

DOWN YOUR

Street

Tenants' Magazine



**Millies'
Mates
P26**

Springtime celebrations



#DYSFife

www.fife.gov.uk/housing



Rent increase news

p3

Useful Numbers

Homeless (24 hr)	08000 28 62 31
Housing Repairs	03451 55 00 11
After hours and weekend	03451 55 00 99
Housing Information and advice	03451 55 00 33
Rent and Arrears	03451 55 00 44
Automated Payments	03451 55 00 55
Council Tax & Housing Benefits	03451 55 11 55
Recycling & Waste	03451 55 00 22
Births, Deaths & Marriages	03451 55 00 77



Alternative Formats

Information about Fife Council can be made available in **large print, braille and audio CD** on request by calling

Alternative Formats line:

03451 55 55 00



British Sign Language

please text (SMS) 07781 480 185

BT Text Direct:

18001 01592 55 11 91

Language lines

Arabic	خط هاتف اللغة العربية: 03451 55 55 77
Bengali	বাংলায় আলাপ করার জন্য টেলিফোন লাইন: 03451 55 55 99
Cantonese	中文語言熱線電話: 03451 55 55 88
Polish	Polskojęzyczna linia telefoniczna: 03451 55 55 44
Urdu	اردو زبان کے لیے ٹیلیفون نمبر 03451 55 55 66

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Get in touch

Edited by: The Tenant Participation Team

If you need to get in touch about this issue, or setting up a Tenants and Residents Association for your area, you can contact us in the following ways:



Tenant Participation Team, Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre, Town House, 2 Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XW



01383 602220



tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk

www.fife.gov.uk/housing



@fifecounciltp

Welcome!

Tough Times for the Council and our Tenants

As I write this article for the Spring Edition of Down Your Street, the Council has taken the decision on 23rd February 23 to increase council house rents by 5% from April 2023. This is a significant rent increase, higher than in recent years. Why is that?

In the winter edition of DYS, I advised tenants of the difficult financial circumstances faced by the Council due to high inflation rates and post-covid recovery costs. This had led to a budget gap for our Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which in turn puts pressures on services. This is because the cost of delivering services has increased at a significantly higher rate than our income from rents.

The HRA is a ring-fenced budget and income from rent payments directly funds services for tenants, including repairs and maintenance, estates management and local projects. The Council depends on rent income to fund housing services. We receive no subsidy from the Council's other budget, the general Fund or from the Scottish Government.

In November 2022 the Cabinet Committee agreed to consult with tenants on rent options in the range of 0% to 3% as part of our annual consultation survey. Unfortunately, the inflationary pressures on the HRA budget increased from the period in November and the budget gap increased from £6.627m to £10.228m.

1170 tenants took part in our survey. Survey results indicated that the top 3 priorities for tenants are home improvements, energy efficiency works and new build housing. Council considered the

consultation results including the fact that that 53% of tenants wished to see a rent freeze. Although higher than we consulted our tenants about, the rent increase agreed was the lowest considered possible to allow current level of services to be maintained and to continue our home energy, home improvement and new house building programmes, areas that tenants told us were priorities.

The Council approved a budget of £2 million to provide rent and fuel poverty support to tenants. The Council listened to our Tenants Federations who stressed the need to support tenants who do not get help with their rent payments through benefits and we are working to put a scheme in place. This scheme will support tenants most affected by the rent increase and most in need.

The average weekly rent remains below "living rent" levels and rent support will be targeted to those most affected by a rent increase, and who are facing financial challenges.

The Council has put in place a wide range of support for you and your family, from heating your home to accessing benefits. Visit: our.fife.scot/gethelp – or phone our Community Support Line FREE on 0800 952 0330.



John Mills, Head of Housing Service

Would you like to be involved with Tenant Participation?

There are many Tenants and Residents Associations set up throughout Fife working together to improve their communities and make sure everyone has a way of expressing their opinions.

We would love to hear your views and suggestions on what you think would make a difference to your housing area and community.

Perhaps you are already part of a Tenants and Residents Association or maybe you are interested in joining. If so, please contact the Tenant Participation Officer (TPO) for your area, we would love to speak with you and be thrilled to have you on board.

We can offer advice and support on booking meeting venues, publicising your meetings, the setting up of a committee along with inviting council officials to make sure your voice is heard on the issues that matter to you. Training can also be provided for any positions such as chairperson, secretary, or treasurer along with committee member positions.

If this is something you would like to hear more about or would like to discuss being involved, please contact the TP team.

We would love to hear from you!

Cowdenbeath - Julie McDougall – Julie.McDougall@fife.gov.uk - 07718 422471

Dunfermline - Rab Clark – Rab.Clark@fife.gov.uk - 07525 392637

Glenrothes – Ross Cameron – Ross.Cameron-hsng@fife.gov.uk – 07860 756810

Kirkcaldy – Julie McDougall - Julie.McDougall@fife.gov.uk - 07718 422471

North East Fife - Colin Whyte – Colin.Whyte@fife.gov.uk – 07525 392728

Levenmouth - Ross Cameron – Ross.Cameron-hsng@fife.gov.uk – 07860 756810

South West Fife - Rab Clark – Rab.Clark@fife.gov.uk - 07525 392637



Stay Gas safe



Annual gas safety maintenance

Fife Council have responsibilities for their properties and a duty of care to their tenants. As a landlord we have a legal duty to annually maintain and repair the gas installation pipework, flues and appliances to a condition which is safe. This helps keep you and the surrounding community safe.

