

Inchture Area Newsletter



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WINTER 2019

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ADVERTISING

HALF PAGE - £20
QUARTER PAGE - £10

The newsletter is produced in association with the *Inchtire Village Hall Fund* - Registered Charity SC025997.

Inchtire Village Hall – Regular Classes

Day	Class	Time	Contact	Other Information
Monday	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30 – 11.30	Dawn Sime	See Facebook page
	Lunch Club	12.45 onwards	Ann Davies – 07799 295 830	Last Monday of each month
	Rainbows	Evening	inchtirerainbows@hotmail.com	Email for more information
	JM Pilates	7.15 – 8.00	Jacqui McIntosh – 07963538596 or jacqui6793@gmail.com	
Tuesday	Playgroup	9.25 – 11.25	Donna Edwards – 07738 555 853	
	CACE Bridge Club	2.00 – 4.00	Bill Munro – billmunro02@btinternet.com	
	Musical Theatre Classes	6.15 – 7.15 & 7.30 – 8.30	Kayleigh Wilson Kayleigh@showcasethestreet.co.uk	
	Brownies	Evening	inchtirebrownies@googlemail.com	Email for more information
	Jiu Jitsu (adult class)	8.00 – 9.30	Euan Sloane esloane@abertay.ac.uk	
Wednesday	Playgroup	9.25 – 11.25	Donna Edwards – 07738 555 853	
	Kettlercise	6.00 – 7.00	Steph Douglas – 07753 147 062	
	Box-it	7.15 – 8.15	Steph Douglas – 07753 147 062	
	SWI	7.30 – 9.30	Rosemary Campbell – 01828 686 407	1 st Wednesday of each month
Thursday	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30 – 11.30	Dawn Sime	See Facebook page
	Inchtire Science Club	3.15 – 4.00	Rosie & David McLean davidmcleanphysics@gmail.com	
Friday	Kettlercise	6.00 – 7.00	Steph Douglas – 07753 147 062	
	Jiu Jitsu (Adult class)	7.45 – 9.30	Euan Sloane esloane@abertay.ac.uk	
Saturday	Tenshinkan Ecosse Karate	9.00 – 10.00	John Easley – 07985 290 683	
Sunday	Rugbytots	9.30 – 11.45	Sama'an Akel	samaan@rugbytots.co.uk

To book the Hall please email inchtirevillagehallbookings@gmail.com or contact Derek Sword on 07775 239 372



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The Christmas Road at Teen Ranch

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Carol Singing on Sunday 8th & 15th! Free Admission

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INCHTURE VILLAGE HALL

As the cold weather is setting in, its the perfect time of year to get cosy and warm at home. But remember you can keep up to date on all things Inchtire by following the village newsletter Facebook page. There's going to be a lot going on the hall on the run up to Christmas, so get involved wherever you can.

We have great content in the newsletter, put together by our volunteers and are lucky to have lots of people in the village to deliver the newsletters, allowing us to keep in touch with everyone. However, we desperately need two volunteers. Our newsletter is free for everyone as it is paid for by our advertisers, however, we need someone who can take on the role of invoicing and collecting fees from our advertisers. We have lots of people willing to deliver our newsletters door to door but need a volunteer to take our newsletters from the

printers and get them to our deliverers. If you think you could help in anyway please get in touch. We really want to keep our newsletter, but it is in danger of going completely online, if we can't fill these roles.

By the time this newsletter goes out, we will have had our AGM at the village hall and some of the roles on the committee will have changed. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers throughout the village who do their bit to help our community. Whether that be on our hall committee, delivering our newsletters, or being involved in running our groups. We really couldn't do it without you.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the new year.

Angela Bailey

Chair Inchtire Village Hall Committee

INCHTURE MOTORCYCLE GROUP

This group was setup for anyone around the surrounding area with a passion for motorcycles. It really doesn't matter if you ride a 50cc scooter or a Ducati Panigale V4 you are more than welcome to join the group.

It's a good place to share routes and meet like minded enthusiasts. There are discussion points regarding mechanical issues, advertising related to motorcycles plus so much more.

Events in 2019 included:

- 3 day trip around the North 500.
- Track day event at knockhill with tuition provided by Sean Gilfillan.
- Perth bike nights to raise money for charities.
- Advance cornering & knee down course held in York.

There is a good mixture of members and riding abilities, so don't be shy come and check out the Inchtire Motorcycle Group Facebook page. I look forward to meeting some new faces in the New Year.

