

THE CULTER COURIER

ISSUE NO. 182

February 2026



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CCC Chair, Andy Roberts

Culter Community Council – from the Chair

Welcome to this edition of the Culter Courier.

Writing this nine days into the heaviest snow-falls for decades, it has been fantastic to see so many people out and about not just clearing their own paths and drives, but continuing along the roads to make things easier for their neighbours and other residents.

So many of you do things voluntarily for the benefit of others, whether as part of our numerous volunteer organisations throughout the year, or as now, clearing paths during the snow. I'm so proud of all of you!

Post Office and banking services

In our last issue, I mentioned that our neighbours Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber Community Council (CBMCC) had made a request – which we supported – for a banking hub in Lower Deeside. Cash Access UK and then Link did assessments which ignored all local data. We then

supported CBMCC's request for an Independent Assessment of Link's decision.

The Independent Assessor only reviews the way a complaint was addressed, not the decision itself, and concluded that the correct processes had been used by Link.

CBMCC then got Liam Kerr MSP involved. He wrote to Link, and got the same answer as we'd had before. He then set up a petition – lots of you signed up to that, thank you – and joined a debate in Scottish Parliament on bank closures and the banking deserts they are creating. Mr Kerr then met a representative from Link at the Scottish Parliament, and following a lot of discussion, Link have agreed to revisit their previous conclusions to establish whether there are any circumstances which might prompt a rethink.

Fingers crossed!

'Green energy' proposals

Planning applications continue to be submitted between Thurso and Edinburgh for power lines, substations, and BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems - huge battery packs to keep our lights on when the wind doesn't blow). There are none at present in our own area.

Recently two of the more-minor applications, for a section of power line and for a substation, have been refused by the relevant local authority. These refusals will slow down the whole process, but as the proposed works form part of a UK-wide power strategy, we must expect that agreements will be reached at some point.

The Public Local Inquiry (PLI) on the Hill of Fare windfarm application took place in September last year; at the time of writing, we had not heard the outcome.

Finally.....

If there is anything troubling you, or you want to know who to contact about something, do please get in touch.

Andy Roberts
Chair, CCC



The Public Local Inquiry (PLI) on the Hill of Fare windfarm application took place in September last year; at the time of writing, we had not heard the outcome.

- Andy Roberts, CCC Chair

Culter Community Council

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CCC Meetings:

Meetings are currently held either in the Village Hall or using Zoom.

If you wish to attend a meeting please contact the secretary in advance at secretary@cultercc.org.uk

Meeting Dates: 11 Nov, 10 Dec
Minutes can be found online at www.cultercc.org.uk or accessed from any library.

Culter Courier

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May Edition

2026 Courier

Deadline for articles: 20th March
Publication date: 30th April.

Planning

Recent planning applications

Planning applications are few in number this winter.

There have been two applications for minor changes, one for a garden shed/home office in a front garden (which could well fall foul of the policy requirements on avoiding development in front of the existing building line), and an application for work on a small group of damaged trees.

Developments on existing proposals

We continue to await confirmation that two enforcement cases about breaches of planning control at the same location have been closed out. Planning are allowing the one other case in our area to continue, pending completion of a separate development on the same site.

Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan(LDP)

Work is underway on compiling the next LDP, proposed for 2028.

Aberdeen City Council (ACC) submitted their Evidence Report to Edinburgh last summer. Edinburgh completed their Gate Check and have returned the report to ACC setting out what else is needed before it will be accepted. The Evidence Report is an entirely-new requirement, both for Edinburgh and for local authorities, so the first iteration was never going to be smooth.

The period for developers to propose sites they would like to build out has closed. We await news from ACC on the list of these sites.

Planning have said they will welcome Community Councils providing comments direct (instead of compiling a formal Local Place Plan) for the next LDP. Culter Community Council is considering the following issues:

- falling employment in the oil industry means ACC need to look hard at the level of new house-building across Aberdeen over the next Plan period
- need for a limited number of new homes in Culter for our local growing families
- significant local opposition to development in the Green Belt and other protected areas
- the challenge, with so little undeveloped land in our area which isn't protected, is in meeting all our residents' expectations in a sympathetic way
- capacity issues at Cults Academy

- improvement in health services locally, but challenges for many folk in getting to Community Treatment & Care Centres (CTACs) for vaccinations and other services

- loss of all banking services in Lower Deeside

- improvements in the village centre, particularly more parking

- fast broadband throughout

- a more-proactive approach from ACC about flooding in Millside and The Paddock

- City centre access limitations

- what can ACC do to mirror Manchester's renaissance through the increase in its city-centre population?

And finally.....

Do get in touch if you want to know more about anything I have mentioned above, whether local to Culter or further afield.

Andy Roberts

Planning Officer, Culter
Community Council



New Tarmac Path from the Heritage Hall to Lovers Walk.

Update on Lovers Walk

Tarmac has been laid on the narrow path from the Heritage Hall to Lovers Walk, making it much easier for buggies and wheelchairs to access the path. This was achieved by close cooperation and joint

funding between Aberdeen City Council and Culter Community Council. Thanks are due to Stan Reid for making this happen.

Please take the opportunity to go down to the river and enjoy the beauty and peace of Lovers Walk.

Peter Brawley

For Culter Community Council

Councillor Malik

As we begin a new year, I would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year. I hope that 2026 proves to be a year of prosperity, stability, and peace for us all, both locally and further afield.

The start of the year has been an incredibly busy period at the Aberdeen City Council. One issue that has continued to generate strong public feeling is the recent court case relating to the bus gates. While the Council succeeded legally, I believe it is fair to say that, in the eyes of many residents, the case was won by the public morally. The feelings expressed by constituents throughout this process have been clear, and it is vital that future transport decisions are shaped by transparency and public engagement.

As I write this, snow has been falling relentlessly across the city and shire, creating the most challenging winter weather we have experienced since the ‘Beast from the East’ we had in 2010. While I fully recognise that these conditions have been severe, it is also important to be honest about the impact of previous decisions. Under the current SNP administration, winter maintenance provision has been reduced. As a result, roads that would previously have been cleared have not been prioritised.