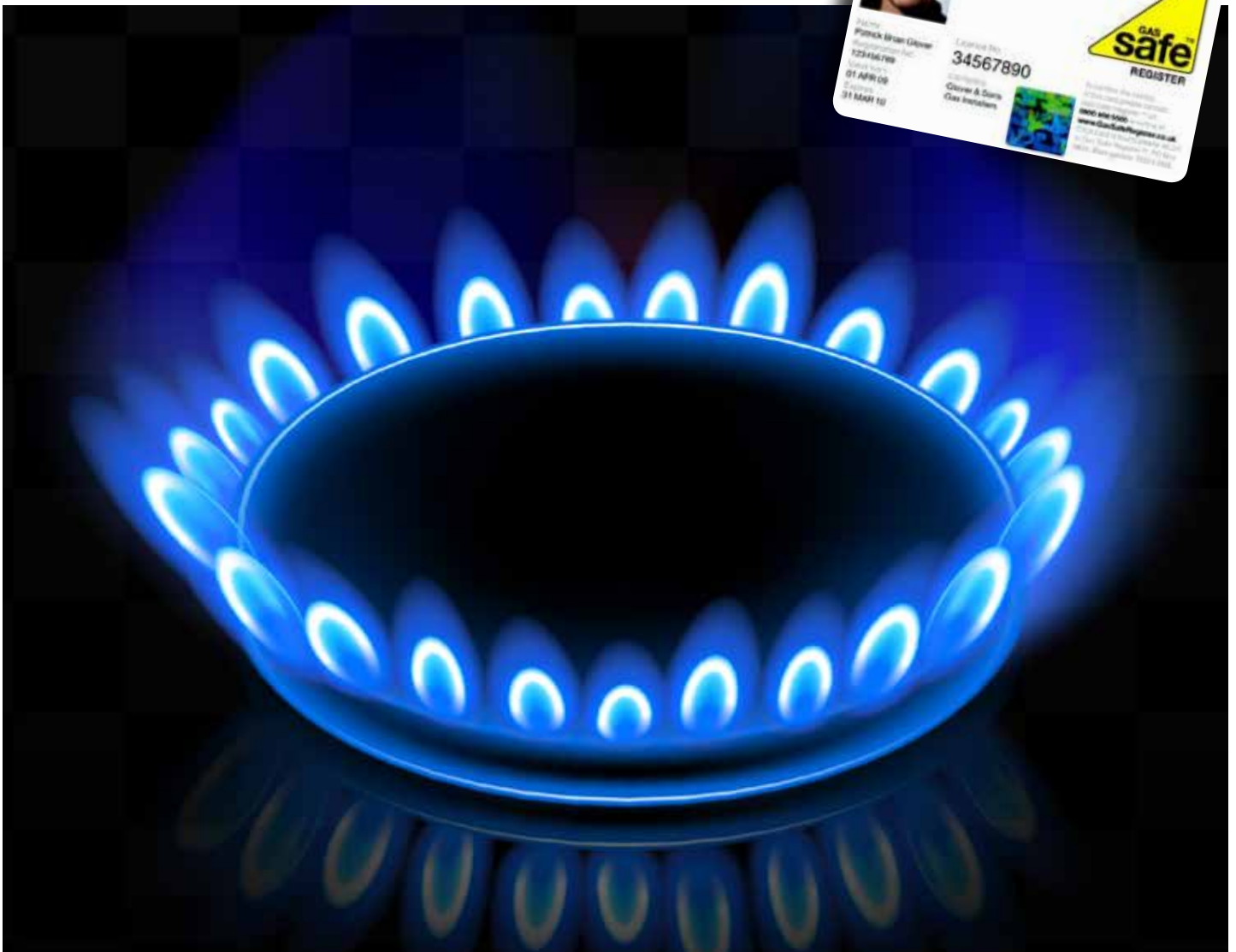
When your gas service is due, we'll send you a letter so you know when we plan to visit. If the date's not suitable, we can move it to another day.

With over 30,000 Fife Council properties, organising annual gas safety maintenance visits is a big challenge. Help us keep you and your property gas safe. You can assist us by allowing us access to the

property and having gas and electricity in your meters, so that we can carry out your service.

Fife Council Building Services employ gas safe registered engineers to carry out essential maintenance, and gas repairs. The Gas Safe registered engineer will always carry a badge with the Gas Safe yellow triangle on it and Fife Council logo. To check an engineer, go to www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk or call free on 0800 408 5500.

Please call Scottish Gas Networks straight away if you think you may have a gas leak on 0800 111 999.



Reporting a repair

Fife Council have a responsibility, as your landlord, to make sure your home is wind and watertight. If any repairs are required to your home, please let us know as soon as possible. We will need to know:

- **your name, address and contact number**
- **as much information as possible on the repair required**
- **if any damage has occurred and how it happened**
- **any access details that may affect us being able to do the repair within an agreed timescale**

With this information, we will advise you of the time it takes to complete the work. If possible, we will offer you an appointment. It will be one that is suitable for both you and our trades person. Repair timescales can vary, depending on the work required. We will always aim to complete the repair as soon as we can.

Non-Emergency Repairs

If your repair is not an emergency, for example not a danger to your health or safety, you should report this online via the **Request a non-emergency housing repair online form** or **call 03451 55 55 55 and select option 1**. (Lines are open 8am-6pm Mon-Fri excl public hols). At weekends/public holidays and at any time between 6pm and 8am Mon-Fri, please provide your name, address, contact number and full details of repair required. You will be sent an appointment via text message, if you have provided us with a mobile number. If not, we will send you an appointment via email. You will receive details of your appointment within five working days.

In an emergency

If you believe the repair is a danger to health or safety, you should report the problem as soon as possible. Please use the **Request an emergency housing repair online form** or **call 03451 55 00 99**

If you require an update on a repair, you have reported

Tenants who require an update on a repair they have reported can **call 03451 55 00 11** selecting **option 2** Tenants who do not wish to call, but have access to email, can request an update by emailing **bs.mobileworking@fife.gov.uk** Please note - this email address will only deal with update or re-booking

requests - and does NOT deal with new repair requests. Processing times for emails sent to can be up to 5 working days.

Rescheduling an appointment

If you need to reschedule your gas service, or a non-emergency housing repair, you can do so via the red Chat button on www.fife.gov.uk select Housing then Housing Repairs and select the chat button at the side of the page or by emailing **bs.mobileworking@fife.gov.uk**

Please note, this is for rescheduling repairs only; please continue to use either the Request an emergency housing repair online form or the Request a non-emergency housing repair online form to report new repairs.

Have you missed a trades person, or do you have an appointment to change?

If the appointment you missed was classed as an emergency, please use the **Request an emergency housing repair online form**. If a tradesperson has left a card, please **call 03451 55 00 11 Option 3** between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday please respond to the card within 5 days quoting the job number. If no call is received the job is, then cancelled.

We ask that tenants follow the above process for reporting or requesting updates rather than emailing staff directly. This ensures requests are dealt with promptly and can be monitored. **To access the online forms please go to www.fife.gov.uk select Housing then Housing Repairs**



NEFTRF Community Voice



North East Fife Tenants and Residents Federation have been very busy since we opened the shop in April 2022.

We have two rooms that provide confidentiality and a warm space, and they are available to community groups and organisations.

The rooms are easy to book and are free of charge, donations are welcomed which help to cover the cost of tea, coffee and biscuits and for printing and laminating. We recently purchased a laptop so that people can make use of it to fill out forms and connect to our projector.

We have been invited to talks where a powerpoint is used and videos that have been kindly made for us by Rab Clark (Tenant Participation Officer) have been included. These have been very successful in promoting what we do and have generated interest from some group members we have talked to and they have come onto the committee. You can view us on You Tube following this link. <https://youtu.be/6aKyISzKrB4>

As well as encouraging voices from the community and letting them know how to form associations we have tried to be a signposting service. However due to the cost-of-living crisis we have been involved with setting up zoom meetings to assist with benefit appointments, organising wills and helping those people who struggle to navigate the internet.

We are very lucky to have a big window where people drop in to advertise their services and events.

Talking to the advisory groups has really helped to support the work that we do and has given us networking opportunities allowing further sharing of knowledge.

The shop work helps people who live throughout North East Fife dealing with enquiries, telephone calls, reporting maintenance work, anti-social behaviour and much more. In partnership with other organisations in Fife, NEFTRF is part of the team tackling fuel poverty. The cost of living has impacted so many people and we have been able to provide a service where we can direct people to the right place to assist. We can refer people to the Foodbank.

