

Alyth Voice

AVID, Pitnacree St, Alyth PH11 8DY

Tel: 01828 632 339

E-Mail: alyth@lineone.net

Website: www.jimob.clara.net/www.alythvoice.com

56th Edition, January/February 2002

Minimum Circulation 1200

Happy New Year to all our readers

Direct Descendant of James Sandy

From: "Fred & Lois Wessel "wessel@wesselusa.com"" <fwessel@wi.rr.com>
To: <jimob@clara.net>
Subject: James Sandy of Alyth
Date: 17 September 2001 22:21

Jim,

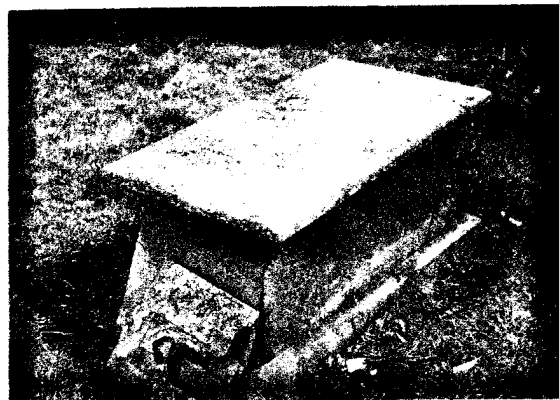
My great, great, great, grandfather was James Sandy, "The Genius of Alyth." I have collected quite a bit of information about him and his descendants. If you are interested in putting any of my information on your site, I will be more than glad to share what I have. As far as I can tell, all of his descendants emigrated to America, either Canada or the US. He had two brothers whose names I know, William and Gilbert. Both came this way. My family was the last to leave. My great, great grandfather, James Sandy, left Alyth for Dundee sometime before 1840.

My great grandfather, Thomas Sime Sandy was a carpet weaver at Grimmins Mill in Dundee and in 1907 brought his family to Worcester, Massachusetts. My grandfather, Thomas Sime, Jr. went from there to Freehold, New Jersey, because there was a carpet mill there. He was also a weaver and worked in that mill until he retired, circa 1962. I would love to help you and will be looking forward to hearing from you.

Lois Wessel
1534 Sylmar Road
Cedarburg, Wisconsin
53012

Jim O'Brien received these two emails in the autumn from Mrs. Wessel, a descendant of James Sandy. All this is a part of the correspondence about this distinguished citizen of Alyth that has been building up over the last a couple of years.

In the same folder as the email printouts is a report on the state of James Sandy's tomb in the Old High Kirk-yard. This describes the condition of the tomb. A backup letter from Dr Richard Fawcett, the Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments, to Bill Davidson in his capacity as honorary secretary of the Literary Society states that the cost of repair of the Tomb would be around £7,000. In a recent letter to the Community Council Mr Davidson proposes that the people of Alyth should take on the restoration of James Sandy's tomb. PR



James Sandy Tomb - Old Arches Graveyard

From: "Fred & Lois Wessel "wessel@wesselusa.com"" <fwessel@wi.rr.com>
To: "Jim O'Brien" <jimob@clara.net>
Subject: Re: James Sandy of Alyth
Date: 05 October 2001 17:32

Jim,

If you would tell me just what you would like me to do, I will be glad to get it together. I can put together a Family Group Report for a start and send that. I also have a copy of his Obit from the Edinburgh paper and some excerpts from books that mention him. I do not have any pictures of the area.

We were in Scotland in 1985 and on our way to Alyth when the car broke down and we had to abandon the opportunity. So the pictures never even got taken. I am slow at this point in getting things done because I am working on another project, but is it possible to send bits at a time or would you rather have it all at once? Looking forward to hearing from you.

Lois

Sponsored Swim

Swimming the "English Channel" at Blairgowrie Leisure Centre, before 31/12/02 for Alyth Parish Church Building Fund.



We Marjory Macpherson and Ruby Carmichael are seeking sponsors for our swim of 1000 lengths each = 12 ½ miles each.

Sponsorship forms are in the Post Office & shops in the town, or Telephone: 01828 632939

EDITORIAL 'ALYTH VOICE' FEBRUARY 2002

A new year and a new editorial team.

We say good bye to Lesley, thank her for keeping the show on the road at the 'Voice', and wish her good luck in the South.

