Here comes the summer!
There's something for everyone to enjoy

Also in this issue:
- Investment in new homes
- Help stop the scammers
- An innovation in education
- Bringing Brechin back to life
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Welcome to Angus Life

IT’S been all change at Angus Council as a new administration has been formed to take the county forward over the next five years.

In this edition of Angus Life, we give our readers a complete guide to the new council. Changes to the Scottish education system have been making headlines recently. We speak to those directly involved in the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) in Angus.

If you’ve been out and about in Angus, you might have caught a glimpse of our new eye-catching mobile rural services vehicle – there’s more about this innovative new project in this edition.

We also take a trip to Brechin, where the wraps have come off a multi-million pound regeneration project in the burgh’s historic centre. Sadly, vulnerable Angus citizens are falling victim to scammers, but we reveal how two council services are working together to tackle the financial abuse of vulnerable adults.

Finally, our cover picture shows countryside ranger Mhairi Kimmie getting prepared for summer.

We can’t promise the sun will make an appearance, but you’ll find still find lots to do over the coming months in Angus.

Design team appointed for new Brechin High School

PLANS to create a new Brechin High School and community campus have taken a major step forward with the appointment of the design and construction team.

The architects for the project will be HJ Architects and the main contractor will be Robertson Construction.

The civil and structural work will be undertaken by Jacobs, while the mechanical and electrical work has been awarded to Hulley & Kirkwood.

Concept designs will now be developed by the teams, and they will be unveiled later in the summer when further public consultation will take place.

The new campus will incorporate enhanced community leisure facilities, and a performance space and accommodation for adult learning and youth activities.

Tell us Once service gives vital support to those dealing with a bereavement for Work and Pension.

When someone has died, their death needs to be registered with the registrar. An appointment system for death registration has been introduced and the person making the appointment will be told about the Tell us Once service.

If they wish to use the service, then the process can be completed face to face with the registrar, through the Department for Work and Pensions telephone helpline or website at www.direct.gov.uk/death-tellusance

For further details on the Tell us Once service, visit www.angus.gov.uk/tellusance, or call ACCESSLine on 08455 777 777.

Help when you need it most...

ANGUS Council is offering a helping hand to residents who have been bereaved.

When someone has died, there are lots of things that need to be done, at a time when people probably least feel like doing them.

One of these is contacting government departments and the council services that need to be told.

To make this task a little easier, the council has launched a Tell us Once service with the department.

For more information visit www.angus.gov.uk/brechincommunitycampus

See the Wood and the Trees

The current exhibition at The Meallan in Forfar is by photographer Malcolm J Thomson and painter and printmaker Allan Revengide.

The exhibition grew out of conversations between the two artists around a shared interest in, and experience of, recording woodland and forests.

They also took inspiration from the great tradition of painters and photographers who explored and recorded forests, from the ancient oaks of Fontainebleau to the redwoods of California.

For more details, and to book activities, please visit www.angus.gov.uk/autumnadventures

How we’re doing

WE’VE introduced more performance guides to Angus Life – look out for these How We’re Doing snippets, with traffic light symbols showing how we are meeting targets for key services. The symbols indicate a red for a drop in performance, amber where performance remains the same, and green for improved performance.

More information at www.angus.gov.uk/anguslife

Malcolm J Thomson and painter Meffan in Forfar is by photographer Allan Beveridge. The exhibition grew out of conversations between the two artists around a shared interest in, and experience of, recording woodland and forests, from the ancient oaks of Fontainebleau to the redwoods of California.

For more details, and to book activities, please visit www.angus.gov.uk/autumnadventures

Interested in radio work?

YOUNG people from Angus Youth Action, supported by Angus Council community learning and development service, are planning to set up a community radio station to be broadcast over the internet.

There will be training opportunities and skill accreditation for anyone who wants to be part of the station and this can include such areas as radio production, recording equipment, interview and questioning skills, and research for the radio.

Contact Rikki on 01307 473954 for more information.

How we’re doing

Angus Life is produced using paper from sustainable sources. When you have finished with this magazine, please recycle it.

Angus Life is published by Angus Council to provide information on council services, policies and services and to work with community planning partners.

The content of this publication may be made available in alternative formats or translated into other community languages. Please contact the council’s ACCS line on 08452 777 778 for further information. © Angus Council 2012.

