

# LOGIE COLDSTONE

## NEWSLETTER

### MORVEN

A great day for walking. Not too hot or too cold (until you got close to the top where the wind was pretty severe!) Please make sure to get your sponsorship money to Dawn or Jean as soon as possible.

### Shy and Retiring?

Shy, he certainly isn't, but sadly retiring he now is! So before he goes we must express our heartfelt thanks to Rev Lawrie Lennox for his solid support and sense of humour in his duties as a Trustee of Logie Coldstone Welfare Trust. Rev. Lennox also brought tremendous enthusiasm to the quarterly Songs of Praise at the Hall and brought much pleasure to members of our community, culminating in the chance for all to take part alongside the 'Tambourine Troopers' last month! More on the retiring minister on page 3!

### Hall Bookings

If you have any events you would like to hold at the Hall, please call Mrs Evelyn Smith on 81401.

### DUCK RACE

**Once again this event went very smoothly with no ducks, children (or ministers!) being lost in the burn!**

Bob worked like a Trojan once again on this event and it seemed only fitting that his name was on the winning duck in the final race!

Well Done Bob and all involved.

### What's Happening with the Hall

One of the main purposes of this newsletter is to keep you – the residents of the Parish of Logie Coldstone – informed about the situation with the Hall following the meeting in January 2004 to gauge interest in the redevelopment of the Hall. Over 50 people attended that initial meeting and in the two and a half years since then there has been progress – albeit slow progress!

The fund raising events which have been held at the Hall or in the local area have been well supported and each year attract more interest. The Hall Committee have worked very hard to raise grant funding to help with some of these events and also (and more importantly) to progress the plans for the redevelopment. We've been working hard to comply with the requirements of the new Public Entertainment Licence, but even this has had its up side as anyone can see from the new hand rails (both outside and in) and wheelchair access. There has also been basic maintenance work ongoing throughout the last couple of years.

### Remember the Survey?

Last year the Hall Committee sent out a Questionnaire to all the homes in the Parish. This Newsletter was highlighted by the majority as the chosen method for passing on the main points of the report. The Hall was the main focus of the questionnaire, but not surprisingly lots of useful comments were received about the village. The questionnaire was distributed to a total of 170 households and 59 were returned – although this might seem quite a low number a 35% response rate is really pretty good! Also if you find your questionnaire hiding away in a drawer we'd still be interested in your opinions (although we can't add any more data to the survey report at this stage). There are a couple of copies of the full draft report at the Hall if anyone wants to read the whole thing. We are currently working with Marr Area Partnership to produce a summary version of the report which will be sent out to all households. Meantime here are some of the main findings:-

*Use of the Hall and Community Involvement* – From the point of view of the Hall it was great to see that 60% of respondents use the Hall regularly (despite the temperature being a little on the chilly side!) but a bit disappointing to see that current lifestyles mean that the largest numbers who don't use the Hall simply haven't the time, which is a factor that came up time and again. Most respondents had ideas for extra activities – and these were mainly organised classes / club activities (falling broadly into the categories of Fitness, Sport, Pastimes, Vocational and Self Improvement) or more social activities (events for young and old, films, celebrations, crèche). The questionnaire offered a number of suggestions, and there was more or less uniform support for Performances, Café, Exhibitions, closely followed by Library and Gallery. There was some support for Consulting Rooms, and Internet Café and Information for Visitors were other suggestions for services. In terms of community involvement, just over half the respondents would like to be more involved – good news. More of the same was the message for the Newsletter, and there was a desire for more activities in general, and more joint activities in particular.

*Environmental Issues* – Questions were asked about how the area looks, the requirement for paths, additional play space and also recycling facilities. The prevalent response was to tidy up or screen the cars and machinery around the village. There was also a desire for recreational space such as seating or village green. Other topics were for recycling, flowers, safer access to school and hall, and notice boards. And some folk are happy with things just the way they are! Schemes for environmental improvements could get 60% of us volunteering, and 85% would use local recycling. Many respondents thought there were enough footpaths, but as many wanted a path linking the hall and school. Links to Groddie area were popular. 75% would like to see a maintained play area in Logie Coldstone, mostly near the Hall.

*Continues Overleaf*

*Accessibility and Transport* – There are a small number of people who find it difficult to access local facilities and the Deeside Hopper and Post Bus were considered essential for these respondents.