We have been extremely lucky to have pop up shops from The Well, Cosy Kingdom, Brag Enterprise, Adult Basic Learning (ABC) Social Security Scotland, Alzheimer Scotland, Community Police, Circles

Advocacy Fife with many more groups approaching the shop to have a look at the office space and arrange for future pop ups.

Scout About Toon are a group that has decided to meet on a regular basis, and they come in every Thursday from 11.30 am. The group was set up by Liz Laing to prevent people from becoming isolated. It is a friendly group who are always looking for new members to join, encouraging people to get out and about.

The Well comes into the shop every Wednesday and they have been a wealth of support and knowledge. Anne from the Well said "I love to come into the shop, it is bright and welcoming." And Christine added that the shop is a great location for an information service. The Well also have a pop up at St Davids Centre in St Andrews on a Tuesday 10-12. Cosy Kingdom visit the last Wednesday of the month to give energy advice and support.

We are going to focus on accessing rural communities after the success of the bus tour and hope that we can gain funding for a bus so we can visit all of the communities within North East Fife and help to tackle poverty and isolation.

Leading up to Christmas we were a collection and referral point for the Toy Drive where we were overwhelmed with the kindness and the generosity of the tenants and residents.

Community Voice would like to say thank you to all of the tenants and residents in North East Fife who have welcomed us in our new venture to support anyone who is looking for help and advice. Please do pop in and say hi.

Community Voice is open 5 days a week Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3pm.

It is closed from 12 until 12.30 for lunch.

Occasionally the shop is closed to attend meetings in Glenrothes or if we are out and about.

Any contact can be made by

email: info@neftrf.org.uk

Mobile: 07484075316

Land Line: 01334 570040



Santa sleigh returned to Auchmuty

For the second year in a row, Auchmuty & Dovecot Tenants & Residents Association (ADTRA) delivered a Santa sleigh ride around the Auchmuty and Dovecot area. This event was excellently organised by ADTRA and the volunteers who were present on the day, with everyone getting into the Christmas spirit as you can see below in the pictures.

The Santa sleigh tour around the area really brought out the best in the community and there was a terrific turn out from local residents. ADTRA provided sweetie bags for Santa to throw out his sleigh with every child getting a wee sweetie. What was amazing to see was that when the bags were thrown out the sleigh, some of the local children would take the sweets and hand them to their families who were slightly further away. It was also wonderful to see so many people wave from their windows and videoing Santa, spreading the news he had come for a visit. Next year ADTRA are planning to make this event even bigger and better!

The ADTRA committee and volunteers worked incredibly hard over the Christmas period giving out food parcels,

home essentials and hundreds of toys to ensure the community was connected and involved during this festive period.

"Santa's Sleigh was amazing to see, the kids loved it and the volunteers were amazing getting the kids to sing and dance along with them."

"Second year of ADTRA doing Santa Sleigh even better than last year!"

"Adtra do amazing things for the community, Santa's Sleigh gave us a great end to the year and our kids were amazed."



Fife “Test of Change” Fencing Review

The Housing’s Estate Management Team have been tasked to undertake a review of Fife Council’s fencing guidance to help produce a standard policy that can be applied across Fife. The review looks to determine Fife’s fencing needs via a “Test of change” which involves public consultation, market research and testing of principles by undertaking fencing projects.

Effective partnership working with Area housing colleagues, Grounds Maintenance, Building Services, Mutual Owners Team, Tenants Participation Team and external partners has allowed the first two projects to be completed in Herriot Crescent, Methil and Lismore Avenue Kirkcaldy. Some before and after pictures can be seen below with the projects enhancing the look of the area and creating a more desirable outdoor space for tenants.

Initial planning and consultation have also begun in Maryfield Crescent, Leslie and Balfargie Crescent, Cupar. Cowdenbeath, Dunfermline & South West Fife are currently being evaluated and will be

programmed in to ensure the best use of budgets available. Once all test areas have been completed the collected data will be reviewed and will aid in forming a standard Fencing policy for Fife Council. This policy will aim to meet our tenants needs while fulfilling our regulatory, financial, and environmental commitments.

“I feel lucky to get my fence, the timing was great!”

Jean Skirving, Kirkcaldy

“I like the fence; it’s made a difference”

Sandra Paterson, Kirkcaldy

“Big improvement from what it was before. It looks a whole lot better”

David Richard Booth, Kirkcaldy

“Fencing was perfect and has given me my own space myself and for my dog.”



Herriot Crescent, Methil, before



Lismore Avenue, Kirkcaldy, before



Herriot Crescent, Methil, after



Lismore Avenue, Kirkcaldy, after

Christmas cheer in Linktown

Christmas Hampers delivered.

The hampers were purchased by the Philp Hall community group, which includes the three local tenant & Residents Associations of Linktown, Forth View and Inveriel. The groups were supported by Samantha Kay, Morrisons Community Champion and Fife Federation of Tenant & Residents Associations (Ffotra).

The groups felt that this year's festive period was especially tough, and a hamper draw would be a good idea to give local people that extra lift in difficult times.

Special thanks to John Farmer at the Philp Hall for his help in pulling this project together.

Over the Xmas period Forth View TRA were happy to help alongside our fellow groups in the area by delivering festive hampers to local residents. This was gratefully received, and we hope to repeat this in the future.

S McCord -Forth View-Chairperson.

Facebook Quotes....

A massive thank you to everyone at the Linktown Philp hall for my grans hamper, its much appreciated and my gran was over the moon.

What a lovely community. Think I need to move to Linktown!

Would like to thank everyone who was kind enough to put together the lovely hamper I have just received. Much appreciated and will not go to waste.



Cowdenbeath Housing Team Give a Gift

The Cowdenbeath Area Housing Team decided at their team meeting prior to Christmas that they would love to help the local community. After a discussion it was decided everyone would buy a Christmas gift for a boy or girl.

With the recent energy crisis resulting in many families struggling with household costs the Housing Team thought this would be a nice way of helping local families in the Community.

Knowing that Lochgelly Lunches provide an excellent food service for the community Housing Management Officer, Steve McQuan reached out to them to see if they could work together to distribute the gifts to families.

Lochgelly Lunches were thrilled to hear of the idea, and it was agreed the presents could be collected at the same time as food parcels.

Needless to say, the Cowdenbeath Team out-did themselves and managed to gather a great number of gifts!

Steve delivered the presents just before Christmas to the team at Lochgelly Lunches who were overwhelmed with the generosity and community spirit.

The Cowdenbeath Team also held a bake sale in aid of Andy's Man Club raising a fabulous £210 for a great cause.

What a Team!



How to be more energy efficient

Save energy around the home The price increases are a worry for many of us. The best way to pay less right now is to use less. That doesn't mean turning the lights off and sitting in the dark. There are plenty of practical actions you can take to help save energy around your home, reduce your energy bill and your carbon emissions too. Using your heating controls and finding ways to prevent heat loss around your home can help you keep warm for less.

