



TGS PC 'Celebrate Our Past, Energise Our Future'

The Gordon Schools 175th Anniversary - Parade and Launch, 29 March 2014

The Gordon Schools, Huntly celebrates its 175th Anniversary this year and, over the course of 2014, the Gordon Schools Parent Council will be working with the school and a range of community groups and organisations to host a series of event to celebrate the occasion.

To launch the celebrations, TGS Parent Council have received funding from Aberdeenshire Council, through the 'Be Part of the Picture' fund, to enable us to work with the school and the wider community to put on a parade on Saturday 29 March 2014.

The theme of the parade will celebrate community spirit and resilience and, in part, will be based around the conflicts which have taken place since the school was founded in 1839. It is not our intention to focus on the wars themselves, but rather the contributions made by the school and community during these times. We will honour the sacrifices made by the young men of from the community and look at how, working together, those left at home supported each other and their community during these times - a spirit still very much alive in Huntly today.

The Parade will form up in the Cooper Park, Huntly, between 1 and 1:30pm with a view to moving off between 1:45 and 2pm.

The Parade will be led by Huntly and District Pipe Band and followed by a unit from 39 Battalion Kinloss. Following behind will be the local Army and Air Force Cadets, brownies, cubs, pupils and staff from The Gordon Schools, local nursery groups, the Gordon Primary School, and many more. In this we recognise that school and community are intertwined and that each group supports, and is supported by, the other groups in Huntly and the surrounding area.

The Parade will stop for about 10 minutes at the War Memorial to recognise the loss of all who are listed there - as well as those who died in the Boer and Crimean Wars and the conflict in Afghanistan. Indeed, the last name to be added to the War Memorial, Corporal Michael Pike, was a young man who previously attended school in Huntly and who had been a member of the local Army Cadets.

At this point we have permission for Aurora Choir to sing a Ronald Center song - Ronald Center previously taught at The Gordon Schools and the War Memorial commemorates many from the school and the town who lost their lives in the Wars. (For information 140 pupils and 4 staff from The Gordon Schools fought and died in WW1).



The Parade will then move to the Square, go round the Statue of the Duke of Gordon and stop back at the entrance to Castle Street - where we hope that the Lord Lieutenant will take the salute from the uniformed groups and then formally launch the Anniversary celebrations. After this the Parade will disband. (We have applied for a road closure to cover Castle Street and that half of the Square used by the Farmers Market.)

From this point on there will be entertainment and stalls in the Square until about 3:30pm after which you are invited to join us in the Stewarts Hall for some dancing and singing to music from the 40's and 50's. Refreshments will be available in the hall at this time.

If you would like any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me, my details are shown below.

Yours sincerely

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