For more information visit www.angus.gov.uk/brechincommunitycampus

Angus Autumn Adventures takes place on 1st September and features activities such as horse riding, wild camping, gorge walking, coasteering and canoeing.

For more details, and to book activities, please visit www.angus.gov.uk/autumnadventures

How we’re doing

Angus Life is issued twice yearly in summer and autumn when further public consultation will take place.

Enjoy an autumn adventure

AN exciting new event for those interested in outdoor activities is taking place in Angus this September.

Angus Autumn Adventures takes place on 1st September and features activities such as horse riding, wild camping, gorge walking, coasteering and canoeing.

For more details, and to book activities, please visit www.angus.gov.uk/autumnadventures
An innovation in education

Scottish education has been undergoing a major transformation with the introduction of a Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). While the transition from old to new has inevitably presented challenges, this new approach to learning and teaching is being embraced in Angus schools. In this edition of Angus Life, we’ve asked those at the chalk face about CfE and its impact on learning and teaching in our secondary schools.

Teachers

DESCRIBING the change to the new curriculum as ‘one of most dynamic and exciting chapters in Scottish education for a very long time’, Melvyn Lynch, Forfar Academy head teacher, commented: “Curriculum for Excellence aims to put real learning – for life, leisure and work – at the centre of what we are doing in our schools. It attempts to move us away from an assessment driven system, where the means to an end that measured progress and success in the number of certificates pupils left schools with after 11 years of formal education.

‘The responsibility of all teachers in promoting key areas of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing is making an impact on the way teachers think about, plan and deliver learning. ‘Like-minded’, pupils are finding that they now have more meaningful, relevant and engaging due to the freedom teachers have to select appropriate opportunities CfE allows to be more creative in their course design.

Karen Archer said that colleagues are embracing the opportunities CfE allows to be more creative in their course design. Karen said: ‘Pupils’ learning experiences are more meaningful, relevant and engaging due to the freedom teachers have to select appropriate learning contests and for the planning and delivery of pupils’ learning experiences and outcomes.

‘Teachers also welcome CfE’s broad definition of a ‘test’ and the emphasis on encouraging learners to ‘make, do and say’, as well as the traditional ‘write’. Such principles help pupils develop their literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum’

Mary Smith, principal teacher (curriculum) at Montrose Academy, added: “The CfE experiences and outcomes have been with us for some time and we are now completing the development of the broad general education phase in S1-S3. Our top priority must be improved attainment and life skills of pupils. Initiatives supported by Angus education department prior to and during the development of CfE, have allowed teachers to develop teaching and learning strategies to raise attainment and motivation.

‘Work by the authority in developing resources and continued personal development have ensured that colleagues can embed skills in the curriculum. Learners are increasingly aware of connections between subject areas as teachers plan learning together to increase depth of knowledge on a common theme. Planning tools help staff see these links.

‘The volume of change is daunting, but teachers are professionals and will rise to the challenge.”

Pupils

One of the core elements of CfE is more cross-subject teaching, with different areas of the curriculum linked as appropriate. At Monifieth High School, a highly popular House of the Future project linked technologies and art in S2.

The grand final of the project saw an exhibition space created with teams of pupils staffing their stalls, each with its own set of models, scale drawings and computerised models.

Pupil reaction was highly positive. Lewis Murphy said: “One of my favourite things about the project was the freedom we had. Another thing I liked was the chance to link lots of written work with practical work.”

Chloe Shaw added: “My favourite thing about the project was when we were in our groups designing the inside of the house because I want to be an interior designer.”

As they contemplate life after school, senior pupils at Arbroath Academy, believe CfE will benefit those who are just starting their journey through secondary school.

“I wish I had longer to get to know different subjects before I decided where I wanted to concentrate my study,” commented Lisa Tasker.

“CfE gives younger pupils the chance to be sure about what they like and what interests them before they make decisions about course choice.” Lynsey Petrie added.

“As I have moved up through the school, I have had to take more responsibility for my learning. Pupils in S1 and S2 are getting this experience now. The skills they are learning mean it is easier to apply them to real life.”