Try do the following:

- Reducing your thermostat by 1°C
- Using your thermostatic radiator valves correctly
- Keeping curtains and doors closed between rooms In terms of your appliances and cutting down your electricity use, you could consider:
- Switching appliances and devices off at the plug rather than leaving them on standby
- Using a slow cooker or pressure cooker rather than an oven
- Using LED lighting and switching lights off when that room isn't being used

Please reach out to your housing officer should you be experiencing Fuel Poverty

Price cap -

The government's Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) which limits the unit costs that people pay for their gas and electric was expected to rise to £3000 on

1st April 2023, however following the latest budget announcement, the current cap of £2500 will remain in place until June 2023, meaning the typical household would save up to £160 on their energy bills. The government will be removing the £400 energy support scheme from April 2023. Please refer to **Cost of Living Support | Fife Council** to see what help and advice is available.

If the rise in fuel costs is affecting you there is help available. Please get in touch with our partner Cosy Kingdom or the Fife Councils Fuel Poverty team for help and advice. Phone: 01592 807930 Text: Text 'COSY' and your name to 88440.

Email: info@cosykingdom.org.uk

Fuel.poverty@fife.gov.uk

For further support with the Cost OF Living please visit Cost of Living Support (fife.scot)

Government Cost of Living payments 2023/2024

In November 2022, the Government announced the next round of cost-of-living support. Following the first and second Cost of Living Payments paid in 2022, up to £900 will be paid to eligible customers receiving means-tested benefits, including tax credits, in three new instalments throughout 2023 and 2024.

We can now confirm the seasons in which payments will be made. We will clarify exact payment dates and who is eligible for each payment closer to the time. As usual, payments are automatic and there is no need for customers to call us.

£301 - First 2023-24 Cost of Living Payment – paid during Spring 2023

£300 - Second 2023-24 Cost of Living Payment – paid during Autumn 2023

£299 - Third 2023-24 Cost of Living Payment – paid during Spring 2024

Please note that eligibility criteria is separate for each Cost of Living Payment. Receiving a previous Cost of Living Payment doesn't guarantee a customer will be eligible for the next payment.

Information about the Cost of Living Payments can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment.



UK Government Energy Bills Support Scheme

Whilst most households are now receiving the £400 discount by monthly instalments, we are particularly concerned that customers with traditional pre-payment meters have not received their monthly voucher. Our most recent data indicates that almost 30% of vouchers issued in the first half of the scheme have not yet been redeemed.

Traditional prepayment meter customers are being sent vouchers each month by their supplier. The value was £66 in each of October and November, and £67 from November to March. Total £400.

Vouchers expire after 90 days but the customer can ask their supplier to reissue them if lost, not received or expired.

All vouchers must be redeemed by 30 June 2023. The supplier sends information with each voucher advising whether they should be taken to a Post Office or PayPoint. Clients may have received their discount via a Special Action Message. Many vouchers have not yet been redeemed. Please ensure all your clients are asked the questions below and urge them act promptly to gain this credit for their meter.

Info can be found at gov.uk/helpforhouseholds

Direct Debit PROS

More Choice of Tariffs

Set it up and no further action is required

Choose a payment plan to suit your budget and usage needs

Peace of Mind

Customers are always on supply providing bills are paid on time

Paying by direct debit often allows discounts or cheaper tariffs to be awarded

Budget planning

Have a set date for payment every month and most companies offer online apps to monitor your usage along with being able to submit meter readings

Direct Debit CONS

Can be subject to credit status

In some cases, a direct debit account may not be granted depending on the customer's credit status

Money Management

As this is a monthly agreement, if you do not have the agreed funds in your bank for this to be paid, this can result in charges from your bank

The right tariff and payment arrangement?

Customers need to keep on top of their arrangement to ensure they are not paying too much or are not meeting the agreed monthly payment

Pre-Payment meters PROS

You're in control

Because you buy your allowance beforehand, you stay in total control of what you use which can also help you budget on a weekly/monthly basis

Never overpay

Most energy bills are calculated on expected usage and estimated readings – prepaid meters aren't

Switch when you want

Unless you're in arrears to your supplier, you can make the switch away from a meter (if suppliers are allowing switching to take place)

Pre-Payment meters CONS

Not the cheapest option

Prepayment meters are usually a considerably more expensive per unit of energy than most other tariffs

Can be inconvenient

You can sometimes run out of credit at inconvenient times, or when the shops are shut, also as we are in Scotland, we also have the weather to consider!

Running out means running out

Once you get to the end of your current credit allowance, your energy is shut off until you can buy more, which can be an issue if you have no funds to credit the meter or you can't get to a shop, for instance if your credit runs out during unsociable hours

Collydean Community Centre

Collydean Community Centre is run as a not-for-profit organisation and is managed by a board of trustees drawn from the local community.

The events and services offered by Collydean Community Centre are run by a small team of staff and a large team of volunteers.

The work at Collydean Community Centre is supported by a huge team of over 80 volunteers. These volunteers help with anything from delivering food parcels or prescriptions, to helping run events, or helping to keep the centre tidy. We rely on our team of volunteers to help us support the community.

Our volunteers have been kept busy throughout this last year, making sure that support is there when it is needed and helping our community to pull together in what has been a difficult time.

Volunteering for Collydean Community Centre is about more than just helping out. It's about giving your time and using your skills and talents to help build a better community and make friends along the way. Volunteering can include a regular weekly commitment, or being available as an extra pair of hands/delivery driver when needed.

If you would like to volunteer with Collydean Community Centre, then please get in touch via the collydeancommunitycentre.co.uk

You can also find us on Facebook. <https://en-gb.facebook.com/collydeancommunitycentre/>

Here is a list of our current timetable, new members are always welcome.

Mondays

Butterfly Bereavement Café 10-11:30am Free of charge includes tea and biscuits, for more information please email butterflybereavementcafe22@gmail.com

Digital Skills 1:30-3pm A free drop in session helping people of all abilities to enhance their skills in using technology.

Art & Crafts for 8-11 year olds 4:30-5:30pm classes are £5 per session and include all art materials. To book a place please message Catherine Mills On 07530314636.

Little Peoples Club 6-7pm Youth group for P1-P3 aged children, 50p per session

Andy's Man Club 7-9pm Free to attend, This is a support group for males aged 18+

Glenrothes & District Dog Training Club. Places must be booked and there is a subscription charge, for more information please message or join their Facebook page.

Tuesdays

Job Club 9:30-11:30am on every 4th Tuesday of the month, A free drop in session providing support for jobseekers searching for work, creating CV's etc

Glow Bambino Baby Therapy Sessions 11-12pm £6 per session

Youth talking Café 6-8pm Youth Group for S1-S6 aged youths with mental health support.

Women's Wellbeing Club 6:30-8:30 Free to attend, this is a support group for females aged 18+

Wednesdays

Breakfast Club 8-8:45am Free breakfast for all primary school age children and free hot drink for the parents. We ask that children younger than 7 are accompanied by an adult.

Babies & Toddlers 9:30-11am preschool aged children's group £2 per session includes snack and refreshments.

ASN Group 12-1:30pm A group for young people aged 16-25 with additional support needs.

