

Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council Newsletter



Issue 41 – Autumn/Winter 2009/10

Chairman's Report

Regretfully, Community Councillor Bryan Green resigned in July due to health reasons. We take this opportunity to thank him for his valued work and input into the Community Council.

Geoff Cummiskey and Isobel Black returned as full members of the Community Council along with Robert Bryson – also a former member. Mr William Wilson recently joined us – making a full council of 10 members.

We are always in need of volunteers, especially for deliveries and events. Please contact us if you can help in any way.

We had hoped that other community groups might have taken advantage of the chance to fundraise by taking over our annual events with the financial help and guidance of the Community Council. However there was no take up on this opportunity but we would still welcome enquiries from any interested groups.

PROJECTS – Trees at Cockenzie Primary School will be planted soon as the result of funding won from East Lothian Council's (ELC) Countryside department.

The second speed reactive variable message sign has been installed at the east entrance to Port Seton. Hopefully, this will further help slow down speeding traffic – a very big concern in the community. **The Safer East Lothian Fund**, which is supported by ELC, provided the funding for this project.

Lighting for the Promenade – funding has been secured and we are presently awaiting planning permission going through. Work should start in the new year.

Dog Fouling and Littering are still evident though there appears to be an improvement since the introduction of community wardens who can, and do, issue fines for this type of

anti-social behaviour. The Community Council recently won **funding for seven dual bins** that will be placed in the areas regularly complained about by residents. The bins should be in situ very soon!

CCTV – coming soon! Planning permission is awaited by ELC.

In Bloom – Well done on your tremendous success in the Beautiful Scotland competition. (See pg 4 for article)

See page 2 for article and information on issues regarding **Power Station**.

We welcome feedback/comments on any matter. Public meetings which take place on the first Tuesday of each month excepting January and July. There is usually a local councillor/s and a community police officer present.

Community Councillors – Chair Gordon Campbell, Vice Chair: Paula McLay, Secretary & Treasurer: Alexanderina Bell MBE, Robert Bryson, Isobel Black, Liz Clark, Geoff Cummiskey, Jackie McMillan, Jim Melvin, William Wilson

Contact Us: Write: The Secretary, Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council, Port Seton Centre, South Seton Park, Port Seton, EH32 0BG; Tel: 01875 815815; Email: cockenzieandportseton@hotmail.com; Website: www.cockenzieandportseton.com

Contact Details for Police Always Dial 999 in an Emergency

Prestonpans Police Station – 810 250; Police Call Centre – 0131 311 3131; Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111 Antisocial Behaviour Team – 01620 829 919; 24 hour Helpline – 0845 601 8518; Email – asb@eastlothian.gov.uk

Local Councillors: Surgeries and contact details are advertised in the local press and at Port Seton Centre.

Cockenzie Power Station

In June, the community was informed about Scottish Power's proposal for a new Combined Cycle Gas Turbine station at Cockenzie.

Due to the concerns raised by members of the community regarding the fact that the old station could run until 2015 and also the proposal for a replacement, the Community Council took action by delivering information sheets/feedback forms to the community.

The response has been an overwhelming rejection of the proposed new station. Also, great concern is being expressed that the existing station is to operate for up to another 5 years. The community are experiencing high levels of noise and dirt (with the resultant health and well-being issues that these pollutants can cause).

Hundreds of new homes have been built nearby the station in recent years with the expectation that it would close in 2010. Many homebuyers were under the impression that this would be the case. Residents are now telling us that they have had more than their fair share and it is time that they had a better quality of life – that the land could/should be used for recreation and tourism facilities.

Feedback forms are still available at the Centre and throughout the town (please ignore the September return date). Call Robert on 01875 813657 if you require further information or a form. Forms can also be sent and returned by email – see our email address on pg 1 to request a form.

Forms must be returned by 31 October 2009.

We now have an independent advisor who has kindly offered his expertise to the Community Council.

The advisor is consolidating the information/comments on the feedback forms and the results will be sent to ScottishPower and the Scottish Government in November. From this approach the Community Council expect to hold a public meeting whenever it has all information and answers it is requesting from the appropriate bodies. Details of the meeting would be advertised on our noticeboards and also in the local press.

