them, as they continue to leave vehicles, garages and houses unsecured. This has resulted in property and motor vehicles being illegally entered and items stolen, including the motor vehicles themselves.

The public should follow the advice given below to help prevent this type of opportunistic crime being committed in the first place.

Do not leave your house, garage or shed doors unlocked, thereby giving criminals an open invitation, because they will take advantage of the opportunity

Do not leave your vehicle unlocked, even when it is in your own driveway

Do not leave your vehicle keys just inside the front door of your home. Try to leave them out of view and somewhere more unusual, such as a kitchen cupboard or similar.

The Old Railway Line

I love to glide down the Old Railway Line,
where trees make canopies of new leaves.
While below a vegetation revives,
shafts of sunlight and shade pass me by.

Clusters of Snowdrops and Daffodils,
are scattered, and then the garlic heads,
spread their strong windblown fragrance all around.
I inhale deeply as I pass by.

Sometimes there's a brief open vista towards the Dee,
across the golf course, between houses, over fields.
Past Cults, Bielside and Murtle old platforms
I watch the trees sway as I pass by.

The days are lengthening, the colours forming.
The season's changing, the temperature rising.
A patch of sunlight between those clouds
My jacket's still zipped as I glide gently by.

The wheels turn as my momentum continues,
I pass joggers, dog walkers and families too.
With a swift ring of my loud ding dong bell,
The group parts before I pass them by.

Ride on to Culter where the Dee curves,
Briefly on the quiet road, heading for Drumoak,
Perhaps to Crathes? through new pale leafed beech glades.
I feel tranquillity, as I pass by.

By Margaret Cook



Camphill School Aberdeen

As always, this term has been very busy culturally with a performance of A Christmas Carol by the drama 'club' one of the highlights. We have also had Halloween parties, Advent Gardens, Advent Sales, Christmas plays and celebrations, and a visit from St Nicholas. It was also lovely to see some of our former pupils starring in Newton Dee's production of the Wizard of Oz, and one of our youngsters in the Culter Panto.

During the term we hosted a visit from Angela Scott, the new Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council, on 18th November. Following her visit she wrote: "I recently visited Camphill School Aberdeen and thoroughly enjoyed my visit. The tranquillity offered by the setting of the sites was lovely and there was a nice sense of peace all around as well as a nice smell of home cooking! All the staff and co-workers were very welcoming and all the young children I met seemed to be realising their potential which was nice to see. I enjoyed spending time with the student council even though they ate all the biscuits! Thank you everyone for letting me visit."

During the last months, five new children and young people have been admitted which has given a boost to everyone. At the same time a pilot arrangement with Linn Moor has begun, which supports their youngsters using our facilities, confirming to us that what we are providing is wanted both locally and nationally. The current amount of interest in Camphill School is almost unprecedented and harks back to 20 years ago with applications coming from far and wide as well as locally for all the services that we offer across our whole age range.

All the hurdles have been overcome and the new BA in Social Pedagogy, having passed through the RGU validation committee, is all set to begin in January. We are glad our collaboration with RGU has borne fruit and we look forward to supporting the students as they develop through the course, and to the enhancement they will bring to our workforce.

Laurence Alfred



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The Himalayas strike back in the UK – it is balmy!

You may have read in the press recently about tourist overcrowding in the Himalayan Mountains to the extent that climbers are almost queuing up to access Mount Everest. Not many people realise that already for years the mountain range is conducting an undercover reprisal invasion in many countries of the world, including Scotland. The invaders operate under the code names of Policeman's Helmet, Bobby Tops, Copper Tops, Mersey Weed, Touch-me-not, Jumping Jack or Gnome's Hatstand, but these are all aliases for Himalayan Balsam, the good looking, sweet smelling plant that utilizes explosive seedpods for its offensive mission.

What is Himalayan Balsam? It is an annual plant with attractive, pink to white, orchid-like flowers, which grows up to 10 ft tall. Around August the explosive fruit pods eject an average of 800 seeds per plant up to several metres distance.

How did it get here?

According to research by Professor Ian Rotherham of Sheffield Hallam University ('Invasive and Introduced Plants and Animals') the species was introduced in the UK in 1839 as a greenhouse plant and within a few decades had escaped into the wild. Especially after the Second World War it spread rapidly throughout the UK. There is now barely a part of lowland Britain free of this pretty menace. According to the research this was helped in no small way by people who liked the plant and

distributed the seeds - as if the explosive invader needed any help!

