

# COMMENT

COMMENT is here for YOU to make your opinions and thoughts heard on the Ardler Village. Simply drop your COMMENTS in to the A.V.T. The opinions expressed within this column are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ardler Village Trust.

## Thoughts at Easter Time

"We love Christmas with the presents and the parties and the holidays but Easter..." In a world where violence and death and hate greets us daily from the TV screen and front pages, do we really want a story about betrayal, torture and shattered hopes? Maybe it is in an attempt to escape to a make belief world that leads some people to think only of smiling bunnies and beautiful daffodils when we come to the "Spring Festival". Yet the whole Easter story includes love and hope and new beginnings for the dead One comes back to life and thereby shows that His love is greater than all the hate in the world. Perhaps you might want to join in with those who believe that life can be different and so try out a local church or chapel this Easter time. Throughout Holy week the many of the local churches join together for short acts of worship. On Easter Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup> April a very warm welcome awaits you at 11am in Chalmers Ardler Church (Turnberry Avenue) for an all age celebration. And because it is such exciting news we gather again at 6.30pm to thank God that Easter really is good news for the real world in which we live.  
*Rev Ken Stott, Chalmers Ardler Church*

March. Based in the Ardler Complex, the Information Point has been a source of support and guidance for residents of Ardler since 1984. Its closure comes following changes to the funding provided by Dundee City Council, Social Work Department. Whilst it is a sad day for the Information Point the Voluntary Management Committee of the AIP are keen to point out that alternatives are being put in place to enable local people to continue to get advice on issues from benefit calculations, finance and legal matters. The group have met with Social Work to ensure that the needs of their clients continue to be met albeit in a different format. They informed the group that they are considering future provision which may include a one day surgery within the Ardler area.

Now the AIP Management Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to the staff of the AIP for their expertise and commitment over the years in helping people to find solutions to the many problems that life has thrown at them. We would also like to thank the clients who have supported the Information Point over the years and hope that a similar facility will be available for them in the near future.

I would also like to thank the other members of the management committee for their enthusiasm and dedication to the Ardler Information Point over the years.  
**Claire Ramsey, Chairperson.**

## Farewell to the Ardler Information Point

Sadly, after 22 years of service to the local community the Ardler Information Point will be closing its doors for the last time at the end of

# STOP PRESS

**Ardler Village News, Summer Edition**  
Deadline for articles and comments  
15th May ready for 9th June Delivery

## Ardler Spring Clean

Meet outside Chalmers Ardler Church at 10am to help the Environment Group to Clean up our local area. Free refreshments and Giveaways for Children

## Easter Arts Event

Monday 17th April, 6-8pm at the Chalmers Ardler Church

Enter your Easter themed Artwork. Prize giving and entertainment for all

## Baby Rhyme Time

Fridays from 10am-11am in the Ardler Library. Followed by

## Breast Feeding Support Group

At the Ardler Clinic  
Every Friday from 11am- 12.15pm

## Options Careers Fair

At the Ardler Complex  
Thursday 16th March  
1pm to 4pm

## TARA AGM

April 11th at 6.30pm in the Ardler Complex. All residents very Welcome

## Street Football

'Football for All' sessions  
Start the 11th April, 1-5pm  
Venue in Ardler to be confirmed

## SMOKING BAN: Interested in Giving up?

Join a local Smoking Cessation group.  
Contact Helen Keir on 0845600 9996  
New Group  
Starts Wednesday 29th March from 5-6pm in the Ardler Complex

## Trust Seeks New Opportunities

Since it was established in 2003 the Ardler Village Trust has played an important role in maintaining our local environment, creating opportunities for employment and bringing residents together through social events. This has been carried out as part of the Trusts broad aim to create a sustainable Ardler that is healthy, wealthy and proud!. However, the Trust recognises that to continue to carry out these activities it needs to have an income and it hopes to achieve this by setting up a business. This is an exciting opportunity to help bring jobs and wealth into the community but it requires Ardler Residents to be involved if it is to succeed. To find out more the Trust will be visiting 'Social' businesses and we would like to invite you to come with us. Phone the Trust on 831712 or drop by the office.