CARSE CHURCHES

Church Services – Abernyste linked with Inchtute and Kinnaird linked with Longforgan

Services take place in each of our churches every Sunday at the following times:

Abernyste 11am – Inchtute 9.45am – Kinnaird 9.30am – Longforgan 11am

Night Prayer is held in Longforgan Church on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm and generally follows the Compline. All are welcome to come to this service.

Please feel free to join us at any of our services. You can come to the church nearest to you or to the one where the time suits you better. We look forward to welcoming you.

Meetings or Classes?

Inchtute Church is available for booking to hold meetings or classes. We have a modern up to date sound system with loop and TV screens which can show input in the sanctuary, meeting room and café area. If you would like to book, then please contact Mrs. Mary Mellor, Session Clerk by email on inchtuteandkinnairdsessionclerk@outlook.com

Inchtute Church Community Cuppie

Operating on the second Tuesday of every month in the church from 10 – 12 noon in the upstairs café. The church is fully accessible with a lift to all floors and has accessible toilets and baby changing facilities. Let's not forget the free Wi-Fi access either.

Come along and meet friends old and new. Enjoy a cuppie and toast or biscuits. Sometimes we even have lovely homemade tray bakes! This is a really friendly and

welcoming morning with plenty of chat and fun.

Minibus Outings

A series of monthly outings have been arranged offering the opportunity for those who aren't so able to get out and about on their own. These have been running over the last few months on the third Monday of the month. It is hoped that these will continue in the New Year. For further information, please contact Liz on 01828 686029.

A Photographic Display

The fundraising committee of Inchtute and Kinnaird are planning to have a photographic display early next year and hope that folk from the local communities will provide the photos. The photographs can be of anything of interest – school classes, picnics, weddings, SWI, yesteryear, farming etc. It would make it all the more interesting if people in the photos can be named.

All photos will be returned so please put name and address on a sticker on the back. The photos can be handed to any member of the committee. Brenda Laing 01821 670359, Euan Smith, Rosemary Campbell, Agnes Smith.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Kinnaird Church – Real Live Nativity Scene – Saturday 14 December 4pm – 6pm

Alpacas, Donkeys, Pygmy Goats, Sheep, Shetland Ponies and Santa's Grotto. Colouring in, Carol Singing, Juice. (Plus glühwein for adults)

CHRISTMAS FLORAL ART by OLLY BOBBINS In Kinnaird Church – Wednesday 18 December at 7pm

This has now become an annual festive event – and one not to be missed!

Tickets £6 include tea/coffee, mince pies and shortbread and are available from Rosemary Campbell, Agnes Smith, Euan Smith and Brenda Laing.

LONGFORGAN PARISH CHURCH – CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 30 November 10am – 12 noon in the Church Hall and Hall of Friendship.

CARSE CHURCHES – Abernyste, Inchtüre, Kinnaird and Longforgan

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that as congregations of the Church of Scotland we are Parish Churches. This means that we are here for **EVERYONE** who lives in our bounds. There

is no faith-test for those we are here to love and serve so don't hesitate to get in touch if you need help in any way.

- Want to explore church membership?
- Thinking about getting married?
- Wondering about baptism or a blessing for the children?

It couldn't be easier to arrange an informal chat and find out what's involved. Give our minister Marjory a ring. Marjory will be delighted to speak to you and explain everything.

Rev. Dr. Marjory MacLean can be contacted by telephone on 01382 360238 or by email: MMaclean@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The following services will be held in our churches and a warm welcome is extended to all to come and join us.

Date	Details	Church
9 December	Community Carols by Candlelight Mulled wine, tea, coffee, juice and Christmas nibbles will be served in the church hall afterwards.	Longforgan 6.30pm
15 December	Quiet Christmas A quieter, more reflective service for those who perhaps don't feel like the busy, jollier services for whatever reason. This service is more suited to adults.	Longforgan 3pm
24 December	Family Carol Service	Longforgan 6.30pm
24 December	Watchnight Services preceded by Carol Singing.	Abernyste and Inchtüre Carol singing starts at 11pm and the service starts at 11.30pm.
25 December	Family Service – children are encouraged to bring one of their Christmas gifts to show to the congregation	Kinnaird 10am.
29 December	Joint Service – please note there will be no services in Kinnaird, Inchtüre or Longforgan this morning.	Abernyste 11am.

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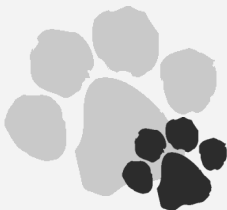
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WAGS

ABERNYTE SCHOOL UPDATE...

STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS

In May of this year, Perth and Kinross Council's (PKC) Lifelong Learning Committee (LLC) voted narrowly to close Abernyte Primary School – the last rural school in the Carse.

The decision was deeply frustrating to those who have long campaigned to keep the school open, and bitterly disappointing given that our Conservative ward councillor, Angus Forbes, chose to side with the LLC's Conservative and Lib Dem group on the day, in favour of closure.

While the outcome was deflating, it was inspiring to see the community turnout in support of the school, and lend its voice to those of the pupils. Abernyte Primary has been at the heart of village life for over 100 years, and ties between the community and school remain firm, strengthened by events such as regular Community Cafes and gardening days. The impact of the closure would be felt far beyond the current pupils.

Along with others in the community, Abernyte Parent Council has long argued against the school closure, questioning both its rationale and the manner in which PKC has conducted the consultation process. We felt there were strong grounds to review the decision under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and along with over 50 others, urged the Scottish Ministers to issue a call-in notice. We were greatly heartened when the Scottish Ministers agreed that there was cause to refer the decision to the School Closure Review Panels (SCRPs) - an

independent, statutory body, which since March 2015 has taken over responsibility for reviewing school closure decisions, from the Scottish Ministers.

This is not a matter taken lightly by the Scottish Ministers: only four call-in notices have been issued since 2015. In all three cases to date, the SCRPs has found that the local education authority has failed in its obligations under the 2010 Act.

We were surprised and disappointed when PKC sought to dispute the Ministers' decision by raising a petition for judicial review. A judicial review challenges the manner in which a decision is made, rather than the rights and wrongs of its conclusion. Consequently, PKC is questioning the legitimacy of the whole call-in procedure. It is now much bigger than Abernyte Primary School and the implications are significant.

This is an incredibly expensive course of action and one which threatens to drag out the process for some time to come. Meanwhile, pupils, staff, and parents of potential pupils, have little clarity regarding the future of the school. While we can only speculate as to the rationale behind PKC's move, for those familiar with the case, it is hard not to conclude that this is a cynical attempt to avoid scrutiny. Prior to raising the petition, we understand PKC had failed to answer the SCRPs request for information, preventing the investigation from proceeding.

The first substantive hearing is set for 3 February. We expect PKC's petition to ultimately be thrown out, and when the SCRPs is finally allowed to review the

proposed school closure, the panel will find PKC to have failed in its obligations under the Act. The SCRIP then has a variety of options available to it: these include overturning the school closure proposal, or consenting to it with conditions. The longer this process drags on, a 1 July 2020 closure looks more unlikely.

Abernyte Primary School remains open for business and, we believe, has a bright future ahead. Despite this setback, the school roll continues to increase, with new P1s starting in August. Once this uncertainty is lifted, we

are confident the roll will grow further. If you have children of primary or pre-school age, and are interested in finding out more about the rich learning environment Abernyte Primary School has to offer, please get in touch. Abernyte is a great wee school, and its closure would be a tremendous loss to both Abernyte, and the broader Carse community. We will try and keep you updated on developments, but if you have any questions in the meantime, please get in touch via abernyteparentcouncil@gmail.com.

CARSE OF GOWRIE SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face in the 21st Century, and to adder this the Scottish Government has committed to reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. To achieve these ambitious goals, we need to look at ways we can shift towards more sustainable, low carbon

lifestyles.

For more information about the Carse of Gowrie Sustainability Group, please contact carsesus@btinternet.com, or see our website www.carsesus.org



SWI
Scottish Women's Institutes

Come and meet our friendly ladies of the SWI
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Inchtute Village Hall
All meetings start 7.30PM

8th January 2020

History of the Carse
Competition; 1 – Fatless Sponge
2 - G.F.O.M.

5th February 2020

Derek Potter - Queens Piper
Competition; 1 – Tartan Decorated Wooden
Spoon
2 - G.F.O.M.

4th March 2020

Birthday Party
Competition; Your oldest Kitchen utensil

1st April 2020

Olli Bobbins Floral Demonstration
Competition; 1 – Easter Bonnet
2 - G.F.O.M.

6th May 2020

Annual General Meeting
Competition; 1 – Hand made sweets
2 - G.F.O.M.