Why is it a menace? It successfully competes with native plant species for space, light, nutrients and pollinators, and excludes other plant growth, thereby reducing native biodiversity. On banks of rivers (including the River Dee) it grows in almost impenetrable thickets and will bully out any other species. Its plentiful nectar means that bumblebees pollinate it rather than native species. Being an annual, it dies back in winter, leaving the banks bare and vulnerable to erosion.

What can we do about it? The good news is that the plant is not dangerous to humans, it can even be eaten! Allegedly the seedpods have a pleasant nutty taste (Richard Maybe, 'Flora Britannica'). For removal it is best to cut it down before it flowers and seeds in August. Last year, having been informed by the community council, the Aberdeen Ranger Service cut down the growth along the railway line path. It was also announced that The River Dee Trust together with the Dee Catchment Partnership have secured funds to carry out a three year programme to treat the riverbanks from Maryculter downstream to Aberdeen Harbour.

Unfortunately the clearing efforts will not lead to a complete extermination. Regular control followed by repeat action will remain necessary. The Ranger Service maintains a register of occurrences in and around the city to schedule clearing operations. If you notice the Balsam growing anywhere in the area, please report this to 01224 897400 or lochinch@abereencity.gov.uk

Is there anything else one can do? Since 2006, scientists of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International (CABI) in Surrey have been working on the problem and have discovered a rust fungus which controls Himalayan Balsam biologically. The fungus was released for field testing in the second half of 2014 on three strictly controlled sites in Berkshire and Cornwall. This may be a more cost-effective long-term solution but further testing is required and there are obvious risks to the application.

*Some of the information in the above was gathered from an article in the Observer by David Randall (July 2013).

Picture is from the CABI website.

An ad this size is an eighth of a page
It costs £30 for a single issue or
£110 for four issues
Tel Fiona - 01224 86589

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9 Braehead Terrace, Milltimber AB13 0EB



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Louise tel. 07708 017287

jazzercisewithlouise@gmail.com

Jazzercise-uk.com

Anyone know of an Investment Club in our area?

For a number of years I was a member of an investment club in Stonehaven. We met monthly at each others' houses and invested money in the stockmarket. The principle of the club is that you set up a Direct Debit and put some money into the club account. In our case we put in £25 per month. The number of members varied but we never went beyond 12 people. Each month you review the shares the club holds and decide whether or not you should buy, sell or keep that share. You also look at proposals from the members at new shares to buy. It is up to each club to decide its rules, but we never went beyond 24 shares. Each member is given a couple of the shares in which to take a particular interest and on which they report back each each month.

The club has a Secretary, to produce the minutes of each meeting and a Treasurer, who runs the software which keeps a record of the value of the shares and the value of each member's investment.

Some members had never invested before nor opened the business section of the paper. The hadn't looked at the many sites available for stockmarket information, but all agreed that being a member of the club had taught them a lot about financial affairs.

Unfortunately that club has now closed so I would be interested in knowing if there if something similar in the MBC area which would be open to new members? Alternatively, if there are enough people in the area interested in taking part in an investment club, we could set one up.

On the social side of our last club, the hostess provided wine and nibbles at the monthly meeting and twice a year we had a party or meal together.

If you are interested in reading more about investment clubs, here are a couple of websites:

<http://www.proshareclubs.co.uk>

<http://www.sharesmagazine.co.uk/articles/join-the-club#.VK99HIKpi1s>

If you know of any existing club or are interested in joining a new one, please

contact me, Eleanor Brennan, Tel. 01224-862262.



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Golden Garden Dream Comes True Thanks to Local People's Support

One of the Camphill charities based in Bieldside, Simeon Care for the Elderly, has secured £45,000 in the People's Millions competition after receiving an outstanding 10,473 votes on 26 November 2014. Simeon's Golden Garden will provide a therapeutic haven for the residents in the new care home they are building.

Jeannie Carlson, the Manager, said "The response we received was overwhelming. We would like to say a very warm thank you to everyone who voted for us and helped with the campaign. For so many elderly people, being outside is a great joy. To be able to offer that same simple pleasure in a care home that is now their home is essential."

Work on the garden will begin in spring, and the new 23 bed care home will be opening its doors in May 2015. We plan to hold an Open Day during the MBC Festival and look forward to showing you our new home. But the building needs to be kitted out with those little life essentials, ranging from tea pots and flower vases to coffee tables and armchairs.

The charity is appealing for your help to transform the building into a home:



Simeon has places for **Run Balmoral** and would like to welcome you to join Team Simeon. Places are available for the 5k, 10k, 15 mile and Duathlon events.

