

# CLOCHANDIGHTER

**Portlethen's Community Magazine**

**EDITION 129 – Autumn 2026**



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Altens Branch

## Editorial



This Autumn Clochandighter is a packed edition. You'll have noticed that I have been limited to half a page this time! So whatever I say must be short and succinct.

I should point out that Fiona Jones' article was squeezed out, but you'll find a taster on page 60, and the full article will follow in the next edition; well worth the wait.

To those few advertisers who receive their copies of the Cloch by post, please find an apology on page 30.

I hope you have all enjoyed the Summer weather, and are looking forward to Autumn and the lovely colours it brings. I hope you like the Autumnal theme on the front cover and in this Editorial.



**Alison Lloyd-Wiggins - Editor**

Email the Clochandighter on [clochandighter.editor@gmail.com](mailto:clochandighter.editor@gmail.com)

## Clochandighter Accounts

Transactions in the quarter to 31/07/26

|                                  | Credit   | Debit     | Balance    |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Balance b/fwd 30/04/26           |          |           | £11,927.37 |
| Advertisers                      | 4,040.44 |           | £15,967.81 |
| Winter & Simpson Printers        |          | -3,434.00 | £12,533.81 |
| Bank charges                     |          | -12.75    | £12,521.06 |
| Postage                          |          | -9.41     | £12,511.65 |
| Donation - 1st Portlethen Scouts |          | -750.00   | £11,761.65 |
| Defib trackers                   |          | -54.99    | £11,706.66 |
| Defib installation               |          | -220.62   | £11,486.04 |
| PAT testing                      |          | -54.00    | £11,432.04 |
| Interest                         | 21.56    |           | £11,453.60 |
| Donation - Portlethen Men's Shed |          | -500.00   | £10,953.60 |



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## Chairman's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present my Chairman's Report for the past year and to reflect on another successful and productive year for the Portlethen Town Association.

Our Association continues to work hard to improve our town and support our community, and none of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers and supporters.

One of the highlights of the year has once again been our wildflower project, expertly organised by Ken and Kay Watson. Their commitment and enthusiasm have helped brighten many areas of Portlethen, creating colourful displays that are appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

The Portlethen Gala 2025 was another outstanding success, raising £3,500 for the benefit of the local community. This event continues to be one of the town's biggest annual attractions, bringing people together while generating valuable funds for future community projects.

Our Christmas celebrations also proved to be a great success. The Christmas displays and town lights once again created a wonderful festive atmosphere throughout Portlethen, and I would like to thank everyone involved in making them possible. The Portlethen Santa Run was equally successful, raising an impressive £4,400, demonstrating once again the generosity and community spirit of our residents.

The Clochandighter continues to be a valued source of information for the people of Portlethen. I would like to record our sincere thanks to our wonderful editor, Alison Lloyd-Wiggins, whose dedication ensures each edition is informative and enjoyable. Every quarter, 4,250 copies are delivered to every household in Portlethen by our merry band of volunteers, whose continued commitment is very much appreciated.

During the year, we have also strengthened our commitment to community safety. A new public-access defibrillator has been installed in the former telephone box on Cookston Road, and a further unit has been installed at the Hillside Shopping Complex. These additions bring the total number of defibrillators maintained by the Portlethen Town Association to three. We believe these devices are now well positioned across the town and hope they will provide reassurance to the community, should they ever be required in a medical emergency.

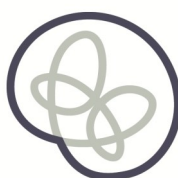
Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to every committee member, volunteer, sponsor and supporter who has given their time and energy throughout the year. The continued success of the Portlethen Town Association is built upon the dedication and goodwill of so many people who care deeply about our community.

I look forward to another successful year as we continue working together to make Portlethen an even better place to live.

**Darren Robertson, Chairman**  
**Portlethen Town Association**



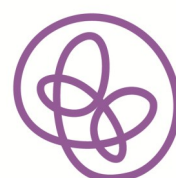
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### Bringing the Library to Your Door



Did you know that if you're unable to visit your local Aberdeenshire library, you can still enjoy all the pleasure of reading without leaving home?

Aberdeenshire Libraries' Doorstep Service is available to anyone who finds it difficult to get to the library, whether that's for a short time or on a longer-term basis. You might be recovering from an illness or operation, have limited mobility, be a new parent adjusting to life with a baby, be caring for a family member, or simply be unable to travel to your local library. Whatever the reason, we're here to help.

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## **Portlethen Moss Conservation Group**

*Registered Scottish Charity No - SC040350*



### **Our Group's Projects - Portlethen Moss, Portlethen Community Woodland, & Community Wildlife & Sensory Gardn**

#### **Portlethen Moss – Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS)**

At time of writing, we're waiting for some 'No Fire' signs for the Moss. The signs will highlight the illegality and dangers of starting fires. If you see fire starting on the moss, please call the police on 101.

We continue to look at ways to preserve the peat so it continues to absorb carbon dioxide and support the unique plants that typically only grow on peatlands. With the Kincardine & Mearns Ranger and advice from an expert on peatlands we have identified a location for an additional dam and an area where we will carry out work to allow a natural pond to establish. This will increase habitat for the many amphibians that live on the moss including dragon and damsel flies.

The work to do this will be carried out later in the year to celebrate NE Climate Week, when the Ranger will organise an event that everyone is welcome to attend. Keep checking our Facebook page and the Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Events webpage for information on the date etc.

#### **Community Woodland**

The woodland continues to mature and still amazes us how it thrives from what was once a disused agricultural field. At time of writing the orchard was starting to produce lots of fruits and berries.

The group requested 'Pick Up or Pay Up' signs from Aberdeenshire Council as sadly there has been an increase in dog mess lately. Hopefully the signs will remind the odd one or two who are not picking up that it is their legal obligation to do so.

Thankfully the spate of vandalism by academy pupils at lunchtimes seems to have died down. Let's hope they've grown up and moved on to do better things with their time. However, we will not be carrying out any repairs to the damage they did to the seating feature at the entrance until we are sure it will not be targeted again.

### **Community Wildlife & Sensory Garden**

We are blown away by how quickly this once disused area has matured and how the meadow area has rewilded into a rich biodiverse area. Orchids had never been recorded there, the first year we counted 2, the second year we counted 17 and this year we counted 24. The wild roses we planted flowered and the honeysuckle is slowly winding its way along the fence.

The mini orchard walkway is producing apples, no sign of any plums yet as the trees need to mature a bit.

The lavender beds at time of writing are just coming into flower, they will flower all summer long providing lots of food for pollinators and a lovely calming scent will fill the air. The new mint bed is looking a bit sparse right now, but in time, it will spread (as mint does) and provide blossom for pollinators and a lovely minty aroma adding to the sensory theme.

We have more ideas for the garden as it's still a work in progress, but already it's an amazing asset for the community to enjoy.

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>

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

**Please help us raise funds for these community projects each time you shop online, at no cost to you whatsoever, you'll be amazed at how many businesses support this.**

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

## **Helping Our Endangered Hedgehogs**

[www.facebook.com/HedgehogsofPortlethen](http://www.facebook.com/HedgehogsofPortlethen)

**British hedgehogs have declined by between 30-75% in rural areas since 2000.**



Sleeping hedgehog discovered under decking when the decking was being uplifted – read on....

Hedgehogs nest in the most unexpected places, people are always shocked when they find one sleeping under decking or sheds, saying they had no idea a hedgehog was ever in their garden. This is because hedgehogs are very secretive creatures that quietly go about their night time duties eating all the creepy crawlies in your gardens, then come dawn they look for a safe place to nest for the day.

With this in mind please be careful if you're planning removing an old shed or decking – see photo of one recently discovered when decking was being taken up. Thankfully this hedgehog was in a lovely garden where the owners knew what to do. They had an empty hedgehog house and they gently lifted the hedgehog and placed it into one of the hedgehog houses where he slept in safety for the rest of the day.

Its very important never to relocate a hedgehog to another area, they know where they live, where to find food and water and the safest nest sites; moving them away causes distress and can even lead to death. If you discover one in your garden like this and are unsure what to do, please seek advice.

By autumn, juvenile hedgehogs are venturing out becoming independent away from the safety of their mothers. This is a vital time for them to find enough food to build up the fat stores required to survive the approaching season of hibernation. They will remain active right up until December if the weather is mild, and they need to gain weight. You can help them by providing a shallow bowl of water and one of dry kitten food, they will also eat meaty cat or dog food.

