

AT LONG LAST OUR SPLENDID NEW LIBRARY IS OPEN

Margret Wood opened the doors of the new library in the school at 5pm on Tuesday 25th August. There to greet the first user, Barbara Simpson from Haig Street, was the Head of Moray Libraries Service, Alistair Campbell, our three Councillors and members of the Portknockie Community Council. The first book taken out on loan was "Prince and the Pilgrim" by Mary Stewart.

The new library is in a specially converted room with its own access off the entrance corridor into the school. Portknockie is the first village in Moray to have its public library integrated in the local school with enhanced provision. This sharing arrangement emerged from the 2005 Moray School Estate Management Plan that looked for solutions to the problem of overcapacity in village schools. The school has provided the community with space for a library next door to the enhanced school library. Now school and the community share a quality provision. We can hope that this development secures the long-term future of both the school and the library in Portknockie.

The new library has more shelf and display space, it is bright and airy and it will soon be equipped with a vastly expanded Information Technology provision. The formal launch of the new facility takes place on the 8th October. Hopefully we will use this new facility not just as a library but also as a venue to hold meetings and for adult learning classes. Residents will be able to

learn alongside the village children sharing the resources.

YOUR EDITORIAL TEAM PLANS TO STEP DOWN SOON - WILL THIS SIGNAL AN END TO THE KNOCKER?

Having produced forty one issues of the village newspaper over the past 10 years the team feels it is time to step down and let someone else take on the organisation of our local newspaper. The Christmas issue in December will be our last issue. Now the community needs to decide whether it wants to continue with a village newspaper and how will it be organised? There is time to rethink the design and make fresh arrangements ready for a 2010 launch.

The Knocker has served a purpose. Does it still have a useful future?

VILLAGE NEWS & AROUND:

Round Britain Rally Group comes to Portknockie: If you find leather-clad motorcyclists looking lost in the village they may be searching for the Memorial to Fishermen by the Flagstaff. They will be taking part in the 2009 Round Britain Motorcycle Rally. I met two from Milton Keynes who were celebrating after finding the Memorial Cairn - they had already followed clue locations in the West Country, Wales, Cumbria and Skye before ticking Portknockie on their rally map. I directed the couple to take a look at the Portknockie Mosaic and suggested that this would make a good clue for the 2010 Rally.

"Wild swimming in the UK" was an article in the London Evening News on 3rd July 2009 describing places to visit along Britain's wild coast. The article contained a muddled description of what it called Bow Fiddle Rock Arch, Portknockie, Aberdeen. It went on ... "Portknockie is an ordinary fishing village that sports extraordinary coastal features. Here the Bow Fiddle Rock sits in a little cove to the rear of the town. The swim out is easy and once underneath you can climb up on to the arch. You may even be lucky to witness a pod of Moray dolphins swimming close by. You can visit the

lesser-known Hell's Lum, a nearby cave and cove complex with deep plunge pools and inlets, perfect for jumping and snorkelling." How inaccurate!

Kut 'n' Kurl
of
Portknockie
840366
Kerry, Susan, Claire & Joanne

Welcome to our new acting Head Teacher: The new Acting Head Teacher at Portknockie Primary School is Mrs Stephanie Gibson. Mrs Gibson, originally from Caversham, near Reading, studied French and Italian at Exeter University in Devon. After completing her degree, she spent two years teaching English in a British School in Chile. This offered a wonderful opportunity to learn another language and travel extensively in Chile and beyond to Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. The experience also convinced Mrs Gibson that teaching was her chosen career path and she returned to Devon to complete her Postgraduate Certificate of Education.

Mrs Gibson has taught across the Primary age range, initially in Devon and then in Moray when she moved to Scotland in 1997. She was Principal Teacher at Aberlour Primary for several years and last year was seconded to the local authority as an Education Support Officer with responsibility for Enterprise in Education and Parental Involvement. She is delighted to be working at Portknockie now and looks forward to developing and building on the school's strengths and successes.

Mrs Gibson lives in Rothes with her husband, Jim, and the youngest of her three children, Amy, who is in 6th Year at Speyside. Her older two boys are both away at university, one at Strathclyde and the other in Dundee. The whole family are outdoor enthusiasts and Mrs Gibson is a keen kayaker, mountain biker and occasional skier/snowboarder. She has also been coasteering off the shores of Portknockie on occasions and feels very privileged to be able to work in such a beautiful location.

The Unveiling of the Portknockie "Homecoming" Mosaic on the 27th June was a very delightful community occasion. It was the culmination of three months of dedicated work by local artist, Geoff Roberts helped by many of the village and with the teachers and all the children at the school also involved. The weather for the Unveiling was a

perfect blend of warmth and sunshine and just enough breeze for all to feel comfortable.

A good crowd, including our three local councillors (Ron Shepherd, Stewart Cree and Gary Coull), had assembled on Patrol Road and down the Back Roadie to have a grandstand view as Mrs Shona Idle tugged away the groundsheets to reveal the Mosaic. This was one of the last public acts for our school Head Teacher before her return to New Zealand. She had been a very genuine "Homecomer" for the 2008/9 school year!

Jim Urquhart, the Chairman of the Portknockie Community Association welcomed residents and visitors to the unveiling and Bob Croucher, Secretary of the PCA described how the project had taken shape and acknowledged the generosity of sponsors, local business donations and the contributions by so many of the village at the various fundraising activities on behalf of the Mosaic. This Homecoming 2009 project was a fine example of community collaboration and we now have an additional must-see attraction in Portknockie for residents and visitors alike to enjoy. There is hope that this experience of sharing in the process of creating a public artwork may stimulate a demand for village-based courses in the arts or, perhaps, the formation of a local arts group. What do people think? A village leaflet explaining all the imagery of the Mosaic was ready in time for the unveiling and is available from the Library and the Newsagent's.

After the unveiling a really pleasant afternoon of "Homecoming" musical entertainment was provided by Frank Reynolds and three members from the Saddellers' Group down at the harbour. This was backed up by a busy barbecue, a sales table of homebakes, teas, drinks, a lucky dip, face painting, the wheel of fortune and raffles. The star raffle, a 22ct golden hand mosaic by artist, Geoff Roberts was won by Joanne Anderson, the Alex Salmond whisky went to Wilma Robertson and the George Best £5 note went to the bar staff at Cullen Golf Club. Other raffle prizes were generously donated by Walkers' Shortbread, Baxters', Diageo and Asda.

