

Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council Newsletter



Issue 39 – Autumn/Winter 2008

Chairperson's Report

In April, the four-yearly elections for Community Councils saw all of us returned to serve our Community. At our AGM in May, I retained my position as Chairperson and Paula McLay was voted on as Vice Chair. Unfortunately, we have had one resignation - Shelagh Thomson. Shelagh was a valuable member of the team and therefore a big loss to us. She will continue to help when she can and we are very grateful for this! We have recently gained two new Community Councillors and we now look forward to working with them. We presently have one vacancy and would be very happy to hear from anyone who is interested in joining us. You will see from this Newsletter that the Community Council and all other groups who have contributed articles have been very busy indeed and are continuing with the good work!

Congratulations to In Bloom for their success in the Beautiful Scotland competition.

The hanging basket, planters and flower beds have been very uplifting throughout a very poor summer and the ladies excelled themselves in their efforts for the village and the competition!

One of the projects we will be working on in the months to come is Promenade Lighting. It is hoped that we will secure funding for lights along the promenade pathway at the East Links. This will not only be an attractive and enhancing asset for the village but will also increase the times when the path can be used, making it safer too!

We welcome your feedback on this Newsletter and if you have any ideas, concerns or comments please contact us or come along to one of our monthly meetings - 7.30pm on the first Tuesday each month, excepting January and July.

Gordon Campbell, Chairperson

Policing

New Community Wardens are now in place throughout East Lothian's wards. This is a very welcome addition to policing our area. The Wardens will patrol our streets and will be there to help the community with any concerns. They will be able to fine anyone caught littering or not cleaning up after their dog. Environmental Wardens will come on board shortly. They will deal with problems such as noise pollution.

The Prestonpans Initiative Team (PIT) are to be employed for another year. PIT have been very active throughout the ward, resulting in less youth related complaints.

A Community Active Team (CAT) consisting of six newly trained police officers is soon to be operational.

A Mobile CCTV Van is now in operation adding further to the safety and well-being of our community.

News from the Community Council



Speed Reactive Sign

The speed reactive variable message sign at the Edinburgh Road entrance to the village is proving a great success. We have had lots of positive feedback and the sign is definitely helping reduce the speed at which traffic enters the west of the village.

We hope to acquire another sign for the east entrance between Seton Sands and Links View and are awaiting the go-ahead from ELC so that we can apply for the necessary funding.

Litter and Dog Fouling

We are heartened to see so many dog owners cleaning up after their dogs.

However, there are still some who don't! Please be a considerate, responsible citizen and bag and bin/take home your dog's mess whenever/wherever you exercise your dog.

Free poop bags are available at the Centre/Library and have been requested to be placed at the toilets at the Promenade.

Volunteers

A very big thank you goes to all our volunteers – old and new - whose help with deliveries, events, baking, etc. is very much welcomed and appreciated.

We are always in need of more volunteers and if you would like to help out, especially at events, please do contact us.

CCTV

Cameras should be installed throughout the village in the spring/summer of 2009.

The Community Council welcomes this step forward for the additional safety and well-being of the community and have been working closely with ELC on the project.

Sponsor a Light

Once again, a light on the Christmas tree can be sponsored in memory of a loved one.

If you wish to do this, please call Isobel (812780) with your name and the name of your loved one. This will be recorded and a list of all names will be put on the notice boards and will also appear in the next Newsletter.

The price for sponsorship is £5 and can include more than one sponsor's name and more than one loved one's name.

Cockenzie House Nursing Home

All residents of the home were moved to other nursing homes and Cockenzie House was closed at the end of April. This was a very difficult and worrying time for residents and their families and also the staff. The Community Council wishes the families to know that our thoughts are with them in what has been a very sad and distressing time.

The Cockenzie House Action Group fought long and hard to stop the closure as it believed that the Home should have remained open and the plans to build new units taken forward.

ELC has commissioned an Internal Review regarding the closure, the results of which should be published shortly.

Achievement Awards

The Community Council was proud to announce the winners of the Achievement Awards on Gala Day.