If they struggle they will venture out in daylight, as with any hedgehog out in the day they need help – here's what to do:

- **Contain it in a high sided box with something it can hide under - e.g. an old towel or some newspaper**
- **Place it somewhere safe and quiet**
- **Call your nearest rescue for advice right away, never try to look after it yourself it will die, don't wait to see if the hedgehog 'recovers' and if it's trying to get out of the box it still doesn't mean it's ok. Hyperactivity is another sign of illness.**

**The New Arc tel: 01358 701723** – this is a handy number to keep stored on your phone for any wildlife advice or emergency.

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.

**We are not a rescue, but can advise on how to help hedgehogs.**



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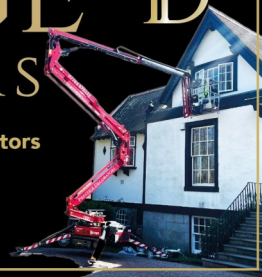
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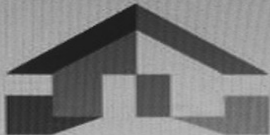
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## Portlethen Community Allotment

The summer will be nearly over when you receive this newsletter and the gala will have come and gone.

Our allotment site is in full swing with all but one-half plot to let out currently used for topsoil deliveries. Again thanks to A.M. Smith

The members again are growing a range of fresh produce, and I know from tasting that the strawberries were delicious.

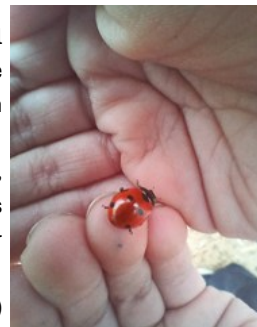
We continue to develop the site going forward and have levelled off the orchard area ready for planting in the Autumn. We have a nursery of trees waiting to be transplanted with donations from the Woodland Trust and our local tree expert Ewan Cameron for which we are grateful.

Water is still an ongoing issue with all members recycling what they can from sheds and polytunnels. We have installed two new IBC tanks at the end of the polytunnel and covered them with a jacket to prevent algae growth. The idea is to decant water from the troughs when they are full. If anyone has a solar pump they can give us we would appreciate it.

We held two successful workshops in our Polycrub over the last few months run by Pam Nweliy on propagation and planting and soil types and how to manage them. Thanks Pam. I personally enjoyed the sessions and learning how to make seed snails which I passed on to the schools on their visits.

The schools were great attenders on their plots with all primary schools taking part and over the last period before the school holidays all thirteen classes from Hillside had a slot and the Nursery had two per week and grew loads. I am pleased that all your pupils have embraced sustainability, nature in discovering bugs and beasties, where food comes from and tasting the results and much more. Thanks for supporting our Allotment.

Ladybird find (schools)



I must mention Ali and Laura Bremner who run an artisan bakery in the village, called Haar Bakery, for making bread from local wheat flour for the Hillside school to taste on their last day before the holidays. I can report it was a resounding success.

The schools and Northeast Scotland College supported the Newtonhill cubs plant sale in June. The college sowed the seeds, the schools nurtured/watered them over a number of weeks in our polycrub with a range of flowers such as cornflower, Calendula, Dahlias, and edible produce such as tomatoes, peas, and Chinese cabbage. We were able to give them over 150 plants. A great cooperation of our young learners and a great result in raising money for extra outside activities for the cubs.

Our camera is due to be erected shortly as we just must fabricate the swivel base and set it in position, and we have the necessary signage attached to our fence.

The second shed has been erected exclusively for the schools use and made by Craig Murdoch our local shed maker and plot holder. Thanks Craig.

Our two current volunteers recently painted both our sheds and set out the inside with a shelf and hooks to hang the equipment. We have a little more to do inside but that is for another day. Well done Aiden and Fynn.



You can maybe pick up on the thread throughout the last few months of a wonderful community spirit, from our members and non-members, in giving their free time to help the allotment live up to what we envisaged from the start, a community driven resource providing many social activities, feelings of wellbeing, and imparting knowledge that provides a base for education across a wide age-range for our community and beyond.

The committee welcomes all these efforts and the great support from members each week to facilitate all that happens in our allotment community, and I thank them very much.

We will endeavour to progress the long-term sustainability of our allotment with the potential to run the site as our own in the future. Our committee and trustees have varied financial, business and craft backgrounds to meet the challenges ahead along with the continued support of our thirty-six plot holders and over 370 affiliate members.

Together we will grow.

**Martin Dear, Acting Secretary  
and on behalf of the committee**

## News from the Shed

Portlethen & District Men's Shed (PDMS) is open to our members and to anyone who wishes to come along and see what we do. **Our opening hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 1pm. Check out our Facebook page for more details.** We are located on Cookston Road AB12 4PT, next to the Porty Cabin. Whether you wish to be actively involved 2 or 3 times a week or occasionally you will be made welcome.

Portlethen & District Men's Shed finally received ownership of the Rowanbank building late on Friday, April 17, 2026. The building had been gutted so we have spent the last few months bringing the building back into a functioning space. We have recently upgraded the Rowanbank lighting to LEDs which should greatly reduce running costs for lights. We are currently evaluating the best options for heating the building for Men's Shed operations. We have received many donations from the community that will help in the rebirth of this building to be a useful, working space for the benefit of the community. We will be continuing to seek help and support from the Portlethen Community so if you are able to help in any way then that will be much appreciated by the Portlethen & District Men's Shed.

We do not expect to be able to move into the new building for some months to come, so for the moment you can connect with us at the Cookston Road Shed. Shed operations are still run from Cookston Road.

### New Portlethen & District Men's Shed



Main workshop  
before refitting



Workshop during  
refitting



Hard at work,  
wearing PPE

We have already started discussions with Portlethen Community Groups who may want to share parts of this building with the PDMS. So, if you want to use part of this building in the future then please get in contact.

Members continue to respond to requests from the local community to make or repair a whole range of items. So, if you want your garden furniture repaired, refurbished or just repainted in time for Spring then come by our Shed for a chat. We are still busy at Cookston making planters and rebuilding garden benches so let us know what you need. If 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 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, with a particular thanks to Keyline Marywell who donated a large quantity of PPE (personal protective equipment) that will help keep members safe during the various rebuilds and repairs we conduct in the Shed.

If you wish to join the Portlethen & District Men's Shed, please contact the email address below and ask for a Membership Form or come along for a blether and learn more about how to get involved.

**Jim Duguid,**  
**Secretary, Portlethen & District Men's Shed**  
Email: [secretary@portlethenmensshed.co.uk](mailto:secretary@portlethenmensshed.co.uk)

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## Celebrating Two Years of Portlethen Market

This August marked a special milestone for Portlethen Market as we celebrated our second anniversary. On Sunday 16th August, the market once again welcomed residents and visitors to the McIntosh Donald site, bringing together local businesses, talented makers, community groups and families for another fantastic day in the heart of our town.

What began as an idea to create a regular community event has grown into something much bigger. Over the past two years, the market has become a place where neighbours meet for a chat, visitors discover what Portlethen has to offer, and small local businesses have the opportunity to showcase their products to hundreds of customers each month.

Shopping locally makes a real difference. Every purchase made from an independent trader helps support local families, encourages entrepreneurship and keeps money circulating within our local economy. Whether you're buying handmade crafts, artisan food, fresh produce, gifts or treats, you're helping small businesses thrive while enjoying products that are often unique and lovingly made.

This summer saw the exciting addition of a community car boot sale, running alongside the market. The new feature has given local residents the opportunity to clear out unwanted items, find pre-loved bargains and enjoy an even busier market atmosphere. It has attracted new visitors and added another dimension to the event, encouraging sustainability through reusing and recycling, while creating even more reasons for people to spend time in the community. Following its success over the summer months, we hope the car boot sale will continue to be a popular part of the market in the future.

But the Portlethen Market is about much more than shopping. It has become a community gathering place where people of all ages can spend a few hours together, catch up with friends, meet new people and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere. It provides an opportunity for local charities and community organisations to raise awareness of their work, while also giving new businesses an affordable way to reach customers and grow.

As we celebrated our second birthday, we'd like to thank everyone who has helped make the market such a success. Our dedicated volunteers, loyal stallholders, supportive local businesses and, of course, the thousands of visitors who have attended over the last two years have all played an important part in building something the community can be proud of.

If you've never visited before, our next market on 20th September is the perfect opportunity to come along. Browse the stalls, support local businesses, pick up a bargain at the car boot sale, enjoy a friendly atmosphere and celebrate everything that makes Portlethen such a great place to live.



As we look ahead, we're excited about what the future holds. We hope to continue growing the market, welcoming new traders, developing new attractions and, most importantly, providing a place where the community can come together month after month.

Here's to the next chapter of Portlethen Market - and many more years of shopping local, supporting local businesses and strengthening our wonderful community.