Labour councillors called for a cross-party discussion involving local elected members who know their communities and understand which areas are most vulnerable during extreme weather.



Unfortunately, this proposal was rejected when the SNP, Liberal Democrats and Conservatives voted to retain the existing approach, under which only main

roads receive routine clearance. This is an issue that must be addressed, and we will be pressing for a more responsive and locally informed winter maintenance strategy as part of forthcoming budget discussions.

Looking ahead, important elections are just around the corner in May. Once again, voters across Scotland will be asked to deliver their verdict on who should lead our country within the devolved Scottish Parliament. These elections matter, and I would encourage everyone to make their voice heard.

You may also be aware that the UK Government has allocated Aberdeen City £2 million per year to support community projects. This presents a real opportunity for local improvement. If you have ideas on how this funding could be used to benefit Peterculter and neighbouring areas, please do get in touch with me. I will do my best to ensure that strong local proposals are highlighted and that investment is directed where it can make the greatest difference to our community. Finally, the 2026 Council Budget will be brought forward shortly.

“*Looking ahead, important elections are just around the corner in May. Once again, voters across Scotland will be asked to deliver their verdict on who should lead our country within the devolved Scottish Parliament.*”

- Councillor Malik

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Your Elected Representatives

For every edition of the Courier we ask each of our directly elected representatives at each level of government to take the opportunity to submit an article. This includes your local councillors, your Member of Parliament and Member of the Scottish Parliament. While we always ask if the content could focus on local issues, the choice of subject is entirely up to the author. Also, the views expressed in these, and all other articles in the Courier, are entirely those of the writer and do not in any way reflect those of the Editor or Culter Community Council. Contact details are included for each should you wish to comment on the content of their articles.

Editor

As in previous years, we will continue to press for urgent support for flood-affected areas. At the same time, we will use our position to argue for a budget that limits council tax increases while protecting and enhancing the public services that residents depend on every day.

I ask that you please stay safe and warm in this weather. As always, I remain committed to representing the interests of our community and welcome your views.

Councillor Malik

mmalik@aberdeencity.gov.uk

07876745826

Councillors Boulton and Massey

As we pen this article we are experiencing the worst snow for 10 years with no signs of it letting up.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents who have cleared pavements and roads, looked out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours. The community spirit in all parts of Lower Deeside has been great to see. Both myself and Cllr Massey have pressed for extra winter maintenance resources for several years. During this latest snowy episode, extra money was signed off to use outside contractors, however, we would like to see this as part of the annual budget so that residents can have some confidence of being able to get out of their homes to work or where ever else they need to be. The limited resources have been used by the current administration for projects such as upgrades to the beach area including a play park at a lofty price £50m. We feel that the priority should be services that meets the needs of our residents.

There had been a legal challenge over the bus gates in Aberdeen by members of the business community and citizens. The challenge failed at the courts but we think the action that was taken to take the council to court should be of serious concern to the leaders of the council and clearly demonstrates the frustration felt by both businesses and the public.

We are now preparing for the 2026/27 budget which includes setting the council tax. The choices facing us are not going to be easy, part of the budget process was taken separately in December which was setting fees and charges which we weren't happy with because that is an

area within the budget that can give us flexibility to save cutting services or understand the impact of the fees and charges on the public, business and 3rd sector organisations as a whole. We will update you on the budget outcomes in the next article.

We have had several requests for the renewal of double yellow lines and other road markings which have faded. There is a large backlog of work due to one of the machines having been out of action for sometime due to the availability of spare parts. Please be assured we have a record of all requests and they will be actioned as soon as possible.

Irresponsible parking has become an issue again around schools so can we please ask people to park in areas which



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- Councillors Boulton and Massey

doesn't put children at risk when crossing the roads or inconvenience home owners near the schools. The city wardens will be giving the areas attention again but obviously they can't be there all the time so we would ask for drivers cooperation.

Still on parking the section outside the Village Hall has been causing traffic problems because people have been parking on the double yellow lines which has made it difficult for traffic to pass, please avoid parking on the double yellows. The other location is opposite Selbies in the small cut out area, which again has double yellow lines to stop



Councillor Duncan Massey

parking as parking there means that cars coming down Craigton Road can't see when trying to pull out, again, please don't park there for safety reasons.

The final plea is about dog poo. We are receiving complaints from members of the public including other dog owners about owners not picking up their dog's deposits can we ask that people to make sure they do pick up their dog's poo. The second part to the dog poo saga is people taking their dogs to the school playing fields and again not picking up after them. There are signs prohibited dogs from being there and that is for safety reasons and we would urge people to follow them. The school playing fields are having to be inspected before they are used both by the school and junior football teams and they are regularly having to remove dog poo.

Unfortunately, there have been incidents of anti-social behaviour where youths have targeted houses with ringing door bells late at night, banging on doors and windows. This is very frightening for those receiving this unwanted attention and in certain cases the police have been contacted. We would urge parents to talk to their teenagers and impress upon them the negative impact they are having on some elderly and vulnerable people. It could potentially impact on the young person's future if they end up in front of a criminal youth justice panel. This may be just a bit of fun to those carrying out the anti-social behaviour but it affects the mental and physical wellbeing of the victims.

We like to finish on a positive note. A group of senior secondary pupils from Cults Academy have made the charity, The Cults Library Project their fund raising campaign recipients for this coming year. They kicked off with an excellent coffee morning, the majority of the cakes were made by the pupils, I was lucky to enjoy

a lovely slice of banana loaf.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this article the snow will be gone and Spring will be fast approaching with better weather.



Cllr Marie Boulton

Independent Councillor

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Cllr Duncan Massey

Reform Scotland

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Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Sessions

We have been approached by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service with an opportunity for anyone who is interested to attend sessions on a variety of topics.

The details from the Fire & Rescue are below for you to read. If you would like more information or to attend a session on any particular topic or topics please email me, see below, with your contact details; the sessions you are interested in; and which months would work best for you. I will pass your details to the co-ordinator at the Fire Service.

