Enjoy the great outdoors

Our countryside rangers have a new home in glorious Glen Doll
Spring is almost upon us, and as Angus residents will now know, the arrival of the warmer weather is heralded with the council’s residents’ magazine dropping through their letterboxes.

As ever, we’ve packed the magazine with news and features from all over the county, highlighting the work of the council and its community planning partners.

There’s already a buzz around the county as communities gear up to celebrate Tartan Day which promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Included in this edition is a complete guide to the events happening in the county.

The completion of the Forfar/Carnoustie schools project is featured, while we look at how vulnerable citizens are benefiting from investment in new social housing.

As more and more people discover the glorious Angus glens, the work being carried out to protect and promote the county’s superb natural heritage is explored.

The challenge of ensuring that older people can stay in their own homes for longer, is one that the council is meeting with a new emphasis on the delivery of older people’s services, our special feature reveals how this will be rolled out in the coming years.

If you’ve ever been stung by dealings with a trader, you’ll know how important it is to find a reputable business before parting with hard earned cash. Help is now at hand from the council as it launches a reputable trader scheme – find out more inside.

Angus Life is published by Angus Council to provide information on council plans, policies and services and its work with community planning partners. The content of the publication can be made available on alternative formats or translated into other community languages. Please contact the council’s ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778 for further information. © Angus Council 2009.

If you have any comments about Angus Life please contact the council’s public relations unit, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar DD8 1AX. Tel: 01307 461460. Email: anguslife@angus.gov.uk

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Angus Life is produced using recycled paper. When you have finished with this magazine, please recycle it.
The Best Bar None in Angus

THE Best Bar None Angus Awards 2008 ceremony was held at Forbes of Kingennie Country Resort, when the overall winner was declared as The Vault, Monifieth. The event, which was sponsored by the hosts, as well as Thorntons Solicitors and Diageo, has seen a record entry by licensed premises in the county, with all of the Angus towns represented.

The Best Bar None scheme is part of the Focus on Alcohol Angus initiative, which aims to co-ordinate and develop new projects and services across Angus to tackle alcohol misuse. Best Bar None is a national award scheme, with more than 80 Best Bar None schemes across the UK.

Pubs, clubs and bars are judged on how well they deal with prevention of crime and disorder, promote public safety, prevent public nuisance and protect children from harm. Twenty nine premises were visited last year by assessors from Angus Council trading standards service, Tayside Police and Tayside Fire and Rescue.

The Best Bar None award winners in each category were: pub – The Vault, Monifieth; club – Buddies, Kirriemuir; bar – The Ash Bar, Montrose; healthy eating – Station Hotel, Carnoustie; overall winner – The Vault, Monifieth.

Annette is a lady of leisure!

THE winner of the bACTIVE competition in the last edition of Angus Life was Annette Taylor of Carnoustie. Annette and her family will enjoy a year’s membership to Angus Council leisure facilities.

Everyone who entered the competition also received a day pass to the leisure centre of their choice – completely free of charge.

A bACTIVE membership can help with all your sports and fitness needs by giving you unlimited access to the council’s nine main leisure sites and three high school pools. For more information visit the website at www.angus.gov.uk/sportscountryside

New pool designs unveiled

ANGUS Council is continuing to consult on plans for a new swimming pool in Montrose. The council has already invited views from residents, and is about to embark on a further round of consultation with the publication of design proposals for the facility.

Work is expected to start on the new pool, which will be built next to Montrose Academy, in January 2011, with completion by October 2012. Swimming and water sports groups likely to use the new pool have been consulted as part of the initial stages of the project, as were national and regional sports agencies and Scottish Swimming.

The facility will cater for the school and community during the day in term time and community use in the evenings and at weekends. It will be open throughout the year and be managed and operated by Angus Council.

The existing pool was built in 1962 and there are a number of major issues with the fabric of the building and the costs involved in maintaining the facility to a level that allows continued use.