PORTKNOCKIE GRADUATION SUCCESSES

Laura Margaret Bruce, the daughter of James and Kathleen has graduated this summer from the Robert Gordon University with a BSc in Physiotherapy with first class honours.

JAMES A. BRUCE
Carpenter & Joiner
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 Tel./Fax. Cullen 841304

JOINERY MANUFACTURE REPLACEMENT WINDOW SPECIALIST

Darren Leslie graduated from Aberdeen University on the 7th July with a second class honours (Division 1) in Sports and Exercise Science.

Darren was educated at Portknockie Primary and Buckie Community High school; he is now working at the new Sports Village in Aberdeen built by the University, Aberdeen Council and Sports Scotland. Darren hopes to progress to Edinburgh University for a one year post-graduate course in High School PE.

His parents, Denise and David and brother, Michael who live in Admiralty Street and Granny Pearl at Addison Street are all very proud of Darren’s achievements.

WORLD-WIDE WEB LINKS:

The Sinking of the fishing boat “Sickle” article by John Crawford in the summer issue brought back memories for Vera Findlay and Charlie Slater who were both witnesses of the tragedy in the harbour on Saturday 22nd March 1941. Both have expressed the view that the Sickle incident is better described as a capsizing rather than a sinking. Charlie Slater has queried whether the Sickle reared up with her prow pointing to the sky before turning over and he disputes John Crawford’s description of Alex Mair being “able to step easily on to the rock.” John Crawford stands by the accuracy of his research but he does point out that a typo error in the story inaccurately made the age of John Jnr, described as “still single ... due to be married within a week or two.” as just 14 when the tragedy occurred. In fact he was born in 1917 two years after the marriage of his parents, thus making him 24 in 1941.

Vera Findlay from Canada has sent in her memory of the incident providing an eye witness description:

‘It was a sunny but blustery day as I headed home at teatime from my friend’s house on High Street. Many people were running about and I could hear them shouting “The Sickle’s capsized, the Sickle’s capsized”. All roads then led to the Heid o’ the Brae

and for most youngsters right down the brae to the harbour. The Horse Road was seldom used by pedestrians as there were 3 or 4 well-trodden footpaths down the face of the brae. I always used the most westerly one.

I stood with many others by the low wall to the left of the Black Rock and saw the upturned Sickle with a man clinging to it. This was Alenjer of “Sunnydale” on Haig Street. He must have found a foothold on the edge of the upper structure of the boat and was spread over the hull clinging to the keel spine. The Sickle swung in and out from the rock with the movement of the tide but never close enough for Alenjer to jump onto the rock. At one point an arm reached out of the water and, though Alenjer tried hard to grasp it, the movement of the boat made it impossible as he had to maintain his grip on the keel. The Sickle did finally swing close enough to the rock for Alenjer to scramble on to it. He then worked his way to the small beach area by the caves beneath the Mourie where willing hands awaited with blankets. My Dad told me that Alenjer had survived three previous shipwrecks one of which had involved them both.

Leaving that scene I saw activity on the rough beach area in the outer basin. A man had been brought ashore by one of the ripper boats and efforts were being made to revive him. Women had been running down the brae with blankets and hot water bottles but all attempts to revive this man failed. A day or two later I was on the quay when another body was brought ashore in a ripper boat. I could not see the actual body but I did see a very white arm drop out as the men carried him from the boat to the shore. The white arm indicated that he had been in the water for a day or two.

Loss of life at sea is not uncommon in fisher families but to see it happen at the mouth of our safe little harbour is etched in the memory forever.’

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THE SAD PASSING OF TWO REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE K'NOCKER:

Sadly we report the passing of two of our regular contributors to these pages. David Pirie, aged 81 who loved to recall his memories of the Port through the articles in the K'nocker. Christine Slater, his niece says he always looked forward very much to reading each issue along with his wife Rebecca. Christine says it was amazing what he could remember of the past as he left Portknockie to work in Aberdeen in his teens. Certainly, for K'nocker readers his stories and comments will be missed.

Margaret, wife of Robert Dawson died on Saturday 22nd August in the Seafield Hospital. Margaret began writing to the K'nocker just after she and Robert came to live in their Firth View bungalow in the summer of 2003. She commenced her unique, regular feature, "One Firth View" in the summer of 2004. Typically her last article in the summer issue 2009 concluded in the optimistic style she favoured - "Flowers blooming, birds singing, bells ringing; spring breathes new life into us all ... summer is coming and the weather forecasters are predicting a good one!"

THE BOMBING OF PORTKNOCKIE IN 1941

Our new "Homecoming Mosaic" contains an image to recall the bombing of the village in 1941 during WW2. One aspect which has been unclear was how many bombs were dropped that day by the German plane? Two eye witness accounts have been sent in to Harry Hawkes that agree on a figure of two rather than the three included in the Portknockie Mosaic. Both stories add some vivid clarity to the events of that shocking war-time experience.

The first from Vera Findlay (Canada) mentions 'the Square in my day'. This was not the present square outside the Seafield Inn and the Vic, but was the area beside the war memorial at the end of Church Street and in front of what used to be the Clydesdale Bank (now Brenda & Ian Cowie's house).

Vera's story of the WW2 bombing of Portknockie:

"I should have been in school but was at home with some minor ailment. There must have been a big bang or perhaps the siren which made my mother and I and all the neighbours run out to see what was going on. From the dyke at 31 Church Street we all looked towards the Square and saw a huge cloud of dust and debris rise above the Bank building and Willie

Fisher's, the barber and newsagent. Flying west on Church St and quite low in the sky was a black German plane. We watched as it circled to turn back above the Mourie and at that point we all decided we would be safer indoors.

There was a bus sitting at the bus stop for Buckie in the Square and it was assumed that it had been the target. Fortunately, the bomb missed the bus and went through the roof of a shed to where three people were chatting over the garden fence in Seafield Street. There it exploded killing all three. A train in the station appeared to be another target. Again the bomb missed its target and landed on the railway embankment directly behind my Granda's house at 5 High Street. It did not explode and was removed by a bomb squad and detonated at the Denburn. A wooden post was put in the ground where the bomb had fallen but it is no doubt long gone.

My brother Norrie was in school and recalls being marched out to gather in the playground. There are varying memories of that fateful day and hopefully more can be added to the story."

The second story comes from Gardiner Wood who spent his youth in the village but now lives in the USA.

