ST ABBS

COMMUNITY TRUST/COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

A year on and as promised an annual newsletter on the past year, to share with the community our past achievements and future aims and objectives. We have continued to hold monthly meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 6pm in Ebb Carrs Cafe having December & January off.( We will resume meeetings in May in the Community Centre) Open to all. Minutes are available in the Post Office, Village noticeboard, or by email by request. Also on SBC website [www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk) Or community website [www.onlineborders.gov.uk](http://www.onlineborders.gov.uk)

**COMMUNITY CENTRE 2011/2012**

* July 2011 funds were secured for the Redevelopment of the centre and building work commenced in November 2011. This will be complete and an official champagne opening will take place on May 12th at 2pm – 4pm with all funders, contractors attending, also the Podlies will be playing for our opening. Followed by a village party with entertainment in the evening 7.30pm onwards, all welcome to attend both. The Community Café will be opening 14th May 10am – 4pm.
* Further £10,000 grant awarded from **Awards For All** to fully equip our kitchen.
* Further £1,000 grant awarded from **Berwickshire Federation Of Village Halls** towards new café tables & chairs.
* Further £2,688 grant awarded from **SBC Community Grant Scheme** towards cost of new storage shed for Centre.
* Further £1,000 grant awarded from **Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services** towards cost of tables & chairs.
* Continued to gain full exemption of water rates and a fixed reduction in our electricity bills.
* Successfully maintained Whist & Domino night, held the last Thursday in every month, 7pm – 9pm, all year round and all ages welcome. Our youngest player is 10 and our oldest 88. A light supper is given and a raffle held. £1 entrance, all proceeds going back into the Community Centre. Raffle prizes gratefully received. Whist resumes May 31st at 7pm
* Euan Gibson successfully ran a Book **Club** on the last Friday of each Month 6pm-7pm, all proceeds going to the St Abbs Harbour Trust. All books gratefully received. This will resume the last Friday in May, again with all proceeds going to the repairs and maintenance of the harbour.
* We were successful in being awarded Keystone Governance Award, Level One, we were the first Community Centre in Scotland to achieve this and will be applying for Level 2.
* Another successful year for the centre with total income of just over £10,000. Increase in bookings continued throughout the year until we closed for the refit. We have six weddings booked for this year with two actually being married in the centre, another first for our centre. We have several bookings for functions, and new enquiries regarding Pilates, Art Group, Photography club, details will follow. Anyone with any interest in using the Centre for any other new initiatives please contact us.
* Continued to work with **BAVS** (Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Services) & **SCVO (**Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) for help, guidance and a wealth of advice and support needed for sourcing of further funding, and to ensure we have all relevant certification in place for our Centre.

**AROUND THE VILLAGE;**

St Abbs Community Council with full support from Jim Fraser, Douglas Scott, Dave Richardson SBC Emergency Planning Team , successfully compiled a **Winter Resilience Plan** for the community. This is a new initiative and we were the first in Scotland to achieve this, we now have a list of 38 community volunteers willing to help out in the event of severe weather, power failure etc. We were also supplied with snow shovels, torches, first aid kits and more equipment also 12 community volunteers successfully completed a free First Aid Course run by the British Red Cross, a second course to run in Late May places still available.

