

CLOCHANDIGHTER

EDITION 117 - September 2023



Portlethen Gala 2023



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Editorial

Here's the Autumn edition of the Cloch. It's been a strange summer, hasn't it? A hot June (while the children were still in school), a wet July, and (as I write this) a mixed August. We can always hope for that "Indian Summer" in September!

Luckily, after a shaky start, the rain held off for most of Portlethen Gala day. Did you go? After a break of four years, it was so good to see it back. With so many attractions, it was well-attended and I'm sure a good time was had by all. Let's keep up the momentum. Volunteers are always needed to organise such a big event.

The cover photo is courtesy of Barry Yorwerth who took drone footage of the Gala early on. Check out his Flickr album [Portlethen-Gala-2023 | Flickr](#) for more photos. Thank you, Barry.

I don't know about you, but I love a good trail, especially if it's free. Whether it's Nuart (on the walls of Aberdeen), or a Wild Art Trail, I'm there. You may remember the dolphins and Oor Wullies, all decorated by local organisations and some individuals,



and placed strategically around Aberdeen and beyond, finally being auctioned off to benefit the organising charity. This year, it's been The Big Hop Trail in aid of Clan Cancer Support. Portlethen Primary was one of the schools to paint a "Little Hare", or "Moongazer", and this has been on display in Stonehaven Library. As this Trail ends on 3rd September, you may have missed it, but all the hares will be gathered together for a Farewell Weekend (prior to the auction on 18th September) at the Music Hall on 16th-17th September. Tickets to this are available at www.thebighop.co.uk and cost £5.

Something else to look forward to is the Bingo at the Jubilee Hall, which returns after its summer break on Sunday 24th September, and thereafter on the last Sunday of every month. This will always be dependent on ticket sales, so get in early and buy yours - see the ad on page 66 for details including where to buy your tickets. The Bingo is run by the Portlethen Town Association, and funds raised go to the local community.

Finally, I would like to add my sincere thanks and fond farewells to two lovely local ladies, both of whom are sadly leaving their careers in Portlethen, having played a part in the education and well-being of many local children, not least my own. Gillian Stewart leaves Fishermoss School after 35 happy years, and Lynn Abel is retiring from childminding after nearly 30, also happy, years. Thank you both.



Alison Lloyd-Wiggins - Editor

Email the Clochandigher on clochandigher.editor@gmail.com

Lynn Abel

Local childminder Lynn Abel has made the difficult decision to retire from the profession that started for her nearly 30 years ago. From the age of 15, Lynn looked after her neighbour's kids and had a part-time job working with disadvantaged children.

When Lynn decided to start her own family was the time she took up childminding full-time.

As something she had always enjoyed, and whilst she was looking after her own young children, Lynn decided this was the career she wanted. She realised there was a high demand in the area for childminding services and quickly became established in Portlethen. Over the 30 years, Lynn has looked after, nurtured, and educated more than 50 children.

Having retired just last month, Lynn and her husband Mike will be looking to take up some new activities, not least spending time fixing up the new house in Cammachmore.

So now, Lynn, it's time to put away the toys for the last time, pack up the crayons and set off into the sunset of happy retirement... oh wait, is that the grand kids at the door?

Wishing you all the best for the future, Lynn, from all those parents and children you have helped over the years.

Richard Murray



Lynn and her husband Mike

BEAST RACE

We are two unfit, overweight, middle-aged dads who enjoy a pint, a packet of cheese and onion, and a comfy chair in The Leathan.

While sinking regular pints in the pub is absolutely the ticket for short-term stress relief, it's probably well accepted that it's not necessarily a passport to good health and a long life. With this in mind, one of the aforementioned blokes by the name of Roy (me) decided that he should probably displace boozing with some exercise, and undertook the 100 Pushups a Day in April Challenge for Cancer Research. This was successful not only in that it raised £855.75 for a very noble cause, but also that I managed to complete it while maintaining a reasonable level of beer-swilling.

Given that it was such a roaring success, I set about finding the next endeavour to make me feel better about my ongoing drinking and tomfoolery. I think I was probably a good few glasses of red to the good when I decided to sign up for Banchory Beast Race 10k.

At this point, the other bloke (Daz) decided that it looked far too ghastly (beastly?) for me to attempt on my own, and that he should have my back. Sure, mate, what could go wrong?

Although we have both agreed on a firm no-piggybacks policy, and that leave-no-fallen-man-behind is not a mantra to which we are expected to adhere.

The Beast Race is a 10k run with obstacles, a lot of which involve mud.

Continued overpage >

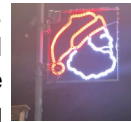
Continued from page 5

Daz has run the Baker Hughes 10k in a previous life (way back when you still got pound notes). I, however, do not ever recall running any further than that one time I was coerced into doing the 1200m race at my school sports day, and that wasn't exactly yesterday. And I hated that, too. So this will definitely not be a stroll in the park for either of us.

So, we're a couple of old fat blokes, both with bad backs, surgically removing ourselves from the pub to do something a little bit unusual before we get to the point that we become terminally old, fat and crooked. Seeing as we're going to all this effort, we figured we might as well share our wee escapade and see if we can raise a few bob for some local stuff as well.

This whole gig was my idea so I get to pick three things. Daz only gets one. The privilege of being an ideas man and not a logistics type...

1. I am a member of Portlethen Town Association and we do various nice little things in a town that is otherwise a bit... meh. One of which is putting up the main Christmas Tree and lights, as well as all the little illuminated streetlight motifs. We could do with a few bob to maintain and upgrade our existing ones and maybe buy a couple more.



2. I was a (terrible) Air Cadet when I was a teenager, but loved every second of it and figure it's time to give something back to my old squadron. Turns out that most of their trophies are old enough that they bear the names of my contemporaries. A few new ones might be nice. Maybe a "Kemp Shield" for the cadet who gets the biggest rollicking from staff that year or something.



3. Anyone who knows me will know that I'm a militant hedgehog rights advocate. There's a really nice lady called Denise who rescues hedgepigs locally, but as she isn't actually a charity she directed me towards Portlethen Moss Conservation Group instead. They do plenty of things to the general benefit of local wildlife (including hedgehogs) so that's good enough for me.



4. Daz is a scout leader. Portlethen's own Hey Duggee, if you will. So he wants to donate his portion to the 1st Portlethen Scout Group. Whatever, man. Weirdo.



So, that's where we're presently at. We've both registered for the race and have started doing a small amount of training so that we're not going to end up being blue-lighted out of the venue on race day, because nobody needs that. Daz has already crocked his knee and my back is giving me gyp, so it's going really well.

If you would like to feel like you're participating in this little adventure of ours, please be sure to chuck a few quid our way. Here's our Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/beastlybeerblokes>

We promise to keep you updated in the next Cloch, or sooner if we see you in person.

All funds raised go to the recipients above and do not contribute in any way towards our drinks expenses (honest).



Cheers, Roy & Daz



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I can't believe it's that time again for another issue of our community magazine, the Clochandighter! It seems like just the other week that I was writing a piece for this.



