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EDITION 116 - June 2023



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Editorial

Well, hello there, and welcome to the summer edition of the Clochandighter. As I write this, on Coronation Bank Holiday, we are encouraged to volunteer, to help others. What better time then, to mention the **Portlethen Volunteering Group**? So many of Portlethen's events are run solely by volunteers, are not-for-profit, and all funds raised go back into community non-profit projects. This new group was formed to co-ordinate local people who want to help out, with those who need such help.



Councillor Victor tells us in her article about the progress of reviving the Portlethen and District Community Council (PDCC) - which is volunteer-run. The Portlethen Town Association (PTA) is also volunteer-run, as are the Clochandighter, the Jubilee Hall, the Portlethen Gala, the Porty Christmas Tree (collecting, planting, and decorating), sourcing and installation of the Christmas lights, the Porty Santa-Run, the Community Larder, the Community Ambulance, the list goes on...including many of the organisations represented here in the Cloch...all run by volunteers. There are so many opportunities to get involved, do something worthwhile and make good friends along the way. If you feel you can spare a little time assisting with future community events, you can contact the Portlethen Volunteering Group via their Facebook page.



In July, we say Goodbye to two stalwarts of the Portlethen Community. After six years in office, the **Reverend Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal**'s time as Minister of the Parish Church will come to an end, and he and his family will be leaving Portlethen. Also, **Mrs. Sandra McKechnie** will be leaving Portlethen School in the hands of her colleague, Mrs. Christina Hardie. I am sure the community will join me in thanking them both for all their hard work, and wishing them well as they move on to pastures new.

The **Portlethen Gala** will be held this year on 12th August, in the grounds of the Academy and Bourtree Park, so don't forget the date! With so many attractions, stalls, a variety of food providers, and entertainment, there's sure to be something for everyone. Let's hope for good weather!

...talking of which, I must give thanks to Lisastocks19 for the cover photo, which is the view looking towards Findon from the Old Coast Road - on a lovely sunny day (doesn't it look hot?). As Lisa says, Portlethen is not such a bad place to live, is it?



Alison Lloyd-Wiggins, Editor

Email the Clochandighter on
clochandighter.editor@gmail.com



News from Portlethen Dental Care

Refurbishment

We are thrilled to be nearing the end of our recent refurbishment, and very excited to share it with you all. We have come a long way since Geoff purchased the practice in 2011 with two rooms and 3000 patients. On completion of the current works, we will have 7 surgeries operating, 2 new offices, a treatment coordination room and new reception area, and 18,000 patients registered with us. We are grateful to all our patients and staff for their patience and forbearance throughout these works. We were determined to stay open and keep providing a service even in the face of some challenging unforeseen developments. Well done everyone, it will be well worth it in the end! We would like to thank Keith Monro our fabulous joiner and Stevie Gibb who took care of the plumbing and electrical works.

New Staff

More surgeries mean more staff. We were delighted to welcome Dr. Willy Chang, dentist and Uchechi Obi, Dental therapist. We were also very pleased to welcome back Dr. Rohan MacRae from maternity leave. In the coming months, we will be introducing more new faces.

NHS Care

NHS dentistry has come under unprecedented pressure in recent years. Here at PDC, we recognise the importance of NHS care in our community and are working hard to maximise availability. As a result of recent works, we can offer almost 5000 spaces for new NHS registration, and we would encourage you to get in touch if you have not seen a dentist in a while, and we can arrange an appointment with one of our new NHS dentists or therapists.

Implants @ PDC

Our implant team, led by Dr. Geoff Gordon has placed 1700 implants in the last 2 years alone. We offer everything from single implant restorations to full mouth reconstructions.

We hear all the time from patients how an implant has changed their lives, and if you are struggling with function or appearance as a result of a missing tooth or teeth, we would encourage you to ask about this treatment option.

Our implant therapist Hannah Rennie is highly experienced in the care of dental implants and complex reconstructions. We can help you look after the implants whether new or old.

Cosmetic Dentistry @ PDC

Dr. Anthony Dagnall, Dr. Ruaidhri McKinnon and our cosmetic team offer a wide range of cosmetic dentistry to improve the appearance of your teeth. From composite bonding which can transform your smile within a day, to ultra-thin veneers, and Invisalign or braces to align crooked teeth, there are many options available for patients seeking a smile makeover.

New Technology

We pride ourselves on being at the cutting edge of modern dentistry. On site, we now have a state-of-the-art digital Dental laboratory, CT scanner and x-ray room, and a new central decontamination unit. Our intraoral scanners totally avoid the need for impressions. By creating a 3D image of your mouth in just a few seconds, we can print your restoration or model.

Our lab is kitted out with some exciting equipment. We have a 3D printer which can produce dentures, retainers, and crowns on the same day that you are seen by your dentist. We have also introduced a dental milling unit that can mill crowns, veneers and implant restorations onsite, in many cases, avoiding the need for multiple appointments.

Our state-of-the-art premises, and our accomplished team, allow us to offer a full range of treatments for those wishing to look after and enhance their smile. From NHS care, to competitively priced private options which incorporate monthly plans and 0% finance, we aim to meet all of our patients' needs.

BINGO

Portlethen Town Association
Cash Bingo

10 Games for £10

Tickets in advance from:
Portlethen's Place to Eat
(Open Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 3pm)
or Fine Piece Cafe
(Wednesday 10am - 12pm)

DATE: LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH*
TIME: 2PM - 4PM
LOCATION: JUBILEE HALL, PORTLETHEN

CASH PRIZES!

A percentage of the funds raised will
be donated to the Portlethen Town
Association Christmas Light Fund

Subject to Ticket Sales

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865 (Portlethen) Squadron

All Go For 865 (Portlethen) Squadron!

2023 has been a very busy year for 865 (Portlethen) Squadron so far!

In February, the squadron travelled up to RAF Lossiemouth for a training weekend with other squadrons in the Aberdeen area. Cadets took part in a variety of courses, including Bronze First Aid, Radio and Air Rifle shooting. They even paid a visit to the RAF Regiment where they got a presentation on the history of the regiment, and had fun with various stations set up for the cadets, such as a police search demonstration and practical exercise, a leadership and teambuilding exercise, and a look at some of the equipment used by the regiment.

Some 865 (Portlethen) Squadron cadets were also lucky enough to pay a visit to Bristow Helicopters in Aberdeen, to learn more about being a pilot, engineer, and many other careers the company has to offer. The cadets even got a flight in their state-of-the-art Helicopter Flight Simulator. This was a fantastic opportunity for the cadets to learn more about the field of aviation and possible future careers!