Emily Black Dance (Street Dance) 4-4:45pm & 4:45-5:30pm Two separate sessions for ages P1-P3 & P4-P7. To enquire about prices and availability please email emilyblackdanceschools@gmail.com

Crochet Club 4-5pm Free club for people of all abilities, All materials are provided, Tea and Coffee also available.

Cosy Café 5-8pm A free family cooking session held in our café hall. Families can come along to prepare and eat a home cooked meal. There are also recipes and meal packs handed out and the opportunity to do family activities such as board games.

Therapeutic Art 6:30-7:30pm classes are £5 per session and include all art materials. To book a place please message Catherine Mills On 07530314636.



#ITSOKAYTOTALH

Thursdays

Pitcairn Senior Citizens 2-4pm A social group for our senior citizens Free to attend just come along no need to book.

Arts & Crafts for 12-16 Year olds. 4:30-5:30pm classes are £5 per session and include all art materials. To book a place please message Catherine Mills On 07530314636.

21st Glenrothes Guides 6:30-8pm They hold their regular group meetings at the centre. For more information and to sign up please visit girlguiding.org.uk

Cosy Café 5-8pm A free family cooking session held in our café hall. Families can come along to prepare and eat a home cooked meal. There are also recipes and meal packs handed out and the opportunity to do family activities such as board games.

Junior Youth Club P4-P7 year olds 6-8pm £1.50 per session.

Fridays

Breakfast Club 8-8:45am Free breakfast for all primary school age children and free hot drink for the parents. We ask that children younger than 7 are accompanied by an adult.

Friday Night Football 6-7:30pm Free football

sessions for primary and high school aged pupils. The group meet at Collydean Primary School. No studded footwear permitted.

Pizza & Patter 7-9pm S1-S6 aged Youth Group. A Free Youth Drop in session with a varied range of activities including Xbox, Table top games, Music, information and discussion sessions on health and wellbeing, Chill and chat. Food and soft drinks are provided.



BIRTHDAY PARTY HIRES

Our large hall is available for hire for birthday parties. It comes with the use of our small kitchen. Small bouncy castles can fit in the hall!

For North Glenrothes residents we have a deal of £20 per hour.
For non-locals its £27 per hour.

REPETITIVE HIRES

If you are looking for somewhere to run an ongoing group/club, we have availability in our halls.

Our prices per hour are as follows:
Large Hall - £15.60
Small Hall - £9.60
Cafe Hall - £12
With a 3 week free trial.

ONE - OFF HIRES

We also supply one-off hires of our small hall & cafe hall.

The prices per hour for this are:
Small hall - £21.60
Cafe Hall - £24

Family Breakfast Club

Wednesdays & Fridays 8-8:45am



Free for the whole family.

Choose from a choice of toast, fruit, cereal

COLLYDEAN COSY CAFE

WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS
4:30 TO 7:30PM

A FREE HOMECOOKED HOT MEAL.

IN A SAFE AND COSY AREA FOR FAMILIES TO COME TOGETHER.

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHILDREN AND HOT DRINKS FOR THE ADULTS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

CALL: 01592 742913



Did you know our Community Centre Supplies free sanitary and sexual health products. Visit the Centre Monday to Friday, from 9- 5pm and use our codewords.

Sanitary And Sexual Health Products



Ask for Colin for Condoms.

Ask for Susan for Period Products.

Extra supply of pregnancy tests currently available.



Granary Lane have been a busy bunch this year!

It was definitely a busy year in 2022 for getting involved, and we certainly did!

From January through to December we had a full calendar of events-

Afternoon tea outings, Fish suppers from the local chippie, barbeques and Bingo afternoons are just some of the regular events that tenants looked forward too.

Every Friday morning tenants enjoyed a relaxed get together in our communal lounge with views over the Tay and a nice tea or coffee.

We also had a spooky Halloween party with the Busy Bees nursery providing us with a humorous afternoon.

The St Andrews night celebrations were well attended with music provided by "The Flukes". We also celebrated our tenants' birthdays with a nice afternoon tea. This year (2023) we have an 80th and 90th birthdays to look forward to be celebrating in style.

The Christmas afternoon party had a bonanza of raffle prizes and hampers to be won.

Last year the tenants benefitted from tuition on how to use their mobile phones and laptops to text, email, and navigate the internet safely. This course was sponsored by the Royal Voluntary Service (R.V.S) who also ran a "Bums on Seats" exercise class for us. Both were well attended and enjoyed by all. We love doing events like this as it gives us more confidence whilst using technology safely.

The hardworking committee of Elaine, Liz, Laverna and Isabel work hard throughout the year to organise this busy diary of events and ensure all goes smoothly. The Committee would like to thank all the tenants for their contribution and help.

Quote from tenant

"We enjoy the outings and events here at Granary Lane, and it's nice to get a wee run in the bus."



New beginnings for tenants at Balfour court

Tenants of Balfour Court are excited to have their TRA up and running and are looking forward to what the future holds.

They have worked hard with retirement housing officer Natalie, Rab Clark and Julie Mcdougall (Tenant participation) since September to see positive change.

Socialising is important so we have started another club to get some of the tenants together on a Monday. The tenant led seated exercise class is a fun way to keep moving, it's not too strenuous and can be enjoyed by all. After working up an appetite, we have some lunch at the centre, usually soup and a roll. We pay a small fee to cover the cost and the rest goes into our tenants' funds so we can enjoy a fish tea or a bus trip once in a while. We also have a coffee morning on Wednesdays followed by Fun bingo. *"I am happy to see much more stuff going on in the Centre where we can all meet up, It's a great way to spend time together with your Neighbours"* - Marie Muirhead.

New benches have been placed throughout the hilly complex grounds so the tenants can stop for a breather and in the summer, they will be able to sit and chat with their Neighbours in the sunshine. "The Benches are going to make a huge difference; I struggle with the

hills so to be able to stop for a rest will be a godsend"- Sandra Hoyland.

We have a large library of books and DVDs in the lounge for the tenants to use and return. It's a great idea and has been well used.

Some of the tenants are hoping to start up a gardening club to bring some colour to the grounds as well as grow their own vegetables. Tenants are hoping this will bring more tenants together, keep them active and make Balfour court a more colourful place to live.

Chair of the TRA Roseina Hamlin plans to take further proposals forward to benefit the tenants of Balfour court.

"I think setting up a TRA for the tenants here at Balfour Court has been the best thing they have done. They now have a voice and are now able to make a real difference to their small community. I think all Retirement housing complexes should have one of their own"

Natalie Lang, Retirement Housing Officer.



Recognition for Central Burntisland TRA

It came as a surprise that the CBTRA (Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association) had been nominated for a Certificate of Commendation by sitting members of the Scottish Parliament for work that the TRA had carried out in the Community.

We, like the majority of Fife TRA's work, quietly away in the background, improving our areas for residents and visitors alike. Due to the location of our area, many of the improvements are for the benefit of the whole town and its residents, so we never thought we were doing anything out of the norm when we took on the Christmas parcel delivery.

The award goes to all the volunteers and shops that supported the TRA over the Christmas period, and

we are proud to receive the Commendation on your behalf.

CBTRA meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6.45pm in the Heritage Centre Burntisland.



