

Culter Community Courier

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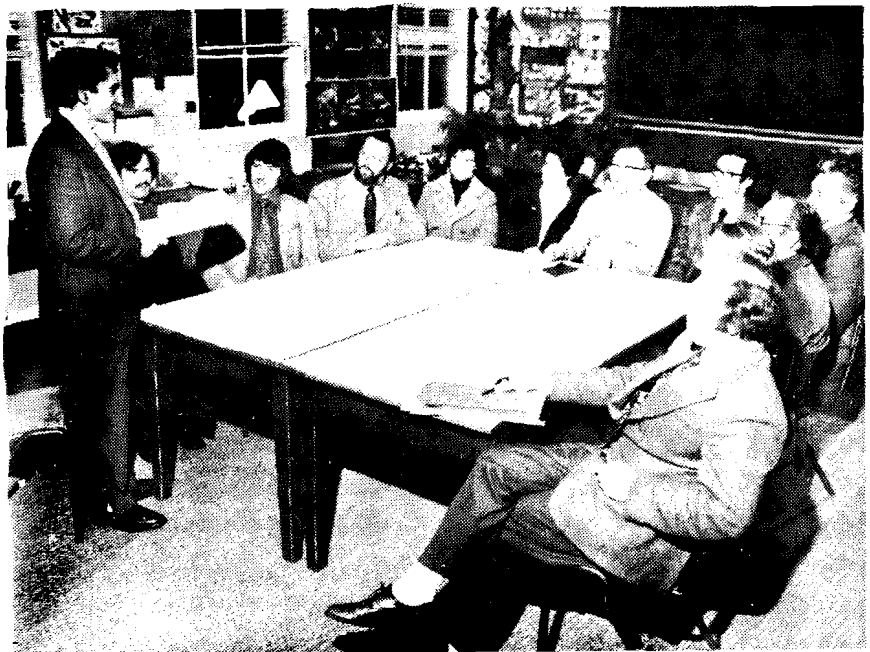
New paper in Culter

The Culter Community Council presents to you with its compliments the first issue of its new local newspaper, the Culter Community Courier. Our aims are simple - we want the residents of Culter to enjoy their life in the village better by knowing more about it and taking an interest in its affairs.

With this aim in mind, the paper will tell you about what is going on here, in sport, recreation, business and at local government level, and will give you the readers the chance to comment on it. A copy is being distributed to every house in the district free, so all are equally well informed and have an equal chance to express their views!

There will be at least four issues a year, and in this issue we are majoring on the new Community Council, but this paper isn't just a set of minutes of that body - contributions will be welcomed from church or youth groups, mill workers, mothers or old age pensioners. Just pick up your pen and tell us what you like about life here in Culter - or dislike!

Culter has for long been known as the home of good 'papers'; now it has produced a new one. Let's hope that it has a long and successful 'run'!



CC NOW IN ACTION

The Culter Community Council was formally inaugurated at a meeting in Culter School on 11th May this year. The Council consisting of 12 local residents and electors, will have a term of office lasting until autumn 1979, after which fresh nominations will be made and elections held for a three year period.

Inaugurating officer was Mr. James Smith, Director of Law and Administration for the City of Aberdeen District, who as returning officer had earlier declared the twelve nominees as returned unopposed.

AIMS

Introducing the first meeting, Mr.

Smith reminded all members of the basic aims of a Community Council to "ascertain, coordinate and express to regional and district councils and other public bodies the views of the community about matters for which these bodies are responsible" and "to take such action in the interests of the community as appears to its members to be desirable and practicable".

At a subsequent meeting a week later, the Council elected as chairman Mr. W. Cheyne of 59 Dalmaik Terrace, and Mrs. Kay Johnson of 123 Johnston Gardens East as Vice Chairman. Secretary was Mrs. F. McLeod, 76 St. Ronans Drive, and Mr. Tony Gray, also from St. Ronans Drive, was appointed Treasurer.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Culter Council is one of the first of 30 such groups envisaged in a scheme by the City of Aberdeen District to represent the views of local communities to the new "super bodies" constituted in the wake of the recent reform of Scottish local government.

