

Appetite for festival as day returns

By Lee McCann

A FESTIVAL celebrating the best food in the North-east is to take place next weekend.

The Deeside Local Food Festival is back next Sunday at Cults Academy after a successful inaugural event last year.

Organised by food lovers Rachel Gambro and Sarah Misra, the day aims to bring people together to celebrate the huge variety of



EVENT: Rachel Gambro and Sarah Misra.

the delights of more than 40 local producers and vendors, with more than 75% of exhibitors coming from within a 25-mile radius of the area.

The playground at Cults Academy will be transformed into a street cafe, where food lovers will have a choice of TexMex, burgers, fish and chips and more.

Craig Wilson, who is known as the Kilted Chef, from Eat on the Green, will be performing cooking demonstrations at noon and 1.30pm.

He will be joined by Rebecca Curran from STV, Jimmy Buchan, from BBC series *Trawlermen* and farmer Andrew Booth from *The Store*.

The event is funded by The Big Lottery Fund Awards for All Scotland and Opportunity North East.

● "North-east is larder for nation", Page 18

Bursting with flavour

fare produced in Aberdeenshire.

Sarah, 44, a freelance marketing manager for charities, said: "We live in a region bursting with flavour and being able to bring this to our local community is very exciting."

"Last year's festival brought in more than 1,400 visitors, we were delighted by how popular the event was and it showed a real appetite for local food."

Visitors can sample

Right royal bake-off for pupils

Competition: Youngsters to produce 90th birthday cake fit for a queen

BY BLAIR DINGWALL

North-east youngsters battled it out yesterday in a bake-off inspired by the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

Cake creations depicting the monarch's Aberdeenshire home of Balmoral Castle, a royal crown and a

"I've been astonished by the quality and attention to detail"

corgi were among those crafted by the youngsters for the cookery competition, a prelude to this week-end's Deeside Local Food Festival.

The second year of the event, which took place at Cults Kirk Centre, tasked kids between primaries three and seven to "create a birthday cake fit for the

Queen" using local ingredients.

The competition, launched in July, was whittled down to six finalists, who, after drawing sketches of their proposed creations, were given an hour and a half to make them a reality.

Judging the event was the north-east's celebrated "kilted chef", Craig Wilson, the owner of Eat On the Green.

All six finalists come out winners after being offered a slot in a workshop by Buckie's Great British Bake Off star Norman Calder.

Culps pupil Rosslyn Tennant won the P3-P4 category, while Ayla Kidd, of Balmedie Primary School, came out on top of the P5-P7 one.

Also participating were Chiara Tan, Louise Bonsor, Maddy Gordon and Amelia Hallett.

Organiser Sarah Misra said: "There was a really fantastic range of different



CONTEST: From left, Ayla Kidd, Chiara Tan, Rosslyn Tennant, judge Craig Wilson, Louise Bonsor, Maddy Gordon and Amelia Hallett with the girls' cake creations on a royal birthday theme

creations. One girl made a corgi, we had Balmoral Castle and there was a cake with the Queen's image.

"It was fantastic, they did really well. Rosslyn has wanted to be a chef since she was very young. She

was absolutely delighted. She made the cake with the castle on it.

"Ayla's was a crown. She was inspired to cook by her grandmother."

She added: "It was something we promoted

through the school, but the children were working on it at home with their parents."

Mr Wilson said there had been an "extraordinary effort" from the youngsters.

He added: "If I can en-

courage one person to have a future in food through this sort of competition then I'll be delighted.

"I've been astonished by the quality and attention to detail of the cake creations this afternoon."

PROJECT Cycle route work

A £160,000 cycle route is planned for a major road in Aberdeen.

The work, on South Anderson Drive between Ruthrieston Road and Garthdee Road, includes widening and resurfacing the current path, tree removal and replacement.

The cycle route will connect the existing facilities at Riverside Drive, and includes some improvements and upgrades to current pedestrian crossings.

Designs for the new cycle route are being finalised, and consultations are being held with Transport Scotland and Bear Scotland.

It is predicted the route will be ready to use early next year. The project is being led by Aberdeen City Council, with support from Sustrans and Nestrans.

Taste of success as food festival serves up a treat for visitors

EVENT

BY FRAN MARSHALL

Scores of people flocked to a festival promoting the finest food available across the north-east yesterday.

The Deeside Local Food Festival took place at Cults Academy in Aberdeen yesterday, with produce such as homemade cheeses, jam, fruit, vegetables and locally-reared meat on display. This year, visitors were able to sample the delights of more than 40 local producers and vendors and experience some of the best the area has to offer.

