

CLOCHANDIGHTER

EDITION 114 - December 2022



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THANK YOU!

To all our clients for your continued understanding and patience during the Coronavirus pandemic.

We have been continuously adapting the way we provide Veterinary care over the last year and we were really excited to have been able to invite clients back into practice with their pets from May, albeit with continued safeguarding measures in place for you and our team.

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Editorial

Here at last is your Clochandighter – the magazine for the people of Portlethen by the people of Portlethen.

After cancelling the September issue for personal reasons (which will become apparent as you read through this edition), I am happy to introduce myself as your new editor. Hello, I am Alison and my previous involvement with the Cloch has been as proof-reader as well as one of the many distributors.

I give thanks to Ron Sharp, my predecessor and friend, for all his help and advice. Ron has always worked tirelessly for the community, in his time chairing the PDCC (when it was running), the Portlethen Town Association, the KDP, and the Jubilee Hall, as well as working on countless projects to improve the area and our lives within it. He and his fiancée recently moved to the West of Scotland to enjoy some peace and tranquillity there. Ron will be sorely missed in Portlethen, but I wish him all the best for his well-earned retirement.

I was saddened to hear that Dr. Jon Blake, much respected doctor at Portlethen Medical Practice, is leaving the Practice. I'm sure I speak for many when I say how much he will be missed and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Did you know about the A2B Dial-a-Bus on Wednesdays? Don't miss the bus... or the details on page 7, explaining WHO is eligible to use it, WHEN it runs, and HOW to book. Use it or lose it!

On page 43, you'll find a heartfelt poem about noisy fireworks. Please consider pets and those who suffer from anxiety (of which there are many these days) when you celebrate with fireworks this Hogmanay.

I wish you all the best for a happy and peaceful Festive Season, however and whatever you celebrate.

Alison Lloyd-Wiggins - Editor

Please note the new email address for the Cloch:
clochandighter.editor@gmail.com



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865 (Portlethen) Squadron

The cadets from 865 Squadron have been kept busy the last few months developing their skills in various training camps. Members of our unit have travelled to Barry Buddon and RAF Lossiemouth for training in several of our core activities, Including:

- **First Aid** - Cadets have learned basic first aid skills including the recovery position, CPR and dealing with bleeding. On some of the more advanced courses cadets look at treating choking, burns, hypo & hyperthermia, poisoning and allergic reactions.
- **Radio Communications** - Cadets learn basic NATO radio procedures which are useful should the cadets join one of the services someday. These procedures are also useful for cadets interested in becoming Pilots or Air Traffic Controllers.
- **Cyber Security** - Cadets learn about cyber security in RAF Air Cadets courses, we also have instructors who can deliver courses from GCHQ, including the Cyberfirst Adventurer course.
- **Leadership and teamwork** - Leadership and teamwork are some of the most important aspects of training in the RAF Air Cadets. Our bespoke courses introduce cadets to the type of leadership training delivered in the UK Armed Forces, and gives our members the opportunity for practical leadership experience.
- **Shooting** - Our cadets have the opportunity to fire Air Rifles locally. On these training camps cadets can have the chance to fire full bore rifles, including the L98A2.





• **Fieldcraft** - Fieldcraft is becoming a more widespread activity for Air Cadets in our local area. Cadets are introduced to camouflage and concealment techniques, moving as part of a patrol, becoming a sentry and how to cook in the field.

These training camps bring cadets from all over the local area together giving everyone the opportunity to make new friends with likeminded interests. If you are interested in joining our organisation as a cadet or as an adult volunteer, please contact 865@rafac.mod.gov.uk for more information.

In other news, 865 Squadron would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for the donation for a new squadron gazebo. We hope to showcase this new gazebo at local events in the coming year.

Portlethen A2B dial-a-bus

The service operates weekly with an Aberdeenshire Council wheelchair-accessible minibus



Wednesdays: 9.45 – 13.30 hrs

The A2B service is open to:-

- People who have difficulty walking
- People with other disabilities
- Residents who don't live near a bus stop or bus route.

If you think you need door-to-door transport you may qualify. We can take you anywhere within Portlethen e.g. shopping, medical centre, the library or to connect onto another bus service. You can ask for a trip at any time between 9.45 and 13.30 hrs, but you will need to fit in with other passengers. Phone us to find out more about the service.

All passengers have to be registered as an A2B member.

All trips must be pre-booked. Bookings can be made up to 7 days in advance, or up to 14 days for a medical appointment.

Call us on the A2B hotline number **01467 535 333**. Choose **option 1** for bookings, **option 2** for cancellations, **option 3** for general enquiries.



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Although summer is now a distant memory, I'd like to say congratulations to **Debbie Nutten** this year's **Best Garden** winner 2022. It was a tough decision again this year choosing a winner, but they've done it again! Well done to everyone who entered this year, and we look forward to next year's entries, from contestants old and new.

The PTA has been involved in two fundraising shows in Portlethen - one for **Artie's Singing Kettle** and Funbox's final fundraising show, **Funky Farm**. Profits from these shows will go towards funding the **Defibrillator Project** at both the Academy & Hillside Shopping Centre.



Thanks also go to the Stonehaven Round Table for their generous donation towards the Defibrillator Project.

We now have permission from Aberdeenshire Council and Portlethen Academy for the installation of a defibrillator at the front door of the Academy and hopefully by the time you are reading this, it will have been installed!

Also by the time this edition hits your doorstep, we hope the Portlethen Christmas Elves will be doing their thing, lighting the streets with the Christmas motifs & dressing the beautiful Portlethen Christmas tree with the 4000 LED lights.

The **Santa Run**, now in its 7th year, will be taking place on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th November, and Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd December. Please see the Portlethen Santa Run Facebook page for further details.



The **Santa Run** has generated a total of **£18,840** in 7 years. This has been split into four donations of £4,700, benefiting the three primary schools and our chosen charity. This year's charity will be the Portlethen Larder.

We are always happy to get help with these things, so please get in touch if you would like to get involved. Thanks go to *everyone* involved with this year's Christmas activities.

Finally, I must say again a special thanks to Ron Sharp for all his years of service to Portlethen and surrounding area. We hope he enjoys his retirement and new home and settles in well... but remembers not to be a stranger!