**The market takes place on the 3rd Sunday of the month 1100-1400 at McIntosh Donald's Car park.**

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To those few advertisers who receive their Cloch by post, please accept my apologies for the excess postage charge for the last edition.

I queried the cheaper postage rate offered me at the time, but the Post Office staff assured me it was correct. It clearly was not, and they have since acknowledged that.

This was a one-off and will not happen again on my watch. Ed.

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## Portlethen Bowling Club

[info@portlethenbowlingclub.co.uk](mailto:info@portlethenbowlingclub.co.uk)

Since our last entry in the Cloch, there has been a lot happening at our club.

All internal competitions are entering the latter stages, and shortly there will be winners to congratulate, as well as losers to commiserate with. We wish all those in end of season finals good luck!

Portlethen Bowling Club held the District Ladies' qualifying rounds for the Scottish Championships at Ayr. A superb day of bowling in warm sunshine, played in good spirit and sportsmanship. And we would like to wish all those who won, and advanced to Ayr, every success.

Our Top Five Competition saw entries from all parts of the Northeast, and even a team from our friends in Grangemouth taking part. Congratulations to the winners 2026, Polmuir Bowling Club.

Our Summer Fayre was once again well supported...



...and we thank all our volunteers and sponsors for the kind donations, both on the Saturday and throughout the year. Thanks also go to everyone who attended on the day.

Walter McMillan  
Past President



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# Kincardine Coastal

Kincardine Coastal Church of Scotland



**Portlethen**



**Newtonhill**

## Services

Kincardine Coastal Church looks forward to welcoming both old and new friends of all ages.

**Sunday Morning Service** in Newtonhill at 9:30 am with a later service in Portlethen beginning at 11:00 am.

## Soupa Tuesday Lunches

These enjoyable events continue to be offered in Newtonhill Church on the first Tuesday of every month, beginning again on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Come and join us - **£6 for soup, sweet & coffee**

## Car Wash

This service is provided on 5<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> October in the Newtonhill Church car park between 10:00 am and noon.

## Christmas Coffee Morning

This will be held in Newtonhill Church on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November between 10:00 am and noon.

## Bible Study

Every 2 weeks, on a Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm, our active Bible Study Group meets in The Manse at Portlethen.

We are also running a similar Wednesday morning group at 10:00 am in Newtonhill Church.

### **The Girls Brigade**

1st Newtonhill Girls' Brigade continues to meet every Monday evening in Newtonhill Church, beginning at 6.15 pm, with activities for girls from 5 years old and upwards.

They would be happy to welcome any girls from Portlethen too.

Support from the community is always welcome and, if you require further information or if your daughter is looking for something to do on a Monday evening, please contact [girlsbrigade@newtonhillchurch.org.uk](mailto:girlsbrigade@newtonhillchurch.org.uk)



### **The Guild**

The Guild meets regularly in Newtonhill Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month beginning on 16<sup>th</sup> September and starting at 2:00 pm.



New members are always welcome to join us to enjoy a very varied programme.

If you would like to get involved in any of the events or organisations listed above, please speak to anyone at the church or through our website:

[www.kincardine-coastal-church.org.uk](http://www.kincardine-coastal-church.org.uk)

Church Office, Portlethen, Tel: 01224 782883

Tue: 2.15pm- 4.45pm; Wed: 2.15pm-4.45pm; Fri: 9.00am-1.00pm

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**Primary Schools Quiz:** The Area round of the Rotary Primary School Quiz was held in Curl Aberdeen in May, organised by Portlethen and Balgownie clubs. Due to some pupils being unavailable due to a clash of events, a combination of the two Hillside school teams represented Portlethen Rotary. The combined P7 team finished in a creditable third place, just a few points short of getting through to the District round at the Beach Ballroom in July. Two of our members attended the final with Castlehill from Cupar winning with 102 points from a possible 120, with runners up Ben Wyvis Primary second on 100 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Millbank Primary from Nairn with 98.

**RYLA:** (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) 'Helping young people unlock their leadership potential. Building confidence, creating opportunities and connections.'

We are delighted that after considerable effort we raised enough funding to send both Newtonhill candidates Kyle and Lucas to RYLA this year. We visited them at Abernethy and followed them round some of the onsite activities, designed to challenge their strategic and leadership skills. Offsite they had been taking part and leading hiking, mountain biking, coasteering, canoeing, and raft building. We're looking forward to arranging a date when Kyle and Lucas can come to our meeting and give us a presentation on their week's experiences. We are disappointed that with our reduced membership and funds it is unlikely that we will be able to send a candidate in 2027. If you or your business would like to help sponsor a place, please contact us on [acm739@btinternet.com](mailto:acm739@btinternet.com)



*Visitors Day speaker, RYLA mentor David Scott, "Saying YES opens so many opportunities."*

*Coasteering, facing your fears*





*All this year's 16- and 17-year-olds together.*

All photos courtesy of RYLA Instagram

**Kids Out:** This annual Rotary event was a great day out at Bogenraith, when several hundred special needs youngsters and their carers from around Aberdeen and Shire attended a day of adventure, bouncy castles, horse and carriage rides, games and a picnic lunch. This was the first time the event had been held in the new venue, and it will be returning there next summer.

We continue to support other clubs with their events, we attended the charter celebrations of Deeside Rotary club and enjoyed their This is Your Life of their last 30 years of charitable efforts. Arbroath Rotary club is celebrating its centenary later in the year and we are looking forward to that.

**Would you like our help?** The Duck Race ducks are resting in a neighbour's garage, our wooden horses and huge dice are available for an interactive and fun horse race evening and our quiz skills are up to scratch too, so if you have an event in mind but don't have the skills to conduct the evening, please get in touch and we can help each other. Contact us on [acm739@btinternet.com](mailto:acm739@btinternet.com) or via messenger via our Facebook page.

## Portlethen Health Walking Group

The Health Group meets every Wednesday, we start the walk at 10 am from the car park opposite Jubilee Hall.

At the start we split into two groups, one doing an easy walk at a leisurely pace, the other doing a shorter walk, which is also easy, at their own pace.

All of our walks are flat and easy and last about one hour; there is only one walk with a wee incline, that is the walk to the Old Mill.

There are lots of parks in and around Portlethen, we walk most of them by using the lanes and paths.

When we do walk on the quiet roads we always look at the lovely gardens around Portlethen.

We are always looking for new members.

It might be ideal for anyone recovering from operations etc, and is also a great way to meet new friends,

Please come along; for more information contact me (Raymond) at

[mastrickwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:mastrickwalkers@gmail.com)





#### Portlethen Beavers

I'd been involved in planning the 8th Kincardineshire Damboree since January. It's a camp for Beaver Scouts from across Kincardineshire, and this year we had 60 Beavers, 30 Leaders and 3 Young Leaders signed up. As the camp approached, the weather forecast looked dodgy and messages started arriving asking whether we should cancel. I was fairly relaxed about it.

The forecast kept improving, and "Rain is just Scout sunshine!"

By Friday, the sun was shining. After collecting generous donations of food from Tesco and Warburtons, I headed to the Jock Neish Scouting Centre in Tannadice. Soon our two Leaders and three Young Leaders arrived to put up tents ready for the weekend.

By 11 o'clock on Saturday morning the site was buzzing. Excited Beavers settled into their tents while slightly nervous parents headed home. After lunch, the Beavers mixed into smaller groups and spent the afternoon learning about Beavers in the wild, orienteering, building fires, cooking pizzas and sausages, and enjoying snacks – lots of snacks!

The evening finished with games and a campfire. I was immensely proud of the Porty Beavers, who confidently led *Singing in the Rain* on their own. After hot chocolate and birthday cake (Beavers are 40 this year), it was off to bed. Eventually the chatting stopped and everyone got some sleep.

Sunday morning started very early but it was rewarding to see the smiles on faces that had been nervous the day before. For some it was their first night away from home and for most their first night in a tent. These Beavers are only six and seven years old, but they are capable of far more than many people realise.

After breakfast and a closing ceremony, we enjoyed our traditional walk to the walled garden before parents arrived. By 11 o'clock the site was quiet again and it was time to pack up.



Congratulations to our ten amazing Beavers, who looked after themselves and their buddies and proved they could do things they were nervous about. A huge thank you to our brilliant Young Leaders, who helped run activities, put up and take down tents and, most importantly, were outstanding role models throughout the weekend. Their energy and leadership made a real difference to the experience the Beavers had. Thanks also to all the adult volunteers who gave up their weekend to make the camp possible, especially John who cooked dinner and breakfast for 90!



Why do we do it? Because it's great fun, but also because we get to watch young people grow in confidence, resilience and independence. That applies not only to the Beavers but also to the Young Leaders. As Scouts say, it's all about **Skills for Life**.