Children's Gala Committee

After another successful, but slightly wet, Gala Day in 2009, arrangements are now beginning for the 2010 Gala. The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 26th October, 7.30pm in the Centre**. Anyone interested in finding out more about this Gala Day or assisting with this event is welcome to attend. There will be a video showing of this year's Gala Day and refreshments will be available. Parents/Guardians of P7 pupils in the village are particularly invited to attend as participation in the event does involve assistance from parents.



Gala Day 6 June 2009

The event is a great tradition and is entering its 62nd year. A great day which is full of spectacular sights with the Sea Pageant and colourful procession of decorated Floats.

We hope to have a successful AGM, which will ensure continuation for another year. Further information can be obtained from current members of the Gala Committee via Port Seton Centre. *The Gala Committee*



Cockenzie PTA Date for your diary.....

Halloween Disco **Friday 30th October**

The PTA always welcomes new members – for more information please contact

Joanne Dunton (Chair)

Tel 01875 815571 or

Suzanne Kinross (Secretary)

Tel 07979 417166

From the Community Council

Cllr Paul McLellan will attend our public meeting on 3 November to discuss road safety issues and public transport routes. There are many fears about pedestrian safety, as well as road users, in and around Cockenzie and Port Seton. The Community Council continue to work on the issues with ELC and local councillors. We would welcome comments/suggestions from residents regarding any issues and how these might be resolved/improved.

Community Council Achievement Awards 2009 – we were proud to present John Marshall with the award for the category of Adult/Adult Group. John is a very well known figure in the community, helping with the Boys' Brigade, helping in collection of charity boxes, travelling to Belarus and working with children whilst there.



Judging by the response to the announcement that he was the winner of this year's Achievement Award for adult category it was clearly conveyed by the crowd that it wholeheartedly agreed with the result!

Hayley and Stacey McDonald won the Young Person/s category – again a very popular choice. The girls work very hard, teaching gymnastics in the Centre to local children. Well done Hayley and Stacey!

Litter Posters – In May, we presented book tokens to the winners of the primary 1-3 litter poster competition.

After a talk, the children had been asked to create posters depicting what they had learned about litter. The winning posters were put up on our noticeboards during the summer and can now be seen at the Centre. The rest of the entries are now at the Chalmers Church Hall after being on show at the Centre.

Well done, children – you are all winners!

Seton Fields Paths – Following a meeting between Bourne Leisure, ELC Countryside Dept and a committee from the Community Council, several proposals were made to help the situation of the ploughed paths in Seton West Field. The Holiday Village extension has now started with new roads being established on the site. The Core Path route will be temporarily sited around the perimeter of the work to the south side. When this work is completed, the Core Path linking Port Seton with Longniddry will have its permanent footpath marked out, at least as far as Binnies Wood down from Seton Mains, while the next stage across Gladedale's land in Seton East Field is being negotiated. Meanwhile good news for walkers and cyclists...the ploughed paths are to be flattened and mown.

Film Show – "The Age of Stupid" – a thought-provoking film about climate change – is being shown in the Port Seton Centre Cafe on **Thurs 29 October**. Doors open at 7.00pm and the film will start at 7.30pm.

There are 40 tickets available **free** from the Centre. Raffle tickets will be on sale to ticket holders for £1 for a strip of five tickets – **First Prize £50!** Refreshments will be available to buy.

This event is being held in partnership with ELC's Environmental Forum and there will be the chance for discussion after the film.

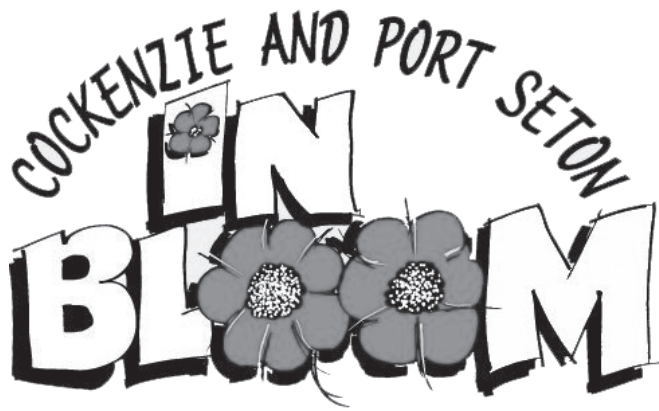
SPONSOR A LIGHT

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 on 812780 with your name and the name of your loved one.