Darren Robertson, (Chair, Portlethen Town Association)



Funding is still available from Cloch. Funds. Please apply to-
clochandigher.editor@gmail.com

Clochandigher Accounts

Transactions in the six months to 31st October 2022

	Credit	Debit	Balance
Balance b/fwd.			£12,113.25
Advertisers	£4,593.00		£16,706.25
Donation - Portlethen Air Cadets		-£1,500.00	£15,206.25
Donation - Portlethen Youth Forum		-£600.00	£14,606.25
Donation - Portlethen Larder		-£500.00	£14,106.25
Printing costs		-£2,080.00	£12,026.25
Accounting software		-£79.99	£11,946.26
Defib - Academy		-£1,702.80	£10,243.46
Garage repairs		-£1,850.00	£8,393.46
Christmas tree removal		-£141.50	£8,251.96
2022 Christmas tree		-£490.00	£7,761.96
Christmas tree & lights insurance		-£260.00	£7,501.96
Laptop		-£807.00	£6,694.96



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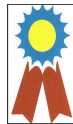
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Portlethen Moss Conservation Group



**Registered Scottish Charity No –
SC040350**

<https://www.facebook.com/portlethenmoss>

Our Group's Projects -

Portlethen Moss - Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS)

For the third year in a row the invasive knotweed has been treated. There was very little regrowth and the hope is that it will soon be totally eradicated.

By the end of 2022, we will have planted more bulbs and some juniper trees at the main entrance to the moss.

We continue to keep the gorse in check where possible and the same goes for the non-native spruce trees that are shooting up all over the moss and drying it out. We also continue to carry out peatland restoration work to keep the peat alive.



Our Moss is a very special place and we're so lucky to have a living peatland on our doorsteps, albeit only a tiny remnant of what it once was before all the development right up until the 1990's.

Did you know that peat stores up to 30 times more carbon per hectare than a healthy tropical rainforest and holds 10 times its weight in water which helps to prevent flooding?

Community Woodland

This year we were really happy with the two new signs we purchased for the woodland ([see](#) opposite page) and thanks very much to Aberdeenshire Council for installing them for us.

The memorial orchard had a very fruitful year with a great harvest of soft fruits in particular. We've given it a tidy up for winter and trimmed the hedge.

Over the next few months, we will be busy developing a small wild-life garden area in the woodland, we have some great ideas for it and will have some super 'structures'. That's all I'm saying you'll have to come and see for yourself....

Into 2023, we plan to start a great new community project that's been on the back burner for a while. More about that in the next edition.....

If you wish to know more about the group, or if you want to become a member (new members are always very welcome), please do not hesitate to contact us through our Facebook page or at one of our events.



<https://www.facebook.com/portlethenmoss>

Being a group member is neither onerous nor time consuming, we have 'hands on' events throughout the year and everyone is welcome to take part. It's very rewarding, you can see the results of the work we do, and you know that you're doing something really positive for our local environment.

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Hedgehogs of Portlethen



www.facebook.com/HedgehogsofPortlethen

Saving Our Endangered Hedgehogs

By December most hedgehogs will be hibernating until around March/April. But some can still be active until January, in fact with winters getting warmer, hedgehogs in some areas may not hibernate at all. Baby hedgehogs (hoglets) born late in the year can struggle to find food and may be seen out in winter in need of help. Any hedgehog no matter how well it looks seen out in daylight in winter needs urgent help.

Hedgehogs often wake from hibernation and go looking for food, this is normal, they'll return to the gardens where they found food before hibernating. They'll only be active during the hours of darkness, while you sleep, so you may never know they've been. Help them, all winter, by leaving a shallow dish of water and one of dry kitten food in a feeding station.

If you accidentally disturb a hibernating hedgehog, cover it back over right away, leave food and water close by in case it comes out of hibernation. A hibernating hedgehog is unable to move and to the untrained eye can appear dead. It will feel cold and will only breath a couple of times a minute. It will be curled into a tight ball, prickles up with no face or legs showing - hedgehogs never die like that. So please never assume a hedgehog you find like this is dead. It takes anything from one to several hours for a hedgehog to wake from hibernation. If in doubt call a rescue for advice.

If you've been thinking about adding a hedgehog house to your garden, any time of year is a good time, even during winter.



Hibernation takes practice and young inexperienced first year hedgehogs very often perish because they fail to build good enough nests to keep them protected from the elements and predators. The safety and extra warmth of a nice dry well-made wooden hedgehog house can be a life saver to them.

Check out the Hedgehogs of Portlethen & Surrounding Area Facebook page where there's lots of information, use the search tab to look for information and if you don't find the answer you need, send a message directly.

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News from the Shed

Portlethen & District Men's Shed & garden has reopened to our members and now to anyone who wishes to come along and see what The Shed does. **Our opening hours can also be found on our Facebook and website pages.**

Our Shed was privileged to receive a visit from Christine McKelvie, Scottish Government Minister for Equalities and Older People. The visit resulted from comments made in a speech by Audrey Nicoll, MSP to the Scottish Parliament, which praised the work of men's sheds in their local communities.

Unfortunately, Audrey couldn't join us but we were pleased to highlight the activities of the shed and share real life stories of the benefits of the shed to men in particular, and to the local community and schools.



In the group picture (L to R): Mel Sullivan (Aberdeenshire Councillor), Julie Forbes (Trustee & Secretary), Graham Norrie (Trustee & Treasurer), Christine McKelvie, MSP, Walter McMillan (Trustee & Chairman) and Donny Warner (Trustee & Workshop Supervisor).

The members have been busy making planters to order. Should you wish the members to make you a planter or you have a project you would like us to assist with, please get in touch and we can discuss your requirements.

If you also have any wood or unused tools you wish to get rid of, please contact us.

If you wish to join the Portlethen & District Men's Shed, please contact the email below and ask for a joining form. If you wish to make a donation to Portlethen & District Men's Shed of timber or tools, please get in touch.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need assistance.

Julie Forbes, Secretary P&DMS
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Hillside School

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

In Scotland, the UNCRC is in the process of being incorporated into Scot's law, it underpins Hillside School's wellbeing approach 'Getting It Right For Every Child' and schools are expected to explore children's rights as part of learning and teaching. There are many ways Hillside School and Nursery highlight the rights of the child, and to help recognise our progress we are signed up to UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award programme.

Hillside currently hold a Bronze Award which means that our school has shown that we are committed to respecting children's rights. We are proud to announce that we are now on our journey to Silver and hope to achieve this by the end of the year! Very exciting news! We are working hard to show that we know and understand rights and encourage adults and children alike to respect the rights of others.

Our newly established Rights Respecting Steering Group, led by Mr Smith (Acting Principal Teacher), is helping prepare the school for an accreditation visit

Every class in our school has an individual class charter.

Each class decided on a group of articles which were deemed 'most relevant' (even though no one right is more important than another).



A charter helps us reflect on what we need, and actions to take in class, to ensure everyone feels that their rights are met.

Each class has collaboratively designed and created a display.



Community Café

With COVID mitigations lifting throughout the year, it has been lovely to bring people together again and invite the community into our building once more.

Primary 7L this term relaunched our Community Café (in our school) to great success, and a wonderful turnout - thank you to all that were able to attend. In doing so, a massive £420.84 was raised with some of this going to charities.

During the Community Café, many talents were on display, entertaining those in attendance. A group also delivered a rights-based presentation, spreading the word to community members of the importance of children's rights.

It would be wonderful if members of our community could 'drop by' our Community Café and enjoy a cuppy and fine piece. Everyone is welcome, please mark in your diary!



