

CANdo

Coupar Angus Magazine

Issue 6

March 2011



*.....the future of Coupar Angus requires
your vision and effort.....*



COUPAR ANGUS HORSE FAIR

Saturday 26th March 2011

COMPETITIONS

GINGERBREAD HORSE

COMPETITION



- * There are two prizes, one for children up to P6 and from P7 → Secondary.
- * The competition is open to anyone up to the age of 16.
- * The gingerbread horse must be home baked and decorated by the entrant.
- * Entries must be delivered to St. Anne's Church Hall, Forfar Road, Coupar Angus by 10.30am on the 26th.
- * They should be accompanied by a label with their name, a contact telephone number and their class written on the label.

*Judging will be carried out at 11am by the Tower Bakery
Sponsors of the competition.*

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



"My Coupar Angus"

The Horse Fair Committee is running a Photographic Competition for under 18's which will be judged on line by Lorraine Kelly. The prize is £40 for the best photograph and a £25 voucher

courtesy of Lloyds TSB Bank, Coupar Angus for the second prize.

The theme is "My Coupar Angus" and is your favourite pic of the area. It could be a "Winter 2010" shot of mega icicles, "The Great Thaw" or a summer scene to cheer us all up. Yours photos can show your favourite place, be funny or capture the Coupar Angus you see. Please attach a title for your photograph. Photographs must not be edited. Entries will be posted on line at www.coupar-angus.org for all to see and on display in St. Anne's Church Hall on the day.

How to enter:

Photographs should be emailed to cartrust@btconnect.com by Wednesday 16th March. If there are children in the photographs, a disclosure form will be sent which must be completed and returned before the photograph can go online.

Send in your name, address, age and contact telephone number.

(These details will NOT be posted online.)

For full terms and conditions, visit www.coupar-angus.org or contact Jill at CART on 01828 628569 or email cartrust@btconnect.com.



Good Luck!



**TALKS AT STRATHMORE BOWLING CLUB,
FORFAR ROAD on Saturday 26th March from 10am**

10am: Local Author at the Horse Fair!

Hoofprints Over Scotland:

My 1000-mile trip round the hill tracks of Scotland

Perthshire rider Kate Godfrey and author will be giving a talk about her most recent adventure in the saddle - a thousand miles around the hill tracks of Scotland with her two Highland ponies, which raised over £10,000 for the charity World Horse Welfare. Mountain tracks, rivers, and plenty of camping in the rain were the order of the day for the hardy trio, who took three months to cover the hidden places of Scotland. How they did it, the people they met on the way and the fabulous sights they saw are covered in this fascinating talk. Kate's adventures took place in the soggy summer of 2009 with hilarious consequences! Kate is also bringing some of her ponies which will take part in the Parade at 12.15pm.



12 noon A Talk by “Riding for the Disabled”

1.30pm Joe Richards talks on “Old Coupar Angus” and traces the fortunes of the town through the ages. Joe is a member of the Coupar Angus and District Heritage Association and is passionate about everything Coupar Angus. He is a local businessman specialising in all things old. Please join us for his presentation.

DEMONSTRATION:

There will be a local farrier, Mr Chalmers who will be giving a demonstration of his skills in the Red House Hotel Car Park from 10am.

Community Groups Health Check – It's good to talk!



In February PKC Community Capacity Building and CART ran a World Café for Community Groups in the Town Hall. The groups represented were:

CART, CAAB Community Council, Pride of Place Group, CAYAG (The Y Hall activities group committee), Forward Coupar Angus and the Horse Fair Committee.

The main conclusion was that there is a weakness in communication between the groups in town. Three Action Points were drawn up:

- 1) Coupar Angus should have a Facebook page.**
- 2) More should be done to promote the texting project.**
- 3) A written directory should be compiled and given to the Library and to each community group.**

The CAYAG group have started the Facebook page. They are based in the Y building on Union Street and are all Coupar Angus residents from P5-S1 pupils. It's called Coupar Angus wuut? (what you up to). If you have any information or events in town you would like to publicise, please visit the site.

The group are supported by the P&KC Community Capacity Building, Youth Team and SCYD in Blairgowrie.

Jenna Murray is collecting the contacts for the Communities Group Directory. She is a student on work placement at Rowanbank – home of the PKC Community Capacity Building Team.

More details of the Texting project are available from CART and we will put them in the CAN do next month.



MESSAGE FROM TAYSIDE POLICE

GENERAL CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

There have been a number of suspicious person reports recently in and around the Perth and Kinross area and a number of break-ins during the daytime - be alert to 'out of place' or 'unusual' persons or vehicles in YOUR street. Please be aware of your household security, leave a light on in the evening - don't leave any opportunities for passing criminals and remember to lock your doors. Any suspicious activity or prowlers should be reported to police AT THE TIME to allow us the opportunity to trace the person and deal with the matter. Make sure sheds/garages are properly secured against unauthorised entry.

