

Alyth Voice

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54th Edition, November 2001
Minimum Circulation 1200

PROPOSED PITCH DEVELOPMENT AT ALYTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inside this months copy of the Alyth Voice we once again insert the questionnaire for a proposed sports development at Alyth Primary School. It appears many of you missed its inclusion last time and following discussions it was decided to reduce the size of it and the number of questions so that the task of completing it was not too daunting. On the back it was agreed that an artists impression of an all weather, multi sports area be placed to give you an idea of the kind of development currently being looked at.

“A new facility would encourage pathways for the development of specific sports from participation through to excellence, using specialist coaching groups and school - club links.”

Dawn Middleton - Sports Development Officer.

The investigation into public support for this development closes at the end of November and results will be re-presented back to the community by Christmas. If there is not a questionnaire in your copy of the Voice and you would like to give support to the development of such a facility, please contact Lesley Morris, Community Learning worker at the Glenrich and Isla New Community Schools, based at Alyth Primary School, telephone number: 01828 633761. If you would like to join the Steering Group currently meeting to support the investigation the next meeting is on Thursday 29 November at 7.00pm in the new Community Wing St Andrews Street, Alyth.

If you would like to know more about other events and opportunities currently being offered through the New Community School or the work Lesley is currently involved in please telephone or drop in for a look around and a chat.

Could all completed forms please be brought back to the Community School or Alyth Primary School as soon as possible.

VICTORIAN DAY

On Saturday the 24th November 2001 Alyth will once more step back in time, into the year of Victoria of 1900 when most of the business owners and staff will be attired in Victorian dress, giving courteous and old-fashioned assistance to all. But unfortunately there are no promises of prices from over one hundred years ago.

Alyth & District Business Association sponsor this competition. It has taken place over the previous four years and has brought a great deal of fun and jollity to all that have taken part and also to the locals and visitor who arrived in Alyth for our Victorian Day.

It is hoped that all businesses and business personnel will be taking part with many locals joining in.

The Alyth citizen of the Year 2001 and the Young Citizen of the Year 2001 will be judging the Victorian Dress during the day, and the winner(s) will be presented with the Victorian Dress Shield in the late afternoon.

There are also framed certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

At 7.00pm there will be a Victorian Period Dress Competition for all adults and children. The judges will once more be The Alyth Citizen of The Year and Young

Citizen of the year. There will be a prize in the adult and child category.

To all the people in Alyth, their friends, visitors and travellers from afar, come out and see all the fun on this great day. Chairman: Michael Kay for ADDBA

Chairman: Michael Kay for ADDBA

Concerns Arising on School Road

Believe me when I say an accident is waiting to happen. Do vehicle drivers ever think how dangerous their manouvers are in the top end of St Andrews Street, cars parked on both sides and not only that, they are trying to reverse down or do three point turns, coming straight over the pavement whilst the children are walking to and from school. This I beleive is not needed. I thought the top priority was getting the children to school safely. Every child deserves this priority, not only the ones that travel each day.

Come on drivers think. You wouldn't like it if anything happened to your own children.

No notice was taken of the School wsletter, so please take note of this one.

**PLEASE KEEP THE
CHILDREN IN OUR
COMMUNITY SAFE.**



Ne

EDITORIAL

Know the advert on the telly where the lady gets so frustrated with her computer that she throws it out of the window? Been there!!

This is the spot for my monthly moan, it has just come to me how to rectify it though - I shouldn't leave the editorial till last - that way I won't have been playing about on the computer for days trying to get it all to work out.

Have a read of the community notes - there is a lot of things that I know are of annoyance to the community included in this months notes. People are standing up and speaking out about things that matter. A lady said to me after The Wool Shop's window had been broken, "you do the Alyth Voice now don't you, why don't they get CCTV down the main street" Very good point. For this to be accomplished though a lot of planning and consideration is involved. I read in a local newspaper about a town up north which was trying to raise funds for CCTV in a park that was continually being vandalised - £15,000 was the amount they were aiming for, I have absolutely no idea what the costs and facts are for such a proposal here, but if anyone out there is looking for a challenge and something to get their teeth stuck into for the good of the Alyth residents I'm quite sure they would be Citizen of the Year next time around. Can revenue be brought in from CCTV? Fines for people who let their dogs foul on the pavement would be a great earner for one, walking down Airlie Street this week has been disgusting.