Since the start of spring, 865 (Portlethen) Squadron has also begun its Lowland walks again. The first walk took place in the grounds of Crathes Castle, and allowed the cadets to develop their navigation and map-reading skills. The second walk took place at Bennachie, where the cadets successfully climbed to the highest point of the hill, despite the very windy weather!

April saw 3 Cadets from 865 travel down to 661 VGS (RAF Kirknewton) for some gliding! Upon arrival, the cadets got a tour of the hanger and an up-close look at the gliders, followed by a shot in their glider flight simulator due to the unsuitable weather. However after the weather cleared up, all 3 cadets had a launch in the glider, and the experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

If you are interested in joining the Squadron, either as a cadet or a member of staff, then please contact us on:

865@rafac.mod.gov.uk



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Gala: We've been busy in the background organising this year's Portlethen Gala, which will be held in the grounds of Portlethen Academy. This year we will have the Scouts on the BBQ, The Leathan for the Bar, Café 2 U, Sally's Cakes, Inflatables, Rickshaw Rides, Fine Piece Café, Newtonhill Pipe Band and so much more! Please see the posters and banners around the town for further details. Any profit

that the gala makes this year will be distributed back into our community. There have been just the 8 of us to organise the gala this year, so if you'd like to get involved, do send us a message on Facebook or you can give me a call on 07812 574305.



Bingo: Town Association Community Cash Bingo has been running since February 2023, and is at the Jubilee Hall on the last Sunday of the month. It's on from 2pm to 4pm and the Fine Piece Café is there with its tasty treats too. Cash prizes range from £2.50 to £60 (dependent on ticket sales). Tickets can be purchased in advance from the Fine Piece Café or Portlethen's Place To Eat when they're open. So far, we've raised over £140 towards the refurbishment of some Christmas lights. Thanks to everyone that has come and please share with anyone you think might like a game of Bingo.



Memorial Bench: The memorial bench for our town's friend Mike Lloyd-Wiggins is now in place at the end of Myrtle terrace/Moss entrance. The bench is somewhere anyone can sit and take in the breath-taking views of our Moss, maybe reminisce, and have some quite time. This is a small tribute to all the work that Mike did and his achievements in helping our community and residents.

Daren Robertson, Chair, Portlethen Town Association

Portlethen's Best Garden Competition:

For the fourth year in a row, we will soon be asking for gardeners to send in their photos to the Portlethen's Best Garden Competition Facebook Group, so please start thinking now about any little projects you may have for the summer! It doesn't have to be some awesome-looking Chelsea Garden submission, and you really don't have to be Alan Titchmarsh or Monty Don to send something in - simply send in some photos to the Facebook Group and our local panel of judges will make their choice!

Here's a reminder of the worthy winners from the past three years:

Kirstin Cruikshank
2020



Marion Porteous
2021



Debbie Nutten
2022



Wildflowers

By the time you receive this magazine, the four patches for wildflowers, at Muirend Road, Bruntland Road, Easter Drive and "The Long Path", will have had their wildflower seeds scattered! Then by July, there should be a beautiful riot of colour benefitting our wildlife, as well as putting a smile on everyone's face as they pass by!

Thanks once again to Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Services for preparing the ground.



A few years ago, in 2020, as part of the Aberdeenshire Town Centre Phoenix Fund initiative during the Covid Pandemic, a website was created and developed featuring all aspects of our Town:

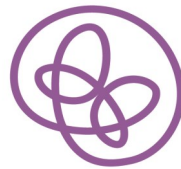
OurPortlethen.co.uk

The website was designed by an Aberdeen-based company, but since then, the running has been embraced by "local hands". This means that any suggested improvements can be made swiftly (and at no cost)!

Various requests for information, and for updates, have been made on local Facebook Groups, which has been quite an efficient method, however more suggestions are always welcome. *(Ed: don't forget to let us know about any updates to your business or organisation.)*

One of the most recent changes to the website has been to include digital versions of this magazine! The upload of the Clochandighiter has meant that anyone that has, for whatever reason, missed out on receiving an actual paper magazine can still catch up on local news (as well as all our local advertisers). Please rest assured though that there are still 4,200 magazines getting delivered - one to every (or almost every) residence in Portlethen and District!

Ken Watson, Portlethen Town Association



Change

Heritage

Strength & Unity

Unending

Clochandighter Accounts

Transactions in the quarter to 30th April 2023

	Credit	Debit	Balance
Balance b/fwd.			£4,903.28
Advertisers	£4,313.00		£9,216.28
Printing costs		-£3,490.00	£5,726.28
Tree light repairs		-£689.15	£5,037.13
Academy Defib installation		-£305.50	£4,721.63

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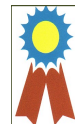
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Portlethen Moss Conservation Group



**Registered Scottish Charity No –
SC040350**

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

Our Group's Projects - Portlethen Moss and Portlethen Community Woodland

Portlethen Moss – Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS)

At the time of writing this article (April), the frogs had been busy laying spawn since February. The peatland restoration work we've carried out helps to provide more habitat for our resident amphibians.

Some of you may have noticed the work we've been doing at the triangle on the edge of the moss on Broomfield Road, where we've planted lots of bulbs and native plants that thrive in the wet peaty soil there. We also planted some lovely wild roses and honeysuckle which will hopefully grow along the fence. The plants were all gifted to the group by the Greenspace Aberdeenshire project.

Sadly, the youths are back destroying an area where they're cutting down trees, building fires and leaving lots of litter. They have been approached and the police are aware.

Community Woodland

Along with our Aberdeenshire Council Ranger, we've been busy in the woodland over winter. The Council made repairs to the gate at the cemetery that leads into the woodland. We've planted up the new planter at the entrance from the church carpark into the woodland, with lots of lovely herbs, wild strawberries and a few primroses to attract early pollinators.



Two new signs, at the new wildlife garden area, have been installed thanks to our Ranger and Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services.

The local scout group, at time of writing, are helping by preparing old wooden logs for the bug mansion.

We planted some wild roses, climbing plants, lots of wildflower plugs and seed bombs at a Ranger event in April. Hopefully there will be a nice display there in the coming months. The gateposts at the main entrance have seen better days, the Council has been notified that they need replacing.



Over the summer months, our group will be holding maintenance sessions on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:30pm, they will be spread between the woodland and moss sites.

If you'd like to help, please check our Facebook pages where we'll post information about which site we will be working on month by month.