Your new editor is Paul Ramsay, promoted from the inside back page as nature columnist, with an able back-up team to make the job less alarming than it seemed on the steps of the Kirk after the Carol Service in December.

Above all, we at the AVID office should like to remind our readers that this is your newsletter and we look forward to contributions and letters.

Finally, thanks to all our advertisers for their support.

Alyth Scout Reunion Camp



Following several requests from ex-members of the troop, it has been decided to try and hold a week-end camp on 17th-19th May 2002 probably in Glenisla area.

Anyone interested in coming to this event should get an application form from Ron Kirkpatrick, Hoyness, Chapel Street Alyth Perthshire. PH11 8DT. Tel: 01828 633962. The closing date is appropriately the 1st April, so if you haven't thrown out that old sleeping bag and your still game, lets hear from you.

GLENISLA GOLF CENTRE

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 22nd FEBRUARY

7.30 PM

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Marjory Macpherson		Advertising
Barbara Prettyman	633725	News
Jim O'Brien	632484	IBM Voice material/website
Will Burns Brodie	632684	Scanning/ Printing
Freida Murray	632545	Layout/Typing

Please ensure that articles for publication are submitted by 21st day of each month
Note: The views expressed in the Alyth Voice are not necessary those of the Editors, nor can they accept responsibility for accuracy/spelling of any article.

ALYTH SCOUT GROUP (BEAVERS, CUBS & SCOUTS)

CHEESE & WINE EVENING

SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

In

**SCOUT HUT
CAIRNLEITH STREET**

7.30PM TILL LATE

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Mother and Toddler Group

Come join in the fun at the Mother and Toddler Group every Monday Tuesday and Thursday 10-11.30 am at the Ogilvie Rooms.

Parents or Grandparents, babies and toddlers all welcome. A great way to meet new friends in the area while the 'wee ones' play.

Tea and coffee available for adults, juice and a snack offered to the children. We also have various events and trips throughout the year to entertain not only young ones but the adults too.

For further information contact :
Kathleen on Tel: 633266

Anyone for Tennis

SOFT—or SHORT—TENNIS could come to Alyth! If enough people are interested; probably as a day time activity. With equipment provided. No age limits but should appeal to folk who don't have to work. Just like Tennis but you hit a very soft ball and use slightly different rackets.

It's great fun.

The organiser of the children's group thinks it would be possible for an adult group to use their equipment, so all that is needed is an indication of interest.

Please give your name/address to Steff (633316) or Dick (633488) or hand it in at the VOICE office.
SOON.

Dick Poor





The "Hit Squad"

Badminton For All Club

Badminton restarted on Tuesday 8th January in the Airlie Street halls.
 The club meets every Tuesday evening from 7.30 - 10 pm.
 New members would be most welcome.
 For information telephone :01828 633763 or turn up any evening.

A Date For Your Diary

Looking Ahead To Spring



Alyth Choral Union's Spring Concert will take place on Sunday 24th March (Palm Sunday), at 7pm. In Alyth Parish Church.

The programme will include:
 Malcolm Williamson's **PROCESSION OF PALMS**
 Monteverdi's **BEAUTUS VIR**
 Faure's **REQUIEM** and **CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE**

There will also be orchestral items and clarinet and vocals solos.
 The soloists will be Margaret Wells (Soprano) and Ian Manson (Baritone).

Admission is by programme -obtainable from choir members or at the church on 24th March.
 The suggested donation is £5 with £2 for concessions.

For further information about Alyth Choral Union please contact the Secretary,
 Dorothy Lindsay -
 Tel: 01828 632 390

ALYTH IN BLOOM CLEAR UP

Can I say thank you to everyone who helped us give a much needed "Clear-up" to the ground adjacent to the old salerooms, opposite the square in Alyth.

We of A.I.B. had considered it for some time, but would never have managed by ourselves. We then had an offer of help from Flying Officer Kay, assisted by Cadets Christopher Gordon, Brian Duncan and Corporal Karl Dawson, all of 2519 (Strathmore) Squadron. So with their help we had quite a worthy "Hit Squad" to tackle the job. It was a difficult and strenuous task, and none of us are expert gardeners, but we did our best.

Many thanks also to Tayside Contracts who provided garden tools and gloves for the Cadets who did a sterling job and were a credit to 2519 (Strathmore) Squadron. Their parents also, I am sure, will be proud of them.