People standing up together can get things done, but sorry count me out, (unless its something to be included in the Voice) I've got enough on my plate at the moment, but hopefully others will take on the cause!

From: Bronwyn Keighley-Gerardy
To: Jim O'Brien
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2001 2:55am
Subject: G'dday from down under

Hi Jim

We have just seen the September issue of the Alyth Voice. In the picture of the primary school pupils, there was one of Christie Fraser. I think this is the great grandson of Billy Fraser, Jock's brother who died some years ago. Just wanted to say thanks for putting the photo on-line and to say "Hi" to Christie Fraser from his rellies in Australia.

Bronwyn and Jock Fraser
PS still haven't heard from Gladys.

ALYTH VOICE EDITORIAL BOARD

The Editorial Board members and their contact 'phone numbers are as follows:

Billy Gordon via.....Post Office

Jessie McLean.....632684

Jim O'Brien.....632484

Paul Prettyman.....633725

Callum Strachan...633140

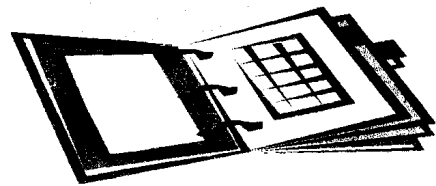
Lesley Glen.....633346

Please ensure that articles for publication are submitted by the 21st day of each month.

Note: The views expressed in the Alyth Voice are not necessarily those of the Editors, nor can they accept responsibility for the accuracy/spelling of any article

Diary

- 16th Nov Good As New Sale, Town Hall, 7.00pm (Fri)
17th Nov Jumble Sale, Town Hall, 2.00pm (Sat)
24th Nov Coffee Morning For Christmas Lights, Airlie Street Hall, 10.00am (Sat)
26th Nov Grant Funding Surgery/Workhop Blairgowrie 12-2pm or 6-8pm
30th Nov Hooley In The Hall (Fri) Town Hall 7.30 - 1.00am
Evening Official Switch on of Christmas lights
9th Dec Christmas Concert, Alyth Parish Church 7.00pm (Sun)
12th Dec Bingo Tea Town Hall, 7.00pm



With Thanks

"Thank you to the generous people of Alyth who came and supported the Coffee morning on 13th October. We made £545!"

St Ninians Episcopal Church.

THANK YOU JIM O'BRIEN

This man devoted a lot of time, energy and commitment to the Alyth Voice for over 40 editions, and is still providing his publishing knowledge and continuing to update the WEB letting Alyth's past residents keep in touch with what's going on in the town.



Anyone wishing to put a Christmas message in the Voice this year can do so by handing in their greeting to the Post office, please try to get them in before the 21st of November

TIME TO VOTE FOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Forms for nominations are available at the Post Office.

Please return to Post Office by
19th November

LOCAL CADETS ATTEND WINDEMERE ADVENTURE CAMP

Flight Sergeant Gavin Turnbull and Cadet Mary van den Berg who reside in Alyth and are enrolled cadets in 2519 (Strathmore) Squadron had a fantastic week, from the 6th-13th October, at Windemere Adventure Camp.

They were there with 28 other cadets and 6 staff from Dundee & Central Scotland Wing. Flying Officer Jones was the Camp Commanding Officer. The cadets cooked their own food under the watchful eye of the Adult Warrant Officer.

During the week they undertook orienteering exercises, in which they had to plan routes giving map references, distances, bearings etc. and then undertake the planned exercise, such as walking up The Old Man of Coniston and climbing Hellvelyn. Cadets also took part in indoor rock climbing, abseiling down an indoor man-made rock face, pony-trekking in the hills, kayaking on Lake Coniston and mountain biking over a 13 mile course.

A Sergeant from the Mountain Rescue supervised indoor survival and team games on some evenings.

It was a hard and challenging week for both cadets despite the torrential rain, which altered the planned programme on many occasions, but they would love to do it again.

If the above interests you and you are between the ages of 13 & 18 years old, come along to 2519 (Strathmore) Sqd, Union Street, Blairgowrie between 7.00pm and 9.00pm any Monday or Wednesday and speak to the Staff and Cadets.

This has been sent for inclusion in the Voice to let the young people know that there is a lot going on in the wide world if they are interested in finding out about it. The more interests that the kids have the less likely boredom will set in, which in turn creates many of the social problems that we are faced with in society today. Encourage your children, keep them active for a healthy mind and body.