Future Dates include:

19th January - 9.45am-11am

29th March - 9.45am-11am



MCR Pathways is a charity that currently supports secondary pupils throughout 11 local authorities in Scotland. MCR Pathways has recently started up in Portlethen Academy and is asking volunteers to #ShareAnHour and provide more young people with a mentor who's there just for them.

At MCR Pathways, we believe that a young person's future should be determined by their talents and never their circumstances. When life around us is overwhelming, it's difficult to think about the future. That's why we are asking for help to ensure no young person should ever feel alone.

Our award-winning programme carefully matches young people with a mentor to meet for just one hour a week, in school. This one to one relationship makes a profound impact on their confidence and future.

All steps to becoming a mentor can be done online and full training is provided. No qualifications are required and anyone over the age of 21 can apply.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or would like to learn more, please follow the link: <https://mcrpathways.org/become-a-mentor/>



Fishermoss School

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It has been great to see how quickly our Primary 1 pupils, new pupils and Nursery children have settled into the new Academic Year and we seem to be quickly heading towards a new Calendar Year! Our Primary 7 Play Leaders have been great at supporting Primary 1 pupils in the playground. It has been a joy to welcome parents back into our school building over recent months for our Primary 1 Curriculum Evening, Parent/Teacher Consultations and for our Senior Pupils' Abernethy Residential Trip meeting. These were **opportunities to support parents to be involved in their child's learning**. We have also welcomed, and enjoyed having, a number of students attend for teaching experience from Aberdeen University, in addition to Work Experience and Foundation Apprenticeship students from Portlethen Academy.



Sadly, early in the new academic year we paused as a school to remember Her Majesty our late Queen and a prayer of thanksgiving was shared for her lifetime of faithful service. A minute silence was held and the respect shown by pupils was both moving and significant. A floral tribute was placed at Balmoral Castle on behalf of our Fishermoss Family.



Global Warriors & Pupil Council

'Fishermoss pupils are listened to, valued and respected and feel they are involved in making decisions in the school'.



At Fishermoss School, all pupils are **'Global Warriors'**. Being a Global Warrior is about knowing and understanding our world and having the right values, knowledge and skills to make the world a better place. It is about positive relationships and building safe, happy and healthy communities. At class circle time meetings, our pupils share and discuss ideas for ways to improve our school, which includes ways to improve the way we learn, global and environmental issues and what we can do for others. e.g. Eco Schools, Fair-Trade, playground improvements, charities to support etc. Global Warrior meetings are held online through TEAMS which means all pupils can attend and not just Pupil Council class representatives. These meetings allow for on/offline breakout discussion and bring together class ideas to decide on the most effective ways to bring about change and improvements to our school, our environment, our community and beyond. Class representatives often take on the role of the spokesperson to share class discussions and views through TEAMS. We greatly value and respect the views of our pupils and the vital part they play in making decisions at school.

Following pupil presentations and class votes, our new **Pupil Council** members i.e. class representatives, have been appointed and were presented with their badges at assembly. Thank you to our **PSC** for providing the badges. Congratulations and well done to all of those elected.

We Decide...Children and Young People Voting for change-Participatory Budgeting-Success story for Fishermoss Primary 6 and Primary 7 Pupils!

Aberdeenshire Council commissioned Young Scot to manage an online vote for a participatory budgeting exercise. This was branded as the 'We Decide... Children and Young People Voting for Change event'. Schools were asked to consider the participatory budget theme of **Climate Change & Carbon Reduction**.

Primary Schools were encouraged to involve their Primary 6 & Primary 7 pupils to come up with exciting project ideas and apply for funding....**and all Primary 6 & Primary 7 pupils at Fishermoss were involved.** We went through an exercise with pupils to shortlist the suggestions made, and they submitted their application. The most voted for projects per cluster area (1 Academy and 2 Primary Schools) would be successful in securing funding for their project. We are delighted to say that our pupils' application was successful!

Our Senior Pupils had applied for funding for items which they felt would help pupils understand climate change and fight it. Their project was to secure funding for equipment but also to develop an understanding of the topics of climate change and the reduction of carbon through books and educating classes. Our Senior pupils felt that helping people to understand these topics, as well as taking direct action with planting and growing, will strengthen the school's commitment to them and make sure that all pupils coming through the school know how important interacting with the natural world is. The project will help our school become even more eco-friendly, and pupils aim to have a practical part (growing and planting) as well as an educational aspect through the creation of an Eco library which will help all our learners understand why interacting with the natural world and preventing climate change is so important. They believed this 'two pronged' approach would have the greater impact than just action alone.

They have successfully secured **£2000** for a composter, small greenhouse, garden equipment, planters, storage and an Eco Library. We are so very proud of their efforts to secure these funds.

'Children and Young People Voting for Change' vote was a success with a total of 696 voting young people in Aberdeenshire. A total of 18 exciting projects from across the area will be awarded funds to the collective value of £32,890 to support their work around climate change. Great to have this support for our young people to carry out exciting projects that young people have generated, examined, and democratically decided upon. This represents a great achievement from our young people. Fishermoss School valued the opportunity to be involved in this project and are of course delighted with the outcome.



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Fishermoss School continued



Annual School Sponsored Walk

It was super to see parents join us on our annual Sponsored Walk and a great time was had by all from Nursery through to Primary 7. We enjoyed near perfect weather! We certainly made sure we were noticed in the community with our '**Crazy Hair**'. The ice lollies provided by the **PSC** were a welcome treat for pupils, and parents enjoyed refreshments and a chat in our school hall afterwards.

Curriculum News!



Bike Skills at Fishermoss!.....Anna Bailey from SUSTRANS supported our **Primary 1 and 2** pupils develop their bike skills and being safe on their bikes. It was lovely to see so many parents join in with these sessions. Anna also supported some pupils in P4-7 to gain confidence when cycling. The week was full of celebrations and great achievements - Comments from pupils included, "I can ride a

pedal bike!" "It was great fun!"

Primary 4/5 are responsible for organising our participation in the **Rotary Shoe Box Appeal** this year, as part of their work as **Global Warriors**. They have been busy preparing PowerPoint presentations in the hope that they will encourage as many pupils as possible to share the message at home to help those less fortunate to have a special **Christmas Day!** The class have clearly been developing their skills for the '**World of Work**' such as planning, organising, communicating, working with others and taking **responsibility** as they take the lead on the Shoe Box Appeal at Fishermoss.

Primary 2/3 visited the local **library**. They enjoyed finding out more about how to access a variety of different types of books, picture books/chapter books, fiction and nonfiction.

Primary 3/4 took part in a **STEM workshop** as part of **Scottish Maths Week**. They had a workshop with a Construction Manager and a STEM ambassador who shared the different areas of maths used in her role including estimation, patterns, measuring and probability. They had great fun working together to problem solve and enjoyed finding out how Maths is used every day in the role of a **Construction Manager**. A great opportunity to support our work on Developing the Young Workforce!