You can make a donation directly to our charity:

- Virgin Money Giving - www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/SimeonCarefortheElderly
- Post or hand in a Cheque payable to 'Simeon Care for the Elderly'

For further details, please contact Gayle Johnston on gayle@simeoncare.org.uk or 01224 865820

Our warmest thanks for your support and generosity.

Cairnlee Road, Bieldside, AB15 9BN www.simeoncare.org.uk Charity Number SC012239



21st Aberdeen (Cults) Scout Group
Scottish Registered Charity No. SC 018385
www.21staberdeenscouts.org.uk

JUMBLE



Saturday 16th May 2015

10am – 4pm

Scout Centre, South Avenue, Cults

Admission

£1 Adults

50p Children

*Please bring jumble donations to the Scout Centre from 11th to 15th May
(1000-1200hrs or 1300-1500hrs or 1900-2100hrs)*

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What's On Locally

First of all, Happy New Year! I hope 2015 is a happy, healthy, active year for you all.

In early 2014 I was diagnosed with cancer but thanks to modern technology and treatment I am much better and am now slowly getting back to my various volunteering activities.

I have updated a lot of Office Bearers / Contacts for activities in this edition. I am also pleased to add Laura McKay's new Pilates class at the WRI Hall to our list.

Please notify me of any changes, deletions or additions which need to be made. This listing is only as good as the information I receive!

Eleanor Brennan, Tel 862262, email: brennaneleanor@yahoo.co.uk

Volunteer Wanted

Do you have a few hours to spare?

If you would like to volunteer to join the team and help Fiona with the advertisements the MBC team would like to hear

from you.

**Contact Fiona on
Tel 01224 865489**



**Gladstone-Noble
Tree Surgery** Est. 2013

- NPIC Certified
- Felling
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Contact Coran

Email: yogabycoran@gmail.com

Abbreviations for the venues

CA -	Cults Academy
CAP -	Cults Academy Pool
CKC-	Cults Kirk Centre
CPCWC -	Cults Parish Church Worship Centre
CPS -	Cults Primary School
DCFC -	Deeside Christian Fellowship Church, Milltimber
HCC -	Hillview Community Church
ISP -	International School, Pitfodels
KCC -	Kingswells Community Centre
KMCC -	Kaimhill Community Centre
MCAH -	Milltimber Community Association Hall
MEHC -	Murtle Estate Hall, Camphill
MPS -	Milltimber Primary School
PCH -	Peterculter Church Hall
PCND -	Phoenix Centre, Newton Dee
PSP-	Peterculter Sports Centre
PVH -	Peterculter Village Hall
SCC -	Scout Centre, South Ave, Cults
SCPT -	Scout Centre, Pitstruan Terrace, Aberdeen
SDCH -	St. Devenick's Church Hall, Bieldside
SMH -	St. Martin's Hall, Cairnlee
SPHH -	St. Peter's Heritage Hall, Peterculter
SWP -	Shell Woodbank, Pitfodels
WRIH -	WRI Hall, Kirk Crescent, Cults
WSC -	Waldorf School, Craigton Road, Cults

Has your local group done anything spectacular this season?

An unusual way of fundraising...a good turn for the neighbourhood...just had a really good couple of months.

Let us know at MBC News as we'd love to publish it for you. Even better if you have some photographs to highlight it.

Send to Christine the Editor see page 2 for details Get thinking... Get writing...

Fitness, Sport and Dance

BADMINTON - JUNIOR, CA

Saturdays, 1.30 - 5.30pm Sept to April
Contact Mike Stokeld, Tel. 735447

BADMINTON - ADULT, CA

Tuesdays, 7.30 - 10.00pm
Gordon Inglis, Tel : 730256

BADMINTON - SOCIAL, MCAH

Mondays, 1.30 - 3.00pm
Wednesdays, 10.00am - 12.00noon
Contact Marion Anderson, Tel : 732505

CULTS BOWLING CLUB

All ages very welcome. Summer Bowling, Winter Activities Contact David Steele, Tel : 868485
www.cultsbowlingclub.weebly.com

CANOE CLUB, CAP

Fridays, 7.50 - 10.00 p.m. Contact Jim Kinnear 313149 or Kenny Brown, Tel. 07788-507275

CULTS CRICKET CLUB

Contact Ian Sutherland, Tel : 742833

CYCLISTS' TOURING CLUB

GRAMPIAN
Weekly rides led by trained leaders. Cyclists at all levels of ability and newcomers welcome
Contact Gerard Vlaar, Tel. 734799
www.ctcgrampian.org.uk/runs

CULTS FIT FOLK, HCC

For men and women over 55.
Wednesdays 10.00-11.00 am Contact Ellie Whyte, Tel : 861204

CULTS SPORTS COMPLEX, CA

Open Mon- Fri, 16.00 - 22.00 & 08.30-17.00 on weekends.
Fitness Suite, Exercise Classes, Indoor Swimming Pool, 2 Sports Halls, Dance Studio and AstroTurf pitch
Contact 866282
See separate article in the magazine for full details.

