



ALL THE BEST FROM ALL

AS ABBIE AND ISLAY RETIRE

THE community gathered to say farewell when the village shop closed its doors for the last time on September 26. The shop and post office had provided service to the community for over a hundred years since its opening. Abbie and Islay Stott came to Collieston in 1961, running both the shop and post office for a total of 47 years.

Going to the shop after playgroup or school or at the beginning of the holidays became an established and much enjoyed tradition for generations of children from Collieston, Slains and further afield. Summer visitors have also enjoyed the sweeties, ice cream and bandy nets along with the staples of life from the seven day a week service.

A party to celebrate Abbie and Islay's much deserved retirement was held in the community centre on October 10.

Visit www.colliestononline.org to see pics of both events.

PIRATE NAME GAME

THE Community Council, will shortly be mooring a pirate ship in the playpark. Playgroup volunteers will find a suitable berth for the new vessel, but we still need an appropriate name to paint on the mast.

All children and young people in the area are invited to submit their ideas, either by e-mail to the website address - colliestononline@yahoo.co.uk - by phoning Sally on 751244 or by dropping a line to any Council member (no black spots please). Winner to be announced in the December Bletcher.

P&J PAPER CHASE

Reps from Aberdeen Journals are expected in the village shortly to consult with residents in an effort to gauge the potential demand for Press & Journals. If the numbers are sufficient there's a good chance that a delivery service will start.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

BONFIRE NIGHT - Saturday November 7 in Cransdale. Bonfire will be lit at 6.30pm and fireworks start at 7pm. Jointly organised by Community Council and Parent Forum. Soup and hot dogs in Hall afterwards by Parent Forum and soft drinks bar by CC. BYO alcohol.

SWIMMING SESSIONS - Ellon pool, Sundays 4.30 - 5.30pm. Everyone welcome. £2 per person or £6 per family. Dates for 2009: Nov 1/Nov 15/Nov 29/Dec 13. For 2010: Jan 10/Jan 24/Feb/21/Mar 7/Mar 21. Phone Cathy on 751338 for more info.

NEXT BLETHER - Christmas issue. Anyone or any organisation with information to be included, contact Sally on 751244 by November 20.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Saturday December 5 at Poachers Rest. Invitations are being organised and another great occasion is in the offing.

BURNS SUPPER - January 2010. Arrangements are already underway...

FIRST OF MANY

THE first Annual General Meeting of Slains and Collieston Community Council took place on September 25 with Chair Rachel Hitchcock reporting on the busy first year in harness to a packed hall.

Five who have accumulated over 70 years of service to the community via the Amenities Committee and the Community Council - Julie Swan, Gill Meir, Nicki Tait, Sarah Gosden and Sally Sheehan - left the Council through retirement or resignation.

It was also intimated that Mick Sheehan was standing down as village warden, an unofficial but important role in the community. Anyone interested in taking over the job of identifying and organising the tasks necessary to keep the village neat and tidy should contact Mick for information on 751244.

The Community Council now consists of: Rachel Hitchcock - Chair; Trish Cowie - Vice chair; Sian Earlam - Secretary; Huib Altema - Treasurer; George Jamieson; Charles Esson; Nora Harper; Jonathan Mitchell; Nicole Bell; Ewan Cowie, Sheema Junor; Sally Sheehan; Roger Berl.

Community Council meetings in the next 12 months are:

2009

November 4/December 2

2010

January 6/February 3/March 3/April 14/May 5/June 2/June 30/September 1/September 24 - AGM/ October 6

All meetings are held in the hall, starting at 7.30pm, and everyone from the community is welcome.

QUEST FOR YOUTH

THE Community Council is looking for young people from Slains and Collieston to become involved in some of its activities. Under the rules, the council is allowed to recruit two young people aged 14 - 18. No actual jobs would be allocated and which bits of meetings to attend could be open to negotiation if necessary etc. The feeling is that it would be great to have this age group represented. If interested please contact any council member.

SUB GROUP SURFACES

THE long-awaited pier survey has finally been completed with the underwater aspect taking far longer than anticipated due to a number of factors.

However, an eager and experienced pier and harbour sub group, under the chair of Andrew Couper, has risen to the task in hand and has already had vital basic repairs carried out.

This is just the beginning of a large-scale project more news of which will feature in subsequent editions of The Bletcher.