**PS: The weather turned out to be the best we've had for years!**

You'll find a link to our waiting list on Facebook. We can't promise a place unless you apply well before they reach 6 but we'll do our best.

Christine Michie

<https://www.facebook.com/1stportlethen/>



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## Life continues to be very busy for the “Wee Blue Bus”



Portlethen and District  
Voluntary Community  
Ambulance Association

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 31829

The weekly service continues to support the local community with transport for Medical Centre and Dental appointments and during the summer season we have also been assisting some of the local organisations with transport for outings to various locations.

Can you believe this service has been going for 44 years now? We currently have a dedicated team of regular volunteer drivers on a rota, covering half-days every week, and several relief drivers, with varying degrees of availability, who help out when they can. However, as some of our team are due to step down over the coming weeks and months, we always seek to encourage more volunteers to help spread the workload and fill gaps where needed.

**If you feel you can spare a regular half-day per week, or even an occasional half-day slot to give someone a break then, assuming you have category D1 on your licence, we would be very happy to hear from you. Contact details below:**

**Lee Drain (Rota Coordinator) on 07876 301062 ([ldrain@aol.com](mailto:ldrain@aol.com)) or  
Bill Fraser (Chairperson) on 07974 971055 ([billfraseramb@yahoo.com](mailto:billfraseramb@yahoo.com))**



We recently supported the Chapelton of Elsie 10K event where some of our team members volunteered to hand out race medals and much needed refreshments to the participants at the finish line. Our Wee Blue Bus was also made available as usual to drive the marshals to the various checkpoints on the course. It was a great atmosphere, and the weather was kind to both the participants and supporters.

Another highlight in the Summer was The Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Palace in July, where one of our team was invited to represent the Community Ambulance. This year our Monday afternoon driver (who is also our Deputy Maintenance Coordinator) Roy Aspden, attended with his wife Midori and reported back that it was an honour and a great experience to be part of this annual event.



At the time of writing this, we have gathered some volunteers from our team to participate at the Portlethen Gala in August. We will be bringing along the Ambulance, sharing more information about our service and answering any questions from interested attendees.

Recently, the Community Transport Association (CTA), with which we are associated, honoured their 40-year anniversary with a celebration event in Manchester during Volunteers Week. As our Charity is one of the longest servicing associations they are involved with, they asked us to submit information about the history of our service and provide some photos and testimonials. The end result was a blog which captures the story of our service from the early days and is available on their website and social media pages. Here's the link if you want to read more:

<https://ctauk.org/news/lifeline-wheels-portlethen-and-district-voluntary-community-ambulance>

Once again, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and the many individuals, organisations and companies who kindly donate to our Charity which helps keep the service running for those who need it.

## **Need to speak to your local MP/MSP?**

### **Andrew Bowie MP**

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### **Stephen Flynn MSP**

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Tel 01224 213114  
Email [Stephen.flynn.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Stephen.flynn.msp@parliament.scot)  
X (Twitter) @StephenFlynnSNP

## 865 (Portlethen) Squadron



865 (Portlethen) Squadron continues an Action-Packed Year

The past few months have been another busy and rewarding period for 865 (Portlethen) Squadron, with our cadets and staff taking part in a wide range of training, adventurous activities, and events across Scotland and beyond.

To kick off the spring, cadets travelled to Bloc10 in Aberdeen for an introductory bouldering session, developing their confidence, problem-solving skills, and teamwork. This was followed by a Bronze Road Marching course, drill training days, a sports night, and a Multi-Activity Weekend at Boddam Cadet Training Centre, with Cpl Petrie live firing the L144 Rifle.

Staff have also been busy developing their own skills. Our Officer Commanding, Fg Off Callum Davie, attended the Unit Commanders' Course at RAF Cranwell, which focused on leadership, people management, and the responsibilities of commanding a squadron, while providing the opportunity to network with newly appointed Unit Commanders from across the organisation.

Meanwhile, Plt Off Rutherford and FS Davie successfully completed the Blue Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) Instructor Course, enabling them to deliver the Blue Drone syllabus and expand the range of aviation opportunities available to our cadets.

Adventure training has remained a key part of our programme. Cadets enjoyed a paddlesports session with Granite Adventures, taking part in paddleboarding, kayaking, and canoeing. This was enjoyed by all, and we look forward to returning in the future. We also had two cadets travel to 661 (Kirknewton) VGS to experience gliding, with both earning their Blue Wings badge.

The Squadron also competed at the annual North Scotland Wing Competition Day, achieving joint second place in the Banner Drill Competition, while Sgt Gibb was awarded second place as Best Banner Bearer.

Supporting our local community remains an important part of what we do. Cadets and staff proudly took part in the Armed Forces Day Parade in Aberdeen before joining 1297 (Stonehaven) Squadron to run a joint recruitment and public engagement stand at the Skateraw Fayre in Newtonhill.



To round off the period, five cadets and two members of staff travelled to RAF Valley on the beautiful island of Anglesey for the annual North Scotland Wing Summer Camp. The week included indoor climbing, a high ropes course, visits to fast jet training squadrons and engineering facilities, sports, and a trip to the beach, giving cadets an unforgettable insight into life on a busy RAF station.



As we head into the second half of the year, our Squadron remains committed to providing exciting, varied, and high-quality opportunities that develop confidence, leadership, and life skills, while ensuring our cadets continue to enjoy everything the RAF Air Cadets has to offer.

If this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, we're always keen to welcome new cadets and adult volunteers. To find out more about joining 865 (Portlethen) Squadron, get in touch with us at [865@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:865@rafac.mod.gov.uk)



North Scotland Wing, RAF Valley  
17th July 2020

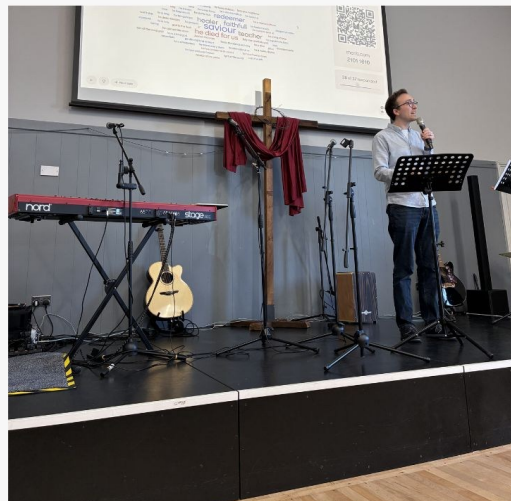


## Hey Portlethen!

We are a church in the heart of the community.

We meet every Sunday at the Jubilee Hall, at 10:30am, with folks of all ages and stages in our church family, and have a variety of activities through the week.

Whether you are a Christian and live locally or want a welcoming space to explore faith, we'd love to have you!





Tuesdays at 10am  
Jubilee Hall, Portlethen

A group for parents, carers and toddlers to come and sing, play and snack together.

Please get in touch with Jennie (07725989147) to find out more

## Craft Group

Thursdays at 7pm  
Porty Cabin, Portlethen

Come to a relaxed evening. We make crafts, learn new skills, have a blether and connect with others each week.

## TABLE SUNDAY

1st Sunday Each  
Month at 10:30am

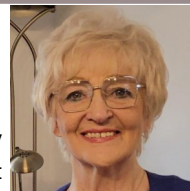
We eat together and  
explore the stories of  
Jesus



If you want to find out any more  
email [zak@portlethencf.com](mailto:zak@portlethencf.com) or  
check out our website

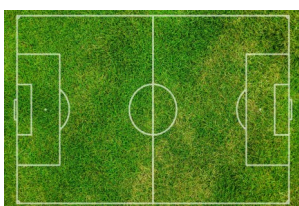
[portlethencf.com](http://portlethencf.com)

## Councillor Catherine Victor



I hope you have all had a lovely summer and enjoyed some holiday time. The weather has been kind to us, after a miserable spring, and it has been great to enjoy some much-needed sunshine.

I am concentrating my blog, in this edition, to my on-going search for ground around Portlethen to create our football pitch. I must sound like a broken record, but I won't give



up. Portlethen needs a dedicated football pitch; all other towns, and even villages, in Aberdeenshire have a football pitch and club house, surely, we can find suitable ground for Portlethen Sports Club to develop a dedicated local pitch. The World Cup has just completed, and Portlethen's Cameron Burgess played for Australia in the tournament, huge congratulations to him. We have the talent; another

two young players, Taylor and Calvin, have joined the Aberdeen Football Academy. Congratulations and good luck to them. We could do even more if we had the facilities that are needed to help develop the talent that is in our town.

