

ChapeltonNews

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Welcome from the Duke of Fife

Welcome to the 28th edition of ChapeltonNews. There is nothing like spring to lift the heart and the landscaping and greenery at Chapelton are now really flourishing along the roadsides, walkways and within the parks. The reaction to the newly opened Patey Park, a playpark for the 8 to 12 years age group, at the top of Cairnhill, has been very encouraging. It marks a departure from the formal playgrounds of recent times instead it offers challenging topography and an opportunity for natural play.

Demand for homes has continued to be strong all through the winter months and all the builders have been at full stretch. New streets are emerging and construction is moving fast up the hill towards the neighbourhood centre and what will be the first primary school and a selection of commercial units around a square.

It is wonderful to see how popular The Boxes have become with residents and visitors. Some have come from far afield, combining shopping with a walk on the Chapelton Trail. The Pop Up has added yet more variety to the 9 other businesses and is hardly ever empty with everything from flowers and wellness to fashion and dog treats.

The arrival of 'Brae', a new café in Hume Square, under the brother and sister team of Dale and Jodie Barbour is exactly what we always envisaged for Chapelton. They promise longer opening hours and will offer a cosy sanctuary within the heart of the community to share stories of life and local adventures. Plans are well underway and they propose to open in July.

In this edition of ChapeltonNews we highlight what each housebuilder is offering and give a glimpse of the community events that have happened and are to come. We also wanted to honour our long relationship with Ian Mollison, who has recently retired as a Councillor.

Events



The programme of events continues to grow, and families have already enjoyed the following.

Cinema Night

Chapelton's first cinema night took place in February at Slate & Grain within Brio Retirement Living. Fits The Scoop provided the interval snacks and families enjoyed a relaxed screening of The Lion King.

Easter Fun Day

An Easter Fun Day got the Spring events calendar off to a great start with local children hunting for eggs that were hidden around the town before returning to The Hut to collect their chocolate prize, kindly sponsored by Places for People. Face painting, a hook a duck game and easter egg painting followed, with help from Chapelton residents as well as St Ternan's and Maryculter Trinity churches.

Spring Farmers' Market

Our best attended market to date was a big hit with residents and visitors alike. Over 30 local stallholders arrived in the town, selling everything from fresh meat and fish to bread, cakes and dog treats! Next farmers' market - Sunday 24th July, 11am - 2:30pm at Burgess Park.



Upcoming Events

Chapelton of Elsieck 10K
Sunday 17th July
Enter at <https://runchapelton.co.uk>

Kids Fun Runs:
At 10am there will be a 100m toddler dash for under 5s and a 1km race for primary school children, organised by Friends of Newtonhill (FON). Each child will receive a bespoke medal, sponsored by Brio Retirement Living. For more information and pre-registration (preferred) email ChapeltonFONRun@gmail.com. Kids activities at Liddell Park too.

Chapelton Scarecrow Festival
1st- 31st August with the theme Heroes and Villains.

Chapelton Gala and Comedy Night
Saturday 20th August

Chapelton Bike Ride
Sunday 11th September

Property Update



AJC Homes

AJC are completing Wolrige Gardens with just a handful of 2 and 3 bed homes remaining. Permission has been granted and preliminary work has begun on Benton Crescent where a selection of larger homes will be built. Between the two sites all house sizes will be on offer and AJC will move westwards with their construction and to homes offering wonderful views.

Brio Retirement

Brio has a series of Open weekends in June.

Places for People

Places for People has begun work on its next phase of 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom homes, which features a mixture of terraced, semi-detached and detached homes complemented by retail and office units around a new neighbourhood square. A range of tenure options is allowing a broad mix of customers to make this unique community their home

Clockwise from left: Places for People build out Quarryline Street, Indicative CGI for Snowdrop's Brooke Lane, Last homes under construction by AJC Homes at Wolrige Gardens

Snowdrop Developments

Snowdrop have nearly finished building their homes on the outskirts at the entrance to Chapelton and have just received planning permission to start on new house types at Brook Lane just below the playpark. Planning permission is in for many larger homes to the extreme south of the site on what will be called Greenheads and their showhome will shortly be opening at Chapelton's entrance.