PLEASE LOCK your vehicles overnight and remember to remove valuables from within [Sat Nav, tools etc]

For all incidents of suspected criminal behaviour - contact the police at the time that the offences/incidents occur to give us the opportunity to deal with the matter - we will respond and target resources to areas where the crimes are being reported.

Tayside police are striving to maintain a safe community feel in and around Perth and Kinross area. It is important that neighbours can help each other and look out for those who are vulnerable within the community.

***If you see or hear anything suspicious in your area please contact
TAYSIDE POLICE ON 0300 111 2222.***





Coupar Angus – enterprise zone?

CART held a meeting for business people at the Red House Hotel in February and we would like to thank all who attended. I think everyone felt that it was a very constructive meeting and the results were:

- * ***The image of the town is poor and we need more positive publicity.***
- * ***Continue to seek additional parking to replace that lost from the Cross.***
- * ***Contact employers to request employees don't park in town centre spaces.***
- * ***Make the access to the town centre more visitor friendly, e.g. signage.***
- * ***Use the Cross to attract more visitors and businesses to the town.***
- * ***Put on events which generate positive publicity and attract people back to town.***

Newburgh in Fife has experienced a similar downturn to Coupar Angus in recent years. However they have really turned round their fortunes. We will be looking to see how they did it.

As a result of the publicity surrounding the meeting, two businessmen from Perth have shown interest in moving their businesses to Coupar Angus to the new industrial estate in Coupar Angus. There are around 26 new business units in the new industrial estate so there is a sense of urgency to make the town centre more user friendly to take advantage of the opportunities.

If you would like the full results of the meeting, please email Jill at cartrust@btconnect.com and she will send them to you.





Don't Forget....

8th March – Shrove Tuesday

8th March – International Woman's Day

9th March – Ash Wednesday

17th March – St. Patrick's Day

26th March – The clocks go forward an hour overnight

1-10th April – Tartan Week... If anyone has an event on, please let me know and it can be posted on a website specially made for the celebration.

Jill at CART on 01828 628569 or email cartrust@btconnect.com.

3rd April – Mothering Sunday

J G MIDDLETON

ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT
AND OFFICE SERVICES

Coupar Angus Business Centre
The Cross, Coupar Angus PH13 9DA
Tel. (01828) 628638 Fax: (01828) 628826

Your friendly, local Accountancy
Service

for
Financial, Taxation & Accountancy
Support

For: Book-Keeping, VAT & Payroll.
Document preparation & CV's, Typing,
Photocopying,
Faxes & Stationery

Sage Accountants Club Member



Partners:

J.G. Middleton G.H. Judd D.M. Judd C.V. Rose

Coupar Angus & District Heritage Centre

8 George Street
Coupar Angus
01828 626244

Open
Tues & Wed 2-4pm
Thurs & Fri 11am-1pm
Sat 10.30am-2pm

Admission
Free



Displays of

Local Area Pictures and Information
Artefacts Maps Books

email: info@couparangusheritage.co.uk

Thank you... Thank you... Thank you...



I have worked at Coupar Angus Regeneration Trust for 18 months, marking the end of our funding for now. I would like to thank some people before I go...

☺ Thank you to **Rural Tayside Leader and Perth and Kinross Council** for their support during this project.

☞ To the **CAA&B Community Council** for their support and help. A big thanks especially to Jo Kettles who took the time to come in and chat, giving me background and brilliant ideas on how to solve many challenges.



✓ **CAD Heritage Association** for all their support with Doors Open Event in September – 2011 will be bigger and better than ever! Thanks also for their help in delivering parcels in the snow before Christmas and stewarding the Fireworks event.

To all the committee and volunteers in the **Pride of Place Group** for their help with the Community Orchard at Larghan Park and their constant efforts to develop the park as a 'destination park'. Thanks also for a supporting the Fireworks event.

✓ To all the activity providers in the Older Adult Activities Group for all their help in getting their information to more people. They include the **St. Anne's Church Lunch Club, New Age Curling, Relax group, Seniors Outing Organisers, Thursday Club, Community Learning (P&KC), Healthy Communities Collaborative and CAAB Community Council**. With the new Balhousie Care House opening soon, their activities will be so much appreciated by the newest residents to join our community.

☒ To **Dave Scott** our webmaster who loads all the information you send me.

✓ **Florence Smeaton** for helping me with the What's ON and to **Frank Benzies** for taking over the CAN do – please everyone send Frank your articles and keep communication going.

☺ To **Raymond and Louis** who are the eyes & ears of the town. Thanks for their help.

☼ To **Sheila Menzies** for keeping me up to date with the bands for the Coupar Angus Country & Western Music Club nights at the Red House Hotel.

✓ To the **Horse Fair Committee** who have pulled it all together this year to relaunch your community event. You will see on the day how much work has gone into making it a day for all.

☞ To **Perthshire Open Studios Group** for all their hard work in attracting visitors to the area. They join the many groups and organisations raising the profile of the town.