A lot has been going on in Portlethen in the last few months:

- The wildflowers being in bloom.
- The Bowling Club having their annual open day in July - which was a great success, seeing over 500 people attend.
- The return of the Gala to the town - still in the future as I write but should have taken place by the time you read this - with lots of attractions for all the family, from the military vehicle display to the food and refreshments, owls, and rickshaw rides to name but a few.

Being involved with the Gala myself for the last few years has had a lot of positive benefits, but it doesn't just happen by itself; it needs a team of volunteers to get it all together. If you want to see something new and different at next year's Gala, then why not get involved in your community? This year, out of a community of 9000, only 7 people stepped forward to get it all organised.



The Larder continues to do a fantastic job with their volunteers doing the organising and coordinating for the benefit of the town. If YOU can help reduce food waste, check out their article on page 58, or their Facebook page, for opening times.

Also, in the last few months, the Portlethen and District Community Council (PDCC) has been reformed. The Community Council is the statutory body in our area for consultation with Aberdeenshire Council. We wish them well for the future and hope we can work together for the benefit of our town.

Preparations are underway to get the Christmas lights organised, checked and PAT tested ready to go up in November. This is done by the Portlethen Town Association on behalf of the community. If you'd like to lend a hand, then please get in touch with us on 07812-574305. Or you could message the Portlethen Volunteers' Facebook page.

Darren Robertson
PTA Chair

Portlethen's Best Garden Competition

Once again, we ran the Best Garden Competition, supported by the Portlethen Town Association.

Folks were sending in photos of their gardens and a winner should have been picked by the time this magazine drops through everyone's letterboxes.

All the photos are available to see on our Facebook site (Portlethen's Best Garden Competition) - and the winner will be announced there too.



OurPortlethen Website

<https://ourportlethen.co.uk/>

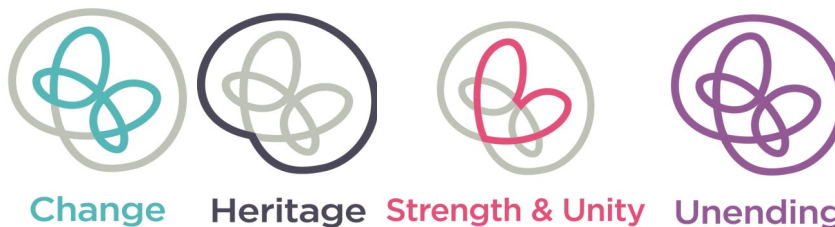
It is almost one year since the Portlethen Town Association, on behalf of the PDCC and Green Business Association, took over the running of the website from the Aberdeen company that originally set it all up (money came from Aberdeenshire Council's Phoenix Fund).

As the maintenance and running of the website is now performed by us, the costs are minimal and any additions, or revisions, are applied very quickly.

Please take some time to have a browse through the website and, if there are mistakes or places where content can be improved, please let us know.

The purpose of the website is to let locals and visitors know about all that is available and happening in our Town, so it is appreciated when folks send in suggestions.

Ken Watson



Clochandighter Accounts

Transactions in the quarter to 31st July 2023

	Credit	Debit	Balance
Balance b/fwd.			£4,731.63
Advertisers	£4,845.00		£9,576.63
Postage		-£72.60	£9,504.03
Cloch Deliverers' "Thank You" tea @ Golf Club		-£150.00	£9,354.03
Printers		-£3,336.00	£6,018.03
Postage		-£38.35	£5,979.18
Donation - The Larder Portlethen		-£250.00	£5,729.18

On 7th July, the Portlethen Town Association handed over a donation to the Larder's funds.

This Larder's volunteers have been doing great work in Portlethen since the beginning of Covid, and we hope this donation will help them continue that good work ([see](#) Pages 58-59 for more about the Larder).

The donation came from Clochandighter magazine funds. This was only made possible due to the savings we made by switching to the new Dundee-based printing company.



Alison Duncan (far right), Alison Lloyd-Wiggins (2nd right), and Darren Robertson (behind the camera) of the Portlethen Town Association, hand over their cheque to the members of the Larder team.

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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)

With a very dry start to early summer, we were concerned about the state of the peat, but thankfully (for the peat) the rain did come. Further peatland restoration work is scheduled for autumn, an oil company is volunteering with our Ranger to both fund and carry out conservation work.

Earlier this year a cuckoo was once more heard calling on the Moss. However, thankfully for the small birds it was just passing through. Due to their recent population decline, cuckoos are now listed as globally-threatened, with big declines in breeding populations and ranges, so we are really quite honoured to have one visit our moss.

Community Woodland

Repairs were made to the main entrance off Downies Road where the fence was falling apart – thanks to Aberdeenshire Councils Landscape Services for carrying out the work.

The orchard was very productive again this year, especially the fruit bushes. With our own funds, we purchased a new battery mower that we've used to cut the grass paths in the orchard. We're going to sow some yellow rattle in the longer grassy areas to help create wildflower meadows.

We did some repair work to the most worn parts of the paths in the wood. Hopefully this will tide them over until such time as they can be fully upgraded.

The woodland is still growing and each year it amazes us as it matures and how our initial plan on a piece of paper is now the real thing.



For anyone who doesn't know, the site was a disused agricultural field until, back in March 2007, we sent a proposal to Aberdeenshire Council detailing our aspirations to create a community woodland. Thankfully our request was approved and working in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council, the first phase of tree planting was in November 2010.

New Community Garden (Garden on the Green)

Plans are ongoing in the background. At time of writing, we've just submitted an application to the Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Community Fund for funding to create a circular walkway. If successful this will kick off the project, as we need to install the walkway first.

Thanks to Greenspace Aberdeenshire, we already have some plants for the garden and we will be applying for more when the scheme opens up again. We were also successful in a funding application to The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) via The Chestnut Fund - we received £100 for plants.

Further funding will be sought going forward for seating, planters and the boundary, as a consequence it will be a work in progress for some time.

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 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.

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

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www.facebook.com/HedgehogsofPortlethen

Saving Our Endangered Hedgehogs



By September, hedgehogs need to build up body fat prior to hibernation. Some adult males will hibernate from as early as October, females are always later as they take longer to build up fat reserves after having hoglets, often as late as September. Hoglets born late in the year (like the one above) are the ones that struggle the most; once independent of mum, some find it difficult to find food. Many gardens have had 'makeovers', leaving them as barren places with no habitat for the insects that hedgehogs need to survive, so please help them by providing wet or dry food, this can be in the form of kitten complete dry food and wet cat or dog food, with a shallow bowl of water available at all times.

If you have a hedgehog house in your garden, September is a good time to make sure its dry and clean inside. Really pack it full of fresh dust- extracted hay or barley straw (a mix of both is ideal) and leave hay close by for them to add to their nests. You'd be surprised at just how much material they can pack into a hibernation nest. It's very important to place the house in a sheltered spot where it stays dry all winter and with the entrance facing away from direct sunlight.