June 2020

Bus Trip
Details to be arranged

For further information contact
Rosemary Campbell, Secretary

Phone : 01828 686407
E Mail : rosemaryandmartin@hotmail.co.uk



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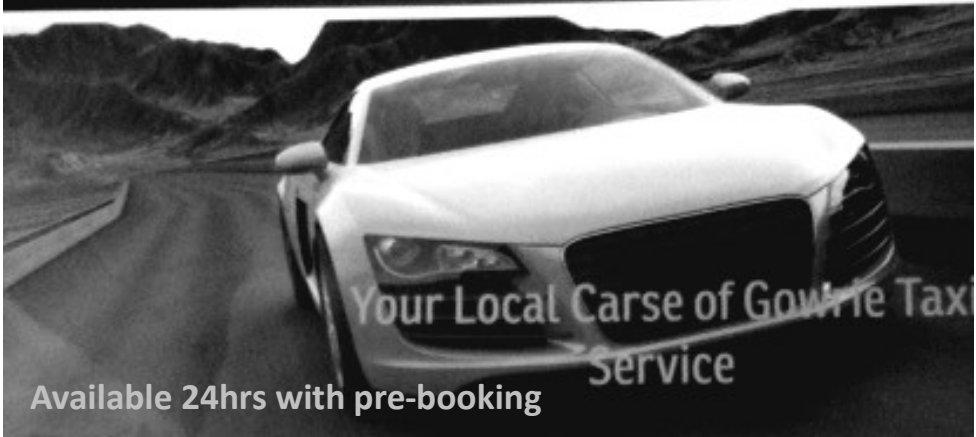
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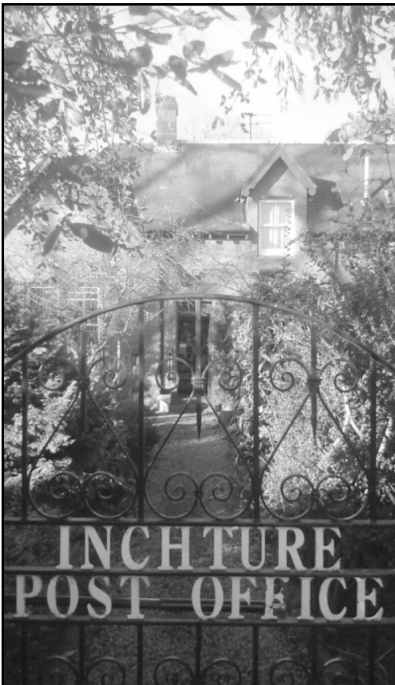
To make an appointment please contact

Becky Gunn (MIFPA, MFHT, ITEC, SMS)

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Email: box@healthinhand.biz



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INCHTURE AREA TWINNING ASSOCIATION

FOOD! An unusual contribution from the Twinning Association this time, but it's Christmas, and this report definitely links with our colleagues in Fléac.



In the run up to Christmas there is a soup competition in Fléac and the twinning committee in Fléac traditionally enter by cooking a soup from one of

their twinned countries. Recently they asked us for a recipe for a traditional Scottish soup. Without having to source a broth mix for a Broth or expensive/fiddly fish for a Cullen Skink our cooks came up with this recipe for an authentic and classic healthy red lentil soup from Scotland.

This simple soup is filling, comforting and perfect for cold weather days! So here's the recipe we sent to France:

Ingredients

- 250g red split lentils, rinsed and drained
- 2.0L Water
- Ham bone or 2 ham stock cubes
- 2 medium sized carrots, peeled and diced
- 1 small turnip (swede), peeled and diced
- 2 medium onions, diced
- 2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

Instructions

1. Place the lentils, water and ham bone into a large saucepan. Or, if using ham stock cubes make up stock with the cubes and 2L boiling water and add to large saucepan.
2. Allow to simmer for 1 hour. Skim the surface of the water to remove the layer of froth if using ham bone. Remove the ham bone.

3. Add all the diced vegetables and allow to simmer for a further 30 minutes until tender.
4. Season to taste & serve – and, possibly, add a few chilli flakes for a modern Gallic “je ne sais quoi”?

Our next Fund Raising Event

French Bistro/Pop-up Restaurant,
Inchture Village Hall,

7.30pm Saturday, 29th February 2020

Staying with the theme of food, we are organising a pop-up French Bistro (“Chez Nous”), music, ceilidh and French food.

Menu - choose in advance – soup/pate, Beef or venison bourguignon, a fish option, Bean cassoulet with vegetarian sausages as veggie option, Lemon tart, Cheese, Home made oatcakes, Tea and coffee
BYOB

More details will be available after Christmas on posters and social media, or for this event, and information about twinning, contact one of the committee.