“The curriculum aims to put real learning – for life, leisure and work – at the centre of what we are doing in our schools” Melvyn Lynch, Forfar Academy

Parents

SCHOOLS across Angus receive invaluable support from their parent councils, who have been actively keeping parents informed as CfE progresses.

At Arbroath High School, the parent council organised an information evening for parents to explain the unfolding picture surrounding the new curriculum for parents of S1 and S2 pupils. Among the discussions acted as a prelude to an extensive interactive exercises, identifying key skills their children would need, and feedback of these discussions acted as a prelude to an extensive and wide-ranging question-and-answer session.”

“My children will face a very different world”

Jane Stork, Webster’s High School leavers moving into positive destinations such as further education, training and employment increased from 88.3 per cent to 89 per cent over the past year – above the Scottish average.

HOW WE’RE DOING

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“How we’re doing School leavers moving into positive destinations such as further education, training and employment increased from 88.3 per cent to 89 per cent over the past year – above the Scottish average.”
Spreading the word...

Mobile libraries are a great way for residents in rural areas to access thousands of books – as well as find out more about council services and services available in the area.

UP hill and down dale, new eye-catching vans delivering library books and information to rural communities are out and about each day on Angus roads. Even in this world of download, for many people there’s still nothing to beat the pleasure of browsing bookshelves, deliberating and deciding on that favourite title. Inside, the vans are smart and functional, with clever use of the space to make the maximum use of the library service. Drivers can access other council information online and log messages with the ACCESS office on behalf of service users.

How to join the library: Remember, it’s free to join your local library – just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library – just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library– just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library– just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library– just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library– just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library– just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library– just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library– just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library.

For more information on Angus libraries, including the mobile timetable, visit www.angus.gov.uk/anguslibraries.

Linda Coulton, of the external funding team and Librarian, Carnoustie Library, left, at the new mobile library.

One of the vehicles has a consultation area where a council officer can meet with a member of the public, by prior arrangement, to consider specific issues. At other times, representatives from other council partners such as the police or fire service join the vehicle to meet members of the public. Recently, specialists from the council’s external funding team joined the vans on its rounds to raise awareness of the wide range of funding opportunities available to groups and organisations in the area. The vehicles have also been out and about at gala days and other special events to publicise the service to residents.

Looking for information on special mobile library events via the council’s website or sign up to follow us on Facebook and Twitter @anguscouncil. You can also sign up to receive the mobile library newsletter by contacting librarysupport.services@angus.gov.uk.

Linda Coulton of the external funding team and Librarian, Carnoustie Library, left, at the new mobile library.

How we’re doing

There were more than half a million visits to a library in Angus during 2011/12; however, this was a decrease of 8.7 per cent from last year.

Feedback from readers: Mobile library users are enthusiastic about the new service as these comments show.

- "Could not live without the library, the new vans are wonderful!"  
- "Great service and staff most helpful. Would miss if it stopped coming round”
- "Still convenient, staff sociable friendly and helpful”  
- "Lots of good books”  
- "First time on the library van – love it! Will be back”  
- "Friendly van drivers, good stock of books”  
- "Widens my horizons”  
- "Love the library bus, great variety of books and friendly staff”

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Building for the future

Investment programme sees hundreds of homes being built for rent and purchase

THERE’S no place like home for the first batch of Angus tenants who are setting into their new council houses.

For the first time in 10 years, Angus Council is building new council houses to help reduce the housing waiting list. Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, the council has received funding of £3.8 million which, along with an investment of £6.6 million from the authority, is giving the social housing sector in Angus a much-needed boost.

This funding is enabling the council to realise its vision of building quality affordable and energy efficient homes for rent in areas of highest need. In addition to the 147 new council houses, the council is working in partnership with other social housing providers, and the private sector, to deliver up to 170 affordable homes to increase access to high-quality homes for people to rent and buy.

The building programme is also providing an important boost to the construction industry and the local economy.

Among the first council houses already completed are three and four-bedroomed properties in Monifieth and Carnoustie.

Enjoying their new home at Kintoch Street in Carnoustie are Slawomir and Sister-in-law Paulina in the new family home in Carnoustie.

Do you qualify? The new council houses being built by the council have a mixture of two, three, and four bedrooms and will be available to rent. To be eligible for a new house, applicants must meet a number of key criteria:

- they must have a current housing application
- they must already be a tenant of Angus Council or Hillcrest Housing Association (other partners may be considered)
- they must not have any rent arrears or any other debt owed to the council
- they must not have a history of antisocial behaviour.

