



IT'S A LOTTERY AS WAITING NEARS END

THE time for waiting is nearly over...

Both of the major potential funders of our proposed new hall, the Big Lottery and the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP), will give us their decisions by the end of April.

In the meantime, a big thank you to all who have supported the project so far.

BOATIE SHORE NEEDS SHORING UP

THE Pier sub group continue in their efforts to restore and renovate the pier.

At the moment they are asking if anyone has contacts with local plant operators who might be willing to undertake the work required to shore up the shippage on the Boatie Shore.

Please contact either Andrew Couper or any member of the pier group or Community Council with details.

Special thanks to Colin and Sarah Macpherson who sold calendars in aid of Collieston Pier. The couple donated the entire profit of £300 to the fund.

BERTHED IN THE BOG

THE keenly awaited pirate ship has now arrived at its moorings in the Bog playground.

A gallant crew of local parents worked hard to ensure that the surface was thoroughly prepared and topped off with safety matting.

Despite the recent bad weather the new ship has been regularly boarded by hardy small residents and visitors.

OPEN THE BOX

THE notice board by the shop can now be accessed via the key in the box on the left "leg" of the board.

The locked box opens when the dials are lined up to 0000.

Notices to be placed on the board are for the information and benefit of the local community.

The SWRI Annual Bulb and Handcraft Show is in the Victoria Hall, Ellon, on the afternoon of Saturday March 13 from 1 to 4 pm.

POSTSCRIPT: A twice weekly post office service operates from the Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Opening times are: Tuesday mornings 9.30 - 11.00; Thursday afternoons 2.30 - 4.00.

ISLAY FAREWELL

OUTSIDE, the crowd was conservatively estimated at 150.

Inside, the kirk was stappit fu - downstairs and upstairs. Even the stairs to upstairs were dogged with mourners.

It was a fitting farewell in a mass demonstration of affection for Islay who would, of course, have shied away from such attention.

The effect of Islay's passing, also had an international dimension as a mark of the influence her personality had on the rich mixture of nationalities who are friends of Collieston.

As New Zealander, Brenda Morrison, who lived in the village in the 1970s and has been a regular visitor since, e-mailed from the other side of the world:

"I can hardly bear to imagine Collieston without Islay. I have such fond memories of her - such a gentle soul with a lovely sense of mischief. So please tell Abbie that there were tears shed for Islay 12,000 miles away in Wellington."

RETURN OF THE ROOS

DON'T miss a fun feel-good night coming soon to the community centre!

Saturday March 6 is a family occasion when the Roos will be coaxed back out of their retirement to take to the track again, along with other fun activities.

Bring some food for sharing, BYOB and prepare to enjoy yourselves!

Admission free.

BUS PASS

THE footpath leading to the bus shelter at the Gannies crossroads is now finished - complete with bike security facility.

Thanks to Councillor Rob Merson for making this possible.

Submissions for the next Bletther should be sent to Sally Sheehan (751244), or any Community Council member, by the end of April please.

JOIN THE A FOR ACTION TEAM

THIS year's Gala Day is Saturday July 31. Anyone interested in being part of the A(ction) team to get things started is invited to come to a meeting in the hall on Wednesday March 17 at 7.30pm.

KIOSK IN THE FAMILY

THE Community Council has decided to adopt the village telephone box following a letter from BT. Adopting the phone box does not necessarily mean that we will continue to have a payphone service, only that the red kiosk will be retained for heritage reasons and not be threatened with future removal.