✓ **The Coupar Angus Illuminators** for working tirelessly around the town building up the Christmas lights to cheer us through the winter.

* **Blast Design Ltd** for putting us on the map with the best fireworks display outside a major city. Every year draws a bigger crowd from further afield.

✂ **Rachel Jackson** for all her work over 5 years in setting the information for the Coupar Angus Bulletin.

✓ **The Gala Committee** for helping with contacts of all sorts.

☞ Everyone who helped with the Halls Reports and Events Guide: **H. Pithie, A. Bannerman, G. Minto, The Guides/Brownie/Rainbow Leaders, Scouts Leaders, Florence, Strathmore Bowling Club, St. Anne's Church Group, Catholic Church, Masonic Lodge, Abbey Church Group and the CAYAG Group.**

✓ Funders for Larghan Park – **The Gannochy Trust** who gave £50,000 towards the cost of the park. To the **Parks Department of Perth & Kinross Council** to maintain the Park and Common and helped retain the Green Flag Award.

↪ To the Coupar Angus Townscape Heritage Initiative Executive – I have been so lucky as all the ground work taking years of hard work and patience has resulted in the Royal Hotel Development, Crichton Lang Building, Cumberland Barracks and numerous shop fronts and houses being improved during 'my shift'. Thanks to **Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Perth and Kinross Council, Historic Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund, Ancaster Property Developers Ltd, Perthshire Housing Association, Davidsons Chemist, Fred Stewart, C & W West, Tower Bakery, Alan Bannerman, Elegant Windows, Scot Mid and all the house holders** who have invested in a more attractive town centre.

📖 Town Map and Guide – Thank you to the following contributors:

Coupar Angus Cricket Club, All the Coupar Angus Junior Football Clubs, East of Scotland Farmers, Abbey Church Group, CAD Heritage Association, Mr & Mrs Patterson, Christopher Dingwall, Aberdeen Angus Society Office in Perth, and John MacLean. I have pledges from the Pride of Place Group and the CAAB Community Council which may cover the cost of printing the town map. BEPTA are looking to take over the printing of a Coupar Angus Visitors Guide soon so your contributions will go towards that publication. Hopefully I will have news soon.

✓ And finally to the **Trustees of CART** who have sat through my 'monthly reports' hoping that it would all come good in the end!

So many groups, individuals and agencies have worked so well together for the benefit of Coupar Angus and I am proud to say I was part of that. Please keep up the good work. If I have forgotten to thank you, my apologies, I've run out of space but I couldn't have done it without you!

Jill

Jill Davies, Project Officer, Coupar Angus Regeneration Trust



Recipe

PINEAPPLE CHEESECAKE

This recipe and the following one are both from my Mother's handwritten cookery book. They are both well worth trying and I am sure you will like them.

Serves 6 – 8

170gr./6oz. digestive biscuits, crushed.

55gr./2oz. butter, melted.

150ml./6fl.oz. lemonade.

1 sachet gelatine.

110gr./4oz. caster sugar.

450gr./1lb. cream cheese.

1 dessertspoon lemon juice.

1 teaspoon vanilla essence.

1 small carton double cream.

1 large tin crushed pineapple.

(Sometimes it is difficult to get tins of crushed pineapple but I just use pineapple rings and break them up into small pieces).

Method

Melt the butter in a saucepan and add the crushed digestive biscuits. Mix well and press into a 9inch loose-bottomed cake tin.

Mix lemonade, gelatine and sugar in a saucepan and stir over a medium heat until dissolved. Let cool slightly.

Meanwhile, beat cream cheese until soft then add lemon juice and vanilla essence. Lastly beat in the cooled gelatine mixture.

Refrigerate until partly set then fold in whipped cream and fruit.

Pour over biscuit base, place in fridge until set.

This cheesecake can be frozen successfully.

*The Red
House
Hotel
2011
Wedding
Show*



Scottish Bridal Studio models take a short break to enjoy some delicious ice cream from le tricycle.

The sun shone on The Red House Hotel 2011 Wedding Show staged in conjunction with le tricycle events on Sunday 27th February. Gwenda Minto from le tricycle events said, “We were thrilled to achieve our goal of bringing together a broad selection of first class businesses from our area that will completely support our brides and compliment their special day.”

Over fifty brides-to-be and their guests were greeted with wine and canapés, enjoying the excellent hospitality of the hotel, before being presented with twenty bespoke exhibitors offering the very best of wedding finery and regalia.

The grand hall of The Red House Hotel showcased businesses from Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie, Dundee, Broughty Ferry and Carnoustie along with a display of gleaming wedding cars adorning the hotels entrance.

The host, Alan Bannerman, proprietor of The Red House Hotel said “I am absolutely delighted with the wedding show, everybody worked enthusiastically, it is always a pleasure to work alongside professionals who promote excellence in their business. I look forward to welcoming many brides back to the Red House for their special day.”