Fishermoss Book Illustration Winners!



Well done to all the pupils who were involved in taking part in a competition to create illustrations for the book 'Archie and Amanda's Amazing Adventure' by Alec Franks, in aid of The Archie Foundation.

Congratulations to **Wumi Mtika** and **Angelina Panait**, P4/5, who had their illustrations selected to be part of the book. All entries to the competition from these classes were on display in the Main Atrium of Union Square, Aberdeen. Very exciting for all of them, not just Wumi and Angelina, to have their illustrations on display.



Assemblies

Our assemblies very much focus on our school's vision, values and aims. The emphasis being on supporting our pupils to become **successful learners** with enthusiasm and motivation for learning; **confident individuals** with physical, mental & emotional wellbeing and self-respect and ambition; **responsible citizens** with respect for others and a commitment to participate responsibly in their community and the wider world and also **effective contributors**, who can communicate, work together, be creative and enterprising.

Regular features at assembly include us focusing on **'Good News about Me'** where pupils share wider achievements and the **'Golden Book'** where individual pupils are given a special mention for significant effort in work, and also in relation to the golden rules. **'Learning Celebration'** assemblies focus on curriculum subject areas where pupils have been **hardworking**, have done particularly well and certificates are presented.



Assemblies early in the academic year included our new **Pupil Council Representatives** being introduced and information on their role was shared. We also had a focus on the School's **motto, values** and the **Golden Rules** and what the expectations are for all in the playground, classroom and in the wider community. We shared the role of all pupils as **Global Warriors** and it being their **responsibility** to be the best they can be and Primary 4/5 shared a presentation about the Shoe Box Appeal and Primary 6 pupils shared helpful reminders in their role as our **Junior Road Safety officers**.

Rev Rodolphe Kowal, Portlethen Parish Church Minister, delivered an assembly on the Creation of the World as told in the book of Genesis in the Bible. It gave us an opportunity to consider how we can show respect for, and care for, planet earth. We also welcomed **Nicole Hepburn** from Portlethen Library who shared all on offer at the library and a bit about her role there.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and our best wishes for the New Year.

Margaret M Ferguson
Head Teacher

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Scottish Charity Number SC007420

Minister: Rev. Rodolphe Kowal

e-mail: rkowal@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Manse: 07484257534

Church Secretary: portlethenpc@btconnect.com

<http://portlethenparishchurch.weebly.com/>

Telephone: [01224 782883](tel:01224782883)

Greetings to you all!

I am very pleased to announce that there will be a **Christmas Tree festival** this December. This will be the tenth edition of this festival. This year all donations will go to Aberdeen Cyrenians - giving care and support for vulnerable people in the Northeast. Come along to the church and enjoy the illuminated trees with the children - or with children's eyes - from Monday 12th to Friday 16th December (1.00pm – 8.00pm). As part of the festival children and families are welcome to come to Storytime with Santa on Wednesday, 14th December from 6.30pm – 7.30pm.



Portlethen Parish Church welcomes you, especially on Sunday mornings at the 10.30am service. This is a time to come together as Christians, to pray for all and for a better world, to sing hymns together and to reflect on the Gospel stories. Sunday worship is a gathering in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, where everyone is called to meet him.

Continued

Portlethen Parish Church cont'd

Each Sunday before the service, at 10.00am, the children are invited to go to their special school: **Sunday School**. Here we listen to stories about Jesus and many other characters from the Bible. We also sing hymns and memorise the day's Bible reading by drawing.

A new **monthly craft group** started in September 2022 in the Donaldson Lounge of the church. This runs every second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon (2.00pm – 4.00pm) and every fourth Tuesday of the month in the evening (7.00pm – 9.00pm). You are welcome to join this group where you can practice your favourite craft, join in the friendly chat in a welcoming atmosphere followed by a cuppa and fine piece.

The **Lunch Club** resumed in October 2022. This runs every fortnight on Fridays where the group share a meal together in the church hall. Please contact the Church Secretary if you would like to attend.

Messy Church is held monthly in the Church Hall on Saturdays from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. Please check Facebook and the primary schools' newsletters for the next date. The next Messy Church will be held on 14th January 2023.

This Christmas, as every year, we will celebrate the coming of Christ into the world. The Gospel of Matthew tells of his coming in the form of a fragile person, the object of everyone's care: a baby. May we see the presence of Christ in every fragile person, in every person who needs attention and care like a baby.

Come and worship him at the following services:

- Sunday 18th December at 10.30am: Readings and Carols
- Saturday 24th December at 6.30pm: Christingle Service
- Saturday 24th December at 11.30pm: Watchnight Service
- Sunday 25th December at 10.30am: Christmas Service

I wish you all a Merry Christmas!
Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal,
Minister,
Portlethen Parish Church





**10th Christmas Tree Festival
at Portlethen Parish Church**

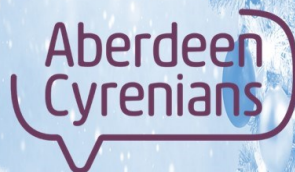
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Our small but dedicated team of volunteers is growing, but there's still space for more drivers to be available to cover holidays etc so, if you have some spare time and would like to join us, you will be made very welcome! Thanks to all those who already give their time.

We recently supported the Annual Chapelton of Elsieck 10K event with some of our drivers assisting with the car park marshalling and, in return, we received a generous donation to our funds from the organisers.

Our Chairperson, Colin Stratton, has recently stepped down from his position and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him very much for all he has done for our Charity over the past 6 years in this role. He has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of the Ambulance Association and his dedicated fund-raising efforts have ensured that we can continue to provide a service to those who need us. Fortunately, Colin will still continue to drive on our weekly rota.



Our new Chairperson is David Walton (pictured above holding the right-hand side of the cheque). David has stepped into the role with great enthusiasm, getting to grips with the many duties expected of our leader, and we welcome him to our team.

As some of you will know, our vehicle was out of service for several weeks getting fixed after a wee accident, and we were fortunate to be able to lease the Mearns Transport minibus a few days a week to cover as many passenger appointments as we could.

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there fast asleep
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RES, a leading independent renewable energy developer, established the Meikle Carewe Windfarm Community Benefit Fund to support local groups and projects.

Funding is available for the benefit of not-for-profit groups and organisations in the Community Council areas of Crathes, Drumoak & Durris, Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore, North Kincardine Rural, Portlethen & District and Stonehaven & District. Administered by Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP), applications to the fund are assessed by a Decision-Making Panel made up of representatives from all five Community Council areas.

The fund is available annually for the lifetime of the wind farm.

