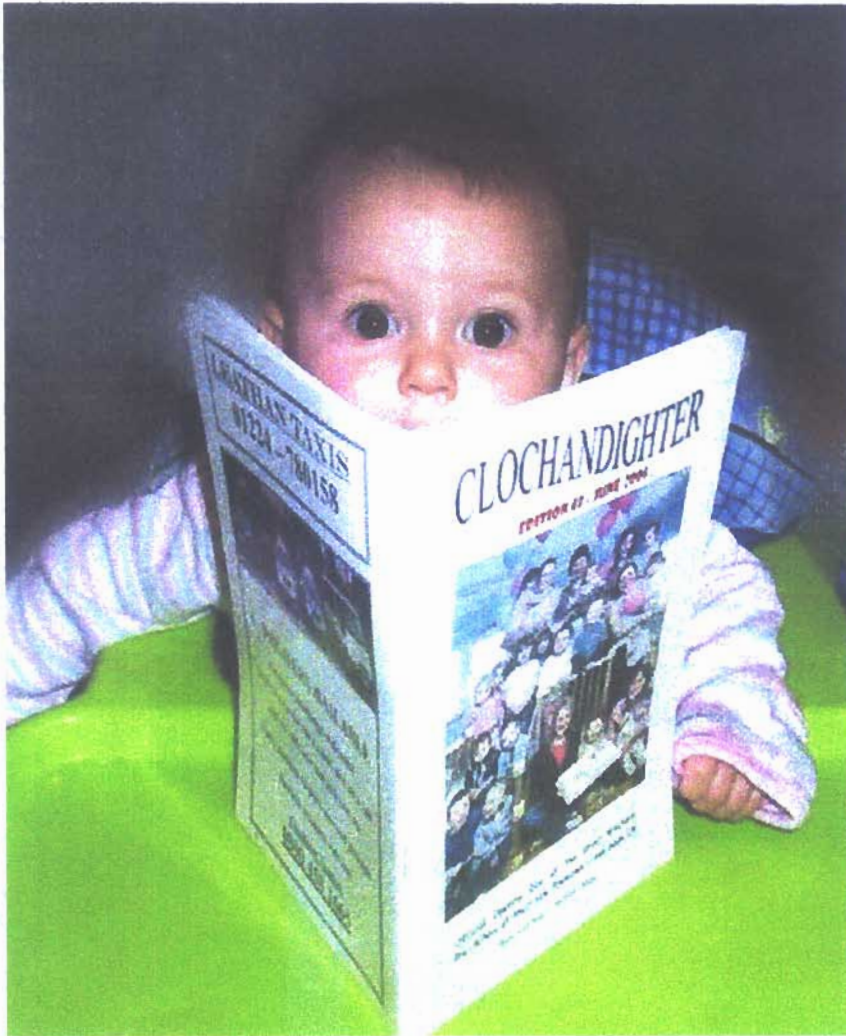


# CLOCHANDIGHTER

**EDITION 49 - SEPTEMBER 2005**



This is Willow, is she our youngest reader?

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SEPT 2005

## PORTLETHEN MOSS A NATURE RESERVE?

I for one would dearly love to see – what's left of - Portlethen Moss turned into a nature reserve and the good news is that I have the support of The Scottish National Heritage Society and Aberdeenshire Council. However this can only happen if I am able to form a community group. I'm told that the ideal number for this group would be eight people and I've already got three including myself which means we just need a minimum of five more interested members of the community. This is not something that will take up a great deal of your time we just have to form a community group to enable us to take advantage of whatever grants will be available to us and agree on what/where on the Moss we would like to see the money spent.

Aberdeenshire Council have already carried out a title search and have discovered that, in particular at the north end of the Moss, there are a few different owners of various pockets of land so it is going to be a little complicated ironing things out; it's now in the hands of the Aberdeenshire Council lawyers. Also an ecology study is planned for the Moss to ascertain exactly what lives and grow there.

I started the ball rolling on this project when I was a member of the PDCC as I felt that Portlethen was developing so quickly and feared that we would lose what little of the Moss is left. My proposal was based on the protection of this sensitive area along with the upgrading of paths and clearing of ponds and burns, which have become choked by overgrowth, by placing seating in areas where it would not alarm wildlife and erecting plaques containing information regarding what lives and grows on the Moss.

If this project is successful I would hope for our local schools to become involved and take advantage of this natural asset on our doorstep and utilise it for art or science and nature projects.

Aberdeenshire Council has advised me that we would be eligible for grants, one of which would come from the Scottish National Heritage Society and that the area ranger service would be available to us. All in all we have nothing to lose but everything to gain here so please if you care about the Moss as I do either phone or email me and I'll keep you updated with the progress of this project.

Also if anyone has any photographs or information about the history of the Moss I would be very interested if you could share them with me.

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