Produced on computer at Ardler Complex.



Spring 06

# Ardler Village News



Issue 10

## Jobs & Training

### ADULT LEARNING IN ARDLER

#### New - Interior Design Course

Has the TV programme Changing Rooms made you interested in Interior Design? This free 6 week course teaches basic principles such as where to begin with colour, generating design ideas and more.

Time: 10.00am-12.00am

On: Thursdays, from 9th March

Place: Ardler Complex

If mornings don't suit you, an identical course starts one week later on 16th March, 1.00-3.00 at Chalmers Ardler church. Childcare facilities may be available if booked in advance.

#### Women & Crime

Following the very successful Psychology of Crime, Dr. Elaine Billen will be delivering a free eight week course on Women and Crime in the Ardler Complex. This will run on Wednesdays 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm from April 19 through to June 7.

Free crèche facilities will be available if booked in advance.

#### Child Psychology

Dr. Elaine Billen will offer an eight week course on Child Psychology at Ardler from Thursday, May 4 until Thursday, June 22. This class will run from 10.00am 'til 12.00 noon. Interested? A free crèche will be provided if booked in advance.

For all courses call **Caroline Bairner on 432862** or the Ardler Complex to find out more or reserve a place?

# Ardlers Carol Named



Ardler Creche Worker, Carol Irons, being presented with Citizen of the Year by the Lord Provost

Carol Irons, Ardler Complex Creche Worker, has been named as Dundee's 'Citizen of the Year'. This will come as no surprise to those who have come into contact with Carol during her 30 years of working with in childcare. The honour reflects not only the way she has touched many peoples lives in Dundee but also in her other voluntary work where she has worked tirelessly to raise funds and support Dundee based projects. Recently Carol has been working hard to help sick orphans and adults in Romanian hospitals that live in poverty. This led to a life changing visit in 2005 where she helped out with the orphans care and saw for herself how 'simple'

donations from generous Dundonians were making a huge difference. A recent example was sending hundreds of Christmas boxes full of toiletries and present to the Romanian children. Around the Complex she has been the creative genius behind the Santa's Grotto but is her role in the Creche that she is best known. Carol considers her work to be a privilege that brings her into contact with many hundreds of parents lives giving them time and space, she hopes, to achieve new things. The Ardler Complex Management group have expressed their pride in seeing Carol win this accolade and wish her a great year as Dundee' Citizen of the Year. Congratulations Carol !!!

## Easter Service Dates

<b>Chalmers-Ardler Church</b>	
Good Friday	7pm
Easter Sunday	11am & 6.30pm
Easter Day	11am
<b>St Leonard's &amp; St Fergus</b>	
Thursday 13th	7.30pm
Feast of the Lord's Supper	
Friday 14th	3.00pm
Good Friday	
Saturday 15th	8.00pm
Easter Vigil	
Sunday 16th	10.00am
Easter Day Mass	
Tuesday to Friday, the local churches provide services at 7pm	
Tuesday	at St.Kilda Rd Baptist
Wednesday	at Downfield South
Thursday	at Strathmartine
Friday	at Chalmers Ardler

Get creative and enter

## Ardlers Easter Arts Competition

Prizes FUN

Take part in Ardler's Easter themed art/craft competition. Bring your entries along to the Fun Event to be held on

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April from 6pm -8pm**  
at Chalmers Ardler Church  
Turnberry Avenue

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## Ina's Last Dance!

Teaching Line dancing 10 years and more  
Its been 'off your chairs' and 'on the floor'  
No longer will you hear this request  
As from Teaching Ina's Taking a rest  
That's not to say she won't be around  
As most days she can still be found  
Doing things she loves to do  
Meeting friends - Old and New  
I'd like to thank each and everyone  
For making the class a lot of Fun  
But now its time has come to go  
So I wish you all a fond

**Cheerio!**

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# OPTIONS EVENT

Discover a new job, training or Career

**Ardler Complex**  
Turnberry Avenue, Ardler,  
Thursday 16th March 06, 1pm to 4pm

Meet the experts and employers that can help you make the right choices. Refreshments are available throughout.