Committee

Louise Klaassen (chair)	01828 686711.
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- Adult yoga Mondays 7.00-8.00pm, Cargill-Burrelton Church hall
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PAST TRADITIONS MAY ENRICH PRESENT LIVING

AND HELP TO SECURE OUR FUTURE

2020 is the Year of the Rat, according to Chinese tradition. People born in the years of the rat (1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008), are clever, able to think quickly, are generally successful and seem to be content with living a peaceful and relatively quiet life! They are therefore, in the main, probably good for our planet.



Every day we are reminded that we need to curb our desires to have the latest widgets and gadgets, reduce our carbon footprint and leave less waste behind in our wake! David Attenborough, Chris Packham, and now Greta Thunberg, amongst others, are pushing this message, harder than ever before. So, without bringing Scrooge to the Yuletide party, how can we modify the materialistic pull of festive consumerism and exchange it for some naturally beautiful, less damaging and mythical alternatives?

Christmas, is celebrated by Christians to recognise the birth of Christ, yet the mid-winter festival is established in traditions that are far older. The Winter Solstice is an ancient pagan celebration, which was held around the shortest day of the year (21st December in the Northern hemisphere).

The ancient Greeks, Druids, Celts and Norse brought evergreen plants into their homes during winter as they believed them to hold special powers. Mistletoe was brought in to ward off evil spirits and cure infertility and nervous diseases. Its fruit was a symbol of life in the cold dark months. According to

Norse legend, couples who met under a hanging branch which bore fruit, were obliged to kiss and pluck a single white berry from it, until the final berry was removed. Traditionally, the holly tree is known for offering protection from lightning strikes and bringing good luck. It was alright to take a few sprigs for decoration, but if the whole tree was cut down it was said to bring bad luck! Wreaths and garlands of ivy were made and worn during the winter months as they signified marriage, fidelity and healing.

Apparently there is an old belief, rooted in middle England, about the holly and the ivy. If holly (male) and ivy (female) are brought inside before Christmas eve, then whichever one comes indoors first, will determine whether it is the man or woman who will rule the house over the coming year! The Romans not only decorated their houses with greenery, but lit candles and gave presents during the festival of Saturnalia, which ran for seven days from 17th December.



In Scotland, the Celts lit a big oak Yule log (Yule, meaning winter solstice) that burnt during the twelve days they believed the sun to be standing still. The oak represented the waxing sun and was a symbol of endurance and strength. The burning of the log brought light to the dark days, and was thought to banish evil spirits and bring good luck. Traditionally holly and ivy were used together, as the symbol of resurrection and eternity, and perhaps to avoid a battle between man and woman in the new year.

Since Victorian times the Christmas Tree has been a focal point of our festive celebrations. Not only is it pleasing to the eye, but pine, spruce and fir trees all have antiseptic, antiviral and decongestant properties. Inhaling the aroma can help to open the chest and relax the breath, fortify the mind to help deal with past traumas and grief, as well as counteracting melancholy and pessimism. There are various stories about how conifer trees first came to be decorated, but one stands out more than the others about the origin of tinsel. 'The Legend of the Christmas Spider' from Eastern Europe! A poor hardworking widow lived in a hut with her children. One summer day a pine cone fell on the floor of their hut, so they planted it, hoping it would grow into a tree for Christmas. But, not being able to afford to decorate it, the children went to bed on Christmas Eve leaving the tree bare. While they were asleep, a spider covered the tree in cobwebs, and in the light of the dawn the cleverly weaved threads were magically transformed into silver and gold strands.

Buying or hiring a real Christmas tree, is better for the environment than purchasing an artificial one, which cannot be recycled due to a mix of different materials. It is best to source it from a local supplier, that has trees which have been sustainably grown in Scotland and are FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) approved. A potted one tends not to drop its needles as much, but shouldn't be overwatered. If it's put outside after Christmas in a sheltered spot, it can be used again next year. Otherwise it can be shredded into chippings at a local recycling centre and used as mulch in local parks or on woodland paths.

We can also make our homes smell amazing and have fun together creating some gorgeous natural decorations: Slowly dried sliced lemons, oranges and limes, threaded on a piece of string with an occasional stick of cinnamon wrapped in between, can add a lovely fresh, yet warming scent. Bowls can be filled with pine cones, fragrant wood chips and cloves, and vases filled with sprigs of pine and spruce. A wreath made out of ivy, holly, dried fruits and berries can hang on the front door to keep away evil spirits, and orange pomanders studded with cloves and hung with ribbon, will not only bring joy to the eye, but help keep moths and other little beasties away. Why not have a go at making a winter aromatic room spray, by combining 100 ml of distilled water (or vodka) with the following essential oils: 10 drops pine or fir needle, 6 drops orange, 5 drops cypress, 5 drops cedarwood, 3 drops cinnamon and 2 drops clove. The finishing touch of a few tealights in little glass jars will help light a path to brighter days ahead, when setting out on our new year's journey to realise our hopes and dreams.