Successful applicants this round were:

Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council - £5040;
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Cookney Public Hall—£1197;
Banchory-Devenick Parent Council - £2500;
Maryculter Woodlands Trust—£1250;
Jubilee Hall - £1600;

Kincardine & Mearns Citizens Advice Bureau - £1000;
1297 Stonehaven Squadron Air Training Corps - £1660;
Stonehaven Folk Festival–£1104;
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Community: The date for our Rotary Quiz Night was moved to Saturday 12th November which gave it a Christmassy feel and, as I write this, we're looking forward to a good turn-out. We will update you with the proceeds which will be going to **Portlethen Larder** to help take the strain off Christmas for many local families.

Car Raffle: Thank you to **Matalan** for allowing us to sell tickets for the Rotary Clubs Car Raffle for **Charlie House Children's' Charity**. The ticket sales now move into the Bon Accord Centre and local clubs will be selling tickets at £1 each, the prize is a fabulous Suzuki Vitara hybrid car. If you haven't yet got your ticket, please have a chat to the Rotarians near the escalators on the ground floor, there will be someone there every day till the Christmas Eve draw.

International:

Polio: Rotary International has been working with other agencies for over 35 years to eradicate polio across the world, and with the virus having been found in the sewage systems in London and New York it is even more important to keep up this momentum. There are only two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, where polio is still endemic. With this in mind, our club has again contributed via #purpleforpolio by purchasing 4,000 purple crocus corms and distributing them via schools and community gardening groups throughout the community. All profit from this purchase goes to polio eradication.

ShoeBox: The Rotary Shoebox Scheme has been part of our club's International commitment for many years and again we have managed to distribute over 500 boxes to be filled by the community and sent to eastern Europe, in the past to Romania and Moldova but perhaps some of them may make their way into Ukraine this year. The schools have again been involved.

Sponsorship: We enjoyed an update by our Honorary member **Muriel Thomson** on our sponsored child in **Chennai**. We have sponsored Vijay Kumar since he started infant school and were delighted to hear that Vijay has now completed school and has moved on to college.

RYLA: We enjoyed a presentation from our two RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) candidates Lachie and Cameron on their return from their leadership experience at Abernethy. They enthused about what they had gained from the experience and could carry forward to their future careers. If you know of someone aged 16 or 17 in July at the time of the event, please get in touch via our Facebook page for further information. Academy pupils will be advised of a presentation on RYLA in due course

Contact us if you would like to be involved in our efforts to support the local community and/or international projects, whichever is your interest. <https://www.facebook.com/Portlethen-and-District-Rotary-302573226576567>

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Serving the Portlethen community since 1887

News from your community hall.

Committee – there have been some significant changes to the Committee since the AGM on May 29. Mike Lloyd-Wiggins and his wife Alison both stood down from the committee in early May, when Mike was diagnosed with cancer – sadly, Mike died on the 23rd of May. He will be sadly missed. Alison and Mike worked tirelessly for the Jubilee Hall and their contribution was immense.

Ron Sharp, who most of you will know, stood down as Chairman in June when he announced his impending nuptials! He and his wife-to-be were planning to sell up and move west, so within the space of two months, we had lost nearly half of our management Committee.

Dave Johnstone, who had been on the committee for 3 years stepped into the role of Chairman. Alison Duncan had joined the Committee as Treasurer in 2021, and the committee which comprised at that time of Heather Yeoman, Damien Dennison and Joyce Burness, was bolstered by the addition of Morag Cairns, Veronica Muir, and Julie Hays who run the Fine Piece Café. Sandy Boath and, more recently Darren Robertson, also joined us and Committee now enjoys a new blend of skills and experience. That said, we really need a Committee Secretary and a Booking Clerk, so please do get in touch if you feel able to take on either (or both) of these roles (info@portlethenjubileehall.com).

As we emerge from the pandemic and people are once again gaining the confidence to meet, we have seen a dramatic rise in bookings. Regular lets include Jazzercise, Zumba Gold and a wide variety of activities for children and adults as well as an increase in the number of individual bookings for parties and weddings.

The **Fine Piece Café** re-opened for business and is going from strength to strength meeting every Wednesday morning. The recent introduction of bacon rolls has taken the offering to a whole new level.

RAG BAG – This is still proving popular. Your contributions of used clothing and shoes are very much appreciated – please remember to tie the shoes together in pairs and please put the clothes in suitable bags! Thanks to Heather Yeoman for organising this!

PROJECTS – We continue to upgrade the hall to widen its appeal to the entire community. We have hung new curtains, upgraded the hall lighting, and installed a more efficient air pump heating system. We are planning to level the car park to eliminate the water pools that form when it rains and improve the desperate shortage of storage space within the hall by placing an Offshore Container adjacent to the entrance. We are also planning to install Security Cameras, front and back. Finally, we plan to install a high-quality projector and sound system which would allow us to offer film evenings, training sessions and appeal to corporate functions. This equipment is very expensive, and we are looking at a variety of funding options to help us get this project up and running. When the “dust settles” after all these improvements, we will re-decorate the hall and re-varnish the floor!

Breaking News: Plans are afoot to host a **Lunch Club** to cater for people in our community with complex additional needs. The idea came from our café users, some of whom have additional support needs and physical disabilities. Many of these amazing people had their contact hours reduced during the pandemic and they now find it difficult to find places to socialise and enjoy group activities. We have applied for funding and were delighted to be awarded a significant sum to support the Lunch Club from the Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Community Fund. We are so grateful! Watch this space for news on our progress.

BOOK THE HALL

BOOKING TIME	HOURLY RATE	REGISTERED CHARITY RATE
OFF PEAK Mon-Fri: 09:00-17:00	£18.00	£17.00
PEAK Mon-Fri: 17:00-22:00 Sat/Sun: 09:00-17:00	£20.00 £25.00	£18.00 £20.00
OUT OF HOURS Sat/Sun: after 17.00	£30.00	£25.00

Community Fundraising Events: Please Contact Committee

info@portlethenjubileehall.com

To Book Call 07396 339448

Talking (mainly) Rubbish – Cllr Mel Sullivan



Voters went to the polls on 5th May to choose their council representatives for the next five years. With Ian Mollison's retirement and the other incumbents either moving or not being successful, this means an entirely new team for North Kincardine.

You can find me on **Facebook** as '**Councillor Mel Sullivan, North Kincardine**'. My webpage is <https://melsullivan.mycouncillor.org.uk>. On here you can find longer articles on things like recycling, and resources to help with the cost-of-living crisis, as well as the Trading Standards Bulletins, road closures and other bits and bobs.

Weekly news emails will continue to be sent out. These include the latest planning applications and other local items of interest. Please let me know if you would like to receive these. My email address is cllr.m.sullivan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

My first twelve weeks as a councillor have flown by. Many hours of training, many hours of meetings. Aside from full council and Kincardine and Mearns area committee, I'm also on Infrastructure Services, Waste Management, Live Life Aberdeenshire, Rapid Rehousing, Aberdeenshire South Access Panel and Kincardineshire Educational Trust. Of course, there are also two community councils to attend - three if Portlethen's starts up again. I'm still managing to support two families through Home-Start Aberdeen as a volunteer, but unfortunately my weekly stint behind the till at the Jubilee Hall's Fine Piece Café has been replaced by occasional appearances.

