

# CLOCHANDIGHTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1987

ISSUE NO.54

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

May I start this article by thanking everyone involved with our public meeting concerning leisure facilities within Portlethen. I felt that we achieved a great deal that evening and we on the Community Council and Dr. Needham are convinced that, like us, you want the best for our town. Now we will just have to make it happen !

Unfortunately Caledon Park does not seem the way to go, because they have withdrawn their offer of £350,000 to be bonded with Kincardine & Deeside District Council. This would have been used as a basis for starting our wet/dry facility - but not now. Caledon Park seem to be backtracking to an indoor bowling rink backing on to the dual carriageway, access via car parks for their shop units ! This is not what you told us you wanted, so due to this and to the vacillation of Caledon Park we voted to oppose this development and await further planning proposals. Another developer may well be prepared to make us the offer which Caledon Park has withdrawn.

On a different track, I see that our new dental surgery is nearing completion - yet another welcome asset to our community. I hope that the time from now to the opening is not too long drawn out!

We have decided that the Annual General Meeting of the Council will be held on 4th March 1987 at 7.30 p.m. in the Primary School. As with our usual monthly meeting this is open to the public - so why not come along?

Tom Kay  
Chairman.

### MINI TRACTOR HIRE



#### D.I.Y GARDEN TRACTOR HIRE

£40.00 per day  
Turf Supplied from  
£1.80 per yd<sup>2</sup>  
Slabs supplied.

ALL GARDEN WORK CARRIED OUT - CHEAP RATES

TELEPHONE - 781520

Ki8A11.2

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

CALEDON PARK.

Caledon Park is an Edinburgh-based company wishing to build on part of Portlethen Moss just south of the main slip road into Portlethen. They approached the District Council a year ago with ideas for two huge retail warehouses, each almost as big as ASDA itself. The total area of the buildings would be 120,000 square feet. Apparently Allied Carpets and MFI, the do-it-yourself people linked with ASDA were interested.

We told Caledon in meetings in February that their planning application might find more favour if it included a comprehensive leisure facility acceptable to the community. The planning application was submitted in March and expanded to include a 70-bedroom hotel.

The application was advertised and attracted only one objection - from the City of Aberdeen, concerned with competition with its own shops. On that basis Grampian Region successfully persuaded the Secretary of State for Scotland that they, the Region, should determine the application as it could have a significant impact on Aberdeen.

Most of the Summer and Autumn were spent by the Region and developers on an impact study. The study itself finally emerged in late November, and in December the Regional Officials advised their members to approve the development subject to satisfactory agreement on a number of matters including roads and leisure facilities. Both the District and Portlethen Community Councils were to be consulted before a final decision in early February.

Over Christmas and the New Year the District Officials along with myself and John Dunn from the Community Council met with the developers, who made the offer to donate £350,000 towards a leisure complex anywhere in Portlethen if that was what the community wanted. This offer was received with enthusiasm by everyone at the public meeting on January 8th. There a unanimous preference was expressed for a phased swimming pool complex to be built in a more central location, such as the empty space next to the bowling green. The Caledon Park site is the wrong place for a leisure centre and, because of its boggy nature, a swimming pool there would cost twice as much to build.

When the District Council met with the Region the following day our officials who were present at the public meeting were able to say that the clear preference was to accept the £350,000 and use it to build a swimming pool nearer the centre of Portlethen.

Having secured District Council and community support for their warehouse, hotel and leisure centre proposals Caledon Park then wrote to the Chief Executive of the District Council on January 13th withdrawing their offer of £350,000 and insisting that they want to spend the money themselves on some ill-defined facility nobody wants, on their own site.

I share the / sha  
practice. The community has been led up the garden path. I am not surprised that the Community Council feels badly let down by Caledon Park and is now opposing the whole development. Caledon Park must come up with a better proposition for Portlethen before I or the Community Council can recommend it to Grampian Region for acceptance.

Ted Needham  
District Councillor.

DONALDS BUTCHER SHOP

OUR NEW MANAGER AIMS TO PLEASE

This Months Special Offers:

BRISKET            £1.40 per lb.  
DICED PORK        £1.20 per lb.