The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service will be running sessions throughout 2026, at Schools, Colleges, Universities, Organisations, Community Groups, Drop-in Cafes, Events, etc, in and around Aberdeen City (Aberdeenshire & Moray).

These will consist of a variety of different topics including subjects such as;

- Home Fire Safety
- Fire Awareness - Fire Setting
- Water Safety
- Road Safety
- Drug Awareness

- Knives and Weapons Awareness
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Basic Life Support - CPR/AED
- Careers Events
- Team Days
- Fire Skills with Employability Awards
- Bon Fire - Firework Safety

The sessions are open to all ages; will involve some practical involvement; and will require a positive engagement in a controlled environment. Certain subjects may involve a combined support network from other emergency services such as Police Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service.

Cllr Marie Boulton

mboulton@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Liam Kerr, MSP

After a really challenging start to the year with severe weather affecting us, winter continues to make its presence felt. The community's response has been brilliant, and my mailbox is full of examples of our community's courage and helping of one another.

The Scottish Parliament election is coming up this year and there are strict rules regarding no submission of entries to local magazine within four months of an election. Appropriately, I am not able to give any political update here. If you are interested in knowing about what I am doing for you as an MSP, please visit my website.

Liam Kerr

www.liam-kerr.co.uk

Audrey Nicoll, MSP

The Scottish Parliament election is coming up this year and there are strict rules regarding no submission of entries to local magazine within four months of an election.

Therefore there is no article for this edition of the Courier, however, casework can continue for the time being and Audrey's contact details are below:

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Audrey.Nicoll.MSP@Parliament.scot

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St. Peter's Heritage Centre

As this is being written we are in the depths of winter, but the Heritage Trust is already looking forward to a new season which will see the Heritage Centre reopening on Sunday 3rd May 2026.

We will then be open each Sunday from 2pm-4pm until the end of September. Our excellent Afternoon Teas served in the Heritage Hall will also resume at the same time. There will be a number of new displays in the Heritage Centre this season.

We hope to showcase the development of Culter over the last 60-70 years. Do you have any photographs of Culter (especially school photographs) from the 1950s and 1960s? Although we have hundreds of school photos, we are short of items from this time period. We are also looking for original 1960s clothing if you have any you would be willing to donate/loan lurking at the back of your wardrobe! We also plan to update our Paper Mill display area, having been donated the original clocking-in machine last year.

The various activities which take place in the Heritage Hall continue and there are times available for regular Lets if you



Heritage Centre's Defibrillator

have a group looking for a venue. For more information contact our email address below. The Hall was also the venue for 'Music and Mince Pies' back in December. We were entertained by The Woodshedders of Culter and District Mens Shed Music Group; a trio of very talented young people from Scottish Culture and Traditions (SC&T) Youth called Farran; and Scotch Broth, a traditional music group who practice on Sunday evenings in the Heritage Hall. A great afternoon was had by all who attended and we thank the performers very much

“
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Do you have any
photographs of
Culter (especially
school photographs)
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- St. Peter's Heritage

Music at The Heritage Centre



for their entertainment.

Outside the Heritage Hall a Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is now in place and has already been in use. Some of our Trustees and hall users received some training back in November. The Defibrillator should not only benefit users of the Heritage facilities, but the many people who use the Deeside Way and Lovers' Walk.

The Heritage Trust is a voluntary organisation and a warm welcome is extended to anyone who would be interested in becoming involved in helping to preserve and develop the Heritage Centre. It would be good to be able to open it more often, but for this we need volunteers - can you help? You could also support us by becoming a member. Annual subscriptions are £12 for Adults, £6 for Seniors and £3 for Juniors. See our website for details on how to join. It is so important that we maintain our Heritage Centre, which is unique in the city of Aberdeen.

Visit our website, email or follow us on Facebook for more information.

St Peter's Heritage Trust

stpetersheritagecentre.org

stpetersheritagecentre@gmail.com

Facebook - St. Peter's Heritage Centre and Hall, Peterculter

Peterculter Golf Club

As we welcome in 2026, I have a feeling of déjà vu, looking back at last year's February article it starts with "it's dingin' doon wi' sna' "and yes, "It's dingin' doon wi' sna"again "- but even heavier! So, no golf for a while but as they say - fit can ye dee?

We had a mild start to the winter season with lots of golfers playing through November and December. The Gents Winter League is well subscribed and the Ladies Winter Eclectic competitions are under way. It's great to get out on the course for a few hours with some golfing pals and even if the golf is not going to plan - you get a good blether and can set the world to rights!

On that note, if you haven't tried golf, our Club Professional Gary Lister is planning to run Beginners Golf Lessons in April. You can contact Gary at the email below for more information.

At the end of October we said goodbye to

one of our greenkeepers, Dylan Meinan who decided to move on after 14 years. We wish him well in his new post at Deeside Golf Club.

We have appointed Jaydon Taylor who joins us from Alford Golf Club.

“

At the end of October we said goodbye to one of our greenkeepers, Dylan Meinan who decided to move on after 14 years.”

- Peterculter Golf Club

There have also been changes in the Club Office with Sharon O'Keeffe and Debbie Blackwood joining Club Manager Gordon Winton and membership Secretary Mandy Clark. They are both busy "learning the ropes" at the moment and I am sure they will be a great asset to the Admin Team.

The Clubhouse, managed by Michelle Burnett and the Clubhouse staff have had a busy end to the year with various Prize-givings, Christmas Lunches and Kids Parties. These are all ably catered for by Adam McKenzie. Please visit our website, see below, for information on what's on at the club, information on membership and general information.

The Club remains in a buoyant position with good member numbers meaning that we are in a position financially to carry out two major projects.

The first is to address the need for a water supply for irrigation. Having explored options, the recommended way forward is to excavate the current irrigation pond to provide additional contingency capacity. This work will be carried out before the start of the season.

The second is replacing the furniture in the Clubhouse Lounge. Tables and chairs have been chosen and are arriving mid-January, so we will be ready to welcome members and visitors alike to the new look clubhouse!

