

ABERCROMBIE AND ST MONANS TIDINGS



*Community Newsletter
July/August 2021*



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Welcome to the latest issue of the Tidings. This edition has local updates, articles, information and stories for those new to the villages of Abercrombie and St Monans, or who are now of age to join in our various groups and teams where a semblance of normality is on the horizon. The villages have a diverse range of activities for all age groups; if you would like yours mentioned, please get in touch as below.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Tidings newsletter; it is produced by a small handful of volunteers and we aim to publish quarterly. We thank our contributors, and if you have any suggestions for inclusion in future issues, please contact stmannewsletter@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON

Cafe Inc is Back this Summer! Free lunches and activities for children of all ages. The Camera Collection hopes to open on the 19th August, World Photography day and by appointment to small groups or individuals through:

www.cameratrust.org/contact
The Village Arts festival is hoped to be held over the first weekend of October, and check out the photograph competition before then, details on the Village website.

If you would like to advertise your business here, please contact a member of the committee by emailing stmannewsletter@gmail.com



BACK FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Cafe Inc. Lunch Clubs

Cafe Inc. is a free lunch club open to children, young people and families in Fife. Lunch is available on the dates listed below.

Come along and enjoy lunch and activities. Fun for all ages. Some activities will require pre booking. For more information and to book contact Caroline Berry - caroline.berry@fife.gov.uk	
St Monans Primary School Hope Place St Monans KY10 2DH	Monday to Friday 12pm - 1pm 12 - 16 July 20 - 23 July 26 - 30 July 02 - 05 Aug
Activities Arts and Crafts @ Café Inc. 15, 21, 29 July & 04 August. Sports @ the MUGA 20, 26, 27 July 02 & 03 August. 10am - 12pm Games @ Café Inc. 14 & 28 July - 12 pm - 2pm	Activities - must be pre booked Bike Coaching 20 July & 22 July 10:30am - 11:30am Rock pooling Friday 16 July 1pm - 2pm Mini beast's safari Friday 23 July 1pm - 2pm

ACTIVE FAMILIES FREE ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Active Families FREE Activity Programme will be available from Monday 28th June at venues across Fife throughout the Summer holidays.

Families can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, making it easy to find something to do close to home. And the best thing is, they're all FREE!

For details on how to take part go to www.fife.gov.uk/activefamilies

Fife

BEAUTIFUL ST MONANS NEWS

It's always good when we get the hanging baskets up and the tubs and boats all planted. Thank you everyone who has contributed in any way with gardening or by donating.

The time of our Gardening Group meet ups has changed to 1.30pm-3.30pm on Wednesdays, at the Serenity Garden by the bowling club (unless the weather is awful). Anyone who would like to join us is very welcome.

I would like to make a special mention of the gardens in St Monans. The Jimmy Braid Garden, by the windmill, is looking wonderful, full of bright plants and the Serenity Garden has suddenly sprouted up and is also worth a look.

I'd also like to mention The Plerick. Over the past few years, people may have noticed the grass on the slopes has only been cut once a year, in autumn. This is not an area which has been designated for rewilding, but the slopes are simply too steep to be able to be regularly maintained safely. Moreover, the grass cutting on the lower areas has been reduced due to staff shortages. We have been trying to make the best of this situation. It is a slow process, and it takes a lot of work, but, as you can hopefully see, progress is being made in removing perennial weeds and encouraging the spread of wildflowers, native shrubs and spring bulbs. Our hope is to strike a balance between attracting pollinators and keeping the area tidy.

Thank you to everyone involved.



SPORTS REPORT

FOOTBALL

St Monans Swallows is the local amateur football club. We play in the Kingdom of Fife Amateur Football Association, Championship League. Our home games are played on The Mair at 2pm on Saturdays. This year's season starts on 14th August. Our manager is local lad, Gordon McGilvary. We train at The Mair on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6.30 - 8.30pm. Anyone interested in coming along to training, please contact Gordon:

gmcgilvary@hotmail.com

BOWLING

A reduced Wednesday League plays home games at 6.30pm. Already two matches have been played and we are currently in top spot! Spectators are welcome, so please do come and support us. The bar is open too, on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (current restrictions apply).

SKIFF NEWS

The St Monans skiff, the beautiful Sea Queen, has been on the water for some time now. Interest in rowing has grown substantially over the past months. The skiff is based at Elie, as it is easier for launching and Elie Bay does not have to rely on tides. However, Sea Queen has not yet had her official launching, due to Covid restrictions.

Now that things are a bit more relaxed, it is hoped (weather permitting) that the official launch will take place in St Monans Harbour on 31st July 2021 at 9.15 am. The current St Monans actual "Sea Queen", will be invited to launch her namesake skiff. Spectators are welcome to attend. Skiffs from St Monans and Anstruther and other small craft are invited to form a flotilla.