Formed as a result of a steering committee's petition to the Secretary of State in 1975 the councils will work closely with but independently of the elected district and regional representatives, who are in the case of Culter Mr. J. Ewen and Dr. J. Hadley.

PARTICIPATE

Chairman William Cheyne has called for the maximum contribution by residents to council activities to continue, this good start, both by attendance at meetings and by putting forward items for discussion through the Council members. 'It is only in this way that the Council will really function for the benefit of the village' he said.

what has it done?

The Community Council has now been in existence for six months. In that time it has taken up a number of matters raised by local people with the appropriate bodies.

Already it has succeeded in obtaining the agreement of the district council to provide toddlers' swings at the play parks; better road signs are to be provided in St. Ronans Drive, Elderside and Johnston Gardens; and it has established useful contacts with departments of the City and Regional Council and the local health council, some of whom have attended meetings in Culter.

Among views currently being actively pursued by the Council are: half-price bus fares on Alexanders services for children aged between 14 and 16 as is the practice on corporation services. Provision of a zebra crossing on the North Deeside Road, better off-street car parking facilities and the continued availability of dental treatment at the Health Centre.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD THROUGH
YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The names of your community councillors are:-

Mr. W. Cheyne (Chairman), 59 Dalmaik Terrace
Mr. G. Cowie, 43 North Deeside Road
Mr. W. Davidson, 20 Malcolm Road
Mr. R. Ewen, 13 Pittengullies Circle
Mr. V. Fowler, 1 Pittengullies Circle
Mr. J.A. Gray, 37 St. Ronans Drive
Mrs. K. Johnson, 123 Johnston Gardens East
Mrs. F. McLeod, 76 St. Ronans Drive
Mrs. A. Melvin, 143 North Deeside Road
Mr. G. Parkin, 96 North Deeside Road
Mr. E. Stien, 21 Malcolm Road
Mr. J. Troup, 49 North Deeside Road



"No, Mrs. McTavish, the community council's got nothing to dae wi' yon communes."

culter diary

Sat 12th Nov - St. Peter's Church
Sale, Community Centre

facilities

This section is open for use of all organisations in Culter. A diary is kept in the Library and these are some extracts from it:

Coming Events:

Sat 29th Oct - Culter FC Jumble Sale/Coffee Morning, Community Centre

Sat 29th Oct - Family Hallowe'en Party, Kelman Church (30p at the door)

Tues 1st Nov - Culter Parent/- Teachers Association Mtg; 7.30; Culter School; "Scottish Evening"

Sat 5th Nov - Culter Community Centre Playgroup Coffee Morning & Sale - 10 - 12

Library - Tel 732587
Open Monday Tuesday Thursday
Friday - 10-12 & 2.30-7.30;
Saturday - 9.30-12.30; Wednesday closed.

Registrar's Office
102 N. Deeside Rd. Tel. 732648
Open Monday - Friday 8.45 - 12.30 & 1.30-5. Area Officer Mr. John Low; Registration of Births, deaths & marriages, school lets, collection of rents & rates & Social work sub-office.

Police - Tel. 732222 or 29933.
Open Monday - Friday 9-5 and at certain other times.

ROB ROY - a feature

ROB ROY - NEW 'COAT'

The colourful statue of Rob Roy perched high on the rocky gorge through which flows the Culter Burn, never fails to attract the attention of passers-by, old and young.

The story of the man himself is a matter of history. The persecution of the Macgregors took place early in the seventeenth century, and members of the clan fled to different districts guarding their identity by changing their names to Gregor, Gregory, Greig, Grigor and to others of similar sound. Three important members of the outlawed clan settled in Aberdeen and Deeside, but Rob's family feued a farm at Balquhiddy. Rob was a skilled swordsman who found himself "on the run" for cattle-stealing and for his sympathy with the Jacobites for whom he travelled to this area to enlist the support of the members of his scattered clan.