In autumn there's no need to worry about any hedgehog out at night that you may think looks too small, so long as its active and eating, it's always best left wild. The exception to the rule, of course, is one being out during the day or once it's well into winter. If in doubt, call a rescuer for advice and never be tempted to look after a hedgehog yourself - they're wild, endangered animals with complex needs.

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 us a message.



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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, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 1pm. Check out our Facebook page (Portlethen & District Men's Shed) 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 increased our workspace significantly, 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 so just let us know what you need, (see photos below). The work on a request from Lethen Park Care Home for raised wheelchair accessible planters continues with the first 6 units delivered and planted up. The gardeners in our Shed are enjoying the fruits of their labours too. The first strawberries and raspberries are being enjoyed and the potatoes and other vegetables are not too far behind



*Repaired bench outside
Lethen Park Care Home*



Rebuilt garden bench

We continue to maintain links with local schools and community groups. 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. Our thanks to everyone who donated tools and wood over the past few months.

So, 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 question or need assistance.

Jim Duguid, Secretary P&DMS

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Mearns & Coastal Healthy Living Network is a charity established in 2002 to support the wellbeing of older people living in Kincardine & Mearns. We focus on the things that older people themselves say are important, and which help enable them to live independently for as long as possible. We also give older people in the community the chance to build their skills and confidence by volunteering with us.

Based in Laurencekirk, our charity is run by a small team of staff and a Board of Directors.

Our services include a transport service, shopping service and garden maintenance service.

Groups we offer in Portlethen are:

Tuesdays (weekly during summer) – Railway Station – 9.30am

Gardening Group.

This group comprises ScotRail Station Adopters, they oversee the beds and planters at the station, finishing with a cuppy at the Men's Shed cabin.

Thursdays (first of the month) – Porty Cabin – 10am – 12pm

Digital Support Café.

A monthly opportunity to take along a device that you are having problems with, one of our volunteers will be on hand to problem-solve with you. Refreshments available.

For more information about our services and groups:

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01561 378130 office@mchl.n.org.uk

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Extra Item	70p
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Chips & Curry Sauce	£3.00
Chips Cheese & Gravy	£4.00
Chips Cheese & Curry Sauce	£4.00

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BLT	£3.00
Cheese	£2.60
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1/4lb Beef Burger	£3.40
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Bacon Burger	£4.00
Bacon Cheeseburger	£4.20
Chicken burger	£3.80
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Hot Dog	£3.00
Extra Burger	£1.50

EXTRAS

Softie	50p
Chilli Mince	£1.50
Cheese (slice)	60p

DRINKS

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Decaff Tea/Coffee	£1.30
Cans	£1.20
Flavoured Water	£1.00
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Cartons	70p

SWEET TREATS

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Cakes	(as priced)
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Portlethen's Place to Eat - Retail Park, Muirend Road, AB12 4XP
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Phone orders welcome Call: 07583 703105 (Please allow at least 20 Minutes for your order).

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Become a mentor

Share an hour per week and change a life

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

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking

Primary 6

Art Competition Winners-Links with local Businesses

Earlier this term, Amazon ran a competition for local schools to get involved and potentially win money for their school. As April was Earth Month, the competition wanted schools to create some 'treasure' /artwork out of rubbish that would otherwise be binned. The school with the best entry would win £3000 and guess what Fishermoss Primary 6 won! Amazon's Sustainability Ambassador at Portlethen's Delivery Station came to school to present the prize.

Primary 7 pupils attended Lectures for Schools held at Aberdeen University and run by The Hydrographic Society, Scotland Branch. In their 8th annual Schools Lectures they presented Surveying for the Energy Industry with talks about what surveying is, new technology and gadgets used in surveying, and talks from people who have worked offshore. The aim was to inspire young people from Primary 7 upwards to consider science subjects when they make their choices for Nat5 and beyond, and also to have fun while learning. Our Primary 7 pupils were super ambassadors for Fishermoss School at this event and stood out from the crowd for all the right reasons.

As part of the event, there was the opportunity for schools to participate in a range of poster competitions. Our Primary 7 pupils entered and did us proud by winning the following challenging briefs.....

'An oil company needs a new subsea map of their oil field to help them plan how to dismantle it. The oil field contains two platforms that are anchored to the seabed and lots of pipelines that run between the seabed well, the platforms and the shore. You have an ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) plus a ship, but YOU have to decide the kind of equipment you would put on your ROV to produce the new map and why you would need this equipment'.

Your school needs an updated plan of the school grounds. Your group has been asked to produce a scale map showing one part of the school buildings and surrounding areas. You will also need to describe how you created your plan, the equipment you used, the problems you found and how you solved them.'

All pupils in **Primary 5 to 7** have successfully completed their Young Emergency Aider Award Scheme First Aid Training at First Level delivered by Grampian Training Services. Our current Primary 5 and 6 pupils will build on this training, going forward to the next level. We strongly believe at Fishermoss that first-aid training is a basic life skill everyone should learn.

Fishermoss Family Community Clean Up

A total of 67 enthusiastic and jolly litter pickers turned up! A significant amount of rubbish was collected around the community, 28 large black bags altogether, weighing 40kg, along with 2 heavy metal poles and an ASDA trolley! We were encouraged by the response to this event, but many in attendance were disappointed at the amount of litter found in the community. Afterwards, there was lots of lovely chat on our front lawn over refreshments in the sunshine.....a reward for all their hard work! Great teamwork from our Fishermoss Family.

We are sadly saying farewell to Mrs Gillian Stewart, one of our teachers, who is retiring after 35 years at Fishermoss School. She very much leaves with mixed emotions as she loves teaching and could not imagine doing anything else but, mainly because of recent serious family illness, the time is right for her to stop so that she has the time and flexibility to spend with family! We wish her many happy days in her retirement and thank her for the difference she has made to so many lives over the years at Fishermoss school!

Margaret Ferguson
Head Teacher



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To book straight away use link: www.footstars.co.uk

News from Cllr Mel Sullivan



It's been a rather stressful couple of months for me. I didn't quite make it to the summer holidays before 'burning out'! Thankfully common-or-garden councillors like me don't tend to have any meetings in the school holidays, so my batteries should be back at full charge by the time you read this.

It's been a challenging time for some council services too. The three-bin rollout was, I think, an overall success. Households have quickly got the hang of what goes in the orange bin now, rather than the blue bin, with the council already getting a better price for our paper and card. The change to the routes, however, was *not* a shining example of best practice! As I write this at the start of August, I believe that every household is now getting their weekly collection, but it's been a difficult transition, with drivers unfamiliar with certain areas missing whole roads.

Another challenge this summer is the verge cutting. A simple oversight in communication has meant that you might have seen grass on verges growing much higher than usual, while grass a few metres away has been mown as expected. You'll be happy to hear that, after feedback from myself and other councillors, a new system for next year has been agreed which will prevent this from happening again.

On the subject of grass cutting, you might not know that Aberdeenshire Council is working towards 10% of our greenspace being left for nature. This means a lot more 'wild' areas in towns during the summer. Communities can get involved with making these areas attractive for both wildlife and residents, through bulb and wildflower planting initiatives.