*Education & Training* – A good level of interest was expressed in education and training but again lack of time or no suitable courses at the Hall were issues. Some 15% were already attending adult education or evening classes. The most popular requests are for languages, computing and art.

The 'comments' collated throughout the survey were uniformly complimentary about the work of the Hall committee (which is always nice to hear)!

### How are we using the Survey?

The information contained in the survey is to be handed on to a company of Architects who will be carrying out a feasibility study to help us make an informed decision on how best to redevelop the Hall. One area which we are keen to emphasise is renewable energy for the Hall which will enable us to keep running costs low whilst keeping the Hall warm!

The information contained in the survey will also be reported to Aberdeenshire Council and to the Community Council so this should help with raising awareness of some issues where both these organisations may be able to help us make progress. Also the Committee are already progressing some of the suggestions ...

*Use of the Hall and Community Involvement* – We have been trying to keep up the usage of the Hall by holding events like the Duck Races and the Family Picnic. Last year we had a Table Top Sale which Dawn is keen to do again if there is enough support – so if you think you would be interested in selling off the family silver let Dawn know and we'll set a date for a sale. There are also the regular Halloween and Hogmanay Night celebrations for the whole family and the occasional Bingo evenings which have proved a great success.

*Environmental Issues* – We have approached Aberdeenshire Council

to supply recycling facilities for glass and cans, and hopefully these should be in place at the Hall Car Park by the end of the summer! There won't be plastic recycling, not because we didn't want them but because currently the Council are unable to schedule their trucks to do any more collecting as they are working at full capacity.

Also the flower tubs and hanging baskets at the War Memorial have been replanted with flowers supplied by Aberdeenshire Council. Thanks to **Evelyn Smith** and **Hazel Moncur** who have done a lovely job with the planting (and the rain has helped to water the plants in!) There are also to be some tubs at the Hall. If you've a large watering can and could help out with watering these tubs through the summer please don't wait to be asked!

*Accessibility and Transport* – Dawn will make sure that there is more information available locally about the Deeside Hopper – timetables will be available at the Picnic. Also there is now an organisation called Bus Users Deeside. They are not only looking at the Stagecoach Bluebird service into Aberdeen but also into how we can get improved services for rural areas like Logie Coldstone. We can contact them at [bususersdeeside@fsmail.net](mailto:bususersdeeside@fsmail.net)

*Education & Training* – The Committee have asked Alan Melrose (one of our Committee Members) to look into the possibility of holding some evening classes here in Logie Coldstone and unfortunately we suffer from the same problem as everywhere else - nowhere near enough tutors to teach these classes – but we will carry on asking!

On a slightly different note – in order for the Hall Committee to make the most of the funds raised so far and to get the best results from the Architects Feasibility Study we also need to do a Business Plan for the current and future usage of the Hall – if you have any experience of Business Planning or if you are keen to suggest new uses for the Hall please get in touch with any of the Hall Committee.

### Family Picnic

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 2pm on**

Due to the pressures on the Committee this year we've decided to opt for a slightly lower key event than the terrific Fun Games last year. There will still be games, a barbeque, bottle stall and teas but just on a smaller scale. We never turn away a pair of willing hands or a good idea for an easy to run game, so if you are keen, please do come along and help out. Otherwise just come along to the Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> July to join in the fun, taking along own refreshments if you wish.

### Community Council Chat

Logie Coldstone's representatives on the Cromar Community Council (CCC) are Evelyn Smith (Smith's Garage), and Jerry Tyson (Auld Kirk). CCC meeting dates are published with the minutes posted on the notice board outside the Airedale Lounge, and the meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June in Logie school. Here are a few pointers to topics discussed recently relevant to Logie Coldstone:

- There is a Scottish Executive initiative to place **20 mph speed limits** outside all Scottish schools – Logie Coldstone's are now operational.
- At this year's AGM interesting presentations were given on the topics of **Farmers' Markets**, setting up a **Community Website**, and local **Policing Strategies**.
- The **Flowers** ordered through the CCC have now been planted out by Evelyn and Hazel.
- **Public Entertainment Licences** for village halls are here to stay. We did get the level of Public Liability cover halved, and the Authority will review procedures after the first year. Mike Rumbles MSP is addressing the impact of increasing regulation on the voluntary sector.