How to join the library: Remember, it’s free to join your local library – just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library. For more information about Angus libraries, including the mobile timetable, visit www.angus.gov.uk/anguslibraries.

Contact Carina Bell on 01307 473913 or email bellc1@angus.gov.uk

To support local businesses, the council offers a variety of food hygiene courses accredited by the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland.

AC/DC fans take note! A RARE piece of rock memorabilia is currently on show at the Kinnaird Gateway to the Glen Museum. The town is paying homage to one of its most famous sons, Bon Scott of rock band AC/DC. And the museum has a fabulous, framed gold disc on display which was presented to Bon Scott in 1976 to mark the sale of more than 500,000 copies of AC/DC’s first album High Voltage.

The disc has kindly been loaned to the museum for display until October from a fan in Austria.

Eat safe FOODIES can be assured of high standards when eating out in Angus. The Eat Safe scheme is an incentive to food businesses to strive for hygiene and safety excellence by implementing standards over and above legal requirements. The scheme is administered by the Food Standards Agency, and awarded by the authority’s environmental health service. Certificates are displayed in premises to help customers make choices about where to eat out. To support local businesses, the council offers a variety of food hygiene courses accredited by the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland.

How to join the library: Remember, it’s free to join your local library – just sign up at any of the seven burgh libraries or local library.

For more information about the new houses or the eligibility criteria, please contact Brends Smith on 01307 472453 or email bellc1@angus.gov.uk.
Meet your new Angus Council

Your new council members

1. BRECHIN & EDZELL
   - Ian Gault (SNP)
   - Mairi Evans (SNP)
   - Iain Gaul (SNP)
   - Colin Brown (SNP)
   - Ronny Proctor (CON)
   - Iain Gaul (SNP)
   - Mairi Evans (SNP)
   - Ian McLaren (IND)
   - Lynne Devine (SNP)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Sheila Hands (SNP)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)

2. BRECHIN & EDZELL
   - Ronald Proctor (CON)
   - Iain Gaul (SNP)
   - Mairi Evans (SNP)
   - Ian McLaren (IND)
   - Lynne Devine (SNP)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)

3. FORFAR & DISTRICT
   - Alexander King (SNP)
   - Sheila Hands (SNP)
   - Colin Brown (SNP)
   - Ronny Proctor (CON)
   - Iain Gaul (SNP)
   - Mairi Evans (SNP)
   - Ian McLaren (IND)
   - Lynne Devine (SNP)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)

4. MONIFIETH & SIDLOW
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)

5. CARNOUSTIE & DISTRICT
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)

6. ARBROATH WEST & LETHAM
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)

7. ARBROATH EAST & LUNAN
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)

8. MONTROSE & DISTRICT
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)
   - Craig Fotheringham (CON)
   - Brian Boyd (IND)

Committee Conveners and Vice-Conveners are as follows:

- Strategic Policy: Ian Gault, Paul Valentine
- Corporate Services: Alex King, Bill Duff
- Education: Sheena Welsh, Luan Smith
- Infrastructure Services: Mairi Evans, Sheila Hands
- Neighbourhood Services: Donald Morrison, Jeanette Gaul
- Social Work & Health: Glennie Middleton, Jim Houston
- Development Standards: Rob Murray, Lynne Devine
- Civic Licensing / Licensing Board: Alex King, Sheila Hands
- Scrutiny & Audit Sub: Bob Sprink

Wards

1. Kirnemaker & Dean
2. Brechin & Edzell
3. Forfar & District
4. Monifieth & Sidlaw
5. Carnoustie & District
6. Arbrough West & Letham
7. Arbrough East & Lunan
8. Montrose & District
It’s our business to help you succeed

If you’re thinking of setting up a new venture, there are plenty of resources available to help your dream become a reality.

ANgUS Council is helping turn business dreams into reality. The council’s economic development section is working closely with businesses in Angus to help them thrive and develop.

A wide range of services are on offer to existing businesses and to people looking to set up new ventures. Recently, the council assisted a local retailer in finding new premises at the Harbour Visitor Centre in Arbroath.

