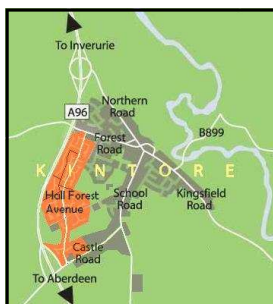


# Christmas 2005 Newsletter

## Welcome

Welcome to the Hall Forest Residents Association first Christmas newsletter. The committee have worked hard for the past few months getting the association up and running, and this newsletter should bring everyone up to date with progress to date.

For some of you, this may be the first you have heard of the Association, which was set-up earlier this year and represents the residents within the new housing developments by Bett Homes, Stewart Milne, Persimmon Homes and George Wimpey on or nearby Hall Forest Avenue in Kintore.



Map highlighting areas represented

The main objectives of the Residents Association are to:

- A) Safeguard and promote the interest of residents in the developments on matters concerning housing and the environment.
- B) Foster good public relations and encourage social activities in conjunction with other organisations in the area.
- C) Help to improve living conditions, community facilities and services for residents living in and around the group's area.

The Residents Association aim is to work for the whole village and not just these areas and welcome input from anyone living in Kintore.

We have an active committee of around 15 members from all the developments who meet on at least a monthly basis. A copy of the Association's constitution is available upon request.



## Social Events & Fund Raising

The committee have started to prepare a social events calendar for the coming year. We aim to have a range of events that appeal to residents of all ages.

Our first event will be an informal gathering at the Torryburn Hotel on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December from 7:30pm onwards for a few drinks. It is hoped that many residents will attend, even if just for one or two drinks. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet neighbours, discuss New Year plans/parties, chat with the committee members etc.

For 2006 we plan to hire a hall with a bar and

entertainment/disco etc. The main aim is to allow residents to enjoy a great local night out, without having to worry about transport home. For Christmas next year, we will look at a number of "bring a party to a party" options, with coach transport to get party goers to and from the event.

For the summer months, we plan to have a street party/BBQ, with a bouncy castle, face painting etc for the kids. Residents would bring their own food to be cooked (we can't guess at everyone's dietary requirements!), but the Residents Association would hope to sup-

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### Top 5 Worst Christmas Cracker Jokes

- **What do monkeys sing at Christmas?**  
Jungle bells, jungle bells...!
- **Why are Christmas trees bad knitters?**  
They drop their needles.
- **What do you get if you cross a Christmas tree with an apple?**  
A pineapple.
- **What did the little candle say to the big candle?**  
I'll be going out tonight.
- **What happens to you at Christmas?**  
Yule be happy!





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ply soft drinks and crisps/snacks etc.

We have a couple of possibilities for events at Easter. One is to involve the children in a giant egg hunt. The other is to have an Easter bunny deliver chocolate eggs to all the children on the developments. Parents – we would love to hear your opinions on these, and whether your children would like to be involved.

At least two residents have suggested a golf tournament with perhaps street/team competitions as well as individual events. Other sugges-

tions have included a local squash ladder and organised shopping trips to Glasgow and/or Ikea.

We hope to arrange a number of other social events which can also double as fund raising events, including a quiz night and raffle (there must be a good quizmaster amongst us!), a race night and even a Bingo evening.

If anyone has any suggestions for social events they would to see us organise, then we would love to hear from you. You don't even need to help out!



## Residents Website

We are currently in process of developing a website for the residents association. As well as publishing newsletters, minutes of meetings etc, the website will be used to promote our fantastic community spirit. With details of events, organisations, local history, things to see and do etc.

We will also have a wealth of information of local interest on the site such as details and availability of local childminders, links to bus and train timetables, school holidays, local council departments, opening hours and contact details for local businesses etc.

It has been also suggested that maps and details of local nature/forest walks be published on

the website. There are a number in the area that some residents may not know about and these will be added to the website with accompanying notes as part of ongoing developments.

Members of the association will be able to publish their own articles, news items, pictures and events on the website through a content management system.

We will also have an on-line forum where residents can chat, discuss issues and concerns, advertise events, plan social/sporting events, feedback on developers performance, recommend local businesses etc. The website is planned to be up and running early next year.



## Historical Kintore

Kintore is steeped in fascinating history going back to Roman occupation times. As part of our website, we aim to build up a detailed and comprehensive history of the Kintore area. If anyone has any good historical stories, infor-

mation or sources about Kintore (the 2005 School play was mentioned a few times), then the committee would be delighted to hear from you.



## Open Areas Maintenance by Greenbelt Group

You may be aware that we have been liaising with Greenbelt Group over the poor standards of maintenance for the open areas within the developments (shrub beds, grass verges etc). We are pleased to report that we have been making good progress in this respect following our initial on-site meeting in October.

A follow up meeting was held on site with Mr

Alex Middleton, the Managing Director of Greenbelt, on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. A detailed tour of the site was undertaken and a wide range of remedial actions were agreed, with works to be completed over the next few months. Some of these works have already commenced, with the shrub beds being cleared of litter, moss, rocks and weeds etc. In the coming months, replacement planting shall take place, removal of weeds from grass areas,

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*“Why is Christmas just like a day at the office? You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit” -*

*Unknown*



(Continued from page 2)

application of bark mulch to the shrub beds and for next year, a 33% increase in the number of grass cuts.

All of these works are being performed at no extra cost to residents, and in light of the poor service received to date we may get a few "free" months next year. Whilst these remedial works are ongoing, Greenbelt Group have stopped sending out reminders about overdue pay-

ments and have suspended any late payment charges.