"I remember the World War II bombing of the Port very well. It occurred in early 1941, when I was not quite twelve. After the Battle of Britain, which they lost, the Germans had been sending their fighter-bombers over to parts of NE and N Scotland, on lightning raids on coastal towns and villages. Portknockie had however been spared until this particular day in early '41.

It was a clear enough day. I suffered from asthma and bronchitis as a bairn, so had been excused PE, and was in the classroom, alone. Suddenly, a loud explosion for some distance away was followed by the sound of a low-flying aircraft. At the sound, an alarm bell went off.

Immediately, the excited voices of bairns: 'A Jerry, boys! Tae the shelter!' I joined the crowd which had burst from the school's back door, and ran with them to the bomb shelter, a concrete block structure without a roof, which had been erected inside a building whose previous use was as a place for children on the playground to go in the event of rain. Once there, I positioned myself near a 'peep-hole' which was wide enough to permit folk to look outside. My heart sank when I saw a column of black

smoke rising from a location which I (wrongly) judged was not far from the Council house at 10, Samson Street where we lived. It turned out to be from a house on Seafield Street. Immediately after this, I had the clearest possible view of 'Jerry', as he came back, at rooftop level, with machine-guns blazing the whole way. It was so close that I could see the faces of the pilot and bombardier-gunner, but for no more than a second or two. Most of us boys were well-acquainted with the identification of aircraft - our own and the enemy's - and I recognized the German aircraft as a JU-88. During one of his overhead passes, 'Jerry' had dropped an aerial torpedo, which went through a shed on the upper reaches of Seafield Street before exploding. I clearly remember that at least one man had been killed in the explosion, and have a hunch that the total death toll may have been higher. This was the location on Seafield Street from which the smoke had been rising. I recall that the exploding ordnance caused devastation to several homes, and broke a lot of windows.

When they got out of the shelter, which was not long after, bairns, homeward-bound, discovered that the JU-88 had dropped a 1,000 lb. high-explosive bomb; this had landed on the railway line close to the school and, even closer to the house named Mizpah, without exploding, breaking instead cleanly into two parts. We learned later on that it was the heaviest piece of ordnance that had been unleashed by an enemy aircraft anywhere in Northern Scotland, up to that time. Had it exploded, it would have taken a section of the rails with it, and maybe destroyed the tunnel under the bridge, and the bridge itself, and no doubt would have caused a lot of distress to Mizpah and other houses nearby, though I think the school and its occupants would have been protected, from the effects of any blast, by the railway embankment. It was taken away by the bomb disposal people some time after, and exploded at night, in an area that we then called 'The Den'. In the school playground, and elsewhere in the village - particularly on Church Street and vicinity - a number of spent cartridges were found. I remember that all the lads - including myself - coveted them as war souvenirs. But townspeople had been killed, and from that time onward, there was a sense that the War had been brought to our very door-step.

Several things are very clear, and stand out in my memory of the event. The JU-88 came in at roof-top height when it flew over the school. It made several passes, firing its machine guns, which were located in the aircraft's nose. Two pieces of ordnance were

dropped, an aerial torpedo (more appropriate for firing at ships at sea than at any target on land); and a 1,000lb bomb. The first went off, causing both casualties and property damage; the second failed to explode, and was later dealt with by a bomb disposal squad. I also recall that the aircraft was said to have taken off from an airfield in Norway. No casualties were caused by bullets from the machine-guns hitting civilians. The persons killed met their deaths when the alleged aerial torpedo launched by the plane's bombardier exploded."

I hope the foregoing will be helpful in 'fleshing out' the recollections of others, whose accounts contain additional details that I have overlooked here. And as a'budy kens, the devil is aye in the details. Gardiner Wood, Vienna, VA, USA. Gardiner can be contacted on gardinerwood@hotmail.com

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS:

The Council comprises: **Chairman:** Alan Beresford (840534/07790023983), **Secretary:** Karen Campbell, **Vice Chair:** Helen Sammon (841794) **Treasurer:** Gladys McKenzie (840542), **Press Secretary:** Pearl Murray (841087) with Lil Urquhart, Sam Muir, Cathleen Harper and Angela Mair.

The attention of elected Moray councillors has been drawn to a problem of anti-social behaviour by the occupants of a council property in Samson Street.

There is still no progress with the proposal to set up nurse-led clinics in the village but the delay in moving the Library from Park Street to the school has been resolved following a meeting of the PCC with Alistair Campbell, Libraries & Museums manager of Moray Council on July 13th. The long-awaited move finally took place in August with the Park Street location closing on the 15th and the village library re-opening in a specially converted room at the school on the 25th. This has posed a major upheaval for Margret, our Librarian, who has been working in the Park Street location for over 19 years.

The Community Council agreed at their August meeting to investigate restoring the faded lettering on the Fishermen's Memorial installed back in 2004. Cllr Ron Shepherd has advised that Moray Council will be dealing with the many potholes in the village roads and it is planning to resurface and widen the road adjacent to the McBoyle Hall.

This autumn our Community Council, along with the other 19 Community Councils in Moray, is up for re-election with nomination papers available from August 16th. Portknockie Community Council has decided against applying for the £500 pilot funding scheme on offer this year from the Scottish Government to help promote Community Council elections.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2009:

Nominations are now open to form the Portknockie Community Council for 2009-13. A nomination form can be downloaded from www.moray.gov.uk/communitycouncils or by phoning the Elections Office on 01343 563334. Nomination forms must be submitted not later than 4pm on Tuesday 22nd September 2009.

No special experience or qualifications are required to become one of our community councillors but anyone wishing to stand must be 18 or over, a resident of Portknockie and on the current electoral register for this area. Portknockie Community Council can elect up to 10 seats and two co-opted student members (16-18). A ballot is only required if there are more nominations received than vacant seats available. The Community Council seeks out and expresses the views of the community it represents to Moray Council and other public bodies that it works with such as the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service and NHS Grampian. Community Councils are consulted on local area planning matters and they engage in a variety of activities that bring communities together. Significantly they act only in a non-sectarian and non-political party fashion. In Portknockie meetings are held monthly on the second Monday of each month in the Library with local Moray Councillors and a representative of Grampian Police in attendance. These meetings are open to the public and the Minutes of each meeting are available for public access in the village library.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS:

This village group, formed in 2000 and recognised as a Scottish Charity (No SCO30090), has the job of looking after our village hall and raising funds for

such activities as Village in Bloom. The members currently are: Jim Urquhart (**Chair**), Bob Croucher (**Secretary**), Celia Going (**Treasurer**) with Lil Urquhart (**Hall Bookings**), and committee members - John Myles, John Bell, John Going, Gladys McKenzie, Harry Hawkes and Anne Barnes.