The plans will be presented to community councils and a public meeting will give people the opportunity to find out more about the proposal. Comments can also be made via the council’s website at www.angus.gov.uk/hys

Positive child protection services report

A RECENT follow-up visit to Angus by HM Inspectorate of Education to report on services to protect children has found that agencies are working well and services continue to be improved. The inspectorate reported positively on services for children in Angus in 2007, when out of the 18 quality indicators used by the inspectorate, Angus received one very good, 13 good and four adequate scores.

The four areas recommended for action in the 2007 report have now been judged in a follow-up inspection as having achieved good or very good progress. As a result of effective performance shown by the services in taking forward the recommended improvements, there will be no further visits by the inspectorate in relation to the 2007 visit.

For more information on child protection in Angus, visit www.anguschildprotectioncommittee.org.uk

www.angus.gov.uk 03 ANGUSlife
Leading the charge

With Homecoming Scotland 2009 giving us all an extra reason to celebrate everything that’s wonderful about Scotland and the Scots, this year’s Tartan Day Angus promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Although many other counties in Scotland now join in the worldwide Tartan Day celebrations, Angus was the first in Scotland to officially commemorate Tartan Day.

Every year, Angus provides more than a week of memorable Tartan Day events and there’s already a real buzz around the county for the 2009 Tartan Day programme.

Tartan Day takes place on 6 April and marks the Signing of the Declaration of Arbroath. It is a growing national celebration of Scotland, its people and its achievements.

The celebrations surrounding Tartan Day Angus last from Thursday 2 April until Sunday 12 April.

Merlyn Dunn, who is managing the Tartan Day programme, said: “The Arbroath Declaration places Angus at the very heart of these national festivities and gives us the opportunity to showcase our strengths and raise the profile of Angus at a national level.

“Our ambition is to have this Tartan Day festival expand every year, and by 2020 – the 700th anniversary of the Declaration’s signing – have a national and international celebration.

“But at its heart will always be Arbroath and Angus and so this year, along with other Scottish regions, Angus is presenting a lively and exciting programme of events, thanks to the support of many of our community groups and local businesses.”

Read on for a taste of what’s happening in Angus for the celebrations.

WHAT’S ON WHEN

THURSDAY 2 APRIL
Tartan street football
Arbroath Academy

FRIDAY 3 APRIL - MONDAY 13 APRIL
Schoolchildren’s Shop Window Competition, Forfar

FRIDAY 3 APRIL
Arbroath Male Voice Choir, Webster Theatre
Tartan Ceilidh, Red Lion Caravan Park, Arbroath
The Kiln is our delight, Montrose Town Hall

SATURDAY 4 APRIL - SUNDAY 5 APRIL
Tartan Day Scottish Ceilidh Nights, various pubs in Arbroath
Taste of Tartan

Taste of Tartan Menu, Glen Clova Hotel
“My Scotland” Photographic Exhibition, Angus Pictures Photography Studio, Arbroath

SATURDAY 4 APRIL - SUNDAY 12 APRIL
Beer Festival & Scottish Fayre, Plough Inn, Forfar
Tartan Day Window Competition, Arbroath

SATURDAY 4 APRIL
Angus Farmers’ Market, Montrose
MDMB – ACDC Tribute Band, Ogilvy Bar, Kirriemuir
Abbey Folk Club, Meadowbank Inn, Arbroath
Tartan coffee morning, Old & Abbey Church Hall, Arbroath
Scottish food, Kookaburras,
FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.TARTANDAYSCLOTLAND.COM

A warm welcome awaits you

HOMECOMING Scotland celebrates Scotland’s great contributions to the world. Inspired by the 250th anniversary of the birth of our national bard Robert Burns, Homecoming aims to encourage Scots and those who love Scotland to visit in 2009. Angus is proud to support Homecoming Scotland 2009 and among the events that will take place are a summer-long celebration of Scottish culture and a festival for people whose ancestors came from Angus and Dundee.

Visitors will be encouraged to sign the online guest book, view the photogallery or send an e-postcard home at www.angusahead.com

The Haist arts festival starts in July with a series of lunchtime outdoor performances in each of the Angus burghs and a programme of traditional music sessions in hotels and pubs. All events are free.

The Angus & Dundee Roots Festival in September will include visits to ancestral sites, workshops, talks, demonstrations, heritage film shows and more.