New Community Garden (Garden on the Green)

The survey has now closed, we'd like to thank everyone who took the time to complete it and for your positive responses. Planning continues in the background, and it will be some time before any works commence. Thanks to everyone who has shown an interest in being involved in this new and exciting community project.

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.

Being a group member is neither onerous or time consuming, we have 'hands on' events throughout the year that everyone is welcome to take part in. 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. <https://www.facebook.com/portlethenmoss>

Please help us raise funds for these projects each time you shop online, at no cost to you whatsoever

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/portlethenmossconservationgroup>

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Dangers to Hedgehogs - is your garden a safe place for them?

Check overgrown areas, many hedgehogs are killed every year because of strimmer injuries!



All types of netting needs to be up off the ground. hedgehogs quickly become entangled and its impossible for them to break free!



Cover open drains and holes, hedgehogs easily fall down & become trapped!



Hedgehogs will drown if they can't find a way out of ponds, have shallow areas or ramps.



www.facebook.com/HedgehogsofPortlethen

Saving Our Endangered Hedgehogs

By June hedgehog breeding season is well under way. Mothers alone will build the nursery nest and raise the hoglets. By 6 weeks old they will start to venture out on little foraging trips with mum and by 8 weeks the hoglets will venture off to start their own solitary independent lives, mums will often go on to have a second brood.

Over summer, if you're planning any garden projects, check carefully before you remove an old shed or pile of rubbish because there's a chance that a hedgehog could have made a nest underneath. They're very secretive and will nest in the most unexpected places, nests are often disturbed because people had no idea they were there.

If you do accidentally disturb a nest, cover it back over right away and observe from a distance. A mother can react very badly to being disturbed, and may abandon or even kill her hoglets especially if they are very young. Call us for advice.

Important info at a glance:

Hedgehogs need rescuing ASAP if seen out in the day when:

Lying around in the sun – hedgehogs do not sunbathe

On roads or pavements, wobbling or circling

Being pecked by birds

Surrounded by flies

Caught in netting

Found locked in a shed or garage etc

Fallen down a hole and become trapped

Allow hedgehogs into your garden, they

need access to a large number of mixed habitats, they do no harm, in fact they are the gardener's friend.

Always provide a shallow bowl of water – keep it topped up – water is life

They will thank you for a bowl of kitten kibble and or some wet cat or dog food



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 and Garden has been open to our members again since the beginning of the year. We are open to anyone who wishes to come along and see what The Shed does. **Our opening hours are Monday and Friday from 10am to 1pm, and Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. Check out our Facebook page for more details.** We are located on Cookston Road opposite the Police Station. Whether you wish to be actively involved 2 or 3 times a week or just occasionally, you will be made welcome.

We have recently significantly increased our workspace with the addition of an outside workshop, and this is allowing more members to work on more projects at the same time. We have been able to complete many projects faster than expected due to the extra workspace.

The members continue to respond to requests from the local community. These range from garden planters, garden benches, garden furniture and other smaller items. The Shed is happy to repair or refurbish your garden furniture



Members assembling planters in the outside workshop



Members admiring the spruced up front garden

so just let us know what you need. We recently started work on a request from Lethen Park Nursing Home for raised planters so that the residents could access them from wheelchairs. The gardeners in our Shed have been busy too. All our pots and plants are done, seeds planted, and we even found space for a crop of potatoes. The front garden has had a tidy up too.

We continue to maintain links with local schools and community groups. We are about to start work with the local Scouts to help them complete one of their projects. So, should you wish the members to make you an item, or if you have a project you would like us to assist with, please get in touch and we can discuss your requirements.

If you wish to join the Portlethen & District Men's Shed, please contact the email address below and ask for a Membership Form. If you wish to make a donation to Portlethen & District Men's Shed of timber or tools, please get in touch. We can arrange collection of your donations.

Come along for a blether and learn more about how to get involved. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or need assistance.

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Hillside School and Nursery



It has been a very busy term so far at Hillside School!

With the improving weather, many of our classes have been using our outdoor space as a context for learning. This has included things such as Art work, PE lessons and Community Walks. Many of our classes have school trips arranged for this term, with some going to the Aberdeen Science Centre.



Our P7s will also be going to Dalguise Outdoor Centre! At Dalguise, they will be taking part in a range of exciting outdoor adventures.

In other exciting news....a team of P6s from Hillside School has qualified for the final of the 'Euroquiz'. This will take place in Edinburgh in June, and they will compete against schools across Scotland, answering questions about Europe. This is very exciting news indeed!



Coronation celebrations took place across 2nd-5th May. From Nursery- P7 our pupils were learning about this historic event, were involved in an Art project and even had a 'Street Party' with their classmates.

We look forward to the term ahead.

Lesley-Anne Munro

HEAD TEACHER (Job share Monday-Wednesday)

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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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A key focus for schools is to prepare learners for their future pathways and the transition into the world of work. At **Fishermoss School** we are always looking for opportunities for our pupils to develop skills for learning, skills for life, and skills for work.

Primary 7 experienced a face-to-face Employability Workshop led by Pam Cumming from the University of Aberdeen, with a focus on careers and the skills required. **Primary 5** also experienced a workshop delivered by Pam on Marketing, as part of their class project on Charlie & the Chocolate Factory, where the class created their own chocolate bars and were keen to develop skills to help market them!

Primary 6 joined a live interview with the first British astronaut Helen Sharmar and a future astronaut based in the North of Scotland. They discussed what life was like in the International Space Station and what the future for space travel held. The pupils found out more about jobs related to the space industry both here on Earth and ones which involved space travel. Another great opportunity to Develop the Young Workforce!

Primary 3/4 enjoyed having an Aberdeenshire farmer visit them from the Royal Northern Countryside Initiative (RNCI) in collaboration with the Royal Highland Educational Trust (RHET). She talked about different types of farms in Aberdeenshire, and brought in props for the class to explore to help them understand more about daily life on a mixed farm. The class was interested to meet a farmer and to be able to ask questions! Pupils often associate farmers with males, so it was important to share that there are other farmers!

Primary 6 featured in Aberdeen University's News!....."Pupils develop their political, environmental and employability skills during university visit..... Primary six 1495 pupils from an Aberdeenshire school were on campus in Old Aberdeen this week discovering what student life could be like and how what is learned in the classroom relates to real life."



UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

The youngsters from Fishermoss Primary heard from Dr. Samantha May, lecturer in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the School of Social Sciences, who helped them understand the basics of Scotland's political structure and how policies influence our everyday lives.

They visited the Zoology building and met with Dr. Elizabeth Campbell, School Education and Outreach Officer for the School of Biological Sciences, who spoke to them about science and the environment; and they heard about climate change from Dr. William Harcourt from the School of Geosciences.