Photo courtesy Mrs Fiona Watson, Burntisland Community Council.

Mr D Torrance, Mr Paul Graham & Mrs Lynne Ralph (L – R)

It's time to ACT

Allan Court Tenants are pleased to be meeting regularly again.

The group was initially set up in February 2019 and began working to make improvements. Unfortunately, the group were unable to meet during the Covid-19 pandemic and had to pause their ideas and plans.

Allan Court Tenants are now back and excited to work together for the benefit of all in the complex.

The group hope to look at issues including improving access to the communal bin area and bins, transforming the outside of the building to make it brighter and more welcoming, mobility scooter storage along with improving the communal extractor system.

Working together making it a great place to live!

"Appreciate work in the garden area by Hamish Brown and the local Floral Action Burntisland (FAB) team.

Looking forward to enjoying the summer sun. Addition of an outdoor tap makes their work easier" Tom Wood, Tenant

"Enjoying getting together again. Lovely walks to the beach"

Jenny Thomas, Tenant

"Enjoying improvements in the lounge with the addition of a new TV and soft lighting"

Mary Greig, Tenant

"Great to see the tenants getting together again and enjoying each other's company"

Mhairi Scott, Retirement Housing Officer



New Parking in the Wemyss

Fife Council Housing Services undertook a project to identify Lock ups garages for refurbishment/ demolition, The Back Dykes site was underused, so a consultation was carried out and a decision was made to demolish the site and put in parking bays. There were a couple of Lock ups in use, but the tenants were offered alternatives nearby or were happy to terminate.

It was decided that 10 lock ups be demolished to create the parking spaces, with the surrounding stone wall originally to be kept. However, on further inspection it was found to be unstable and a safety hazard to the public, so this was removed and replaced with timber fencing.

This project was a combined effort with a few services within Fife Council. The idea was brought to light

by the Levenmouth Housing team, where they requested funding from the opportunity fund which is managed by the Estates team. Once the project was given the green light, transportation services worked closely alongside the Housing and Estates team to ensure their vision was pursued in the right way.

As you can see from the before and after photos, the area now looks bright and vibrant, giving the area a more aesthetic look.

“Personally, I think it looks so much better. The parking bays seem to be getting well used now too.” Quote from Lorraine Ferguson, Housing Management Officer



Community Woodland Area in Cairneyhill

The South and West Fife Area Housing Team were approached by Cairneyhill Community Council who were concerned about the safety of the burn in housing owned woodland near to the primary school. Children from the primary school often visited this area as part of their curriculum but fears about safety had restricted this. Housing staff worked with the Community Council and Rural Skills Scotland to tidy up the woodland area, install new fencing and safe access to the burn, financed through the local housing budget. In addition, the Local Community Planning Budget contributed to the improvement of the nature trail, the creation of a woodland seating area and the installation of bird boxes.



Spotlight on Rotary Club of Buckhaven & Methil

The Rotary Club of Buckhaven & Methil do fantastic work in the community. They run the Levenmouth Children's Clothing Bank, install defibrillators in the area, provide emergency food boxes and even arranged for Santa to leave the North Pole and visit children in the area for a photo on his sleigh. That is only a handful of projects they have on-going over the last 6 years.

The cost-of-living crisis has hit everyone hard and left the club members concerned that people in the community were sitting in cold houses every night or being forced to choose between eating or heating. In November 2022 they decided to open a 'Cosy Café' every Thursday night between 5-9pm in the Memorial Park Neighbourhood Centre, Methil so people could come together, sit in the warmth and enjoy a hot meal.

The Café was initially funded by the Rotary Club, using funds which have been raised at various events in the Levenmouth area and donated by people in the community. The club then applied for Fife Council's 'Warm Spaces' grant to ensure the Café could run throughout the winter.

The first couple of weeks saw a handful of people arrive, they were given a meal and stayed for a while. In the weeks that followed more and more people began to show up, the club members were thrilled to see so many people benefitting from the Cosy Café. They couldn't have imagined how big a success the café would become and realised that the people there all had different reasons for coming. Although saving money on gas and electric, and receiving a home cooked meal was

appealing, the sense of community, laughs and company was a far bigger reward. The volunteers love it just as much as the customers.

A request for a weekly game of bingo has become the norm and provides a great laugh, the kids and big kids all get involved for their chance to win some sweets. One regular even celebrated a birthday in the café, complete with singing and cake! So many friendships have been made and there is a real sense of fellowship.

To find out what Warm Spaces are closer to you visit [Warm Spaces | Cost of Living Support \(fife.scot\)](https://www.fife.scot.gov.uk/warm-spaces)

Quotes

"It's just fantastic"

"it's the best food I eat all week"

"Something for me to look forward to"

"I've met so many friends"

"The Cosy Café is the highlight of my week"

"This has gave Methil some community spirit back"

"After 3 years of darkness, I think this is the light at the end"

(all from Cosy Café customers)

"The café has provided the community with exactly what it needs. The club love a chance to have a laugh, provide something great for the people who make Levenmouth and enjoy brilliant homemade food" (Volunteer quote)



Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/rotarybuckhavenmethil

Rosyth Gala 2023

On the 27th of May 2023, from 12pm to 5pm, Rosyth Public Park will be full again with the best gala for miles around, an absolute fun filled day for the primary school children of Rosyth and the local community.

Hundreds of Rosyth children from local primary schools, Camdean, Kings Road, St Johns RC and Park Road, come together with family and friends to enjoy an amazing day of events. The local school children receive a free lunch box and wrist band to gain access to an array of entertainment, bouncy castles, face painting, children's rides, magician and a climbing wall to highlight just a few.

There will also be children's wrist bands available to purchase on the day from the main Gala Tent or bookable online from Eventbrite, these allow children not attending any of the local Rosyth schools access to the applicable entertainment available.

Rosyth Gala back in 2016 was organised and run by Stephen Lynas with the support from committee members and volunteers, it was originally an event created to celebrate Rosyth's Centenary, however it was so successful and popular it was decided to continue the event, which has grown ever since with

a record number attending last year of over 10,000 people from Rosyth a surrounding area.

So yes, Stephen is still at the helm with his ever-increasing list of to-do tasks before the big event. But the organisation of the Gala does not stop after the main event, oh no, behind the scenes its right back to applying for funding, sponsorship (over 30 local businesses this year alone) and collecting the donations from on the day, to get ready for the next year's event.

We cannot put the Gala on without the goodwill and support of volunteers, who help set up in the public park on the days leading up to the big event. If this sounds like an event you would like to be a part of, even if you can only spare a few hours, we would love to hear from you, and trust us your time will be put to good use on one of the biggest children's events in Rosyth's calendar. It's the best day working alongside the best people. Need more evidence?? Have a look at a few of the best moments from last year.

If you feel a role supporting the Gala is for you, please contact via email, Rosythgala@gmail.com or on social media at [facebook.com/rosythgala8](https://www.facebook.com/rosythgala8)

Article written by Edith Lumsden



Photographs courtesy of Tam Livingston





Colouring in

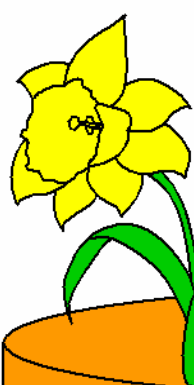
Why not colour in our Easter picture?