You can find me on Facebook as
'Councillor Mel Sullivan, North Kincardine'.

My webpage is <https://melsullivan.mycouncillor.org.uk>. You can sign up to receive my non-political weekly news emails. These include the latest planning applications and other local items of interest.

My email address is cldr.m.sullivan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. If you'd like to find out more about the Scottish Liberal Democrats, my email is mel.sullivanNK@gmail.com

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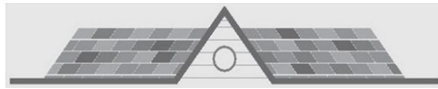
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Portlethen Group Practice News Update



Staffing Update

Doctors

We have several changes to our clinical team. Dr Teicia Ho will be leaving us in mid-August. Dr Ho has been employed in the practice as a Career Start GP since September last year. Dr Ho will be moving away from the area.

Dr Rachael Hamilton will also be leaving us in September.

We shall miss both Dr Hamilton and Dr Ho and wish them all the best for the future.

We welcome back Dr Dele-Salawu, previously known as Dr Adebayo. Dr Dele-Salawu joined us on 1st August and will be working 5 sessions per week.

Dr Leyla Aliyeva will also be returning to the practice in September, having successfully completed her GP training. Dr Aliyeva will be doing 4 sessions.

We also welcome Dr Aditya Mehta. Dr Mehta is our specialist registrar who will be undertaking 6 months in GP training.

Nursing Team

Diane Murray has joined our practice nursing team as a treatment room nurse having recently completed her nursing degree. You will no doubt recognise Diane as she was previously employed as a health care assistant.

Repeat Prescriptions Ordering



We will no longer be accepting requests for repeat prescriptions by telephone. This is to ensure that no dangerous errors are made when transcribing requests. It also leaves the telephone lines free for urgent matters.

Below are the options available to you for ordering your repeat prescriptions. These options are safer as there is less potential for error in processing your prescription.

- The practice provides an online repeat prescription ordering service. Ask the receptionist for details, or you can visit the practice website on www.portlethenmedical.co.uk where you can complete the registration form for the online service.
- Hand in the prescription re-order slip (right hand-side of your prescription) indicating the items you require. There is a post box just inside the front door of the practice.
- Post your re-order slip to the practice- marking the envelope for the attention of the prescription assistants.
- If you are on suitable stable long- term medication, you can register with your local pharmacy for serial prescriptions. This means that the practice could send a yearly prescription to your preferred pharmacy, which you could collect directly from the pharmacy every 2 months. You would no longer have to order your prescriptions from the practice. It is important to note that you must register at your preferred pharmacy and then the practice will assess whether your prescriptions are suitable for this service.

Please remember we require a minimum of 3 working days' notice before you can collect your repeat prescription from the pharmacy of your choice.

Portlethen Medical Centre



Portlethen & District Community Council

The Portlethen & District Community Council (PDCC) dissolved in 2021 and reformed in May 2023, with a clear aim to ensure the PDCC remains operational. The PDCC's role is to represent the views of the community in matters concerning the Portlethen and District area. These matters can include responding to planning application consultations, conducting local surveys on local community issues to help create/drive community action plans and finally to help organise local events (by the time you read this, the first Portlethen Market will have been held).

We have prepared a communications charter and ways of working document to introduce ourselves to the community and help you understand our approach. It's available on the Our Portlethen website and our noticeboard at ASDA.



Our Portlethen

To ensure the PDCC workload is manageable, the PDCC will focus on the core areas that drove the members to volunteer, namely updating and driving the community action plan (e.g. lack of facilities) forward and planning (ensuring the community's concerns regarding material planning considerations are raised).



Community Action Plan

The PDCC should not be confused with your *Elected Councillors* who have a slightly different role:

- role in challenging and scrutinising the work of the Council
- role as representative on local community groups
- constituency case work (problems and issues local people raise)
- membership of a political group, if elected on a political platform
- role with other councillors on policy or scrutiny committees



Elected Councillors

Your current PDCC members are:

- John Burgess (Chair) Paul McLean (Vice Chair)
- Amanda Ross (Treasurer) Eoin McManus (Secretary)
- Ron Findlay Elliott Davis
- Michelle Aitken Stewart Lees
- Dinara Thorne Lorna Doyle
- Joy Komolafe

The PDCC can primarily be reached via our Facebook page:

[PDCC - Portlethen & District Community Council](#) or portlethencommunitycouncil@gmail.com. If you would like to join us, it is possible to co-opt 2 more members onto the PDCC at present.



PDCC Facebook

Meetings and public participation

The PDCC will meet from 19:00 to 20:00 every 4th Thursday of the month at the community rooms at Portlethen Academy. There will be no meeting in December, and longer duration meetings will be by exception only.

It is worthwhile to understand that PDCC meetings are 'meetings in public'. A meeting in public is where members of the public can attend to observe a formal meeting of a governing body or committee. Observers are not permitted to join in with the discussion or participate in the meeting in other ways. This is different from a public meeting, which is an open forum to allow members of the public to ask questions and discuss issues with members of the governing body or of a committee, usually on a specific topic.

Useful links and QR codes:

The PDCC is keen to support the Portlethen and District community and recognises there are frequently asked questions that may arise. The below QR-codes aim to assist the members of the public in finding the information they seek without the need to contact the PDCC.

Report potholes and road faults



Report fly-tipping



Report missed bin collection



Report environmental health concerns



What is a community council?



What do elected Councillors do?



Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils



Community Council Handbook





Portlethen Parish Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity Number SC007420

Locum Minister: Rev. John Watson
(Tel: 07484 257534)

E-mail: johnmutchwatson2065@btinternet.com

Telephone: [07733 334380](tel:07733334380)

Church Secretary: portlethenpc@btconnect.com

Telephone: [01224 782883](tel:01224782883)

At the end of June, we said a heartfelt goodbye to our Minister Rev. Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal and his family as they departed Portlethen - and Scotland - for a new charge down south. The congregation gave them a lovely send-off which was uplifted by Piper Peter McEwan playing the French National Anthem and Highland Cathedral at the end of the service. A buffet lunch was then served over in the Church Hall.

Moving on, you may know that we are to union with Newtonhill Parish Church where one Minister will lead both churches. Currently, both Kirk Sessions are working together on the appointment of a new Minister. However, we feel blessed to welcome back our friend Rev. John Watson as our Locum Minister. He will be with us until our new Minister is appointed.

As I write this, I am thinking about what church means to me and I can sum it up in one word – community. If you haven't visited our church before, you are guaranteed a warm welcome on a Sunday morning. Our service starts at 10.30am with lovely hymns, readings and prayers. We then finish off with a cup of tea or coffee and chat.

The life of the Church then continues through the week over in our Church Hall, where many members of the community use the facilities.

Our Church Hall is also home to Mearns FM which broadcasts "from mountain to sea".