REGULAR ACTIVITIES**MONDAY 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th**

* **Exercise Class with Sophie** 12noon – 1pm, Town Hall, £3.00/session (inc tea/coffee)

* St Anne's Church **Parent & Toddler Group**, 1-3pm Tea/coffee & children's snacks, £1/ family

* **New Age Kurling** in the Town Hall, 2-4pm. £1.50 entry, Refreshments served. Contact Anne Campbell 01828 627587

* **Tai Chi** 7-8.30pm at the Coupar Angus Primary School Hall in Coupar Angus Primary School Hall, Adult Education Classes, 8 weekly sessions £28 or £26 for Concessions. Contact Elaine McKinlay on 01828 627040 to join.

TUESDAY 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

* **Tiny Tigers** – Meigle and Kettins Taekwondo Club 4.15-4.45pm in Kettins Church Hall, Instructor is Rev. Nicola R Frail 01828 640074

* **Youth drop-in Session**—for Secondary School Pupils from 5-8pm in the YW Hall, Union Street

* **Yoga Class** (part of CA Adult Ed. Assoc.) in the Town Hall, 7pm-8.30pm

WEDNESDAY 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

* **Tea Dance** in the Town Hall, 1.30-3.30pm, £2 admission and £1 for a raffle.

Music by Accordionist Dave Jenkins Contact Mrs Blyth 01250 872074

* Youth drop-in Sessions for Primary 5-7 pupils 6pm – 7.30pm at the YW Hall, Union Street

* **Karate Sessions** with Ally Whytock in the Town Hall, 6.30pm-8pm £3.50/session

* **Ceilidh Dance Classes** led by Alan & Tracy Thom in St Anne's Church Hall @ 7pm - all welcome - for more details - ring John on 01828 627547

THURSDAY 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

* **ZUMBA** – 10-11am in the Town Hall, dance fitness programme, follow the teacher! £3/ session

* **Exercise Class with Sophie** 12.30-1.15pm in the Town Hall, all welcome just turn up!

* **Afternoon Art Classes**** part of CA Adult Education Classes, 1.30-3.30pm in the Guide Hall

* **Line Dancing**, Coupar Angus Town Hall, Thursdays 7.30-8.30pm Just turn up on the day.

* **Scottish Country Dancing****, as part of CA Adult Education Classes, 7.00-9.00pm at *Coupar Angus Primary School Hall*. **NOT on 17th**

FRIDAY 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

* **Relax Art & Craft Group** 9.15am - 11.15am, upstairs in the Town Hall. £3.00/ session,

* St Anne's Church **Parent & Toddler Group**, 10am-12noon Tea/coffee & children's snacks, £1/family

* **ZUMBA** – 7.30-8.30pm in the Town Hall, dance/fitness class, just follow the teacher! £3/ session

Other Events and Activities**TUESDAY 1st**

* **Pride of Place Meeting** in the Council Chambers in the Town Hall, 7pm, all welcome

* **Little Fishes**, stories and music for the under 5's in St Anne's Church Hall 9.30-10.30am

THURSDAY 3rd

Forward Coupar Angus Public Meeting at St Anne's Church Hall at 7.30pm. This is a very important meeting because we will be electing our first Board of Directors. Anyone who wishes to become a Director must first become an Ordinary Member - for more details please contact the secretary Michael Gallagher on 01828 627124. N.B. Existing members will shortly receive information by post about the forthcoming meeting.

FRIDAY 4th

* **CA&D Heritage Association Talk** at Strathmore Bowling Club, 7.30pm. Paul Adair presents 'The Wilson Laing Archives'

* **John Swinney Surgery** in the Town Hall, 3-45pm-4-45pm By appointment.

SATURDAY 5th

ZUMBA – 10am in the Town Hall, dance fitness programme, follow the teacher! £3/session. You can join in at Rattray, Alyth and Birkhill thereafter!

MONDAY 7th

Blood Transfusion Service 5-8pm in the Town hall. Please give blood.

TUESDAY 8th

St. Anne's Church Ecumenical Lunch Club from 12.30pm. Soup and a roll, cheese toastie and tea/coffee £2.00/person

THURSDAY 10th

Thursday Friends in the Town Hall 2.30pm. We would be pleased to see everyone then!

FRIDAY 11th

Red House Hotel for **Country & Western Music Club** Evening, at the Red House Hotel, Coupar Angus from 8pm onwards.

MONDAY 14th

* **Gymball classes** at 9.30am in the Squash Court, The Red House Hotel, Coupar Angus. Great fun and a fantastic way to keep fit and tone safely. You will need to bring your own gymball. Please call Julie on 07818 004 754 for more details.

Over 60's Day Out, leaving the Town hall at 1.30pm. If you would like to join us call Tom on 628342 or Michael on 627124 to book your seat and for details.

* **Community Council Meeting**, 7pm in Coupar Angus Town Hall

* **SNP Bingo Tea** in Coupar Angus Town Hall, eyes down at 7.30pm – 9.45pm Bring own cup.