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ALYTH, MEIGLE AND DISTRICT NURSING AND SAMARITAN ASSOCIATION

Known locally as "The Samaritans", was established many years ago "to provide towards Nursing Services for patients resident in the area".

These days it still offers a valuable service to our local community, arranging transport for Hospital appointments at, and admissions to, Ninewells, Perth Royal Infirmary and Blairgowrie cottage hospital, for those who do not have their own transport.

The current charges are £7 per return trip to Dundee or Perth and £3.50 to Blairgowrie (Patients entitled to help with hospital transport costs can claim this back)

If you would like to take advantage of this service, forms can be filled in at Davidsons Chemist, 9 Airlie Street for journeys more than 5 days away, or for trips at shorter notice by contacting Mrs Colley, Tel 632183.

Equally if you feel you could help as a driver please contact us. Drivers give of their time voluntarily and are reimbursed a set mileage rate.

Perhaps you could help in other ways - donations are always gratefully received, as is your support for our Coffee Mornings.

In particular those who benefit from the service are encouraged to consider the possibility of leaving a small legacy to the Association, so that the good work

HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE ALYTH

The newly formed Alyth Environmental Group is wanting your views.

We would like you to look at parts of the village and the surrounding countryside you use, and tell us of any problem areas, eye sores, poor paths or areas generally needing improvement.

This information will allow us to prioritise projects for the group to undertake. The projects may involve applying for funding, voluntary work and discussion with the Council and other landowners.

In the next issue of the Voice there will be a questionnaire which we would appreciate you filling out and returning. Questionnaires will also be given to clubs, organisations and employers.

This is your chance to get your views heard.

If you wish to get involved, or you do not receive a questionnaire, please phone Clive or Alison on 632907.

The next meeting of the group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th November 2001, in the Thistle Lounge, Airlie Street.

Strathmore & The Glens Rural Partnership Funding Surgery/Workshop, 26th Nov 2001

A reminder to all groups and individuals of this facility being brought to Blairgowrie for help with accessing funding for community projects.

Tel: Sue Cole 01828 640763 for further information and to make an appointment.

A Date For Your Diary

Alyth Choral Union's Christmas Concert is on Sunday 9th December 2001 at 7.00pm in Alyth Parish Church. Admission is by programme available at the door. The suggested donation is £3 for adults and £1.50 for concessions.

The programme will consist of carols from different countries from the choir with readings from choir members and carols for audience participation. Baritone Ian Manson will again be the soloist and there will be musical items from Perthshire Brass.

We look forward to seeing all our friends - Tea, mince pies etc. will be available after the Concert.

The Choral Union's Spring Concert is on Sunday, 24th March 2002 when works by Faure, Monteverdi and Malcom Williamson will be performed.



**Coffee Morning
for Christmas Lights
Saturday 24th November
Airlie St Hall
10.00am**



North Tayside Conservative & Unionist Assoc.

**Christmas Coffee Morning
Saturday December 1st**

**Airlie Street Hall
10-12 noon**

70p adult 30p child

Cake & Candy.....Bottle

Stall

Christmas Gift Stall.....Raffle

Christmas Hamper Raffle.....

All Welcome

Local Alyth Bands are having a

"Hooley in the Hall"

November 30th

7.30pm-1.00am

in the Town Hall

(to raise funds for musical community events)

AMOS MOSES

SHAM SHADOWS

THIN END

THE McCANN'S

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R&S

Tickets £5.00 available from Airlie St Bar, Lunan's, The Blackbird Inn & The Post Office

"Clear Out for Christmas"

We Will Have It

Community Jumble Sale

Collections - Thursday 15th Nov-

Good As New - Friday 16th Nov- 7pm

Jumble - Saturday 17th Nov - 2pm

If anyone has jumble to be uplifted on Thursday 17th please leave your name and address at the Post Office. we would be very grateful to anyone who could bring their jumble to the town hall on the Thursday night between 6.30-9.00pm.

All contributions most welcome.

All Proceeds to Local Projects

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17

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Public Notices

Alyth Community Council Notes 23.10.01

The meeting began on an upbeat note with the presentation of certificates to previous Community Councillors, in appreciation of their efforts and achievements on behalf of Alyth and District residents, during their time in office. Four people were present to receive their certificates from current Chairman Calum Strachan. They were Billy Gordon, Sheila Fisher, Dave Hart and Dennis Molloy. Two others were unable to attend and will be presented at a later date. The recipients were especially pleased to see the Alyth Town Crest on their certificates - something that they had successfully won back for the town.