Angus Council has also chosen the start of the National Year of Homecoming to launch a tourism strategy for the county.
Enthusiastic response to new school buildings

ANGUS Council's £50 million education programme is coming to fruition, with five of the schools now open and the other – Langlands Primary – due for completion in spring.

It's the council's biggest investment in education in 40 years and the school buildings will also be available for use after hours by local communities.

The upgraded Carlogie Primary School was opened in December.

Senior education manager Craig Clement said: "Carlogie's refurbishment has worked out very well. People say that it looks like a brand new school, with all of the equipment and facilities you would expect."

"As well as the building, we've made changes external to the environment, which has made it more welcoming and friendly for visitors."

Head teacher Jim Hammond added: "The reaction from the children and their parents has been very positive. The standard of finish at the school has given us a first-class product – it's exactly like a new school."

Pupils at Carnoustie High School are enjoying their new surroundings, which have been designed to enhance learning and teaching opportunities. The school, which opened at the beginning of the new term, was built within the existing school campus, and most of the ground floor of the old building was demolished to make way for a landscaped front entrance and car park.

Head teacher Fraser Booth said: "The new building provides pupils and staff with an excellent learning environment. It is equipped with the best facilities such as interactive whiteboards in each classroom and enhanced information, communication and technology equipment."

"The migration from the old to the new buildings involved a great deal of hard work, and it was heartening to see the way that pupils and staff pulled together to make it a success."

Two additional music practice rooms are to be built and plans are in hand to refurbish the music department and PE changing rooms before August.

Langlands to be unveiled in the spring

LANGLANDS Primary is the final school in the programme, and will open in the spring. Craig Clement said: "It’s a new school on the existing campus. Pupils and staff will move over from the Chapelpark School where they are meantime.

"And all of the primary schools in Forfar and Carnoustie now have purpose-built nursery accommodation as well as facilities for children with additional support needs."

Craig added: "During the time they’ve been at Chapelpark, the parents and staff organised two walking buses, which have been very popular with pupils.

"It helped to reduce traffic around the school, and improved the health and the street awareness of the youngsters."

Arbroath and Area Partnership

AFTER another successful year, Arbroath and Area Partnership is looking forward to developing a number of new areas of work in 2009.

The partnership has been successful in its bid to Lloyds TSB for a grant towards the development of a community cinema and arts centre.

A Year of Light sub-group has been established to progress plans for events in 2010/2011 to commemorate the anniversary of the Bell Rock Lighthouse.

The partnership has successfully applied to Breathing Places/The Big Lottery Fund and Angus Environmental Trust for funding to carry out work in the Den of St Vigeans.
Caring for our community

With dementia, memories may slip away, but independent living can remain for much longer thanks to new purpose-built council homes in Monifieth.

Angus Council is set to build two new properties for rent specifically designed to make life easier for elderly tenants who are in the early stages of dementia.

They are to be constructed on the old police station site in Monifieth, in an area where affordable housing for rent is very scarce. This will free up lets for homeless applicants in the south Angus area.

“We are badly in need of good quality housing in the area,” said Alan McKeown, Angus Council’s head of housing. “This project is part of a wider strategic partnering with Tayside Police, which has given the council the opportunity to secure a prime site in the middle of town. It also allows the police to relocate to the council’s ACCESS Office, giving the town a 24-hour police station for the first time.”

Expected to be completed by late 2010, the two-storey houses will take advantage of the latest building and care technology (see below). They will also be able to accommodate telehealth and telecare equipment, to remotely manage conditions and respond to any problems, such as falls, which will enhance and support independent living.

All the main facilities for the tenant will be on the ground floor. A second bedroom will be created on the first floor for carers, as well as relatives, whose contact with the tenant can help slow the worsening of dementia.

The council is currently working with specialists from the Dementia Services Development Centre at Stirling University to make sure the design of the properties and support for the tenancy is tailored specifically for people with the condition.

The houses will also be built to low-carbon, ecological standards, with high levels of insulation, air tightness and passive solar gain, along with careful use of non-toxic materials.

“Angus Council is keen to promote high-quality energy efficiency because it saves money for people living in their homes and it is better for the environment in the long term,” Alan said.