Pupils then got a chance to tour the fluids laboratory at the School of Engineering's Meston building with Dr Mark Stewart and ,then get up close to the TAU Racing car. They also heard from students about what campus life is like, and took part in an employability workshop, encouraging them to think about some of the communication and interpersonal skills that are needed at college, university and in the world of work.

Pam Cumming, Schools Engagement Officer for the Business School, who organised the visit, said: "This is the latest event in a long-standing relationship we have with Fishermoss Primary, through which we work with the next generation of young minds to enthuse and inspire them about both the world around them and their future career choices. They were a fantastic group and we were delighted to be able to give them a flavour of what we teach at the University, and the breadth of opportunities available to them."

Fiona McRae, P6 teacher, said: "The pupils had a great visit to the University. It was so informative and included so many different areas, with a great emphasis on the relevance to everyday life and future careers. The insight into university life and studies has also given the children inspiration for the future, and some have already decided what they would like to study. It was an enjoyable day with something for everyone."

Margaret Ferguson, Head Teacher



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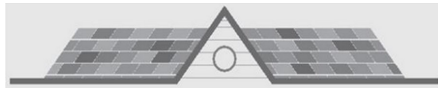
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Portlethen School News

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Bronze Award

The children and staff have enjoyed some fantastic, fun learning experiences since the last Cloch. It has become customary in the summer term, for our Porty Junior Reporters to report the latest news from Porty headquarters. *Ed: Unfortunately, space does not permit their lovely full reports, so here is a synopsis:*

Easter Bonnet Parade

I liked the parade when there was music and I got to dance around; I liked walking and dancing in the parade; My favourite thing was walking around people.

By Owen, Lexi and Emilia, Primary 1A

World Book Day

On World Book Day my class learned a poem by Julia Donaldson. We got to dress up as our favourite character from a book. I loved it.

By Remi, Primary 1/2C

Red Nose Day

On Red Nose Day, 17th March 2023, people donated money to children that are poor and have no money. P2/3LI organised a talent show on Red Nose Day and it was fun. We raised £105.50! Yay!

By Abi, Primary 2/3LI

Badminton Taster Sessions

My favourite thing about badminton is that we worked with a partner in groups. I really loved badminton and helping people play.

By Harper, Primary 3B

I would try badminton again and I hope to be the best badminton player.

By Filip, Primary 3B

Children in Need

On 18th November 2022, P4V worked as a team to raise money for Children in Need. The theme was Spotacular. We played games in the hall, held a 'dress as you please', and did an assembly. Afterwards we felt very proud! In total we raised more than £200!

By Lara and Tobi, Primary 4V

Battlescar Viking Workshop

On 22nd February we had a visit from Battlescar. This was a workshop about Vikings from Yan the Viking.

By Ava, Harry, Lena and Lyle, Primary 4/5RT

Reading Schools

Our buddy class is P1/2C and together, we are The Book Buddies. We meet every week to do paired reading and to work on our targets for Reading Schools.

By Julia, Sophia and Emma, Primary 5A



Eco Systems Around The World

P6 have been researching different ecosystems and their inhabitants in different parts of the world. P6 enjoyed learning about other parts of the world and presenting their findings to the rest of the class.

By Nikita, Eva and Zofia, Primary 6MC

Silent Disco Walk

In September we went around Portlethen on a silent disco walk. I wish I could relive that moment again!

By Vicky, Primary 6/7

Digital Leaders Train Teachers

Digital leaders is a group of pupils that are specialists in digital technology. It is for pupils in Primary 4 to Primary 7. After school at a recent staff meeting, the Digital Leaders trained the teachers about coding. Mrs Cowan said, "Well done, it was amazing!"

By Oliver and Dominik, Primary 6/7



John Muir Award

We organised a fundraiser and raised £431.49 towards making a fun and relaxing learning area for all classes around our school. In the words of John Muir, who was a key founder in the conservation movement, "Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt".

By Adam, Mia, Jack and Evie, Primary 7CR

Goodbye from Mrs McKechnie

It is with very mixed emotions that I advise that this will be my last Cloch article as Head Teacher of this amazing school. The role of Head Teacher can be a challenging one and that was especially true during Covid times. However, it is also the most privileged position I have ever held. To be entrusted with caring, nurturing and educating children to reach their full potential is a real honour, and I can honestly say that there has never been a day where I felt reluctant to come to work. I will retire on 7th July leaving the school in the very capable and nurturing hands of Mrs Hardie and the outstanding team of staff with whom I have had the utmost pleasure to work over the last ten years. Parents and the community should be confident that our precious children will continue to grow and reach their goals under their guidance. I will always and forever be Proud to be Porty!

Wishing our families and the incredible community of Portlethen a very happy and safe summer, whatever you choose to do with it.

Sandra McKechnie and Christina Hardie,
Head Teachers



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This is my last article for the Clochandighter. I arrived with my family in July 2017, almost six years ago! It has been a big change in my life and for my family, changing countries, adapting to a different culture and way of life. It's good to be a foreigner. You look at things around you and try to understand why things are done differently to how they are at home. Then, once you see beyond the cultural difference, you focus on what is really important in life: relationships. At the heart of the Christian faith is love. Love is beautifully defined by the apostle Paul in a famous passage from the Bible:

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." (1Cor 13:4-8)

Love is Christianity's number one value. It's the best kind of relationship you can imagine, and it must be practised towards everyone. Jesus teaches us not only to love those who already love us, but also to love our enemies. It's a real challenge. I don't think that there are many of us who have enemies. In our society, and especially in a community like Portlethen, people tend to isolate themselves in their own homes, and many try to avoid their neighbours, as if they are afraid to see them, and even more so to invite them into their homes or to be invited. For this reason, the Christian mission is very difficult in our community. People have come to have a house, to park their car in front of it, and they are forced to get out to walk the dog, but they didn't come here to be in a community and participate in the community spirit (except for a small minority of them). In this context, finding people to run groups and charities has become an increasingly difficult challenge.

The Church, of course, is not exempt from this difficulty. I'm very grateful for all the wonderful people I've been surrounded by over the years of my ministry, who resist this spirit of our times and still believe in the importance of community. I would like to thank all the elders of Portlethen Church, and especially Alison Harris, who has been a valuable and reliable Session Clerk over the years of my ministry in Portlethen. I will keep Portlethen in my prayers as I move to another heaven with my family. And I thank God for all the blessings, especially the friendships, that my family and I have received during these six years of ministry.

