

Focus on Montrose

Local hero keeps kids cool with free ices

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A Montrose restaurateur who has been doing a grand job for the Angus community plans to continue with his good work in the area.

Rug Bug Benny's owner, Scott Learmonth is set to spread even more joy by giving out free ice cream and soft drinks to all local kids for the summer holidays.

Local hero Scott had previously been dishing out free hot meals to children whose families were feeling the pinch and struggling to make ends meet.

Scott and his team of volunteers wanted to make a small difference to the lives of local families in the area during lockdown.

Scott, who was excited to share his latest plans, said: "We have tried our best through all the lockdowns to help and support our local community as much as possible.

"First we did our ready meals for families, then our free kids meals. In total, over 30,000 meals were donated to the local communities in Angus. "This time we have teamed up with my Mum at Roasty Toasty catering vans and Bob at Bonnie Montrose to offer something a bit more fun.

"Our free ice creams for the summer holidays is just something a little different to get rid of the doom and gloom as we start to return to normal.

"We will be in lots of areas and will update our page daily with locations."



Scott's restaurant on Hume Street, Montrose.

He added: "We have met so many people and made so many friends over the last year and we can't wait to get out on the road and see them all again. Now the schools have finished up, we were

keen to help with something new for the kids' holidays. Ice cream and drinks seemed a nice treat for the summer."

Scott was keen to point out that he wants as many children as possible to enjoy the service.

"There is no criteria, all school kids are welcome to come and see us."

To help ease some of the financial burden on parents during the school holidays, Scott's ice-cream van will be driving around the area serving up the free ice cream and soft drinks.

The 'free' days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only and will be in operation from Monday, July 5.

Regular updates will be posted on the Rug Bug Benny's Facebook page where you can track the locations of where Scott's van is going to be.



You're the van that I want... Scott at the ready with the free ice creams

Montrose REVIEW

Council boss praises staff

Angus Council's COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Renew plans were presented last week at Full Council by Chief Executive Margo Williamson who outlined the council's response to the pandemic.

In presenting the report, she paid tribute to staff for their hard work, creativity and dedication in continuing to provide the everyday services on which people rely throughout the pandemic.

The report highlights that alongside the 'business as usual' tasks such as household bin collections, early years and schooling, care services and registering births and deaths, the council was instrumental in working with third sector partners to provide care and support for those shielding and isolating.

While the council is well prepared for emergencies and the unexpected, particularly in relation to weather, it has never been required to remain on something of an emergency footing for such an extended period.

Many staff have taken on different and additional roles to deliver way beyond regular council duties such as a cross-Council team was required to analyse, scrutinise and pay out 4,597 grants totalling £42.5M;

the Environmental and Consumer Protection Team has been leading the enforcement of Tayside's public health in the face of evolving guidance; supporting children and families at this time, as detailed in the Child Poverty Action Plan amongst other reports; working through their own personal health and caring responsibilities in a flexible, digital way in order to meet the council's KPIs and maintaining the high performance that the people of Angus deserve and expect from their council

Margo said, "I am hugely proud of what our staff have achieved and the dedication they have shown.

In brief

Shock figures on mental health

A survey of 1000 young Scots has found that two thirds think young people are dismissed by adults when they try to speak about their mental health, potentially leaving many with nowhere to turn. In North East Scotland, including Angus, the figure

matches the national average at 66 per cent. New research asked young people their opinions around mental health stigma and discrimination. It found that 72 per cent of Scotland's young people have struggled with their mental health.

Project will help Angus women

The Scottish Women's Rights Centre (SWRC) has announced the launch of a short pilot project which offers judgement-free legal and advocacy support for women who sell or exchange sex in Scotland who have been impacted by any form of abuse or violence.

RISE @ SWRC will provide women with information about their rights as well as free and confidential legal and advocacy advice, and representation in civil justice processes. The SWRC plans to consult directly with women with lived experience as well as specialist organisations.



Now is the perfect time to book a children's education session with Cats Protection charity

Cat charity taking Montrose bookings online

The necessity of taking Cats Protection's children's education online because of covid has had an unexpected benefit as these talks are available, no matter how remote the classroom. Education officers from the charity love going into schools and community

groups to share their feline knowledge, so when the pandemic hit the charity had to quickly make changes. If you would like an online class in Montrose that is still as engaging and interactive as in-person ones, visit www.education.cats.org.uk/book-a-talk/

Gill Financial staff-owned

Employees are expected to become the owners of 30 more Scottish companies this year - double the number of deals completed in 2020. The forecast has been made as Employee Ownership Day highlights the growing contribution of staff-owned companies to the economy. Montrose-based Gill Financial's 10 employees are just one such firm which has become employee-owned in the past 12 months - the first financial services business in Scotland to do so.

Cancer charity pleased

Bowel Cancer UK has welcomed the announcement of a £10m investment fund to help tackle cancer waiting times in Scotland.

The money is being provided to Health Boards across Scotland, including NHS Tayside, and will be directed where it is most needed in each region, including enhancing staff skills, diagnostic tests and supporting evening and weekend working so more patients can be seen.

In December 2020, the Scottish Government outlined an investment of up to £114.5 million to support cancer patients across the country.

Local produce in stores

A funding programme to promote the sale of local produce in convenience stores across Scotland is underway.

The Go Local initiative, funded by the Scottish Government, will see grants paid to convenience stores, allowing increased sales of fresh, healthy, locally sourced products to customers.

The overall fund of £190,000 will be used to develop retail space in shops and the appointment of a specialist with extensive retail and sourcing experience to maximise consumer choice and available display space.

ANGUS COUNTY PRESS

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