Some news for Portlethen - it has been confirmed that the following areas will be reconstructed with Hot Rolled Asphalt: T-junction at Fern Drive - Bruntland Road; T-junction at Bracken Road - Bruntland Road; Muirend Road - Cookston Road to Asda Roundabout.

A bin replacement scheme is underway. 'Diamond' bins need to be replaced. We are the only area in Scotland still using these, so they need to be swapped out for the kind everyone else uses, that way south Aberdeenshire doesn't need its own fleet of bin lorries that can't be used elsewhere. These bins are coming to the end of their projected 15-year lifespan anyway.

This process will be slow, so it started in the rural areas at the end of August, gradually making its way to the coastal urban areas (due here in the new year). This is to take advantage of decent weather in the harder-to-reach routes.

Old bins will be shredded and recycled into new bins. There will be plenty of advertising in the run up to the bin swap, including letters sent to residents two weeks beforehand. Your current bin will be emptied, then another lorry will collect it. A third will follow that day to leave your new bin. It is very important that your bin is left out on these replacement days, even if it's empty. Workers will be actively looking for bins, but obviously problems will be caused if they cannot locate and replace your bin on the day. Bins will be replaced on their normal collection days, so you will have two consecutive weeks when you'll need to put the appropriate bin out so that it can be replaced with the new style.

As I write this, the future of the booking system at Portlethen's recycling centre is uncertain. Each of the six areas in Aberdeenshire get to decide what to do over the next six months. The Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee will be deciding on this next week. I will be voting to retain the booking system, mainly because it would actually *COST* us money if trade waste were diverted away from trade waste centres. (With no booking system, it would be up to the household waste centre workers to identify - and confront - traders trying to pass trade waste off as domestic.) By the time you read this, all household recycling centres will have started the system they will have during the trial six-month period. Centres will either be fully open, still under the booking system, or be trying a 'hybrid' option with some days/times being open without booking, but the rest of the time needing booked as usual.

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Scottish Charity No: 023264

www.stternans.co.uk

[Facebook "St Ternans Episcopal Church"](#)

Bishop of Brechin: **The Right Revd Andrew Swift** **01382 459569**
Priest-in-Charge: **Revd Mary Jepp** **01569 762917**
Lay Ministry: **George Masson** **01569 739283**

A warm welcome to all readers from St Ternan's.

On Sundays our Eucharist Service starts at 10.30am.

Something New: Prayer and Chat meeting at 11.00am on Wednesdays.

Also, our church is open daily for private prayer or meditation.

Services St Ternan's are holding over the Christmas period:



Sunday, 18 th December	3.00pm	Community Christmas Sing Song
Saturday, 24 th December	23.30pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, 25 th December	9.30am	Christmas Day Service

Our Community Room is available for hire, and this can be booked by telephoning Sheila (01569 731608). Facilities are first rate offering a well-equipped kitchen, toilets (including disabled) also baby-changing provision.

Car parking is available, also provision for disabled drivers by way of a car park closer to the church.

Apart from the Community Room, we have space at the rear of the church (7 x 7.5 metres) which could be used for fitness classes such as yoga, Children's Nursery, public meetings, first aid groups, concerts.

There is also adequate open space at the front of the church for musicians/choirs. There is a PA system where you can play your own music and an Epson projector and screen.

**St Ternan's wish you all a happy, healthy and safe
Festive Season.**





Funny Handshakes, Rolled Up Trouser Legs ... and Mountain Boots!

With aching legs and lungs fit to burst we finally arrived at the summit of Ben Nevis to find that the view was shrouded in mist. It had taken us the best part of the summer's morning to climb the highest mountain in Scotland, hoping we'd see the beautiful panorama of Loch Linnhe and the Western Isles beyond. Whilst it was disappointing not to have arrived at the top in glorious sunshine and to breathtaking vistas, we were all delighted to have raised money for local charities.

Freemasonry is often accused of being mysterious and very secretive. Actually, there's little mystery and even fewer secrets involved. It's mostly about a group of good men being involved in their local communities and trying to make life easier for those less fortunate around them. This is one of the principal core values of the society.

The Lodge of Portlethen (established in 1993) has, over the last 29 years, raised and contributed thousands' to supporting local charities and those beyond. From food contributions to the 'Larder & Covid Support Portlethen and Surrounding Areas' to giving NHS Comfort Boxes to nurses and medical staff during the Covid Pandemic. From raising funds for the 'Mearns & Coastal Healthy Living Network' to (along with other Freemasons across Scotland) helping to raise over a million pounds to 'Prostate Scotland'.

All this was done by local Freemasons taking part in events such as Kiltwalks, Darts & Domino's Competitions, online 'Pub Quizzes' during Covid, sponsored Zip-Line across the River Garry in Perthshire, climbing Ben Nevis, hosting a Grand Ball, and generally wanting to help others and make the world a little brighter one step at a time.

So, it's not all about funny handshakes and rolled up trouser legs. It has a lot to do with being involved in the community and, along with a team of other good men, doing the best for those around us.

Oh, and the Ben Nevis trip?

Well, we finished off with a pint and a fine meal in Fort William afterwards, having had a fantastic day out, and celebrating that we'd raised nearly £4K in aid of local charities.

If you'd like to know more, please contact the Lodge of Portlethen Secretary at lodge1805@gmail.com

THE LARDER (PORTLETHEN AND SURROUNDING AREAS)



The Larder, based in the Porty Cabin, on Cookston Road in Portlethen, started as a result of the pandemic in March 2020 but almost three years later there is still a need for a Community Larder.



The Larder has a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, fridge and cupboard foods, toiletries, cleaning items and baby bits and pieces. We are run by a small group of volunteers and are open to anyone in the Portlethen and Surrounding Areas. We are open **Monday 6pm-8pm, Friday 2.30pm-4.30pm and Saturday 10am-12pm.**

The Larder can be used as a shop for a cash donation, or we like to accept swap items from your own cupboard. We also help and support local families and individuals that are struggling financially. The cost of living crisis is affecting everyone and The Larder is here to help with top up shopping. We have a Google form on our FaceBook page that can be completed so that anyone can place an order for items that they may be running short of. The QR Code attached will take you straight to the Google form to place the pre order for collection.

The Larder is registered with FareShare and we receive weekly items from Cfine that would otherwise be sent to landfill. These items vary greatly from week to week and we post a photograph update to FaceBook on a Friday morning. These items are for anyone to come in and help us reduce food waste and pop in a small donation if you can.



If you are a local business or a member of our local community and would like to help The Larder, donations of cash or food and essential items are always welcome. The Larder is funded by grants and cash donations, and we are always extremely grateful for any help our local community can give us. We are run by our community for our community.