MONDAY 21st

* **Zumba** 7.30pm in the Town Hall, dance fitness programme, follow Fiona! £3/session

TUESDAY 22nd

St. Anne's Church Ecumenical Lunch Club from 12.30pm. Soup and a roll, cheese toastie and tea/coffee £2.00/person

WEDNESDAY 23rd

Burrelton Parent & Toddlers Group, Baby Sensory class with Kelly Buchan, From birth to 24 months. 10-11am in Woodside Church Hall, Manse Road, Burrelton, PH13 9QB see www.burreltonplaygroup.co.uk for more details. Usual admission cost only.

THURSDAY 24th

Bookbug Rhymetime in the Library in the Town Hall, Coupar Angus 10.30-11am. Free story, song and Rhyme sessions for babies & toddler

SATURDAY 26th

COUPAR ANGUS HORSE FAIR 2011 see main article for events. This year we are welcoming a range of activities from events later in the year including Perthshire Open Studios, Vintage Vehicles from Yesteryear events and a talk but local Author Kathleen Godfrey.

* **Pride of Place Family Ceilidh** in the Town Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Florence at the Town Hall or Rona on 01828 628865. Book early to avoid disappointment.

SUNDAY 27th

Pride of Place "Plant a Tree in the Park" Day at Larghan Park at 1pm. Wear suitable clothes & footwear.

MONDAY 28th

Zumba 7.30pm in the Town Hall, dance fitness programme, follow Fiona! £3/session

TUESDAY 29th

Little Fishes, stories and music for the under 5's in St Anne's Church Hall 9.30-10.30am

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL**FRIDAY 1st**

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WEDNESDAY 6th

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Music by Accordionist Dave Jenkins Contact Mrs Blyth 01250 872074

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If you have an event you would like included in the CAN do What's On, please email details to cartrust@btconnect.com.

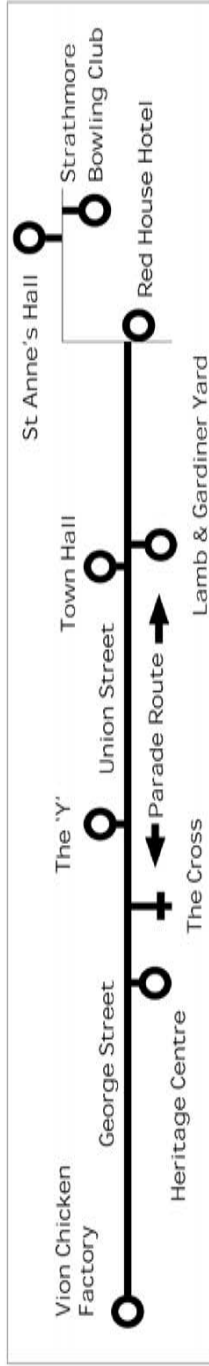


COUPAR ANGUS
Regeneration Trust

The Horse Fair 2011 Saturday 26th March 10am-3pm

Parade of band, walkers, vehicles, ridden & heavy horses at 12.15 from Red House Hotel forecourt to Vion factory and back

The 'Y' From 10am Children's Art activities by the StART Festival Soup Kitchen by The 'Y'.	Town Hall From 10am Community Groups, Charities and Craft Stalls Refreshments by Burrelton Playgroup. Display by local artists and the Perthshire Open Studios group	St. Anne's Hall From 10 Refreshments Display: Gingerbread Horse entries Sponsor: Tower Bakery. Entries should be here by 10.30am Display: 'My Coupar Angus' Photographic Competition entries Sponsor: Lloyds TSB	Bowling Club 10am Talk: Kathleen Godfrey: ' Hoofprints Over Scotland ' 11.30am Talk: Riding for the Disabled 1pm Talk: Joe Richards: ' Coupar Angus History '
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Heritage Centre **The Cross**
From **10am** Displays and information on **local history**
Admission free to all events.

Lamb & Gardiner's Yard
From **10am**
Display of **Vintage Tractors**

Red House Hotel Forecourt
From **10am**
FARRIER demonstration
Carriage Rides
12.15 pm Start of Parade
1pm approx after parade:
Heavy Horses on show

Safety: Please—avoid parking on the parade route: Keep to pavements whilst Parade approaches and passes: Avoid noises or other actions that might startle the horses.

The Horse Fair is run by The Coupar Angus Horse Fair Community Interest Company, and supported by the Community Council. Help with funding is given by Perth & Kinross Council. This event is only possible because of the participation of many local groups, the voluntary help of numerous people, and the generous support of local businesses in providing facilities and donating items.



**Scotland's
Census 2011**
Shaping our future

Census Day 27th March 2011

Your census questionnaire will be delivered before 27 March. You may have seen the adverts on TV or read about it in national newspapers, so this is just a wee reminder about why the census matters and what you need to do.

The census is a way for you to tell the government and businesses about the services you and your community use and need, now and in the future. It is vital to help provide the services we all need, like schools, transport and shops.

The census asks questions that help target billions of pounds of public money on services that everyone needs for the future. For example, an effective school system depends on knowing how many children live in each neighbourhood.

