

to offer... of their campaign to stop house break-ins they will be in the town on June 21.

Linda Strachan gave a floral art demonstration at The New Inn, Ellon to help raise funds for Ythanvale Old Folks' Home.

Flying Circus to put in an appearance at the Ythan Raft Race

ORGANISERS of the annual Ythan Raft Race have secured the services of the world famous 'Monty Python's Flying Circus' who were the inspiration for the cult television programme of the seventies.

They are, in fact, a dedicated group of veteran aviators who are currently touring Europe to commemorate fifty years of peace since VE Day.

The flying circus, who specialise in daring low flying manoeuvres, have been visiting locations throughout Europe looking particularly at low bridges over rivers to fly under.

Their stunt co-ordinator, Otto Shisenhaus, visited Ellon last year to meet with organisers of the raft race who had proposed that the new

Ellon Road Bridge be considered as a suitable venue on their tour.

The careful assessment of headroom and wing-span clearances confirmed that the road bridge was just over the minimum safety requirements and will, in fact, be the most challenging stunt during their six month tour.

The aviators will be flying a vintage airplane which is the sister craft of Charles A Lindberghs 'The Spirit of St Louis', the first airplane to fly non-stop between America and France - a distance of 3,600 miles which took the solo pilot just over 33 hours.

'The Spirit of St Olaf' has been fully operational since that same year, 1927, and during the past twenty-four

months has clocked up an amazing 1188 flying hours.

The senior aviator, Wing Commander Ivor Broadbottom, will be travelling to Ellon before the flying circus arrives to co-ordinate advertising and promotional events leading up to raft race day.

This is expected to include the possible take off and landing from the sands at Cruden Bay Beach to mark the 86th anniversary of the first successful crossing of the North Sea by the Norwegian Aviator Trygve Gran.

It is anticipated that this attempt will be on Friday May 26 and it is hoped that the local community will rally round and show the same interest and support previously offered to raft race sponsored initiatives.

Local couple celebrate

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