Please pop into The Larder soon, whether we can help you or you can help us. We look forward to giving you a warm welcome and sharing The Larder with you.

The Larder Team

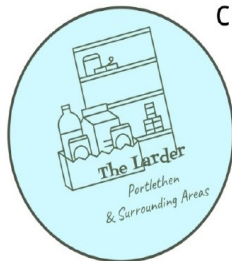
The Larder is based at The Porty Cabin and is available to anyone who could benefit with some help with reducing food costs.

SCAN HERE TO PLACE AN ORDER



[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/OB8P27
UAJIT8Q3ET5](https://forms.gle/Ob8P27UAJIT8Q3ET5)

You can email any enquiries to
c19portlethenhelp@gmail.com



@thelarderportlethen



Portlethen Medical Centre News Update

Staffing

There have been numerous changes to both clinical and admin staffing groups over the past year.

Dr Ewan Clark retired at the end of December 2021. **Dr Michelle Harper** and **Dr Rachael Hamilton** joined the partnership in January 2022. We have also employed 3 new salaried GPs during this past year- **Dr Melanie Edwards**, **Dr Moshood Masha** and more recently **Dr Teicia Ho**.

We continue to play an active role in teaching and training of medical students and doctors. We have had several medical students assigned to the practice over the past months and we currently have 3 doctors working the practice who are completing their training in general practice.

There have also been changes to the nursing and admin team, with retirements and the appointment of new staff.

Dr Jon Blake will be leaving the practice at the end of the year. Dr Blake has asked me to include this brief note in our news update.

"I recently heard a rumour that I am retiring which sounds lovely but alas I am too young and not rich enough! However, it is with mixed feelings that I will be leaving Portlethen Medical Centre at the end of December.

"I have been a partner at Portlethen for over 25 years and feel the time is right for me to do something different. My career at Portlethen has seen many changes and I have learned so much about General Practice, about people, about life and about myself. I have had the opportunity of working with some truly inspiring people and have been lucky enough to work with a wonderful population of patients.

"I would like to sincerely thank the patients and staff of Portlethen Medical Centre for their support and patience throughout my career. I will miss you all and send best wishes for the future."

Jon Blake

Covid Update

I am sure everyone is aware of how quickly things change when it comes to Covid. We continue to work hard to ensure we keep our patients and staff safe. The wearing of face masks is still recommended in health care settings and we would encourage you to continue to wear a mask when visiting the practice.

We are currently reviewing our access policies and we hope that by the time this article is published that access to the practice will be much less restrictive

than it has needed to be during the pandemic. Patients will still be reminded not to enter the practice if they are experiencing any Covid related symptoms. Arrangements are in place so patients can continue to be seen in a safe environment.

Patients with booked appointments will be encouraged to use the self service check in screen, leaving the front desk receptionist free to help patients with more complex queries. A queue management system will be in place.

In order to keep the footfall in the practice at safe levels we strongly encourage patients to telephone the practice to make appointments, request results and for any other patient requests. We will not be making appointment bookings at the front desk except for patients requesting review appointments following their consultation with the doctor.

Repeat Prescription Requests

Repeat prescription requests can be made in 2 ways. Patients can sign up for the online service (the reception staff can help you with this) or they can hand in the repeat prescription order form. There is a post box in the vestibule of the practice building. The safest and most efficient method of dealing with repeat prescriptions is the on line service and we would like to encourage patients to use this service whenever possible.

Repeat prescription requests require 3 days for processing. Please ensure you have an adequate supply of your medication at all times. Our admin staff are available to deal with prescription enquiries between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

Flu and Covid vaccinations

The booster programme for both vaccinations is well under way. If you are eligible for these vaccinations and have not yet arranged your appointment please do so at your earliest convenience. You can contact the vaccination team to arrange an appointment on 0330 128 9919



Christmas and New Year Opening hours

The practice will close for the Christmas holiday on Friday 23rd December at 6pm and re-open on Wednesday 28th December at 8.30am

We shall also close at 6pm on Friday 30th December and re-open on Wednesday 4th January at 8.30am.

Upgrade to Phone Lines

NHS Grampian has recently carried out some work on our phone lines. If you receive a call from 0300 373 0717 this could be the surgery trying to get in touch with you. This number will not accept incoming calls and if you miss it, you will need to call back on our usual switchboard number which is 0345 013 0720.



Councillor Catherine Victor

So this is my first article for the Clochandichter. I'll do my best to make it worth reading!

It seems a long time since May and the local elections, but they are still pretty fresh in my memory. I have to thank each and every one of you who voted to elect me as your representative in the Aberdeenshire Council. I am doing my best to get to know as many of you as I can and to get to know all about the area I represent. If you didn't vote for me, that doesn't matter, I am still here to answer your queries and help where I can. I would point out that there are four councillors for your area and each and every one of us has a responsibility to look after our ward and its residents.

Your Councillors are: Catherine Victor - SNP; David Aitkinson - SNP; Shirley Burnett - Conservative; Mel Sullivan - Lib Dem. We may all represent different political parties but when it comes to our constituency, we talk as one.

After the election, it has been a very steep learning curve. Lots of reading, pages and pages, but I'm getting the hang of that now. Lots of meetings to attend and that's ok, the best part though is working with you, the public, trying to help where I can. I can't say that I have moved mountains, but I have had a hand in a few areas of concern. All with help from other councillors and you, yourselves.

I managed to get an extension to the Chapelton-Newtonhill school bus, and we are working towards a permanent solution.

I sorted the furore on the after-school care for Hillside and that's now settled.

I had a site meeting for part of the South Deeside Road causing concern and that is ongoing. New surfacing and signage should be in place soon to alleviate the situation.

I attended a site meeting about the landslide at Newtonhill. Progress is being made there.

Various landscaping issues and road fixes in Portlethen have been addressed or are in the process of being addressed.

I attended the end of term Portlethen School concert in June. That was a highlight for me, such an abundance of talent in a school. Portlethen should be proud of their children.

By the time you read this, there will have been an open meeting in Portlethen Academy (17th November) to discuss the Taylor/Wimpey plans for 300 houses north of Thistle Drive. I do hope some of you managed to attend and voice your opinions on this.

I would also encourage anyone who is in any difficulty, no matter what it is, to please contact Aberdeenshire Council and ask for help. There is a lot of help there, you just need to ask. I was quite surprised, and very warmed to see just how much help is in place, they are ready and waiting to give a helping hand.

It is all ongoing. Visit my Facebook page for updates on road closures and other relevant news coming from the council.

I do hope that you have found this little article interesting and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any issues that I can maybe help you with. You can contact me on:

Cllr.c.victor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Contact your Local Councillor

David Aitchison - cllr.d.aitchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Shirley Burnett - cllr.s.burnett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Mel Sullivan - cllr.m.sullivan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Catherine Victor - cllr.c.victor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Portlethen Paths Development Group

After some successful years of operation, and with many notable successes around our community, it unfortunately became time to wind-up our small, but enthusiastic, group of volunteers. The good news, however, is that many of the activities of the group will continue, albeit in conjunction with the Portlethen Town Association.