Meeting proper convened with matters arising. Among them the report from the residents meeting at Burnside Court, on the 27th September 01, by Jessie McLean, who attended on behalf of the Community Council. She was able to say that it was successful in resolving some of the difficulties caused by local youngsters using the Court as a playground and late night pub leavers taking a short cut through it. Servite, Burnside Court landlord, have agreed to erect signs to advise that the site paths are for residents' use. Security lights will also be installed, as the site is poorly lit. Although not keen about Neighbourhood Watch, the residents did agree to meet with the local coordinator, in the near future.

The Police report was passed on by Constable Woods, of Blairgowrie station. He advised that there had been 34 reported calls in the past month, of which several were taking and driving away of vehicles, in Alyth and elsewhere in the area; 4 thefts locally; several annoyance calls re youths gathering on the Square - they were spoken to by the Police; 1 serious vandalism fire, (the Library), for which two persons were arrested - the Procurator Fiscal saw fit to bail these two persons. 1 boy racer checked; bald tyre checks done. Const. Woods also advised that an action plan by Blairgowrie Police, targeting such crimes and vandalism in the area, lasting over several weeks, is shortly to commence. He further advised that police officers would soon be reverting to the old shift pattern i.e seven days on and two off. This would allow four crews at Blairgowrie, plus three spare constables, who would be able to specialise on just such incidences. This report led to the Community Councillors expressing their extreme concerns at the rise in vandalism in and around Alyth. Offences such as wanton destruction of public property, (the towns toilets are a prime example,) window smashing and the breaking up of the Square bus shelter, seem to have become every day

occurrences. Other concerns are those of car tax dodgers and indiscriminate car parking. Councillors demanded that the police be seen to be dealing with offences in Alyth in a much more public and open manner, set an example to offenders

Councillor Miller included in his report, his hopes of a temporary set up, at the Community School, for the Library. Alyth Post Office staff were praised for taking on the task of rent collection, in spite of initial difficulties.

Mr David Chalmers, from the audience, gave a report, in his capacity as Chairman of the recently reformed Alyth Tenants Association. On the subject of the bus shelter, he was able to advise that Adshel would provide a replacement, free of charge, only taking advantage of the advertising. Mr Chalmers went on to report on dog fouling on the increase; lack of lights on youngsters cycles; Isla Road paths re: condition and subsequent flooding, during heavy rain, saying that these paths have lain unfinished since 1975; the police, according to the Tenants Assn are losing the respect of the public, citing long term car tax evaders and obstructive parking. Const Woods advised, at this point, that all the police can do is place fixed penalty notices on offending cars and advise the DVLA. They cannot take cars away.

Date of next meeting 27.11.01 at 7.30. Members of the public welcome.

ALYTH & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Notice of Office Bearers and Committee Members after the Committee meeting on Thursday 18th October 2001

Office Bearers

Chairperson Mr Michael Kay Tel Alyth 632252/632690

E-Mail mike@atcalyth.freemove.co.uk

Vice-Chairperson Mrs Flo McNeil Tel 632968

Secretary Mrs Irene Rintoul Tel 633114

Treasurer Mrs Nancy Kay Tel 632690

Committee Mr P Barron, Mr S Eno, Mrs K Donaldson, Mrs J McGill and Mr J Hunter-Franks.

A reminder to businesses and their staff that once more ADBA is sponsoring Victorian Day which this year will take place on Saturday 24th November. It is hoped that all business personnel will take part and add to the fantastic costumes that have been seen in previous years. Also the Christmas Window Competition will run again this year and it is hoped that all the business's in the town will have their windows on display for 24th November as an extra for the Victorian Day efforts and as part of the switching on of the Christmas Lights by the Alyth Christmas Lights Commit-

