



# The Collieston BLETHER

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## TRUSTEES HARBOUR THE PIER AND BEACH

The Collieston Harbour Trustees held their first meeting at Slains School on Thursday, February 6. Steve Ritchie was elected Chairman, Gloria Palmer Hon. Treasurer, and Fiona Chaplain, Hon. Secretary. The Trustees made their final proposals concerning the Harbour Bye-laws and these are now with the Legal Department of the Ministry of Transport (Scotland). When they have been approved, they will be placed on view in Collieston Post Office and in the Gordon District Council Office, Ellon, for six weeks when the public can table objections to them. Once that hurdle is cleared, the more important Bye-laws will be permanently displayed on the Pier.

It was decided at the first meeting that in the spring of each year the Harbour Trustees would meet at the Pier and make an inspection together with harbour engineers so that the state of the Pier may be kept under annual review.

The first Annual Inspection took place on Wednesday, April 22, when weather permitted a close look at the back of the Pier from a boat. Grant Alexander, who was the Consultant Engineer for all the recent repairs, accompanied the Trustees and took a number of photographs.

In his report he states: "The repairs carried out over the last four years to the parapet wall and the landward wall of the harbour appear in good condition and no further large scale repairs are necessary." He lists certain deterioration on the seaward face of the Pier and suggest that "consideration is given to repair work in the medium term, say over the next 3 to 4 years."

So we must continue to invest what is left of the Pier Fund - £6000 - and increase it whenever possible so that we are ready when such repairs become inevitable. The 'Collieston Pier Fund' will be the mainstay of Collieston Harbour into the foreseeable future.

The Harbour Trustees see their main task as maintaining and administering the Pier and the Beach for the continuing pleasure of the people of Collieston and those families who annually enjoy their summer holidays here.

It is the Trustees' intention to try and achieve their aims with the full-

est co-operation of all those who use the Pier or the Beach. With that end in view, the Elected Members met Collieston boat owners in the Community centre on Monday, April 27, to discuss their proposals for the summer season (June 1 to September 1 this year).

Each owner who keeps at boat at Collieston will, on payment of £1, receive a numbered key which will unlock the gate to the slipway. Day visiting boat owners, who wish to launch, will be able to purchase a summer season key for £7. These keys will also open the gate to the Outer Pier.

In order to provide at least one day a week when the Outer Pier will be relatively clear of vehicles so that those who enjoy a stroll on the Pier may be indulged, the gate to the Outer Pier will be locked on summer Sundays. However, those keyholders who wish to service their boats at the Pier will have vehicular access.

Two harmonious notices will be in place by June 1 to explain the key system.

Two major Bye-laws which will be in force from June 1 are:

- Speed of craft within the Harbour is to be SLOW (3 knots or less)
- The speed limit for vehicles on the Pier is 15 m.p.h.

Contact for the Harbour Trustees is John Palmer - Tel 322.

## Teatowel For Two

Mr and Mrs Campbell, Slains House, were rewarded with an "Ormskirk and District Advertiser" teatowel when they rescued a balloon from one of the Lancashire newspaper's young readers bearing a message to Santa. The balloon ran out of puff at Collieston but the Campbells had it reinflated and sent it on its way north.

## HOT DOGGONE!

An application for a hot food van to operate from two sites in the village - the Pier and High Town - was refused by Gordon District Council at a meeting in Inverurie on April 28.

## BOB'S YOUR WARDEN, STILL

On April 1 a new body - Scottish Natural Heritage - took over from the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland (which administered the Forvie Nature Reserve) and the Countryside Commission for Scotland (who provided the funds for Phase IV of the Pier repairs).

The new body has its headquarters at Wynne-Edwards House, 17 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen, where they are having an Open Day on June 3 - 10am to 4pm - when all will be welcome to go along and discuss matters with the staff who aim to work with the people of Scotland to care for our natural heritage.

Bob Davis remains Warden at Forvie Nature Reserve.

## SCHOOL FUNDS SWELL

The PTA Dinner Dance held recently at the Station Hotel, Ellon, raised £349 for Slains School. The money will go towards shelf dividers and labels for the school library as well as scientific equipment to be used for the wildlife garden.

The Coffee Morning on March 25 raised £145 for the school.

Many thanks to all who supported the event - also for the many contributions to the stall.

A grant of £500 has been received from the Regional Council towards the purchase of new equipment to re-instate the play park in the Bog.

The ground has been inspected by the Amenities Committee but was found to be still too soft and the grass too sparse for any equipment to be installed yet. The Roads Department are to be contacted again.

## PARK OUT OF PLAY