Everyone must be included on a census questionnaire as its results will help shape Scotland's future. We count everyone - even if you are just visiting for a short time - because visitors use services too. the

You can fill in your census questionnaire as soon as it arrives – provided your answers cover the people living or staying with you on the night of 27 March. Most of the questions can be answered by ticking a box. Don't worry if you are away that weekend; you can complete it before you go or when you return. The important thing is to provide the information about your household.

For the first time it is possible to complete your return online at www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk if you have an internet access code printed on the front page of your questionnaire. Just click on the "Fill in your questionnaire online" button and follow the instructions on screen.

The website also provides help with answering each question. The questions are translated into 11 other languages. They are also available in British Sign Language and audio . The website is a good option for larger families as it expands as you add the names in your household. (The paper questionnaire has space for up to 5 people so if your household is larger than that please ask for a continuation questionnaire.)

You can complete your census online from any computer as the website is protected by strong security arrangements based on tried and trusted technology. If you need to pause while filling in the online questionnaire you can save the information and return to it later using a password of your own choosing..

Filling in the paper questionnaire is straight forward too. Scotland's Census organiser, the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) has employed census takers (enumerators) who will deliver the questionnaires, from 7 March up to census day. They can also assist you if you have any questions about the census. All census takers have been security checked and will carry photographic ID.

Once you've completed the paper questionnaire post it in the prepaid envelope provided.

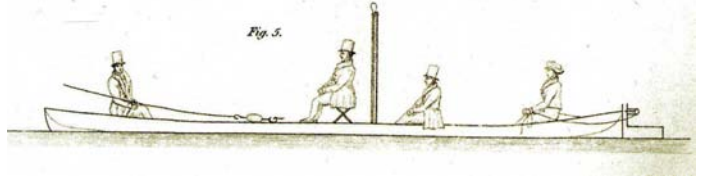
The census is required by law and people who try to avoid taking part may be fined up to £1,000.

If you need any help and don't have access to a computer the census helpline opens on 7th March. The number is 0300 123 1702 and for textphones: 18001 0300 123 1703.

A Little Bit of History – Coupar Angus Connections

A Canal for Strathmore ?

In Scotland, as in England, the late 18th century was the age of the canal. Although a



canal linking the east and west coasts of Scotland was first proposed as early as the 17th century, it was to be another century before this became a reality, with the opening in 1790 of the Forth and Clyde Canal, linking Grangemouth on the River Forth with Bowling on the River Clyde. Unsurprisingly this venture attracted attention from those who were intent on promoting agricultural improvement and industrial development elsewhere in Scotland.

Here in Strathmore interest in the formation of a canal is recorded in the **Statistical Account of Scotland** for the parishes of Meigle (1791) and Coupar Angus (1795). The great level of Strathmore offered a route which, if realised in full, could link Perth with Aberdeen. As John Ritchie recorded in his account of Coupar Angus it was one George Young, "...late a merchant in this town, a man of an uncommon capacity for business and improvement", who managed to arrange for the survey of a route intended to link Perth and Forfar. Dr. James Playfair, in his account of the neighbouring parish of Meigle, envisaged such a canal being used for the import of coal, lime, wood and other merchandise, and the export of cloth, grain and other products of the strath, but foresaw the problem of raising sufficient capital. He calculated that a suitable barge might convey 50 tons "... as much weight as 125 horses could carry by land from Perth or Dundee". In the event, as John Ritchie observed "... The plan was formed on a scale too expensive for the state of the country at that time, and was consequently dropt".

As late as 1817 canals were still in favour, with the opening of the Union Canal, linking Port Hopetoun in Edinburgh with the Forth and Clyde Canal at Falkirk. The idea of a Strathmore Canal did not die altogether, for in 1823, the Scottish civil engineer Robert Stevenson, best known for his work on lighthouses, published a detailed **Memorial Regarding the Propriety and Importance of Opening the Great Valleys of Strathmore and Strathearn by means of a Railway or Canal**. Following a detailed consideration of the relative merits of roads, railways and canals as means of transport, and the relative costs of construction, Stevenson reached the conclusion that "... carriage on a level line of railway will be found to be as advantageous as water carriage by canal ... We therefore conceive that, as a beneficial measure for the country, the railway is preferable to the ditch or small canal". In the final paragraphs of his report, Stevenson foresaw the likelihood that 'roadways of iron' would soon prevail over the canal.

For those interested in exploring this little bit of our history, papers and plans relating to the proposal for a Strathmore Canal may be found in the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh, and in Dundee's Wellgate Library.



COUDAR ANGUS LIBRARY

AUTHOR VISIT

Nick Hesketh

on

Friday 11th March

4pm

Spooky Story workshop



For children aged 5-11

To book a free place

Contact Coupar Angus Library

Tel: 01828 627090



Family and Local History Day

Saturday 12 March

10-12pm

Come along and view old maps,

Trade directories and an old copy of the Blairgowrie Advertiser.