God bless you all!
Rev. Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal



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Portlethen Bowling Club

Possibly Portlethen's best kept secret is Portlethen Bowling Club! This can be found at Bourtree Pavilion along the lane nestled between the Paddock and Bourtree Hall.



We are open to members of all ages and abilities, our “**hat**” night is on a Monday evening from 6.30pm, where those who want to try out bowling are welcome to come along for a “bounce” game.

The club has social events most months, and these can be found on our website. The next scheduled ones are a **Ladies Night** on 10th June and our **Fun Day** on 29th July.



The **Fun Day** will run from 12noon to 4pm. Various stallholders, from Portlethen and surrounding areas, will be offering a range of items. There will also be a number of charity stalls, raffle, tombola and opportunities to try some fun events – as well as entertainment, a BBQ and drinks. Admission is FREE and everyone from Portlethen and surrounding areas is welcome! It promises to be a great day out for all the family, so come along and support your local bowling club!

More details will be posted in various places in and around Portlethen in the run up to the Fun Day.

For more information, please contact:

portlethenbcevents@outlook.com

07502145339

Portlethen Library



Summer Reading 2023



Thursday 15th June to Saturday 26th August

Check our website for more details: www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-at-home/

Ready, Steady, Read!

It's time for Summer Reading 2023

The theme for 2023 is Diversity - From mountain to sea, diverse communities across Aberdeenshire.

Starting on Thursday 15th June and running until Saturday 26th August 2023, you will have plenty of time to get involved.

Get along to Portlethen and Newtonhill Libraries to sign up, or register online from 15th June.

<https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-at-home/>

Remember Summer Reading is not just for children. It is suitable for readers of all ages!

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PORTLETHEN JUBILEE HALL

1887

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 Facebook - Jubilee Hall Portlethen
 Serving the Portlethen community since 1887

News from your community hall.

Bookings: the hall continues to be a popular venue for our regular events including keep fit, mother and toddler groups, musical theatre, and drama clubs. Recently we have hosted Bingo sessions aimed at raising funds for local causes as well as providing space for a variety of celebrations involving children and adults.

We are still looking for a **Committee Secretary**. As the hall gains in popularity and we secure additional funding, we have an obligation to keep track of invoices, correspondence and other commitments and the Committee Secretary will take the lead keeping track of all this paperwork. If you like to be a part of an energetic team, have some time to spare, like to serve your community, and enjoy paperwork, you could well be just the person we are looking for. Contact us through our email:

Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com

The **Fine Piece Café** has now re-opened for business and is going from strength to strength meeting every Wednesday morning between 10 o'clock and noon. The recent introduction of bacon rolls has taken the offering to a whole new level! The hall provides a warm, safe space in which to relax, meet friends and make new ones. Why not check it out and pop in for a chat and a cuppa? Julie and her team are always on the look-out for additional help.

PROJECTS - We continue to upgrade the hall to widen its appeal to the entire community. We have just been awarded match funding by our lovely, elected Aberdeenshire Councillors to help us with three urgent projects. We intend to improve the security of the hall by mounting security cameras front and back. Secondly, we want to improve our offering for pre-schoolers to enjoy parties in the hall through the purchase of 5 kiddies' folding tables and 24 colourful chairs. Finally, we will instal an external storage unit to hold items we need but don't use often. On behalf of the Management Committee, I must express our gratitude to our local Councillors, the Meikle Carewe Windfarm Fund and the AVA Wellbeing Fund who have all helped us raise significant amounts of cash to better serve our community.

Our latest venture, our Lunch Club, catering for people in our community with complex additional needs, kicked off last month with a generous funding award of over £5000 from the local Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action Group through their Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund. This award allowed us to purchase the specialist equipment we need as well

as provide funds to cover running costs for the first 6 months. We are excited to see this club thrive. Again, if you think this is an activity you could help with, please get in touch.

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, as ever, to Heather Yeoman for organising this!

Jubilee Hall AGM: our Annual General Meeting will be held in the hall on **Sunday, 11th of June at 3pm**. Everyone from the local community is welcome to attend and there will be an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions or get elected to the Committee!

Our email address is:

Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com

for both general enquiries and bookings.

We look forward to seeing you at the Jubilee Hall in the near future!

Dave Johnstone
Chairman

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

Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com

To book, either email us or phone 07396 339448

News from Cllr Mel Sullivan



It's hard to believe it's been one year since the council elections. In many ways it feels much longer, but I still have so much to learn!

By the time you read this, the new bin collection system will be up and running. The council has already secured a better price for the paper and cardboard that will be going into the blue bin, as it will be cleaner than before. PLEASE be careful what you put in each bin - the better we all recycle properly, the better for both the environment and the council's coffers.



No-mow May is being trialled in a few areas of Portlethen this year. This will support wildlife and enable the landscape team to work on other tasks. Feedback on how you think it went is welcome.

The Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee budget is accepting applications for 2023/24. We have £81,200 available to support local groups and projects - you can find the criteria and how to apply on the council's website. At our first meeting of the new financial year, 14 applications totalling over £33,500 were approved, including £6,000 to the Portlethen and District Voluntary Community Ambulance and £2,000 to the Jubilee Hall.

Weekly news emails 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: cldr.m.sullivan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

You can find me on Facebook as:
"Councillor Mel Sullivan, North Kincardine"

My webpage is: <https://melsullivan.mycouncillor.org.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



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Lay Ministry: *George Masson* 01569 739283

A warm welcome to you all and hope that you had an enjoyable time over the Easter period.

Sundays 10.30 am Eucharist Service
Wednesdays 11.00am Prayer and Chat meeting

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 also 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.



If you would like to spend some quiet time in prayer or meditation I think you will find our church is ideal and it is open during daylight hours.

Please check our web site and also Facebook to find out about any services or events we may be holding in the future





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THE LARDER (PORTLETHEN AND SURROUNDING AREAS)



#THELARDER #FORTHECOMMUNITYBYTHECOMMUNITY

The Larder at the Porty Cabin on Cookston Road is still open **Monday 6pm-8pm, Friday 2.30pm-4.30pm and Saturday 10am-12pm**. Our volunteers are there to help anyone during this cost-of-living crisis and you do not need a referral from another organisation.

If you find yourself struggling with food cost, and could benefit from extra help, please scan the QR Code opposite to place an order or visit our Facebook page and click the link to open a Google form to choose the items you are short of. We can also be contacted by email to c19portlethenhelp@gmail.com or by phone on 07376 133870.