The list of names will be put on the noticeboards and will also appear in the next Newsletter.

There is a £5 donation which helps fund the tree lights.



The 'In Bloom' ladies were delighted at the successes in the Beautiful Scotland competition – a Silver Gilt Award; winners of the 'Small Town' category and the David Welch Memorial Trophy for 'something special'. This was awarded for our work with children; with people with learning difficulties and with referrals from the Medical Centre.



A big Thank you to everyone who has helped in so many different ways throughout the year and to all the people who have commented on the beautiful floral displays. It is great to know that our efforts are appreciated.

At the moment we are still going around on 'Cloud 9', but soon it will be time to come back to earth.

Our main challenge during the winter months is to raise enough money to replace 'Bertha' our orange lorry. We have been reliably informed that Bertha will not pass her MOT next April. A lorry is essential for us, a real workhorse, being used to transport plants, compost, and other heavy items, including the water bowser.

Our first fund raising initiative is a Cockenzie and Port Seton calendar (priced at £5). This

is on sale now at some of the shops, in the Community Centre and from 'In Bloom' ladies. Order yours now and send them to your friends and relatives both abroad and at home.

We will be having a stall at the Craft Fayre to be held in the Community Centre on **Sunday 22nd November**, when orders for holly wreaths and Christmas table decorations will be taken.

If anyone else has ideas for our 'Bertha fund' do please let us know.

Community Council Annual Events

Fireworks – Our Fireworks Event will be held on **Thursday 5 November, 6.30pm** on the Links.

This year we have managed to secure a great deal so the display will be better than ever!

Refreshments and glow sticks will be available for sale.

This is a popular event – don't miss it! A silver coin collection is taken to help with funding.

Switch-on of Christmas Tree Lights – This is being held on **Saturday 5 December at 6pm**.

Do come along and join in the Carol Singing.

John Bellany Day Centre will be open for soup, stovies and mulled wine to coincide with the switching-on of the tree lights – all welcome!

Winter Wonderland event for families. Last year was a great success so come along on **Sunday 6 December at 1.30pm** and enjoy music, dancing, games and entertainment. Santa will be in his grotto!

Senior Citizens New Year's Party – will be held on **Saturday 16 January 2010**. Last year's was hailed "the best ever" so we have a lot to live up to this time! Tickets are £1.50 – reserve yours by calling Isobel on 812780 during December.

COCKENZIE & PORT SETON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Since the start of May, the club has been involved in a few events notably being invited to operate an amateur radio station from the **Scottish Parliament**. This was a massive honour for the radio club to take part in the celebrations of the Scottish Parliament's 10th Anniversary, plus being the first ever radio club to transmit signals from there. 962 contacts were made predominantly into most of Europe but we also had some with Saudi Arabia, Asiatic Russia, USA and Japan!

Other events where radio stations were set-up include Cockenzie and Port Seton Gala Day, Museums on the Air Weekend from the Museum of Flight, Lighthouses Weekend from Barns Ness Lighthouse, Dunbar. All were open events and allowed the public to see what amateur radio is all about. We have also taken part in some Amateur Radio contests, the first being VHF Field Day from outside Castle Douglas and the RSGB IOTA Contest (HF) from the Island of Tiree. Radio contests are a challenge as they test an operator's skill and knowledge on operating band conditions and equipment.

It has just been announced that we were placed 3rd in the UK in the VHF Field Day contest – a massive achievement. In the 2008 IOTA contest the club came 4th in the world – another massive achievement.

We held our annual "Junk" Night in the community centre, which again proved popular with 127 people attending, and raised £635.

We are just about to start Amateur Radio Training covering all the three different licences – Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced – which will continue up to the middle of April 2010.