There will be free access to ancestry.co.uk and

Stewart will be here from Blairgowrie Library

to help with any military enquiries you may have.

**There will be old photos of Coupar Angus, and a member
of the Coupar Angus and District Heritage Association will be
here to answer any questions.**

For further information

Tel Coupar Angus Library on

01828 627090

The Illuminators

The passing of Jim Kettles leaves us at the Illuminators all with sadness. Jim and his wife Jo were the founder members of our committee and we appreciate the work done by them.

Not only do I know Jim for that reason but I was his employee for 2 years in the 70s.

When he was running his business, Jim tried his best to be efficient and cost effective for everybody, often worrying that he could not do enough.

The same has to be said when starting the Illuminators, a great deal of time and effort was given to the cause. Please remember it was started with virtually no money.

Jim's greatest achievement of which he was very proud and rightly so, was the Town Hall building and tree lights.

We have risen to a modest amount of Christmas lights but if it were not for Jim there would be no Christmas lights in Coupar Angus at all.

Robert Clark, Chairperson.

JOB VACANCY:

Full Time Packhouse Supervisor required for honey packers. Duties include setting up, working on and supervising production line. Responsible for making up orders, stock control, food hygiene legislation compliance and maintaining paperwork.

Previous food processing, hygiene and HACCP experience advantageous but not essential as training will be given to the right candidate.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please Telephone Susan on 01828 640821



FORWARD COUPAR ANGUS

SOME IDEAS FOR LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Perth and Kinross Council is currently preparing its new Local Development Plan which allocates land for new houses, factories, roads and other types of development for the next 15 years or so. The Council has prepared a rough first draft of its Local Development Plan, titled 'Main Issues Report'.

The Council is seeking comments on this from the public. Therefore our steering committee has been examining the Main Issues Report, and has produced the following set of comments and proposals for discussion with the local community.

Background

* Coupar Angus is the poorest of all the burghs in Perth & Kinross. 18 of the working age population have never worked and the level of those with graduate qualifications is significantly below the Perth & Kinross average.

*The burgh is very dependent on Vion, who employ 900-950 staff, increasingly from Eastern Europe, with significant numbers bussed in from outside the burgh. The smell from the factory is still a significant issue albeit one which the company appears to be committed to addressing.

*the burgh lacks significant community facilities-the library is small and old fashioned with limited opening hours (albeit it is well regarded by primary children) and there is no indoor sports centre.

*the town hall is well used but requires updating with new facilities in order to continue to play a major role in the burgh's life in the future.

*the burgh does have very active community groups-POP, CART, CADHA, Scouts/Guides etc-which are operating well but could be more successful with additional facilities and support.

Coupar Angus can become a beautiful, prosperous town which its inhabitants can be proud of, and which others will want to visit. However, it will require the vision and effort of everyone working together for the good of the town, especially young people.

*there is only one hotel in the burgh and very few other visitor/tourist facilities or accommodation-although the redevelopment of Larghan Park has been a success.

*the shops are in slow decline-although one new one has opened relatively recently. The redevelopment of the burgh centre has improved its look physically – both in terms of buildings and the Cross-it remains to be seen if this will impact positively on the retail environment. The reduction in car parking caused by the central environmental improvements requires to be addressed elsewhere by the Council as promised.

*The relief road is inadequate as heavy traffic still passes through a part of the burgh and the connection from the Dundee Road is narrow, awkward and dangerous for pedestrians.

*the smell from the new sewage plant detracts from the residents' quality of life and the attractiveness of the burgh and requires to be addressed.

PROPOSALS

1. We believe that the burgh requires significant expansion and in order to achieve this a complete bypass of the A94 is required. We estimate that this would cost £5-6 million and could be financed in a similar way to the proposed Cross Tay Link Road north of Perth (connecting the A9 across to the A93)

2. Such a bypass would not only provide access to new residential areas but enable new provision of such facilities as a new hotel, industrial sites, petrol/garage services, camping & caravan site, farm shop etc. It would take the bulk of the heavy traffic away from the burgh and enable a new link to be made from the A923 Dundee road to the relief road roundabout connecting to Blairgowrie. This would also minimise traffic at the existing narrow A94/A923 Dundee road junction.

3. The burgh requires a substantial increase in predominantly private housing over the next 25 years. A minimum of 600 and up to 1000 houses (approx 30-40 a year) will provide a more balanced population in terms of educational attainment, skills and income-creating more demand for local shops and community facilities and preventing leakage to bigger population centres.

4. We are aware that SEPA has indicated that much of the area within the proposed bypass is subject to a 1 in 200 years risk of flooding. However SEPA's own commentary indicates that they are unsure about the accuracy of their flood maps in this area and we believe that any potential flooding could be dealt with by appropriate mitigation measures. Local knowledge, for example, indicates that Abbey Gardens and Brodie's Yard have never been flooded.

