



The Collieston BLETHER

No. 12
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ELECTION FEVER SWEEPS VILLAGE

As predicted exclusively in the last Blether, the election of three Harbour Trustees took place on Saturday, December 14. There were five candidates and 50 electors. Most efficient arrangements for the secret ballot were made by the Amenities Chairman, Pete Somner, and the Hon. Secretary, Fiona Chaplain.

The three elected Trustees are – Robin Mackie, John Palmer and Steve Ritchie. The ex-officio Trustees are – Robin Maitland (Slains Estate Factor), Joan Orskov (Regional Councillor), the Rev Matthew Rodger (Ellon and Slains Parish Church) and Brinsley Sheridan (District Councillor).

The full Board of Trustees will have their first meeting at Slains School on Thursday 6.

The main tasks for the Trustees will be to make sure that the Pier is satisfactorily maintained in the future; that the Beach is conserved, and that boat traffic in the Harbour is sensibly controlled. Pier, Beach and Harbour are Collieston's heritage which we hope to preserve for future generations. The Board of Trustees will work closely with the Amenities Committee and will be looking for assistance from all those who love Collieston.

**MAJOR'S
"NO COMMENT"
ON RESULT
ASK THE ADMIRAL
HE SAYS**

COUNCIL PROMISE CURE FOR BALDNESS

- Snippets from the last Amenities Committee meeting –*
- A sub-committee will be formed shortly to take over the administration of Community Centre business from the 4C's
 - Following discussion with Grampian Regional Council and Gordon District Council, it is hoped that assistance will be given in the choice and purchase of weedkiller and equipment for the upkeep of the village's grassy areas. The grass-cutting sub-committee will be meeting to discuss this.
 - Work in the Bog is now complete apart from one or two items of remedial work which will be undertaken shortly. The Roads Department have also said they would continue to monitor growth of the new grass seed and will re-seed any bald areas where necessary later in the spring.
 - Reinstatement of the Play Area: the village has received a brand new 19ft slide from the Leisure and Recreation Department and this will be installed on the slope created for it in the Bog.
 - Gala Raffle: The Committee would like to ask everyone in the village to consider donating individual or company prizes for the Raffle to be drawn on Gala Day, July 18. The Raffle is our biggest single money earner during the Gala and enables valuable work to be done towards the improvement and upkeep of village facilities. If you can help please contact the Treasurer, Mrs Gloria Palmer, Tel: 322.

CHRISTMAS TRIPLETS

Our *Theatre Critic* had a lively time before Christmas attending three Nativity Plays within four days. Each company approached the age-old story in a different way.

The Playgroup, in the Community Centre, were beautifully costumed, garments for the Three Wisemen from the East being airlifted direct from Oman. Josh Swan, the youngest player to have been on stage during the season, appeared as an angel, constantly popping in and out of the Inn – possibly in search of refreshment?

The Sunday School production was also staged in the Community Centre where two narrators, Keri Wilkie and Clare Harper, skilfully guided the action along. Shepherds, with their portable fire, and Wisemen, with their gifts, were projected into the limelight by Brenda as their moments of action came round.

The stage in the hall at Slains School enabled the 26 actors to mount a major production, with musical backing provided by Rae Walker. William Fuerst was the competent narrator, whilst the scholars had written their own script, of which Mary and Joseph (Jenny Robinson and Christopher Hunter), in particular, took full advantage. They failed, however, to find a room in no less than three different inns, the keepers of which carried their doorways on and off stage during scene shifting breaks. The crowd scenes were particularly well rehearsed.

Each of the three productions was enhanced by hosts of beautifully attired angels hovering gracefully about the joyful scenes.

Audience participation formed an integral part of all of the presentations and the full houses which attended each discussed the plays enthusiastically over post-production coffee and mincepies.

GIVE US THE FACTS

Blether Productions are planning to update their Collieston Factsheet – first published in December, 1990 – for distribution with the next issue of this news-sheet as a free supplement. We ask readers to scrutinise their old Factsheet and make any necessary amendments before handing it in to our Distribution Office – Steve Ritchie's house, Sea View – before the end of February.

BITS OF BLETHER

- ABBIE & ISLAY wish to thank their loyal customers for their support over the last 30 years they have been in the shop. They are also grateful to Steve Ritchie for the moving tribute he made to them at the Burns Supper and for the warm response of those attending the event.
- THE EDITOR and Distribu-

tion Manager of the Blether were among those who sang, or performed, for their supper at the Burns Night celebration on Friday, January 24. Once again the Community Centre was packed to capacity, demonstrating to the guest of honour, Regional Councillor Joan Orskov, that an extension to the hall is badly needed. Mary Paterson, and her band of kitchen helpers, must be thanked for their attentive service throughout the evening which ended, for some, in the wee sma' oors.

- MRS LILIAN SUTTON, The Dairy House, Collieston, has presented Slains School with a set of strips for their football team which entered the Straththan five-a-side league this season. The team, which includes several girls, is made up of Primary 4-7 pupils at the 26-pupil school.
- SLAINS SCHOOL PTA are holding a dinner-dance in the Station Hotel, Ellon, on Friday, March 13, from 7.30 pm to 1 am. Dancing is to the 3M's and a raffle will be drawn. Tickets, priced £8, are available from parents.

**Next Amenities Committee meeting
– Tuesday, March 10.**