The area currently designated for two pitches in Hillside is financially not viable to develop, due to Stewart Milne Group using it as a dumping ground for excess waste material while the 800 houses and school were being built in the area. There is ground to the west of the allotments that is in the hands of the group's Administrators, and I did enquire about the possibility of them giving that to the community. They were to consider this request, unfortunately, I have been advised that they are to auction it off. I asked then, if they would give the community time to see if we could raise the funds needed to purchase this ground. I have not had a reply to date so am not confident that we will be successful in our request.

This leaves me back to square one. I am convinced that someone, in the surrounding area of Portlethen, must have ground that would be suitable for our needs, and I am appealing to all landowners in the area, through this blog, to please contact me if you can help. [cllr.c.victor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.c.victor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

Raising the funds that would be needed to develop a football pitch, is achievable. There are grants and other funds, including what the town could raise, that can be applied for so that is not the problem, we just need to find suitable ground, minimum approx. 2 acres for one pitch.

I am an optimist. Someday, soon hopefully, we will have our pitch.



### Contact your Local Councillor

David Aitchison - [cllr.d.aitchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.d.aitchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Shirley Burnett - [cllr.s.burnett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.s.burnett@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Mel Sullivan - [cllr.m.sullivan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.m.sullivan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Catherine Victor - [cllr.c.victor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.c.victor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

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**Contact: Craig Fyfe**  
**Phone: 07783191797**  
**Email: [info@abersheenvaleting.co.uk](mailto:info@abersheenvaleting.co.uk)**

**Portlethen based but cover Aberdeen and Shire**

## **JM MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

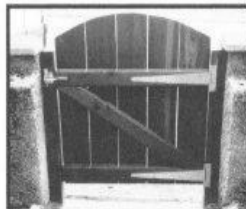
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## **Newtonhill & Portlethen 50+ Walking Group**

The Newtonhill & Portlethen 50+ walking group was formed some 30 years ago and is part of the larger Grampian 50+ Walking Network.



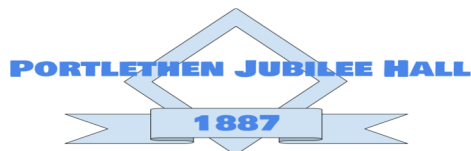
The group meets each Monday at 09:30am, alternating between Portlethen and Newtonhill, and we car-share from there to our chosen destination. Our walks vary from around 6 to 8 miles and are generally on well-defined tracks, though these can occasionally be muddy! Our destinations are quite varied and although we've definitely got our favourites that we do regularly, we're always trying to slot somewhere new into our programme. The group photo above is from Bell Wood Aboyne.

The group is very friendly and sociable, and there's a steady stream of conversations on wide-ranging topics going on as we walk; you find yourself chatting with different group members throughout the day. Generally, there'll be around 10 to 12 on a walk and it's quite a relaxed pace; we'll stop if there's something interesting to look at or a fine view to take in. There's always a stop for lunch around the half-way point of our walks, with tea breaks as required and if we do happen to end up close to a coffee shop at walk's end, we may stop there too.

We're always keen to see new faces. So, if you're interested in a bit of exercise, seeing some lovely parts of the surrounding countryside, and making some new friends, why not come along and give us a try?

If 6 to 8 miles sounds too much, we do try to include a shorter walk option of around 4 miles each week, so don't be put off if you're not sure about managing the full distance.

You can find out where we're walking, and any other information, by contacting our membership secretary Christine Moig on 07762 746710



Email - [Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com](mailto:Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com)  
Website - [www.jubileehallportlethen](http://www.jubileehallportlethen)  
Facebook - Jubilee Hall Portlethen  
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## News from your community hall.

### Autumn Update!

How can we be thinking about "Autumn" yet? As I write this, the weather has been lovely, for the most part, the kids are still off school, and the grass still needs cutting. Surely there is a great deal of summer still to come.

At the hall we are enjoying a "quiet" spell, as many of our regular Lets take a break over the summer months, but we are still busy with birthday celebrations and other one-off family events. With a general uptick in bookings for the hall over the next few months our need for a Treasurer and Invoice Clerk becomes even more acute. If you think you could spare a couple of hours a month, please get in touch. You could even join our committee!

One of our longest regular Lets has reached the end of its tenure. Jackie Cadger, who has run the very popular "Dramatix" classes in the hall for the last 9 years, has decided to reduce her workload. As a sign of our appreciation for the long association, we presented her with a lovely floral tribute. We will miss her!



It is also a tribute to the popularity of the hall that her slot was taken up very quickly by another exercise class. If you want to see the variety of classes taking place in the hall on a weekly basis, log onto our website - details below.

Our journey on the transition to an Integrated Organisation continues and we are working on a reorganisation which will allow ownership of the hall to be transferred to the new group of Trustees. When complete, we will be able to apply for the significant amount of funding we require to meet our goal of Net Zero, by installing solar panels and battery storage, as well as building the extension we need to expand the space we can offer to Community Groups and individuals. The architect's drawings can be viewed in the hall.

Let me also share some other news. Over the last couple of months, we have updated our website, [www.jubileehallportlethen.com](http://www.jubileehallportlethen.com), and the site now has information on the hall itself, how to book the space and general information on all of the events taking place week by week. This can be useful if you are looking to join any of the many activities taking place. Contact information for each of our regular events is there to allow you to get more information if you would like to join in.

Booking the hall is now a simple process - go to our website [www.jubileehallportlethen.com](http://www.jubileehallportlethen.com), check the hall diary and if the time you want is free, simply reserve the time you want, and our Booking Clerk will be in touch to confirm the booking. Invoicing has also been simplified with invoices issued at the end of the month to those individuals and organisations who had bookings during that calendar month. Check it out!

## **BOOK THE HALL**

Booking the hall is easy. Go to our updated website

[www.jubileehallportlethen.com](http://www.jubileehallportlethen.com)

where you will find our diary and times available.

Reserve your space and our Booking Clerk  
will be in touch to confirm the booking

The booking rates are as follows:

Rental of hall:

- One-off lets (parties, etc.) £20 per hour
- Regular lets (exercise classes, etc.) £18 per hour

A projector, screen and high quality sound system  
are also available, for an extra £20 per booking.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Dave Johnstone, Chair

[Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com](mailto:Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com)



## The Lodge of Portlethen No. 1805

*On the roll of  
The Grand Lodge of  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland*

Allan Malcolm. Secretary      E.Mail:- 1805lop@gmail.com

Hi, to everyone. We hope you have all been enjoying the beautiful weather, some of you will have been on holiday and some will be looking forward to a holiday. We hope it went, or goes, well.

Now, what has the Lodge been up to? We donated money to a young lad with a terrible disease, and really hope this gets him the treatment he so much deserves. We also donated money to the Lethen for their fundraising efforts for the community. A few of the members from the five various Lodges in the Province of Kincardineshire, walked from Lodge Laurencekirk No 136, over to Lodge St David No 572, Inverbervie, where they had breakfast, then onwards to Lodge St John No 119, Johnshaven along the coast to Stonehaven to Lodge Stonehaven No 65 for lunch, then the long haul up to Portlethen, to Lodge Portlethen No 1805, where Pizzas were supplied by The Provincial Grand Lodge of Kincardineshire. All the walkers did extremely well and covered just over 32 miles, starting at 4.00 am at Laurencekirk and ending at Portlethen between 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm. Their efforts raised over £1500.00, which will go to local charities. Well done to all that took part - a great achievement!

### **Just a wee reminder:**

There is a DE-FIB outside the Bourtree Community Hall door. If you are required to use it, first call the emergency services, ask for the Ambulance Service, and give them the location, then you'll get the code to open the box.

The Province of Kincardineshire has two well-versed gentlemen, volunteers, willing to spread information about Prostrate Cancer to any group. This includes women's groups; so often men ignore the symptoms, whereas the Lady of the house might notice changes and get him to the Doctor for the test. If you are in a group that meets regularly, please consider enquiring about the talk; small changes could make a huge change, starting with getting him to take the test.

There are many Freemasons within the Portlethen community. You may be one of the many Masons who have fallen away from their Mother Lodge for whatever reason, be it family or work commitments, moving away, or just stopped

attending. Maybe you are passing time alone. We would like to cordially invite you to visit our Lodge. We meet on the first Friday of each month so, if you are at a loose end, come along. We would be happy to see you, this would get you out the house for a while, maybe make new friends, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and sandwich or a sausage roll, and a good blether with like-minded Brothers. So don't be bashful, drop me a line to say you will attend, or just turn up, you will be made very welcome.

As always, our invitation goes out to all Honourable men of like-minded thoughts over the age of 18 years to come and join us; just send me an email and I will arrange for you to meet some Brothers who will answer as many of your questions as possible.