Win
£20 of
high street
vouchers!

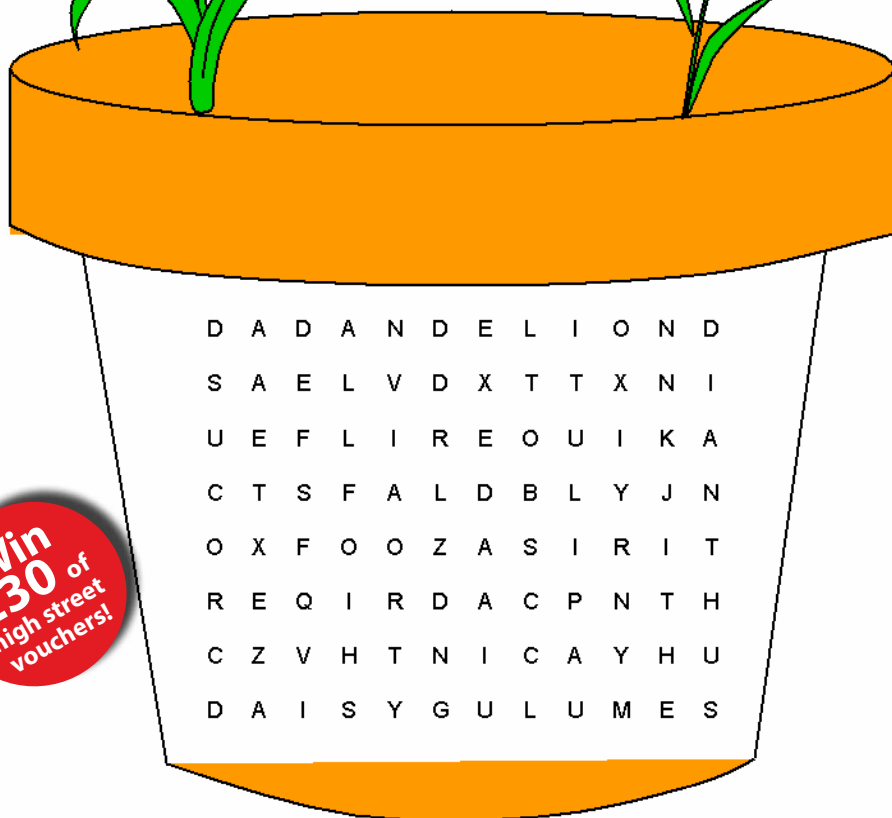
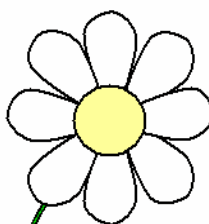
Where's Phoebe?

Do you know where Phoebe is?

If so, email the answer to the address opposite for a chance to win a £30 high street voucher, remembering to include your contact details.



Spring Flowers Word Search



Win
£30 of
high street
vouchers!

azalea
crocus
daffodil

daisy
dandelion
dianthus

hyacinth
iris
lilac

rose
tulip
violet



Win
£30 of
high street
vouchers!

Return postal entries to **Tenant Participation Team, Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre, Town House, 2 Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XW** or scan or take a photo and email it to **tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk**. Remember to include your name, address and contact phone number, competitions close at **5pm on Friday 5th May 2023**.

The Winter winners are:

Where's Millie Competition – Ellen Elliot, Dunfermline
Colouring Competition – Georgia O'Hagan, Cupar
Wordsearch Competition – Richard Gilmour, Auchmuty

Empty Homes work in Fife Council

What we count as an empty home:

- Private residential property
- Over 6 months empty
- Lived in less than 25 days a year (overnight stays)

Role of the Empty Homes Officer:

Ultimately the aim is to bring homes back into use

- Identifying and recording empty homes in our Empty Homes Register
- Info primarily from Council Tax monthly updates but not all empties are noted on council tax
- Info from members of the public / neighbours / community / Cllrs
- referrals from other officers in the council
- Assess why the property is empty and offer tailored advice and assistance to owners
- Promotion and development of Empty Homes work

Empty Homes Officer provides:

- Advice and assistance on options to owners -
- Renting
- Selling
- Renovations

- Council Tax –200% council tax charge where properties are deemed long term empty
- Can provide basic Empty Homes Advice to owner
- Data cleansing – updating Council Tax with correct info
- Initial discussions on possibility of buyback of empty ex local authority properties with progress to Property Acquisitions team if interest.
- Matchmaker Scheme
- we have a list of buyers who are interested in purchasing empty properties and can introduce owner to them as another option to sell property.
- Signposting to other departments
- Working with other departments on possible areas of enforcement

Joanne Saurin

Housing Professional, Empty Homes

03451 555 555 ext 442893

07720 337 596

joanne.saurin@fife.gov.uk/emptyhomes@fife.gov.uk

Community Pantry

Touch Community Centre
30 Mercer Place
Dunfermline KY11 4UG

f 07730 809375

Register by calling on a Wednesday between 10am and 1pm for a Thursday Collection

Free Pantry Bags

- Store cupboard essentials
- Chilled/frozen food
- Fruits and vegetables
- Bakery products
- Sanitary products

#ANDYSMANCLUB

SUICIDE IS THE BIGGEST KILLER OF MEN UNDER 45
1 MAN EVERY 2 HOURS

ALL OUR GROUPS MEET MONDAY 7PM

TO FIND YOUR NEAREST GROUP VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.ANDYSMANCLUB.CO.UK

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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- @andysmanclubuk**
- @andysmanclubuk**
- info@andysmanclub.co.uk**

#ITSOKAYTOTALK

We are a peer to peer support group for men. Come have a brew and a chat!



Tenant Participation News Bulletin

Ask the Coouncil

The FCSA and Fife Council Tenant Participation Team just wrapped up their fifth successful 'Ask the Coouncil' for the students' event!

The FCSA and Fife Council expanded the campaign this year by teaming up with Citizens Advice and Cozy Kingdom to better be able to answer students' questions about housing, welfare and well-being, and of course dealing with our current cost of living crisis.

The event ran for three days across the larger Fife College campuses; Dunfermline, Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy and reached over 200 students.

'This annual partnership is an important one. We not only enjoy having external partners who can help inform our students with up to date and relevant information to help them succeed, we need them, especially now. Having the Tenant Participation Team and housing officers always benefits the students as there are always so many questions and the team is always happy to help.'

Jade Burnett, Community Development Coordinator.

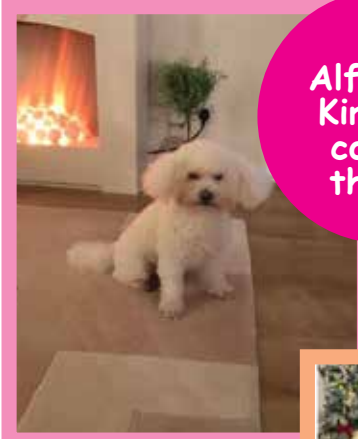




Archie, Millie & Angel enjoying the snow

Millie's mates

I'm Millie, look at all my new furriends!



