

ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1985

In this issue

A COMMENT FROM OUR M.P.

COULPORT NEWS & OPINION

THREE POEMS, CHURCH NEWS & A STORY
FROM CLAIRE CAMPBELL

VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT : 27 NOVEMBER

and a lot more

THE OLD OAK TREE

Under the old Oak tree it was cool & shady on a hot summers day, I used to go there when I wanted some peace & quiet.

I used to just sit and think, about the world, about life and about the city that was beginning to grow up about me.

Streets and houses were beginning to appear everywhere.

Now it is different, the city is finished and the old oak tree has been cut down with houses built in its place.

It makes me sad when I think how good life used to be, but I cannot complain, because some girls of my age have moved into the house next door.

I still like to look out of my bedroom window and think what it was like before they started to build. I sometimes start to cry, then I have to get my mind on to a different subject so that I can get used to the city and be able to live there

I think that when I get old enough to leave my parents that I will move somewhere into the country and start a farm.

On my farm I will have horses, cattle, sheep and goats.

I will have to go now because I have just seen one of my friends walking up our garden path.

Claire Campbell, aged: 11 years & 5 months

BLAIRMORE DANCE CLUB

All are welcome to join the club even those who have not danced before as tuition is given. Classes are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 8pm. For further information apply to Mrs Sugden, Ambleside Cottage Ardentinny 236.

VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

Wednesday 27th November at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall

Quiz nights in the recent past have proved to be an all too rare opportunity for the whole community to join together for an evening of lighthearted fun and amusement (as opposed to discussing Coulport, for instance!) This particular event is being organised at the suggestion of the ladies of the WRI who will be fielding a team of three 'brains' along with trios from the Bowling Club, Indoor Bowls Club and the Village Hall Committee. Rumour has it that Jim Robinson is in demand for at least three of the teams and Walter Muir is looking for two more 'brains' of the right calibre!!

Joking apart, the evening will take the form of a general knowledge quiz (including questions about Ardentinny and the surrounding area) with the emphasis on enjoyment. The WRI are donating the proceeds from the evening to the Hall Committee for Village Hall funds.

THE HERON - WINTER OPENING HOURS

Mons to Thurs 9am - 6pm

FRIDAY CLOSED

Sats & Suns 9am - 4.30pm

Christmas & New Year's Day

10 - 12 noon

Orders now being taken for Christmas Dinners, enquiries welcome.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking our customers for their valued support since we took over. Effie, Alex and myself would like to wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year

Jean Smith

THOUGHTS - Judith Sugden

John Harris has been on to me about writing something for the Newsletter, letting me assume that he thinks I am good at writing. This may be good for my ego but as he probably says this to all and sundry regarding contributions to the Newsletter, I am left wondering.

"An article or a poem" he says fixing me with a gleam in his eye challenging me to refuse my capabilities. An article! Now whatever could I write about? A last war anecdote? Reminiscences of youth? Leprosy in Africa? How bored you would all be.

"A poem" he says. What makes him think that I can write a poem? Do I look the poetic type? What fun if I did, especially the romantic poetic type. But however hard I tried from now to Kingdom Come, nobody could equate me with that style! My three score years and ten plus would have obliterated both the Romantic and the Poetical.

This isn't to say that I do not appreciate the muse. I am certainly addicted to the poems of A. E. Houseman particularly "The Shropshire Lad" as I spent my youth cycling around Shropshire. Also Robert Service and his descriptive poems of the Yukon and Alaska as

I have visited both places and browsed around the Gold Rush areas. However, writing poems is quite beyond me. All my friends will tell you that I am completely hopeless at scrabble and crosswords. So stringing together words to form a sonnet or even a simple couplet is quite beyond me. Does this make me a word illiterate I wonder?

Dear John I am not going to disappoint you after all. You shall have your poem but not penned by me. Penned by my daughter-in-law on the occasion of President Kennedy's assassination and as it is practically the anniversary of that tragic event I feel will not be inappropriate

JOHN F. KENNEDY 'by MARGARET PIGGOTT

Silent now he lies at peace
Cares and burdens now laid down
His hope that War would cease
Fulfilled; could be his final crown
This man who tried so hard to find
The way for men to live their life
Not force but words firm but kind
His remedy to curtail strife

His friends are scattered near & far
In every land he made his mark
He hitched his wagon to a star
Hopes were soaring like a lark
The coloured people raised their eyes
To where there seemed a brighter day
And Berlin's Wall that all despise
Might have fallen - who can say?