Once the remedial works have been completed, Greenbelt Group shall start requesting payment again. We would encourage all residents who have received bills (not every home is part of the Greenbelt factoring scheme) to at least make an initial payment (£60 is suggested) with a note stating that it is a goodwill gesture on the provision of the remedial works agreed with Mr Middleton are completed.



## Other Issues

### SPEEDING

It has been observed a significant number of vehicles drive along Hall Forest Avenue at excessive speed. The majority of these appear to be workers/deliveries to the various developers building sites with the occasional resident or visitor. The situation will be monitored once the developments near completion, and we will liaise with the local council/developers regarding signposting, road painting etc.

### ROAD GRITTING

As our roads have not yet been adopted by the council, the responsibility for gritting the roads and refilling the grit boxes still lies with the developers. We have contacted them to ask that the grit boxes are topped up on a regular basis, but please get in touch with them directly if you have particular concerns.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Statistically, Kintore and the surrounding has a very low crime rate, with most crimes being minor/petty offences such as isolated vandalism and graffiti. Nevertheless, there are still benefits from implementing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, such as reduced household insurance premiums. Around April 2006, we shall organise a large meeting in a public hall with members of the local police to establish one of more Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the area. Full details will be provided in our next newsletter. .

### BUILDING SITE

A large number of residents raised concerns about the safety of the open building site on Hall Forest Avenue (to be developed by Persimmon Home at the end of January). Of particular concern were a number of large deep puddles which are filled with debris, and open stacks of building materials which were proving an attraction for children. We recently wrote to all the developers on site expressing our concerns, and we are pleased to report that safety fencing with warning signs has been erected around the site. Many thanks to the developers for acting so quickly on this issue.

### DOG FOULING

There has been an increasing problem of dog fouling on and around Hall Forest Avenue in recent months. Not only is this an unpleasant and unwelcome commodity, it poses a high risk to the health of others living in the area and especially children. Persons in charge of a dog should be aware that under the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003, a person in charge of a dog is guilty of an offence if they fail to immediately remove the dog's faeces from any public place and dispose of it properly.

This act allows the police and the local authorities to have only reasonable grounds to suspect a person has committed this offence for them to take further action that may result in the issue of a fixed penalty notice or a fine up to £500. Anyone wishing to report a person whom they have witnessed not cleaning up after their dog should report it as soon as possible to the Aberdeenshire Council Central Dog Warden (tel. 01467 620981) providing as much information about the person, dog, time and place of the offence.



*"It is every little girl's dream to be the fairy on a Christmas tree. A wand in her hand, a smile on her face and a tree in a most peculiar place" - Spike Milligan*



## HOW TO CONTACT US

By post:  
The Secretary  
10 McFadden Park  
Kintore  
Aberdeenshire, AB51 0NU

Or e-mail:  
hallforest@gmail.com



## THE COMMITTEE

Graham McDonald	Chairman
Craig Kennedy	Vice Chairman
Tony Harvey	Treasurer
Dougal Slater	Vice Treasurer
John Stewart	Secretary
Ava Sainsbury	Social Events
Alex McPherson	Social Events
Karen Will	Social Events
Richard Henderson	Developer Liaison
Andy Till	Website Editor
Alan Denny	
Gary Scott	
Gordon Cowe	
Ian Thomas	
Ron Dickie	

We are on the outlook for more committee members. Please contact us should you wish to become a member of the committee. Likewise, please contact us should you like to help with the Kintore Summer Festival or any of the Resident Association's activities.

## Donations & Subscriptions

We are pleased to report that many residents have been sending in donations and subscriptions to support the residents association. Membership is a mere £1 per year, and goes towards running costs such as hiring halls, postage, stationery, web hosting, social events etc.

Next year, we aim to set-up the association as a registered charity, and start applying to various organisations for grants and funding for a number of projects. For example, a similar group in England raised sufficient

funds through grants, awards and sponsorship to build a community/youth centre complete with swimming pool, with operating profits further supporting the local community and charities.

Kintore is sadly lacking in such a facility at present, and it is one of our longer term objectives to get one built. With your generous support, we can make an early start on this project whilst there are still some nearby undeveloped areas of land available.



## Regular Updates

Many of you will be aware that until the website is up and running, we currently keep members updated on a regular basis via email.

By returning a completed application form, we shall add your email address(es) to our mailing list. We email out details of planned meetings and events, minutes from meetings, discussion of issues raised etc. on a regular basis.

Some members (particularly with hotmail accounts) have reported problems in receiving some of our emails. If this is the case, then adding [hallforest@gmail.com](mailto:hallforest@gmail.com) to your contacts/address book may resolve this problem.

As always, if you wish to contact us on any matter, you can do so by writing to us c/o The Secretary, Hall Forest Residents Association, 10 McFadden Park, by email on [hallforest@gmail.com](mailto:hallforest@gmail.com), or by

Residents can send donations/subscriptions by cheque (made payable to Hall Forest Residents Association) or cash to either The Treasurer (Tony Harvey, 1 Hallforest Avenue) or The Secretary (John Stewart, 10 McFadden Park). Please remember to include your name(s) and address so we can update our records.

Once our website is up and running, we shall be able to accept donations and subscriptions by electronic bank transfer, Paypal, Nochex etc

attending any of our meetings which held at least monthly in the Torryburn Hotel on a Monday evening. Please email [hallforest@gmail.com](mailto:hallforest@gmail.com) for details of the time, date and place of the next meeting.

We look forward to your continued support through 2006.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