### The Retiring Reverend

Lawrie retires to Ayr in August. He will be unable to conduct a Songs of Praise in Logie Coldstone before his retirement, since housing arrangements have meant they are leaving the area earlier than planned.

In the meantime Rev Lennox will be conducting the regular service in Tarland (apart from 2/7/06 when the service will be held in Coull ) every week at 10.45am on Sundays until his last services on 30<sup>th</sup> July at 10.45am in Tarland and 6.30pm in Coull. These are of course open to anyone who wishes to join the service.

The new minister, Rev. Douglas Campbell, is to be introduced to the community this Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm in Tarland Church.

Our very best wishes to Rev Lawrie and Mrs Margaret Lennox in their retirement, and we hope that both will be back soon to visit us once they are settled in their new home.

Good Luck!

### Further Picnic Info

Bottles for the Bottle Stall can be handed in to Mrs Evelyn Smith at Smith's Garage!

Also at the Picnic look out for copies of the Community Survey Report and all comments from the questionnaire.

### Public Entertainments Licence

The new Information Booklet and Booking Forms incorporating the changes required to comply with the Public Entertainments Licence (PEL) will be sent to groups who regularly use the Hall by mid July. If you have any questions mean time please contact Anne Mathers (81539).

The changes required by the PEL legally require hall user groups to have a member trained in First Aid and Food Hygiene (where applicable) as well as knowledge of the procedures in the case of fire in the Hall within three years. These procedures will be updated in the new booklets and we hope to arrange visits to groups by Community Fire Safety personnel in the autumn.

The Hall Committee is currently trying, like many other committees, to arrange for the required First Aid and/or Food Hygiene training to be made available to community members not already trained in autumn / winter this year. We will endeavour to make this as cost effective as possible (ideally getting funding in order to be able to offer this training free). Anne would like to hear from anyone interested in participating in such training. In order to help with planning please let Anne know what sort of timing would suit you best. Please call Anne on 81539.

### Actual or Possible Classes

#### School Concert - June 21<sup>st</sup>

*Sorry* to School Staff and Children for not quite making the deadline for getting this out to let everyone know about your concert - just too many things to include! Hopefully the Hall was packed out and there was much cheering and fun had by all!

#### Low Impact Aerobics

**Classes** - Jayne Osgood runs classes suitable for beginners or those getting back into fitness. If you might be interested in these classes - 1.15 - 2.15pm on a Thursday in the Hall after the summer holidays (7 weekly classes for £24.50) or if you want to know more please contact Jayne directly on 019755 62717.

#### Daytime Art, Craft & Fun Activities - Welcome All

If you would be interested in attending daytime classes (during school hours) that would indulge your creative and fun side please give Emma Palmer a call for further details - 01330 81220.

Activities may include ceramic or mirror painting, jewellery making, etc.... - the world is your oyster!

### **Open Day – 10<sup>th</sup> July in Logie Coldstone Village Hall**

3dee Vision – is a European-funded project - which looks at the catchments of the Logie Burn (running into Loch Davan) and of the Tarland Burn, with the aim of ensuring the water quality is as near natural as possible. Although there are few pressures on the Logie Burn, in some cases leakage from septic tanks can be a problem, and there are also a few farming practices which if not carried out carefully, could affect water quality. Farmers in Logie Coldstone and Dinnet have been trialling methods of safeguarding watercourses while still using them for livestock drinking. Their pioneering work is already being held up as examples of best practice for others to follow throughout Scotland.

On 10th July, there will be an open day in Logie Coldstone Village hall for all to come and learn more about what has been happening with this project. There will be displays and explanation about the Logie Catchment and the Tarland Catchment, including farming issues, the development of the water treatment works and wetland at Tarland, explanations about how to manage a septic tank and an opportunity to visit some of the farm sites which have been involved in the Project.

The event is free and open to all, to drop in at any time between 3pm and 7.00pm. Refreshments will be available, and trips out to farmland sites for those who wish them.

For further information call Alison Espie on 013398 85308

*If you have any comments on the content of this newsletter or have an item for the next one – probably out mid September - please contact Dawn Tyson ( 81163 ) or Anne Mathers ( 81539).*