With Best Wishes,

Liz Davidson

Club Captain

garylistergolf@outlook.com

petercultergolfclub.co.uk

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Picnic Time for Culter Hillwalking Club in the Middle of Nowhere.

months. See the programme on our website or our Facebook page for photos and more info, details below. For the most up-to-date information and extra info, please contact James or Catherine.

Catherine Lacy

James Brownhill (01224 897273),
 Catherine Lacy (01224 733710)
 culterhillwalkingclub@gmail.com .
 www.culterhillwalking.org.uk

Culter Village Hall

Hello, it's 2026, can you believe it. It was a very snowy start. Our groups got back into the swing of things eventually. We have a variety of groups and events here at the hall and are always happy to welcome anyone else to come along and see what we can do. There's Mah Jong, Bridge, Tai Chi, Ballroom Dancing, Hamilton School of Dance and of course all our activities for children.

Our Two's Group has some spaces available. The Group runs Tues, Wed and Thurs 9.15am to 11.10am for any child age 2 and over to come and have fun with other kids without their grown up and before they move onto longer hours

Culter Hillwalking Club

It's true that, as a club, we do not take part in technical winter walking – i.e. we don't go places where we'd need ice axe and crampons. But we do enjoy a bit of snow.

What we don't enjoy is an overload of snow, where we can't actually get to the

hills we want to climb! This was January, when walking down my road in Culter was excitement enough, and we had to cancel our Sunday walk not because we couldn't walk up the hill but because we couldn't drive anywhere safely. And this is for leisure, so we play it safe. Hopefully the roads will be clear by the time you read this - however Hill of Ardbeck is always there!

In March, we're tackling the best part of the Speyside Way, before we hit the high hills and the Munros in the summer



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and are aged 3 when they attend Nursery. There are our Kindergym classes too. For 3-5 year olds it's every Wed 1.30pm to 2.15pm and for 18mths and over Fri 9.30am - 10.15am. There is also the Toddler's Group every Fri 10am-12pm. Take time to come along and see what your local community has to offer.

The 200 Club continues. There are 3 winners every month now sharing the prize pot. It's just £12 for the year helps the hall with it's day to day costs.

The partnership with Peterculter Co-op store and the food share hub continues. It's every Mon - Fri with food items that are available to pick up for free on a first come, first served basis however please be considerate, there's a few folk who would like a share.

We offer competitive rates for event or room hire at the hall. There are four different spaces to choose from - The lounge area; The Supper Room; Main Hall; and PG Room which has it's own small kitchen and toilets. Most areas have a sound system that can be used. Thanks to Culter Gala Committee for the grant to buy the new systems for the Supper Room and PG Room. The main

hall is very big and can accommodate a bouncy castle up to 12 ft high. We are now also offering a £35 package of some soft play equipment. Just get in touch for more info.



We look forward to seeing you.

For more information or to book an event or register a place at any of the children groups please contact us, see details below.

Fiona Jones

Hall Manager

thevillagehallculter@gmail.com

01224 734371

Facebook - Culter Village Hall

Culter and District Mens Shed

Hello, as another year ended and we are into 2026.

Last year was a good year, we had six new members join us and had our plans passed for our new workshop/store and are now waiting for the building warrant to come through. The next part of the project will be to get a small group of members, being led by Colin Nicol and myself, firstly to get the large container we use sold, thereafter find the funds to get the groundworks started, then the building purchased and built by end of 2026. This will be a great asset to our shed as it will allow

better use of the facilities and make for a safer working environment.

Any garden machines which need sharpening or serviced please get them in early as when we remove the container we will be limited in what we can do for few months until the new build is up and running.

Another piece of equipment we purchased in 2025 was a laser printer/cutter which will enable us to engrave slate, wood (see photo), plastic and glass. Once we are more efficient in the use of the machine we will be able to produce house names plates, coasters and many other everyday items so we are excited in what we will be able to achieve with this machine and

Mens Shed Engraved Wood Products.



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bring in much needed revenue.

Mens Shed Groups

Our photography group is going from strength to strength with some new members and the woodturners are working hard with some excellent work being turned out.

Woodworkers are busy doing work for our communities and local schools - a new mobile library for Culter Primary so the kids can have a reading lesson outside in the sunshine and repair/rebuild a storage shed which was blown down one windy weekend for Milltimber Primary.

The Wood Shedders, our music group, are still going out and about doing their gigs. They are at the shed every Wednesday morning practicing their old favourites and a few new ones throwing into the mix. You can join any of these groups by coming along to the shed any weekday afternoon.

For Sale

We also have some garden furniture for sale which we made last year these are a table with fixed bench seats and a garden bench, both refurbished to our usual high standards. We also have a selection of mowers for sale, If any of these item are of interest to anyone please get in touch through our facebook page.

Jim Greig

07704986713

www.culterdistrictmensshed.org.uk

Culter FC Merge with Culter Youth FC

Culter Football Club is delighted to announce the official merger with Culter Youth Football Club, marking a significant milestone



for football development in Peterculter and the surrounding communities in Deeside.

Since their respective formations, Culter FC and Culter Youth FC have operated as separate entities. There have been several attempts over the years to bring the two clubs together, various factors meant a merger was not previously feasible.

We are therefore now extremely pleased that both clubs can now formally unite, creating a stronger, more sustainable structure that enhances opportunities for young, aspiring players within the local area.

The merger between the clubs represents a natural and strategic step forward. It establishes a clear development pathway from grassroots football in Peterculter through to the senior first team, strengthening player progression and community engagement.

The newly formed Culter Community Football Club (CCFC) has ambitious plans. Immediate priorities include

Above: CFC President (Gordon Thomson) and CYFC Chairman (Wallace Bruce). Below: CFC-CYFC Group Photo

raising the necessary funding to install floodlights at Crombie Park and working towards achieving our Scottish Football



The newly formed Culter Community Football Club (CCFC) has ambitious plans. Immediate priorities include raising the necessary funding to install floodlights at Crombie Park...

- Culter FC



Association (SFA) licence. Securing this licence will enable the club to enter additional Highland League competitions and continuous participation in the Scottish Cup. The longer-term ambition is potential promotion to the Highland League, this very much subject to the continued success on and off the pitch. While there are challenges ahead, this merger represents a vital step in achieving those goals.