MEET OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

East Neuk Now App is now live



THIS AND THAT

Loaves and Fishes Newsletter

St Monans Church produces a monthly newsletter which is sent to church members. This currently goes out on the first Sunday of every month by email, although paper copies are now available. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please contact Church Secretary, Helen, either by phone 01333 317096 or by email:

info@stmonanschurch.org.uk

Field of Hope - Sunflower Maze

East Neuk Trinity, linked with St Monans in partnership with Ardross Farm, are hosting a celebration of the hope we had throughout the Covid pandemic. This will take the form of a community centrepiece for the whole East Neuk situated right beside the A917 at Ardross Farm. The 1.5 hectare field of sunflowers will be carved into a maze with

12 'dead ends' where we want to celebrate all the local charities and groups which contribute to the life of our community.

The churches want to support these charities by raising their profile and offering them a chance to participate in fundraising which has been missing for the past 17 months.

For more information, please follow our Facebook Page - Field of Hope Sunflower Maze or our website www.fieldofhope.online and look out for posters around the village.



COMMON GOOD FUND



Over the last few months, there has been a lot of discussion about the St Monans Common Good Fund (CGF): what it is for, how it is funded and how local groups can access this community asset. This article attempts to answer these questions.

A number of towns and villages in Fife have a CGF which can be used for the benefit of the local community. Like every other CGF, ours is administered by Fife Council. CGFs are made up of a number of assets. Today, these assets fall into the following categories:

- Property (from land gifted to the old Burghs for the benefit of the residents, individual gifts and other land used by the public from time immemorial)
- Investments
- Cash

The assets are held in perpetuity on behalf of their local communities by Fife Council and provide a regular income which can then be used by the residents to improve their community.

Fife Council has a set of criteria against which applications will be assessed. As an example, applications for a project's running

costs are not accepted. Nor are grants accepted for individuals and personal benefit. CGF grants should normally be no more than a maximum of 50% of the costs of any project. However, the Council can approve larger applications in exceptional circumstances.

The application process is straightforward and once the application form is completed it is reviewed by the local Council. The view of the Community Council is always sought for each application, but it is important to note that this is purely as a consultation. The final decision rests with the local committee of Fife Councillors.

The financial year for each CGF runs to 31 March. For the financial year 2020/2021 - and after the successful application of the play park project - the total value of the assets of the St Monans Fund amounts to almost £700,000. For the same period, the projected annual income from these assets was £36,100. The majority of this income (66%) is derived from rental income.

If the income is not spent in a year, it is rolled over for a period of time and eventually the 'surplus' revenue is capitalised and placed into investments to generate income for future years. In the case of this financial year, there was a relatively large amount of 'surplus revenue' and it was this surplus that was substantially used for our play park project.

ST MONANS TIDAL POOL

The St Monans tidal pool has been given a new lease of life! Volunteers have cleared out all sorts of debris during March and now it is being used by intrepid swimmers enjoying

the revived facility. Very well done to all volunteers who helped clean and clear it up. A hot summer and wetsuits may not be essential!



PLANS FOR MEMORIAL GARDEN

We are hoping to make a memorial garden to remember the greatest tragedy for the East Neuk fishing fleet.

James Paterson, owner and skipper of the *Beautiful Star*, with his wife and children.



Plans are underway for a memorial garden in Cellardyke to remember the lost boats and men who perished in the great storm of November 1875.

We hope to raise money so that we too can have a memorial to this great tragedy here in St Monans and a plan has been proposed to create the St Monans Memorial Garden at the corner of Station Road and East Street. The idea is to have a bench, a carved memorial stone, an anchor and a small garden.



THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH BUILDINGS IN ST MONANS

Normally this is the preserve of “Loaves and Fishes”, however a request was made by the Session Clerk to include the following notices in this newsletter, due to their nature and wide Community interest. Happy to oblige!

There is some speculation at the moment about the future of the Church buildings in St Monans and in particular, the future of the Church Hall so I would like to give everyone an up-to-date statement on the Church properties.

Despite the petitions which have appeared in the shops asking people to “Save the Church Hall”, no decision has been taken on the future of the Hall, or on the future of the Church. Indeed, as things stand, the National Church considers that there is a long term future in the Hall but the future of the Church is much less certain. In 2018, all properties in the St Andrews Presbytery were given a viability rating. The Hall was rated “A”, not liable to be sold in the foreseeable future while the Church was given a “B” rating, likely to be sold in the next 5 – 10 years. Given that the National Church has recently undertaken to sell **half** of **all** the properties it currently owns,

then the likelihood of St Monans retaining 2 buildings is remote.

Recently, the session has agreed to challenge the grading of the Church and work to convince Presbytery and the general Trustees that the Church building has a sustainable future in our Parish. While none of us wants to lose either of our buildings, we also decided that we would prefer to sell the Hall and invest the proceeds in upgrading the Church in ways which would make it more of an inclusive Community Hub.

However, whatever the views of Session and the wider community, decisions on the future of both buildings will be made in Edinburgh, not in St Monans. The old adage of “use it or lose it!” applies here. Your active support – participating in our activities and contributing your time and talents – will strengthen our discussions on the future of these buildings.

If anyone has any questions or comments on any of the above, please don’t hesitate to get in contact with me at:
pedcoal@gmail.com

Pete Peddie
Session Clerk