He would have liked to find a way
For brothers to live as one
But an assassin made him pay
Like Christ for things he hadn't done
His memorial from us must be
That each one plays his proper part
That man from want and war be free
With pride we'll keep him in our heart

I leave this thought with you on the transience of human life even for those who have everything to live for.

CARPET BOWLING CLUB

The new season is under way. 7.30pm Thursdays, in Glenfinart Hall
New members will be made most welcome
Coaching for beginners is available
Get in touch with Gordon Smith
Tel. Ard 218.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Alistair Lavery on his recent appearance on Radio Scotland. The programme "In the Country" featured the Kindrogan Field Centre near Blairgowrie of which Alistair is the recently appointed head.

POET'S CORNER

Three wee mice of the self-same ilk
Fell into a bowl of milk
A'M drooned the one did (drowning)
utter
But the other one kicked till he
stood on Butter

Anon

HEATLOGS

At Kilmun Stores we stock the new Heatlogs. Made of compressed wood, they are clean to handle, burn slowly and give out a 'Grate' Heat! Next time you are coming from Dunoon, why not stop and pick up a 20 Kg (44lb) Bag? Super value at £2.70

W.R.I. Programme

The programme for the rest of the season to May 1986 is:

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 Nov | Slide Show -Miss Hargreave |
| 27 Nov | Special Night - Village
Team Quiz |
| 10 Dec | Care of Pets-Mr Black |
| 14 Jan | Keep Fit - Mrs Kirby |
| 11 Feb | Photography - Mr Potts |
| 11 Mar | Open Night - Whist Drive |
| 8 Apr | Knitting finishes /Simple
Embroidery -Mrs Mathison |
| 13 May | AGN |

All welcome. Futher details
Mrs Hamilton, Morag Johnstone

NEWSLETTER

I am standing down from the Community Council and as Editor of the Newsletter, following publication of this issue. Naturally the Council is keen for the newsletter to continue and anyone interested in taking it over is asked to contact me or Jim Robinson

John Harris

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The members of Ardentinnny Community Council would like to thank John Harris and Alistair Lavery for their sterling work on the council over the years and as founding members. They will be sorely missed. We also wish them every success in their respective careers in the years ahead, while hoping they continue to visit the village whenever possible.

Following the resignation of Mr J G Harris and Mr A Lavery, the Council find themselves in need of new members. If you reside within the Ardentinnny area and are interested in co-option onto the Council as a committee member, please phone Jim Robinson - Ard. 240
Prospective lady members especially!

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

J. Robinson (Chairman)	Tel. 240
W. Muir (Secretary)	238
T. B. Marshall	246
P. Norman	
R. Westlake (MoD affairs)	205

There are at least 2 vacancies on the Community Council

REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

J Walsh, Castleton Villa, Shore Road
Innellan Tel. 383

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

P Menzies, Achara, Cromlech Road
Sandbank Dun. 6267

MILLIONS FOR MISSIONS

I have never heard of a missionary auction house until recently but Wallington Missionary Auctions have raised £1.6 million for various Christian charities in recent years and are appealing for donations of various items, particularly foreign stamps. If you have a packet of "swaps" you no longer want turn them into cash for a good cause by sending them to:

Wallington Missionary Auctions
20 Dalmeny road
Carshalton
Surrey SM5 4PP 01 647 8437

Other items coins, postcards, jewellery
cutlery etc. are also welcomed

JH

COULPORT UPDATE

The lively meeting on 25 September was well attended and covered by a report in the Dunoon Observer a week later. This is Richard Westlake's summary of the situation following the meeting, extracted from his letter to Mr John Chambers, Clyde Naval Information Officer.