For Culter Youth FC, this development

CULTER COMMUNITY FC

DINNER & DANCE

MARCH 28 AT 18.30

MARCLIFFE HOTEL
GUEST SPEAKERS CHARLIE NICHOLAS
& WILLIE ALLAN MBE
COMPERE IAN THAIN
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offers a clear pathway for its players, and more access to Crombie Park for training, key matches and further utilisation to enhance its offering to its players and staff.

CCFC will work closely with the SFA and the Highland League with the aim of entering an Under-18s team into the Highland League Development League at the earliest possible opportunity. This will enhance player development and make Culter Youth FC one of the most exciting Clubs to play for.

See photographs of key representatives from both clubs, along with the most important members for our future - the youth players. See also a flyer for the upcoming Sportsman's Dinner,

taking place on Saturday 28th March at the Marcliffe, with all funds raised going directly towards the club's development plans.

Thanks,

Culter Community Football Club

Culter Gala

Last year we held several successful Gala events and on the 4th November we were delighted to be able to gather many local community groups at the Mill Club and hand out a total of £5,000.

Advertise in the Culter Courier

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The groups which received funds were:-

- Culter Youth FC 2018
- Community Bikes Culter
- Culter and District Men's Shed
- Aberdeen Riding Club
- Culter and District Horticultural Society
- Culter Youth FC under 15s Dons
- 47th Culter Boys Brigade
- Culter and District Community Association (Village Hall)
- Culter School Parent Council
- 1st Culter Rainbows
- Culter and District Pipe Band
- Sooyang Do Peterculter
- 58th Culter Scouts
- Culter Nursery
- Culter Christmas Lights
- Culter Girls FC 2019
- Culter Mills Club

In the last edition of the Courier we said that we urgently needed new volunteers to join the Gala Team to ensure the Gala can take place in 2026. As a result of this request we now have three new Team members, which is great. We will still need more help to put up bunting and on Gala Day – if you are able to help, please send me an email.

Gala Day is usually on the last Saturday of May. However, the Culter Pipe Band, which is a key part of Gala Day, will be at a competition that day. The Gala Team has therefore decided that Gala Day will be on Saturday 23rd May. Put the date in your diary.

By the time you read this we will have held our first fundraising event of the year, the Gala Burns Supper and Ceilidh in the Village Hall. During the two weeks leading up to Gala Day there will be other events, including Quiz Night, Car Treasure Hunt and Duck Race. We hope you will come along and enjoy the Gala events.

Peter Brawley

Gala Team

cultergala@gmail.com

Camphill Wellbeing Trust

Compass Project Thrives as Community Hub Following North Point Opening.

The recent opening of the North Point multi-purpose building has marked a major milestone for Camphill Wellbeing Trust's Compass Project, which is already



2025 Gala Awards Night.

buzzing with activity. The new facilities have attracted a wide range of users, from football, badminton and basketball groups to craft clubs and children's birthday parties.

Compass now offers an expanding programme of weekly sessions, including activities for pre-school children and their parent carers, drop-in soft play, and popular Outdoor Adventures. A new session specifically for disabled adults over 18 and their carers is set to launch soon, further widening the project's inclusive reach.

The project is also appealing for volunteers to support its continued growth. Opportunities range from helping in the café, garden and driving, to assisting with crafts, catering and administration—roles made possible thanks to the newly established indoor spaces.

Looking ahead, Compass is preparing for the next phase of its sustainable

refurbishment. A planning application is being submitted to transform the former Kindergarten and Science block buildings into a community-focused healthy living hub. The proposed development includes a café and play café, a zero-waste kitchen for processing onsite produce, and dedicated spaces for craft, training and education. Additional rooms for meetings and workshops, an expanded charity shop, and a volunteer hub are also planned.

Meanwhile, the onsite garden shop continues to offer freshly harvested organic produce, along with firewood, kindling and wood chippings. Customers can visit in person or sign up for weekly produce updates.

To learn more or arrange a visit, visit us on site or contact Compass on -

01224 678830

compass@cwt.scot

Compass aerial photo - Site garden.





58th Culter Scouts Den Building.

58th Culter Scout Group

Update — plus a special 2026 announcement!

Beavers

Our Beavers have been incredibly busy since the summer, earning a range of badges including Teamwork, Adventure, Money Skills and Animal Care. We wrapped up our outdoor sessions at Templars Park with a special visit from Marion and Paddy the dog from the charity Paws on Plastic, who taught the Beavers about the importance of keeping our community clean and how litter can harm wildlife and pets.

In October, the Beavers enjoyed an exciting visit to Pets at Home, where they learned all about responsible pet care. The session was packed with highlights, from guinea pig cuddles and stroking a baby snake to discovering how to look after a variety of pets while learning lots of fascinating facts along the way.

Many of our Beavers achieved their Adventure Challenge badge by taking part in a den-building challenge and tackling an obstacle course. During the winter term, each Beaver also had the opportunity to lead an activity or challenge during a session. These included building bridges using only newspaper and tape, leading the Beaver promise at the start of meetings, and learning a song to teach to the rest of the group. The group completed their Money Skills badge with an interactive session on money through the ages, from bartering through to

contactless payments.

We finished the winter term with our much-loved annual visit to Jump In and are now looking forward to the new year and another fun-filled term of adventures!

Cubs

Our Cubs started out after the summer with plenty of fresh air and outdoor sessions. These included a Culter litter pick and several fire-related evenings at Templars Park, where the Cubs learned essential fire lighting and camp cooking skills — always a favourite, and brilliant for building confidence and teamwork.

As the Christmas term weather (and darker nights) set in, Cubs moved back indoors for most of the last term. Sessions were still packed with fun, including Halloween-themed games, Christmas decoration making, and — of course — lots of Dodgeball, as always!

The term also included our regular calendar highlights. Cubs attended Remembrance Sunday, enjoyed the Culter Panto (and ice creams!), and took part in the Group Airhop trampolining session, finishing the year on a high.

