



What's On at Pitscurry

Spring is always a busy time in the garden and Pitscurry is no exception. There has been much activity preparing and planting for the summer months ahead. Most importantly we are preparing for the Open Garden Week on 29th August - 4th September. Entrance



Hanging Baskets for Inverurie

will be £4 with all proceeds going to PEP Ltd. There will be a tea room on site with refreshments prepared and served by our service users. This coincides with the opening of our Heritage Garden on 3rd September which we have been working towards for some time. New plants and heathers arrived in May and the PEP Ltd team are working hard to get everything planted in time.

Every year the Pitscurry team prepare the hanging baskets to decorate the streets of Inverurie. The bedding plants were deliv-

ered on May 23rd and the team will be kept busy growing them on in the polytunnels until they are ready to be put up in the town. They are already blooming and will brighten up Inverurie beautifully.

Initially this will be posted to you but to save time, money and paper we would prefer to email it. Please email peptalk@pitcaple.org.uk with 'Newsletter' in the subject box and we will add you to our mailing list.

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Jobs for Spring

- Prepare the hanging baskets
- Plant out seedlings
- Repaint any woodwork
- Weed borders
- Feed tomato plants
- Deadhead daffodils
- Keep grass neatly cut

Log Cabin Progresses

We are thrilled to announce that all funding is now in place for purchasing our new Interpretation Centre, a 40m² log cabin.

We were very grateful to receive the final funds we needed from Exxon Mo-

bile and Talisman at the end of February. Thanks to them and all our other sponsors we are now able to begin the groundwork to prepare the site.

We hope to have the foundations in place by July

and the build complete by the end of August ready for the Heritage Garden Open Day on the 3rd September. Plans for a second cabin, which will be a café, are already in motion.

Spring at Pitscurry

Our polytunnels are really proving their worth now that the sun is here. We have three of them up and running and all are filled with plants, flowers and vegetables. One of them is now fitted out with a brilliantly efficient irrigation system which ensures that our vegetables get all the



Polytunnel with Irrigation System

watering that they need in less than half the time it normally takes.

We have fine crops of lettuces, tomatoes, fennel, beetroot, elephant garlic, onions and much more.

We have managed to grow some beautiful flowers that we are going to make into our own hanging baskets to sell to the public.

We have also finally installed our

solar powered water fountain, donated by the Inverurie Round table in 2007, in the sensory polytunnels which creates a wonderfully gentle sound.



Petunias

Thank You!

We have been the very lucky recipient of several kind donations recently and would like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters and, where possible, let them know how their contributions have been used. We have spent the donation received from 'John and the Dancers' on two heaters (one paraffin, one electric) for the greenhouses and general maintenance of the site. Thank you.

We received a surprise delivery of a

hamper full of biscuits from Britannia that went down extremely well, thank you!

We were awarded £200 from the Acorn Centre Small Grants Committee recently that will be used to help build a new woodshed. The Acorn Centre has given us a grant before and we are very pleased to continue the relationship.

We are always grateful for any sort of support, donation or offers of

The Pitscurry Project are now the proud parents of four Giant African Snails, kindly donated by Stephen Watt. We are enjoying looking after them, feeding them and keeping their cages clean. In the summer we hope to be able to feed them our own produce.

help. The Pitscurry Project could not continue without our supporters.

Volunteering at Pitscurry

We could not function at Pitscurry without our band of dedicated and hardworking volunteers. Here is the personal story of one of them:

My name is Werner Leye. I have been volunteering at the Pitscurry Project for over five years. I heard of the project through my partner Angela and a member of staff, Mike. My interests which I have taken to the project are beekeeping, gardening and woodwork. I love the environment and working along with the service users and seeing their de-

velopment. I volunteer as often as I can but am committed to one day per week and additional hours when I can. I enjoy gardening, demonstrating and explaining how to grow plants and passing on my experience of bee keeping. I helped dismantle and erect the two polytunnels that came down with the weight of the snow.

A comment from Pitscurry: The Pitscurry Project are very grateful to Werner's continuing support of the project. He has given a lot of sup-

port passing on his vast knowledge to Service Users' and staff. A lot of the



Werner attending the bees

project would not have got going without him.

See details on the back page if you too would like to be a volunteer at the Pitscurry Project.

Wildlife at Pitscurry

Pitscurry is full of wildlife of all shapes and sizes. We were very pleased to see the return of the squirrels early in the year which had disappeared during the building works.