MUMS: Never mind the bad weather, give us a call and we'll deliver!

Open: 8.30 - 5.30 Tuesday to Friday  
          8.30 - 12.45 Monday and Saturday                      Telephone 780381

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

A branch of the R.N.L.I. was formed recently in Portlethen. The aim is to raise money for the work done by the R.N.L.I. from various events including a door-door collection.

However, more members are needed to help get the Branch going and make it successful. Only one or two meetings per year are needed so it is not too time consuming. If you are interested or want further details of the organisation please contact:-

Anne McNab  
Hon. Secretary.

Aberdeenshire



2136844

KINCARDINE & DISTRICT CONSTITUENCY

ALICK BUCHANAN-SMITH M.P. holds regular surgeries for private interviews with constituents who may want to consult him. For information about his program please contact the Constituency Office, 8, Robert Street, Stonehaven, AB3 2 Telephone Stonehaven 62785.

Constituents wanting to write to Mr. Buchanan-Smith should address letters to him at: House of Commons, Westminster, London. SW1A 0AA

Thanks are due to many for the kindness shown to the Sick, Disabled and Pensioners in Portlethen during the Festive Season. I speak from experience; because of age I was included within this bracket, but have heard from others who have benefitted in other ways.

I acknowledge with thanks the food parcel received during Old Folks Week from the pupils of Portlethen Primary School. In doing so the generosity of the parents who donated the food and the extra work done by the teaching staff in making up and delivering the parcels are very much in my mind, but of course the greatest joy was in the box itself, which was covered in coloured paper and decorated with a variety of hand-made motifs, beautifully made; the thought of the care and attention to detail brought tears to my eyes. Thank you one and all.

Another delight was the Leathen Arms Pensioners Party. Having organised many events in Portlethen I can appreciate the mammoth task of feeding and entertaining over 70 pensioners, with limited kitchen facilities. However special mention must be made of all who made it possible: The committee, who extended the invitations and gave us such a superb evening; the Chefs, Ronnie and Connie, who produced a menu of star quality, four courses plus tea or coffee served with style and aplomb by experienced and voluntary staff which was of the highest standard: the kitchen staff, in the background but not forgotten; and the volunteer drivers, who did a wonderful job in finding us all and taking us home again after the party; but, as usual, without the generosity of the Leathen Arms patrons who donated the funds and the participation of Mr. Clark the proprietor, who made us all feel so special, this event would have been a non-starter. Once again my thanks to all who contributed in any way to the pleasures enjoyed by me and by many others throughout the Festive Season.

We have, on the other hand, encountered a despicable thief who stole a 16lb. ham left to cool in the kitchen of the Leathen Arms on the day before the party. If any information can be given about the sneak-thief to the Police - and proved - a £10 reward will be given, by me.

Mrs. Hippisley,  
Zummerdene,  
Portlethen.

DENNIS ROBERTSON

WINDOWS CLEANED  
FORTNIGHTLY OR MONTHLY  
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Tel: Newtonhill (92) 30830

**MR. CHARLES W. ADAMS**

41 FITTICK PLACE  
COVE BAY  
ABERDEEN  
AB1 4PB  
TELEPHONE 0224 897255



**MATHEMATICS AND ARITHMETIC TUTOR**

J. D. B. BUILDING SERVICES  
23, THISTLE DRIVE, PORTLETHEN  
Telephone: Aberdeen 782269

-----  
All types of Joinery, Plumbing, Electrical and Brickwork  
Undertaken

-----  
Conversions, Dormers, Fences, Walls

-----  
Sash and Casement Window Maintenance  
a Speciality  
-----

PORTLETHEN CHURCH WOMAN'S GUILD

- Feb. 2nd. Informal evening
- Feb. 16th. Talk on Israel - Mrs. I. Christie
- Mar. 2nd. Informal evening and talk on visit to South Africa by Mrs. M. Donaldson
- Mar. 6th. World Day of Prayer - Service in Church at 7.30 p.m.
- Mar. 16th. Coffee evening
- Apr. 6th. Vegetarian Cookery - Mrs. S. Barclay
- Apr. 20th. Annual General Meeting

The Guild meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Donaldson Lounge of the Church. New members are always welcome, especial newcomers to the community.