But it was not safe for Rob to remain in Aberdeen since the King's troops were stationed in the barracks, and fearing he might be recognised he fled to Deeside to his relations in Dalmaik and in order to do so he had to cross the Culter Burn near where the statue now stands. It was in spate at the time, but his athletic abilities were such that he leaped across the swollen stream with ease.

What is the story of the statue itself? It was certainly not erected by reason of the historical event just recorded. Rob Roy Statue just happened. It is linked with the Culter Paper Mill near-by which has been on its present site since 1750. There was a wide market for its high-class paper manufactured from linen rags and a considerable tonnage was shipped from Aberdeen to London. Horses and carts provided the transport from Culter to Aberdeen Harbour, where one of the carters, said to be David Anderson, having seen a discarded ship's figurehead of Rob Roy lying on the dockside, doubtless

THE STATUE OF ROB ROY IS PERHAPS CULTER'S MAIN CLAIM TO TOURISTS ATTENTION. FOR ITS HISTORY AND ITS PRESENT SITUATION - READ ON.



persuaded (we hope) the authorities to let him take it out to Culter. The exact date is unknown, but it was sometime between 1837 and 1850. It became a landmark and stood for a number of years until it perished.

The good folk of Culter decided to replace it and by public subscription a brand new Rob Roy was fashioned from wood, gaily painted, and erected ready for unveiling in 1870. That was a real gala day with dancing on the bridge until midnight.

This statue braved the elements for 55 years and had to be replaced, again by public subscription. The new statue was unveiled in July 1926 by Miss Jessie Thomson of Clayhills, Rob Roy's near neighbour, who had been present at the similar occasion in 1870.

For more than 50 years Rob Roy III has continued to be a wonderful attraction, and recently, when journeying from Aberdeen to Balmoral with his queen, Prince Philip was seen to glimpse over the heads of the cheering crowd lining the bridge at the gay figure arrayed in Macgregor tartan, complete with shield and sword.

Rob Roy, in case you haven't noticed has received a new 'coat' - four, in fact, at the capable hands of painter George Shaw, The Bush, who has been doing it every 4 years since 1946 with a varnish to keep him smart in between. His armament which was vandalised 2 years ago has also been restored, with a new shield from John Murdo and a sword from Mill engineer Adam Fraser, both of Malcolm Road. If you are interested in the fashion side, his tartan is the authentic Rob Roy tartan, identified by George Shaw after diligent study of the text books at Rentons of Edinburgh when he began his task.

Rob Roy's periodic re-decoration is financed by a fund raised some years ago by ex-Councillor Gavin, 59 North Deeside Road, but inflation is beginning to take its toll - the job takes a full week start to finish - and further finance is needed. One suggestion mooted but not yet acted on is a collection box on the gate of Norman Davidson the postman's house, which is adjacent to Rob Roy Bridge, so that the many tourists and passers-by could contribute to his upkeep. Anyone with suggestions or willing to offer aid to the funds' trustees should contact ex-Councillor Gavin.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Ann Brown, 16 Crown Terrace

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death in September of Mrs. Ann Brown, known affectionately to all in the village as "Ma Broom". Aged 86, Ma Broom was until the very last active in helping all the worthy causes in the village, but especially the local Boys Brigade, with whom her connection goes back 41 years, to the time when one of her own large but close-knit family joined the organisation. "She was a very genuine person who helped many people in ways some of them barely realised" said B.B. Captain Douglas Allan. "Never a camp went by without a jelly or a dumpling from Ma for the 'loons', as she called them and her home was an open house - every one was welcome." Church funds were another beneficiary of her active baking and cooking and her unstinting generosity over many years.

Her funeral service was held in St. Peter's Church on Saturday, 23rd Sept when B.B. Officers carried her coffin through the ranks of her 'loons', the entire Culter company, to its resting place in the cemetery.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to her husband Joseph and her family.