The academy's playground was transformed into a street cafe, where food lovers were able to enjoy freshly-cooked meals, including fish and chips, local gourmet burgers and a hog roast.

The event, now in its second year, was organised by Rachel Gambro and Sarah Misra, who decided something should be done to celebrate the quantity of local produce in the area.

Jimmy Buchan from BBC series *Trawlermen* also made a special appearance, joined by Eat on the Green chef Craig Wilson for

a live cooking demonstration.

Mrs Misra said around 2,000 people had attended the festival throughout the day, adding: "To attract so

"It is a great way to get together and create something special"

many people who are passionate about local food, we are absolutely delighted.

"We had expected a big crowd, but to beat last

year's numbers is a fantastic feeling.

"It's great not only to see how many people attend, but how much people get involved in the day and all the activities on offer.

"It's a real community event and the atmosphere throughout the day was brilliant and there was a real buzz in the air.

"The festival has gone from strength to strength and I think with having such a larder of fresh produce in the region, the festival is just a great way to come together and create something special."



FEAST YOUR EYES: Visitors to the Deeside Food Festival. Photograph: Jim Irvine

Politics of the project haven't



GREAT PLANS: Right, the design submitted by Granite Web and left, the design submitted by Winter Garden during the contest

Union Terrace Gardens:

BY KIERAN BEATTIE

Union Terrace Gardens has been a political battlefield since 2008, when north-east oil tycoon Sir Ian Wood pledged £50million to build a street-level city square. His five-acre vision would have covered the gardens,

Sir Ian Wood

the Denburn dual carriage-way and the railway line while opening up new public space to breathe life back into the city centre – at an estimated cost of £140million. But Sir Ian's ambitious plans ultimately ended Peacock Visual Arts' hopes of building a £13million contemporary arts centre in the sunken Victorian park – despite

been a walk in the park

Years of disagreement divided businesses, councillors and city residents

having been granted planning permission and being just about ready to start construction.

The issue split the city, and eventually a two-month consultation was held – with 54% against Sir Ian's plans and 43% in favour.

He told councillors to back his scheme, or lose the £50million offer, with

"A decision was taken to back Sir Ian's proposal and reject the Peacock plan"



BRIGHT CITY: A computer-generated image of the winning redesign as seen in the evening and inset, one of many P&J front pages over the years about the scheme

many business bodies warning that Aberdeen's reputation would be damaged forever if city leaders said no to the donation.

The authority agreed, and in May 2010 a decision was taken to back Sir Ian's proposal and reject the Peacock plan.

Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Future (Acsef) announced it was holding an international design contest, and changed the name of the scheme to the City Garden Project in an attempt to make it more attractive to those who feared it would become a "concrete jungle".

In January 2012, the Granite Web – featuring a cultural arts centre and two public plazas – was selected as the preferred design, which was backed in a

public referendum, with 45,301 votes for and 41,175 against.

But two months later in the May 2012 local government elections, Labour – who had vowed to scrap the City Garden Project if elected – became the largest party in Aberdeen.

"The Granite Web was the preferred design and backed in a referendum"

away from the development, with his £50million offer rescinded.

In the years since, there has been continued debate over the future of Union

Terrace Gardens, and last year a fresh row erupted after images of drug users injecting themselves in tents close to the site emerged.

And earlier this year, a young woman was raped in the gardens.

Last week, Crimestoppers offered a £5,000 reward for information that leads to a conviction for the offence, which happened on January 28.

The incidents added fuel to calls for the gardens to finally be regenerated, and brought back to life.

WEATHER

GENERAL SITUATION

Rather cloudy for most with outbreaks of drizzle and rain, heavy in the west. Largely fine for both the south-east and north-east though. Fairly windy with a fresh to strong southerly to south-easterly winds.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Tomorrow, showery rain for many with some thunderstorms mixed in except for the far west. Less windy. On Wednesday, rain for a time in the far north and north-west. Mainly dry

HILLWALKERS' 48-HOUR FORECAST

East Highlands, West Highlands, Cairngorms, Skye: It will be dull and wet today with heavy rain in the west. Light rain or drizzle elsewhere. A windy day. Tomorrow will continue wet with showery heavy and some thunderstorms likely. Freezing level above the peaks.