Anne McNab  
Secretary

LEISURE CENTRE ?

May I take this opportunity to thank all who attended and participated in the meeting in the pavilion on Thursday, 8th January.

I do not propose to dwell on the ins and outs of the Caledon Park application, suffice to say it has concentrated people's minds on the problem of leisure and sports facilities in Portlethen.

I would like to suggest that we as a community do not lose the interest and impetus which has now been raised; in fact we should be pushing for what we want even harder. We are, after all, only a few souls less than Stonehaven, and I don't need to remind you of the facilities to which they have access!! Let us look on the positive side and distill our leisure requirements, wet and dry, into sensible, constructive demands which councils, commercial operators or anyone else will find it impossible to ignore.


I am well aware that there is a strong demand locally for a pool, and I can well understand this, but let us look at this sensibly and ask ourselves the following questions: How many times a week do you or would you swim? How many lengths do you swim? Would you be prepared to donate £5 per week for five imaginary swims in our imaginary pool?

While I would be delighted to discover that we have a large undiscovered swimming group in Portlethen I somehow feel that most people fall into my own category and go to the pool for some light exercise and fun with the children. So what I am suggesting is that what we require is a fun water facility which can accommodate about fifty people at any one session but one which has a non-regular shape, underwater lighting, fun chutes, bubble curtains etc. etc.

A very important factor is that the operating costs of a fun facility are considerably less than, perhaps as much as half those of, a small 'conventional' pool, depending on usage, design, heat recovery etc.

AIRPORTS CONTRACTS  
PRE ARRANGED BOOKINGS WELCOME

**PORTLETHEN  
TAXI SERVICE**

  
**781515**

Prop : Mr M KELLY DAY & NIGHT HIRE

**CUDDLES**

**HAIR SALON**

**Rowanbank Road  
Portlethen  
Telephone. 780109**

**HORTICO**

For all your gardening requirements

- Rotavating
- Landscaping
- General Gardening
- Fencing, walls & Paving

Prompt attention  
Competitive Prices



**TEL: 781249**

**LOCAL CARPET FITTER**

**OLD AND NEW WORK  
UNDERTAKEN**

**Telephone 780442**

PORTLETHEN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Following the retirement of the Minister any need for pastoral care at present should be communicated to the Interim Moderator, Rev. David Simpson, Maryculter Aberdeen, Tel: 733120, or the Session Clerk, Thos. A. McNaught, 12, Sanderlin Court, Newtonhill (Tel: Newtonhill 30419). 30149

On the dry side I feel there is a huge demand for indoor space which because the peculiarities of G.R.C.'s letting policy will not be adequately met by the new Academy. For example, where do you play indoor sport during the day in Portlethen? - or during school holidays?

The answer is that while the Jubilee Hall does a valiant job it simply cannot cope, and people go to Aberdeen or Stonehaven and have to compete for time and space with people from both.

Make no mistake about it, we will have to fight, and fight hard, to get the facilities we want, so we must get together and make sure that local authorities and commercial operators know that we are taking this very seriously, if we are not to be fobbed off with worse than useless facilities or none at all !!

Any member of the Community Council will be delighted to have the views of groups or of individuals on leisure facilities, so come on lets hear from you

John Dunn

FINDON GARAGE

G. OFFICER

Blackhill Farm, Findon

M. O. T. Preparation  
Service & Repairs

Telephone 734185

**RMT MACHINE  
TOOLS LTD**  
MACHINES FOR YOUR WORKSHOP

Portlethen's One-Stop Machinery Shop

Hillside, Portlethen

Telephone 780874

LETHEN AUTOBODY

REPAIRS

Now Open

With Full Accident Damage Equipment

Also

Custom Built Spray Booth

Specialists in Metallic Paint Work - Colour Matching Guaranteed  
also Full Resprays

Insurance or Private Work Undertaken

We will estimate your car at your home or at the address below

Free of Charge

Very Competitive Rates

Bridgend, Downies Road, Portlethen.