**Entry to Free Prize Draw**

For more information contact: Ardler Village Trust 831712

**Attendance includes**  
Careers Scotland  
Dundee Employment & Aftercare Project  
Action Team for Jobs Claverhouse  
Dundee College  
University of Dundee Learning Around  
Healthy living Initiative  
CITB  
Armed Forces Careers

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editorial board

## Trust introduces new worker



The Ardler Village Trust welcomed local resident, Yvonne Young, to its staff in January. Her role as office assistant includes helping local people to get involved with the trusts activities including community events and projects. Alistair from the AVT said 'Yvonne will be a great asset for the AVT and for Ardler. I am sure that her knowledge and understanding of the area will help the Trust achieve its goals' The office is open daily at 95 Turnberry Avenue and welcomes visits by residents.

## New Members Needed

As part of its aim to ensure that residents are at the centre of decision making the Ardler Village Trust is inviting local groups to put forward a representative for the AVT board. The board of 15 Directors meet every second month to tackle local issues in partnership and guide future work. Currently we have representatives from six stake holder groups including the Ardler Complex, St Leonard's and St Fergus Church, Chalmers Ardler Church, NHS Tayside, Dundee City Council, and Sanctuary Scotland HA who work alongside 6 community elected representatives.

The AVT believe that by working together we can make a bigger difference than acting alone. To find out more contact the Ardler Village Trust on 831712 or drop by the AVT's office at 95 Turnberry Avenue.

## NORTHWEST COMMUNITY REGENERATION FORUM

### Main Grants Applications

The Northwest Community Regeneration Forum are working hard to consider supporting main grants applications for 2006/2007. Funding requested from the Northwest cluster totals £743,813 from approximately 30 applications.

The North West cluster has £80,532 allocation and an under spend of £18,222 from 2005/06 that we can spend this year also.

There will also be an additional £25,000 small grants allocation for 2006/07. At the moment small grant applications are capped at £2,000 per application.

### Small grants

From the small grants allocation of £25,000 for 2005/06 Kirkton have been allocated £17,176, Ardler allocation £5,013 and St. Mary's £1,700.

### Community Regeneration Fund Event

On Thursday 23 March there will be a CRF funded projects showcase at the Marryat hall. Current funded projects will exhibit displays and provide workshops and presentations. The project showcase will run from 2-8pm. Information regarding the forum, fund or small grants can be found in Kirkton Community centre on the CRF notice board.

Minutes from meetings can be viewed at your local library or Kirkton Community Support.

For information on any of the above please contact Val Kane, Regeneration worker on 436366 or Billy Gartley, Communities Officer on 436363.

## TARA

The group are currently seeking funding to develop the old Village Shop into a Village hall. We also have our AGM coming up in April and invite all residents to come along to our meetings on the dates below.

Open Meetings at 7.30pm. in the Ardler Complex meeting Room

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**

All residents are welcome to attend.

## Local Public Art Project



A series of workshops are now being planned by the Art in Ardler Project after funding was confirmed from Dundee City Councils, Ardler Non-Housing budget for this year.

The resident led group have recently selected local artist, Kevin Blackwell, to run workshops with groups to design and build public sculptural pieces. This exciting project will give the Village an extra boost and will be a benefit to all Ardler Village residents. It will also be a great talking point throughout Dundee and to anyone visiting the Village. Among the ideas being discussed are integrated artworks, land-marking and community signage to places like Templeton Wood walks and Clatto Reservoir. Kevin will be working closely, over the next year or so, with local groups and schools to create this series of community led pieces that will aim to stimulate, inspire and define our local environment.

If you would like to take part in this exciting project or would like to know more about the Art in Ardler steering group please contact Ali Macleod at Ardler Village Trust in Turnberry Avenue, Ardler -Telephone 01382 831712.