* We have been attending regular meetings throughout the year with **SBC,(** Scottish Borders Council) - **BCCF** (Berwickshire Community Council Forum), - **SCCN(** Scottish Borders Community Council Network) keeping updated with all relevant local developments, New Planning Laws, Wind farm development, Council Policies and will continue to do so. To ensure we try to be as updated as we.
* **Putting Green,** With the new equipment the green has never been so good. Thanks to Fred for his upkeep of the green this year. We had the best season ever in 2011, thanks to all who helped to run this voluntarily, with everyone taking a turn. Margaret & Helen will be round the doors soon with the diary for volunteers for this season. We will then leave it in the shop for anyone we miss. Carol happy again also to keep keys and putters, allowing the green to open daily through this season as this again was successful.
* **Play Park,** Thanks to Michael Cook our Councillor & SBC , the Playpark, was given an overhaul, repairs and existing equipment given fresh coat of paint, and a wonderful new piece of equipment put in for the children.
* **New signage**, for no dumping over the Braes was put in place in 2010 but sadly 2 signs were removed throughout 2011, New signage from SBC to come soon. This is an offence and people will be prosecuted. We have such a beautiful village let’s keep it that way. We have supplied the village with two yearly skips and will do so again this year, dates will be in the shop, and there is an excellent waste/recycling plant in Eyemouth.
* **RNLI,** hosted their annual Gala Day which once again was a huge success the weather was wonderful and £4,400 was raised. Huge thanks to all involved from all Crew, partners, volunteers, without each & every one of them, this could never be achieved. Look forward to this year’s July 28th
* **Village Noticeboard,** After securing the grant of £925 from SBC new village notice board was sited on the ground adjacent to the phone kiosk. This has been well used and well read. Thank you to Jackie & Bill for taking on the keeping of this for the community. Any new notices please either leave with Carol in the shop or pop through Jackie & Bill’s door. (Novar)
* **100 Club** continues to be well supported. We have continued this year to use funds from this to arrange for a fortnightly taxi to take our pensioners to the Coldingham Pensioners club. Also funds were used to pave new walkway into Putting Green, through SBC Criminal Justice Team. Again thanks to all whom contribute to this and especially Carol for overseeing this for the Community.
* **Puffin,** After the successful building and lauching of the St Abbs Coastal Rowing Associations’ skiff The Puffin in 2010, the skiff being the 9th launched in 2010 as part of the Coastal Communities Rowing Initiative, they have had a good year and lots of fun, always looking for new volunteers, training dates and further information from Peter Nisbet (Chairman) at Peter.Nisbet@stabbs.com or telephone 01890771142.
* **St Abbs Visitors Centre** opened in March 2011 an excellent new development for the Community and surrounding area. Thanks for all for ongoing support, reopening in March.
* **St Abbs Harbour Trust** had a successful year, with welcomed income from the car parks allowing them to proceed with vital and necessary repairs to the sea wall and other parts of the harbour. The Trust this year are applying for grant funding to ensure long term regeneration and economic growth for the harbour leading to sustainability. The Trust is an independently private run trust with no council or government funding. Donation boxes are sited at the memorial point and on the old harbour wall. All donations go directly back into on-going maintenance of the harbour.
* **WOOFS** campaign now has nearly all local dog owners signed up to this and free dog bags supplied every month. Any one not on the list please contact SB Warden Laurie Wood on 07770780140 or Robert.Wood@scotborders.gsx.gov.uk
* We helped gather support in delivering the Communities objection to the MCS (Marine Conservation Society)online vote regarding appointing St Abbs as an MPA(Marine Protected Area), the overwhelming strong feeling of opposition to this led to the withdrawal of St Abbs being put forward for this. This would have had detrimental consequences for all relevant stakeholders in our Community including the Harbour Trust, Community Council, Marine Station, VMR & St Abbs National Trust and all local businesses and residents, by pulling together we managed to over throw this for the time being.

**ONGOING:**

* **St Abbs Marine Station** should be opening in March. Thanks to the excellent workmanship from Border Construction who have ensured no obstruction to every day working for the fishermen and access has always been maintained for the Lifeboat crew. Another successful development for the Community of St Abbs, this will bring in many benefits to this area.
* **Church Pathway,** New continuation of the Church Pathway into the grounds of the Community Centre hopefully to be built late 2012 early 2013. This is something the whole community has wanted for several years, and with the support of Aileen & Stephen Nesbitt, this will take pedestrians off the road way directly into the village. Funding to be secured with this being a joint project with support form SB Local, SBC Criminal Justice team & ourselves.
* **Village pots** , to be replanted and thanks to those who adopted a pot.
* **Planting,** we hope this next two years to gather advice and support from NTS Nature Conservation advisor, SNH and SBC to try and put into action reverting the scrub and grasslands around the village to wild flowers.
* **Village benches** to be repainted or stained, all volunteers welcome to help
* **Putting green,** we hope to plant willow along the back fence any volunteers willing to assist in this project, please get in touch soon.
* **Speeding** New coloured textured road markings were placed at the 30mph signs on approach to the village to try and slow the traffic entering the village. This has been raised at several meetings and discussions with SBC led to them trying this as a further preventative measure. Also please everyone **watch your speed** within the village, we now have 13 children aged under 11 in the village so we need to be more aware.
* **No Cold Calling,** After the excellent response to Lothian & Borders questionnaire, put out regarding our community becoming a No Cold Calling Zone, in November 2011,(76 yes responses) this initiative will be launched in March with all 76 houses receiving a pack including a window sticker, booklet with all known scams, and further information. This has proved successful in other local communities whom started this in 2010, and this will now be rolled out across the whole of Scotland. Following on from this, after the theft of oil from Billy & Roses oil tank, this being the first crime in the village, (we hope this is the last) the local Community Police Officer Alan Richardson is attending our Community Council meeting in March to offer further advice on the options of the community introducing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme if enough response to this, we are happy to help have this put in place.
* **2013 - 2014** we hope to once again, reapply for the Best Kept Village, previously we won several years in a row but with all the developments going on the last three years we have not gone forward, hopefully by 2013 we will be able to enter this competition again, with the help of everyone keeping their gardens tidy we could win once more. Village skips will be put in place again this will help everyone with clear outs.

The village is quite self-sufficient with the income from putting green, rental of store, 100 club, and Centre income with all proceeds going back into the community for on-going maintenance and future projects. Funding from external bodies is becoming increasingly difficult to secure. We would like to thank everyone for their commitment and time given voluntarily to the Community Council/Trust which keeps St Abbs a vibrant and growing community.

**Contacts** for Community Council/ Trust;

**Our new-look website is coming soon - (**if you would like anything added to our site please let Helen know.)

**Chairman**, Jim Kearsley. - 01890771118

 **Secretary**; Helen Crowe, mailhcrowe@gmail.com or 01890771727

**Harbour Trust;** Chairman Paul Crowe – 01890771945

**LIFEBOAT** Operations Manager Alistair Crowe - 01890771412