The major project of the year, the Homecoming 2009 Portknockie mosaic was completed at the end of June following the unveiling ceremony on the 27th and the completion of evaluation reports to the two major sponsors, the Arts Council for Moray and the Moray Council /EU LEADER Community Grant Scheme. It is planned to place a record of the project, including press reports, photographs and a short video made by John Bell in the heritage section of our new Library. A Homecoming 2009 Mosaic information leaflet has been printed and is available from the Library and the Newspaper shop to help clarify the cryptic imagery on the two giant fishes. It is in the style of the other three village leaflets (also available from the Library) which describe Portknockie, explain the Bow Fiddle Rock and the Green Castle and guide visitors on a walking heritage tour of the village.

The main PCA event for August was a mini fete and craft demonstration in the Seafield Hall on Friday 21st. Contact this year with ex-Knocker, Charlie Slater in Australia had given PCA members the idea to test out local interest in craft hobbies with a view to supporting the setting up of local craft groups if there is any demand. The event on the 21st combined fete sideshows with demonstrations of local craft work that could be observed and checked out with a keen exponent. The hope is that the experience might lead to groups forming in the village to share and develop hobbies as a community activity especially for the long, dark evenings of winter. The number of villagers attending was a little on the low side but it was another pleasant social evening with plenty of interest in the hobbies on display.

Future activities currently in the planning stages include a Family Tombola in the McBoyle Hall on Friday 18th September starting at 7 for 7.30pm; an energy efficiency and waste awareness Roadshow organised by SCARF to offer residents advice and sound practice on all aspects of heating and lighting in the home; a Fireworks' Evening in the McLeod Park probably on Saturday 7th November; a joint activity with the PCC to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our village hall the following week-end and the special Astronomy Fun day in and outside the McBoyle Hall, with tutored observations of the night sky provided by Moray Astronomical Society members on Saturday 21st November. Watch out for

bills in the shops advertising these events with details and timings. Bingo in the Seafield Inn will continue every other Wednesday evening and do not miss the opportunity to Support your PCA by subscribing to the “PCA 100 Club”, which starts a new year in September. A one off stake of £10 gives you a good chance of winning one of the three prizes selected each month – the more people subscribe, the bigger the pot for prizes! Contact any committee member.

The **AGM** of the Community Association will be held at **7pm on Wednesday 9th September 2009** in the Youth Centre, Church Street. This important meeting elects the officers for the coming year and receives the Treasurer’s and Secretary’s reports for approval. It would be wonderful to welcome new members to augment this key local group.

The maintenance of our village hall remains a major priority for the PCA to pursue. A project is being put together to replace the costly and ineffective heating system at the Hall. One idea under consideration is to replace the inefficient hot water supply, which involves the wasteful heating of a large tank of hot water, with a more efficient instant heating system that only uses power in the kitchen and toilets on demand. Space heating of the large hall is a problem because the hall has a high ceiling without any provision for thermal insulation. The way forward on this would involve putting in a false ceiling which would also bring improvements to the poor Hall acoustics but it would be costly to undertake.

A community hall like the McBoyle Hall is an expensive feature to clean and maintain and it needs residents making good use of it to justify the ever increasing running costs. At present, regular hall bookings are barely enough to cover essential utility bills let alone cover important maintenance needs. It would be helpful if residents could suggest ways to making greater use of the McBoyle Hall. That would be the best birthday present for its 25th anniversary year! Enquiries about using the Hall should be made to Lil Urquhart on 840004.

It would be interesting to hear from readers with any stories to tell about the Hall over its 25 years as the village hall of Portknockie to feature in the Christmas issue of the Knocker. Let the Editorial team have them before the end of November.

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A special thanks to Michael McRitchie, Criminal Justice Supervisor and his Community Work force for strimming the verge at the west end of King Edward Terrace. This rather forlorn area, left over from the development of Westfield Drive, is in need of some attention. The preferred idea now is to keep the grass strimmed and to gradually remove the large stones that litter this area. Topsoil to help smooth over the area could be moved from the redundant wooden flower bed at the King Edward Terrace end of the school. It would be useful to receive comment and/or offers of help with this proposal from those living in this part of the village.

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PORTKNOCKIE – MOSHI, TANZANIA
STUDENT EXCHANGE by Fiona Jagger

In June this year two families in Portknockie hosted a couple of Tanzanian pupils who were in Scotland for a week as part of the ongoing link between Buckie High School and Mawenzi Secondary School, Moshi, Tanzania.

During their time here, Irene and Boniface attended Buckie High School throughout the day and took part in various activities after school including climbing the Binn Hill and watching dolphins out of Portknockie Harbour. At the weekend, trips were organised to Macduff Aquarium, Pluscarden Abbey, Ballindalloch Castle and the Cairngorms which allowed the two visitors to experience more of the Scottish culture and way of life.

Before a tearful farewell, their visit culminated in the Karibu Showcase where both Scottish and Tanzanian acts performed to entertain the audience. Our visitors thoroughly enjoyed their time here and the hosts, Nathaniel Clarke and Fiona Jagger are very excited about the return visit to Tanzania in October.

Editor: Fiona and Nathaniel have been asked to write about the return visit to Tanzania in the next issue of the K'nocker.

“WILD ABOUT PORTKNOCKIE” a series of local nature notes by Mary Thorpe:

Painted Ladies

Some tentative good news first. It seems Scotland's seabird numbers have started to recover this summer from the last few years of decline. Let's hope this trend continues. It is thought that the sand eels have once again become available for food. Puffins particularly suffered quite badly when sand eels were in short supply and they were feeding the young on pipe fish which were in effect choking them.

Other birds that have done really well this year at least in our garden are blackbirds. After the bird count in the spring for the RSPB the blackbird numbers were down on the previous year but since the first birds fledged back in May we have not had a time without one or more baby blackbirds calling the parents for food until now at the end of August. Hopefully we might have some late broods too.

I definitely think there are a lot fewer house martins, swallows and swifts this year. My friend who is lucky enough to have lots of barns and so has nesting martins and swallows has also noticed a decline this year. They are migratory birds so the problem could be at their winter habitat. Also they are sometimes seen as an unwelcome house guest here because they can be a bit messy but I would appeal to people to put up with these beautiful birds for the short time they are with us.