1. BARGES

These are to be reduced from six to four and moved further away from the village, the change to be affected by the end of this year. Mr Bill Cooke (MoD) explained that a relocation of the barges elsewhere on the Clyde was impossible without considerable extra cost (i.e. at Coulpport)

2. LANDSCAPE

Mr Michael Ellison (PSA) accepted that the recently produced three page brochure was vague and that the model of Coulpport featured in the leaflet and brought to the meeting was inaccurate, probably for reasons of security

I noted that Mr Ellison expected a subsequent publication more related to the matter to be prepared, and we would request a further consultation on the final shape of the covered jetty, colour schemes etc. which I am sure would be possible without breaching security.

3. EMPLOYMENT

I note that Commodore Pentreath was to report back to his department on the strength of feeling shown at the meeting and to investigate further what help could be given to Argyll and Bute to obtain some of the employment available, e.g. the provision of a boat prior to recruitment of construction workers by the successful contractor.

Although he did not spell it out, I sensed from Commodore Pentreath's remarks that any MoD offer on the table was still firmly centred on Ardentinnny village only, possibly as part of the remit from the Secretary of State for Scotland's letter.

COULPORT ALARMS

Among questions raised at the recent Community Council meeting was the subject of alarms. The short, if surprising, answer is that although we can hear various sirens and signals none of them concerns us - all are for internal communication within the base.

Ardentinnny residents have become familiar with the 10 am test on Mondays and we are assured that all similar sounds and signals at other times are tests or (false) alarms of no significance to anyone in Ardentinnny.

Copies of a detailed letter on this subject will soon be available and will be publicised or distributed by the Community Council.

Richard Westlake has worked very hard on the village's behalf to advance our interests vis a vis RNAD Coulpport and he, or any other Community Councillor, will be pleased to answer any general questions.

In case of urgent doubts or queries, do not hesitate to phone the base itself on COULPORT 271 (daytime) or HELENSBURGH 4321 (evenings & Weekends)

EARTH TREMOR

Ardentinnny was near the epicentre of the 16 September tremor which registered 2.9 on the Richter scale. Everyone in the community was of course relieved that this little quake was a real live tremor and attributable neither to Coulpport blowing up nor McLeod's site hut blowing away!!!

John J. MacKay, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th October 1985

ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

From my reading of previous editions of the Ardentenny Newsletter, I can see considerable concern about the environmental impact of Coulport both present and proposed. That is understandable. You have a grandstand view of the site. That fact has been recognised by the Secretary of State in so far that he has indicated in his decision on the planning aspects of the development that the Ministry of Defence should in its detailed planning keep in the forefront of their mind the need to minimise the visual impact of the development and to investigate the scope for landscaping and tree planting.

In addition, I hope that some employment advantage can be gained for those living "across the water" both in the construction phase and in the operational phase of the base and in correspondence I have had with Ministers in the Ministry of Defence I have made that clear.

I appreciate there will be some who do not wish our country to have nuclear defences. They would leave the nuclear defence of the West entirely to the United States as the senior partner in the NATO alliance. There are, of course, some who would not even do that but would happily leave us without any form of nuclear umbrella against the vast nuclear and missile arsenal of the Soviet Union. However, I believe the majority of our country want to see the country defended and accept that in a nuclear age that has to include nuclear weapons despite our natural repugnance of them.

I am sure it is always easier to back the deterrent when it is situated somewhere else but when it is just across the loch I appreciate it can be much more difficult. Given Ardentenny's position on Loch Long it is, of course, no stranger to military bases. I can remember as a school boy in Strone during the last war the Naval camp in the bay and the pier. That camp and the men who came to Ardentenny were in a real fight to defend our country. One of the reasons that conflict came about was that we had not maintained our forces at a level which showed Hitler our resolve and readiness to act against him. We sent him the wrong signals and we, and Europe, suffered. We must not send the wrong signals again. Coulport is an important part of the right signalling.

VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION

As the tourist season draws to a close once again the Hall Association would like to thank the caravaners of Gairletter and Glenfinart for their backing and participation in functions throughout the year. We hope you have a pleasant winter.

50/50 Club

This has been a successful venture as a fund raiser for your Village Hall. Although the amount of money raised each month is not large it is a steady income and therefore very welcome indeed, as anyone who has ever been involved in the Hall Association will understand.

The committee would therefore like to thank the participating members of the community and hope for their continued support in the future. Any reader wishing to become a member of the 50/50 Club please phone June Worters on Ard. 254 for further information.

