



## Happy New Year!

### Return of the Blether!

2014 was a very busy year for the Community Council, not least of which was having the schoolhouse refurbishment completed. This year we hope to produce more regular editions of the Blether to keep everyone in Collieston and Slains up to date with all the news. If you would like to see anything included - please get in touch.



### Winter Events

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> Back to School  
 Jan 25<sup>th</sup> Burns Supper  
 Feb Mid Term 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> (occasional day, mid-term, in service)

### Welcome.....

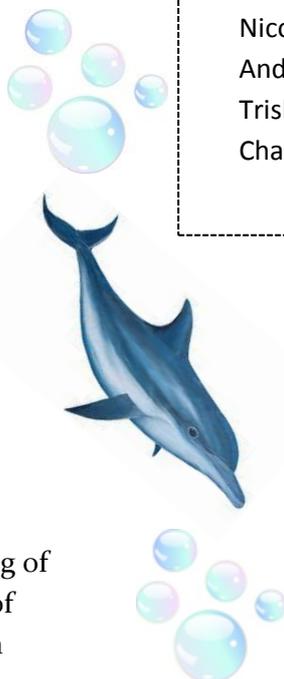
To everyone who has moved to Slains or Collieston recently. This corner of the North East has a well-earned reputation for it's active community spirit, and we hope you will enjoy being part of it. You may already know about the local website and Facebook page - and now of course The Collieston Blether. The Community Council try to acknowledge events such as weddings, "big" birthdays, illness etc. - but we can only do this if you let us know!

One recent arrival, who you may have met after the Christmas Carols, is Bubbles the Dolphin. Bubbles was one of the Aberdeen Wild Dolphins trail this summer.

His owners have very kindly said he can be used to highlight Collieston's many fundraising challenges. Watch this space to see where he will appear next!

### .....and Farewell

The Community was saddened to learn of the passing of three Collieston residents - Norman Moncrieff of High Town and Eve Cowie and Ronnie Chaplain from Low Town.



### Community Council - Who's Who & What's What

#### The Community Council

Collieston Amenities Committee was formed in 1958 with the purpose of "preserving & maintaining the character and amenities of Collieston" In 2008 the Community Council was established -merging the Amenities Committee with the wider role of a Community Council. Fifteen locally elected volunteers meet regularly through the year to plan, discuss and organise matters of local interest and concerns, representing the community of Slains and Collieston. Aberdeenshire Councillors also attend the meetings, which are held in the Community Centre and are open to anyone who would like to observe what goes on.

The Community Council organises many of the local events which take place during the year while also maintaining the local environment -this all needs a lot of funding - more of which overleaf.

#### Community Councillors

Roger Berl - Chairperson	Nora Harper
Sally Sheehan - Secretary	Sheena Junor
Huib Attema - Treasurer	Gill Moir
Nicole Bell	Kerry Smith
Andrew Davidson	Suzie Stewart
Trish Davidson	Thomas Stewart
Charles Esson	Julie Swan
	Niki Tait

### MOVIE NIGHTS

The Community Council has renewed the Public Video Screening licence which will allow films to be shown in the Community Centre.

The Big Lebowski and Priscilla Queen of the desert are to be the opening double bill later this month.

## £££ Balancing the Community Books £££

Carrying out the work of the Community Council costs a lot of money each year. There is a balance between what must be done and what we would like to do – all the while keeping a safety cushion in the bank for unexpected costs. Some people will remember that - not so many years ago - we had to borrow all sorts before any events took place – benches were borrowed from the Church steeple at Cruden Bay, tables and tents from Ellon and Methlick – not to mention taking your own knives and forks if a meal was included! Over the years the Community Council has generated funds to buy everything needed to make us self-sufficient – and more besides. This has only been possible through your generosity at Gala – our main fundraiser, and from a range of different funding grants. The following will give you an idea of where the money comes from - and where it goes. Not everything has been listed here; however the full accounts can be viewed online. The accounts are also presented at the AGM in September.

### Income over the last 2 years

Gala profits 2013 & 2014

### Grants

Aberdeenshire Council\*

(£41,000)

SITA\* (£56,600)

Big Lottery

Formartine Area Committee

British Heart Foundation

Slains Estate

Donations

\*Schoolhouse refurbishment

### Annually Recurring Costs

Senior Citizens Party

Grass cutting

Bonfire fireworks

Lets & licences

Wellbeing cards & gifts

Path & outdoor maintenance

Printing & postage

Christmas lights &

refreshments

Gala costs & expenses

### Some outgoings over the last 2 years

Defibrillator & cabinet

Soup kettles

Gazebo

Crockery & cutlery

Community contribution to the

schoolhouse refurbishment (£10,000)

Assistance to other groups

Bunting

Benches

Picture hanging rails

Blinds for schoolhouse

“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” – and a pretty tired one too if he’s the only one at a work party! Input from people like yourself is crucial to keep the village and surrounding area looking it’s best. Work parties are called during the year; please think about sparing an hour or two.

### Planning an Event?

With so many community groups in Slains & Collieston nowadays, to avoid any clashes or duplication, an events calendar will be available soon. An online version with another on a wall chart in the hall should help everyone know what events are coming up and which dates to avoid. Group contacts will be given the details very soon.

...Announcing the arrival of the



### COLLIESTON 100 CLUB

The 100 Club will help raise money to benefit the whole community. Members will pay into the club and have the chance to win monthly prizes.

Any income that remains after the prizes are drawn will be put back into the Community Council account.

Watch out for the letter coming through your door very soon!

### *The Year Ahead....*

2015 looks like being another busy one! Having the grant from *Awards for All*, means the schoolhouse will be completed, with the installation of the dividing door, filing cabinets, notice boards and storage units. We hope to further develop the Heritage Room, and the garden will be a priority too. Along with all the above however - the usual tasks will still be required, we hope you might consider getting involved too.

It’s always good when young people get involved, and we were delighted to recently welcome Kerry Smith & Thomas Stewart to the Community Council. Another three other local young people are actively fundraising for their World Challenge trip to China. They would be interested to hear from you!

The next Blether will be out about Easter –please get in touch if you have anything you think should be included.