Thanks also to Cathy Ford who is always willing to help us, and Fraser McNeil, who uplifted and disposed of cuttings, branches, etc. Not forgetting Flo McNeil who treated all of us to chocolate bars!!
 Also Gordon Coutts who took before, during, and after photos.

WELL DONE EVERYONE

Marguerite McKenzie
 Chairperson A.I.B.

BUSINESS NOTICE

Alyth Joiner Retires

As of 27th January 2002, **Andy White** Joiner / Contractor Bamff Road Alyth, retired from business.

Arnold White- His son who has worked with his father over the past 14 years, will continue as Joiner/Contractor, setting up in business in his own right from 27th January 2002 at the same premises.

(see business ads for details)

The Voice would like to wish Andy all the best in his retirement.

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Public Notices

Christmas Fayre

Alyth Primary School Parent Staff Association would like to thank everyone who either helped out, gave donations or came along on the evening of the Christmas Fayre.

A total sum of £930 was raised.

The Conservative Christmas Coffee Morning held on December 1st at Airlie Street Hall was a resounding success, with a record attendance. The sum of £630.00 was raised and the committee would like to extend their thanks to all those who donated goods and attended the event.

Mr. Stanley Sim won the Christmas Hamper, and kindly donated the Hamper Basket back to the Conservative Party for use at the next Christmas Coffee Morning. The small amount of unsold food from the cake and candy stall was donated to a residential home for people with learning difficulties in Blairgowrie.

Our very best wishes to all your readers for 2002.

Joyce & Alison would like to thank everyone in connection with the lovely gifts we received at the playgroup when we retired at Christmas.

The gifts we have been given will be much treasured and hold many a good memory of our days at playgroup.

We would also like to thank past and present members of the playgroup from the last 6 ½ years for their help and support.

We wish Siobhan and Catriona all the best.

Alyth Environmental Group

Would like to thank all those who took the time to fill in their questionnaire. We will collate the results for the next Alyth Voice and decide what projects to undertake first.

Thanks go to Tim Yair from Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust for financing the printing and to Jessie McLean's team of helpers for inserting them in the "Voice".

The first AGM of the Alyth Environmental Group was held on 17th January 2002, in which Clive Bowman was voted Chairperson, Bob Brown was voted Treasurer and Alison Bowman was voted Secretary. The next meeting will be held in the Thistle Lounge Airlie Street, at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st February 2002.

THANK YOU

Mrs A McLaren
Kirkgate
High St
Alyth
17/12/01

Alyth Gala Day Committee thank all who attended their recent Bingo Tea the sum of £357.86 was raised for funds.

Thanks also for the various donations and to the ladies and Santa who assisted on the night.

THANK YOU
Anne McLaren
Secretary

We would like to thank everyone who bought cards from staff at the Coffee Morning on November 24th, the amount raised was £166.50 in aid of "The Ayr Hospice". Thanks too for many cards, flowers and donations handed into house on our sad bereavement.

The grand total being £1155 for the Hospice.

Our Sincere Thanks

Fred and Edna Kydd

Thank you

Can I just thank all the children of Alyth Primary and their parents for the many many gifts and cards which I received at the Xmas break, it's nice to know that you really are appreciated.

May the year 2002 be a great one for you all

Thanks

Morna Carle

FOUND

**Ladies Umbrella found in
Meigle Road Alyth**

**If you think it could be yours
Telephone: 632273 to retrieve.**

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

ALYTH BOWLING & TENNIS CLUB

Forthcoming Events:-

**FRIDAY 16TH MARCH
8PM TILL LATE
ST. PATRICKS
STOVE DANCE.**

The Editor
Alyth Voice
Alyth

Yew Lodge
Meigle Road
Alyth
28th December 2001

Dear Editor,

Once again the scouts delivered the towns Christmas cards and once again I would like to pass on my thanks to all the help our boys received. In particular, I would like to thank the Spar in Airlie Street, Lunan's and the Spar in Commercial Street for looking after the post-boxes for us. We sorted and delivered over 1600 envelopes and raised £134.

Alyth is an remarkable town, many streets have no numbers only house names, many streets do not have running numbers, and some are a mixture of old houses with numbers and new houses with names, also many houses are not marked with numbers or names. About a quarter of all the cards we received this year had incomplete or wrong addresses, some had addresses outside Alyth, and in the end there were about a dozen we were not able to deliver.