Gail Hutchison, owner of A Quay Gift, which stocks a range of interior furnishings, gifts and accessories, said: “We are very excited to be opening at the Harbour Visitor Centre.”

Situated next to the picturesque marina, the centre is just one of the properties managed by economic development.

The service is responsible for more than 100 business premises providing industrial, office or retail space in a range of sizes, suitable for sole traders or large employers. The council offers businesses flexible lease terms to encourage movement within the property market, and to accommodate business growth.

Two refurbished retail units in Brechin High Street are about to be brought to the market, on completion of works undertaken as part of the Brechin Town Centre Regeneration Fund, which supplemented the work carried out through the Townscape Heritage Initiative (see p10).

There’s a range of support services on offer to businesses in the county, including one-to-one mentoring from the council’s specialist in-house business advisory team.

Budding entrepreneurs can also get help turning a good idea into a great business through Business Gateway Angus, which offers mentoring to fledging businesses, industry groups in the food and drink, accommodation, golf and ancillary tourism sectors have also been established, with businesses involved in each sector coming together to exchange information and ideas.

The Harbour Visitor Centre in Arbroath, above, and below, A Quay Gift which has recently opened there.

Get in touch: Contact the council’s business advisers on 01356 627040 email businessadvisers@angus.gov.uk

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Brechin’s back!

Brechin’s historic town centre has been transformed, thanks to a multi-million pound restoration scheme.

A bright, new future is now being predicted for the burgh by one of the regeneration project’s major investors.

Angus Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland jointly invested £2.9 million in the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) to bring historic buildings back to life by awarding grants to owners.

Now the finishing touches are taking place as the project, which was launched four-and-half years ago, enters its final phase.

Colin McCoat, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland, commented that while the completion of all the major building works marks the end of a process, it also marks the beginning of bright, new future for Brechin.

“The Heritage Lottery Fund launched its THI grants programme more than 10 years ago as we recognised that for regeneration to really work, it had to have roots,” added Colin. “Brechin’s heritage makes it unique. Its buildings tell its story, connecting people with their history and giving the place its identity.

“Breathing new life into these buildings has not only created great opportunities for training and new business, but has restored a sense of pride among the community.”

A major element of the THI, and one of the first successful projects to be completed as part of the project, was the regeneration of the Town House Museum – with the restoration of the upper floor of the building to bring it into use as an exhibition space.

Many other improvements at various addresses within the town centre have taken place, including the Northern Hotel, and numerous properties on the High Street, St David Street, Pannure Street and Market Street.

As part of the THI, the teaching of long-established building skills has been revived in partnership with Angus College, and enthusiastic local people took part in two very successful archaeological digs in the cathedral precinct.

The project is managed by Angus Council and from the start, the emphasis has been on the engagement of the community with their heritage, as well as regeneration of the area economically and socially.

One of the properties to benefit from a comprehensive repair project is the Rainbow Charity Shop run by St Andrews Episcopal Church, whose Rector, David Mumford, praised the ‘excellent’ regeneration project.

“By encouraging property owners and the wider community to participate in the project, the end result is that people have ‘owned’ the initiative. This has led to an increased willingness to invest time and energy in the future of the town centre,” he said.

A spokesman for Historic Scotland explained that funding for the Brechin project came from the organisation’s Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, which supports the sustainable economic regeneration of our cities, towns and villages.

He added: “About £2.6 million has now been allocated to the programme, and Brechin was awarded £130,950 in 2008. Within Brechin, key projects that have been supported include the Merchant’s House, which incorporates some of the oldest existing roof timbers in Scotland, plus several tenement blocks on the High Street and the Mechanics’ Institute.”

ONE of the major elements of the THI project was the repair and restoration of the historic category A listed Merchant’s House on the High Street – one of the oldest surviving residential buildings in the burgh.

The post-medieval building has now been carefully restored and converted to form two stunning townhouses for rent.

The Merchant’s House was rescued by historic buildings specialist and entrepreneur Kit Martin (Historic Houses Rescue) Ltd, pictured below, who joined forces with the THI partners and The Prince’s Regeneration Trust to save the building.

Kit told Angus Life: “The Townscape Heritage Initiative is brilliant for Brechin and the historic centre has been transformed.

“The Merchant’s House had been empty and derelict for 30 years and was a blight on the High Street.