Our Scouts get outdoors as often as possible and have had a fantastic term making the most of local green spaces. Highlights included a bat walk, setting moth traps, and tree planting at Templars Park — brilliant activities for learning more about local wildlife while also giving something back to the community.

Scouts

As the nights drew in, Scouts moved into the church hall for some of the winter programme. One of the standout evenings was hearing about Young Leader Tom's trip to Austria, where he achieved his Explorer Belt — a real inspiration for the



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Scouts and a great reminder of what teamwork, resilience and adventure can lead to.

Winter term also brought some much-loved traditions, including our annual visit to the Culter Panto (alongside the Cubs) and the AirHop trampolining session with Cubs and Beavers – both definite highlights and a great way to end the year on a high.

50 Years of the 58th Culter Scout Group – and we need new leaders!

In 2026 we are celebrating a huge milestone: 50 years of the 58th Culter Scout Group. We have lots of activities planned for our young people to mark the anniversary and make it a year to remember.

We also have a number of long-serving leaders who will be stepping away at the end of the summer term. We are therefore looking for new adult volunteers to join our brilliant team across all age groups.

If you'd like to contribute to our local community and help young people build skills, resilience and confidence (while having plenty of fun along the way), we'd love to hear from you. Full training is provided, and you'll be well supported by our continuing leaders.

Interested? Please contact bren at the email below to learn more.

Bren Hector

bren.hector@culterscouts.org.uk

Peterculter Parish Church

We would like to thank those who came along to the various Christmas services over the last few months at Peterculter Parish Church and also at Drumoak Hall.

Please do check out our Facebook page and Culter Kirk Website for details of upcoming events for Lent and Easter.

www.culterkirk.co.uk

[Facebook - Peterculter Parish Church](#)

Scotch Broth – Traditional Music Group

Well, another Christmas season over and all that that brings.

This year we sported our new Scotch Broth t-shirts to celebrate the 21st birthday of our sessions in the Heritage Hall in Culter;



club funds paid for the logo on them. Many thanks to Shirley for organising this and coordinating our individual preferences.

“

If anyone would like to join us, at intermediate level on any instrument, in St Peter's Heritage Hall in Culter on a Sunday evening 7-9 pm, please do.”

- Scotch Broth

Our main event this Autumn was performing at St Peter's Heritage Trust's Music and Mince Pies afternoon on Sunday 7th December in the Hall. We were one of three groups entertaining the audience for what is always a happy festive occasion. Although we had to drastically curtail our own contribution when the earlier groups overran it was good to be part of such a varied musical afternoon. It may be that for the concert this coming year the programme we had devised for 2025 may only need minor tweaking; definitely we've learnt that the audience are enthusiastic to join in traditional carols. A big thank you

Xmas with Scotch Broth.

to Shirley, always our MC, who had the unenviable task of deciding on the spur of the moment what we would include in the 15 minutes left for us. Many thanks also went to Richard for devising the original programme. After the concert we all went for a meal together locally, always an appropriate and enjoyable way to finish off the day.

Our annual Scotch Broth Social in the Hall in January was postponed by a week and as I write this it is still forthcoming but we expect it to be a relaxed, frivolous evening of music and other contributions by those members willing to put themselves in the spotlight. It always produces a surprise talent or two and lots of fun and laughter.

We shall see what the next few months bring.

If anyone would like to join us, at intermediate level on any instrument, in St Peter's Heritage Hall in Culter on a Sunday evening 7-9 pm, please do.

Christine Miller

01224 730091

camiller53@hotmail.com

Rotary Aberdeen Deeside

Aberdeen Deeside Rotary (RAD) 25th Anniversary

The end of 2025 saw the 25th Anniversary of the Charter date of the club. We shall be celebrating this fact over the coming

Rotary  Aberdeen Deeside

One of the events celebrating our 25th Year

Bingo at the Ashvale

Wednesday
25 February 2026
6.30 pm
Ashvale Restaurant
42-48 Gt Western Road

Choice of
Fish, Scampi or Chicken Supper
5 Bingo Games
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Legs Eleven 11
Clickety Click 66
Two Fat Ladies 88
Rise and Shine 29

In support of Shelterbox and Rotary Charities

year with a number of events to which everyone are invited. Some of the fundraising events will donate some of the money raised towards ShelterBox which is a rotary based charity also celebrating its 25th year. Cash raised will also go towards the Public Bench Appeal (see below).

Event dates for your diary

Bingo Night at the Ashvale Restaurant on Wednesday 26 February.

Celebration Evening at the Deeside Golf Club on Friday 12 June.

Coffee Morning at the Cults Hub on Saturday 12 September.

Quiz Night at Deeside Golf Club on 13 November.

Rotary Charity Bingo Night

A choice of supper is available before five games of Bingo at the renowned Ashvale Restaurant. Tickets may be purchased online from our website or from RAD Members.

Rotary Charity Quiz Night

Our popular quiz was held at the Deeside Golf Club on Friday 14 November. Fifteen teams of four enjoyed a stovie supper in between rounds of stimulating questions. The event raised over £600.00 which was enough to purchase a ShelterBox tent and accessories.

Public Bench Appeal

RAD members have cleaned and repainted the public benches from Cults through to Culter over the last few years.



The end of 2025 saw the 25th Anniversary of the Charter date of the club. ”

- Rotary Aberdeen Deeside

In doing so we have recognised that some of the bench spaces would benefit from being fitted with a new bench and also there are places with no bench at present where weary folk might like to sit awhile. With this in mind our Charitable Trust has obtained a grant to install a number of new benches in association with Aberdeen City Council. We are looking to increase

the amount of cash available to spend to get better value for this cash by qualifying for a discount from the suppliers. Members of the public or businesses who might like to help can contribute by visiting and donating via the Just Giving page, below.

Meeting

Our meeting time is 6.45 pm on Wednesday

evenings. Access by Zoom is also available by request.

You do not need to be a member to help with or enjoy our activities. We have fun and there is no reason why you wouldn't too. To attend a meeting at the Golf Club (no denim please), get the Zoom link by email, or volunteer to help at any of our activities please contact our Secretary Ewen Hatchwell, email below. Why not give it a try?