As a reminder, here is a list of what the group has managed to achieve:

Supplying and installing ten benches in and around our community

Positive discussions with Landscape Services for additional play equipment (for all ages) to be installed in Nicol Park.

Organising the planting of 25 orchard trees in three locations around Portlethen

Sowing wildflower seeds in four locations around Portlethen (very successful and many positive comments from all)

Planting purple crocus bulbs on behalf of Portlethen and District Rotary - for World Polio Day

Keeping foliage, alongside paths, trimmed back in many locations around Portlethen.

Occasional litter picking around Portlethen.

I would like to thank each and every person that helped and supported our group over the years, and especially members of the community that came along to help out.



Our Portlethen

The Our Portlethen website, was set up by the Portlethen Town Association in conjunction with the Green Business Association and the PDCC (before they closed) . It was funded by Aberdeenshire Council using their Phoenix Fund set up during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The website is still live www.ourportlethen.co.uk and you can use it to find out what is available in the area. However, after a period of no updates to the website (call it a bedding-in period), a whole new series of revisions and new content is planned for the near future!. Please keep a look out for these upcoming changes!

Ken Watson

Portlethen's Best Garden Competition 2022

Back in the distant days of summer, when gardens were a-blooming, the Best Garden Competition shield was awarded to Debbie Nutten.



As in previous years, group members voted for their favourite garden.



Everyone was impressed with the riot of colour in Debbie's garden!



Congratulations to Debbie and Dad!!





Mike Lloyd-Wiggins

18th January 1959 - 23rd May 2022

Every now and again in life, you will come across a rather remarkable human being. In my case it was that quirky individual called Mike Lloyd-Wiggins.....or just plain Mike.

I first met Mike about 20 years ago when he joined the newly reformed community council. He was a very quiet man who didn't say much until he needed to, and always respected other peoples points of view. I have always had a saying that there are those who talk a good job, and the rest of us just get on and do it! Mike most definitely fell in to the latter category.

It was a bit of a shock to the system when he took over the role of secretary as I had been used to working with the late Bill Griffiths who crossed the l's, dotted the T's, and kept me informed of everything he was doing. Mike just **'Got on with it'**, in his quiet and efficient manner. Mike loved life, and would always involve himself in the community. Over the years this included serving on various PTAs, the Community Council, Gala Committee, Town Association, Jubilee Hall, Paths Group, as well as being an extremely active member of the Masonic Lodge. If I have left any out, I apologise, but the list is endless.

For those who didn't know Mike that well, it may surprise you to know that Mike had been seriously ill during the latter part of his life. He had developed a cancer in the Kidney, and waited 5 years for a replacement, during which time he underwent dialysis 3 times a week. He was given a new kidney on 17th October 2021. A few days later Mike posted the following message on facebook- *"It is working and my life will now change.....There is still a way to go, but let's look to the future."*

Mike was recovering well, and continued his involvement in the community, until he was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in late April. This was a massive blow to his wife Alison, his 3 daughters, and his friends and family who had been on the journey with him. He will be sadly missed by us all, and impossible to replace.

He was a selfless individual who always took the time to ask how you were getting on, regardless of what he was going through. He had an amazing sense of humour, and the photo opposite is how I will remember him. I am sure that he would have been very proud of his wife Alison, who has taken over as editor of the Clochandighter, and I wish her every success.

I will have fond memories of Mike....He was an inspiration to us all!!

Ron Sharp - Close friend and colleague





WHO WE ARE

We are a community of Christians who meet together to worship God, encourage and support each other in our day to day lives and share Jesus' loving care with groups in the Portlethen area



Mainly Music is a fun and interactive music programme for parents and caregivers to enjoy with their child from age 0 to 5 years of age. It meets on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 11.30am, consisting of 30 minutes of singing and rhymes followed by a snack, free play, and a chat for the big people! Cost is £3 per family per session. Please contact Pamela on 07748 756 281 for more details.

PORTY CRAFTS

Our craft group meets at the Porty Cabin, Portlethen. Come and enjoy some creativity in a relaxed setting, with fellow crafters to chat with, and a cuppa and cake into the evening. We invite you to take your own projects along, for example: knitting, sewing etc or your own project choice and on the first week of the month, Irene will lead our Card-making sessions, which are always enjoyed. We meet weekly from 7:00 - 9:00pm with a small fee towards costs per session. For more info, contact Frances on 07740 427 272.



Christmas Carol Service

We plan to hold a Christmas Carol Service behind the Portlethen Academy on the evening of Friday, 16 December. More details will be published and posted once they are confirmed.

SUNDAY SERVICES

We are using a combination of 'in person' attendance at ACF's Union Grove building every other week and for the alternate weeks we are meeting in home near Portlethen at 2.30pm for a watch service. You will be welcome to join us at either and details are contained in the PCF website (Portlethencf.com). This website also has links to the ACF site, and on the 'Let's Keep In Touch' page, you can sign-up for our weekly 'What's On' email.

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR ACTIVITES

WWW.PORTLETHENCF.COM / INFO@PORTLETHENCF.COM



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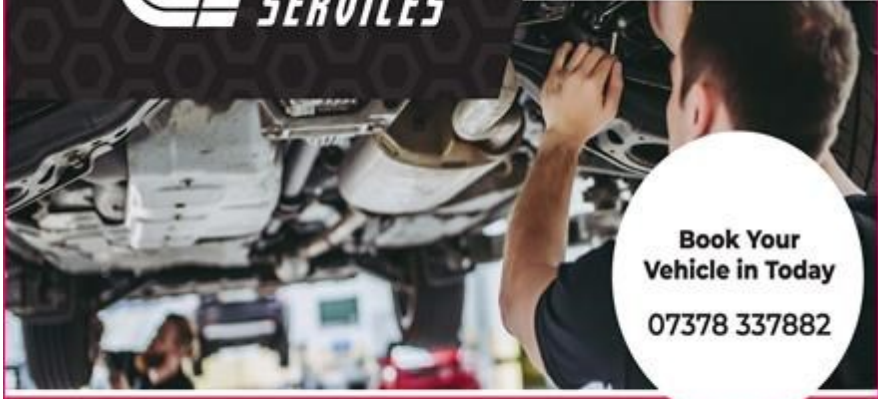


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Stonehaven
Tel: 01569 690541

Boutree Hall

Booking Secretary
Angelene McKay
Tel: 01224 782734

Boutree Pre-School Group

Boutree Hall
Berrymuir Road
Tel: 01224 782472

Family Resource Centre

Portlethen Academy
Bruntland Road
Tel: 01467 537111

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16 Dunvegan Avenue

Hillside School

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Audrey Nicoll MSP

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or email: audrey.nicoll.msp@parliament.scot
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