Winner of the adult category was Kay Patterson for her work with local Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. Kay has also been to South Africa to teach teenagers in an orphanage!

Winner of the youth category was Michael Simpson for his musical performances at community events. Michael is a proficient piper and guitarist!

Congratulations to both winners and also to all those nominated. Well Done!

Thanks goes to members of the community who took the time and made the effort to fill in nomination forms.

Pelican Crossing

For several years the community has fought for a crossing in the Edinburgh Road area.

We are pleased to report that ELC are to carry out a detailed survey into the placing of a pelican crossing.

Cockenzie House

Plans to turn the building into a House of Multiple Occupancy for a five year period have been submitted to ELC.

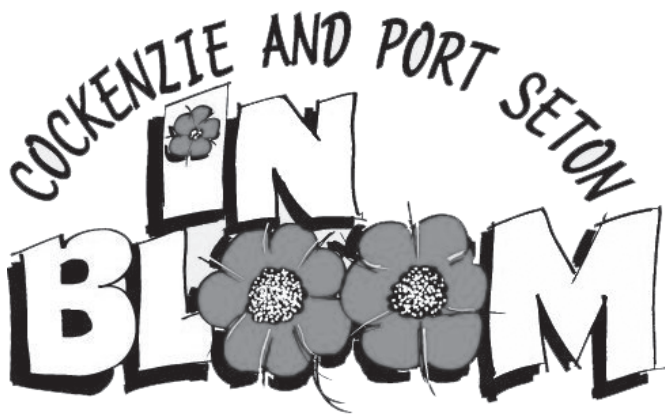
The Community Council have been approached by members of the community and have taken up the various concerns and complaints with ELC's Planning and Environmental Protection offices.

Seton Fields and Footpaths

The Community Council is negotiating with ELC's Landscape and Countryside Dept over the status of certain paths close to Port Seton. One footpath in particular, the way across Seton Fields from Port Seton to Longniddry, is the subject of debate about whether it should be designated "a Core Path" and so be better maintained. This negotiation is the result of the Countryside Dept's consultation on The Draft Core Paths Plan. The aim of this Plan is to have a system of paths "sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area". We look forward to the proposed path from Sandy Walk to Fishers Road and other benefits from this consultation.

However there has been no reinstatement of last year's ploughed-up footpaths in Seton Fields despite letters to Seton Sands Caravan Park, and the matter is now being handled by ELC Countryside Dept.

Liz Clark



Despite the poor weather this summer, the gardens, planters and hanging baskets throughout the town have been bright and colourful. We have been greatly encouraged by all the people who have commented on them. To know that the results of all our hard work give pleasure to so many people is reward in itself.

This year has been a difficult one for gardeners. Nonetheless, when the judging for our Gardens competitions took place in August, our judge, Gordon Mitchell was most impressed by the high standards he saw.

Congratulations to the winners:

Best Garden:

- 1st Mr & Mrs Harkess, Park View West
- 2nd Mr & Mrs Ross, South Seton Park
- 3rd Mrs Dawkins, Kay Gardens

Best Hanging Basket:

- 1st Mr Johnston, Edinburgh Road
- 2nd Mr & Mrs Campbell, Castle Terrace
- 3rd Mr & Mrs Higgins, Forth Court

Best Tiny Garden

(new category introduced this year):

- 1st Mr & Mrs Reid, South Seton Park
- 2nd Mrs Ferguson, South Seton Park
- 3rd Mr & Mrs Hobbs, South Seton Park

The winners will be presented with their awards at a ceremony to be held in October.

This year, our 10th Anniversary year, has been exceptionally busy as we prepared for the visit of the Beautiful Scotland judges. Thanks to everyone who helped in whatever way to make the town look its sparkling best on the day. Rain the night before had made all the gardens look fresh and green and the town was

spotlessly clean, thanks to a big effort by ELC staff and by all of you who cleaned up after your pets; who put litter in the bins and who reported graffiti.

Now, as the days begin to shorten, we look forward to our winter activities. There's still plenty to do in the Nursery Garden, but at a more leisurely pace now. All too soon, Christmas will be upon us, so please get your orders for holly wreaths and Christmas arrangements in early.