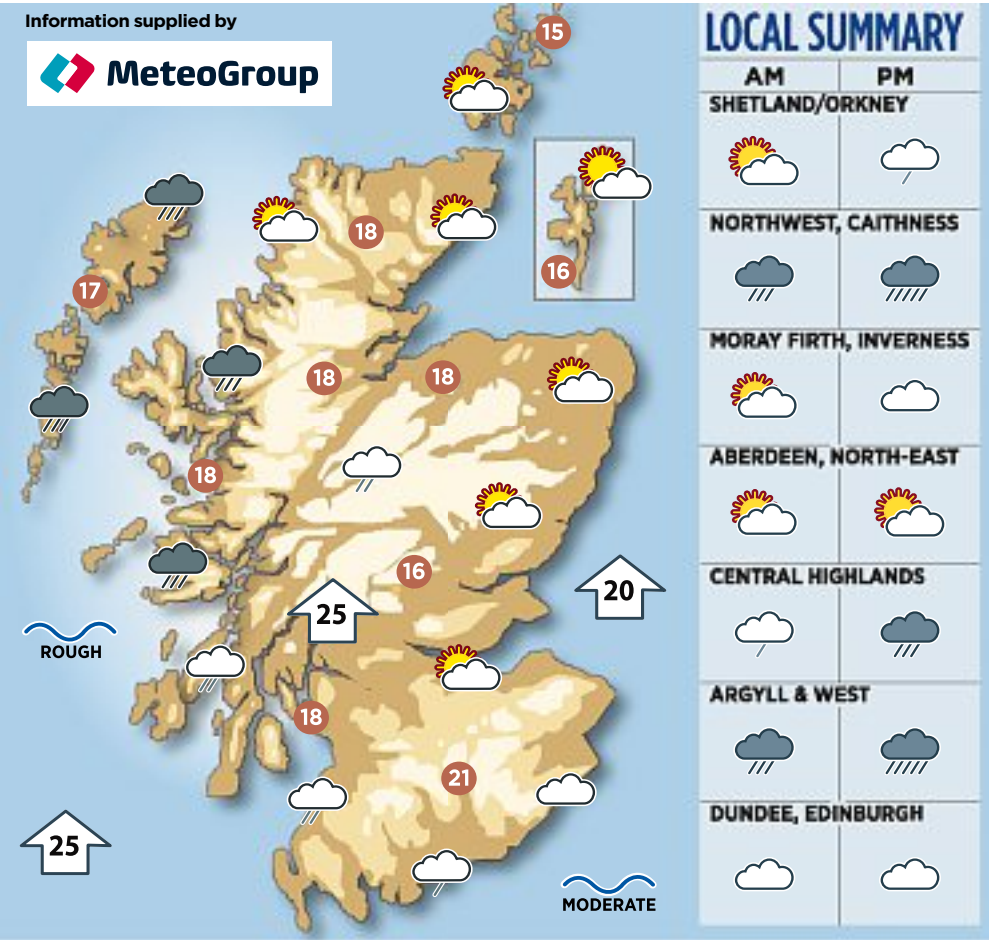
HIGHEST & LOWEST

In Britain yesterday
Warmest (day): Gravesend (Kent) 23°C (73°F)
Cooldest (day): Quidnish (Western Isles) 14°C (57°F)
Wettest: South Uist (Western Isles) 0.75 inches
Sunniest: East Malling (Kent) 12.0 hours

LIGHT-UP TIMES

Moving vehicles should display dipped headlights from sunset to sunrise and during times of poor visibility. Times shown are BST.

	Sunrise	Sunset	M/ise	M/set	Light-ups
ABERDEEN	06.34	19.35	17.30	00.58	19.35 - 06.36
INVERNESS	06.40	19.42	17.39	01.02	19.42 - 06.42
LERWICK	06.26	19.34	17.41	00.37	19.34 - 06.29
STORNOWAY	06.49	19.53	17.52	01.10	19.53 - 06.51



ABROAD

Weather at noon local time yesterday except *denotes readings from the day before

