



The Collieston BLETHER

No. 9
July, 1991
Gala Edition

GALA DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

GALA WEEK will commence on **Monday, July 15**, at 7.30 pm with the "Collieston Skittle" Contest on the Bouledrome where six teams of 10 are confidently expected, including 'The Exotics' - the Summer Visitors' team. The cider to help the competitors get skittled has arrived from Somerset.

On **Tuesday, July 16**, a Children's Diversion (form of Treasure Hunt) will leave from the Shop at 7.00 pm. The Darts Doubles Competition will take place in the Community Centre on **Wednesday, July 17**, at 7.00 pm.

The Marquee in the Glebe Park will house the following events (all licensed) - Folk Concert, **Thursday, July 18**, at 8.00 pm; Dancing to the Hallyracket Ceilidh Band on **Friday, July 19**, at 8.00 pm; Dancing to the Kenny Bryce Disco on **Saturday, July 20**, at 8.00 pm.

The Fancy Dress Parade will leave Forvie Court for the Pier, headed by the Grampian Police Pipe Band, at 7.00 pm on **Friday, July 19**.

Saturday, July 20, is the date for the TRADITIONAL GALA DAY. Because the Bog will not be available this year the stalls will be set up on the Pier which will be kept free of cars. The stalls are at the very heart of the Gala and make the bulk of the money raised. The stall holders, who will greatly appreciate contributions, will be as follows: **Bottle Tombola** - The Big Money Spinner - Bottles of every shape, size and content will be gratefully accepted by Sheila Spence, Seaward (Tel: 217); **White Elephant** - Sheila Malcolmson (Tel: 219) is ready to receive items for this stall which has made so much for the Amenities over the years; **Cake and Candy** - Alison Thomson (Tel: 366) and Brenda Fuerst (Tel: 315) are eagerly awaiting donations; **Morning Coffee & Teas** - The caterer of many a village fund-raising campaign, Mary Paterson (Tel: 237), will accept all offers of help and produce; **Fruit, Vegetables and Plants** - Barbara Mackinnon (Tel: 274) and Dot Mackie (Tel: 317) have cleared space for the sackfuls anticipated; **Slains School Stall** - Small candies, sweets and home bakes will be warmly welcomed by Brenda Fuerst (Tel: 315), Elaine Wilkie (Tel: 267) and Pat Hague (Tel: 240).

Other TRADITIONAL GALA DAY events will include **Bouncy Castle, Tug of War, Skittles, Bar** and, weather permitting, **Boat Trips**. Everyone will be invited to join in the dancing of the **Lang Reel o' Collieston** for the first time in living memory. At 7.00 pm there will be a **Children's Concert** in the Marquee.

Don't forget **FUN DAY** is on **Saturday, August 3**, when there may be a chance to see the **Tall Ships** racing south to Aberdeen. There will also be **Punch & Judy, Games and Stalls**, and the **Drawing of the Grand Raffle**.

END OF TERM REPORT

This has been a very busy "term" for the Under-Fives Group in the village.

Our Summer Outing, a train journey to Inverurie, was a great success, despite the awful weather.

We would like to thank Bob Davis for a very informative morning at the Nature Reserve. The children and mothers thoroughly enjoyed it, and it kept us in project material for the rest of the week (ponds, frogs, etc).

The Group has now finished for the summer, but will resume in August. This is a good opportunity to wish Rory, Sam, Stuart, Rhona and Jim all the very best when they start school after the Holidays.

REVIVAL OF THE LANG REEL

The following extract from the late Peter Anson's book "Fishing Boats and Fisher Folk on the East Coast of Scotland" gives a flavour of the atmosphere which should be re-created by the resurrection of the Lang Reel as part of the Gala celebrations:

'...the fishermen's houses at Collieston are built without any strict regard to planning and stand about on the grassy braes in delightful irregularity! Just beyond the village will be noticed the kirk, in connection with which reference should be made to the fishermen's weddings at Collieston, which were famous years ago for the hilarity which took place when the company had returned from the ceremony. After a substantial banquet, all those who had been present, i.e. practically all the fishing community, adjourned to the links, at the end of Forvie Sands, to the strains of a fiddle to dance the intricate "Lang Reel o' Collieston" as danced by succeeding generations of fisherfolk from time immemorial. It was a "lang reel" in more senses than one, being of long duration and lengthy dimensions. It was begun by the bride and bridegroom, who were followed by pair after pair linking themselves into it, and, as in some other country dances, pair after pair dropped off, until none were left dancing but the bride and bridegroom who commenced it. An author in the *Banffshire Journal*, writing about sixty or seventy years ago, quaintly remarks that "to see the lang reel o' Collieston danced on the greensward under the blue canopy of heaven on a sweet afternoon in summer, is a treat worth going many miles to enjoy. Not only would the eye enjoy a rare feast, but what with the sweet music of the violin, the merry song of the lark in mid-heaven, right overhead, the ringing guffaws of the juvenile spectators, the clapping of hands, and the loud *hoochs* and whoops of the dancing fishermen, all co-mingling and co-mingled with the murmur of the billows breaking among the rocks, the ear would have a banquet of no ordinary kind nor of every-day occurrence."

It is our intention, with guidance from Lorna Maclaren of the Hallyracket Band, not only to dance the Lang Reel on the Friday night - July 19 - in the Marquee but also to have the whole village dancing it on the Pier and Beach on Gala Day.

In order to start it off, we would greatly appreciate the Terpsichorean assistance of those in the village who are adept at Scottish dancing.

It is also hoped that as many of the dancers as possible will wear the costumes of the period - 1879 or thereabouts.

● **Mick Sheehan will be organising games for children on the Beach whenever the tide serves throughout GALA WEEK - so if the tide is low get to the Beach for some fun.**

● **Watch for the Posters on the Notice Board giving dates and times of all events during GALA WEEK and on FUN DAY.**

● **The Celebrations will conclude with an ecumenical church service in the Marquee on Sunday at 7.00 pm.**

STOP PRESS

AMENITIES A.G.M. THURS AUG 22
COMMUNITY CENTRE 7.30 pm. ALL
COLLIESTON HOUSEHOLDERS AND
OCCUPIERS SHOULD ATTEND AND
VOTE. FIVE VACANCIES ON CTTEE
TO BE FILLED: NEW NOMINEES
WELCOME. SHOWING OF THE AWARD-
WINNING COLLIESTON FILM "THE
LAST FISHERMAN". REFRESHMENTS.