L.L. McKay

BRIAN R DAVIDSON

Culter 732966

Specialist in all types
of electrical installations
and repairs

Plumbing and heating
also undertaken

Bydand news

The Culter Bydand Amateur Dramatic Society this year celebrates its Golden Anniversary. Formed in 1928, the company has raised money for charity for 50 years, travelling through the North-East! The present members are interested in building up a history of the company. One of the founder members Mr. A. McKilligan who, although no longer taking an active part in production, maintains his interest and is Honorary President, has provided information about the formation of the company. Any further information from former members would be helpful.

In order to celebrate 50 years of "treading the boards" the company hopes to organise a get-together (such as dinner-dance) this year, possibly in December as the first show was performed in December 1928. If any former members would be interested in this, please contact -

Sheila Grant,
21 Wellgrove Crescent,
Westhill (tel. 740897 - pref.
evenings)

or

Mrs. I. Grant,
216 School Road, Culter
(tel. 733042)

If any former members have photographs etc. we would be pleased if we could borrow these to show at the proposed get-together.

Boyne's Bothy Corner

Mr. Boyne of 18 Craigton Terrace is well known for his near-encyclopaedic knowledge of 'bothy kistlers' or bothy ballads. We will, as space permits, record here some of his well-

known renderings for the sake of posterity.

Here is, for a start, one of the most famous 'youngsters' for translation of technical terms, contact your grandads!

A PAIR O NICKYTAMS

When I was only ten year auld I left the Parish Squeel,
My faither fee'd me hame tae Mains tae earn my milk and meal,
I first put on my narrow breeks tae hap my spindle trams
Some buckled round my knappin knees a pair o nickytams.

First I gaed on for halley bonn an then I gaed on for third,
Then of course, I hid tae get the horseman's crackin wind,
Ae loaf o bread tae be my piece an a bottle for drinkin drams,
But ye canna gang throu the caufhoose door without yer nickytams

The fairmer that I'm wile the noo, he's wealthy bit he's mean,
He grudges corn, his horse are thin, his harness fairly deen.
He gars us lead the reins oer fuae his conciense his nae quams
Pan briest straps look there's naething like a pair o nickytams.

I'm awa in bonnie Annie's, Bob Tamsan's kilchic deen,
She is five an footy and I am seventeen,
She oboards a muckle piece tae me wile different kinds o jam,
An tells me every night that she admires my nickytams.

Ae Sunday night we set out the kirkie for tae gang,
My collar it was unco tight, my breeks were nae ower lang,
I hid my bible in my pouch, likewise my book o Psalms,
When Annie cried 'Ye muckle type, tak aff yer nickytams!

Thou men swear I took them aff the lassie for tae please,
But aye my breeks they tirked up aroun about my knees,
A wasp come crawlin up my leg in the middle o the Psalm

Oh never again will I rig the kirkie without my nickytams.

I've aften thought I'd like tae be a hobby in the force,
Or maybe I'll get on the trams an drive a pair o horse,
Whatever it's my luck tae be the bobbys or the trams,
I'll never forget the happy days I wore my nickytams.

Gala success

A meeting of local organisations on 18th September noted the first ever Culter Sports Gala, held on 24th June on the School Playing Fields, a success in terms of the great spirit of community co-operation which it created. The gala made a net profit of 3024.61. The declared aim of the gala was to raise funds for additional children's play equipment, and the meeting resolved to use this money in negotiations with Aberdeen City District Leisure & Recreation Dept. to obtain at least one additional item at each of the 2 existing play areas, at Corporation Rd. and Johnston Gardens. An alternative, to develop the patch of woodland at the junction of School Rd. and Hillview Rd. as a playground was felt to be undesirable because it was too close to an existing area.

The meeting resolved to circulate

all local organisations with a request for their opinion on whether any future gala should have a fund raising objective, or be a break even exercise, and if funds were to be raised, whether they should be for a local charity or for a local community project such as a nature trail.