The project may be the start of a wider development programme for Angus, with the council looking to support the building of other new properties in a partnership with a range of developers.

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THE Auchmull Project – a refurbishment of an old sporting lodge in Glen Esk – is the winner of the Angus Design Awards 2008.

The key parts of the refurbishment were the extension to the lodge house to create a library and the conversion of the steading to provide self-catering accommodation and accommodation for trainee gamekeepers.

Other winners were: highly commended – Milton Studio, Glamis; commended – Logie Schoolhouse, near Montrose; Arbroath Harbour Visitor Centre; house at 62 Hill Street, Monifieth; and Queen Mother Memorial Gates, Glamis Castle.

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THE City of Brechin and Area Partnership is tackling litter issues. It is hoped that success from other areas can be replicated, including Arbroath and Forfar, which were identified as good practice of partnership working involving an educational as well as punitive approach.

Inspector Kenny Hart will be leading on a partnership with Brechin High School to tackle the issue.

A community group is also taking forward proposals for an all-weather football pitch at Brechin High School.
The countryside rangers based in the Angus glens can boast one of the most beautiful and remote workplaces in the country. The rangers operate from a base in stunning Glen Doll at the head of Glen Clova surrounded by spectacular scenery, tumbling waterfalls, Munros and an abundance of wildlife.

The glen lies within the Cairngorms National Park and at its head lies the Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve, a botanist’s paradise with rare alpine flowers and where golden eagles soar in search of food. Over the years, more and more people have fallen under the spell of this enchanting corner of Angus and about 70,000 people visit the Glen Doll area annually.

Recognising the need to ensure that this growth in visitor numbers was managed properly, in 1998, Angus Council launched a ranger service covering the glens of Clova, Isla, Prosen, Lethnot, Ogil and Esk.

The rangers were originally located in a farmhouse in Glen Doll, but as this was some distance from the car park, picnic site and main area of visitor activity, the decision was taken to provide a new ranger base.

In September last year, thanks to funding from the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage, a new £395,000 purpose-built ranger base was opened, incorporating a project room, exhibition space, reception, office, mess facilities and public toilets.

Describing the new base as “sorely needed”, local mountaineer Gordon Snedden said: “Since I first visited Glen Doll, I have seen many changes. There was no ranger, no way-marked routes through the forest and no information on where to go and what to see. The tracks had never been maintained, and many were in a dire state with flooding, erosion and deep mud in places.

“When Angus Council appointed a countryside ranger, things began to change. There was information for visitors, way-marked routes through the forest and improvements to the path network. The benefits of these improvements are apparent to both short-distance walkers and long-distance mountaineers. I, and many others, have benefited from all these improvements and I can vouch for the fact that the money has been well spent and has encouraged an increasing number of people to visit.

The design is sympathetic to the surrounding area. I would encourage everyone to visit – you’ll get a warm welcome from the ranger on duty.

“Whatever you choose to do – a picnic, a short walk in Glen Doll forest or a longer walk up into the surrounding hills – you will not be disappointed and will appreciate the area’s outstanding natural beauty.”

The ranger service provides, manages and maintains visitor services including information and advice on the natural heritage, environmental education, information and advice for climbers and walkers, advice to visitors regarding land management and access issues, maintenance of footpaths, stiles, bridges, hill paths, forest trails and signs, and activities including guided walks, workshops and conservation work.

Ken Slater, senior countryside ranger based in Glen Doll, describes the glens as a “great place to work”.

Ken said: “You may think that dealing with so many partnership bodies could cause problems, but the staff we deal with from Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, Cairngorms National Park and Angus Council are all focused, professional and realise the importance of the area.

“We get a real buzz not knowing what each day may bring: it may be talking to visitors and telling them about the area, it may be leading groups on a guided walk, or monitoring the wildlife that makes this place so special.”

Walk the glens

For the walker, the Angus glens offer a number of trails and paths from low level through forests or following the main rivers to the high tops.

To introduce the walker to the many attractions of the area, an Angus Glens Walking Festival was launched seven years ago.

The festival has gone from strength to strength. This year’s event is from Thursday 28 to Sunday 31 May.