I got quite excited when I saw my first painted lady butterfly in the garden back in June. It was feeding on some white valerian which obviously hit the spot because it kept coming back for more. I'd also seen some feeding on cotoneaster flowers along with hundreds of bees and wasps. I had learnt from watching Spring Watch that this was to be a once in a life time event for seeing painted ladies. They came from Africa early in the year where after the pupa turned in to adults they soon ate up the fresh new plant growth. They then migrated to mainland Europe where they repeated this and ate the fresh new growth before heading to Britain in time for our new growth. I saw maybe ten or twelve in all over a few weeks but nothing like I expected. Maybe it was further south that got most of them but at least I got to see some.

Bees are apparently having a bad time of things but I think there has been more this year than I noticed last year. They really love the early flowers of the cotoneasters and we have a whole hedge of different ones for them to feed on. We have also put up a couple of bee shelters in the garden for when the weather suddenly turns. They are just really hollow canes of different sizes packed together in a little hollowed out log which can be hung up in a tree or trellis. We have also put out a shallow dish of sugar syrup amongst the flowers which is supposed to give the bees a food boost if they need it. Well we can't do without our bees so whatever might help we can do it.

At the end of July there was a tractor and classic car fair at Cullen which Carl wanted to go and see. Being a big fan of tractors myself!! I thought I would go with him so we set off to walk along the beach. I was so glad I went as they had my favourite tractor! Not really, but I did see some of my favourite birds which are gannets and there were, at a guess about two hundred of them diving in to the sea just past the harbour but quite a way out. You needed binoculars to see them. I was so excited to see them but it seems everyone else only had eyes for tractors. As I watched they came nearer inland and what a joy it was to see so many of them all diving in at such speed and with such skill. Some friends we met there that day thought they had seen a minke whale just out here in the bay but I wasn't lucky enough to see that. I was fortunate to see a pod of dolphins leaping and performing in the bay a few weeks ago though. That really made me smile.

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THE BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB by Harry Hawkes

The Banffshire Field Club was founded in 1880 by a group in the county who met to investigate all aspects of the area. Their aim was "*...to explore the District...inquiring into the Geology, Botany, Natural History, Archaeology, etc.*"

The early decades of the Banffshire Field Club saw some astonishingly knowledgeable speakers present papers to the members. Two founder members of the Club were Thomas Edward, a Banff shoemaker, who was also a self-taught natural scientist of international repute; and William Cramond, schoolmaster of Cullen, who had an unmatched knowledge of the history and customs of the county. Later stalwarts included William Barclay, Editor of the "Banffshire Journal" 1909-1946, also a noted local historian; and Douglas Simpson, historian, archaeologist and Librarian of Aberdeen University, the foremost expert on the ancient castles of the county.

In an age when information was not available on Google and Wikipædia at the tap of a keyboard, field clubs were a means of spreading knowledge. The Victorian period was a time of self-improvement and, through field clubs, those of enquiring mind were able to satisfy their interest in the scientific and cultural movements of the day.

One way in which the Banffshire Field Club promoted local knowledge was to organise excursions to sites of interest. Portknockie did not escape their attention and the March 2009 issue of the "K'nocker" reprinted an account of a Club excursion to the village in 1888. The account was taken from the official printed volumes of the "Transactions" of the Banffshire Field Club – 13 volumes in all, with getting towards a thousand papers read to the Club between 1880 and 1939. The topics of the papers range from the learned ("*The Historical Macbeth*", "*The Glacial Phenomena of Lower Banffshire*"); to the intriguing ("*Ockery*", "*Volapuk*" - go on, Google them - "*The Pirates of Barbary and the Presbytery of Fordyce*"); to the abstruse ("*Pond Life near Nairn*", "*Earth Sounds in Aberdeenshire*"). Printed copies of most of these papers are still available from the Club but are not generally accessible. A project is now under way to scan all the papers into digital form so that they can be available through the Club's website – www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk .

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The Club dissolved itself from 1939 when the Second World War started and was not resurrected until 1958. Modern technology has taken over the format of the regular talks, for good or ill. The good aspect is that photographic slides and now computerised graphics have become central to the presentations and the "illustrated talk" is now the norm – to everyone's greater understanding. The ill aspect is that speakers now generally deliver their information from notes and talk round the illustrations. This has meant the end of the old-fashioned "paper" read from a prepared text, which a speaker could make available for printing afterwards. As a result, reports on post-war papers take the form of "Minutes" of the meeting only. There are no longer printed "Transactions" of the Club's doings.

The Club meets on the second Saturday of each month from October to April. Meetings are held in Keith, in the Community Centre on the Banff Road. There are also summer outings in May and June to places of interest in the county. If you would like more information about the Club, please ring Harry Hawkes on 01542-840718. A list of forthcoming talks is given below.

OCTOBER 10TH – Mr Alistair Urquhart
"EVERY BUILDING A STORY TO TELL"

NOVEMBER 14TH – Mr Graeme Wilson
"RECORDS FOR THE HISTORY OF MORAY"

DECEMBER 12TH – Mr Davie Duncan
"THE WORKING LIFE OF A BANFFSHIRE
LOON"

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Portknockie Library 841149

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES:

Moray Council has issued a reminder notice about Portknockie Harbour – Please note that access to the pontoons is restricted to authorised users only. The pontoons are not open to other members of the public and parents are asked to ensure that their children stay off them.

PC Mairi Page, our local Community Beat Officer will be in the Mobile Police Office parked in Seafield Terrace, Portknockie on Tuesday **22nd September** from 2.30pm. This timing has been chosen to coincide with pupils leaving the village school. It is

hoped that both children and their parents will drop into the office for an informal chat or for any advice.

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HAME COOKING by Auntie Mary:

Haddock Pie

Serves 4-6 (cooking time 45 minutes).

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon of oil
 1 large onion peeled and diced
 2 peppers cored, seeded and diced
 125g button mushrooms sliced
 2 /400g tins of tomatoes chopped
 1 vegetable stock cube
 450g smoked or unsmoked haddock, cubed
 25g fresh parsley and tarragon mixed and chopped
 Salt and pepper to taste
 200g porridge oats
 75g low fat margarine

Method:

Preheat your oven to 190° C, 375° F or gas mark 5. Heat the oil in a large pan, add the onions, peppers and mushrooms and fry for 5 minutes. Stir in the chopped tomatoes, the stock cube, the fish and half of the herbs. Bring to the boil, then simmer and stir for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat, season to taste, pour into a large, ovenproof dish. Mix the oats with the remaining herbs and the margarine then cover the top of the dish evenly with the oat topping. Bake for 25 minutes until light, golden brown.