Other activities include the Games Group run by the Sullivan family; and the Lunch Club which resumes at 12 noon on Friday, 8th September 2023.

If you are interested in craft, then a group runs in the Donaldson Lounge of the Church on the second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon (2.00pm-4.00pm) and fourth Tuesday of the month in the evening (7.00pm – 9.00pm). The cost is only £2 with tea, coffee and fine piece included.

The Craft Club is running an Autumn Craft Fayre on Saturday, 30th September 2023 in the Church Hall (more details below), raising much needed funds for the Portlethen Larder.

Any keen gardeners out there?

We have two planters outside the Church Hall and a corner under the front window of the Church Hall - all in need of some green fingers. If any individuals or groups are interested in bringing this area back to life (instead of lots of weeds), then please get in touch.



Dates for your Diary

Saturday, 30th September 2.00pm-4.00pm: Autumn Craft Fayre (Church Hall) Tables available for £15.00 - £2 entry fee includes tea/coffee/juice/traybake/biscuits.

Sunday, 1st October 10.30am: Service of Holy Communion.

Sunday, 12th November 10.30am: Service of Remembrance.

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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Golden Charter
Funeral Plans





Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Community Fund

Are you involved with fundraising for a Community Group in any of the following Community Council areas?

- Crathes, Drumoak & Durris
- Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore
- North Kincardine Rural
- Portlethen & District
- Stonehaven & District



If so, you may want to apply to the
Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Community Fund

RES, the energy company who has developed the Meikle Carewe Wind Farm has established a community fund which will benefit groups and projects working in those areas.

**The fund is open for applications between
1st July 2023 and 30th September 2023**

The fund total for 2023 is £37,676.93

Interested? Then please contact Kincardineshire Development Partnership for more information and/or an application form.

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

Tel : 07903 156864

Email : margo@kdp.scot

www.kdp.scot



Kincardineshire
Development
Partnership



It's been a busy spring/summer term for the scouts this year, with hikes, Damboree, district cub and scout camps, nature walks, water slides, paddleboarding, first-aid, coding, cycling, foodbank challenge and a whole lot more. Our young people have done us proud, and by the time you're reading this, you will have seen some of them in action at the Portlethen Gala.

Our volunteers have also been recognised for their efforts, with Michelle, Nicola and Richard achieving their second Wood Badges, Christine and John receiving the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service, and Brian the Award of Merit. Rachel, our Hillside Scout Leader, is the first Kincardineshire District recipient of the King's Scout Award following the sad passing of our Patron, her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The King's Scout Award is the pinnacle of young people's achievements in Scouts. Congratulations and well deserved to all seven!

This spring we gathered as a volunteer team to discuss where we want to be and how to get there. Our shared goal is to establish a dedicated centre for scouting in Portlethen. We're proud that our volunteer team of 22 leaders support over 120 young people as active members of 1st Portlethen Scout Group, and would be delighted to welcome more volunteers to supplement the team.

No previous scouting experience required!

We'll take you through our core learning (essential information, data protection, safety and safeguarding), support you along the way and provide opportunities for further development through our branching out programme. At 1st Portlethen, we volunteer flexibly as part of a team with a shared purpose, sharing tasks between each other based on personal preference and capability.

There's no need to be a future Bear Grylls to join. If you prefer planning for the future, volunteering behind the scenes or thinking about the big picture, you may be a perfect fit for supporting our fantastic team behind the scenes on our Trustee Board (previously known as our Executive Committee). Our Trustee Board will be key in helping us drive the scout group forward.

Last, but not least, a big B.R.A.V.O. BRAVO! to Brian, who has been our Group Scout Leader for a long time in all but name, and the most enthusiastic scouter (and volunteer rustler!) around. Hope I can live up to the high level you've set!

Michelle, Group Scout Leader

Keep Scouting alive and well in and around Portlethen
1st Portlethen Scout Group

<http://1stportlethenscouts.scoutsites.org.uk/> and
<https://www.facebook.com/1stportlethen>



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Portlethen Bowling Club

Since the last Cloch, we have held our Fun Day on the 29th July. It was great to see so many people attend. We estimate that there was in excess of 500 people - a great testament to the hard work and effort of our social convenor Keith Brown. The fine weather possibly played a wee part too!



Our thanks go to everyone who attended and gave their time and financial support. A further "Thank You!" to all the local businesses who donated raffle prizes - we were blown away with the generosity, and a special thank you goes to McIntosh Donald for their support with the BBQ.

The good news is that we raised around £1400 for club funds, which will go towards the ongoing running costs of our club and the maintenance of the green, which is crucial to a bowling club. We are starting to look at next year's event, and as soon as a date has been set, this will be publicised via social media.

We will be having a number of smaller social events in the clubhouse, the first being a '60s night on 30th September, tickets can be purchased in advance at £3 per person either at the clubhouse or by contacting portlethenbcevents@outlook.com

On the bowling front we have participated in the Bon Accord and Mearns leagues, Scottish and Barclay Harvey competitions across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray, with varying degrees of success. Our ladies managed successfully to defend their title of AirBP trophy winners.

More information can be found at www.portlethenbowlingclub.co.uk

Portlethen Library



Debut author, Chris Carse Wilson will be at Portlethen Library on Thursday 21st September from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, talking about his novel, Fray.

Set in the Scottish Highlands, Fray is described as mysterious, atmospheric, and utterly original, and it announces the arrival of an electrifying new voice in literary fiction.

Chris lives just outside Dundee, and he works as Communications Manager at the V&A Dundee. He is also a passionate advocate for mental health awareness and a passionate runner.



The event is free, but booking is essential. To book, pop into the library or visit the website www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk.

Don't forget Bookbug every Tuesday at 10am at Portlethen Library. Bookbug is free and suitable for pre-school children. Come along learn new songs, stories and make new friends.

Wanting to start a Book Group? Did you know that the library has sets of books you can borrow for your group? We have an extensive range of over 300 titles including fiction, biographies and non-fiction. Pop in to find out more.



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NEWTONHILL PORTLETHEN 50+ WALKERS



Enjoy walking? Would you like to discover walks outwith the local area in the company of a friendly group of like-minded people?

Newtonhill Portlethen 50+ Walkers (formerly separate groups) was formed over 30 years ago and has met almost every Monday since then.

We meet alternate weeks at the car parks of Newtonhill Church and Bourtreebush Hall, Portlethen at 9.30 a.m., and car-share.

Walks are around 5 to 7 miles in various beautiful areas, usually within an hour's drive. Cost is £4, payable on the day.

Not sure if it's for you? Please come on a walk and give us a try. First walk is free!

You'll need to bring a pair of walking boots or stout shoes, a waterproof, and a packed lunch and drink. Best not to wear jeans as they're uncomfortable and cold if they get wet.



Hope to see you soon!

Please call Christine on 07762 746710



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News from your community hall.