FLEX 'n STRETCH TO THE BEAT, PSC

Mondays 8.00 - 9.00 p.m. Varied fitness levels.
Contact Anne Low, Tel. 868553

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY, PSC

Wed, 4.00-5.00pm 5-8 year olds
Contact Dons in the Community - Tel : 650472 or 650432

PRE-SCHOOL FOOTBALL (KCC)

Mon, 1.00-1.30 p.m., 1.30-2.00 p.m., 2.00-2.30 p.m.
Fri, 9.30-10.00 a.m. 10.00-10.30 a.m. 1.30-2.00 p.m.
(Classes also available at Airyhall Community Centre)
Contact Alison McLeod Tel 314669

CULTER YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Boys' and Girls' Teams, aged 6 to 19 years. Training most days
Contact Paul Stein, Mob. 07714292311
www.clubwebsite.co.uk/
culteryouthfootballclub

GRAMPIAN CARDIAC

REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

Exercise classes at Kippie Lodge, Milltimber, RGU Sports Garthdee and other venues in Aberdeen
Contact Douglas Pacitti, Tel: 01569 763372 e: d.pacitti@gcra.org.uk or speak to the Cardiac Nurse at Cults Surgery w: www.gcra.org.uk

CULTS HILLWALKING CLUB, CPS

Indoor session 1st Thursday of the month, 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Walks on Sundays, 10 days after the meeting!
Contact Andy Roberts, Tel. 733710 or Jim Howie, Tel. 733954

KARATE

Various sessions around this area - see website for full list. Mondays 6.30 - 8.00 p.m., ISP Fridays 4.30 - 5.30 p.m. CPS
Contact Ronnie Watt, Tel. 734607
www.karate-scotland.info

JAZZERCISE, WRIH

Wednesdays, 7.00 p.m. Contact Louise, Tel. 467567 Email: loargo@talktalk.net

FRISKIS & SVETTIS- SWEDISH

STYLE KEEP FIT

Monday 7.30pm, HCC, Basic (Rosey)
Thursday 9.30am, HCC, Basic (Gavin)
Saturday 11.00am, HCC Basic (Rota)
For more info contact Rosey 310380
Just turn up - no need to sign up for a block - all welcome

PILATES, PSC

Peterculter Sports Centre :
Mon. afternoon, Tues afternoon evening, Thurs. evening
Camphill School, Murtle Wed. evenings
Cults Parish Church Worship Centre :
Fri. mornings All classes must be booked in advance.
Contact Solveig Dahle Smith, Tel. 861421 solveig@pilatesaberdeen.com
www.pilatesaberdeen.com

PILATES (WRIH)

Wednesdays 6.00 - 7.00 p.m.
Classes run by a trained physiotherapist
Contact Laura McKay, Mob. 07734 312798,
email laura@physiotherapilates.co.uk
www.physiotherapilates.co.uk

SOCCER FOR 5-10 YR OLDS, CPS

Wednesday afternoons, term time only
3.30 - 4.30 Boys and Girls aged 5 - 7
4.30 - 5.30 Boys and Girls aged 8 - 10
Contact Ian Wilson, 07770-996767

SOCCER FOR OVER 30'S, CPS

Thursdays, 7.30 - 9.00 p.m.
Contact Alistair Brown, Tel. 861314

PETERCULTER SPORTS CENTRE

Coronation Road, Peterculter
Tel : 732069
Fitness studio, aerobics classes, creche.
Monthly membership or ad hoc prices



MD

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- * Home Deliveries

Tel : 0845 456 1902 Fax: 01224 869864
345 North Deeside Road, Cults, Aberdeen, AB15 9SX

CULTS OTTERS SWIMMING CLUB, CAP

Development swimming classes and Junior Coaching sessions. Contact Jo Gibson, Tel. 868124
Email: cults.otters.lts@gmail.com
Website: www.cultsotters.org.uk

SWIMMING - LIFESAVING CLUB (ADULTS 14+/ROOKIES/JUNRS 10+)

Mondays 6.30-9.30pm
contact Anne Gwynne - Tel : 868846

SWIMMING, CAP

Sat - Sun 9.00 - 12 noon
Public sessions, Adult lane swimming, Children's inflatable sessions - ring for times of sessions.