On a more serious note, judging from the number of cards we sorted and delivered and the money we collected, about one in six cards had not been paid for. For all the work the boys put in this is very disappointing and I am sure that they will not wish to provide this service in the future.

Yours sincerely
Derek Colley

Alyth Literary Society

6th December 2001

Nether-Turin
Meigle Road
Alyth
PH11 8EX
01828 632001

Dear Sir,

The following is a short article for inclusion in the next issue of the "Alyth Voice" Bill Davidson, Secretary

JAMES YOUNG GEDDES

I recently had a visit from an Italian student from Bologna, who as part of her study of English literature, was undertaking a project on the poetry of James Young Geddes.

She had discovered that he had been a member of the Alyth Literary Society and wanted to look over our records, and was able to glean some information. However, what proved extremely interesting for her was an old minute book in our possession of the Lindsay Street Chapel (Dundee) Literary Society. This solved a mystery for us as we knew of no connection between the two societies.

Geddes was born in Dundee in 1850 and still lived there in 1881 but must have moved to Alyth sometime in the 1880's where he carried on his business as a tailor. He lived for some time at 5 Airlie Street but died in 1913 at 63 Airlie Street. For some of his time in Alyth he served as a baillie.

His wife, Jessie, continued to live in Alyth till her death in 1946 aged 90, at Airlie Place. As far as I know their family consisted of two sons and four daughters. Andrew died in 1894 aged 28, James died in infancy, Agnes died in 1969 aged 76 and Bella died in 1960 aged 74. Margaret Ann married when she was 30 to John Henderson from Falkirk and was a teacher. Although she died in Meigle Cottage Hospital she lived in Falkirk. Bella was the infant mistress at Alyth School and was also involved with the Girl Guildry. I do not know of anyone of the following generation. Much of this information was found on the grave-stone in Alyth Cemetery.

Geddes published his first collection of poems in 1879 under the title "The New Jerusalem" which was followed by "The Spectre Clock of Alyth and other Selections" and "In the Valhalla and other Poems". He also turned his hand to painting and some of his works can be seen in the Town Hall. The Italian student, Veronica Mirandola, is still looking for information to complete her project and if any readers can help I would be pleased to hear from them.

(Name and Address as above)

Made arrangements For That Final Account

Christmas and New Year are past and we all have a day of reckoning but have you ever considered that final account?

Most of us think we are covered by insurance policies for things that might happen but never cover the event that definitely will. For your own peace of mind and to save your family any further distress at a difficult time have you ever thought of paying your funeral in advance? To some this is macabre.

BUT THINK— your family is relieved of any financial worries— you choose the Funeral Director you want— you plan exactly what you want and once you have taken out a Golden Charter Funeral Plan either by paying a single one-off payment or by easy monthly instalments your family or estate will never be asked for a penny more irrespective of inflation, rising cemetery and crematorium costs as well as increased fees charged by doctors, clergy etc.

For one more worry to be taken care of or just to discuss what is involved— Contact - David Scott Ltd. At 7 Toutie Street Alyth Tel: 01828 633433 or 65 High Street Blairgowrie

Tel: 01250876400 where we will do our best to assist you.



The Peregrine & Raven by Paul Ramsay

The glimpse of the pointed wing made me think, 'falcon!' but I only got as far as 'kestrel?' before it disappeared behind some trees. A few moments later, however, the bird returned, landed on the ground, and went back to chewing the carcass it had left when it first saw me. I looked through my binoculars and there it was. In the fading light I could make out the yellow talons, the light front, slate blue back and black moustache.

The peregrine was tugging at something vigorously - no doubt some bird it had just killed. I watched for a while and then, thinking it was time to get on before darkness fell, stood back from the fence post on which I had been resting my binoculars, and set off again up hill. The peregrine flew off and I watched it fly up and away. Curiosity then overcame me and I walked the few hundred yards to the place where it had been tearing up its prey. Making my way from the path down the scree to the place where the falcon had been sitting, I found feathers scattered around, but no corpse. The size of the feathers suggested a meadow pipit, but by the time that I had looked about and seen that feathers were scattered over a fairly wide area it seemed to me that I wasn't going to find a body. No doubt the peregrine had carried it away to eat somewhere else. Peregrines are capable of killing birds much bigger than themselves and have been seen carrying black grouse, but for the most part they eat smaller birds than that.