THE VILLAGE HALL

Painting on the exterior has been completed even under the trying weather conditions. The roof is now watertight, though the general condition of slates is not good. The slater carried out running repairs. Water heaters are still not performing successfully. Interior painting may be undertaken in the Spring of 1986 by the goodwill of Dulux paints.

Disco of 26th July by Wolfie a success: thanks to all the Committee's assistance.

Scottish 'Country Dance' was considered a great success, especially by the party of Lions Club members from Milngavie and others

The Hallowe'en Party will take place in the Hall 26th October

St Joris Pipe Band, the Lowland Pipers from Belgium were tenants on 30 & 31 August. They left the Hall in immaculate condition, do come again.

JOBS FOR THE BOYS

Well, yes - but not in the manner usually associated with this saying. Whether we agree, or not, or just cannot make up our minds about the expansion of Coulpport to accommodate Trident, if there are going to be jobs for the boys, or girls, on offer, the message is quite clear. A fair share must come to Ardentinnny, and the rest of Cowal, and there must be reasonable travel facilities made available between here and there. The geographical circumstances of Loch Long separating Coulpport from our shore, or the present lack of suitable public transport between the two places, must not be used as excuses for not affording the opportunity of facility to travel to any person on our shore who wants, or needs, a job. Trident is to defend us all, we all have to help pay for it. We are entitled to a fair share of the jobs going.

This was the message you asked me to forward through Argyll & Bute District Council to the Ministry of Defence last February, and which was appropriately endorsed and forwarded by the District Council, to the Ministry of Defence.

At the recent meeting of the Community Council in the Centre - meeting very well attended and so well accommodated by Mr Lilley and his staff - as your District Councillor, I was very pleased to be given the opportunity to 'make the point' face to face with the guests of the Community Council, the Men from the Ministry, and the Royal Navy.

Let us therefore all hope that, either the Ministry of Defence, the Purchasing Supplies Authority, or the Coulpport contractor act on the feeling of that meeting which I feel sure will be well passed forward by the party of official guests to the proper quarters.

The mouse has roared, let the lion reply!

Peter Menzies, Holy Loch Member, A & B D C

BURNS SUPPER

The Village Hall Association hope to organise a Burns Supper as in previous years and hope the weather conditions will permit such an event during January or early February 86

SIX MINUTES TO TWELVE

The sparkle from the distance of
a light afar

As it reaches through the dark-
ness like a frosty star

The heavy-winged grey heron beats
its weary way

As it ushers in the shadows at
the close of day

The sudden plaintive calling of
a fowl disturbed

and the all embracing stillness
as the call is curbed

The gentle lap of wavelets on a
sandy shore

Dulls the memories of the storms
that have gone before

The nocturnal feathered hunters
quarter their domain

Till nature shows its cruel side
in a flash of pain

Amid this place and quiet they
still find the room

For their missiles and their
barges and the threat of doom

Anon

Gairletter Caravan Park
Silver Jubilee Year 1985

Gairletter Caravan Park, celebrat-
es this November, 25 years in
business.

Initially the Barclays & the
Nobles intended to make the Point
their holiday home but so many
friends came to visit and were so
captivated by the area that they
were pressured into forming a
holiday park, from a wilderness
to a garden.

Over this space of time Ardentinnny
has given countless visitors from
all over Britain & abroad such
pleasure, that they keep "coming
home" to Gairletter "to recharge
their batteries", such is the
ambience of our little corner in
Argyll. The kindness & thought-
fulness of the people all along
this shore emanates friendship.

A lot of water, literally too,
has gone under our bridge -
some rough, some smooth but we
hope to continue in business
for many years to come & thank
everyone for welcoming us 25
years ago.

Ambleside Cottage
Ardentinnny

Dear Sir

A propos the meeting in Ardentinnny Centre
on 25th September and quietly ruminating
at home all the pros and cons several
questions have now occurred to me which
I would have liked to ask.

Firstly - The Site. Why a beautiful
unspoilt area of Scotland adjacent to a
Forestry Commission Park?

Is it because it is nice and remote from
S.E. England; out of sight out of mind
for the people who make our laws? What
does it matter if a small beautiful area
is spoilt: they cannot see it. The few
local people who have to live through the
turmoil and noise, they should feel
happy to make this contribution to
National Safety!!!!