Jubilee Hall: a Brief History

The Jubilee Hall was gifted to the inhabitants of Portlethen and surrounding lands in September 1892 by Mrs Rosa Ann Taylor, who owned the Estate of Portlethen. The hall together with the land it sits on were to be held in Trust and managed by her nominated Trustees and their successors. These trustees were known as Heritable Trustees, and a committee comprising residents of Portlethen and the surrounding lands was elected to handle day-to-day management of the hall.

The Heritable Trustees were as follows:

- The local Parish Minister
- The Advocate and Factor of the Estate of Portlethen, and
- The tenant of the Mains of Portlethen [this being the principal farm in Portlethen].

The Jubilee Hall achieved Charitable Status on 4th July 1958 and as such the Management Committee Chairman and the Committee Members became Charity Trustees

By 1960, the situation in Portlethen had changed significantly, with the Portlethen Estate largely split up and sold off in parcels of land, building and expanding the "village". There was no longer an official known as the "Factor", so the one remaining Heritable Trustee, the local Minister, Rev. Alexander Dunn, drew up an Addendum to the original Feu Charter nominating two new Heritable Trustees:

- The resident of the Farm of Mains of Portlethen, and
- The Secretary to the Committee of Management and his/her successor in office

Now, 63 years on, we find ourselves in a position where a further Addendum may be required. The Minister of Portlethen Parish Church, Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal, has recently left for another church position near London. His replacement is likely to have an expanded geographical area to minister to, namely Portlethen and Newtonhill, and may well be unaware of his/her new role in the Jubilee Hall's administration.

With all this uncertainty relating to the Trust, I am writing to assure you that the Hall remains well managed and fully available for rental for one-off or regular events. Our Booking System is up and running with contact details specified opposite and overpage. Mandy Ross, our Booking Clerk, is doing a splendid job of keeping the bookings and invoices under control and our Treasurer, Alison Duncan, continues to manage our finances expertly.

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. Contact us through our email:

Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com.

We held our AGM on 11th June, where we had an opportunity to show our appreciation for all the support provided by Rev. Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal over the past 6 years. We also offer our thanks to Morag Cairns who has stepped down after many years of service.

PROJECTS - We continue to upgrade the hall, to widen its appeal to the entire community. We have been awarded match funding by our lovely, elected Aberdeenshire Councillors to help us with our urgent projects. We have installed security cameras at the front and rear of the hall, purchased kiddies' tables and chairs and are planning to create an external storage unit to hold items we need in the hall but don't use often. We will also need to lay a slab as part of the storage solution and need to create 4 slabbed areas at the rear of the hall on which to set our new picnic tables. If you have the necessary skills and time to assist in these projects, please do get in touch. On behalf of the Management Committee, I must express our ongoing gratitude to our local Councillors, the Meikle Carewe Windfarm Fund and the Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action Group (AVA) Wellbeing Fund who have all helped us raise significant amounts of cash to better serve our community.

Our latest venture, our Lunch Club, which caters for people in our community with complex additional needs, kicked off last month with a generous funding award of over £5000 from the local AVA 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 and raises a significant cash flow to help us keep costs down at the hall. Your contributions of clothing and shoes (appropriately bagged and tied together) is much appreciated.

Finally, we are planning to install Solar Panels and Battery storage at the hall - in line with the universal need to urgently reduce our carbon footprint. We are in negotiation with the Scottish Government, which has a programme in place to support Community Halls in their endeavour to reduce utility costs and adopt green energy usage.

Our email addresses:

Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com for general enquiries; and
bookings@portlethenjubileehall.com for booking applications.
(Booking details overpage)

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

General enquiries: Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com

Bookings: bookings@portlethenjubileehall.com or 07396 339448

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Cyril Bennett 01224 784833



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Priest-in-Charge: *Revd Canon Mary Jepp* 01569 762917
Lay Ministry: *George Masson* 01569 739283

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

As you will have probably noticed Rev Mary Jepp is now Rev **Canon** Mary Jepp. On Sunday, 30th April at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, Rev Mary Jepp was installed as a Chapter Canon of St Paul's Cathedral in the Diocese of Brechin, Dundee.

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 team had a visit from Andrew Bowie, MP for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine, at the end of July. He was very interested in the way that The Larder operated and was quite surprised at how many people in the local area require the support of The Larder. He was very impressed at the backing given to our group by our volunteers, local businesses, and residents. He has also offered us his support as and when required.

We appreciated his visit and hope that he will pop in on a regular basis.

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 need. We can be contacted by email to c19portlethenhelp@gmail.com or call 07376 133870.

Please pop in and visit The Larder, as we often receive excess fruit and vegetables from FareShare and these items are for everyone in the local community to benefit from, for a small donation, if you can. This will stop these items from being sent to landfill as well as helping us stop food waste. We also receive organic vegetables from One Seed Forward based at the Bridge of Muchalls and fresh farm eggs that are for sale for a fair price or donation.

The Larder Team



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Corps News from Newtonhill Pipeband



Newtonhill Pipeband has had a busy 2023 with the band continuing to perform and develop new pipers and drummers.

They got their new season off in style, playing support to Nathan Carter at a sell-out gig at Aberdeen Music Hall. The band was invited to support Ireland's leading Country singer through their long-term sponsorship with the Market Bar in Stonehaven. The band warmed up the crowd before the main act and gave the perfect introduction to the singer's finale with "Loch Lomond".



Pipe Major Domhnall McLennan said, "A big thank you to Lorna from the Market Bar and Nathan Carter for giving the junior pipers and drummers the chance to play in front of such a large and enthusiastic audience. This will be a memory they cherish."



The band had its usual calendar of events, including the rededication of the war memorial in Stonehaven, which saw a massed band of over 100 players march up and down the Bervie Braes. The Fein' Market, Open Air Pool, Highland Games and shows filled the summer as well as the last day of primary school, when the band

supplied pipers at all 3 Stonehaven primary schools, all 3 Portlethen primary schools and schools in Aberdeen – stretching themselves to the limit to give the P7s a good send off.

Successes for the junior band members at the Braemar Junior Highland games where some got the chance to take part in solo competitions for the first time, bringing back a haul of medals. This added to some good exam results for pipers and drummers in their Nat 5 and Higher Music exams.



At time of writing, the band is preparing for the Portlethen Gala on 12th August, before the summer ends at the world famous Braemar Gathering at the start of September. A great honour for the band to be invited and a memorable day for the youngsters in the band.



The season will end with the Stonehaven Fireballs, but on the Saturday before Christmas the band will be marching through the aisles of ASDA Portlethen in their traditional fundraiser.

The band has a buoyant pipe corps but is looking for any experienced drummers to boost its drum corps. If you have played before, and perhaps stopped during covid or are looking to start up again after a few years, we would welcome you to get in touch or come along to one of our practices. We meet every Tuesday night between 7.00pm and 9.30pm at Portlethen Academy.

You can either contact us through Pipe Major Domhnall McLennan on 07889 106527, e-mail on newtonhillpipeband@gmail.com or through our Facebook page.

Newtonhill Pipeband is a Scottish Charity: SCO41533

PLEASE NOTE!

clochandighter.editor@gmail.com

clochandighterinvoices@gmail.com



These are the only email addresses for reaching out to us at the Cloch!