Alfie from Kirkcaldy cosy by the fire

Charlie digging!



If you would like your pet to feature on 'Millie's Mates', please email tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk



Moriarty & Kali



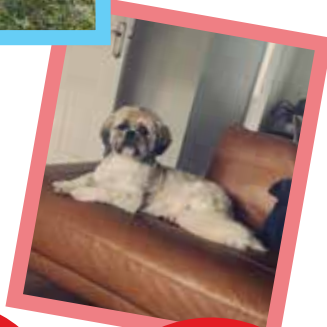
Ollie from Kincardine



Cooper and Dave

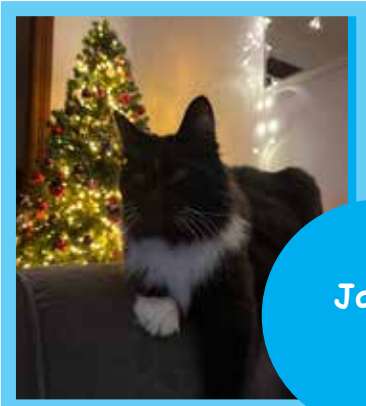


Eddie



Jambo from Kelty

Dave McD and pals

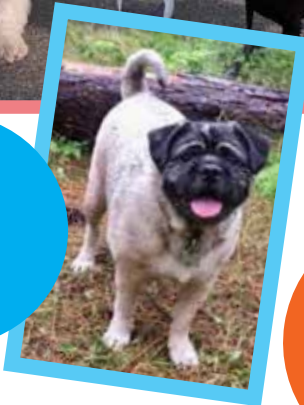


Jasper



Johnathon

Nelson



Maggie



Your opportunity to participate

Mrs Doyle's KITCHEN

Mrs Doyle's Kitchen features amazingly tasty recipes for the whole family. Check out this seasons delicious and easy ideas...

Mini egg cheesecake

You will need :-

- 200g digestive biscuits
- 250g chocolate mini eggs
- 80g unsalted butter
- 400g full-fat soft cheese
- 400g double cream
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 150g icing sugar
- 1 Cake tin (springform)



Let's make:-

Oil the cake tin and line with baking paper.
Add the digestive biscuits into a food bag or a food processor and crush until they resemble a fine crumb.
Melt the butter, mix in the biscuit crumbs then press into the base of the cake tin.
Chill for 30 mins.

Chop half the chocolate mini eggs.

Whisk the soft cheese with the icing sugar and vanilla.

Beat the double cream in a separate bowl until it forms stiff peaks.

Fold in the whipped cream and chopped mini eggs into the soft cheese mixture

Add the cheesecake mixture over the biscuit base using a spoon, smoothing the top with a knife.

Top the cheesecake with remainder mini eggs

Chill over night. Serve and enjoy!

Chickpea curry

Preparation Time: 7 Min.

Cooking Time: 15 Min.

Serves 3 People.

You will need:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Boiled chickpeas can | 1 Can |
| • Boiled & diced potato | 2 large |
| • Vegetable oil | 3 Tablespoon |
| • Mustard seed | 1 Teaspoon |
| • Curry leaves | 3-4 (optional) |
| • Onion powder | 1 Tablespoon |
| • Garlic powder | 1 Tablespoon |
| • Tomato powder | 1 Tablespoon |
| • Coriander powder | 1 Tablespoon |
| • Cumin powder | 1 Teaspoon |
| • Chilli powder | 1 Teaspoon |
| • Salt | 1½ Teaspoon |
| • Garam masala | ½ Teaspoon |
| • Yogurt | 1 Tablespoon |
| • Sugar | ½ Teaspoon |
| • Double cream | 1½ Teaspoon |
| • Water | 1 Cup |
| • Green coriander | Handful for garnishing |



Let's make:

- Mix all the dry ingredients (spices except mustard seed) with 100 ml of water to make slurry.
- Heat up the pan and add oil.
- Let the oil heat up and add mustard seed, curry leaves and let it pop.
- Once mustard seed pop add made slurry to it and stir well.
- Cook all the spices for 5 min on medium flame and stir occasionally.
- Add 100 ml of water and again cook the spices for 5 min and stir occasionally.
- Now add yogurt and cook for 2 min.
- Add cream and mix well and stir for 1 min.
- Lastly add potato, chickpeas and water mix well.
- Let it cook for 3 min with lid on.
- Lastly garnish with freshly chopped coriander leaves.
- Serve with rice or nan or roti or bread.

Note:

1) We can use fresh onion and tomato paste instead of powder but make sure paste is cooked till it turn brown and oil separate.

2) Don't undercook spices if you feel spices are sticking to pan - add water and stir continuously on medium flame.

3) Consistency of gravy can be adjusted as required by adding or reducing water.

4) you can replace chickpea with kidney beans, mixed beans or any kind of baked/boiled beans

Fife Council Jobs

Your new career is closer than you think

We are the biggest employer in Fife and have around 17,500 employees working hard to serve our residents and local community. We are very proud of our workforce and know it is their skills, knowledge, dedication and enthusiasm that allows us to deliver our services

We believe that Our People Matter and work hard to make Fife Council a great place to work..... we offer a positive culture, good leadership, inclusive experiences, development opportunities and support for employee wellbeing.

As we are a large organisation, we have lots of job vacancies available –some are full time, others have part time hours allowing you to work around your other commitments. Some part time roles can be worked during school hours while others involve weekend or evening work. Alternatively, you might decide to do some supply/casual work at a time that suits you.

Some office-based roles involve Blended Working, allowing you to split your hours between home and the office. There really is something to suit everyone!

A few words from our staff:

"I take huge pride in what I do because I know I am making a difference. You're a lifeline for someone in need, whether it's someone with a burst pipe in their kitchen or a community alarm user who has had a fall" Lillian, Customer Service Advisor in our contact centre

"I love my job because I love working outdoors and feel what we do makes a visible difference ...it makes me proud of my work" Jamie, Grounds Maintenance Operative

"With the benefits of blended working, I've been able to have a stable work life balance which has helped me in many ways over the last two years" Kim, Business Support Assistant

"The role is busy, varied and sometimes challenging but also very rewarding. I love being part of the school family. Working across several schools has given me a huge amount of experience and the chance to see how different schools work" Jamie, Supply Clerical Assistant

"I have been warmly welcomed into the team and all staff have shared their knowledge and encouraged my learning" Andrea, Survey Assistant

"My role can bring new and exciting challenges with each coming day but with being part of a fantastic team and along with a great work-life balance, I can honestly say I love my job" Brydon, Housing Management Officer.

Why not come and join us? If you are looking for a new job, we would love to hear from you. Check out our current vacancies at www.fife.gov.uk/jobs

Our Community Job Clubs provide a space where you can access a computer, carry out job searches and apply for jobs. Staff are available to help. Find out more at [Community Job Clubs | Fife Council](#)