Continues during school holidays.
Contact Sports Aberdeen, Tel. 866282

TAI CHI, (ATCC'88), CPCWC

Wednesdays, 7.00 - 9.30pm
Contact Don Wells - Tel : 645521

TAI CHI, SMH

Mondays, 1.00-2.30pm
Contact Neil or Nicolette - Tel : 01330-850675

CULTS LAWN TENNIS CLUB

32 Abbotshall Place, Cults
See separate item in MBC News for full details. Contact Dan Packham (Sec.)
d.packham@cultstennisaberdeen.co.uk or
Gareth Rennie, (Head Coach),
g.rennie@cultstennisaberdeen.co.uk
www.cultstennisaberdeen.co.uk

WOODBURN WALKING GROUP

Rambling for the over 50s
Meet alternate Tuesdays at
Hazlehead Bus Terminus. Travel by
hire bus. Average walk +/- 7 miles.
Contact Bill, Tel. 318313 or Frances
Tel. 821753

YOUTH HOCKEY COACHING

Tuesdays, 5.45 - 7.00 p.m., end Aug
to Easter - Robert Gordon's College
pitches, Countesswells Road. Run by
Gordonians Hockey Club but boys and
girls from P4 to S4 from all schools are
welcome. Sticks can be provided. More
details at
www.gordonianshockey.com

AURINKO YOGA

Sundays, 4.30-6.00pm Contact Aidan
Mulkerrin, 07710-495552

YOGA, CKC

Wednesdays, 7.00 - 8.30 p.m,
Contact Fiona Britee, Tel. 487712

YOGA, CKC

Mondays, 10.00 - 11.30,
Gentle Restorative Chair-based Yoga
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Discounts for accompanying carers.
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Yoga for Health and Vitality.
Develop strength, flexibility and
balance. Contact Marian van
Oorschot, Tel. 863985 or
marianoorschot@icloud.com.

Dancing

ABERDEEN KILT KICKERS AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE CLUB (WRIH)

Mondays 7.30 - 9.00 p.m Beginners
9.00 - 10.00 Mainstream Dancers
Thursdays 7.30-10.00 p.m.
Mainstream and Plus Dancers
Contact Tom White, Tel. 318963 or email
tomwhite46@gmail.com.

RAGGIE MORRISON'S LADIES CLOG DANCING, SDCH

Ladies of all ages and beginners
especially welcome.
Meet Wednesdays 7.45 - 10.00 pm
Contact Rosemary Crabbe-Wyke - Tel
: 07950-086739 or Moira Skingley - Tel
: 867801

DANS SENIOR, PSC -

Fridays 11.00-12.00 during term time
Disco, Jazz, Rock, Swing - there's no age
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just simple, inspiring moves. No need
to book, just come along! £3.50 for
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members.
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Mob 07885288121 or www.fsaberdeen.
co.uk

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Scottish Country Dancing for primary
school children
Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Contact Judith Riddoch, Tel 865909 or
email judithriddoch@aol.com

KAREN BERRY SCHOOL OF DANCE

Classes for children and adults
available in Cults and Peterculter
For details see website www.
danscentre.com or contact Karen
Berry, Tel. 647341

TAYLOR SCHOOL OF DANCE, MCAH

Recreational & Vocational classes
available
Classical Ballet, Modern Theatre, Tap,
Jazz, Street Jazz, Boys Only Street Moves,
Contemporary & Parent and Toddler
Dance
Contact Helen Colleran, Mob. 07531-
811506
E-Mail - admin@taylordance.com
w: www.taylordance.com

GENTLE EXERCISE, INCL DANCE, CPCWC

Thursdays, 2.30 - 3.30 p.m. Sept to
Dec., Jan. to Mar. Contact Fiona Murray,
Tel. 702305

FOLK DANCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD (PCND)

Adults. Wed. 7.00 -8.30 p.m. (school
term times only) Contact Andrea
Thompson, Tel. 781232

MAINLY MUSIC, HCC

Music and movement for pre-
preschoolers and their caregivers,
followed by coffee and chat for the
adults while the children play.
Thursdays 9.45 a.m. Contact Iris Johns
07764 940176 or e-mail info@hillview.cc

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING, WRIH

Tuesdays, 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. (mid Sept.
to end March) Contact Sheila Fyfe, Tel.
868164

Volunteer Wanted

**Do you have a few hours
to spare?**

If you would like to
volunteer to join the team
and help Fiona with the
advertisements the MBC
team would like to hear

from you.