We built a new wildlife tower in February to encourage even more animal and insects to come to the site. We are hoping to attract a variety of insects, bats, more squirrels and even a cuckoo if we are lucky. We already have a pair of Blue Tits nesting in it.



Willie Mair's winning honey label

Sadly we lost one of our two hives in the winter as it was just too cold for the bees to survive but the other one has thrived and we were very proud to pot our first honey at the end of May.

We have managed to fill 21 half-pound jars and service user Willie Mair has designed the winning label for our jars. We hope to start selling them soon.

Pitscurry Project Chosen for Local Support

This year we are very privileged to have been chosen as 'Charity of the Year' by two local companies: Balfour Beatty Engineering Services in Kintore and PPS Glass Fibre in Inverurie.

Balfour Beatty are running various fundraising events throughout the year and the Pitscurry Project are the lucky recipients of their proceeds. They held a well-attended

quiz night at the Hopeville Club, Inverurie in May and are planning a Race Night on 26th August also at the Hopeville. For tickets and further details contact Emma Shaw on 01467 634400.

PPS Glass Fibre are the company responsible for powder coating our sheep around the site, protecting them from the elements. They are also going to create some sculptured trees that have been designed

The Pitscurry Project will once again open its doors as a North East Open Studio during NEOS week: 10th—18th September 2011

by our service users which will be delivered at the start of June.

Jenni's Story by Lisa Lawson

Jenni Fyfe began attending the Pitscurry Project in October 2010 after 2 years at College. Jenni takes part in the craft group which runs every Thursday in the new building.

Our main product is hand-made cards which are sold at our craft fair in December, during North East Open Studios in September and at the Harlaw Centre all year. We hope to produce enough to sell to other outlets in the future and have started taking orders. At Pitscurry we make our own sheets of recycled paper, sometimes adding herbs or flowers

from the gardens. Our lavender paper has been very successful. We also make small pieces of felt from wool fibres. Both the paper and the felt are used to make small collages for the cards. Jenni's collages have included sewing on buttons, adding different textures and adding text. Each card is unique.

As a group we enjoy experimenting with different materials and looking at the various textures and colours available. Recently we discovered how simple it is to make beads from felt and have started making

bracelets and brooches with our growing collection.

Jenni particularly enjoys drawing. The surroundings at Pitscurry, the



Jenni making felt

plants, insects, birds and wildlife all provide her with inspiration. Jenni's recent study of a honey bee was shortlisted for the honey labels.

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The Aberdeenshire Council Pitscurry Project, with the help of the Pitcaple Environmental Project, provides employment and training for people with disabilities, helping them develop skills that can be used to fulfill work opportunities.

Training and support enables people to improve their practical skills and contribute to local community projects.

The Pitscurry Project is supported and guided by staff and parents/guardians at the Harlaw Centre, Inverurie. The project is set up as a Co-operative Society for the Benefit of the Community with charitable status and any person or business who supports the aims of the Society can become a Shareholding Member.

The Pitscurry Project is based within an old Aberdeenshire Council Nursery site. The site includes a sensory area, gardens and polytunnels that produce fruit and vegetables, a heritage garden and an innovative environmentally sustainable centre.

How You Can Help

The Pitscurry Project is always looking for volunteers to help with tasks on site. If you are willing and able we would welcome:

- assistance with gardening, digging, basic construction, pruning and general help.
- anybody willing to work alongside our service users, giving simple assistance and guidance
- Anybody with any experience with or expertise in fruit trees or woodwork

To offer your help please contact Anne Bissett on 01467 621885

In addition, PEP Ltd are always looking to add to our membership. For just £1 you can become a

shareholder for life enabling you attend our meetings, receive PEP Talk, have your say in the running of the organization and, most importantly, support our work. To become a member please contact Kay Diack on the above address.

Another very simple way to support PEP Ltd is by pledging, via Direct Debit £12 a year: just £1 a month. If you are a UK tax payer we can reclaim Gift Aid of a further 28% meaning your contribution would become £15.36. If you would be willing to help by pledging £12 per year please contact Kay Diack.

Finally, we also have small collection boxes - enclosed for those who received this by post -



Vegetables growing in our polytunnel

for your loose change that could be located at home, your workplace or local shop. If you have space for one or more, contact Kay Diack.

Thank you to all our supporters. We could not run without you.