NORTHERN MOTOR Body works

THE BUSH
BRIGHTON PLACE
CULTER
Tel: 733356

V.B.R.A

THE SYMBOL OF SATISFACTION

Health Centre - Coronation Rd.
Tel. 733567. There are two
groups of general practition-
ers in the town. Phone 732626
or 733535 and ask for the
doctor you require. Family
Planning Clinic - one Tuesday
per month 7-9 pm. Ante-natal
Mothercraft - Monday 2.15 pm.
Child Welfare Clinic - Thursday
2-4 p.m.
Obesity Clinic - Wednesday
5.30 p.m.
Chiropodists - Wednesday 5.30
p.m. by appointment

AMENITIES IN CULTER

by Vernon Fowler (Planning Sub-Committee)



HOUSING

Baillie John Ewen, who represents the Peterculter ward in the City District Council and is a member of the Housing Management Committee, has expressed his opinion to the Courier that the present scheme for the allocation of Council Houses in Culter is "fair and just". With a waiting list in the city of over 4000 and an average of possibly one or two per month becoming available in Culter, however, it is inevitable that there should be delays, he claims.

If someone on the waiting list for accommodation desiring a house in Culter is offered one elsewhere and refuses it, he automatically receives a 3 month penalty. If in that period a house in Culter becomes available, it will be let to the next willing applicant on the list. "This, although fair and just, clearly means a very long wait for many who desire to live on Lower Deeside" said Mr. Ewen. "Build more houses might be the answer, but local authorities have limited funds, land on Lower Deeside is more costly, and means added expenses for schools, parking, roads etc."

Mr. Ewen also referred to the approval by the planning committee for a proposal by a private developer Bredero Homes Ltd to erect a residential development near Postcliffe House (adjoining the former railway station). The conditions for the approval are: a maximum of 50 dwellings, realignment and upgrading of the existing road access and adequate provision for retention of the existing railway embankment, which has an amenity value for walking and horse riding.

So, you live in beautiful, healthy Culter by the Dee. It could be much worse, and it could be better. In fact your Community Councillors are concerned to make Culter a much pleasanter place to live in.

Planning

Do you know what the Region have in mind in their structural planning for Culter? Already the sub-group concerned with amenity Dick Ewen, George Cowie and Vernon Fowler have been to see Mr. Colclough the Director of planning for the Aberdeen district.

Planner's mirage

Have you been wondering what might happen to the old station? So have we, and we intend to find out more about the rumours of industrial museums, Pulman-car restaurants and so on. We should like to see this important site developed in such a way as to serve the local community interest first. And what about the Culter by-pass? Is it just a mirage that the planners see over the horizon from time to time? Or is it a real possibility that could divert the heavy through traffic away from the Deeside Road.

What to do in Culter

A tourist guide to the village would be hard-pressed to make a long entry under this heading. Culter has no public tennis courts, and those courts there are have such a poor surface that a reasonable game is impossible. Do you enjoy putting, or sitting in a sheltered park relaxing with your friends? Would you like a safe and interesting place for your children to play in? The whole question of recreational space

in Culter is an urgent one and is being actively considered by your Community Councillors.

Romantic Riverside

Whether you are rambling, brambling or gambolling with the kids, the riverside is one of the beautiful faces of Culter. Its a place of romance and a place to think. Add to it the majestic views from Malcolm Road and the woodland walks at the back of the village and you know that you live in an attractive place.

Sadly, Culter has another face. Unsightly tips, premises littered with untidy junk, and derelict spaces can all be found. Is it inevitable? If we have business and industry, must we put up with eyesores? We believe that something can be done and we shall be looking for co-operation from those who can do something to improve these blots on our landscape.

Services

Amenity is not just appearances. It is the whole quality of life in the area. The little things count. We are beginning to look at a wide range of problems which affect the welfare of people in Culter.

What can you do?

Your Community Council can only act on those problems it knows about. It may forget something that you think is terribly important. If you haven't drawn the matter to their attention then you can hardly blame them. Do contact any of us if you think there is a community problem. Remember too we are amateurs, trying to find out where we can help. So please talk to us but please don't put the burden on our shoulders. We are a better community - but we may not be able to do everything overnight!

