



BEST GARDEN COMPETITION 2023

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THE COURIER Local Matters

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Angus & Dundee edition

No. 52,956 £1.55

Social enterprise cafe Braw Tea is being set up in Castle Green pavilion, Broughty Ferry, by Jackie McKenzie and involves women from the community. Picture by Mhairi Edwards. **Page 27**



Building of Caird Hall in pictures
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Arbroath road train in giveaway
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Collapse cost flight school owner £3m

AVIATION: Prepaid courses proved a liability after takeover

GAVIN HARPER

The collapse of Tayside Aviation has been “personally devastating” and has cost him £3 million, says owner Tony Banks.

A total of 22 staff lost their jobs when the business fell into administration on April 20.

And it has also left hundreds of students thousands of pounds out of pocket.

Mr Banks, who built his fortune founding care firm Balhousie, has broken his silence. A spokesperson said: “Before taking this difficult decision, all avenues were exhausted to sustain the business for the future.

“This includes £3m personal investment, as well as seeking funding from additional investors. Unfortunately, the business was unable to overcome the impact of significant liability for prepaid flying courses, which existed at the time of purchasing the business.”
See full story on page 4

Downgrading an ‘insult’ to RNLI heroes

GRAHAM BROWN

The RNLI’s decision to downgrade Arbroath lifeboat has been branded an insult to those who perished on the darkest day in the town station’s history when six men were lost in 1953.

Hundreds attended a meeting last night following a lifesaving review that will see the town lose its all-weather boat and sent shockwaves through the community. The review will see the all-weather craft replaced by an inshore Atlantic 85 inflatable.
See full story on page 9

Thorntons
The right way to move

New Show Home now available at **Pitcrocknie Village** by Alyth, to arrange a viewing contact **Thorntons New Homes** at 03330 430090
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OPENING: Matthew Sharpe, of McGlaughlin & Harvey, which made the sign, Jackie McKenzie, centre right, and cafe volunteers. Picture by Mhairi Edwards.

Cafe project aims to help women get back on their feet

Laura Devlin

The Castle Green pavilion in Broughty Ferry is to be transformed into a new community cafe in time for the summer.

Braw Tea, which is the idea of Ferry resident Jackie McKenzie, will occupy the building next to the popular playpark.

Set to open in June, the cafe will welcome customers on Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 5pm.

Jackie plans to offer a range of artisan coffees and cakes along with "hearty" soups and salads.

She said: "I was walking through the area one day and thought, 'That building is not being used for anything'."

"Castle Green is a beautiful and ideally placed location, right beside the beach and Broughty Castle, so great for a cafe.

"Everything will be created fresh on the premises and locally sourced where possible, with an emphasis on the type of healthy food and produce that Broughty Ferry will love."

Local businesses and community groups are helping to get the project off the ground, including Broughty Ferry Men's Shed, which has made picnic benches for use as outdoor seating.

The project is not a commercial venture, but a community cafe that will offer opportunities of employment and skills training to women who are in need of support.

Jackie, who has a beautiful and ideally placed location, right beside the beach and Broughty Castle, so great for a cafe.

“Every penny of profit... will go back into the project”

sponsors who have been involved in getting us off the ground.

"Braw Tea's mission is about supporting women in need of help to get on to a new footing in life in a non-judgmental space, helping them gain the skills and confidence needed to step into further training or education, or setting them up with the experience to find paid employment.

"Every penny of profit the community cafe makes will go back into the project.

"We will be starting with a small and dedicated team and hope to grow over time as we engage with more women and other partners."

Jackie is still seeking volunteers and is encouraging anyone who wants to get involved to email volunteer@brawtea.co.uk

Business partners launch latest city bar and restaurant

Two Perth businessmen are getting ready to launch the city's latest evening venue.

St John's Bar and Restaurant on King Edward Street opens tomorrow.

The venue sits in the city's medieval centre, next to the newly-renovated City Hall, which will host the Stone of Destiny when it eventually opens.

Owners Blain Ross, 36, and Bruce Hay, 48, said they hope to build on Perth's reputation for relaxed, classy food and drink, and accommodation.

Blain said: "What we want to create is a 'for everyone' venue. It's not just dinner but a whole evening out where dinner, wine, cocktails, good company, and positive vibes come together.

"We are trying to do something for Perth, and would thank all the local people who have had a huge input on what we are trying to deliver."

Blain built his business running the first Compass Cafe in the city's outdoor megastore Tiso, where he first worked with Bruce.

Most recently, he offered a similar service at The Garden Cafe at Glendoick Garden centre

Blain is not nervous about making such a step, saying: "I was six months ago, but not now that Bruce and I have the right people in place. Our general manager has come from Rusacks in St Andrews and the chefs are French-trained."

The business has invested in seven apartments over the restaurant and the partners plan to renovate them, to provide city centre accommodation.

"To capitalise on this development Perth needs to allow our hospitality industry to grow and innovate," Blain said. "Perth's best days don't have to be in the rear-view mirror."

Work progressing on new primary school

Substantial works are under way at Methven Primary School.

The gym hall has been demolished and design work for the new dining/gym facilities is progressing, according to an update on progress from Perth and Kinross Council.

A spokesperson for the council said: "Substantial enabling works have been completed on site including the demolition

of the life-expired gym hall and improvements to the site access and external landscape including improvement to the car park, installation of EV charge point, new nursery play space, new paths and a new trim trail.

"Design work for the new building is progressing and the programme to completion is currently being developed."

A92 off-slip will close overnight for repairs

Overnight repairs will be carried out on the A92 Lochgelly off-slip in Fife next Tuesday.

The off-slip will be closed from May 9 at 8pm until 6.30am the following day.

The work includes carriageway repairs and white lining.

Motorists heading towards Lochgelly will be able to continue on the A92 eastbound and exit at Chapel interchange at Kirkcaldy.

They can then rejoin the A92 travelling westbound and exit at the A92 westbound off-slip for Lochgelly.