“It is Brechin’s earliest surviving house, with a 15th-century roof structure and rooms with fine 18th-century fittings. The building now looks happy again and is of enormous architectural interest.

“We have worked together with Angus Council, The Prince’s Regeneration Trust, The Townscape Heritage Initiative, Historic Scotland, The Heritage Lottery Fund and the design team, with great enthusiasm and determination to make this project happen.

“The contractor has completed the restoration with great care and skill, and Angus Council and The Townscape Heritage Initiative have been excellent partners.”

Traditional building methods were used throughout the restoration of the Merchant’s House, and Gesiprint paint schemes adopted in keeping with the surviving interior architecture of the rear wings of the properties.

During the works, the contractor arranged for two apprentices to work alongside skilled craftsmen on the project as part of the craft fellowship funded by Historic Scotland.
Debt worries

Many people in Angus were sold loans at
massive rates of interest. They had their debts
written clean after joint action by social work
and trading standards officers, who negotiated
with the loan companies. Officers pointed
out that people with significant learning
disabilities and who could not understand
interest rates or the implications of being
saddled with long-term increasing levels of
debt should not, in accordance with decent
trading practice, be sold such products.

Cash con

An Angus woman was unhappy with low
interest rates at the bank and decided to
instruct her bank to buy company bonds.
Just after her last cheque had been cashed,
the company went into administration and
she lost more than £100,000. A huge fraud
investigation is now under way. It is unlikely
she lost more than £100,000.

Moneygram scam

Post Office staff were alerted when an
investigation revealed the service
scored 94.3 per cent customer
satisfaction in 2011/12 – an
increase on the previous year.

Think Jessica

After her mother Jessica was
hoodwinked by criminals into parting
with thousands of pounds, Marilyn
Baldwin launched a UK campaign to
raise awareness of scams and support
scam victims and their families.
Marilyn said: “I am delighted that
trading standards officers in Angus are
supporting the Think Jessica campaign
and working with social workers to raise
awareness and seek out victims of this
serious and endemic crime.

“Think Jessica” campaign has already
raised awareness and sought out victims of
this serious and endemic crime.

Vulnerable adults in Angus are increasingly
at risk from unscrupulous criminals who
are conning them out of their life savings

Help us stop

scammers

DISTRESSING statistics show that
vulnerable adults in Angus are more
at risk from financial harm than any
other form of abuse.

People with mental health
problems, older people or people
with learning disabilities make up
the majority of victims.

People can be financially harmed
in a number of ways – they are
targeted by unscrupulous friends,
or family members, or they can
sign credit agreements with loan
companies at incredibly high rates
of interest.

But more and more frequently,
they are being scammed by
international criminals. This can go
on for years, with victims losing
their life savings as they respond to
scam letters telling them they have
won, or may win, huge amounts
of money through international
lotteries or unclaimed prize funds.

If they do get prizes or make
purchases, these are often valueless
or poor-quality products. Once
someone responds, they can be
hoaxed and then sent scam mail –
sometimes hundreds of letters
a week.

This mail is professionally
produced and many people get
hooked into believing that a big
win is just around the corner. These
postal scams cost people millions
of pounds every year and the
money has been sent, it is almost
impossible to get it back.

Social work and trading
standards officers in Angus are
now joined forces to tackle this
growing problem.

Adult protection officer Mark
Hodgkinson explained: “Social
Work & Health have a duty to
make inquiries whenever we have
reason to believe a vulnerable adult
is being scammed.

“By working closely with
colleagues in trading standards,
we can more effectively address
what is a major problem by sharing
information and expertise. Our
publicity campaign has already
led to calls from people who have
responded to letters asking for
money to unlock huge prize funds.”

Peter Lennon, principal trading
standards officer, added: “Our aim
is to reduce the number of Angus
people sending their money to
international criminals in the vain
hope of some big win.

“Our strategy is to do whatever
we can to alert the public to the
danger of responding to scam mail.”

For information on postal fraud,
visit www.actionfraud.org.uk. If you
are worried about any financial
scams, or know of someone who
you think might be getting conned,
contact trading standards on
0300 1232040.

www.angus.gov.uk
You can help save Scotland’s environment and up to £35 a month by wasting less food. Get tips and advice at lovefoodhatewaste.com