## Cafe Update

The new café at Ardler is now finished after 5 years campaigning by the management group of the complex and having the builders on site for 7 months. We are currently recruiting staff for the café and we hope to open and serve meals and snacks from around the middle of April. We plan to have a special on every day as well as selling a wide variety of sandwiches and snacks both hot and cold.

The café will be open for business from 10am until 2pm Monday to Friday and the space will be available to book for private functions and birthday parties.

So why not drop by and have a good value meal at your local community centre and see for yourself the wide variety of activities you can be involved with.

## TEAM HELPS ROD OVERCOME JOB BLOW

The lack of one vital piece of equipment threatened to kick landscape gardener Rod Ogilvie's business ambitions into the long grass.

The 39-year-old Dundee dad's plans suffered a serious blow when he realised he couldn't afford the leaf blowing machine he needed to secure work during the winter months.

But getting help through the Dundee Action Team for Jobs proved a breeze – and Rod has been able to storm ahead into his new career.

"Rod had worked in landscape gardening and, after around six months out of work, was keen to set up his own business," says Action Team jobs adviser Jackie Ogilvie.

"He had everything in place except the leaf blower, which was crucial to getting his business off the ground.

"After studying Rod's business plan, we were happy to provide him with the £300 he needed to buy the equipment, and he started his business right away."

Rod's story helps to highlight some of the ways that the Action Team – part of Jobcentre Plus – can help people overcome the barriers that many face in returning to work.

"All kinds of things can stand in the way of people who would like to be back at work," says Jackie.

"It might be – as in Rod's case – equipment that's vital to them getting employment. Others might have problems finding childcare, meeting the cost of clothing for interviews, or making ends meet between starting a new job and getting their first pay packet.

"These are all areas where we can help." Dundee Action Team for Jobs run Jobshops at Ardler Community Centre every Monday from 1.00-3.00pm. You can also contact the team on 01382 373464.

## Family Search

*Can you help find a relative that may still be living in the Ardler area? My husband, Anthony, and his brother, Michael, were adopted in the early 1960's and would now like to make contact with their grandmother. We believe that her maiden name was 'Storrer' before marrying a Mr Boyle and, that she possibly lived at 4C in the multi Wentworth Court. She was also believed to be a regular at a local Catholic Church.*

*If you have any information or think that she may still be in the area please pass this onto Yvonne at the Ardler Village Trust office (831712). Thank you.*

## Ardler Job Shop

My name is **Keri Reilly**, I am a Recruitment Consultant with DEAP (Dundee Employment & Aftercare Project).



I am one of the partners involved in the Job Shop which runs every **Friday** at the Ardler Complex from **9.30am to 4.30pm**.

My role as Recruitment

Consultant is to give advice and assistance to people with their job search, i.e. giving advice on the types of jobs available in the Dundee area, assisting them with applications forms, CVs, letter, interview skills, plus much more. The other partners involved in the Job Shop are:

**Caroline Bairner** of Learning Around Project – who gives advice on further education and learning opportunities. Also assists those who have literacy/ numeracy problems.

**Eric Peebles** of Enterprise Advice Project – who gives advice to those who are looking set up their own business.

The Job Shop is a relaxed, informal and friendly place for people to apply for real job vacancies, including opportunities which DEAP are recruiting for on behalf of local employers, as well as get advice on job search, training and learning opportunities, career guidance and advice on starting up their own business.

Clients can book an appointment with myself by calling **01382 457575** or just drop in.

## DUNDEE COMMUNITY MEDIATION

Dundee Community Mediation would like to hear from people in Ardler Village who are experiencing difficulty with neighbours, including situations involving young people. With the support of Dundee City Council, this free, independent service, which is managed by Sacro, offers an effective method of resolving disputes, with over 80% of mediation sessions resulting in agreement. Mediators are professional people who do not take sides and help neighbours reach their own agreements. Often disputes can be resolved using mediation before enforcement action needs to be taken.