Aberdeen Deeside Rotary

secretary@deeside.rotary1010.org
www.aberdeendeesiderotary.org.uk
www.justgiving.com/campaign/aberdeenbenchesproject

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Culter Christmas Lights

Yes, it's February and you've forgotten all about Christmas – but this is the opportunity for the Christmas Lights team to say our big 'Thank You's to those who helped organize, those who helped run, those who manned stalls, those who donated or sponsored light features, and of course all those many, many people who supported our Switch On event!

Top: Xmas Lights Switch on with Culter Pipe Band. Bottom: Great Stalls at Xmas Lights Switch on.

And, especially thank you to those kind folk who made donations – we absolutely rely on these to put up our features every year.

But our little team is now too small. The Culter Christmas Light Switch On attracts hundreds of folk, of all ages, but we need some new faces to step in and help out, or it will finish.

With the load shared, it takes little time, usually around Oct-Nov only, and it is very rewarding!

If you are interested in joining our team please contact us, see details below.

Christmas Lights Team

Catherine Lacy 07789 852923

Nicola Hector 07753 200722

Shona Knowles 07737 402151

culterxmaslights@gmail.com

47th Aberdeen (Culter) Co. Boys Brigade

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026 from the 47th Culter Boys Brigade. The previous session which took us up to the Christmas holidays was a busy one for all three sections!

The Anchor Boys and Junior Section started off in Autumn with a 'litter pick' around the streets and parks of Culter – great community spirit!

As the winter time was approaching it was time to get the Halloween costumes out. The Anchors and Juniors had around 100 children from the community attend the Halloween Trick or Treat which was organised by the Officers and some of the Company section boys. It was great to see all the families take part – thank you for coming.

The 47th BB Company continues to be a great part of the community and it is important to support other charities and groups. The Anchor and Junior section spent one evening with a walk down to the local Co-op to buy food for the instant neighbour food bank. What a lovely gesture from the youth of our organisation. The session finished off with a visit to the Aberdeen Science Centre and a well fed Christmas Party at the School on the last day.

All three sections attended the Remembrance Sunday Service in November. This was very well attended by the Culter Boys Brigade who turned up in numbers to pay their respect.

The Company Section continue to have successful numbers which allows for exciting activities. The previous session started off with a Scotland vs Italy quiz night with some interesting attempts at speaking Italian! This was followed closely by a Scottish themed night including a blind folded food taster session for the boys to guess the food. It was the first Haggis for some of the lads!! The session was rounded off by the annual Christmas



Boys Brigade Litter Pick.

Party at Codona's with a round of mini golf, a turn at the dodgems and a visit to Pizza hut. The company section is planning an 'out night' on a Friday in the coming months. The plan might be to revisit Kart Start in Aberdeen for some Go Karting. This is becoming an annual outing as the Company Section always want to return!

In December 2025 the officers managed to get a night out to the Ploughman as a Christmas Gathering. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all – both the Turkey and the Soft Drinks!

Please visit our Facebook page where you will find loads more news and photos/videos of what we have been doing over the last session!

If you would like to come and join us, drop us an email or message the Facebook Page.

Anchor Boys P1- P3 – Thurs 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Junior Section P4-P6 Thurs 6.30pm – 8pm

Company Section P7 – S4 Fri 7pm – 9pm

Thank you!

The 47th Boys Brigade Team

The47thculterBB@hotmail.com

Facebook – 47th Culter Boys Brigade

Culter Theatre Club

Back in December we were delighted to welcome everyone to the Village Hall for our 33rd pantomime – Peter Pan & the Pirates.

With an incredible 1,235 tickets sold (just 15 short of a complete sell out!) we were thrilled to see the hall bustling for each performance. Thank you to everyone who joined us and continue to support our work. The cast and crew thrive on the amazing audience reactions and feedback received, so we thank you for this too.

Staging the panto is only possible through the hard work, dedication, and determination of everyone involved. It has once again been a privilege to work with such an incredibly talented group and a joy to see the production come together. I would like to extend my thanks to our talented cast, musicians, production team, backstage crew, front of house volunteers, and everyone else who contributed to the show.

After a very short break, planning and preparations are now underway for our



Summer 2026 production. So please follow us on Facebook and keep an eye on our website for more details coming soon.

Before that however, on Saturday 28th February the Culter Village Hall stage will once again host the Scottish Community Drama Association's (SCDA) Aberdeen District - Festival of One Act Plays. The Festival presents three plays over one evening, with table seating, and bring your own refreshments. Having recently rejoined the SCDA, we are delighted to have a team entering the competition this year with 'Right on Cue' by Barry Lambert. We will also welcome Bon Accord Players and Banchory Drama Club to the event. Tickets and further details are available from the Ticketsource website, see below.

Matt Howie

Chair

www.ticketsource.co.uk/aberdeen-scda

www.cultertheatreclub.co.uk

Facebook [cultertheatreclub](https://www.facebook.com/cultertheatreclub)

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Peterculter Medical Practice

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The Plucking Pals

The Plucking Pals are a bunch of seven friends who live in the Peterculter Retirement Park and have a passion for music.

2025 was the second year that the Plucking Pals have performed and we continued bringing music, fun and joy (their words not ours) to nine Care/ Residential Homes in the local area and have performed 50 times (almost doubling the gigs that we played in 2024) culminating in seven Christmas song gigs in the three weeks leading up to Christmas, which for a bunch of enthusiastic amateurs is not bad.

We play for between one and two hours and still play free of charge asking only for a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit, although we do accept donations to our chosen charity. We would like to thank all the care home staff who invited us to play and to share some time with their residents. What we do is nothing compared with what they do every single day, which is exceptional and is definitely a vocation.

We would like to thank all the people who have kindly donated to this year's charity - Combat Stress, which is very dear to us as five of the band are veterans. A total of £555.50 has been raised.

We say it after every performance, and we will continue to say, that we get a lot of enjoyment performing for the residents and seeing them, singing, clapping their hands and dancing along with us and we will continue to do what we do as long as they want us and we are fit and able to do. We have taken bookings for the first couple of months of 2026.

