

Portgordon POST

Spring 2014
issue

Save our damaged harbour!

*Fears for beach erosion,
flooding, and historic
structure lost for ever if
east pier is not repaired*



Following the huge damage caused by the December storm, high water and big waves in February caused further falls of masonry and brought fresh fears.

As this issue of Portgordon Post went to press, it was still unclear what the harbour's owners, Crown Estate, were prepared to do about the storm-damaged East Pier.

Following the collapse of a large section of the pier in the tidal surge and northerly gale of last December 5, there was a further fall of stone during a February high tide.

Damage is so great that the harbour is now unusable, partly due to the pier damage, but also due to many tons of gravel which have washed in to clog moorings and render the slipway useless.

Following an apparent lack of action, a number of concerned residents wrote to Mr Gareth Baird, Scottish Commissioner for Crown Estate, seeking an assurance that the damaged pier would be repaired, and

pointing out that the structure of the harbour had not been maintained for decades.

Residents are now in regular touch with Smiths Gore, Crown Estate's local agents. Their executives Faye Gonzales and William Hawes did much to allay fears when they attended a meeting in the Lampie Hoose organised by local resident Pringle George, which also attracted representatives of other interested parties.

Smiths Gore have subsequently confirmed that a report had been received from engineering specialists Halcrow, outlining possible remedies to the pier damage. The report has been returned to the engineers requesting more detail, and Smiths Gore are also in touch with Moray Council, who are responsible for sea defences.

Faye Gonzales has said that she would let local residents know as soon as she had an update.

These are the fears for the lower village

- The loss of the East Pier would accelerate the westward migration of gravel along the east beach.
- This, in turn, would make the harbour unsuitable for any future development, and leave homes liable to flooding.
- Further coastal erosion at the west end of the village would leave homes in danger in Stewart Street and Garden Lane.

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The immediate financial future of the Portgordon Post has been assured, thanks to the generosity of villagers and their friends at a highly successful fundraising event.

The Portgordon Post team has acknowledged the help of two ladies who gave them the idea of a new departure in fund raising. They are Carol Scott and Denise Robson. First of all the event was to be called Port Gordon Swapshop, then 50/50 Sale of the Century, and finally The Price is Right.

It was held in the Village Hall one Saturday morning in February, and it attracted a crowd of more than 70 adults and children, keen to buy items either donated or offered for sale on a 50/50 basis, with one half going to the Post.

The team had the additional support of Susan Blake, Dee Cairns and her twin sister Sue, Denise Robson, Fi Brinton and Dave Lawrance. Kay Griffin not only came to support the effort just after getting out of hospital. She brought her friend Ella to help, plus bringing additional donations for the raffle which raised £70.

Before the sale the ladies worked so hard at pricing the donated items that on one occasion they nearly sold an anorak that belonged to one of the group. In spite of the hard work pricing the donations, the group found

Village unites for Post's future



Kay and Ella worked hard all morning selling raffle tickets, and made £70.

friendship.

The night before seemed chaotic but Dave and Robert kept the group on track. Their pre-publicity had worked as people were at the Village Hall door wanting to come in for coffee, cake and a bargain before the official start at 10am.

The group has thanked all the ladies who donated baking as well as Denise and Fi, members of the village hall committee who came and worked extremely hard serving coffee, tea and fancies.

This event raised enough cash to

cover the costs of printing your local community newsletter. One organiser commented that without the many donations of good quality items they could not have achieved such a success.

She continued: "Thank you all for your continued support. And if any individual has a photo or story or any group wishes to provide us with local news please get in touch with the Portgordon Post by letter to the **Lampie Hoose** or e-mail portgordon-post@hotmail.com or telephone 01542 832924."

Portgordon Community Church activities

Sundays - Extreme club and morning service—both 11am.

Tuesdays - Toddlers 9am - 11am

Wednesdays - Ladies group 7.30pm (venue varies weekly)

Last Friday of each month - kids' film night with tuckshop - 6pm

Special events - Easter Saturday (19th April) Easter Eggstravaganza - including afternoon tea, Easter egg hunt for children 2-4pm.

Easter Sunday (20th April) Malcolm MacLeod from Steadfast Global will be taking the morning Service.

For more details please contact Pastor Willie Aitken on 01542 835007 or 07766521481 or email laypastor65@btinternet.com.

All events are in the Community Centre unless otherwise stated.

Elgin hearing on village plans

Anyone with an interest in a developer's plans to build a boat shed and slipway on Portgordon's East Beach, and to renovate the ice house and build a cafe on an adjacent area of shore, may attend a public planning hearing in Elgin on Friday March 21.

People who have registered comments with Moray Council, whether for or against the plans, have been given the option to either address the Council's Planning Committee on the day, or to submit a written statement to be read out.

On March 21 the committee will consider the plans in outline, and they hope to be able to make a decision on the day.

The hearing will be in the Council Chambers in High Street, Elgin, starting at 9.30am.