At a time when the realities of climate change are becoming more evident, we can all do our bit to help minimise the effects humans are having on our unique and beautiful planet. Bringing back some of the simple and magical less commercial, traditions of the Yuletide season, may not only help to secure the future existence of the planet, but possibly make us richer in health and happiness too!



*Article researched & written by Becky Gunn,
Natural Health, Sports & Remedial Therapist*

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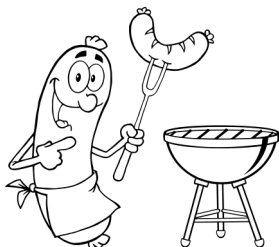
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INCHTURE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Since our last update you may have heard that the appeal to try and overturn the council's rejection of the housing development at 'The Gypsy Field' has been unsuccessful. As such, this brings an end to the current application which we know is a relief to many within the village of Inchture.

Whilst this land has been earmarked for housing on the local development plan for many years, it is pleasing to note that the strong objections from local residents and businesses were taken into consideration. That said, we wouldn't be surprised to see a further application in the future and should that happen then we will, as always, consider the application on its merits and support or oppose as appropriate.

We are so pleased that Inchture now has the benefit of a defibrillator in the village. At the time of writing, we have taken delivery and arrangements are being made for installation at the Spar. We would like to formally register our thanks to Gordon and his staff for committing to cover the installation and running costs along with the regular maintenance checks.

We also want to issue a further "thank you" to those generous donors who contributed to our fundraising effort. I'm sure you all appreciate that this is a life saving piece of equipment which has taken considerable time, effort and generosity to bring it into our community. It is important that the defibrillator can be accessed as quickly as possible as every minute counts in an emergency situation. No training is required as the emergency operator and even the defibrillator itself can help talk you through how to use it. We are very fortunate to live

in a low crime area but there have been some recent episodes of vandalism which we need to be mindful of and we are trusting our community to keep the equipment safe.

Having grown up in Inchture, I've always liked to think that the vast majority of our young people are community spirited, good natured and responsible and now living here as an adult that view has never wavered. However, I would still ask parents, guardians or carers to have a conversation with their child(ren), not only to address potential negatives in emphasising that neither they nor their friends should touch the defibrillator unnecessarily, but also to make them aware of the benefit it brings to our community. Please ensure that they know where it is kept and that it is available to use if there really was an emergency as awareness is so important. Of course this same sentiment applies to our adult population too!

Lastly, the other hot topic of late has been surrounding Abernyste Primary School. Unfortunately and by the slimmest of margins, P&K Council's lifelong learning committee voted earlier this year to close the school. It was even more unfortunate that the deciding vote ultimately came down to one of our Ward Councillors who opted for closure despite the protestations of the local community. Whilst we respect each Councillor's right to their opinion and to vote as they see fit, having heard representations from parents and children involved with Abernyste Primary School ourselves, we disagree with PKC's decision and are pleased to hear that Abernyste Parent Council are challenging it further. This battle will continue as court proceedings

unfold but for the time being, we want any parents whose children are approaching school age and reside in the Abernyte catchment area to know that the school is very much still open for applications throughout the school year and for August 2020. Abernyte is a wonderful rural school which can provide an excellent education to their kids and we, as a Community Council, will do all we can to support their cause and try to keep the school open longer term.

Inchtire Area Community Council (incorporating the villages of Inchtire, Abernyte, Kinnaird and Rait) continues to meet regularly to discuss and work on issues

affecting our area. We would welcome any new or familiar faces along to help us discuss local issues. Equally, if you have an issue to raise between meetings then please still feel free to contact us.

The dates of our next meetings are as below. Our meetings start at 7:30pm and are open to the public.

- 9th January 2020, Inchtire Church
- 5th March 2020, Inchtire Village Hall
- 2nd April 2020, Kinnaird Church
- 7th May 2020, Inchtire Village Hall

Lynsay McFarlane
Chairperson and Treasurer

ABERNYTE NATURE WATCH

As usual the autumn started - in my eyes and ears anyway- with the arrival of the Pink-footed geese, of which large skeins appeared between the weekends of 15th and 22nd of September, with some reported even earlier than that. Soon there were thousands of them at Montrose Basin. Autumnwatch on the television reported a Waxwing up by Abernethy, but so far we have not seen any in Abernyte.