Anyone who has an hour or two to spare is welcome to come along. No special skills required and the kettle is always on!

Stop Press

The Awards for the Beautiful Scotland competition were announced on 17 September.

Cockenzie and Port Seton was awarded a Silver Gilt in the Category Awards (categories based on population size).

Two special discretionary awards were also won - an award for permanent planting and the Scottish Natural Heritage Biodiversity Award!

Members of In Bloom present at the Awards ceremony in the Brunton Hall were delighted at Cockenzie and Port Seton's success. The trophies and certificates are on display in the window of Oceanside East Café.

NEWS FROM PORT SETON CENTRE

New Centre Head

We are pleased to have our new Centre Head, Lynne Anderson in post. Lynne will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Centre.

Centre Programme

There is a range of groups and activities to choose from including Pilates, Boxercise, Scottish Slimmers, Weight Watchers, Karate, Gym Bunnies, Gymnastics, Dance Classes, Yoga, Tea Dance and Musical Minnies. We have a pretty packed programme on offer and a copy is available from reception.

Parent & Toddler Group

Parents and carers can bring their children along on Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Thursday mornings for fun and play. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and children.

Sandcastle Playgroup

The Sandcastle Play group meets Monday-Thursday mornings and afternoons. To register your child, please contact the Playgroup leaders in the Centre.

Adult Day & Evening Classes/ Groups

We have copies of 'Choices' which lists day and evening classes for adults throughout East Lothian. Courses include: Spanish, French, Complementary Therapy Taster, Drawing & Painting, Knitting for beginners, Patchwork Project.

Up Your Street – this short course on Monday evenings at 6.30pm will help you find out more about issues around health and wellbeing in the area with speakers and workshops. You will be introduced to ways to carry out a local investigation. The information gained from the course can then be taken forward to develop new services to meet local needs. Other courses have led to local people starting up a women's health group, the production of leaflet for parents about drugs and alcohol and a recycling waste project.

For more information, contact Sandra King, Community Development Officer, at the Centre.

Pram & Buggy Walking Group - this group meets each Tuesday morning at 10am from the centre. The group walks for an hour and then returns for a cuppa. Health Walks – we aim to introduce a weekly walk from the Centre on Monday afternoons at 2pm. This is free and open to anyone wishing to help improve their health and wellbeing.

'Feel Good Be Confident' – come along to our taster sessions on Wednesday mornings to find ways to handle stress, assert yourself and learn to relax. Starts Wednesday 1 October at 10am at the Centre.

Questionnaire to Parents/Carers

A letter and questionnaire is being circulated to all parents/carers in the area via the school, which makes suggestions for groups and asks for any ideas local people have. Copies available from Sandra King.

George V Play Park

The Play Park Steering Group is delighted to have secured funding for the refurbishment of the play park adjacent to the Centre. Children from the local school and groups based in the Centre have helped choose play equipment. The play park designs were on display at a very successful 'Picnic in the Park' event. Families enjoyed a magic show from Gary James and 'Stone the Crow' and £700 was raised.

The group are working with ELC and the design company to progress the work which should start in the autumn. The Play Park Steering Group is a partnership between the Advisory Committee, Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council, ELC and local parents.

Graffiti Art in the Skate Park

We are pleased to see so many children using the Skate Park, which has been given a bright, colourful and vibrant facelift depicting the sea and some of its' creatures. New fencing and surfacing work have now been completed and we are waiting for the Council to install a new grinding rail and box.

Youth Activities Programme

Monday – Junior Youth Club for primary school aged children.

Tuesday – Senior Drop In for secondary school children and young people.

Wednesday – Youth Gym to improve health and fitness for children and young people aged 12-18 (resumes after the October school break).

Friday – Youth Library: arts & crafts, computers, games. Monthly Disco for Primary pupils.

Port Seton Centre Café

The café is open Monday–Tuesday 10am–2pm, Wednesday 10am–4pm, Thursday 10am–4.30pm and Friday from 10am–3pm. Pop in for a cuppa and some home baking. Light meals are available too, including soup, filled rolls, toasties and panini. Following a suggestion from one local resident you can now recycle your juice bottles and cans in the bins provided. The Advisory Committee have recently purchased additional high chairs and parents can wipe clean these after use with the free wipes provided. New chairs and tables have brightened up the café. We welcome your suggestions for the menu - share your favourite recipes for soups and home baking with us!