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Strawberry and Banana Pancake Cones

Preparation time 15 minutes (cooking time 5 minutes)

Ingredients: basic batter mix

85g plain flour
2 eggs
200ml milk
50ml water

Method:

Sift the flour into a bowl making a well in the middle. Add the two eggs and stir with a wooden spoon gradually adding the milk and water, a little at a time, until you have a smooth batter. Pour the batter into a jug. Oil the bottom of a frying pan and heat until hot. Pour a little of the mixture into the pan, enough for a fine coating. With a spatula test the sides until the pancake comes away easily. Toss and cook the other side until golden brown. Lay on a cooling tray with sheets of greaseproof paper between each pancake.

Ingredients for the filling:

1 banana
100g strawberries
30ml natural yogurt mixed with the grated rind of an orange

Method:

Fold each pancake to form a cone then fill each one with slices of banana and sliced strawberry topping with the yogurt and orange mix. Then serve.

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POETS' CORNER: a brand new poem from Sheena Pirie inspired by a story told by Mrs Croucher

The Jewel that was missed

I'm nae a spinster, nor yet an aul' maid
I'm the jewel that was left on the shelf.
The men in this toon dinna ken what they missed

When nane o' them cam' tae seek me.

I've been a best maid ower aften --
Stopped coontin' when I got tae ten;
Walked up a' kine o' aisles in my lifetime
But the groom was niver waitin' for me.

A jewel's nae muckle ees in a box or a shelf
It's best when it's worn, so they say
An' it's sma' consolation tae be kent as a jewel
Specially ane that's been hidden away.

I'm getting' on, but I've nae geen up hope
Tho' I ken I'm the jewel that's been left
I'm still bright and shiny – jist need a dust doon
Oh someone get me aff this shelf!!

From the Davie Mair collection:

When aul' age wi' its witherin' blast
Comes creepin' ower the brae
Oor backs begin tae sairly bend
Oor hair gets sparse an' grey
The rosebud withers in oor cheeks
The sparkle leaves oor 'een
An' someone whispers to us that
Oor workin' days are deen.

Age steals along wi' silent tread
We're loth tae own the truth
Tho' in oor he'rts nae mair we feel
The buoyancy of youth
Hope buoys us on fae day to day
Despite the flight o' time
We canna think that we are aul'
Tho' lang lans past oor prime.

Burt nature will assert her pow'r
We feel the bitin' chill
O' aul age drawin' closer as
We toddle doon the hill
Wi' feeble limbs an' falterin' gait
An' he'rts weighed doon wi' care
When haun's that aince were strong tae toil
Can dae their pairt nae mair.

We ken we're unco feckless then
Mere encumberers o' the soil
Wi' few freens left tae cheer us on
Wi' the sunshine o' their smile
But like the last rose o' the year
We're left tae pine alone
When dear companions o' the grove
Are lang, lang deid an' gone.

But there is ane that reeks abune'

Wha' ne'er forgets the auld
But guides us through life closin' day
An' bring them to the fauld
There in that happy, happy lan'
Nae mair will we be oppressed
Earth's weary toilers find a hame
An' everlastin' rest.

THOUGHTS FROM THE MINISTER by Rev.
Yvonne Hendrie

A novel lesson

Over the summer, a movie was released called "Confessions of a Shopaholic". I didn't manage to see it, but I've read the novel on which it was based. It's about a young woman whose entire life revolves around shopping for clothes, shoes and make-up. Although it's a very funny book, it's also moral in its own way. There comes a time when the main character, Rebecca, realises that buying herself things isn't having the effect it used to. She has to buy more and more because the feeling of happiness she usually experiences just isn't lasting. She's in serious debt, and that's ironic because she's a financial journalist who writes for a magazine about savings. However, she hates her job; it's just a means to earn money for going shopping! She suffers a minor breakdown, during which time she uncovers a banking scam which she really wants to write about. At that point, her work takes on new meaning and her life falls into place, with the happy ending you would expect.

It's not a Christian novel, and it doesn't preach. It's written purely for entertainment, but it does make you think. Jesus said things which still make people think; like when he said we should store up treasure in Heaven rather than gathering precious things in this world, where moths and rust destroy them and thieves steal them. Wouldn't you rather bank with God and make a safe investment with a long-term return, than be in debt here and now? Let's give Jesus some credit for sound advice when it comes to the crunch!

Yvonne Hendrie

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The K'nocker for friends and relatives abroad:
Remember you can always advise relatives and friends to download a copy from Neil Hedley & John Smith's village website at:
www.portknockiewebsite.co.uk

The K'nocker Delivery Team for subscribers:

Alec Campbell – Haig Street, Moray View and Seaview Place.

Monique Cavalier: New Street, Park Street and Reidhaven Street.

Bob Croucher: Blantyre Place, Cliff Terrace, Commercial Road, Dover Street, Gordon Street, Harbour Place, Harbour Terrace, Mid Street, Seaforth Street, Union Street, Victoria Street and Seafield Street.

Louisa Donaldson: Addison Street, Bruce Place, Craigview Road, Mairs Street, Samson Place, Samson Street and Stuart Place.

Harry Hawkes: Bridge Street, Church Street, Hill Street and Pulteney Street.

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John Myles: Findlater Avenue and King Edward Ter.

Morag Reid: Admiralty Street and Seafield Terrace.

Karin & John Rose: High Street and Station Road.

Margret Wood: Firthview, Westfield Drive and Station Court.

Grateful thanks to Sandra and her colleagues in the Chemist Shop who sell single copies to visitors and to those who do not take out the annual subscription.

During 2009 the K'nocker will be published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Copy, letters and adverts for each issue should be passed to the Editor, through the Library or the letterbox of 23 Harbour Place or by e-mail to rmcdram@onetel.com in the month before each quarterly publication. In fact, the earlier you send in articles the easier you make things for your editorial team!

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WHAT'S ON IN THE PORT?