The 2009 festival features 24 spectacular walks to suit all tastes and abilities, from a stroll round Forfar loch to a 1000-metre ascent of Munros Tom Buidhe and Tolmount.

For more information, visit www.angusahead.com/walkingfestival

For information on staying safe on the hills visit www.mountaineering-scotland.org.uk
COMMUNITY planning activity continues in the Kirriemuir and The Glens area through a community planning pilot project which is focusing specifically on tourism in the area. The group is focusing on sustainable developments that will boost tourism, such as the 150th celebration in 2010 of JM Barrie’s birth and other projects including developing links with the Cairngorms National Park.

For information, contact the community planning team on 01307 476107 or email communityplanning@angus.gov.uk

IF you are interested in safeguarding the red squirrel in Angus, Graham Christer of the glens ranger service would like to hear from you. Research indicates there are about 90 to 100 red squirrels in Glen Doll forest. Although population estimates are known for the larger woodland areas in Angus, little is known about numbers within the numerous small scattered woodlands throughout the county.

As part of the Scottish Squirrel Survey, the public is being invited to record red and grey squirrels throughout the county to enable a distribution map to be drawn up. If you would like to help, call 01575 550233 or email rec_glendoll@angus.sol.co.uk

Help save our squirrels!

AFTER the success of the 2008 entry to Beautiful Scotland in Bloom, the Monifieth in Bloom group are busy planning next year’s bigger and better entry. The group is keen to recruit new volunteers and anyone wishing to be involved should email monifiethinbloom@yahoo.co.uk or phone Beverley Gibb on 01307 476106.

The Monifieth and Area Partnership is still keen to gather local businesses and organisations details to form a business association, with a view to producing a local directory of services, contact Beverley Gibb for more information. It is hoped that Angus Farmers’ Market will be holding their first market in Monifieth in the area adjacent to Tesco car park as from Saturday 28 March.

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Tapping in to a tourist hot spot

COMMUNITY planning activity continues in the Kirriemuir and The Glens area through a community planning pilot project which is focusing specifically on tourism in the area. The group is focusing on sustainable developments that will boost tourism, such as the 150th celebration in 2010 of JM Barrie’s birth and other projects including developing links with the Cairngorms National Park.

For information, contact the community planning team on 01307 476107 or email communityplanning@angus.gov.uk
A PROJECT aimed at enabling people to remain in their own homes by providing instant video-links to their carers or family members via the television is being piloted in Angus. Two telecare demonstration flats have been set up in Montrose and Kirriemuir. In addition to the telecare links, the flats are equipped with other safety equipment including smoke and flood detectors and passive alarms which, if activated, are detected at the care monitoring centre.

Through the use of telecare, it is hoped that older people can remain independent within their own homes, safe in the knowledge that they can see and speak with a carer or family member at the touch of a button.

Angus Council has been successful in the local authority category of the 2008/2009 British Toilet Association Loo of the Year Awards for the high standard of its public toilets. Angus received these awards: five-star rating – Arbroath Harbour Visitor Centre, Arbroath Market Place, Montrose Baltic Street; four-star rating – Forfar Buttermarket, Kirriemuir Reform Street, Brechin Church Street.

The council’s newest superloo at Arbroath Harbour Visitor Centre was also recognised for its accessibility. Staff at all facilities have been awarded an Attendant of the Year award for commitment to a vital public service.

Monifieth consultation

THERE’S still time to give your views on plans to improve the image and appearance of Monifieth town centre.

The council is proposing a £250,000 programme of improvements which include lighting, street furniture, town history boards and a review of the road layout and pedestrian crossings in the High Street.

Presentations on the proposals to the community council and the Monifieth and Area Partnership have taken place. There is a display in the ACCESS Office and in Tesco until the end of March. A comment sheet is available to allow people to submit their views.

Comments can also be made online on the Have Your Say section of the council’s website at www.angus.gov.uk/hys
There’s no place like home

The council’s new model of care for older people will enable more Angus residents to live independently and still receive the support they need.

It’s often the small things which have the biggest impact – a few adjustments to daily routine or a new piece of equipment can mean the difference between an older person living independently at home or relying on care.