The Plucking Pals

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CULTER IN BLOOM

Planting Pride in the Community 2026 Appeal

Every year we plant 150 containers around Culter with fresh seasonal plants, and we also maintain permanent flower beds and the Community orchard at Millside.

We hope you feel able to support us by donating towards this work in 2026.

For a donation of £10 or more, you will receive a Wildflower Seed Shaker, with seeds, to use in your garden, or wherever you fancy!



CULTER IN BLOOM

Planting Pride in the Community 2026 Appeal

Please send a donation to our treasurer **Catherine Lacy**, **1 Brighton Place, Peterculter AB14 0UN** or you can call **01224 734450** if you would like your donation to be collected or to pay by bank transfer. Cheques are payable to Culter in Bloom, We promise to keep your personal details confidential. Thank you!

Name

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Art Group Enjoying Xmas at The Stack.

Forecourt Art Group

As I sit here writing this article the snow is falling heavily and making the landscape a joy to behold. There is certainly plenty of inspiration out there for our artists to paint in the days to come, especially if we continue to be more or less housebound.

We have though had a very busy start to the year when we were invited to provide original paintings for a new restaurant in town, Social Monkey, who were having a photo shoot with the P&J on January 2nd. With only 24hrs notice, several members were able to locate a variety of artworks to take along on New Year's Day to hang on the walls for the shoot. The art group will also be providing art for private rooms further down Union St. in their 'sister' location, Glenhouse. We are hoping this partnership will develop and look forward to visiting soon to sample the wonderful Italian cuisine.

We ended the year with our Christmas get together in one of our other venues, The Stack at Muchalls and had a fabulous evening.

Our AGM will be in January when we hope to have a talk by Mark Gask from the Rosemount Art gallery about selling art through a gallery, which should be interesting. We have several exhibitions and sales events planned for 2026 so it will be a busy year for everyone. Membership places are currently available.

For further details see contact and social media details below.

Paula Silvester

forecourtartgroup@outlook.com

Facebook - Forecourt art group

Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats

One of the oldest charities in Aberdeen, Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats was founded by Mrs Susan Murray as a modest shelter for stray and abandoned dogs and cats.

It was officially opened by Lord Provost Henderson in 1889, then following a relocation to premises at East Seaton in 1935, it was again opened by the then Lord Provost, Lady Alexander, reflecting the importance of this unique Aberdeen charity. The Home was awarded Pet

Charity of the Year 2025 by Pet Awards Scotland.

Mrs Murray's has provided care and rehoming for the stray, abandoned and unwanted animals of the North East region through two world wars, the Great Depression, numerous recessions and global pandemics, with an average of 1000 animals now being admitted annually.

In 2019 Mrs Murray's set up a Pet Food Bank to help those struggling to feed their pets. The emergency pet food packs are a vital support in today's challenging times, providing daily meals for 45 dogs and 22 cats per month over the past year alone, allowing pets to remain with their loving families.

All this is achieved through the generosity of local animal lovers. Mrs Murray's does not receive Government or Lottery funding, largely relying on legacies and donations to support its work, along with its boarding service. Sadly, as the choice of charities increase, we see a reduction in the level of legacies and seek to re-raise the profile of this beloved historic local charity and its invaluable work.

If you can help ensure the future of Mrs Murrays for a further 137 years, please consider leaving a legacy in your will, every amount helps. One off or regular donations are also gratefully received. All information can be found on our website. Call or email us, please see details below.

Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Cats and Dogs

mrsmurrays.co.uk/donate
reception@mrsmurrays.co.uk
 01224 483624

Santa Visits Mrs Murray's.



The Heritage-Hound

Happy New Year 1926!

What was happening in Culter a century ago? The Heritage-Hound went in search of the answer...

The year began with a significant change at Kelman Memorial Church (now Peterculter Parish Church), which welcomed a new minister, the Rev. James Riddoch Dey. He would remain in Culter for the next 30 years, retiring in 1956. Rev. Dey later died in 1970.

By February, local residents were voicing strong complaints about the condition of the roads, described as deplorable. The blame was largely placed on omnibuses running in competition with the suburban trams. Concerns about reckless driving and overloaded buses led to agreement that action had to be taken.

In March, a public fund was launched to pay for a new Rob Roy statue. Intended to be ready by summer, the unveiling was to be carried out by Miss Jessie Thomson, who had also attended the unveiling of the previous statue back in 1871. The new Rob Roy would stand proudly for the next 65 years, until his "retirement" in 1991. Notably, a statue has occupied this site continuously since the early 1820s.

April brought changes to local education. Craigton Higher Grade School was renamed Culter Higher Grade School, and plans were made to install electric lighting



in the school, the schoolhouse, and the janitor's cottage. The school Dux for 1926 was John G. Davidson. Elsewhere, a sizeable recreation hall opened at Linn Moor, also boasting electric lighting. That same month, Culter joined nationwide celebrations on 21st April with the birth of Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, the future Queen Elizabeth II.

The General Strike of 1926 caused disruption at Culter Paper Mills, which employed around 600 workers at the time. When operations resumed, only 300 employees were initially taken back. Eventually, all 600 returned to work, agreeing to do so as non-unionists. During the year, Aberdeen Savings Bank also opened a new branch in Culter.

Autumn saw major infrastructure projects underway. The Rob Roy Bridge was closed for several months to allow for widening and reconstruction, reopening at the

end of November. At the same time, improvements were made to the water supply, with a new aqueduct constructed from Invercannie to Priory Hill, continuing onward to Aberdeen.

The year concluded with a Christmas Fair, organised to help clear the remaining debts on the Ex-Servicemen's Club (Culter Village Hall). Built at a cost of £2,800, the hall still carried £400 of debt. The fair raised £120 towards that total.

Thank you for your enquiries and questions about the local area. I continue to give talks on a wide range of subjects for groups and organisations—please check availability. You can always find out more by visiting my website, or by leaving me a message there.

Callum Stuart

The Heritage-Hound

www.culter.net

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