Any other email addresses will not work. Please ensure your address books are up to date!



Councillor Catherine Victor

I can't believe that three months have gone past since I posted in the last edition of the Clochandigher!

We have the Portlethen & District Community Council (PDCC) up and running and there is a fine group of people on the committee. I am excited for their future and what they can achieve for Portlethen and District. If you have ideas or concerns, then do get in touch with one of the committee members. You can find their contact details on their Facebook page under "Portlethen & District". They have a strong voice for planning decisions, landscaping, and any up-and-coming grants to help with projects for improving the area. They are not so much involved in potholes, bins and such, those are things your Councillors (e.g. me) can try to help with.

Getting on to potholes, I have been pushing to get the worst ones repaired. We have a lot of very nasty potholes that need attention on our roads in North Kincardine. Unfortunately, they are not considered to be a safety hazard as they are in a low-speed zone. The Council concentrates on potholes on the high-speed roads first, as they can cause serious accidents. We will get them done, but maybe not as many or as quickly as we would like. A little bird did tell me that Portlethen is being considered for more works, so fingers crossed, but don't quote me on that. I'll keep pushing.

A new bus timetable was due to start in August. The new X6 will pick up IN PORTLETHEN at Asda and take a route through Marywell and Cove. This means you can now get a direct bus without having to navigate the A92 and stand at a cold bus station for a connection. I know that this doesn't solve all our public transport issues, but every win is a step in the right direction. Hopefully, we can keep it going and add to this. Not such good news on the Chapelton School Bus, we have lost this battle now, but I will be keeping an eye on how this is going to affect children, as well as residents around Newtonhill Primary School.

I had the pleasure of visiting some of our schools for their summer concerts and prize-givings. I always leave these occasions with a huge sense of pride. I know they are not my children, but just being honoured to represent them as an elected official, gives me a great lift. There is so much exceptional talent in our schools, our future is secure. This praise is also due to the teachers who are guiding our children through their learning years - you are doing a fine job! Often, all we hear is criticism of the younger generation, due to those few who destroy our faith in them with their vandalism and rudeness, but I find that most pupils are clever, funny and exciting people. Keep it up, I'm looking forward to the next invitation I receive to join you all!

There are a lot of important planning applications coming in front of us over the next few months - interesting times ahead. I am enjoying a wee break from all that for a few weeks but still here if you need me to help.

Get in touch through: cldr.c.victor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Tel: 07787 800678

or message me on my Facebook page: **Councillor Catherine Victor.**

Contact your Local Councillor

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

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

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

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Porty Tuck Shop visits TotalEnergies



Porty Tuck Shop is a social enterprise, and we have ambitions to open our own café to serve our community and to use our profits to help groups such as the Young At Heart group who meet in our community centre. We have been meeting with local businesses to find out

more about how they work and if they could offer advice and help.

Rhonda Miller from TotalEnergies kindly invited us to go and visit the company to find out more about their business and to develop a good relationship with them. Keenan, George, Rebecca, Holly, Grace, Morag, Rachel and Amalia set out with Mrs Copner and Miss Dougan to find out more.

They kindly provided minibuses to take us to Total House in Westhill. It was only a short journey, and we were met by Jodie Niddrie who works for DYW NE who helped to set up the meeting. When we went inside the building we were surprised about how high tech it was - there were iPads to use to sign in, a safety video to watch and we were given badges to take us through security doors which were very similar to being in an airport.



Rhonda took us past TotalEnergies café - it was very inspiring and gave us ideas for our own café.

We went past a large mural showing the history of the company, and we noticed how values were very important to the company, as they were on the walls everywhere.



We went to a meeting room with sofas and delicious refreshments. We were surprised about how comfortable and relaxed it was - it wasn't at all what we expected.

Rhonda gave us a presentation about the company. It is a leading global oil and gas company with branches all over the world, and employs more than 1000 people. It has gas plants and platforms in the North Sea and Shetland and also has service stations and provides aeroplane fuel too.

It was interesting to find out that there is a big need for oil and gas which provides 73% of our energy. TotalEnergies want to rise to the challenge of climate change by looking at other sources of energy.



Jacqueline Crawford spoke to us about being an engineer. We thought it was good we had a woman speaking about this, as it is often associated with men. She told us engineering is about being creative and problem-solving using maths and physics. She has worked offshore and explained her job is about working with people to make sure oil and gas get out of the ground cleanly and efficiently. Key skills that Jacqueline identified in developing for a successful career are communication, problem-solving and self-confidence.

Jilly Powell spoke to us about working in the communications team and explained how the company is creating Scotland's largest windfarm called SeaGreen. This was very inspiring as we didn't know that oil and gas companies were involved in this. The windfarm will power 1.6 million households and there are other projects like this planned for the future.

Both Jilly and Rhonda said there were lots of opportunities in TotalEnergies, and they have supported apprenticeships and interns. It was also good to hear that the company tries to help the community - we felt that we shared some of their values in trying to help others and to give back.

We really enjoyed our visit to TotalEnergies and want to thank everyone who helped to make it happen. We are looking forward to working with the company as we take forward our plans for the future.



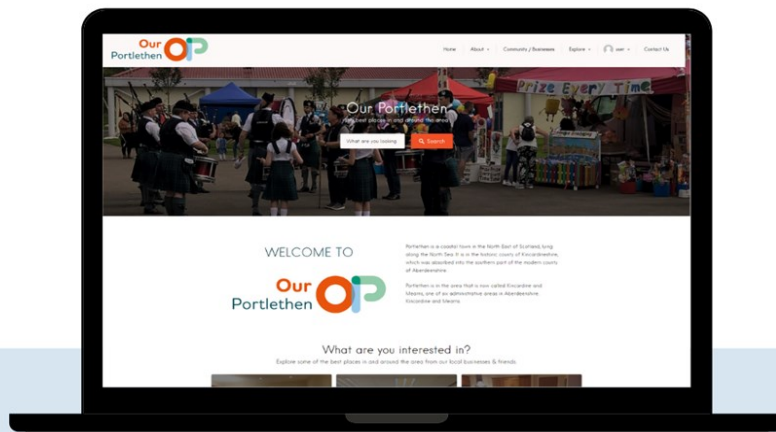
23rd June 2023
Porty Tuck Shop, Portlethen Academy

Portlethen Academy Summer Newsletter

For a full update of activities, successes, and achievements from Portlethen Academy during Terms 3 and 4, please read the following Summer Newsletter: <https://bit.ly/3PlrMSf>



Our Portlethen OP



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
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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, and our new term starts on 22nd August.

Please contact Susan on 07513 387 810 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. We also enjoy doing card-making, decoupage coasters and other crafts together. 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.

HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT

Any path we choose to walk in our journey of life will undoubtedly bring challenges as well as days of joy. Are your energy reserves always plentiful to get you through the hard times? Perhaps at times it's a struggle! Take Heart! Jesus is always there! His resources are available to us 24/7; to comfort, energise, restore, and build up. Soar on the wings of His love and feel the happiness and fulfilment of life lived to the full. Enjoy!

