

# CLOCHANDIGHTER

EDITION 54 - MARCH 2007

## NEWSLETTER

Published by Portlethen and District Community Council No 3 July/August 1978

As the summer draws to a close, our thoughts turn to autumn and the restart of all the activities that drag us away from the box during the winter evenings. In this the third issue of our newsletter we've collected together the starting dates of local organisations. If you'd like the opportunity to make some new friends, listen to interesting talks and demonstrations, take part in some lively competition or indulge in some exercise, turn to our Autumn Diary on page 4.

A big thank you to all who wrote or telephoned offering help and encouragement to the newsletter. We're pleased to be able to publish some correspondence on page 2, including a delightful ditty. We'd like to make this newsletter a place to publish local points of view so we've deliberately chosen two controversial letters in the hope that they might provoke some response.

Contributions for the next issue should reach the Editor by 30th September. Don't wait for us to phone you, make a date in your diary. Secretaries, let us know your agenda and the dates of your fund-raising activities and social events.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 41

# Clochandighter

PORTLETHEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

No 4

SEP/OCT 1978.

Well, you can see from the title that we have chosen a name for our newsletter. The Council felt that CLOCHANDIGHTER was a name peculiar to the district and, at the same time, unusual and memorable. The name CLOCHANDIGHTER, pronounced Cloch-and-igh-ter, comes from Gaelic and means, we believe, "the bill of the soldier". It's the highest point in the district (a suitable aim for the newsletter?) lying on the western section of the old parish boundary, and is easily identified by the large dist. serial on its summit. We've been unable to discover why it's called

SPRING 2007



## Portlethen Moss Conservation Group

[www.portlethen-moss.org.uk](http://www.portlethen-moss.org.uk)

Update:

In my last report I wrote about a site visit in October where the group met with representatives from Aberdeenshire Council and the Aberdeen Woodlands Project Officer. The purpose of this visit was for the group to put forward our aspirations for the Moss to the Woodlands Project Officer in the hope of gaining funding from a scheme that was being run by the Scottish Executive. The Officer was very positive in his feedback and left with a hard copy of our proposal and I'm very pleased to say that we have been awarded a significant amount of funding for the improvements that were identified.

I met with two representatives from Aberdeenshire Council on 30<sup>th</sup> November where we walked the site again to further discuss exactly where the planned maintenance and improvements would be made. It was a very positive meeting and the work should commence sometime in the spring.

However I'm sorry to say that things are less positive with the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status as the landowners are still refusing to enter into an agreement with us. Therefore as I mentioned in my last report, the funding gained can only be used for the very small area to the south of the Moss which is owned by Aberdeenshire Council, but it will make this area very accessible for all abilities and create a short yet very pretty and interesting circular walk.

Had the Moss been designated as an LNR the money would have been put to very good use; for example, in restoring the bog areas to their more natural wetter state which would result in environmental improvements for the natural flora and fauna. It's a pity that only such a small area of the Moss remains, as sensitive areas such as these are disappearing all over the country and here we have the chance to save what's left of ours and make Portlethen a truly unique area – an area which at the moment is only known as a commuter town – yet we have been met by opposition. However we continue to hope that further discussions will bring about a more positive response from the landowners in the future.

David Potter the Local Ranger is planning another Ranger event at the end of April and has suggested a 'Clean Up The Moss Afternoon' where an attempt shall be made to rid the Moss of litter and the items that were selfishly dumped near the Myrtle Terrace entrance to the Moss last summer, which included old linoleum and a concrete block from someone's clothes drier. Dates and details will be published nearer the time in the Cloch and on our website.

Although the Moss may look rather dull at this time of year a walk at the right time of day will reward you with sightings of Roe Deer and a variety of birdlife. There appears to be good numbers of Goldcrests on the Moss at the moment, they are the UK's smallest bird, smaller than the Wren, they have a very high pitched call and are often heard and not seen.

Anyone wishing to know more about the Portlethen Moss Conservation Group please do not hesitate to contact me or why not visit our new website at the address above. Many thanks to Ken Watson for creating it for us and doing such a great job too!

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