Recognising the need to develop services to meet the needs of an ageing population and enable more people to live independently for longer, Angus Council is moving towards a new model of care for older people which is focused on what a person can do for themselves rather than what can be done for them.

The services offered to older people in the community affect us all – whether it is considering the care of a relative or in the future when we may need assistance ourselves. The council has decided to meet this challenge head on with an imaginative new approach to older people’s services.

**Angus Council’s vision is:**

- A move to more supported independence where possible. Rather than doing things for people, enabling them to lead the most independent lives they can in their own homes.
- A move away from the direct provision of residential care homes for older people to the creation of more than 260 extra supported housing places by 2028.
- Greater investment in the technology that encourages and enables greater independence and allows people to remain in their own homes.

Angus Social Work and Health director Robert Peat explained the philosophy behind this new approach: “Increasingly, people expect to maintain their independence into old age and wish to retain as much control over their lives as possible, preferably receiving care in their own homes.”

“The approach adopted in the past has been a traditional model of providing a range of services which do tasks for people rather than enabling people to do more for themselves. “This is based on the common assumption that decline in older age is inevitable and that the purpose of community care services is to undertake tasks which older people can no longer carry out for themselves.”

“The council now aims to take an approach whereby older people are assisted to regain skills and confidence to manage independently rather than providing services to undertake those tasks for them.

**CASE STUDY**

**Improving quality of life**

Miss B had been discharged from hospital. She declined support from the early supported discharge service as she thought she could manage. On return home, she was very tired and unable to prepare meals or reheat meals prepared by her family. Her family requested that she receive community meals.

After assessment, it was agreed Miss B should have community meals short term and as she regained her strength, she would receive support from staff to heat up/prepare her own meals. This involved helping her gain confidence using her microwave. Miss B’s family also helped her use the microwave with a view to her being able to do this independently.

However, services will continue to be provided where there is a need.

“This approach has been adopted in a number of local authorities in England and the pilot projects we have had here in Angus have been very well received by older people and their families. The evidence shows that the outcome is much better for older people, improving their capacity to remain independent for longer and reducing their need for services. “People’s expectations of later life are changing, so our services need to change to support older people to maintain the level of independence they want and to provide greater choice in their care. “We must shift away from a ‘doing to and for’ service, to a service which promotes ability and self-care.”

“This will be a gradual process and older people currently receiving our services can be reassured that very little will change in the short term, with services continuing to be provided as they are at present. Changes will be introduced gradually and people will be consulted and kept informed of all planned developments.”

www.angus.gov.uk

**SUPPORTED HOUSING**

The council is to expand supported housing to ensure sufficient local provision in Angus over the next 20 years. Although there will always be older people with complex care needs for whom residential care is the best option, supported housing offers a better solution to the needs of this age group. Tenants in supported housing retain the independence of having a home of their own, and are able to maintain their own lifestyle, while receiving the care they require.
From helping adults with literacy to developing renewable energy in village halls, the Angus community learning and development service (CLD) is supporting people of all ages across Angus to bring about positive change in their lives through involvement in learning and action.

Located in a network of offices across the county, community learning and development officers are working to encourage individuals and communities to be active in identifying their needs and shaping their future.

Graham Hewitson, principal community learning and development officer for Angus, said: “Community learning and development provides a framework for the planning and delivery of lifelong learning opportunities and development work in Angus.

“Over the last five years, there has been considerable progress and achievement in Angus, both in developing a culture of co-operation and improving the range and quality of community learning activity. Community learning and development is making a strong contribution to an improved quality of life for the citizens of Angus.”

The three key strands of CLD are youth work, adult learning and supporting communities, and in this special feature we highlight some of the projects which are making a big impact across the county.

**ANGUS GOLD**

The Angus Gold initiative promotes interests and activities with the over 50s. Recently, the project has been instrumental in giving older residents access to health opportunities within their own communities.

Funding has been obtained to train volunteers for seated exercise classes, and leisure services are also working closely with Angus Gold participants to pilot and promote leisure activities to the over 50s.

Senior community learning and development worker Ann Craig said: “There is good evidence of the benefits of this type of activity for older people, both physically and mentally.”