Stephen

Stephen are well on their way to completing their homes in Murray Street and there are just a handful left along with one cottage down at Farquharson street.

Having your say

You can find the latest news and share your views on Chapelton via our Facebook page and website:
www.chapeltonnewtown.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/chapeltonofelsick

Please email info@chapeltonnewtown.co.uk if you would like to receive a quarterly digital copy of ChapeltonNews.

 [@chapeltonlife](https://www.instagram.com/chapeltonlife)

Meet the Councillor



As Councillor Ian Mollison announced his retirement this year, we wanted to show our recognition and thanks for all he has helped us to achieve in Chapelton. We spoke to him about his instrumental role in the planning of the town and what he plans to do with all his free time.

How did you arrive in the role as Councillor for North Kincardine?

Family responsibilities kept me busy until the time was right in 2007. I was selected by the Liberal Democrat members to stand in the North Kincardine ward along with sitting councillor Paul Melling. There was no Chapelton community at that point. I was still working full-time for Nicol Stephen, the MSP for Aberdeen South and was able to fit in the demands of being a councillor. There seemed to be fewer meetings then, and no social media!

Tell us about some of the highlights of your time in the role.

The approval of Chapelton was certainly one of the highlights. One of the key roles of being a local councillor is attending the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee, dealing with a wide range of local issues including planning. We were faced with a choice of where more houses should be built in the North Kincardine ward and the 12 councillors unanimously opted for Chapelton, much to the surprise of many. Mostly councillors make decisions that are not life-changing. This time it was. Because of what we did that day people are now making their homes in Chapelton and building a life. That is a legacy I like.

Some might find this strange but another highlight over the years has been attending the Chapelton liaison committee meetings. These took place every few months and involved the developers, council officers, residents, the three affected community councils and ward councillors. chaired by the Duke of Fife. Over that period, it has been fascinating to watch how the new town is developing. To play a part in that process is a privilege.

What do you think sets Chapelton apart from other towns?

The look of Chapelton is what sets it apart. It is not something I can put a finger on. The place just looks right and looks Scottish, you can see the influence of years gone by. It sits in the landscape and is of the landscape. The drystone dykes set the tone; this is a place that people care about. I have been to several events in Chapelton, with happy memories. I was delighted to be asked to be one of the judges at the scarecrow festival in 2020, though it was a tough one with so many great entries!

How would you describe Chapelton in three words?

Unique. Homely. Maturing.

After 15 years in your role, what will you miss most about it?

The people and the fact that no two days are ever the same.

How do you plan to spend your retirement?

Initially I don't intend to do anything in particular. No reading emails, no checking Facebook or Messenger, no need to answer queries, no lengthy reports to read and digest, no decisions to make, no meetings to go to, no postings to write, no need to chase up council officers for replies! In fact, just become like another ordinary resident and let the world go by. My wife and I will go for more walks and take some holidays without having to check whether I might miss a meeting or two and spending more time with the grandchildren will be great too. Who knows what lies ahead?

What advice would you give to your successor?

Be open and honest with people and turn up! It is a privilege to be a councillor, but you have to earn respect. Councillors are there to represent the electors, though sometimes it seems we are expected to represent Aberdeenshire Council. You can do both without being untrue to the first part of that statement. And do what you think is right. Sometimes that won't please folk. But that's why you were elected. Not for glory and fame, but to make this area a better place to live.

Next edition:

- Property Updates
- Summer Fun
- Meet the Team: Brae

Elsick Development Company
Newhall
Newtonhill
Kincardineshire
AB39 3SH

E: info@chapeltonnewtown.co.uk
W: www.chapeltonnewtown.co.uk