Portknockie Seniors' Group: The Portknockie Seniors' Club annual bus run was enjoyed by 50 members on Tuesday 9th June. The itinerary, chosen by the Committee, was a visit to the fishing/ferry town of Ullapool on the West Coast. The morning did not look so good with a forecast of showers but fortune favours the brave and the day turned out to be bright and sunny.

The 50 participating members boarded the bus, hired from Central Coaches of Keith. Our driver for the day was a fine gentleman called Jim who looked after us well all day. The first stop of the day was at the Wyvis Hotel in the spa town of Strathpeffer, where we enjoyed a soup and sweet lunch.

As anyone who has taken the A835 from Inverness to Ullapool will be able to tell you, the scenery is great, especially alongside Loch Broom. According to the map we should have been passing through miles of forest. Not so, these had in the main, all been felled so you had mile after mile of boulder-strewn hillside littered with dead tree branches. We then had two hours to wander along the sea front and browse around the shops, very interesting but a bit pricey.

4pm arrived all too soon, so we boarded the bus for the return journey back along the A835 to Inverness where we stopped for High Tea at the Chieftain Hotel. Once again we were well-received and enjoyed fish and chips, scampi or meat pie followed by a sweet then tea and coffee with the largest of plates of cakes I have ever seen. Then it was back on to the bus to complete our return journey to Portknockie. Everyone I spoke to said they had thoroughly enjoyed the day and a vote of thanks was given to the organising committee led by our Chairperson, Mary.

The next Seniors Group meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th September in the Seafield Hall. The agenda is a "Joining Night" so please come along; tea/coffee and cakes will be served as usual along with a big welcome.

Portknockie Nursery: There are spaces available in our 2-3 group which runs on Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 12.30 to 2.30 at £4.50 per session. If interested please contact Margaret on 841825.

In week beginning the 21st September we shall be running a Multicultural Week of activities to

celebrate "Eid". Also look forward to a special Grandparents Day on Friday the 2nd October.

CATHERINE 'S CREATIVE CERAMICS

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Portknockie Harbour News – HD Reid, Harbour Master: Summer is well on and the harbour has been well used this year. Unfortunately, a number of boats have not been put in although owners have paid for their berths. This is the reason for empty spaces in the harbour.

The piers have been crowded with fishers as the harbour has been full of sand eels and even mackerel. There have been a few visiting boats this year and the slipway has been busy.

Divers from Aberdeen have been going around the harbours carrying out underwater maintenance. At Portknockie they had to fill bags with concrete and plug the holes that were undermining the piers.

Portknockie Bowling Club notes: Writing this in August as the evenings are starting to draw in, the pace of our summer season seems to be quickening. However, it has been an enjoyable time, much due to Wilson Weir's careful tending of the green resulting in its excellent playing surface. The weather has been favourable too, and good crowds have attended our weekly HAT nights.

Saturday 30 May saw the playing of the Club's annual Dougal Cup which was won by Donald Morrison and David Turner. The Club Open Pairs commencing on the 19th June attracted a good-sized entry: after some hard fought matches, the silverware was captured by John Green and Ian Munro from the Portgordon Bowling Club. On 25th July we played the annual (Club) Alan Maclean Competition. In very fine weather the silverware ultimately went to Kathleen Mair and Andrew Ritchie. The last of our local league matches was played at Portknockie on 19th August, unfortunately with us on the losing side. At the time of writing, the league table has yet to be

finalised, but we will hopefully be no lower than the middle!

On 22nd August we held our annual Bowling Marathon – one of our main fund-raising ventures – with bowling taking place continuously between 7am and 7pm. Grateful thanks are extended to the many, who in any way, helped or generously supported this. Teas, especially in the afternoon, did good business, the outside draft board even saw exciting action, and it was good to see the green being well-used.

September 5th will see the playing of the Club Willie Hay Trophy: the draw will take place at 1pm. While the outdoor season thereafter is limited – the green will likely close for winter about the last weekend in September – there is still time for anyone who wishes to come along: both new and past members are always welcome. Flat shoes are needed, but bowls and Wilson's patient tuition are generally available. HAT nights remain at 6.30pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

Our AGM will take place at the end of September, after which we will all relocate to the warmth of the McBoyle Hall for carpet bowls.

Neighbourhood Watch is simply looking out for one another, although in a close-knit village such as Portknockie many residents do that as a matter of course. We are fortunate to live in a low crime area but bogus or fraudulent workmen do surface from time to time: the police would appreciate if residents would generally employ vigilance around their property, but more so where there are elderly neighbours. Door stickers to try and deter cold callers are produced by Trading Standards and can be obtained from Sandra in the Chemist.

On a local note there have recently been instances of minor vandalism: again the police would ask that this is reported so, at least, the Community Beat Officer is aware of any problems. The police call number for non-emergencies remains at 0845 600 5 700 or by e-mail: servicecentre@grampian.pnn.police.uk

If you would wish to become a NW member (there is no charge) or simply wish further information, please contact the Co-ordinator John Myles on 840000.

JMK

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Mobile: 07900 931905

Email: juliemckay@btconnect.com

Library Opening Hours: 5-8pm Tuesdays; 2-5pm & 6-8pm Thursdays; 10-12noon on Saturdays.

Fishing News: This summer there have been a few changes of boats in Portknockie. BCK17 the Moray Endeavour has been sold by Craig and Fraser Smith to Zander Reid and renamed the Conquest BCK265; Craig and Fraser have bought the Favonious and renamed her the Moray Endeavour; after the loss of their boat, Transcend, a 100 miles off Lerwick on June 3rd, Neil Robertson and Kevin Wood bought the Macduff registered Ocean Challenge and renamed her Transcend BF61. Good luck on your new ventures to owners and crews.

The Transcend and the Scotia were seen fishing off Portknockie in July/August for squid along with the Moray Endeavour and a few others. They usually ship the catch by lorry to Fraserburgh Fish Market and export the squid to Europe. There have been plenty of mackerel just offshore for the local creel boats as well.

Jet ski boats are all the rage in Portknockie harbour this past summer – seen Alan, Ewan, John and Jeff having a great time.

Portknockie Thursday Club: Emma would like to welcome all parents and young children back to the Portknockie Thursday Club and hopes everyone enjoyed their summer holiday. We hope to keep our Thursday Club up and running this term so we would love to see lots of new faces.

We meet every Thursday afternoon between 1pm and 2.30pm, so come along and join us for a cuppa and a friendly chat. Everyone is welcome! For more details call Emma Walker on 842736.