I have often been asked what Freemasonry is about and how to join, so here is the answer:-

#### **Applying for Membership**

*Any individual who wishes to embark on a journey of self-discovery and improvement, may apply for membership. That individual must, however, meet the following criteria and thereafter follow the process outlined below.*

- *Have a belief in a 'Supreme being'*
- *Be male, and at least 18+*
- *Be a moral, upstanding character and reputable in the community*

1. **You must Express An Interest**
2. **Meet with Members:** *Arrange a meeting with current members to learn more about Freemasonry, The Provincial Grand Lodge in the area and the Grand Lodge of Scotland. This is an opportunity to ask questions and understand what membership entails.*
3. **Submit an Application:** *Complete and submit a membership application form. This form will ask for basic information about you and your reasons for wanting to join.*
4. **Interview and Review:** *Your application will be reviewed, and you may be invited for an interview with lodge members. This helps ensure that you are a good fit for the organisation, and for you to see if Freemasonry is right for you.*
5. **Initiation Ceremony:** *If your application is approved, you will be invited to participate in an initiation ceremony, where you will officially become a Freemason in the Scottish Constitution.*

Until the next edition,  
Stay Safe and we wish you all good health and happiness



## Portlethen Medical Centre

### **Update from Your GP Practice: Improving Access and Ensuring Safety**

Thank you for your continued support as we continue to work with our new digital access system, Engage, which has now been in place for 26 months. While the system has helped streamline access to care, we know there's still room for improvement. We're actively listening to your feedback and making ongoing adjustments to ensure it works as well as possible for everyone. We are working on a safe way to allow requests for non urgent appointments to still come through while we have reached our safe working capacity for that day. We thank you all sincerely for your patience while working on this. Patient safety is paramount and we need to ensure we are maintaining this at all times

As part of this process, we've had to make the difficult decision to implement a daily capacity limit for appointment requests. This follows guidance from the British Medical Association (BMA) on safe GP workload levels. It's a necessary step to protect the wellbeing of our staff and, most importantly, to ensure safe and effective care for our patients.

We continue to monitor demand for out-of-hours services, including A&E attendances, and are proud to report that our practice consistently rates lower than average for emergency service use compared to other practices in Aberdeenshire. This reflects the strength of our community's engagement and the quality of care we strive to provide.

We remain committed to delivering the best possible care and thank you again for your understanding and continued support.

### **Repeat Prescriptions**

**The online repeat prescription service is available from 8.30am on Mondays through to 5pm on Fridays (24 hours a day) Please note the service is not available over the weekend when the practice is closed.**

We encourage patients to use this service as it is the safest and most efficient method for ordering repeat prescriptions. We are continuing to encourage more patients to sign up for this service. If you wish you can sign up on the practice web site or by speaking to one of our reception team who will be happy to help you.

If you are unable to use the online service you can order your repeat prescriptions by placing your repeat prescription re-order form in the box at the front entrance or by posting the repeat slip to the practice. Please do **not** hand in the repeat slip to the local pharmacies. This will delay the process of collecting your prescriptions. **Please note we do not accept repeat prescription requests over the telephone.**

**Please remember we require 3 full working days notice from when the request arrives at the practice, before you can collect your repeat prescriptions from the pharmacy of your choice.**

Please do **not** request prescriptions that are on repeat through Engage Consult, please use the online service or follow the process for paper requests.

#### **Staff Training and development days**

The practice will be closed for staff training and development on the following date. The practice will be providing an emergency service only during these times. There will be instructions on the recorded message advising how patients can contact the doctor.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 13.00 – 18.00**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2026 13.00 – 18.00**

#### **Staffing update**

Our husband and wife GP's Dr Graeme Brown and Dr Margaret Brown both retired from the practice 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026. We had a great retirement dinner for the staff to say their goodbyes, a fantastic night was had by all. We all wish Dr Graeme and Dr Margaret Brown all the very best in their well deserved retirement.

Dr Angela Onukwu joined the practice as a salaried GP 1<sup>st</sup> May.

We have also added to our Admin team, Lisa joined the team 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Dr Gorata Keitaile was our ST1 GP trainee from February – August, Dr Keitaile will return to us as our GP registrar in August 2027.

Dr Augustine Akpojishi (Dr Austin) will return to us in August 2026 as our GP registrar, Dr Austin will be with us until late 2027.

#### **Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

The practice is looking to establish a Patient Participation Group (PPG).

We will be holding an open meeting at the Medical Centre on Monday 5 October, from 18:00 to 19:00. A representative from Inverbervie's PPG will be attending to discuss how their group operates and answer any questions.

If you are interested in becoming part of the PPG, please contact Mrs Roberta Ross, Practice Manager. Further details will follow regarding the meeting via the practice Facebook page, posters within the practice and local pharmacies for those that don't have digital access.

#### **Practice Grounds**

We are very privileged to have beautiful grounds around the practice, and a great deal of time and effort goes into maintaining them.

The recent incident of vandalism was extremely disappointing and resulted in significant damage. Police Scotland have been provided with CCTV footage and are investigating the matter.

We would like to thank the members of the community who have contacted the practice to express their disappointment. We have no objection to members of the community using the grounds outside working hours for walks. We simply ask that you respect the grounds, furniture, and building, and leave them as you found them.

#### **Zero tolerance**

The majority of our patients are polite and courteous however there have been occasions when this has not been the case.

It is important to note that the Practice operates a Zero Tolerance Policy in conjunction with NHS Grampian. The Practice will not tolerate abusive behaviour towards any of our staff. Please be kind and considerate to all of our staff, we are trying our very best to help all the patients in these challenging times.

## THE LARDER (PORTLETHEN AND SURROUNDING AREAS)

#THELARDER #FORTHECOMMUNITYBYTHECOMMUNITY

The Larder at the Porty Cabin on Cookston Road (opposite Portlethen Primary School) is available for **EVERYONE** in the local community to use.



### Who can use the Larder?

- All families or individuals living in Portlethen and Surrounding Areas.
- No referral needed if you find yourself struggling financially.
- We only need to see proof of your address on your first visit.
- Anyone interested in preventing food waste and stopping excess food items from being sent to landfill.

### How to use The Larder?

- Use the QR Code on our attached poster to place an order by Google Form or follow the link on our pinned Facebook page, if you are struggling financially.
- Pop in during our shifts on a **Monday 6pm-8pm, Friday 2.30pm-4.30pm or Saturday 10am-12pm** and one of our volunteers will assist you.
- Drop into the Porty Cabin during our opening hours to see what excess food items we have received from CFine, Felix/FareShare and any short-dated items from the Co-ops in Hillside, Greens & Aldi.
- Come in and buy fresh farm eggs, bread, milk and fresh fruit and vegetables.
- **Pay What You Can** – we have a donation jar if you can give us something towards our costs but we understand if this is not always possible.

### How to support The Larder?

- We have a donation trolley in Portlethen Asda and Newtonhill Tesco for any non-perishable items.
- We accept non-perishable items donated during our opening hours. These can include toiletry items, cleaning items, pet food as well as food and treat items.
- We also accept cash and bank donations, Sum Up donations and have this QR code to receive a donation.



### Who supports The Larder?

- Warburtons; McIntosh Donald; Colin Napier Milkman; One Seed Forward; Co-op Hillside; Co-op Garage; Tesco Newtonhill; Asda Portlethen; Greens Portlethen; Aldi Portlethen; Aberdeenshire Council; CFine; Felix/FareShare; Portlethen's Place to Eat; Psycho Berserker Catering; Portlethen Child Minders; Meikle Carewe Wind Farm; KDP; The Leathan; Portletico FC; H&P; other local Businesses; PTA; Portlethen Santa Run; Portlethen Gala; Portlethen Academy; local Primary Schools; Churches; Portlethen Medical Centre; Portlethen Sports Club; local Groups; local Residents; and many amazing **Volunteers**.

### How to contact The Larder?

- By Facebook Messenger
- By email to [c19portlethenhelp@gmail.com](mailto:c19portlethenhelp@gmail.com)
- By phone on 07376 133870.

Please pop in soon to see what The Larder has to offer.

**The Larder Team**



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**FRESH FARM EGGS**

# Portlethen Larder

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### **My ASDAN Story: Fiona Jones (Supported by Real Life Options)**

For Fiona Jones, learning is about more than gaining qualifications. It is about building confidence, developing independence and proving to herself that she can achieve things she once found challenging.

Fiona has always had a real thirst for learning and enjoys discovering new skills. For her, learning brings a great sense of achievement, and few things make her prouder than receiving a certificate recognising everything she has worked towards.

Wanting to continue building her life skills, Fiona began researching opportunities online for people with SEND and discovered ASDAN, an organisation offering flexible, accredited programmes designed to support personal development, independence and employability skills. After reading more about the courses available, Fiona spoke with her Service Manager Michelle to explore how the programmes could work and understand the benefits they might bring.