Telephone 782444

LETHEN MOTORS

Bridge End, Downies Road, Portlethen.

Telephone 781158

Open: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

M. O. T. Testing - The ONLY Testing Station in Portlethen

All our work is carried out to very high standard  
at very competitive rates

We do all kinds of mechanical/M. O. T. work on all types of  
British and Continental cars, Light Commercial and Diesel Vehicles  
Land Rover Available for Recovery

We operate Collection/Delivery for all customers if required

If you are dissatisfied with your present garage then trust the best

Ring George or Ian on 781158 for prompt attention

LEATHEN ARMS

BAR AND LOUNGE

Monday to Saturday: 11.00 a.m. to Midnight

Sunday: 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

Bar Lunches served daily except Sunday

Snacks Available

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We enjoyed our Christmas Lunch and Party on December 17th. During the festivities we took the opportunity of thanking three ladies who have done a great deal for the Club over many years, and who are now to enjoy a well-earned rest. Mrs. L. Stewart, who founded the Club, has been a caring and enthusiastic President for eleven years. Mrs. N. Keith, a hard-working Treasurer, has organised Sales and various activities and has brought the Club's finances to a healthy state. Mrs. F. Milne, on whom we have relied for many years to produce "a good cup of tea", has made our afternoon teas very enjoyable. These three ladies were presented with gifts to show appreciation of their service to the Club.

The newly elected Committee is: Mrs. J. Nicoll, Mrs. I. Mowat, Mrs. R. Stewart and Mrs. N. Duncan.

Our new session starts on January 14th. We are mainly retired people, and meet on Wednesdays in the Community Centre from 2.00 until 4.00 p.m. to enjoy a cup of tea, a chat and an informal game of cards, dominoes or a board game. Our next event will be a Burns Lunch at the end of January. New members are welcome at any time - just come along to the Community Centre on Wednesday at 2.00 p.m.

J. N.

M. O. T. WHILE YOU WAIT

CAMMACHMORE MOTORS, NEWTONHILL

For all types of Repair, Servicing  
Paint Spraying, Insurance Work  
Tyre and Battery Sales, Trailer Hire  
Car Sales

Open 7 Days

Telephone Newtonhill 30592

LANDSCAPING

All Types of Concrete Work

Construction - Walls - Fencing  
Patios - Paths - Garage Floors  
Rockeries - Water Displays  
Lawns - Tree Work etc.

Phone 781520 for Free Estimate

781499

Competitive Taxi Fares - No Extras

781499

C  
O  
U  
R  
I  
E  
RMAXI TAXI PORTLETHEN**781499**A  
I  
R  
P  
O  
R  
T

LONG OR SHORT DISTANCE - DAY AND NIGHT SERVICE

ALL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

We don't promise 24-hour service  
WE DO KEEP OUR PROMISESPORTLETHEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A.G.M. will be held in Portlethen Primary School at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th, when the main business on the agenda will be the election of nine councillors to replace retiring members. There are five vacancies for Portlethen Station and one each for Bourtreebush, Downies, Findon and Hillside. For those wishing to stand, nomination forms are available at the Library and these should be returned by 18th February either to the Library or directly to the secretary, Terry Kennedy, 4, Findon Road, Findon. All members of the public, whether or not standing for election, cordially invited to attend.

WITCHAMNDIGHTER

Outgoing contributors are reminded that items for inclusion in the next issue should be left at the Library or with Ye Ed. by Tuesday, 24th March 1987.

D.J. ELECTRICIAN

All Electrical and Plumbing  
Work Undertaken  
Extra Sockets, Lights, Showers  
Extensions  
Reasonable Rates - No Job Too Small  
For Free Quotation telephone 780958

COLIN LOUTH

Joinery Services

For Free Quotations and  
Reasonable Rates

Telephone: (Daytime) 780958  
(Evenings) 781969

FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Wedding Flowers, Bouquets and Floral  
Arrangements made to order

also

Good Selection of Plants for Sale  
at 2, Rowanbank Road

Telephone 780683

JPhotographics  
for portrait  
and  
wedding photography

tel:-

Newmachar 2603