Ian Miller Local Councillor. SURGERY AT ALYTH TOWN HALL

(Old Council Chambers) on 1st Monday Of Each Month At 7.00PM

OR CONTACT BY TEL: SNP OFF: 01250 876576 HOME 01250 873304

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NOVEMBER 2001 ARTICLE FOR 'ALYTH VOICE'
BY PAUL RAMSAY -

'There's an otter spraint!' said Roy, and of course it was. Three of us were walking in the West Wards on our way to look at the new dams in the burn, and the ponds that John Lister-Kaye dug last month with the excavators we had hired. We had been discussing the duck and pheasant feathers, seen lying on the ground, some of which had been shorn by sharp teeth. Nearby lay the tell-tale droppings of a fox and it was after we saw them that Roy pointed out the otter spraint. It was dark, about eight centimetres long, and rather thin (about a centimetre thick). 'Have a smell of it,' said Allan. I got down on my knees and sniffed. 'Musky, oily and fishy', he continued, and that was true too. It was not unpleasant. The dropping was in a characteristic place for an otter because, like other animals, they mark their territory. This was a suitable place because it was a little stone bridge that crossed the burn, an observation post for an otter. Several other spraints nearby were paler. Grey and, washed by the rain, it was easy to make out little bits of bone, probably fish bone, in them.



The meadow is probably an outpost of this otter's territory. Territories may amount, as a rule, to up to ten miles of river and burn front, but may be much less, depending on the abundance of the habitat. I should like to think that the Bamff otter, living in an abundant habitat that includes the old pond with its perch, eels and other delights, not to speak of the Alyth Den and Burn, can get by with less than the ten mile stretch of river bank I mentioned. On bountiful sea coasts in the West otters need only about a mile of shore from which to gain a living. They have a fairly catholic taste in food that includes salmon, trout and several other species of fish as well as ducks and other waterfowl, but eels are probably their standby round here.



In the past, and perhaps sometimes still, fishermen have not been pleased to share their sport with otters and have persecuted them. The same ambivalent or hostile attitudes of field sportsmen to predators in general continue and are often mistaken. The truth is that the presence, even abundance, of predators indicates a healthy environment. The presence of otters indicates that the water is of good quality. Loss of predators is a very important sign that something has gone wrong, and the recent history of the otter throughout much of its range in the British Isles and Europe shows this. Too many predators (say foxes and crows?) suggests that something is wrong (but what? And what does one mean by too many?)

Twenty years ago I remember being told that an otter had been caught some time before in a trap near the Alyth Burn, but that none had been seen since. At that time they were in sharp decline in this country, as they were through much of the rest of Europe. Meanwhile the related North

American otter (*Lutra canadensis*) was undergoing a similar decline. The prevalence of the organochlorine insecticides in sheep dips, seed dressings and other agricultural applications from the 1950s had resulted in the accumulation of these pesticides in the body fats of carnivores with serious consequences for their health and breeding success. Older readers will remember those attractive 'Shell in the countryside' advertisements at that time, recommending dieldrin, an important product in this family of chemicals.

Other chemicals such as the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) also turned out to damage wildlife and to spread far and wide through the environment. They were used in paints, plasticisers, printing inks, electrical transformers and for numerous other industrial purposes. Already in the 1960s scientists were aware that substances other than the organochlorine pesticides were showing up in their chromatograms, but didn't know what until a Dr.S.Jensen from Sweden published a paper, showing what they were. It has been shown since that PCBs cause liver damage, affect calcium metabolism, and interfere with reproduction.

Corpses of otters in Europe and North America were found to contain quantities of both the organochlorine pesticides and PCBs in their fatty tissues.

For a while otters seemed to be on the road to extinction in Great Britain, except in the Western Isles and in 1988 they became extinct in the Netherlands. Fortunately, however, bans on the use of the chlorinated hydrocarbons have slowly and gradually resulted in a reduction of the presence of these chemicals in the environment, both by land and sea. As their presence has diminished some of the species they affected, in particular the birds of prey and otters, have begun to recover.



The return of the otter is a conservation success in more ways than one because, as they have returned to areas they once inhabited, the invading mink have retreated. No doubt they compete to some extent for the same food and the larger otter will not stand for an interloper in its space.

Thinking about it I realise that I must have seen otter spraints here before, but not knowing what they were attributed them to possibly a pine marten, or perhaps a fox with indigestion. I have been aware for some years that otters must be about because I saw a dead one at the pond here in 1993. Learning from a couple of authorities on the subject that I really was looking at evidence for the living presence of otters was one of the great excitements

-USE YOU LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS TIME-

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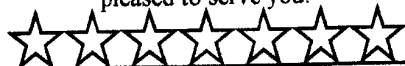
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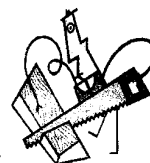
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