



JOHN ROBERTSON—COLLIESTON'S POET

John Robertson, who died in August, will long be remembered as the Bard of Collieston in recognition of the many verses he wrote commemorating the "jewel in the Buchan crown". His most remembered poem "Collieston Calling" was set to music and recorded by the pupils of Slains School in 2005. At his funeral in Slains Kirk it's poignant words were sung by singer Kathleen Robertson.

John was a central figure in the life of Collieston and Slains, having been a past Chairman of the Amenities committee, a coastguard and active community member. John came from a local fisher family, and apart from his first years in Torry and war service in the RAF, lived all his life in his beloved Collieston.

The words of his poems

captured "Old Collieston" with glimpses of an era now long gone with "kye grazin' in the bog" and "speldins drying on the rack".

John, or J.R. as many knew him, will be greatly missed.

MAKE DO AND MEND

A sub group of the Community council is looking at ways of improving our hall—both in the short and long term. Funding has been obtained for replacement windows and also an upgrade of the kitchen. Whilst acknowledging this is not a permanent solution, the idea is to make the building a more pleasant community space while allowing more time to develop further upgrading.

BOATIE'S NOW ASHORED

Major work has taken place during the summer in shoring up the heavily eroded Boatie shore to prevent further damage by time and tide. A wall of stones has been put in place to build up the bank, now covered over with soil. The Harbour sub group and other volunteers laid the area with grass seed, which is now starting to come up. The reclaimed area should prove to be a real asset to the community in years to come.

SCHOOL'S OUT

Families interested in the possibility of an after school group for their children are asked to contact the website — www.colliestononline.org

DIARY DATES

Slains and Collieston Annual General Meeting—Friday 24th September at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. All very welcome.

Friday 1st October—Playgroup's Harvest Coffee Morning in the Community Centre.

Sunday 3rd October in the Community Centre—Tea and Talk—11.15 to 12.30. Drop in coffee morning as part of Ellon's Community Wellbeing Festival. All very welcome.

Saturday 6th November Bonfire Night at 6.30 pm, followed by soup and hot dogs in the hall, then a licensed bar.

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch at The Poachers Rest, Auchmacoy. Saturday 11th December. Invitations to follow.

Gala 2011—Please note there will be a change of date—Gala Day will now be on Saturday 9th July 2011.

Community Council

Following last month's election Council members are:-

Huib Attema, Nicole Bell, Roger Berl, Trish Cowie, Sian Earlam, Charles Esson, Nora Harper, Rachel Hitchcock, George Jamieson, Sheena Junor, Sarah MacPherson, Sally Sheehan

Council Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month.

THE LAST PAGE

After twenty years, and coming up for a hundred editions of the Blether, Jack Page has decided to put down his pen. The first Blether came off the press in July 1989 with appeals for fundraising help for the Pier - with not just one, but *two* Gala days!

Since then the Blether has continued to keep readers, both near and far, informed and in touch with local events and news from the Community Council.

Thanks must go to Jack for his work over the years on one of the unseen but vital community tasks.

Past editions of The Blether can be viewed on the website www.colliestononline.org.

Submissions for the next Blether should be sent to Sally Sheehan (751244) or any Council member.