Please come in and visit The Larder, as we receive fruit and vegetables weekly from FareShare and these items are for everyone to benefit from, for a small donation, if you can. This will stop the items being sent to landfill, as well as helping us stop food waste. We also sell fresh farm eggs for a fair price. Hope to see you popping in over the nicer days if you're out and about.

We are delighted that we have recently secured the donation trolley at Asda, in addition to the trolley at B&M. Another local resident has taken part in the Aldi Supermarket Sweep and filled three trolleys in 5 minutes. Aldi will now double the cash value of these trolleys for The Larder's funds.

The Portlethen and surrounding areas' community continues to amaze us with all the support we receive. We are overwhelmed with the kind and generous donations that are placed in the supermarket trolleys. The Larder team would also like to thank all our schools, churches, Newtonhill Community Council, many of our local businesses and organisations, and our local residents for a constant flow of donations large and small.

Thank you all very much again,
The Larder Team



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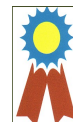
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Saturday 24th June

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newtonhillva@gmail.com

or

delamitri11@hotmail.com



Councillor Catherine Victor

I'm going to start with some good news.

PORTLETHEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

After a lot of work, by myself and some very hard working Portlethen residents, we now have the required number of names for our Portlethen & District Community Council (PDCC). It has taken me a year since I was elected as one of your councillors, to get this to a positive outcome. We needed 50 names, and we ended up with 41, which was accepted by the council. I thank every one of you that put your name to our list for believing in your community. We then had to receive 15 nominations of people who were prepared to go a step further and put their name in for committee places. We need seven minimum to form the basis of our PDCC and, we have a list of 11 from the council but, on our calculations, there should be 15 so I need to find out who has not had their nomination put forward. If you are **one** of the 15 and have not received the email from Emma Storey confirming that your nomination was received and explaining the next step, then get in touch with me at cllr.catherinevictor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The next steps are crucial as there will be meetings to form the committee and carry things forward. There is a lot of help available from the council and other local Community Councils to get this group up and operating for the benefit of all residents in Portlethen and district. They will be pivotal in looking at all planning in the area, bringing the community's thoughts to the Council. Also bringing to you the Council news that affects your area. There are a lot of grants that can be claimed through your Community Council for the benefit of the town, too. I look forward to working with the community through the PDCC as will all your Councillors. I would ask you to come along to meetings, they will be open to the public and it is a forum where you can voice your concerns, ideas etc. for your town. Keep an eye open for notification of when and where these meetings will take place. I will do my best to promote them on my Facebook Page: **Councillor Catherine Victor- North Kincardine.**

FINDON FOOTBALL PITCH

I am looking for information on the old Findon Football Pitch. I know it is now in private ownership, but am interested to find out when the football team using that pitch was disbanded, what happened to any funds they may have had and how long it was left unused before it was sold. If you have any information on this, please contact me on my email cllr.catherinevictor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or on 07787 800678 or by messenger on **Councillor Catherine Victor - North Kincardine.**

SCAMMERS

There are a lot of scammers out there and it is getting more and more difficult to see through their very clever guises. I would implore anyone who has been scammed or who receives scamming material to report it to trading standards at Aberdeenshire Council. There is help from the Aberdeenshire council - they can supply you with a device to stop scammers getting through to you. Get in touch with trading.standards@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if you are interested in this.

PLANNING

We, the K & M councillors, voted to allow a new Crematorium at Elsick in Chapelton. We did listen to concerns re road safety and put these vigorously to the planners at the meeting. In particular, we voiced people's concerns about the turn-off from the A92 onto the side road to Elsick House, when there is a large funeral cortege involved. We have been assured that the Roads Dept have done due diligence re road safety and are satisfied that all the roads in question will cope. There will be some road alterations involved, and I will keep you informed about those as we are notified. The Crematorium is well hidden away and designed to blend into the landscape and the hall by Elsick House should provide good community facilities when its completed. All in all, I think it will be a good addition to the area.

That's it for now, don't forget to get in touch if you need my help.



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Dear local community,

Please find below some updates of the work we have been undertaking across Portlethen Academy in recent weeks and months. As always, this is just a 'snapshot' and there will be more to follow in an end of term/session newsletter/SWAY presentation to follow.

Expressive Arts Faculty - Rotary Young Musician of The Year 2023



In March we had the first Portlethen Academy/Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition for some years. This involved pupils from S1-S6 preparing a solo piece to be performed in front of an invited audience. There were three rounds with a winner from each. The

S1/S2 overall winner was Emma Teven (Voice), the S3/S4 winner was Tyler Martin (Fiddle), and the S5/S6 winner was Tain Robbie (Bagpipes). The overall Portlethen Academy/Rotary Young Musician of the Year 2023 was Tyler Martin. All entrants received a certificate and the winners also received trophies supplied by the Rotary. This was a fantastic night that showcased the talent, dedication and hard work of pupils from across the year groups.



Science Faculty - CSI Party – Project-Based Learning

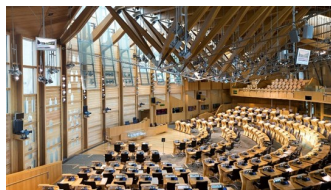
S1 have recently completed a Project-Based Learning (PBL) project called CSI: Party. Pupils learned how to take each other's fingerprints, how to swab cheek cells, how to collect and bag evidence and even flexed their photography skills. They put all of their newly learned skills into action and collected evidence from crime scenes, which they then analysed to find out whodunnit.

Feedback from S1 has been great so far - they have enjoyed learning new skills and working together in teams. "What could improve this topic?" was one of our feedback questions - "nothing because it was amazing" was one of many positive answers 😊

Humanities Faculty – Scottish Parliament Visit

On 29th of March, S3s Modern Studies pupils were lucky enough to visit the Scottish Parliament just TWO DAYS after Humza Yousaf was

chosen as the new SNP leader and First Minister of Scotland. We took a bus down to Edinburgh where we were booked in for an Education Session at Holyrood. The pupils were given a presentation about the history of the building along with the different roles played by the Scottish government and parliament. Although we did not meet the new First Minister we had a question and answer session with our local MSP, Audrey Nicoll (SNP), List MSP Michael Marra (Labour), and List MSP Liam Kerr (Conservative). After this, the pupils were allowed to sit in the main chamber to watch the debate between members of the government and other MSPs. Overall, it was an exciting day out and interesting experience for all involved,



MSP Michael Marra (Labour), and List MSP Liam Kerr (Conservative). After this, the pupils were allowed to sit in the main chamber to watch the debate between members of the government and other MSPs. Overall, it was an exciting day out and interesting experience for all involved,

and the S3s will be able to relate much of what they learned to their National 5 Modern Studies qualification and beyond.

DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) – Business Breakfast

On Friday 28th April, we welcomed almost 30 local businesses for a Business Breakfast to find out more about Portlethen Academy – who we are; what we do; what makes us unique, and how we can possibly work in partnership together.



This was the first of many events planned for the next few months, to open the doors of the Academy to our local businesses, and to work collaboratively to enhance the learning experiences and future opportunities for our pupils.

In Portlethen Academy we have a huge focus on skills development, pathways and real-life learning contexts, and thanks to our work with the Wood Foundation as an Exceleerate school, and in partnership with DYW North-East, we are becoming more innovative and creative in our delivery of the curriculum.

If you would like to find out more, please get in contact with the school via e-mail or to Jodie Niddrie our DYW Employer School Co-ordinator (DYW ESC) to arrange a discussion.

EXTRA CURRICULAR - Senior Football Team Success!

Senior footballers won the Presidents Trophy. This is the first time Portlethen Academy Seniors have won this trophy – a huge achievement for them. Well done to all! The full match report for both the final and semi-final can be found on the Aberdeen Secondary School Football Association website here: <https://bit.ly/3LqXteZ>.

WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding
 Coastal North

Volunteer with us

'I enjoy it so much. The girls are lovely and I feel I'm doing something worthwhile. It's amazing!'
 Tayba, leader

girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Hello my name is Sarah and I am the unit leader of the 1st Portlethen Rainbows. I have been in Girlguiding since I was five years old and have progressed through Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Young Leader to Adult Leader.

I currently run the Rainbow unit in Portlethen along side Lyndsey. Here we get the opportunity to interact with a variety of characters and are fortunate in being able to help the girls learn and develop new skills whilst also enjoying craft and games nights with them.

We have 1 Rainbow unit and 2 Brownie units that cover Portlethen, Newtonhill, Chapelton and Muchalls, it is definitely not enough. Over Covid, we lost 3 units as many volunteers weren't able to continue helping so now we need new volunteers to step forward and give us their time. Our waiting lists are very long as some girls aren't getting spaces in units before they are too old so they aren't getting the same Guiding experience that I experienced growing up.

In Girlguiding, the opportunities are endless. We do activities indoors and outdoors, badges, crafts, adventures away from the meeting place and it is a great way to meet new friends. An example of activities I have done with my unit in the past are visiting the Farm Stop and we have had an evening at Jump In.

Even if you could donate some of your time so that more young girls can join, that would be amazing. If you can give your time it would be much appreciated so we can give more girls the Guiding experience. Please go to the link above to register your details if you feel this is something you could do.



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 at the Jubilee Hall, Portlethen 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 or your own project choice. On the first week of the month, Irene will lead our Card-making sessions, which are always enjoyed. We also enjoy sharing a new craft. We meet weekly on a Thursday from 7:00 -9:00pm with a £4 fee towards costs per session.

For more info, contact Frances on 07740 427 272.



SUNDAY SERVICES

Every other week we meet at The Porty Cabin, Portlethen at 2pm for tea/coffee before a watch service at 2.30pm. On the alternate weeks we attend ACF's Union Grove building or watch online. You will be welcome to join us 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



Sometimes when we begin to look back over a Rotary year, which runs from July to June, we forget how much we have contributed, both close to home and internationally until we write it down in the one place, so here goes, you can see the results of some of our activities on the page opposite.

Internationally, we have supported our main project, The Amazing Love School in **Uganda**, where the school has had another storey added and exam fees paid. We have supported our pupil Vijay Kumar in **Chennai** via Little Drops Charity since he was 5 years old; he has now completed his schooling and has moved on to college. We sent money to the **Turkey/Syria** appeal via our partner organisation ShelterBox and from our bucket collection at the Young Musician competition. Through the schools and local contributions, Rotary ShoeBoxes were sent abroad and arrived in **Ukraine** before Christmas. Our purple crocuses are bought as a donation to **End Polio Now** and distributed through community groups and schools, there are carpets of them in Newtonhill, Portlethen and Cove in the spring, confirming our commitment to ridding the world of polio - we are almost there.

Education is an important area of focus in Rotary and our **Youth Competitions** in the local schools have been going well this year with some new ones added. Young Writer, and Photographer in primary and Young Chef and Musician for academy pupils were all successfully run, along with the **Primary Schools Quiz** hosted by the Academy for the first time. The winning Team from Portlethen primary progressed to the next round and although they didn't win, they had a lot of fun. We are fully funding two places at the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (**RYLA**) week at Abernethy. This provides a recognised certificate for young people between 16 and 18 which can enhance their CV.

Service Above Self is the motto of Rotary International and Portlethen Rotary has certainly fulfilled that brief. From selling raffle tickets for Charlie House, to manning the water stations at the Chapelton Bike Ride, running several fundraisers to an elderly member doing a sponsored swim, we have raised a considerable sum for local groups. We ran a quiz for funds for the

Larder, a raffle at the Fine Piece Café in the Jubilee Hall, and The Paddock helped us with a Race Night. We also ran our Community Champion Award with Heather, the leader of the Newtonhill Out of School Club (Noosc) a deserving winner. We ran the BBQ at the Skateraw Fair last year despite having several call-offs through last minute illness, and hope to do so again. Thanks to Julia Coyle and fellow Rotarian Ian Dow for stepping in.

Socially we play an inter-club competition called The Gavel, with table games and lots of fun. We've enjoyed a Christmas meal at Poldino's, a Touch of Tartan night with haggis, and are looking forward to a night ten pin bowling at Codona's. All in all, we have fun while volunteering and making a difference. With the King asking us to volunteer more, we would love to see some new faces coming along to help.

Contact us if you would like to know more and be involved in our efforts to support the local community and/or international projects, whichever is your interest.

Contact Alistair on acm739@btinternet.com or find us here : <https://www.facebook.com/Portlethen-and-District-Rotary->





Portlethen and District Voluntary Community Ambulance Association

MEET THE TEAM

JOHN GODSMAN - MAINTENANCE CO-ORDINATOR



Not sure if my face will be familiar to many reading this, maybe just the one or two on whom I have left an "impression", after taking you to the Medical Centre!

I am a born and bred Stoney loon who, after several years away, came back home and am happily "retired" here at Kirktown of Fetteresso with my wife Sheila.