SUNDAY SERVICES

Every other week we meet at The Porty Cabin, Portlethen at 2pm for tea/coffee before a watch service at 2.15pm. 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 ACTIVITIES

WWW.PORTLETHENCF.COM / INFO@PORTLETHENCF.COM

Rotary

Having written the review of the Rotary year 2022-23 for the summer edition, we have now started year 2023-24 with incoming President Moira Hogg at the helm. Moira held this position several years ago and is looking forward to another busy year supported by her team and the members. In May 2024, we will be celebrating 30 years since our club Charter and plans are already being made.



We have disbursed some of the funds raised in the last year to the local community, with £200 sponsorship of the Newtonhill Newsey summer edition, we are treating the Portlethen Lunch Club to a much appreciated afternoon tea at the golf club, and are hoping to help with a donation when the Sensory Garden is being established opposite the Bowling Club, near The Green.



Last month, two pupils from Portlethen Academy had the chance to go to Abernethy to the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) week, fully sponsored by Portlethen and District Rotary. A couple of us visited on the open day on the Tuesday, and although the weather wasn't kind, Alison and Claire were thoroughly enjoying the challenges and will now be able to add this experience to their CVs. We look forward to hearing from them later in the year. With about 3 weeks to go, a call went out to all clubs in the District asking if there were any young people wishing to go who did not have a sponsor. HT Mr Drennan immediately put the call out to his staff and Bailey came forward, thanks to Inverness Culloden Rotary club for offering a place they couldn't fill and we look forward to hearing from him too.

Looking ahead, we will be at the Portlethen Gala on 12th August with a game of Hook-a-Duck! Look out for us in Matalan some weekends between now and November selling tickets for the annual District Car Raffle, this year proceeds are again going to Charlie House Childrens' Hospice, then we will be taking our turn in the Bon Accord centre where the car will be on display, please come and say hello if you see us, and spend £1 (or more) on a ticket to win a car!



We're looking forward to some social fun too. We've already had a bowling night at Codona's, there's a get-together to welcome President Moira soon and a visit to Peterhead Prison is in the planning,

Of course, we will be busy with Shoe Boxes, crocuses for Purple for Polio and all of our school competitions again over the winter. If you would like to help us in anyway please contact our exec. secretary Alistair on

acm739@btinternet.com or find us here :

<https://www.facebook.com/Portlethen-and-District-Rotary-302573226576567>

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Portlethen and District Voluntary Community Ambulance Association

MEET THE TEAM

HUGH WHEELAN - ROTA CO-ORDINATOR



Born in Airthrey Castle, Bridge of Allan, I spent my early years in Glasgow where my Mum had shops. In the days before decimalisation, you had to be able to count in your head as the shops had no cash registers, only a wooden cash desk.

When I joined the Royal Navy in 1970, the ability to absorb numbers led to rapid advancement and I served with 892 Squadron on the

Ark Royal, then moving on to Commando Squadrons in my later career.

Further Engineering experience was gained with Kawasaki Heavy Industries in the Middle East, where I learned to speak Arabic quite well as part of my duties and took part in the Haj on several occasions.

In 1991, I then moved to Aberdeen and worked as an Offshore Manager for several companies (including my own) spending a lot of time away from home.

After retiring, I started to drive for the Community Ambulance as a way of putting something back into the local area's needs and requirements, taking on the role of Rota Co-ordinator a short while later.

We not only help to meet the needs of the retired community, but there are lots of younger people who also require our services. We are always happy to help all ages of people who rely on our assistance to visit the Surgery and local Dentist.

As we are now back up to 5 days a week after the Pandemic, we always require new drivers to help one half-day a week AM or PM, or for ad-hoc cover for holiday relief. We invest in our drivers' abilities (after a period of driving) by putting them through a certified training course which consists of classroom work and driver assessment on the road. If you would like to join our like-minded group of drivers, give myself or David Walton a call (see contact details opposite).

We are currently embarking on a funding campaign to replace our old ambulance with a newer model by the end of the year, and would welcome any donations or sponsorship towards this objective – via one-off amounts or regular direct debits, however small.

We had a busy Summer providing our vehicle, and one of our volunteer drivers, for several afternoon and evening outings including the Portlethen Young at Heart Group and some of the residents from the BRIO retirement and assisted living facility at Landale Court in Chapelton. We also loaned our ambulance to the Portlethen Bowling Club for some of their Saturday outings.

In July we once again supported the annual Chapelton of Elsieck 10K race by providing marshals from our team for car parking duties. It was a well-organised and fun event and, apart from a short downpour, we managed to stay reasonably dry and enjoyed the complementary hot drinks and home bakes at the end. The 10K committee have very generously supported our Charity for the past few years and for this we are extremely grateful.

Looking forward to hearing from you if you can help in any way, either by volunteering your driving services or boosting our funds.

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



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POPPYSCOTLAND PORTLETHEN AREA VOLUNTEER ORGANISER

The 2023 Poppyscotland Poppy Appeal commences in October, so I would like to take this opportunity to say hello and introduce myself to the Portlethen Community via the Clochandighter.

I'm Kev Kilgour, an Armed Forces Veteran of 15 years' service in the Royal Corps of Transport and Royal Logistic Corps. I live in Newtonhill with my wife Jenny and our four dogs. Being a motorcycle enthusiast, I am a member of the Royal British Legion Scotland Riders Branch and the RCT Riders Branch and support various fund-raising activities within both organisations, as well as many years supporting Poppyscotland where the generous donations from members of the public are used to help our Armed Forces Veterans and their families in time of need.

On 24th June during Armed Forces Day, supported by the Cadets & Adult Instructors from 865 (Portlethen) Sqn Air Training Corps, we raised the fantastic amount of £656.23 through our stall at Asda Portlethen, accepting donations and through the sale of pin badges, pens and so on. Thankyou once again for your generosity.



I have been in contact with various businesses, schools, and organisations in the Portlethen Area to seek support for the placing of Poppyscotland collection tins and of course the poppies we all wear with great pride. During Poppy Appeal, we aim to be supported by Asda Portlethen where we will once again be present over one or two weekends.

Should any groups and organisations be interested in arranging your own fund-raising activities, such as coffee mornings, raffles, competitions, dress-down days at work and so on, I would be very keen to support and help you in any way I can. I can be contacted via Facebook or by email at poppyscotlandportlethen@gmail.com

With Portlethen not having an Area Organiser for a few years, now is an ideal opportunity to set a "Benchmark" for the years to come. I hope I can continue to rely on your support.

With grateful thanks and kind regards,

KEV KILGOUR

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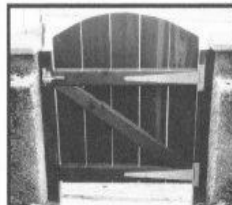
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Useful Addresses and Phone Numbers

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
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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

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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
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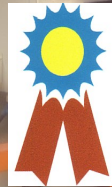
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