Cockenzie & Port Seton Drama Club

The cast are busy rehearsing each Wednesday evening for this year's pantomime - Aladdin - which runs from 3-6 December.

Karate

Come along and try Karate. Classes are held on Tuesday & Thursday evenings for a variety of ages and abilities. For more information please contact the Centre.

Soft Play

The Soft Play Room has been closed for refurbishment. We regret the delay and are working with ELC to have this opened by mid September. Bookings can be made for soft play birthday parties on Friday afternoons and on Saturdays from 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4pm. Once the Soft Play Room is completed it will be available more often to parents and their children during the week. As the room is now smaller, for health and safety reasons the number of children allowed in the soft play at one time has been reduced. Please speak to staff for further information.

Cockenzie & Port Seton Amateur Radio Club

We have completed another successful fund raising year which ended with the Annual Junk Night (Junk is terminology that we use for all the Radio and Computer pieces of equipment that others sell). The figure raised on the night was £616.20. This, added to what we had raised before Junk Night, gives a grand total of £915 which has been donated to the British Heart Foundation. Thanks to everyone for all the effort put into raising the money as it really is going to a tremendous cause. Since we started in 1994 we have raised a grand total of £14,368!!

The official presentation of the cheque (still to be confirmed) should take place at 20:00 on Friday 6 November (Club Night) in the Thorntree Inn (Lounge Bar). Heather of the BHF is not available for the October club night as her daughter is getting married.

Please come along and give this your support.

Website: www.cpsarc.com

Tel: 811723

From your Local Library

Just a reminder that your library can provide you with much more than books, take a look at what else is available:-

5 public access computers, Books on Tape and CD, Photocopying and Fax facilities, Author visits, Community Diary for local events, Exhibitions area, Music CDs, Language Courses and much, much more!

Our two Book Groups continue to meet once a month. Our Writers Group meets fortnightly.

Our Bounce and Tickle session (stories and rhymes for under 3s) is on the second Monday of the month 10.30-11.30am. There is no charge for this session - just come along and join the fun!

We would like to thank the youth workers who came in during the summer assisting with activities for our younger users on Friday afternoons. We would also like to say a big well done to the 25 children completing this year's summer reading scheme. Medals and certificates were presented at a special party in August; all attending had a great time!

Young Philosophers Club - Are you interested in life's big questions?

Port Seton Library in partnership with Port Seton Centre aims to find out if local young people would be interested in getting together with other young people to talk about their thoughts and ideas about the world. This could be the start of an exciting new Philosophers Club in the area. Young people are full of wonder and can come up with lots of new ideas, insights and possibilities! To register your interest, please speak to library staff.

Opening Hours:

Mon 2 - 7.30pm

Tue 10am - 1pm + 2 - 5pm

Wed CLOSED

Thur 2 - 7.30pm

Fri 10am - 1pm + 2 - 5pm

Sat 10am - 1pm

Tel: 811 709,

E-mail: portseton.library@eastlothian.gov.uk

Chalmers Memorial Church

We have decided to hold the 6.15pm evening service monthly instead of weekly, generally on the last Sunday of the month. This change started with the "Harvest of the Sea" Praise Service on Sunday 28th September.

New Programme:

ALL-age Family Worship, every Sunday, 10.15am in the church hall, followed by the Sunday School and Rock Club Groups.

The traditional service is in the church at 11am

Evening Worship, last Sunday of the month, 6.15pm (until June 2009).

Rock Solid Club every 2nd Sunday, 7.30pm.

Youth Club - every 2nd Saturday: 8-10 year olds, 6.30-7.45pm; 11 years plus, 8-9.15pm.

Prayer Breakfast - last Saturday of the month, 8-9.15am.