Dundee Community Mediation is putting together a programme of events to

## M.A.S.T Money Advice Support Team

MAST is a FREE, CONFIDENTIAL service for people who for whatever reason are experiencing financial problems.

Do you feel anxious or worried about debts which you can no longer afford to pay?

Do you keep juggling your finances each pay day in order to try to make ends meet and keep the creditors at bay?

Have you received letters which cause you to panic about being taken to court for debts?

Are you worried about being evicted, being made bankrupt, or having your wages arrested etc.?

Do you worry that your possessions will be seized and sold as a result of debt?

Are you sure you are receiving your correct benefit entitlements?

If you have answered yes to any of the above, then contact Money Advice Support Team by telephoning 01382 432452 to arrange an appointment at one of our local surgeries. Our Free independent Money Advice Service is available if you reside in one of the following areas: Mid Craigie, Linlathen, Hilltown, Maxwelltown, Ardler, St Mary's, Whitfield, Fintry, Mill O Mains, Claverhouse, Trottick, Downfield and Kirkton.

Home visits are available for those who find it difficult to attend one of our local surgeries, who for reason of illness or disability find it difficult to get around.

**MAST is funded by: The Scottish Executive and supported by Dundee City Councils Community Regeneration Programme**

provide information and help people make use of the service. Starting with a lunchtime information presentation in the Ardler Complex on 13 February, similar events will be held throughout the year at various locations in Dundee. Other activities will include monthly lunchtime drop-in advice sessions at the Anti-Social Behaviour Team offices at Shore Terrace and also elsewhere in the city.

Anyone wishing more details of these activities, or who would like a confidential discussion about a neighbour dispute, is very welcome to contact the office on 01382 459252; or: [info@dundee.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@dundee.sacro.org.uk).

## Ardler Spring Clean

As winter leaves and spring arrives it's a great time to give the local area a good old spring clean. Ardler Environment Group, Ardler in Bloom AVT and the Urban Ranger would like to invite as many community groups and local residents as possible to this community event.

The spring clean will kick off on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 10am outside Ardler Chalmers Church. All equipment will be provided, and all you need to do is wear cosy old clothes and bring along some enthusiasm!

At 11am we plan to finish the event with refreshments and free giveaways for all the children.

So on the 1<sup>st</sup> April why not come along and meet new people, help Ardler shine this spring and take action to show you care for the environment.

(Children must be accompanied by an adult).

## Ardler In Bloom

It is hard to believe that we are already starting to think about the Ardler in Bloom competition, but with the popularity and success of last year's event we are looking forward to colourful gardens in Ardler in 2006.

The annual compost and plant giveaway will be taking place on Friday and Saturday 21 / 22<sup>nd</sup> April close to Sidlaw house Sheltered Complex. Wheelbarrows will be available to borrow and spades will be supplied for you to pack your compost. Help and advice will be on hand for new gardeners, and there will be an opportunity to complete an entry form for the annual gardening competition. All entrants this year will automatically go into a prize draw.

With fun and games for the children and plants for sale at greatly discounted prices you can't afford not to pull on your wellies, dig out the spade and head for Turnberry Avenue on the first of April.



Picture courtesy of Graham Cross

## Ardler Environmental Group

The environment group are busy at the moment planning their programme for 2006. The group aim to have a combination of many different activities to suit as many people as possible. Activities include habitat enhancement at the ponds, a drystone dyke project, supporting community events and of course some visits to local places of interest to increase their knowledge about environmental issues.

If anyone would like to join the group or find out more about this year's programme come along to the Ardler Complex on a Wednesday morning where the group meet at 9.30am

Work on the community garden slowed down over the winter period, but as the days are getting brighter and slightly warmer it will be back to work with enthusiasm. The next part of the project is to create a raised bed in one corner of the garden; this feature will change the feel of the garden and with colourful planting will create a waterfall effect. Again if anyone would like to volunteer to help with the community garden project just feel free to come along.