READ MORE ABOUT FIONA'S STORY IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE CLOCHANDICHTER



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Bridge End, Downies Road,  
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### Portlethen A2B dial-a-bus

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



**Wednesdays: 9.45 – 14.30 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 14.30 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.



### PORTLETHEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PDCC)

*The Community council is constituted to try to represent Portlethen and District community interests and to try to improve the area. Working with, and representing to, our local Aberdeenshire councillors and others the views of this community.*

Portlethen requires a community hub that is accessible, and usable by all the different groups and associations in Portlethen. The existing hub is the extension to the academy, which is not suitable; come and see by coming to our meeting! – We are looking for Portlethen residents to come forward – **more hands make less work** – to help advance this.

- Community hub early planning – need resident's input
- Academy School children from Marywell next year will not have school transport. We raised this with Aberdeenshire councilors without any welcome change offered.
- Marywell has a planning application in for "48 - 52 All Affordable Homes with Open Amenity Space and Associated Infrastructure"; we await further information and comments from Marywell residents?
- Findon has a planning application in for 11 dwellinghouses south of Earnsheugh Terrace.
- One of our team has made some progress with chasing down potholes, and continues to notify Aberdeenshire on our behalf.
- Portlethen bus "Service" is not suitable for the area – we have members chasing both councilors and bus companies. Please let us know what YOU would like to see as a Service?
- We expect problems in the winter with the withdrawal of sand boxes; we did attempt to document and adopt some, however we need people to help to achieve all we would wish.

We do not have enough people in the Community Council to help cover all of the opportunities open to our area. Please come along to our meeting and see what you can do to help .

The Community Council, as with many voluntary organisations, **needs your help**. Come to meetings to put your concerns and your ideas for improving the community to the Community Council.

**Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month (Other than December)**

**Larch room, Portlethen academy 7 pm.**

**Portlethen Community Council [portlethencommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:portlethencommunitycouncil@gmail.com)**

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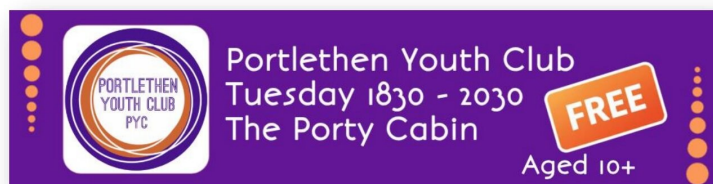
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Mobile: 07756 758921



Portlethen Youth club is proving to be a valuable space for young people in the community, offering a safe, welcoming environment where they can relax, socialise, and have fun.

Open to all and free of charge, the club provides a place for young people to spend time with friends, meet new people, and take a break from the pressures of everyday life. With a wide range of games and activities available, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

"Young people say it's a fun place to be and you can make friends"

More than just a place to pass the time, the youth club plays an important role in supporting wellbeing. It creates a non-judgemental space where young people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and being themselves.

For many who attend, the club it is a chance to switch off, feel included, and build friendships in a safe and supportive setting. As it continues to grow in popularity, it remains an important part of the community, helping young people feel connected and valued.



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Email us @

Portlethenyouthclub@gmail.com

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# Portlethen Academy

Respect. Responsibility. Resilience.

As another quick school session comes to an end, I am incredibly grateful for the continued support of all parents/carers and members of our community in helping us to improve the outcomes of our young people across Portlethen Academy. I continue to be an extremely proud Head Teacher when we recognise the fantastic hard work and achievements of our pupils and staff. I wish you all a fantastic summer!

**Mr Drennan, Head Teacher**



## Summer Newsletter (July 2026)

We always thoroughly enjoy pulling together our Newsletter presentations throughout each school session, to collate aspects of our learning in Faculties, extra-curricular opportunities, and our individual pupil achievements. And our recent Summer Newsletter was no exception.

This can be viewed here via the Link:

<https://bit.ly/PortySummer2026>

or the QR Code. We hope you enjoy!



## S2 Football Team Create School History



Our S2 football team has enjoyed another outstanding season, building on last year's league and cup double by completing a remarkable regional treble.

Having already lifted the Sportsman Trophy with a 3–2 victory over Westhill Academy, the boys went on to secure the league title with a game to spare before producing a superb performance in the cup final at Balmoral Stadium, defeating the SFA Performance School at Hazelhead 5–1.

Across their S1 and S2 seasons, this group has now amassed an incredible 34 victories. This year alone, the S2 squad travelled more than 650 miles, representing the school superbly both on and off the pitch. Their commitment, teamwork and sportsmanship have been a credit to themselves, their families and the school community.

A huge thank you to the parents and carers whose support throughout the season has helped make this success possible. And thanks to Mr Montgomery and Mr McAdam for their continued support and encouragement of the team.

Congratulations to all involved on a truly historic season.

### Thank You - Mrs MacLeod

After an incredible **29 Years** as Guidance Teacher for Bourtree House, Mrs MacLeod has decided to retire from this post which she has job-shared with Mrs Johnston for the last few years.

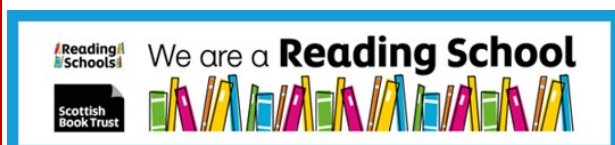
Mrs MacLeod (Queen of Bourtree as we call her!) has been a huge support to thousands of young people and their families over the years across our school community and in our current and previous buildings, guiding everyone with time, care, compassion and empathy, through many a difficult situation. We know this has made a huge difference and we can't thank her enough for this outstanding milestone.



Fear not, Bourtree will be in very safe hands with Mrs Johnston now taking on this role full-time from August. And we are delighted to still have Mrs MacLeod with us in her Faculty PT Additional Support for Learning (ASL) role on a Wednesday/Thursday going forwards.

Thanks again - you are a real Porty Legend with a fantastic legacy to leave behind! X

### Reading Schools Award – English Faculty / Whole-School



We have done it! Portlethen Academy is now officially accredited as a Reading School!

This year we, as a school community - learners and staff - have read a vast variety of books, organised book swaps, dressed up for World Book Day, talked about our reading, and engaged with fun activities in the libraries to promote daily reading.

It has been a real privilege working with our pupil leadership team, Lucy Townhill, Hannah Walker, Klaudia Hagyarova and Sophie Middleton. These remarkable young women have raised the profile of reading in our school by preparing book displays, recommendation lists, hiding bookmarks in books across the library and more.

Working on our accreditation programme has really involved the whole school community. We have surveyed learners, staff and parents about their thoughts on reading and how we can further encourage our young people to read; this will really help us in planning our next steps. We would love to build on involving families more fully over the next year and welcome ideas for book and reading themed events.

Dr Millar and Mrs Mackintosh would like to thank everyone for their support while we assembled what was recognised as an impressive set of evidence for our application by The Scottish Book Trust. And, as a school, we would like to extend a huge thank you to Dr Millar and Mrs Mackintosh for their continued hard work and support of this initiative - we couldn't have achieved it without you!

Do look out for our fabulous trophy and banner as you come into the school, and let's keep this momentum going!

## A Spring & Summer to Remember at Studio 6!



It has certainly been a busy few months for everyone at **LA Dance & Cheer** and **Allstar Cheer Dance & Gymnastics**, and what an incredible season it has been!

This Spring and Summer saw our **LA Dance & Cheer** competitive athletes travel to competitions in Glasgow, where months of hard work, dedication and teamwork paid off in spectacular fashion. The club secured an amazing number of prestigious international opportunities, including invitations for our **U16 Hip Hop** and **Senior Hip Hop** teams to compete at the **Allstar Worlds Championships in Orlando, Florida**, qualification for the **European Cheerleading Championships in Sweden**, and **over seven bids** for our other teams to compete at the **European Summit Championships in Portugal**.

These achievements are a huge honour for both our athletes and coaches and are a testament to the standard of coaching available right here within our local community. It's something we're incredibly proud of.

The success doesn't stop on the competition floor. Our purpose-built home, **Studio 6**, provides athletes with fantastic facilities designed specifically for cheerleading, dance and tumbling. With sprung dance and cheer floors, extensive tumbling equipment and full-length mirrors throughout the studio, athletes have everything they need to train safely, develop their skills and continually improve.

June also saw us host our **Annual Showcase & Awards Evening** at the King's Church Auditorium, performing in front of an audience of around **500 family and friends**. The evening featured **35 incredible routines**, showcasing not only our competitive LA teams but also our recreational athletes from **Allstar Cheer Dance & Gymnastics**, who proudly demonstrated everything they had learned throughout the season.