Regional notes

ZEBRA

at last

by Dr. G. Hadley, Regional Councillor

Local Surgeries

Numbers of people coming to the monthly surgeries have been few - does this mean that there is a general satisfaction with no complaints? I doubt it!! Don't hesitate to come along, even for a general chat. Next surgeries are on November 7th and December 5th.

Traffic Problems

At last - the Regional Council has agreed to make a pedestrian crossing and it should be operational soon. The site, at the Gordon Arms Hotel, was thought to be the best since most people cross the road there. The proposal to put yellow lines to prevent parking in some parts of the main street is being prepared and will soon be advertised so that interested parties can comment.

Bus Services

Any individual complaints about the Alexanders' service can be sent to me or directly to Mr. John Westaby who is the Region's Director of Transport. He is in close touch with the management officials of Alexanders.

Malcolm Road Improvement

The provision of a pavement in Malcolm Road is taking longer than was originally thought and is unlikely to be completed in the coming winter. However, the roads department have the matter in hand and will complete the job as soon as possible.

Local residents will have been delighted to see that the Grampian Roads Dept have finally seen the light and are erecting a zebra crossing over the North Deeside Road. Some doubts were expressed at the Community Council meeting on 5th October about its siting, which is at the West end of the village near the Gordon Arms Hotel; it was felt that a location nearer the Post Office might have been more beneficial for the many pensioners who have to make their weekly trip there.

OAPS

Culter Branch of O.A.F.'s were formed in Oct. 1947 by 4 ladies, Miss Dunbar, Mrs. Angus, Mrs. Adam, Mrs. Skene, with 2 gentlemen, Mr. Bathgate & Mr. Webster.

The present officials are: Mrs. Melvil, Pres., Mrs. Murray, Sec., Mr. Forbes, Treas.

On 5th Oct. 1977 a "30th birthday party" was held in the Community Center, attended by over 200. The birthday 'cake' was cut by the 2 oldest members - Mrs. Bennet, Coronation Buildings (89 years old) who has 10 years membership and Mrs. Calder, Anguston (80 years old) who has 29 years membership of the club.



"Last week's star prize was a free parking place on the North Deeside Road!"

playscheme success

The summer playscheme in Culter had a total of approx. 55 children per day.

They were involved in games, arts and crafts. They also had two trips, to Arbroath and Bennechie, both enjoyed by all involved.

Swimming was on the programme every day by request of the children. A few competitions were held and small prizes given.

The two week scheme was rounded off with a disco (ear plugs supplied to helpers).

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all the helpers for their hard work.

Mrs. Jennifer Inglis (Organiser)

YOUTH

PARENTS - Culter Junior Youth Club appeal for help in the supervision of the club. A Youth Leader is also required at the Club, which meets on a Sat. 7-9.30 p.m. at the school. The club, currently 60 strong, is in danger of closing due to shortage of helpers. Help look after your own children - if you can help occasionally, contact Mrs. Bowie, 21 Craigton Cres. tel. 733344.

CADETS - the Culter Platoon of the Army Cadet Force has exactly the opposite problem - too few recruits. The platoon which meets at Culter School on Thursdays at 7.30p.m. will appeal to active youngsters from 12 onwards. There is no aim to recruit into the Army, but simply to sponsor adventure training. For more details contact R. Charlton (861335) - or send the lads along!

fc record



We congratulate Culter FC Sec. Albert Moir, 55 Malcolm Road on his outstandingly consistent record of information to football enthusiasts in the village. He recently published his 500th weekly bulletin of information on the club, including details of games played 20, 10 and 5 years ago. The bulletin is available free to all interested.

Culter FC meets and trains twice weekly, Tuesday evenings in the School gym, and Sundays at the School pitch, where home games are also played since the Crombie Park off Malcolm Road became unplayable. Fixtures and venues are published on Tuesday evenings in the Green Final - turn out and support your local team!