## Cygnets Relocation

Some residents may have noticed that the last cygnet left the west pond during December. The ranger moved the young cygnet to the Tay estuary at Broughty Ferry.

For a juvenile swan the first flight must be a challenging experience. To have to make that flight on such a small expanse of water as our pond, and fly high enough to clear the fence it was decided it would be a better idea to give nature a helping hand.

This being my first swan relocation, with trepidation I met one of the Countryside Rangers at the west pond on a crisp December morning.

The cygnet was less cautious than the adults and after enticing her with bread we managed to corner her in the reeds. That was the easy part, negotiating the fencing with a large swan under your arm, and being "heckled" by a pair of angry adults, it must have looked like something out of comic capers!

After the journey to the Tay all we had to do was find a group of non-breeding juveniles for our swan to join. As we let her free she seemed to be none the worse for her adventure and swam off happily with her new friends.

You never know, perhaps in a couple of years we will see her back either at Clatto or even our own pond ready to breed with a mate of her own.

## What a Commotion

It was with surprise that a local resident woke up one morning recently to hear a right commotion going on outside her front window. Over the past few weeks she had regularly seen a bird of prey in Ardler, but on this particular morning a peregrine falcon decided to partake of its breakfast (a pigeon) right outside her window.

Peregrines are often found on coastal and inland cliffs, but like most birds have learned to adapt to human influences. Our local peregrine is probably roosting on the top of the last multi-storey.

The peregrine hunts small and medium sized birds, and the spectacular sight of a bird swooping at up to 90mph from a great height on to its unsuspecting prey is one not easily forgotten.

During the Second World War the peregrine falcon was persecuted as it was thought they were a threat to the carrier pigeons which were used as messengers when radio silence was required. Between the persecution during the 1940's and the poisoning of birds by pesticides in the 1960's by 1965 there were very few breeding pairs left in the UK.

Thankfully large birds of prey are becoming much more common nowadays and in Ardler there is always the chance of seeing kestrel, buzzards and of course now our local peregrine falcon.

## Feeding The Birds

During the cold winter months when natural food is scarce it is really important to help the birds in our garden. Scraps of bread, cake, suet, cheese, oatmeal and fruit, left on a bird table or in a safe place from cats can make the difference between life and death to our little garden birds.

The Ranger has been working with local children over the winter months making bird feeders for Ardler gardens. The children loved getting really messy making "Fat balls" a mixture of lard, oatmeal birdseed and sultanas shaped around a dry pinecone. They are really easy to make and a great fast food stop for birds. The children at St Fergus also enjoyed making homemade peanut feeders, easy and much cheaper than anything you can buy in the shops.

If anyone would like tips on how to attract birds to their garden, they can pick up a leaflet in the AVT office or why not stop in for a chat with Kathy who can offer some wildlife gardening tips.

## Easter Activities

### Ardler Youth Cafe

The youth cafe will be open at various times during the Easter holidays. Holiday provision will include an arts day and activities in the gameshall. To find out more please pick up a leaflet from the Ardler Complex the week before the holidays for more information. The majority of activities will be free or have a small charge.

### Street Football

There will be a street football for all session on Tuesday 11th April from 1 - 5pm, venue to be confirmed.

### 10 day outdoor play

For the 2 weeks of the holidays the Youth Sports Development Project will be providing games & activities on the grassy pitch on Turnberry Ave as follows:

03/04 - 07/04

11.00am - 12.30pm for 9 - 11 years old

1.00pm - 2.30pm for 12 - 18 years old

10/04 - 14/04

11.00am - 12.30pm for 5 - 11 years old

(N.B young children must be with adult)

1.00pm - 2.30pm for 12 - 18 years old

For more information please contact Lesley Wallace on 436445.

## Youth Café Volunteer

### Can you help??

I am a 15 year old male that attends the Ardler Youth Cafe. Can you help? We are looking for adult volunteers to come and help at the youth cafe. If we get extra help through volunteers we can open the youth cafe extra nights through the week we think this would be great because it would give us more places to go when its freezing and it might help some young people stay out of trouble.