5. In addition to the proposed bypass and substantial housing increase we believe that the burgh needs more and better community facilities. We understand that Perth & Kinross Council is unlikely to have significant funds for such facilities in the foreseeable future and suggest therefore that new partnership and funding arrangements are made between the Council and its agents and local community groups, including ourselves.

6. The Town Hall is already well used but lacks a number of facilities which would strengthen its position as the central community facility in the burgh. The library is small and old fashioned and a new modern library extension is required – thus releasing the existing space to operate as a cafe/meeting place - a facility much needed according to recent community surveys. A new kitchen, a lift for upper floor access, specialist film equipment and bleacher seating would extend the range of facilities and services on offer.

7. Similarly there is a need for indoor sports facilities - again highlighted in community surveys. We would propose that an Indoor Sports Centre – including sports hall, swimming pool, dance studio and ancillary accommodation – be constructed on the primary school playground, connected to the school. This would require the construction of a new playground - possibly on the existing gymnasium/classroom site with appropriate road amendments.

8. The Abbey Church has plans to redevelop its building to provide more community facilities and we support these plans. A consequence of these proposals is the likely sale of the Church Halls in Union Street in the central conservation area. In the first instance we would wish to see the building retained and developed as a Heritage Centre - a facility which is becoming extremely successful in other communities. In the event that this is not possible the site perhaps lends itself to sheltered housing due to its centrality.

9. The expansion of the burgh to the south, as we propose, will bring the Abbey Church into a more central position in the burgh. The church also requires its setting to be maintained and we propose to do this by ringing it with woodland around the immediate protected site.

10. We believe that there is significant scope to improve the "greening" of the burgh and enhancing its landscape setting. Within the boundaries of the proposed southern bypass we see scope for woodland, green connecting corridors, ponds and wetlands together with green tourist facilities - camping, bunkhouses etc - connecting walks, trails and cycle paths into the wider countryside beyond. Other possibilities include community owned orchards, allotments and woodland which would have significant reference back to the monks of the original Abbey.

11. The burgh also needs new tourist facilities - for example it is the only burgh without a golf course. Our proposals would enable a range of tourist related facilities to be created - thus making it easier to develop a wider range of tourist accommodation over the next 25 years. New uses also need to be found for some of the burgh's historic buildings (eg the Steeple, which is very popular on Doors Open Days) and more remains to be done to promote the burgh's historic building assets – including the Abbey and its history.

12. The expansion of the burgh would also attract another supermarket to compete with the Co-op, increase local spend and encourage new retail outlets. In the short term however, it is essential that there is a clear retail strategy for the burgh for the next 10 years. We would propose that the Council consider a retail incentives scheme - perhaps rate relief for an initial period or something similar.

13. In order for the revitalisation of the Burgh to start to become a reality the issues of replacement central car parking and the smells from Vion and the Sewage works will require to be addressed by the Council.

We appreciate that not all of these proposals are directly relevant to the Main Issues report but we believe that they articulate our vision of a revitalised Coupar Angus and the range of developments which will be needed. An indicative plan showing how this might be created is available.

ROBERT CLARK
Electrical Contractor
N.I.C.E.I.C. APPROVED

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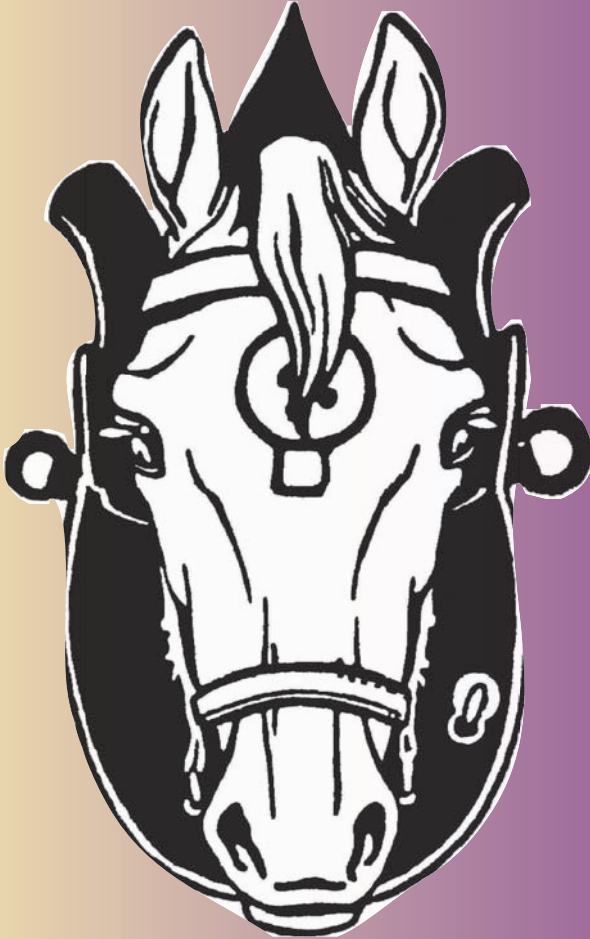
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