Secondly - The Jetty. What is its real
purpose? Do submarines tie up at it?
Do they load from it? Does it store
Trident? If the two former, why so
large? Or have I missed some information?

Thirdly - Safety. How can we feel sure
that all safety precautions are taken?
With regard to the barges, a point I
raised at the meeting and received the
obvious answer, I am quite intelligent
enough to know that such precautions
are secret, but I am still left with
a niggling feeling of uneasiness.

For instance, what would stop dedicated
terrorists from swimming out to the
barges and placing limpet mines on the
hulls? They were used with devastating
effect by us during the last war!

We were told that the barges were only
used for weapons in transit, but given
no idea of the time from loading to
being taken to Faslane that they remained
off Ardentinnny.

I wonder if others feel uneasy too?

Yours faithfully

Judith Sugden

RECORD CATCH

Andy Fraser, aged 15 of "Pinetrees",
Ardentinnny recently caught a 15 lb
sea trout in the River Finart -
Congratulations and well done.

FIREWORKS & BONFIRE 5th November

The Village Hall Association are once
again providing fireworks for 5th Nov.
Bonfire being built up by young people
of the village. All welcome.

APPEALING AGAINST THE RATES

... or Valuation Appeals as they are properly known. Many householders in Ardentinnny submitted appeals before 15 September and will by now be enjoying - at least for the time being - a ten per cent reduction as well as having received a yellow leaflet describing the appeal procedures.

Before an actual hearing takes place it is likely that you will be contacted - personally or by letter or telephone - by the Assessor's Department of the Regional Council. It is very helpful to prepare oneself for this by:

- (i) having ready a list of reasons why you are appealing e.g.
 - environmental deterioration due to Coulpport expansion
 - your property is in the MoD "blast zone"
 - Ardentinnny is in Coulpport's GDA (Ground Defence Area) in the event of tension or hostilities- THIS IS A NEW REASON!!
- (ii) having an idea what reduced value you consider acceptable for your property: i.e. prepare a negotiating position.

The Assessor is generally very helpful in dealing with appeals. Do remember that you are not alone in having appealed and do stick out for a reduction!

J.H.

CRAIGHOYLE FARM

First light on Monday 14th October was a poignant moment in the village as Archie Ferguson's stock ewes from Craighoyle Farm were all carried off to market in Stirling following his retirement as tenant farmer with the Forestry Commission. The girls, (all 550 of them) had a ride out through the village on board two large cattle floats with trailers, some with a roof top view; under the care of Archie's brother, Peter Ferguson.

We wish Archie all the best for a long and happy retirement.

R.W.

ARDENTINNY BUGGED!

Before the announcement of the RNAD Coulpport expansion programme, PSA have commissioned a firm of consultant engineers, Atkins Research and Development of Surrey, to measure ambient noise levels around the area. One location was Ardentinnny village and monitoring equipment was set up at our house on Wednesday 9th October and left to run until Saturday evening 12th October.

I was asked to nominate a household in the village facing the loch, and with very little notice it seemed the easiest course of action to put up with it myself. The microphone was on a boom suspended through the bedroom window and the machinery set up inside, rendering the room unoccupiable.

As I predicted the noise level recorded was very low generally, but unfortunately during Thursday the remnants of hurricane Gloria passed over with very high gusts of wind. This multiplied the sound level twofold as it hit the microphone and whistled round the house. If this is not disregarded the result I fear will be fatuous.

Richard Westlake

ARDENTINNY CHURCH

In the wake of Mr Holland's departure the Rev. Kenneth Yorke has been the interim moderator with services conducted in alternate months by Rev. Douglas Somerville who will be with us again in December. Mr Yorke will be taking the quarterly communion service this coming Sunday 27th October.

Mrs Mathieson's dedicated work in the aptly-named "Glory Hole" caravan has raised over £600 to date. The "Glory Hole" is open most dry/sunny days between noon and 4pm - look out for the sign-board beside the road.

Some work is likely to be undertaken in the church roof: the timbers are in possible need of anti-woodworm spraying.

Important discussions are currently being held about the possible linking of Strone and Ardentinnny Churches with Kilmun Church. Some significant developments are expected in the near future and may be more fully described in the church's own newsletter due to be published shortly.