We would like our volunteers to be friendly and caring, helpful and have a good sense of humour, also in to work with us it is important you like young people! All the young people that come to the youth cafe would really appreciate if you come along and get involved.

### Why volunteer?

Perhaps you have spare hours in the week to help in your community or fancy trying doing something different? As the young person from the youth cafe highlighted volunteers would allow us to run more evening sessions for young people in Ardler/St Mary's. If you would like more information please contact:

Lesley Wallace, Community Worker on 436445

## St Fergus School

It has been a busy and productive start to the new year, with lots of things going on. A few snippets are:

P7 have been working with the Quality Contact team on a very exciting Storytelling project in which they have designed and used Sketchbooks to help them to plan and to organise their thoughts. A group from a school in Manchester will be visiting at the end of March to share experiences - that should be a great cultural exchange.

The Eco team continues to work very hard - see article and picture.

The school football team has restarted the season after the winter break, losing narrowly to Downfield in a close and exciting game. Further matches are arranged for each Friday this term. We're looking forward to completion of the remedial work on the pitch above the school so that we can play our first 'home' match in Ardler for many years. The school's basketball team won the school's first trophy of the session, being voted 'Fair Play' winners at a city-wide tournament. Here they are pictured with their trophy:

The School Choir is busy rehearsing for the Dundee Schools Arts festival at the end of March.



Congratulations and thanks to the team and their coach, Mrs McDonagh.

Groups of dancers, gymnasts, poetry reciters and others are also busy getting ready for the Caird Hall extravaganza. Mrs Bromage from Lawside will be visiting soon to judge the annual Leng Medal solo (and unaccompanied) singing competition. The competition looks to be fierce again this year, with girls and boys, practising hard and going for glory, dreaming of winning the much sought after medal.

The Save by the Bell scheme continues to grow, encouraged by Mrs Fleming and our parent helpers. At the last count we had nearly a third of our pupils registered as savers. Thanks to parents and friends in the community for their support.

## Ardler Primary School

Just before Christmas, the pupils performed 'It's a Party', to a full house and the Nursery children did their Nativity play.

Everyone enjoyed a traditional party. Two pupils, Josh and Adele were winners in a competition run by Dundee Energy Efficiency Project. Their art work is now in the projects calendar.

Our senior pupils had a fabulous trip to 'The Factory' skatepark. We were very lucky to be chosen as one of two schools to receive sponsorship for this trip.

Our Scottish heritage was celebrated in January by both staff and pupils. On 25<sup>th</sup> Jan we all wore something tartan. Congratulations go to Zax for wearing the kilt and thanks to all the parents and grandparents who took the time to put together some superb outfits.

Six pupils from P6 have taken part in an enterprise challenge at Baldrigon, which they really enjoyed.

Inconsiderate parking is still a major issue. Parents and grandparents are using the designated staff car park which encourages children to run into the path of oncoming cars and to run behind cars which may be reversing out of a parking space. The area reserved for mini-buses and taxis is still being used by car owners and causing severe congestion. The School Board will be addressing this issue at their next meeting.

## Brackens School

Since our return after a well deserved break at Christmas we have been visited by Mrs Wain, a science tutor, who has been working with pupils in P3 and P4. A number of classes have visited Sensation to find out about 'Body Bits'. Highlights of the visit were being able to see inside a body model, watching the 3D film and, for P1/2, seeing Mrs Knight being turned into a chimpanzee. Earlier this month we held the Leng Medal competition and congratulations go to Amy Mowatt who sang 'Bluebell of Scotland'. Thanks go to Mrs Anderson from Baldrigon for judging the competition which was of a very high standard.

A number of staff changes have taken place recently and we welcome Mrs Greig and Mrs Ovenstone to the teaching staff. Mrs Bruce has taken over from Mrs Sturrock as classroom assistant. Congratulations go to Mrs James on the birth of her daughter, Amber, and we await news of Mrs Sturrock and Mrs Ramsay's new arrivals.