Anyone interested in the radio club's full details can be found on the website: www.cpsarc.com or by contacting Bob Glasgow on 01875 811723

Cockenzie & Port Seton Bowling & Recreation Club

The Bowling Season Past -

After loosing out on the Division One Championship last year the club set out on another quest to see how things would work out, as it was things turned out very well, but not until the very last league game of the season. Port Seton won 8-0 at home, whilst the favourites Castlepark lost at home, title to Port Seton, 6 title wins out of the last 7 – that is incredible!

Three disciplines were to be contested by bowlers at the Scottish finals in Ayr, Derek Oliver in the junior singles, Craig Valentine, Steven Thomson and Steven Morgan in the triples and for the ladies Lauren & Leanne Baillie in the pairs.

Derek was knocked out at the 1/4 final stage, the triples unfortunately lost in the final, and the girls were triumphant in the pairs bringing the title of Scottish Champions to Port Seton.

There was also success in ELBA competitions for the club, the club champion Steven Thomson won the singles and Gordon Baillie, along with Derek Oliver, captured the pairs trophy.

Our ladies were not to be out done – the Baillie sisters went out and captured the Champion of Champions pairs and the rink, led by Beth McDonald, went out to capture that discipline.

Congratulations Port Seton Bowling Club!



Test Night at Radio Club

News from Port Seton Centre

New Centre Head

A warm welcome to Mike Whitton our new Centre Head, he can be contacted on 01875 815815 or mwhitton@eastlothian.gov.uk. Mike takes over from Lynne Anderson who left in June to take up a new post with the Bridges Project. We are delighted that Lynne will continue at the centre heading up our Youth Work Team.

New Opportunities

Jo Jingles session for young children aged 6 months – 2 years is on Fridays from 9.15am.

The **Movement to Music** class is now running on Friday mornings from 9.30am-10.30am.

Gym – we aim to offer a crèche over a six-week period to introduce more women to the gym. We recently purchased a new cross trainer and running machine. The gym is looking very “cool” with frosted windows to give users a bit more privacy.

Active Schools – the centre is now offering after school sports activities including – hockey and Melody Bear for younger children.

Roots & Fruits Community Food Outlet is in the centre on Thursdays from 12.30-3.30pm selling fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs.

The Port Seton Centre Café is open:

Monday, Tuesday 10am-2pm Wednesday 10am-4pm Thursday 10am-4.30pm Friday 10am-3pm

The Café is looking very smart with new flooring and is the ideal place to catch up with friends and family. We serve refreshments and home baking. At lunchtime, we offer fresh soup, light snacks including rolls with a range of fillings.

Our Café is a lovely open space. Drop in for a cuppa on your next visit to the centre.

Pick up a programme from the Centre or have a look on the Community Council website

Sports Hall

Port Seton Centre Advisory Committee received funding for a feasibility study to explore the idea that Cockenzie & Port Seton needs a Sports Hall. The Steering Group organised a public meeting in Port Seton café and there will be future events to take ideas forward. If you would like to find out more check the notice board in the café or call Sandra on 01875 813925.

Port Seton Centre Advisory Committee

The Committee meet on the last Wednesday of each month from 7pm – 9pm. The support from local volunteers has helped the centre grow from strength to strength. Their next fund raising event will be the **Annual Craft Fayre** which will take place this year on **Sunday 22 November**, anyone wishing to book a table should contact Sheila Chambers on 01875 812410

Local History Society resumes its monthly winter meetings on **Tuesday 13 October** in the Centre at **7pm** (usually 7.30pm). All are welcome and no specialist historical knowledge required! This is a good way of learning a little about our surroundings and has the added benefit of getting to meet some of the community.

[Mobility Scooters – User Guide – available from Centre.](#) This is a handy little guide if you are a mobility scooter user or are thinking about buying one. Make sure you get your copy!

Seton Fields Community Company held its AGM this summer and the directors are looking for keen people to come ‘on board’ to help. There is nothing that is anticipated to be worked on for now but in two years time it may be necessary to reapply for registration in the Community Option to Buy scheme. If you are interested in joining the group please get in touch with Lucy Bryden on 01875 853704 or ring the Centre and ask to speak with Liz Clark.