Welcome Wednesday -

1st Wednesday of the month 10-12 noon
Coffee Time

3rd Wednesday of the month 12 -2 pm
Lunches

Last Wednesday of the month 10-11 am
Prayer Time

Imagining the Bible - every Tuesday, 7.30pm, 14 October until 18 Nov - a new series of an enjoyable and helpful way of living the Bible, held in the side wing of the church.

Badminton Group - every Wednesday, 8pm in the church hall. Adults of all ages are welcome (children under 16 can attend but must be accompanied by an adult).

Elcho Place Hall Meeting Times

Sunday 6.30pm - Gospel Meeting

Monday 10-11.30am - Toddlers Group

Last Sunday of every month 5.30pm: Family Service Group

Last Tuesday of every month 2-3pm: Senior Citizens Meeting

Wednesday 7-9pm: Prayer and Bible Study

Thursday 7.30-8.45pm: Teens Night (P7+)

Friday 6.30-7.30pm: Friday Club (P1-P6)

We give everyone in the village a very warm welcome to these occasions. For further details please contact Brian or Denise Donaldson on 811786.

GALA COMMITTEE THANKS

Cockenzie & Port Setons' Children's Gala Day Committee would like to thank everyone for their support in the 60th Jubilee celebrations. There was a tremendous effort by many people in the weeks and months leading up to this occasion including fund-raising, organising events and supporting the preparations.

The 31 May 2008 was a fantastic day from start to end, with the rare sunny weather just making the day perfect. The Gala Court was impeccably dressed and they all enjoyed a day they will remember forever. Special thanks to all the children, parents and helpers who ensured that the 60th Gala was one of the largest that Cockenzie & Port Seton have ever witnessed. The Procession with the many floats and bands, and the sea journey were splendid, with the presence of the "Reaper" sailing alongside our local fishing fleet a real spectacle on the Forth.

The 31 former Seton Queens who returned for this special day were thrilled with the reception they received while they paraded around the village in the open-top bus. Many of them said this equalled, if not surpassed, their own Gala Day - which for some was many years ago! The Gala Committee would like to thank each one for making the special journey to join the celebrations. The display of videos, programmes and photographs in the Library was enjoyed by local folk and visitors alike, with the Library staff requesting that this display was kept open longer as people returned again and again to look at the many memories on show. Again, the Gala Committee would like to thank all the people who assisted with this event - and it is hoped a permanent display could be possible in the future.

Many individuals and local groups contributed to the funding of this year's special event and the Gala Committee

thanks everyone for this support. These funds meant we were able to arrange additional entertainment in the park, bring more bands for the procession, erect a large marquee for the crowning ceremony, erect street banners designed by the local schoolchildren and fund many other items for this special day. The Gala Committee are now getting ready to begin preparations for the 61st Gala Day, and if you would like to know more about the work of the Committee and assist with any of the events, including Gala Day, please contact us via the Centre.

Seton Boys Football Club

We are currently looking for additional players for all our teams, especially u9s, u11s and u12s Saturday teams. We currently operate age groups u9s, u10s, u11s, u12s, u14s, u15s, u17s and u19s. Please log into our club website www.geocities.com/setonboysfc for further information. Or e-mail setonboysfc1995@fsmail.net Additional coaching assistance would be most welcome. If interested please contact the club via the e-mail address above. Kevin McKendrick, Club President.



Cockenzie PTA

Halloween Disco: FRIDAY 24th OCTOBER
Christmas Fair: SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER

The PTA always welcome new members. Sadly we have no secretary now.

For more information please contact: Joanne Dunton (Chair) Tel 815571.



John Bellany Day Centre

We would like to ask the community for more donations of wool so that we can continue to knit blankets, slippers, scarves etc for those in need.

Also, volunteer drivers are needed to help cover holidays and sickness. Tel: Anne or Merle on 815886.

DIARY DATES

from the Community Council.

Fireworks Display: Wednesday 5 November on the East Links. Family Fun with music, glow-sticks, food and drinks available from 6.30pm

Winter Wonderland and Switch-On of Christmas Lights: Sunday 7 December 2pm at Port Seton Centre. Torch-Light Procession leaves Centre at 4.45pm led by Prestonpans Pipe Band to join Carol Singers at the Christmas Tree. Stovies, soup, mulled wine etc will be available for sale at the John Bellany Day Centre.