I headed on up the hill, passing sheep, rabbit and fox tracks, towards the deer fence that encloses the larger of the New Native Pinewood Scheme plantations here. Ahead of me rose Balduff Hill. I climbed up the stile and gazed over the surrounding countryside through my binoculars. I wondered if the fox was about, or if there were any roe in the young wood, but saw nothing, only the emptiness of the grey and snowy landscape. A couple of crows flew by and I turned to cross into the newly enclosed area, where woodland regeneration is hoped for and where some planting is to be undertaken in the next couple of months.

The concentration of rabbit droppings and tracks indicated the presence of an active burrow, even a warren in at least one part of this enclosure. Time is ticking by and this month I hope that some wild-boar will come to graze and scarify a part of this future wood to give the process of forest regeneration a kick start. With any luck they will eat some rabbits, but in the meantime we must continue our efforts to expel rabbits from the new woodland area.

Another day and another walk, this time in mild weather, and brilliant sunshine. More inspection of young woods: I cross into Balharry's wood and come across some well grown juniper, planted in the spring of 1998. What a surprise! What a pleasant surprise, I should say to see this shrub growing so well. My whole frame of mind is altered by the combination of a bright day and the well-grown juniper. Making my way round the back of the hill I look over the landscape to the north and note, as ever, the huge black blocks of conifers on Kilry Hill. Some years ago Jim Duncan told me that there had been a magnificent gullery on Kilry Hill, from which local people had been able to take a rich harvest of eggs in the spring. This is no more.

Further on and descending now, I pass the scree slope of the Hilton, where I watched the peregrine eating its prey, and the deep 'krok krok' of a raven reaches me. I look up and there are two of the birds, flying round, wheeling and banking. I



hear the whoosh of their wings as they wheel and later watch one banking and rolling as they fly away towards the east. Some weeks ago in Skye I drove past a black face ewe's carcass on the road to Portree from Broadford, road kill no doubt. Several ravens were feasting on the sheep and as I drove on North I saw more ravens hurrying to the feast.

Back at home again, after this memory of Skye, I continue on down hill and notice a couple of beech trees, thick with redwings. At first I wonder if they are fieldfares, but looking through my binoculars see their light eye-stripe and pinkish, speckled breasts. They sit very upright and alert, and then rise as one and fly on.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES 22.1.02

At Alyth Community Council's latest meeting, Sergeant McFarlane and Constable Wood, from Blairgowrie station were present to pass on their report on local crime over the past two months. A slight drop in incidences was highlighted, with only fifteen reported since November.

Of these, seven were down to vandalism; five were motor vehicle offences, including one break in and take away and three attempted break-ins; one attempted break-in the bank cash machine; one house breaking offence.

The long awaited launch of the CCTV Mobile was welcomed by all present. PC Wood advised that he and PC Jack were to undergo operational training on the vehicle this week. Sgt McFarlane is of the opinion that the van would be in great demand and suggested that it may be a case of booking in advance of any events where it was felt a police presence would be required. They would therefore appreciate being advised well ahead of any such events.

Recent Discos, held in the town, where disturbances had occurred, were discussed as an example of good use of the CCTV vehicle. Alyth Youth Disco had to be abandoned due to various troubles.

Councillors and police have had complaints from public members about their being unable to obtain answers to calls they had made to Blairgowrie police station at weekends. Inspector Frazer is urgently investigating this problem and assures an early solution.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations; Alyth Citizen Of The Year, Jessica Edward and Alyth In Bloom's Marguerite McKenzie have been nominated to go forward for selection for the Queen's Garden Party. This is one of two being held as part of the celebrations. One Community Councillor is to be nominated to attend an Ecumenical Jubilee Service at St Johns Church, Perth, on Sunday June 2nd 2002.

Plans are in hand for Alyth's own celebrations, to be coordinated by the Crooked Dree and Concealed Hinge Society, at the request of the Community Council. It is hoped that all the towns organisations will do their bit to make the weekend of June 2nd a great celebration. CDCH will call a meeting in the near future, inviting representatives of Alyth's organisations to attend with their ideas, suggestions and support.

Historic Scotland recently undertook a survey of **James Sandy's Tomb** in the Old Arches graveyard. They reported that the damage, due to weathering, is extensive and urgent and will be expensive to restore. Funding for the repairs is to be sought.

Next Meeting of the Community Council is Tuesday 26th February at 7.30 pm Public members welcome.

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