Elcho Place Hall

Activities and Meetings

Sunday 6.30pm Evening Service

Last Sunday of month 5.30pm

Family Service

Monday 10.00am Toddler Group

Last Tuesday of month 3.00pm

Senior Citizens! Get Together

Wednesday 7.30pm

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Thursday 7.30pm

Teens' Night (p7+) – table tennis, snooker, activities

Friday 6.30pm

Friday Club (p1-p6) – singing, games, quiz, crafts

Everyone is welcome to these events, for any further information please contact Brian or Denise Donaldson on 01875 811786 or 07894168113.

Chalmers Memorial Church

Chalmers Memorial Church in Port Seton has started the autumn season with a huge range of worship and activities for all ages. As well as the All Age Service at 10.15am in the church hall and the Traditional Service at 11am every week, evening services will be held on the last Sunday of the month at 6.30pm, starting on **27 September**. After the 10.15am service each Sunday a new group has been formed for children in Primary 5 – Primary 7. This will be held in the newly refurbished coffee bar in the church and is aimed at bringing to life Christianity in a way that is very relevant to the type of lives these young folks can relate to, with contemporary music one of the ways of making this a fun and enjoyable experience.

For our young folk in Senior 1 upwards something very interesting and different is in the planning stages, so look out for posters throughout the village advertising what this will be – and it will have a **grand opening** no less.

A new series of **Imagining the Bible** will run from **Tuesday 20 October – Tuesday 24 November at 7.30 pm**. This is an interesting way of “living” some of the Gospel stories and has proved very popular during its previous series – so come along to the Transept of the church to take part in learning and understanding more about the Gospels.

Welcome Wednesdays will continue with:

1st Wednesday of the month – Coffee time from 10 am -12 noon

3rd Wednesday of the month – Lunch from 12noon – 2pm

Last Wednesday of the month – Prayer time 10am – 11am

The Prayer Breakfast takes place on the last Saturday of the month from 8am – 9.15am

On **Thursday 1 October at 8 pm** a six week **Scottish Country Dance** class is being held in the church hall. Dancing is one of the best and most enjoyable ways of keeping fit -and for this class – experienced as well as absolute beginners will be made most welcome. So do come along and give it a try!

The **Badminton Group** continues at 8pm on a Wednesday and the regular players very much welcome new players, even if you have never played or have not played for some time. It's fun – and will help keep you fit.

Chalmers Rambling Walking Group meets every second Tuesday at 10am so come along and join this happy band as yet another way of having fun, meeting people and keeping fit.

The third and final weekend celebrating Homecoming will be held at the end of November, so look out for posters around the village telling you all about the activities being planned.

From Your Local Library

As our thoughts turn towards the winter, we would like to remind everyone who has difficulty in getting out and about in the colder months (or at any time) that the library operates a housebound delivery service - thanks to our group of volunteer drivers. All this involves is a brief discussion with the reader, and staff selects items according to requirements, which are delivered once a fortnight to their home. To find out more about this service, or to arrange to have items delivered, please contact us on the number below. This facility is available in other branches too.

We have two book groups who meet once a month. Our writers' group meets fortnightly.

Our Bookstart Rhymetime (stories and rhymes for under 4s) is on the second Monday of the month, 10.30am-11.30am. There is no charge for this session - come along and join the fun!

We are looking forward to a visit by **Frederic Lindsay** on **November 24th at 7pm**. He is a local author from Pencaitland who writes crime books. Tickets are free, but spaces are limited, so please call to reserve one.

Well done to our 21 children who completed our summer reading challenge and received medals and certificates at our craft session in August.

Any further information can be obtained from library staff on 01875 811 709

or email portseton.library@eastlothian.gov.uk. You can also access information on all East Lothian libraries and download application forms at www.eastlothian.gov.uk

OPENING HOURS

Mon: 2pm-7.30pm,

Tues: 10am-1pm + 2pm-5pm

Wed: CLOSED

Thur: 2pm-7.30pm

Fri: 10am-1pm + 2pm-5pm

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- keep it handy!

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A huge thank-you to our delivery team

Editorial Team: I Black, R Bryson, L Clark,
A Currie