**Contact Fiona on
Tel 01224 865489**



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Hobbies and Social

55+ SOCIAL GROUP, DCFC

Coffee mornings, lunches, visiting speakers, outings and more 2nd Monday of the month. Contact the church office for details, tel. 733979

CULTS O50 CLUB, CPCWC

Wednesdays, Lunch from 12.00 Announcements/speaker 12.45 Other activities include bridge and scrabble, walks, theatre, cinema, local history outings, garden visits, art appreciation, a book group – the list is endless! Open to anyone over 50, not only Cults residents
Details of activities on the website <http://www.cultsparishchurch.co.uk/O50/Index.htm>
Contact Margaret Wood, Tel. 310685 or Lizzie Thomas, Tel. 869413

MILLTIMBER O50 CLUB, MCAH

Meet monthly in the winter on Wednesdays at 2.00 p.m. for talks. Other social events include walks, cycle rides, theatre visits, outings, garden visits, lunch outings and city breaks.
Annual favourites are BBQ Games night and a Christmas Party. Open to anyone over 50. New members are welcome.
Contact John Park, Tel. 733057 or Robin Dyer, Tel 732445 or the website <http://www.genbase.co.uk/MilltimberO50/>

ADULT ART CLASSES, HCC

Wednesdays, 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.
Contact Jenny Hunter, Tel. 07751715343

CULTS ART CLUB, CCC

This is a self help group for Adults held in Cults Community Centre on Wednesday nights from 1930 to 2130 during school term.
Contact Gordon Crooks tel. 07784838341

ABERDEEN BRIDGE CLUB

14 Rubislaw Terrace, Tel : 644773
Monday to Thursday - 7-10pm
Adult Lessons Wed - 7pm Sept - April

CAFÉ ONE, DCFC

Thurs 9:15am-12:00 (term time only)

COMMUNITY FOOD GROUP, SDCH

meets monthly in St Devenick's church hall. Restarts Friday 26 September (see ad) or contact Rachel Gembro: 07964 698789 or Kalpa Tan 07765 881017

CULTER BRIDGE CLUB, PVH

Fridays, 1.15 – 4.00 pm
Sept.- April Contact Peter Garioch Tel : 324691

CALLIGRAPHY GROUP

Sessions arranged according to demand
Contact Isobel Archibald, Tel. 867303

THE HUB CKC

Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 pm

MILLTIMBER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, MCAH

Wide range of activities for all ages
General enq Andrew, Tel. 739797
To hire the hall Margaret, Tel. 732477
www.milltimbercommunityhall.com or Facebook 'Milltimber Community Hall'

CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK CLASS

Fridays, 1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. 10 week courses £50.00 Beginners and more experienced catered for
Contact Yvonne Weir, Tel. 732098 / weir323@btinternet.com

ABERDEEN CHORUS - SWEET ADELINES INTL.

LOVE to sing? Then join Aberdeen Chorus of Sweet Adelines Monday evenings 19:00 - 21:45 Westburn Park Bowling Club Lounge Aberdeen, AB25 3DE
Mob Contact 07590690392
www.aberdeenchorus.co.uk

ALBACAPPELLA, SPHH

Members of the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers (LABBS) Recruiting Ladies who Love2Sing.
St Peter's Heritage Hall, Howie Lane, Peterculter, Aberdeen AB14 0PU
Wednesdays 7.30pm until 9.45pm
Tel:07966936899 or email: enquiries@albacappella.co.uk

CITY OF ROSES CHORUS

Ladies singing in 4 part harmony, Drumoak Church Hall. Mondays, 7.15 – 10.00 p.m.
Contact Mika Mackenzie, Tel. 742004

DEESIDE CHORISTERS, MEHC

Wednesdays, 6.15 – 8.00 p.m.
Prospective members most welcome
Contact Nancy Paul, Tel. 741378

DRESSMAKING GROUP, KMCC

Thursdays, 09.30-11.30 a.m.
Couture trained tutor. Beginners welcome. Phone Kaimhill Community Centre, Tel. 311996

FOLK EVENING, CKC

Monthly on the 2nd Friday, 7.30 p.m.
Both musicians and listeners most welcome. Bring your own beverage.
Contact Jan Johnson, Tel. 867951

ABERDEEN GAELIC CLUB

Aberdeen Gaelic Club brings together Gaelic speakers and individuals interested in Gaelic language and culture. The Club organises Gaelic language evening classes, day courses and other social activities including a monthly coffee afternoon on the last Saturday of each month (except July and December) in the Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace, Aberdeen, 2.30-4.30pm to which all are welcome. Tel 07779 398289 or email clubgaidhlig@gmail.com for more information.



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Tel: 07786 827714

CULTS LIBRARY

Opening times currently under review.