I started my time as an engineer at Hall Russell Shipyard at a time when we knew how to build ships in Scotland! I try to put my engineering experience to good use as I look after your Porty Medical Centre Ambulance. In addition, I sometimes drive if a regular driver cannot make their shift. I have been involved with the Ambulance for more than 5 years, and can say I really see first-hand the difference the service makes to the local community.

There is a great team spirit among the drivers and committee members, but the highlight is the recognition we receive from the patients. If anyone has some spare time, looking to make a difference in the community and get a few laughs, then driving the Ambulance may be the answer!

As our vehicle is so well-used, the time has come to upgrade to a newer model and, of course, this comes with a substantial cost. We frequently receive donations from passengers, local companies, organisations and other third parties and for this we are eternally grateful.....but more is needed to keep us on the road. Are there any companies out there who may have some spare funds and would be willing to sponsor our Charity towards purchasing our next Ambulance? For any substantial sponsorship, we may be in a position to advertise your company on our vehicle.

To keep the drivers warm in the winter months, we hope to acquire some fleeces to which we can add our charity logo. Again, any offers of sponsorship for these, or donations towards this, would be very welcome.

If you are a patient of the Portlethen Medical Centre or Portlethen Dental Care, and are elderly or disabled with no access to transport, you can request a seat in our Ambulance by asking at the Reception when you make your medical or dental appointment. There is no charge, but we always appreciate a small donation in our collection tin by the door, to help with fuel costs.

We are disappointed to hear that the Newtonhill Lunch Club has folded, due to lack of volunteers. We transported elderly people to the Skateraw Hall for their lunch on a Friday, and for some of them this was the only time they went out in a week. We can only hope the community will be able to find volunteers to start it up again, as those elderly people are missing having a nice lunch and chat on a Friday, and we are happy to provide the transport.

Contact Hugh Wheelan on 07834 559547 (hwheelan1@gmail.com) or David Walton on 07468 883289 (j.d.walton@btinternet.com)



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The **Portlethen Youth Club** is open to all young people aged 10 years and above. We have no upper age limit as we like to progress young people into roles within the youth club or let them move on to new opportunities at the right time for themselves.

Fully trained Youth Workers are on hand to support young people to create a safe space and a place to meet with friends, meet new people and explore lots of new opportunities.

We have had a great start to the youth club and would love to see it grow. We are open every **Tuesday from 1830 – 2030** and we hope to run all year round.

We currently run from **The Porty Cabin** in Portlethen.

There are no joining or weekly fees.
We rely on donations, grants, and community funds.

For more information, or if you can support us in any way, please contact myself below

Email: Portlethenyouthclub@gmail.com

Or find us on Facebook, twitter and Instagram.

Morag Kennedy
Lead Youth Worker
Portlethen Youth Club

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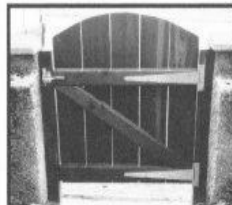
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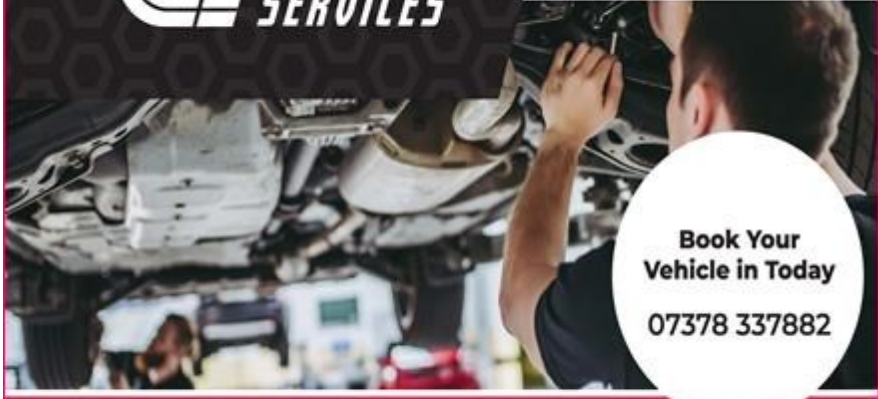


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Useful Addresses and Phone Numbers

Aberdeenshire Council Area

Office

Viewmount
Arduthie Road
Stonehaven
Tel: 01569 690541

Bourtree Hall

Booking Secretary
Angelene McKay
Tel: 01224 782734

Bourtree Pre-School Group

Bourtree Hall
Berrymuir Road
Tel: 01224 782472

Family Resource Centre

Portlethen Academy
Bruntland Road
Tel: 01467 537111

Fishermoss School

Berrymuir Road
Tel: 01224 472875

Franciscan Missionaries

16 Dunvegan Avenue

Hillside School

Newlands Drive
Tel: 01224 472850

Homestart

32 David Street
Stonehaven
Tel: 01569 767773

Jubilee Hall

Booking Secretary
Tel: 07396 339448

Portlethen Academy

Bruntland Road
Tel: 01224 782174

Portlethen Church Office

Tel: 01224 782883

Portlethen Library

Portlethen Academy
Bruntland Road
Tel: 01224 472870

Portlethen Medical Centre

Old Portlethen Road
Tel: 0345 0130720

Portlethen School

Cookston Road
Tel: 01224 472845

Post Office

McColls,
Rowanbank Road
Tel: 01224 780233

Social Work Department

Rowanbank Road
Adult Services
Tel: 01569 690532
Children's Services
Tel: 01467 537111

Need to speak to your local MP/MSP?

Andrew Bowie MP

House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA
Tel. 01224 766959
or e-mail andrew.bowie.mp@parliament.uk

Audrey Nicoll MSP

51 Victoria Road, Torry, Aberdeen AB11 9LS
Tel. 01224 876743
or email: audrey.nicoll.msp@parliament.scot
Twitter: @Audrey4ASNK

Useful Numbers

Coronavirus General Helpline:	0800 028 2816
NHS24 – for access to out of hours GP support dial	111
SCARF Energy Advice:	01224 213 005
Business Support Helpline:	0300 303 0660
HMRC Business Helpline:	0800 0159 559
Employers' Helpline:	0800 019 2211
Housing Helpline:	0808 800 4444
Helpline for Elderly People:	0800 12 44 222
Mental Health Helpline:	0800 83 85 87
Parents Helpline:	08000 28 22 33
Domestic Abuse Helpline:	0800 027 1234
Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline:	08088 01 03 02
LGBT Health and Wellbeing Helpline:	0300 123 2523
Find Business Support:	0300 303 0660
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Aberdeen Cyrenians:	0300 303 0903
Home Energy Scotland:	0808 808 2282



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