AUTUMN BIRDS

However folk have been seeing medium sized flocks of "winter thrushes" (Fieldfares and Redwings), some Fieldfares were in our garden weekend of 7th November, and



flocks were seen along the road by Tim at East Newton. As soon as the weather turned cold in October, we could hear a Mistle Thrush giving its coarse trill - it is usually to be seen defending a Rowan,

often a white-berried one, against all-comers. Further south they can find the white Mistletoe berries that gave them their name.

Another of my favourite birds, the gorgeous bullfinch, has been around this weekend (9th November) feasting on berries at Hillhouse, East Newton and Abernyte. They like the seeds which are protein rich, and separate them skilfully from the fleshy part of the fruit, which they leave lying on the ground below the tree. Bullfinches nearly always appear in pairs and are one of the species which lovingly stay with their mate for life.

The bird feeders have become more popular with a cold snap of -2°C for a couple of nights on 8th and 9th November. Then we had a lot of Tree sparrows, Greenfinches and Tits of various kinds "hitting" the food. The Long-tailed tits are appearing in gardens, going around, apparently cheerily, in family groups, always talking to each other with little churrs and squeaks, sometimes joining



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up in the company of fellow tits other small birds. Safety for them is sometimes in numbers.

On the 9th October Gordon reported two new bird visitors in his garden. One was a Magpie – a single solitary bird - it was tolerated by the Jackdaws for a while and then attracted some attention from them! Magpies are very handsome birds which have increased in numbers from absolute zero to occasional visits. They are now quite common in Dundee and frequently seen along Riverside, sometimes in small flocks. The second was a Jay - another single solitary bird which had visited the garden a couple of times recently and could be heard clearly with its raucous call.



Jays are famous for their liking for acorns, which they store for winter by burying them. They are therefore useful planters of oak trees and this is probably how oaks move uphill as well as down.

The Jay could be a local bird searching for food down in the garden after the end of the nesting season, or it could be one of the many Jays reported amassing on the continent in early October – they may come here for the winter to seek food and avoid the continental winter. Have you got a good crop of Acorns this year? If so you may be visited by Jays.

DYING ASH TREES

Sadly I have been seeing many unhealthy looking Ash trees around the parish. Ash dieback disease, as with the Dutch Elm disease, is going to be a terrible scourge if we lose the old trees that are such a characteristic of our hedge lines and



hillsides. Apart from their individual beauty with their deeply cut grooved bark and pinnate leaves, that turn the most wonderful golden colour in the autumn, they provide nesting holes for

birds and support enormous numbers of invertebrate creatures, making them an ecosystem all of their own.

Can you imagine how many millions of tons of carbon must be stored in their massive bulk? All that could be lost if (or when) we lose them. Tree diseases are more and more a part of the scene; perhaps it may be best in future to allow trees to self-seed (or be planted by birds) rather than importing nursery-raised saplings from elsewhere? The less we transport these diseases around the better it must surely be for us and our wildlife.

BEAVERS

We had some extra excitement this summer, when we saw our first beaver in this country at the SWT reserve at Loch of the Lowes. In May 2019 the beaver became a protected species in Scotland, so for the first time since the 16th century we have the chance to see them back in the wild. There is good evidence that they can help in flood protection by retaining run-off for longer, and in doing so create habitat for other aquatic wildlife.

Look out for beavers and other wildlife as autumn-coloured leaves fall all too soon and the Braes and Carse take on a darker and more wintery feel!



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INCHTURE BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club continues to be open throughout the winter months every Friday and Saturday evenings. We look forward to seeing our members and any visitors throughout the coming months at any of

our events (see winter calendar below) or please pop in and have a drink, any member can sign 2 visitors in at any time, a WARM welcome awaits

