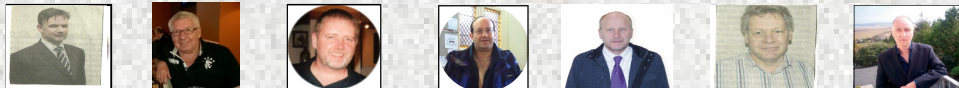




ISSUE 165

JANUARY 2018

# MANOR & CASTLE NEWSLETTER



## Manor & Castle Newsletter

### Special points of interest:

- Chairperson's Comments
- Councillor's Comment's
- Local information

### CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

#### Another Year Over

Welcome to the January meeting and that first Newsletter for 2018.

Like me you are probably looking back and just wondering where another year has gone and for some of us we have had changes in our lives that will remain with us for ever.

For all of us though it is good and we should be grateful for being spared to see another year on earth and I am sure that we are all thankful for the health and strength given to us which some others do not have.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all every good wish for 2018.

### Inside this issue:

- Postcode charges 2
- Santa run photo 3
- Local History 4



Roddy Nicolson

## **.The Postcode Penalty: Delivering Solutions**

The Consumer Futures Unit (CFU) of Citizens Advice Scotland is publishing research which shows that people in northern Scotland pay a 'postcode penalty' of up to 50% in surcharges imposed by delivery companies.

With a debate set for 6th December in the Scottish Parliament, the CFU is publishing a new report, *Postcode Penalty: Delivering Solutions* to shed light on the issue. The research finds that:

Consumers in northern parts of Scotland are asked to pay at least 30% more, on average, for delivery than consumers elsewhere in Great Britain.

This rises to 50% on average in the Scottish islands.

For heavier items, people in the Highlands and Islands can be asked to pay almost four times as much as the rest of Great Britain.

Over 80% of consumers affected do not think the extra price is fair, with 83% saying they'd buy more online if it weren't for the charges.

Publishing the report, Consumer Futures Unit spokesperson Nina Ballantyne said:

"This new data is stark, and shows that people in the northern half of Scotland are hit by delivery surcharges which can be difficult to justify. This is not just a problem for remote and rural areas. The areas affected include Perthshire, Morayshire, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, as well as the Highlands and Islands.

"In addition, many online retailers are not transparent about the charges. So consumers are unable to make informed choices. We believe that any delivery charges should be up-front and justifiable, and would like to see consistent pricing policies across the UK.

"We are committed to finding solutions for consumers and are working with delivery companies and other consumer groups to reduce delivery costs and improve transparency. We hope to identify suitable trial projects in the coming year, in partnership with the Scottish Government, local authorities and communities."

**Bagpacking / raffle to raise funds for the Association**

**3rd February Co-op**

**10-6pm Volunteers needed—contact Gordon (07769 287 044)**

## Councillor's forum

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and all the best for 2018.

Our first set of meetings are at the end of January and start of February. We will be mainly setting the budgets for capital and revenue for the next couple of years. It is always a challenging time for councillors where monies are being reduced from Westminster under the Austerity policy. We have been working hard to try and find efficiencies and how the council can do better but still provide the services that are important to you. Any thoughts on this matter from the community would be greatly appreciated.

The weather has been very changeable over the winter and we have had our fair share of ice and snow. This has brought the Council's gritting policy under scrutiny as to whether it is doing the job. With limited resources and a budget that is stretched to try and look after the roads, the main priority of the council is the main roads. I understand that parts of our ward were very difficult to travel or even walk on and I have asked the council Technical Services Department to give me advice on where we could put grit bins. This would certainly help and volunteers to shovel the great would be excellent—I would be happy to volunteer.

The senior citizens lunch on the 9th January was well attended. This is a great event in the Manor and Castle diary and so valuable to have time to eat and socialise in such comfortable surroundings. The entertainment was so good and its great to have guys like Ian MacIntosh and the Nicolson traditional group to play a few tunes over coffee.

I would also like to apologise for those who did not get the ward letter that I put out just after new year. I hope to put a newsletter out to every household and I ran out of time. I will ensure I have my trainers on and get about the ward a lot faster the next time.

Best wishes

Councillor Gordon Murray

**Santa visits :**

**Bain Square  
Manor Drive  
Assaye Place (pictured)  
MacGregor Park**



## The Goody Shops—part 2 (used by permission from Stornoway Historical Society)

Next door to Johanna Kay was Maggie Grant who was a small spare woman, fanatical about cleanliness and tidiness. She was a close friend of my Grannie so that I was sent to her shop often, but I knew better than to waste her time while I chose what to buy. She was kind and pleasant to us children but we never took any liberties with her.

The last shop, Alan Craig's was the most fascinating of all. It was tiny and crammed full of every conceivable kind of object. While the others were mainly grocery shops, Alan Craig sold everything from a needle to an anchor. I must admit that I never actually saw an anchor in his shop but that's not to say there wasn't one there somewhere.

In those days there was hardly any pre-packaging, butter came in tubs, flour, sugare and grain came in sacks, and it all had to be weighed and put into greaseproof paper or different sizes of brown bags, according to what, or how much, you were buying. As a result. Shopkeepers were incredibly deft in their handling of such goods. Butter was taken out of the tub with a wooden butter pat, one side plain and one side ridged, it was patted into shape and the ridged side was used to make a pattern on the butter before it was wrapped in greaseproof paper and put into a paper bag. Dry goods were put into a thicker brown paper bag and tied with string. Alan Craig himself was a small man, slightly stooping, with a bald head fringed with white hair. He was kind and gentle and very fond of children. Most of my Grannie's shopping was done in Maggie Grant's but occasionally I would be sent to Alan Craig's for a message. I was always pleased when this happened because there was always a bonus in the form of a little poke twisted by Alan from a wee scarp of paper and filled with mixtures. I could never understand why my Grannie didn't get all her shopping from this kind man.

It was quite usual to have to wait to be served but in Alan Craig's that was no hardship as there was plenmtly to look at. Outside the counter, which was at right angles to the door stood the bags of grain, and above them were shelves which held an incredible number of dishes, pans and cooking utensils of all sorts. Every inch of ceiling had something dangling from it—brushes, girdles (for pancake-making), spades, garden tools, zinc and enamel pails and basins of all sizes, shovels, frying pans, all in a welter of confusion. The goodies were laid out in the front window, which they shared with a large grey cat, and in the summer time, several wasps. I suppose we all developed antibodies and survived.

At noon, every day, Alan would come out from behind the counter, take a handful of corn from a sack and scatter it on the pavement outside, and, out of the sky, would materialise a couple of dozen pigeons of all colours, mainly grey with indescent, rainbow feathers along their backs, but some dusty pink with white markings and pink feet, and very rarely, a bird that was pure white. They were quite tame and



**The Goody Shops by  
M.Deirdre Macdonald**

**Part 3 next month**