For info Tel : 868346

Email : cultslibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Visit : http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library/library_menu.asp

CULTS LUNCH CLUB, CKC

Mondays 12.00 – 2.00 p.m. (except July) New members most welcome. Contact Jacky Hatchwell, Tel.861736

MISSIONARY CRAFT WORKSHOP, DCFE

2nd & 4th Wed. of the month, 10:00am-12:00

Contact Wilma Ewen, tel. 868202

NEEDLES AND NATTER, SPHH

1st Tuesday of the month, 8.00 – 10.00 p.m.

Contact Claire Hudson, Mob. 07501-388734

PETROLEUM WOMEN'S CLUB

International friendship club for women connected to the oil industry. Meetings with speaker, 1st Thursday of the month. Coffee mornings, 3rd Thursday of the month.

Other activities include ten pin bowling, walks, bridge, golf, dinner club, mah-jong and a book group. Contact Denise Wishaw, Tel. 898012 or Liz Gove, Tel. 876169 or email pwcmembership@yahoo.co.uk www.pwcos.com

ROTARY CLUB OF ABERDEEN DEESIDE

Wednesday 's 6.15 for 6.45 pm in the Cults Hotel. For further information contact the secretary Quentin Tweedie on 01224 868218 email qtweedie@btconnect.com

SALTIRE SOCIETY

Promotes all things Scottish. Meets monthly on Tuesdays, normally in Rubislaw Parish Church. Contact D J Robertson, Tel. 484061

SCRABBLE CLUB, MCAH

Fridays, 2.00-4.00pm Players at any level are very welcome Contact Joan Thomas - Tel : 733218

LEARN SPANISH

Private classes given to individuals and small groups by a native Spanish speaker. Contact Carmenza Inglis, Mob. 07557-194415
Email: hola_aberdeen@hotmail.com

CULTS STRATHSPEY & REEL SOCIETY, CPCWC

Meet every 2nd Wednesday, 7.00 -9.00 p.m.

Accordionists and string players welcome.

Contact Myra Noble, Tel. 867433.

ABERDEEN TOASTMASTERS (PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB)

Meets at Northern Arts Club (NAC), 1st, 3rd, 5th Thursdays of every month - 7.00-9.00pm Visitors are welcome - no cover charge.

www.aberdeentostmasters.org.uk
Contact Matthew Mtumbuka - Tel : 861028

Email : matthews@mtumbuka.com

UPHOLSTERY AND CRAFT CLASSES, WRIH

Tuesdays, 9.30-12.30 p.m. and 1.00 -4.00 p.m. New students welcome at any time.

Refreshments provided

Contact Susan Roe-Curran, Mob. 07773521389

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE, WRIH

1st Thursday of every month, 7.30-9.30 p.m.

(Not July or August)

Contact Moira Morris, Tel.861756 or Vicki Fletcher, Tel. 865667

GRAMPIAN WOODTURNERS, SDCH

Meet last Sunday in the month, 2.00 p.m. New members are most welcome. Meetings consist of member participation, demonstrations etc.,
Contact Bill Diack, Tel. 01467-622772



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Children & Youth Groups

AIR TRAINING CORPS

107(Aberdeen) Squadron,
Prince Charles Cadet Centre, Albury Road , Ferryhill, AB11 6TL
Parade Mon & Wed 19.00-21.30hrs. Open to Boys and Girls aged 13-17
w: www.107aircadets.org
e:107@aircadets.org Tel. 590679

BUOYANCY SWIM, CAMPHILL SCHOOL, BIELDSIDE

30 minute sessions, Tues.12.30 – 15.00
Thurs. 12.30 – 14.00, Fri. 12.30-16.00
Adult and Baby (3-12 months), Adult and Toddler (1-2 years), Adult and Child (2+ years),
Pre school (4 years + without their parent in the pool).
Contact Julie McQuillan, Tel. 318651, Mob. 07906 863246 or email: buoyancy@btinternet.com

CASPER AFTER SCHOOL CLUB, CPS

Contact Marion Skea -
Tel : 07762-250550

MILLTIMBER BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB, MPS

Mon. – Fri, 7.30 to 9.00 a.m. and 2.45 to 6.00 p.m.
Contact Clare Anderson,
Mob. 07890-862774

CULTS TODDLER GROUP. (CPCWC)

Thursdays 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. during term-time
Contact Laura Bain, Mob. 07568-154998 or email Laurabain1979@gmail.com

PARENT & TODDLER GROUP, DCFE

Tuesdays 9.45-11.30 a.m.
Contact Morven Noble, Tel. 744829

BILINGUAL PARENT AND CHILD GROUP

Wed. and Frid.9.15am to 11.10am.
Gilcomstoun Primary School
Babies and toddlers introduced to Gaelic through arts, crafts, play and song. You don't
have to speak Gaelic to attend. Tel 0777 939 8289, croileagan@gmail.com.
Facebook: Croileagan Obar Dheathain.