<u>WINTER EVENTS</u>	<u>RUGBY MATCHES SHOWING IN THE CLUB</u>
12 th OCTOBER – QUIZ WITH DAVE AND BRUCE	1/2/20 IRELAND V SCOTLAND 16.45
26 th OCTOBER – BINGO	8/2/20 SCOTLAND V ENGLAND 16.45
9 th NOVEMBER – PRESENTATION DINNER – HOTEL 6.45	22/2/20 ITALY V SCOTLAND 14.15
30 th NOVEMBER - BINGO	8/3/20 SCOTLAND V FRANCE 15.00
14 th DECEMBER - QUIZ NIGHT WITH MARK & LORNA	14/3/20 WALES V SCOTLAND 14.15
CHRISTMAS EVE – MUSIC WITH KEN & RAFFLE	
HOGMANAY CLOSED	
1 st JANUARY 2 - 6PM	
CLUB RE-OPENS 25 th JANUARY	
25 th JANUARY – BURNS QUIZ SUPPER WITH RAYMOND AND JENNY	
15 th FEBRUARY - QUIZ WITH BETTY AND MARK	
29 th FEBRUARY - BINGO	
21 st MARCH – RACE NIGHT IN VILLAGE HALL (tbc)	
28 th MARCH - BINGO	

BELLES ON BIKES TAYSIDE

The Belles on Bikes November ride started at Kingoodie, then went out west through the Carse of Gowrie, with the aim of stopping for coffee/bacon rolls at the famous Horseshoe Cafe at Inchture.

Ten lovely ladies enjoyed a fantastic ride: in the sunshine and no wind!

If you'd like to join the Belles, all you need is a roadworthy bike. The rides are social, there's no racing. For more information, head to their facebook page, or to officially

join the group, go to <https://membermojo.co.uk/bobtayside>





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- * Salmon Fillet
- * Roasted Veg & Parmesan Lasagne
- * Kris Kringle Burgers (V)
- * Braised Shin of Beef
- * Cranberry & Ricotta Stuffed Chicken Breast

- * Chocolate & Orange torte
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COUNCILLOR ALASDAIR BAILEY

I was pleased to see the new wider path to the school completed along Moncur Road back in October. It's great to see the kids heading to school on foot, on scooters and on bikes without having to share the road with cars. The area is looking a bit sparse at the moment but trees will be planted shortly to replace the few that were lost to the works.

Nearby, the work on the new nursery unit for the school is going well. That is expected to finish in time for the new school year starting after the summer of 2020.

I was pleased to support the cancellation of the much-disliked plan to give our school kids pre-cooked frozen school meals across the county. There have been scare stories about the cost implications of cancelling this project but there is cash at the council that is not currently being well used as I showed in the budget I put forward earlier in 2019.

The Scottish Government's decision to review the closure of Abernyste Primary School is to be challenged by the council at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on Feb 3rd. All I'll say here is that it's a pity that two government bodies are taking to the courts

to resolve their differences and that I continue to look for ways in which we can keep the school open with enough kids to make it sensible to do so.

The council's Community Investment Fund for our area still has funds available for community projects that need cash to get them up and running or for extra equipment for existing community groups. The application process is pretty straightforward and I'm happy to help groups putting applications in and I know of local people also happy to help groups to put in strong applications. Please get in touch if you're interested in applying for any of the remaining £60k for a group that you're involved with. You can find more details at <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/cif>. The next deadline for applications is in February.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cllr Alasdair Bailey
<http://fb.me/aldasairbailey>
abailey@pkc.gov.uk
07557 813 291

COUNCILLOR ANGUS FORBES

The really good news in Inchture is that the Scottish Government agreed with the Council over the number of houses in Gypsy field. I am always sceptical when the Government try to take decisions away from locally elected people but in this case, they agreed with our decision. Who knows what will happen next. Legally the developer could apply to the High Court to have this

overturned but I think that's extremely unlikely. The most likely next step is that they will present a new planning application which will hopefully show a reduction in the house numbers. However, as the reason for the rejection was about noise pollution, it may be that a new application simply focuses on that. Whilst this is a positive step forward, we are not out of the woods yet.

Its great to see Moncur road taking shape as I write this article, this will make a difference to children and parents walking to School.

The other news at the Council which is worth mentioning is the matter of School Meals. A few years ago, under a different administration a decision was taken to change the way School Meals are produced, moving to a frozen process. Meals would be cooked in Dundee in an industrial kitchen then sent out to school to be reheated on site. The saving that was attached to this process was £500,000 every year.

I supported this decision because after attending two blind tasting sessions I genuinely could not taste any difference

between frozen or unfrozen food. However when it came to the vote, the opposition groups contested this decision and it failed. So, on one hand, there will be no frozen school meals in Perth and Kinross although there will be in Dundee, on the other hand there is now a £500k hole in the education budget every single year which needs to be dealt with somehow. To put that into context, that's 10 teachers or 10 social workers.

As always, I am happy to help in any way I can and can be contacted on 01738475412 or by email aforbes@pkc.gov.uk



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