For more information on Angus Gold, visit the website at www.angusgold.com

**ADULT LITERACY**

The uncertain economic climate is a concern for many, but for those who have difficulty with reading, writing or maths, the thought of a change of job or learning new skills can be even more daunting.

When David Bennet from Arbroath first started an adult literacy course, his goal was to
be able to write his children’s names and to help them with their homework.

Soon, David felt he was ready to start on a Make Your Experience Count course run by the local community learning and development service. He then started voluntary work with the Salvation Army looking after the kitchen and preparing food. David’s plan is to go to college to train as a chef.

“I had no self-esteem and no confidence. Now I believe in myself and help my girls to do their homework,” he said.

David was also a highly commended finalist in the Scottish Adult Learner Awards and has had a book published as part of a series of short stories by Angus learners.

For more information, call 0800 0275525 or email anguslc@angus.gov.uk

BRECHIN INTERNATIONAL

A project in Brechin has been helping the local migrant community gain an understanding of living in Angus.

Among the projects developed is a course, based on the practical issues identified by migrant workers, exploring issues such as Scottish culture, health and emergency services, applying for jobs and accessing leisure facilities.

This has proved extremely popular with migrant workers:

“It is extremely good, I enjoy this class” – Yanhua (China)

“It has helped me outside, in shops, at the doctor with my daughter and at nursery” – Bogumila (Poland)

For further information on English as a Second or Other Language courses, email edncld@angus.gov.uk

THE ANGUS VILLAGE HALLS RENEWABLE ENERGIES GROUP

CLD has been working with local communities to examine how renewable energy sources can be used to heat village halls.

The Angus Village Halls Renewable Energies Group was established to examine ways in which more isolated halls, which are heated intermittently and which do not have access to mains gas, could be more energy efficient.

CLD helped to administer the group’s meetings and assisted people to improve their research, organisational and management skills.

Now renewable energy is being used to heat halls throughout Angus.

Elma Milne, chair of Kingsmuir Hall committee, said: “The help from the community learning and development team has been wonderful. Before the work was carried out, we were only able to heat the hall for a couple of hours a day. Now we have heating and hot water continuously.”

YOUTH BYTES!

The Youth Bytes! bus, above, visits rural hotspots around the county taking services to young people who would otherwise have little or no access to youth programmes.

The eye-catching vehicle was the first of its kind to be launched by a rural authority.

Youth Bytes! has internet connection via broadband satellite, a seating area, television, kitchen and a range of youth information and resources.

The vehicle also houses a private consultation room for young people to access confidential, one-to-one advice and information – particularly the delivery of on-board health services.

Staff on Youth Bytes have worked with CLD staff to bring about changes in the communities, including supporting the development of a youth facility in Frielochme and the ongoing development of skate facilities in Kirriemuir.

To find out more, visit www.youngscot.org/angus or phone 01307 468859.

ANGUS SHORTS

Museum’s new lease of life

A PROJECT to prepare historic Brechin Town House Museum for a new lease of life is progressing.

Work has included the removal of the partitions in the main hall on the first floor. This has already had a huge impact by revealing the tripartite “Italianate” window to the High Street, as well as the ceiling and floor area.

A lift will be installed to enable ease of access to the first floor which will house the main exhibition room.

Conversion and structural repairs of a vacant 17th-century building to the rear of the museum will also be carried out as part of the project.

Three stonemasonry marks have been uncovered and an archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during the lift installation.

Progress continues to be made to identify other buildings which would benefit under the Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme.

Updates are available on the Brechin THI webpage at www.angus.gov.uk/brechinthi

MONTROSE TOGETHER

A NEW website has been launched to highlight the partnership work being carried out in Montrose.

The Montrose Together website promotes the partnership work being undertaken in the burgh by the public, business and voluntary sectors.

Known previously as the Montrose and Area Partnership, Montrose Together looks at ways to develop sustainable economic growth, support and promote voluntary organisations and to retain and advance local heritage and culture for the wellbeing of the community. Among the projects being looked at are proposals for promotional signage in Montrose.