One of the most rewarding parts of the evening was seeing so many of our recreational athletes inspired to take the next exciting step by joining our competitive programme. It is wonderful to watch athletes grow in confidence before progressing onto bigger opportunities.

We also held our annual competitive evaluations in June and were delighted to welcome both current and brand-new athletes. It proved to be one of our busiest evaluation periods yet, making us even more excited for the season ahead.

As preparations continue for our new season beginning in **August**, we are looking forward to welcoming both returning and new members. Whether athletes choose our recreational classes or our competitive pathway, they'll discover so much more than dance, cheerleading and gymnastics. They'll find a welcoming community, supportive coaches, lasting friendships and an environment where confidence, resilience and teamwork flourish.

We still have a small number of spaces available within some of our **LA Dance & Cheer competitive teams**, and we'd love to hear from anyone who would like to become part of the LA family. If competition isn't quite for you, **Allstar Cheer Dance & Gymnastics** offers fun, friendly recreational classes for all ages and abilities, and with no previous experience required.

We're also excited to introduce the new time for our popular **Tumble Tots preschool** class for children aged **3-5 years**, now running **Mondays from 3:15pm-4:00pm** - the perfect way for little ones to build confidence, coordination and a love of movement from an early age.

Finally, **Studio 6** isn't just home to our clubs. The facility is also available for daytime and weekend hire and is ideal for fitness classes, yoga, Pilates, dance groups, workshops, community organisations and much more.

**We'd love to welcome you!**

**Competitive Team Enquiries (LA Dance & Cheer)**

✉ [ladanceandcheer@outlook.com](mailto:ladanceandcheer@outlook.com)

**Recreational Class Enquiries (Allstar Cheer Dance & Gymnastics)**

✉ [allstarcdg@outlook.com](mailto:allstarcdg@outlook.com)

**Studio 6 Hire Enquiries**

✉ [studio6rental@outlook.com](mailto:studio6rental@outlook.com)

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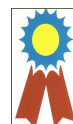
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## **House of Salvation Church, Portlethen**

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#### **A Season of Song, Story and Stepping Out**

As autumn settles over Portlethen, we look back on a summer full of rich stories, honest conversations, and moments shared with our community, and forward to an evening of music we can't wait to share with you.

#### **Summer Highlights:**

##### **Hymn Sunday**

On June 14, we set aside our usual service to spend the morning with the hymns that have carried generations through joy and sorrow alike. Behind every hymn is a story: of loss, of hope, of ordinary people finding words for what they could not otherwise say. Hearing those stories alongside the songs themselves made for one of the most moving mornings we've shared this year.

##### **Real Talk: A Session for Teenagers**

In July, we opened up space for a different kind of conversation, one for our teenagers, about the choices that shape a life. Career, creativity, the pull of peer influence, and the everyday decisions that add up to who we become. Honest, unhurried, and led with care, it was a chance for young people to be heard and to think out loud without judgement.

##### **Fun Factory: Father's Day Edition**

Despite a few summer showers, families turned out in good numbers at Nicol Park for our Father's Day Fun Factory, a joyful afternoon of games and crafts for children aged 5 to 11. It takes more than a bit of Portlethen rain to dampen this one.

##### **Lethen Park Care Home**

Each month, we hold a service at Lethen Park Care Home, sharing music, encouragement and companionship with residents. It remains one of the quiet, steady joys of our calendar.

##### **Out and About: Litter Picking**

Every Saturday, a small team from House of Salvation can be found out picking litter around Portlethen, a small, practical way of caring for the town we call home.



VENUE  
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  @hosportlethen  @rccghosportlethen

### Coming Up This Autumn:

#### Outpouring 2.0: Harvest of Praise

This September, we're inviting the whole of Portlethen to an evening of live gospel music, warmth and community. Everyone is welcome, young and old, whatever your background. Full details above.

#### You're Always Welcome

Join us every Sunday at 11am at Portlethen Academy Theatre for a refreshing, friendly service. Whether you're new to Portlethen, have lived here for a while or simply exploring faith, there's a place for you in our church family.

**Tel: 07877 103721 / 01224 516003**

**Email: [pastor@houseofsalvation.org.uk](mailto:pastor@houseofsalvation.org.uk)**



## Mearns FM: . Beyond the Microphone

Walk down any street in Aberdeenshire and you will pass people with remarkable stories. The neighbour quietly supporting a local charity. The family opening a new business. The volunteer giving their time to others. The musician writing songs in a spare room. The first-time author proudly holding their newly published book. Most of these stories never make the headlines. Yet they are the stories that define who we are as a community.

At Mearns FM, we believe those stories deserve to be heard.

Community radio is sometimes misunderstood. People often think it's simply about presenters playing music and chatting between songs. Music is certainly part of what we do, but our purpose is much bigger. We are here to give local people, charities, community groups and businesses a voice. Every week our volunteer presenters meet people who may never have spoken on radio before. Many arrive wondering whether anyone will be interested in what they have to say. Almost every one of them leaves realising their story matters. This summer has been a wonderful example of that.



We have launched **Business Spotlight**, celebrating the people behind our local businesses and the journeys that brought them to where they are today.

Through **Community Spotlight**, local charities and community organisations can share what they do, explain how people can access their services and encourage new volunteers to get involved.



Our new feature, **Books, Glorious Books**, celebrates local authors. We were delighted to welcome Aberdonian writer John Duncan to talk about his debut novel *The Denburn*, proving that remarkable talent exists right here on our doorstep.

We are also working with organisations including HMRC, Business Gateway and Kincardine & Mearns Citizens Advice Bureau to bring trusted information on business support, taxation and everyday financial matters directly to our listeners.

None of this would be possible without volunteers.

Earlier this year, members of the Mearns FM family completed the Aberdeen Kiltwalk, raising more than **£1,800** to help support our volunteer-run charity. It was a wonderful reminder that community radio isn't powered by large corporations it's powered by local people who believe their community deserves its own voice.

The story of our community is never finished.

Every week brings another event, another achievement, another charity, another business and another person whose story deserves to be heard.

Perhaps next time.....it will be yours.

If you're organising a community event, raising money for a charity, launching a business, celebrating a local success or simply have a story you think others should hear, we'd love to hear from you.

Email us at **studio@mearnsfm.org.uk** or text **82228**, starting your message with **MF**.

You can listen to Mearns FM on **105-107 FM, DAB+**, at [www.mearnsfm.org.uk](http://www.mearnsfm.org.uk), or via **Alexa, Radio Player** and **Radio Garden**.

Community radio isn't about us. It's about all of us.

*Until next time, keep supporting local, keep sharing stories and keep looking after one another.*

**Because every great community has stories worth telling.**

**Maxine Smith, Secretary,  
on behalf of the volunteers of Mearns FM**

## **A2D Garden Services**

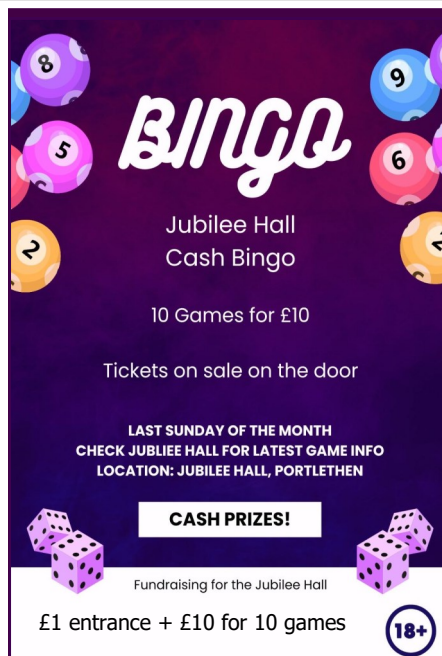
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## **LOCAL Addresses, Phone Numbers, Emails**

### **Bourtree Hall**

Bookings  
E: thebourtreehall@gmail.com

### **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  
E: Jubileehallportlethen@gmail.com

### **Kincardine Coastal Church of Scotland**

Church Office, Portlethen  
Tel: 01224 782883  
E: administrator@kincardine-coastal-church.org.uk

### **Portlethen Academy**

Bruntland Road  
Tel: 01224 782174

### **Portlethen Christian Fellowship**

Sundays 10.30am @ Jubilee Hall  
E: info@portlethencf.com

### **Portlethen Library**

Portlethen Academy  
Bruntland Road  
Tel: 01224 472870

### **Portlethen Medical Centre**

Old Portlethen Road  
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### **Portlethen School**

Cookston Road  
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### **Post Office**

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### **RCCG House of Salvation**

Sundays 11am @ Portlethen Academy  
Tel: 07877 103721, 01224 516003  
E: info@houseofsalvation.org.uk

### **Social Work Department**

Portlethen Academy  
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