MILLTIMBER PLAYGROUP & FRIDAY CLUB, MCAH

Playgroup Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 09.15am - 11.45am
Lunch Club Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 11.45am - 12.15pm
Transport available to afternoon nursery at Milltimber School Friday Club Fri's 1220
- 1440 with collection from Milltimber School nursery at 11.40am
Contact Julie McWilliam, 07740575273 or e: milltimberplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

ST DEVENICK'S PLAYGROUP AND RISING FIVES, SDCH

Playgroup runs on Monday to Friday from 9:10am-12:20pm, with optional Wednesday
lunch club. Rising Fives is on a Tuesday and Thursday, from 12:30-3pm. Tots and Toddlers
is on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30am in St.Devenick's Church. All of the above
are during term time only. Contact playgroup on 867431 or Justine at 733055 or email:
stdevenicksplaygroup@gmail.com.

SOUTH DEESIDE UNDER FIVES

Fun and friendly childcare for children from birth to five years Maryculter Community Hall
(next to the Old Mill Inn), South Deeside Road
Baby & Toddler Group – Mondays 9.30am to 11.30am
Twos Group – Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am to 11.30am,
Rising Fives – Tuesday lunchtimes 12 noon to 2pm
Mob.: 07966 163953
E: info@south-deeside-under-fives.co.uk
W: www.south-deeside-under-fives.co.uk

EXPLORERS P1-P3 GROUP, DCFE

Wed. 6.30 -7.30 p.m.
Contact Luke Dale, Tel. 733979

CHALLENGERS P4-P7 GROUP, DCFE

Wednesdays 7.30 - 8.30p.m.
Contact Luke Dale, Tel. 733979

ASCEND, HCC

Youth Group for S1-6 Grades 7-12,
Sundays 6.00-8.00pm
Tel. 868096 or
Email- info@hillview.cc

GUIDES, BROWNIES and RAINBOWS

We are very lucky to have active Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Units in the Milltimber and
Cults area. This is due to the hard work and dedication of all the Leaders. Previously as
an Organisation we could give you a list of all the Units in the area, the name and contact
details of the Leaders and as an interested parent you could contact the Leaders directly,
but now due to our Nationwide "Safe from Harm" Policy we can no longer publish this
information. We now have a Website that you can visit and register an interest for the age
group you want a place in for your daughter. It is a simple procedure and once you have
registered, a Adult should be in touch within 3 weeks to say if there are places available
or if your daughter will be placed on the waiting list. You will be asked to put in your
Postcode, the type of Unit you are interested in and if there are more than 1 suitable Unit
you will be asked to put your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice.

Rainbows are for girls aged 5 - 7yrs
Brownies are for girls aged 7 - 10yrs
Guides are for girls aged 10 yrs plus

The web address is www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or you can call 0800 1 69 59 01

These are also the means by which any Adult can register an interest in helping with any of
the groups, as we are always keen to welcome new Volunteers.

(Text from Joyce Cowie, Division Commissioner)

BEAVERS, CUBS and SCOUTS

21ST ABERDEEN (CULTS) SCOUT GROUP, SCC

www.21staberdeenscouts.org.uk to contact any of the Section Leaders or
Committee

Beavers - Wednesdays, 4.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Open to boys and girls aged 6 to 8
Contact Debbie Bone,
07708-018332
Email: ganddbone@btinternet.com.

Cubs – Thursdays, 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.

Open to boys and girls aged 8 to 10
John Evans, Tel 07834-521519

Scouts - Fridays, 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

65TH ABERDEEN (MILLTIMBER) SCOUT GROUP, MCAH

Beavers - Mondays 4.15 - 5.15pm

Fiona Douglas, Tel: 735523

Cubs - Tuesdays 6.30 - 8.00pm

Barbara Stroud, Tel: 732591

Scouts - Fridays 7.30 - 9.30pm

Geoff Weighill, Tel: 869115

YOUTH HOCKEY COACHING

on Tuesday evenings for P4 to S4 by Gordonians Hockey Club at Robert Gordon's College
astroturf pitches on Countesswells Road from 5.15pm to 6.30pm. Children from all schools
are welcome and sticks can be provided.

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Contact: Bob Talbott
bob.talbott@btinternet.com



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Offer 4: Guinot hydradermie Facial £39 (usually £55)

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