The website can be viewed at www.montrosetogether.bbk.com

www.angus.gov.uk 13 ANGUSlife
Join your local library

HOLDERS of Young Scot, Angus Gold or travel concessionary cards can now use the card for library membership. Currently cards are available for:

- 11-25 year olds – cashless catering school meals and Young Scot
- 16-18 year olds and young full-time volunteers up to the age of 25 – Scotland-wide concessionary travel scheme
- 50-59 year olds – Angus Gold discount scheme
- Over 60s and people with disabilities – Scotland-wide free bus travel.

Application forms for these cards are available from all ACCESS offices and libraries, or by calling ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778. Alternatively visit www.angus.gov.uk for more information.

Residents vote in Euro elections

THE people of Angus will have the opportunity to vote in the European Parliamentary elections, to be held in the UK on Thursday 4 June this year.

This election will be the biggest trans-national election in history, with almost 500 million European citizens in 27 countries eligible to vote.

A total of 736 members of the European Parliament will be elected for a five year term.

Six MEPs will be elected for Scotland.

For further information, visit www.angus.gov.uk/elections or call Angus Council's elections officer on 08452 777778.

Maintaining standards

TWO of the first traders to apply to the scheme are Sandeman’s Cars of Forfar, main picture, and the Black Abbot pub in Montrose, right.

Heather Sandeman, of Sandeman Cars, said: “We were happy to join the scheme as in our line of business there are a few garages which give the rest of us a bad reputation. By joining the scheme, we hope it will enable new customers to come to us in confidence knowing if they are buying a car or having work carried out on their vehicle they will be looked after and any work will be completed to the highest standard.”

If you are a trader and would be interested in signing up for the scheme contact Nicole Harvey, Angus trading standards service, on 01241 435600.
Whether you need a reliable builder or a trustworthy tiler, the reputable trader scheme aims to audit local businesses to weed out the ‘rogues’

Everyone who has ever wanted a wall painted, a car serviced, a carpet laid or a computer repaired will know the scenario – without any background knowledge on which business to use, you open the phone book and take pot luck.

Sometimes this works out, the job is done and everyone is happy, but sadly there are also numerous horror stories of botched jobs, overcharging, no one turning up on the appointed day, and general poor customer care.

To ensure finding a trustworthy trader isn’t such a lottery, Angus Council, with the co-operation of Tayside Police and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) is launching a reputable trader scheme.

The aim of the scheme is to provide residents with a list of traders whose businesses have been audited by the council and found to come up to scratch, while traders will benefit from knowing that those who bring their professions into disrepute will be weeded out.

“The intention of the scheme is to establish a fair, honest and reliable trading environment in Angus,” said Nicole Harvey, of Angus trading standards.

“Unfortunately, there are rogue traders on our streets who often con people out of money and leave jobs unfinished or in a less than satisfactory condition. This gives small businesses, sole traders and trades in general a bad reputation.

“The scheme has been set up to give recognition to those who trade fairly and in the process, marginalise rogue traders.”

When a business joins the scheme, it will be audited by the trading standards service and provided with promotional materials. It will also be added to the database of reputable traders on the scheme’s website.

Customers will know that if a business is on the Angus Reputable Traders list that they can expect a good job done, good customer services and have peace of mind that when the job is finished, they will be able contact the trader with any queries or problems.

Customer comments can be viewed on the web by prospective customers and is a great way of finding out how other people rate the service they have received from a trader.

Charles Goodall, vice-chair of the Dundee and Angus Branch of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: “The federation has been running a national campaign called Keep Trade Local and is now embarking on a major local advertising campaign over the coming weeks to encourage members of the public to seek out local shops and service providers and this will make membership of the Angus Reputable Traders Scheme even more worthwhile.

“To business owners, we say contact Angus Council and ask about joining the scheme. To the public, we say support this scheme and the FSB’s Keep Trade Local campaign and contact Angus Council for the list of approved local businesses in your area.”

By joining the scheme, traders will also sign up to the Age Restricted Sales Initiative which aims to eradicate confusion for retailers and their staff in relation to age-restricted products.

The Angus Reputable Traders Scheme will be launched in April, when the website at www.angus.gov.uk/traderscheme will go live.

www.angus.gov.uk