Senior Citizens Party: Saturday 10 January at 2pm in the Port Seton Centre. Entertainment, Music, Dancing, Food, Drinks especially for our Senior Citizens!

Watch our Notice Boards for more information nearer these dates.

Your Community Councillors are . . .

Chair:

Gordon Campbell

Vice Chair:

Paula McLay

Secretary and Treasurer:

Alexanderina Bell, MBE

Isobel Black, Glen Campbell, Liz Clark,

Geoff Cummiskey, Bryan Green and

Jacqueline McMillan

Contact Us . . .

Write: Community Council,
Port Seton Centre, South Seton Park,
Port Seton EH32 0BG Tel: **815815**

Website: www.cockenzieandportseton.org.uk

Email: cockenzieandportseton@hotmail.com

Police:

Police Officer Grant Gray, Prestonpans Station
– **810250.**

You will be automatically connected to the Police Call Centre if Prestonpans is unmanned.

Police Call Centre: **0131 311 3131**

Always Dial 999 in an Emergency!

Antisocial Behaviour Team: **01620 829 919**

or 24hr Helpline **0845 601 8518** or Email asb@eastlothian.gov.uk

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111**

THE HARBOURS MEDICAL PRACTICE

Health Centre

Avenue Road

Cockenzie EH32 0JU

Practice Opening Hours

By Telephone 8.00am-6.00pm

In Person 8.30am-6.00pm

APPOINTMENTS ONLY: 01875 810511

www.harbourspractice.co.uk/

The practice operates a system on a Monday and any day following a public holiday whereby we book the appointments for that day **ONLY ON THE DAY**.

We also keep On the Day appointments for the rest of the week for patients who require to be seen more urgently than waiting on a routine appointment. If these appointments are full when you contact the practice with a medical problem, which you feel cannot wait until the appointment date we are able to offer you, the Receptionists will take a contact number from you. The Duty Doctor will then contact you to discuss your problem and arrange suitable review.

We would appreciate, if you were unable to keep your appointment, that you telephone or call into the Practice to cancel the appointment as soon as possible. This enables us to give your appointment to someone else.

Flu Vaccination

Contact the surgery to arrange your flu vaccination at one of the flu clinics. All those aged 65 years of age and older, all those with a medical condition which puts them in an 'at risk' group are entitled to receive the vaccination.

Contact details for your Local Councillors

Stuart Currie - Surgeries as advertised in local press Tel: 01620 827 006 or 0772 383 526

Willie Innes - Surgeries as advertised in local press

Margaret Libberton - Surgeries at Port Seton Centre Mondays 6-7pm, Tel: 01620 827 022

Peter McKenzie - Surgeries 2nd Tuesday of month 5.30-6.30pm, Tel: 01620 827 018

ALBA TAXIS

Whin Park Industrial Estate Cockenzie
Taxi and Minibus Hire (7 and 14 seater)

ATTENTION -

We need drivers, call us now!

Tel: 815 000

THE BIKE SHED

Xmas is coming... we have bikes for ALL ages from 2 to 102!

Order your bike with a £10 deposit - Xmas Savings Club available.

Delivery to the Cockenzie & Port Seton area even on Xmas Eve.

We also service and repair bikes - call for a collection service.

Call David at The Bike Shed on

0131 663 5550

Angie Stewart DSM Massage Therapy

Enjoy a better quality of life . . .

Some of the reasons why regular massage helps you:

Stimulates the release of endorphins - the body's natural feel good chemicals.

Helps induce relaxation and a feeling of well being.

Eases tense and knotted muscles and stiff joints, improving mobility and flexibility.

Helps relieve pain and reduce levels of stress.

Improves circulation and helps boost your immune system.

Aren't you worth it?

Group bookings available.

Tel: 01875 815847

Mob: 07725 075039

Email: angiebroon@aol.com

Keep your Newsletter handy for contact details and event dates! Please recycle your newsletter when you are finished with it.

Editorial Team: I. Black and A. Currie