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Seafield WRI: In May, we saw the presentation of the Points Cup awarded to Mrs Margaret Stephen. Second place went to Mrs Karin Rose and third place went to Mrs Kathleen Rennie. Members had been voting for a new committee and the votes were counted by two members from Deskford WRI. The new Committee members for 2009/10 are: **President** – Margaret Greig; **Vice President** – Isobel Mair; **Treasurer** – Delia Fletcher; **Secretary** – Norma Pirie; **Minute Secretary** – Ishbel Beresford; **Press Secretary** – Doreen Miller; **Magazine**- Kathleen Rennie and **Committee Members** – Kathleen Mair and Karin Rose. This was followed by an energetic evening of exercise by the Hip Bumpers from Keith. They are a lively bunch of ladies, who show you that you do not need to go to the gym to keep fit as it can be done sitting down or standing. This was followed by a much-needed cup of tea and homebakes provided by the tea ladies of the night.

The Bus Run in June ended the season and members and non-members enjoyed a look at how shortbread was made at Deans of Huntly. There was also an opportunity to buy some shortbread and gifts at the shop. After a nice cup of tea we were off to Inverurie for a couple of hours shopping. This was followed by High Tea at Newmacher where we were served with a delicious meal. The raffle was drawn before heading home on a sunny evening.

The Seafield WRI will begin again on Thursday 24th September with Angie Jenner giving a water colour demonstration. The competition will be a painted stone from the beach. The 24th October evening will see Quality Napkins from Aberchirder giving a demonstration on folding napkins etc; the competition will be four pieces of tablet. The 26th November will see us welcome the Buckie Blethers – a night of Doric; the competition will be 8 lines of Doric verse entitled “A Night at The Rural”. All ladies young and old, members old and new will be very welcome to these evenings.

Chemist’s Corner

Goodbye prickly heat and hay fever, hello autumn walks and winter-warming! We have been blessed with a lovely summer and it is still holding on into September. Keep an eye on the temperatures though and do not be caught out catching a chill. If you do get struck down with a cold, it is mostly better to let it take its course because antibiotics are not effective against the common cold. If your runny nose is chasing you out of the door though pop in by for some symptomatic relief. The medicine laws for children under six years old now rule out

decongestant medicines so children should only be given simple mixtures of honey and glycerine if they feel a bit blocked up or they have a cough.

With the children back at school already, you might well come across a case of head lice. If the school reports head lice, use a nit comb through your child’s hair when it is wet and look for tiny black lice or white eggs (about the size of a full stop). If you see either, pop in and see us to get a shampoo treatment. You must only use head lice treatments if you have seen such evidence of lice in your child’s hair.

We will also soon have our annual selection of scarves and gloves, bed-socks and hot-water bottles. Look in during October if you are in need of your winter-warmers. If you are the organised kind, you’ll like to know that we will be stocking our Christmas cards and gifts by November too. We will have toiletries and perfume giftsets for men and ladies, as well as lots of stocking fillers if you need a wee gift for the season.

As always come and see us if you are needing advice or prescriptions and remember to order your medicines at least two weeks before Christmas. Happy holidays! Claire, Sarah and Sandra.

PORTKNOCKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS:

New Term

The children have settled well into their new classes this term. We have welcomed our nine new P1 pupils and also our P3/4/5 teacher Mrs McWilliam. This year we have three classes once more: P1/2/3 with Mrs McWhirter, P3/4/5 with Mrs McWilliam and P5/6/7 with Mrs Woolgar.

Library

The new library has now opened and looks great. We are very pleased to be able to use this facility jointly with the community and the children are looking forward to being able to take out their first books. The official launch of the new integrated school/community library will take place at 1.45pm on Thursday 8th October. Everyone is welcome.

Theatre Production

M&M Theatre Production came to the school on Friday and performed “The Railway Children” for all classes. Our thanks to the Parent Council who kindly contributed to the cost of this event.

Curriculum for Excellence:

This year we will be building on the work already started on Curriculum for Excellence, further developing our work on **learning and teaching methodologies** and looking at the **four capacities** (successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors). We are also thinking about the children's achievements throughout the year and will have a "**wider achievement**" board to display their successes and achievements, both in and out of school. Staff are also starting to engage with the **Experiences and Outcomes** which were published in the Summer. We will be holding a Curriculum for Excellence Information Evening for parents some time during the next couple of months.

Clubs and Activities

We are very grateful to all those who help out with our school and after-school clubs and activities. The time and effort they give is very much appreciated. The following clubs/activities will run this term:

Ceramics is already up and running after school on Wednesdays for the P3-7s. Once again it is proving to be a very popular. Thanks to Mrs Catherine Ritchie, Mrs Lil Urquhart, Mrs Donna Coull and Mrs Shirley McLean who run this club.

Cross Country Running takes place during lunch times on a Thursday for P4-7 pupils. Mrs Woolgar and Mrs Donaldson organise this and run with the children.

Netball is on a Tuesday after school, run by Mrs Woolgar for the P5-7s. They are hoping that some other schools in the local area will start their own netball clubs so that we can hold some local competitions.

Rugby will run for several weeks for the P5/6/7 class. This is organised by our Active Schools Co-ordinator, Hein Mijzen, on a Wednesday during school time.

Swimming is taking place on Tuesdays this term at Buckie Swimming Pool for all the P4s and P5s. A few children from P4-7 will also be competing against other schools in the area at a "Swim Meet" on October 5th.

Dance is being organised by Hein for the P3/4/5 class on a Friday during school time. The class will work on their dance, leading up to a performance at the Dance Festival in the Fisherman's Hall, Buckie on Wednesday 4th November.

Ready Steady Bike will be for our P2/3s from P1/2/3 class.

Football: Mrs Woolgar is looking for parents or community members to help her run an after school football club. There is training available and anyone

interested should contact the school for more information.

Gordonstoun Challenge

We will be sending a team to the annual Gordonstoun Challenge on Sunday 13th September. The teams compete in a series of intellectual, physical and adventurous activities based around a "problem" which is given to them at the start. Although hard work and testing for the children, the Challenge is good fun for all concerned.

Diary Dates

October Holidays:

Monday 12 October – Friday 23rd October

In-service Closures:

Friday 13th November

Monday 16th November

Tuesday 17th November

Christmas Holidays:

Wednesday 23rd December – Wednesday 6th January

Other term dates can be found at

www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file40558.pdf

Stephanie Gibson

Acting Head Teacher