	(°C)	(°F)	
Amsterdam	20	68	cloudy
Athens	28	82	fair
Auckland	14	57	sunny
Balearics	31	88	sunny
Barbados	31	88	fair
Barcelona	29	84	sunny
Beijing	24	75	thunder
Berlin	29	84	sunny
Bermuda*	31	88	fair
Brussels	20	68	drizzle
Budapest	29	84	fair
Cairo	35	95	sunny
Canaries	28	82	sunny
Chicago*	21	70	showers
Copenhagen	24	75	fair
Corfu	27	81	fair
Costa del Sol	28	82	fair
Crete	27	81	sunny
Cyprus	32	90	sunny
Dublin	17	63	cloudy
Faro	25	77	sunny
Frankfurt	27	81	sunny
French Riviera	28	82	sunny
Geneva	26	79	fair
Helsinki	21	70	sunny
Houston	29	84	thunder
Istanbul	27	81	fair
Johannesburg	19	66	sunny
Lisbon	28	82	sunny
London	20	68	sunny
Los Angeles*	22	72	sunny
Madeira	27	81	fair
Madrid	28	82	sunny
Majorca	31	88	sunny
Malta	28	82	cloudy
Miami*	31	88	cloudy
Montreal*	27	81	fair
Moscow	14	57	drizzle
Naples	26	79	thunder
New York*	29	84	fair
Oslo	21	70	fair
Paris	20	68	drizzle
Prague	27	81	sunny
Rhodes	27	81	sunny
Rome	28	82	fair
San Francisco*	19	66	sunny
Singapore	31	88	showers
Stockholm	20	68	fair
Sydney	18	64	sunny
Toronto	25	77	thunder
Vancouver*	20	68	drizzle
Vienna	28	82	sunny
Warsaw	28	82	sunny

Puzzles
Double crossword
Letters to the editor
from page 23

THE POUND ABROAD

Major EU countries which have not yet adopted the Euro (all figures are indicative):

Czech Republic	29.30 KORUNAS
Denmark	8.36 KRONE
Hungary	326.45 FORINTS
Poland	4.49 ZLOTYS
Sweden	10.73 KRONA

REST OF THE WORLD	
Australia	1.65 DOLLARS
Canada	1.64 DOLLARS
Egypt	10.48 POUNDS
Hong Kong	9.80 DOLLARS
Israel	4.50 SHEKELS
Japan	129.50 YEN
Mexico	22.18 PESOS
New Zealand	1.68 DOLLARS
Norway	10.41 KRONE
Saudi Arabia	4.67 RYIALS
Singapore	1.68 DOLLARS
South Africa	17.75 RAND
Switzerland	1.23 FRANCS
Thailand	41.39 BAHT
Turkey	3.69 NEW LIRA
USA	1.27 DOLLARS

See the Business page for key Market Rates

Best of north-east fare at academy

FESTIVAL

BY KIERAN BEATTIE

A celebration of the best of north-east food will be held for the second year next weekend.

The Deeside Local Food Festival will take place at Cults Academy on September 18, between 11am and 3pm.

Last year's inaugural festival attracted more than 1,400 visitors to sample the very best that Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire has to offer.

From handmade cheese to locally reared meat, the event will feature more than 40 food and drink manufacturers from across the region, with 75% of exhibitors hailing

from within a 25-mile radius.

The academy's playground will be transformed into a street cafe for the duration of the festival, and food lovers will be able to enjoy freshly-cooked meals, including fish and chips, local gourmet burgers and a hog roast.

Jimmy Buchan from

BBC series Trawlermen will be there, as will Eat on the Green chef Craig Wilson for a live cooking demonstration. Funded by the Big Lottery Fund and Opportunity North East, the free event will also feature cake decorating and games for youngsters.

For more information visit www.deesidefoodfestival.btcc.co.uk

POLITICS

Tories hit out at slur on MSP

A north-east MSP is facing allegations he failed to declare using his own office during the campaign to win his seat.

The SNP yesterday called for Aberdeenshire West politician, Alexander Burnett, to shed light on claims he didn't declare office costs during his campaign.

He is alleged not to have documented the use of Banchory Business Centre on his official election return.

Mr Burnett became the first Tory politician to hold the Aberdeenshire West seat in May this year, ousting the SNP's Dennis Robertson by 13,400 votes to 12,500.

In the run-up to his victory, he was £1,303 under the £14,062 campaign spending limit set by the Electoral Commission.

The watchdog's rules state the value of any office space used in election campaigns must be declared, but Mr Burnett allegedly failed to do so for the Banchory office.

Last night the SNP – which is set to lodge a complaint on the claims to the Electoral Commission – called for him to be suspended from the Tory party.

The returns also highlighted that Mr Burnett's camp spent little on mobile phone bills supplied by the North Banchory Company, of which he is director.

A spokesman for the Scottish Conservatives said: "All telephoning has been properly declared on the election returns."

NOW SERVING TEA/COFFEE AND HOMEBAKES

From 9.30am Mon-Sat

Open 7 Days 'New Kids menu'

Senior Citizen portions

Still serving soup, sandwiches, paninis and main meals from £6

The Cowshed
Classically Simple Cooking...

Raemoir Road, Banchory Tel: 01330 820813
www.cowshedrestaurant.co.uk follow us on facebook