

Alyth Voice

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NATIONAL NO SMOKING DAY 13TH MARCH 2002 - 'MAKE IT A DAY TO REMEMBER'
There are helpline phone numbers, web sites and smoking cessation sessions available to support smokers who want to quit. If you want to stop smoking help is available for you locally for more information contact -Alyth Health Centre 01828 632317



Margaret MacGregor, the first visitor to the temporary library, with assistant librarian Eileen Carnegie, head of libraries Mike Moir (back left) and Iain MacRae.

ALYTH LIBRARY

To Alyth Community,

As you will probably know, Alyth Library has reopened, on a temporary basis, in the Community Wing of the local school, after the fire in October.

I realise that the current hours may not be as convenient, and that the location is not as central as the Airlie Street site. Nevertheless, the new library is there to be used and, on a positive note, it has virtually brand new stock-so now is your opportunity to have a selection of new titles!!!

Ensuring that the library service continues to thrive in Alyth, is a priority as far as I am concerned, and to prove its value as a community asset, and so your use of the service is very important

Can I also reassure you that the library will be returning to Airlie Street, probably during May or June. So, come along to the library and give it a try, and let other former users know of the service.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter, and I hope that you will continue to use and enjoy the library service.

Yours sincerely
Mr. M. Moir

Head of Libraries and Archives

Opening Hours

Mon: 11-12 & 4-6

Tues: 11-12 & 6-8

Thu: 11-12

Fri: 11-12 & 4-8

Sat: 9.30-12.30

EDITORIAL 'ALYTH VOICE' March 2002

Anybody reading last month's Voice may have noticed under the 'thankyous' that the amount raised throughout December 2001 for charities totalled over £3,000 and this was only the ones listed in the Voice - a truly magnificent effort for a small community. Keep up the good work!

Encouraging progress is being made on raising funds for the repairs to the roof of the parish church. The estimated cost of the repairs amounts to £60,000.

It is very good to hear of the imaginative efforts that are being made. A range of events will be taking place from the spring through the summer. Auctions, a coffee morning, a sponsored swim (for details of which see the front page of this number of the 'Voice') a sponsored run and a dance are among the events. It is not too late for anybody, who would like to take part, to become involved. The 'Alyth Voice' wishes everybody concerned all the best for the fund raising events.

Last months 'Voice' was the first to be completed by the new team. Apart from one significant omission, due to difficulties with our email, we seem to have survived unscathed. Please note that for the moment correspondents should send emails to Freida Murray or Paul Ramsay until our problems at AVID are solved (see email addresses below). One thing we have been truly amazed by is the enormous effort put into the newsletter by Jim O'Brien. His mastery of the computer can only be imagined.

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have any comments on any articles in the Voice please send them to us. We welcome your input.

Articles can be placed in the Post Office, or into the AVID office, you can also email to: paulramsay@bamff.demon.co.uk
or freida.murray@ntlworld.com

Donation- Sponsored Swim Update

Swimming the equivalent of 12½ miles each (total 25 miles)
for Alyth Parish Church Building Fund



We are getting there!!!!

Between us we have completed 1000 lengths -the halfway mark. There is still time to support us by a donation. Forms are in the Post Office and some other shops, or telephone:
01828 632939.

Thank you

The Crooked Dreel would like to say a big thank you to the pensioner who donated £30 to the Alyth Voice.

Flying Cadets

On the 27th of January four cadets from 2519 (Strathmore) Sqd, Christopher Gordon (Alyth) Cadet Brian Duncan (Alyth) , Cadet Mark Harper (Blairgowrie) ,and Cadet Craig Tilbury (Blairgowrie) escorted by Flying Officer M. Kay, (Alyth) journeyed to Royal Air Force Leuchars for Air Experience Flying at 12 A.E.F. (12 Air Experience Flight). When they arrived at Royal Air Force Leuchars they met another fourteen cadets from various other squadrons in The Dundee & Central Scotland Wing.

The cadets were all briefed verbally and by video about parachute drill, flight controls, health & safety, and other related matters and then were all kitted up in flying suits, and helmets, parachutes, and gloves.

Each cadet then undertook a flight in a Grob Tutor, which lasted about 25 minutes, during which times he or she each piloted the aircraft themselves. During the flights the pilots did aerobatics such as barrel rolls, stall turns, looping the loop etc. but only if the cadet was in the experienced flyer category.

Cadet Christopher Gordon was the only cadet from 2519 (Strathmore) Sqd in this category.

All cadets thoroughly enjoyed their flights and cannot wait for their next return visit.

If the above interests you and you are between the ages of 13 years old to 18 years old come along any Monday or Wednesday evening between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. to 2519 (Strathmore) Sqd. T.A.V.R.A. Building, Union Street, Blairgowrie and speak to the Commanding Officer, Adjutant or any of the Cadets.

Alyth Voice Editorial Team

Paul Ramsay	632992	Editor
Jessie McLean	632684	Treasurer/Advertising
Margaret Mackenzie		Advertising
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 & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will take place on Thursday the 21st of March 2002

at 7.30 p.m. in The Lesser Town Hall, Alyth

ALL BUSINESS'S WELCOME

Due to the Chairman, Secretary, and three Committee members retiring at the above meeting or who have retired.

Nominations will be required to fill these positions.

Nominations to be lodged with the Chairman Michael Kay (15 Airlie Street Alyth) by 6 p.m. on Thursday the 14th March 2002

Alyth Scottish Country Dancing Class

Please note that the class on 7th will be in the Alyth Town Hall.

The following week March 14th is in Airlie Street Hall and is the last class for the session.

All classes start at 7.30 pm.

Admission £2

More information from Ruby Carmichael on -01828 632939

St Valentines Window Competition

The St. Valentines Window Competition was judged by Mrs. Jessica Edwards Alyth's Citizen of the Year, on Thursday the 14th February and after much deliberation, thought etc she decreed that the winners were:-

1st

Sally Miller, The Singing Kettle, 14 Airlie Street presented with The Shield and a Certificate.

2nd

Bert Colville, Alyth Flower & Pet Supplies, 17 Airlie Street, presented with a Certificate.

3rd

Margaret Darroch, Rendezvous, 59 Airlie Street, presented with a Certificate.

Thanks must be expressed to the judge for her care and diligence in her judging and also to all the entrants who had the best displays this year ever, what a shame that they all cannot be winners. Thanks to all who took part.

Michael Kay Chairman ADBA

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN ALYTH 2002

March 16th	Stovie Night -Alyth Bowling Club
March 16th	Jimmy Shand -Scottish Country Dance
March 18th (from)	Ticket Sales -Oliver Alyth Musical Society
March 21st	AGM -Alyth District Business Assoc.
March 24th	Coral Union Spring Concert
April 6th	Coffee Morning -Alyth-in-Bloom
April 27th	Oliver -Alyth Musical Society
June 1st	Jubilee Coffee Morning-Crooked Dreel
June 9th	Alyth Gala
June 29th	Alyth Live on the Burn
July 20th	Jam in the Den
August 10th	Arts Festival

SUMMARY OF THE NEED FOR PARISH KIRK BUILDING PROJECT

1. **NEED** - Existing problems are
 - a) Existing building built in the 50's with a flat roof which has caused leakage problems for many years
 - b) Need under current legislation to include disabled facilities in ALL public buildings including Churches
 - c) Existing Heating system requires that the whole Church needs to be heated - very inefficient and also very expensive - The rework will provide for much more controlled and effective heating at the rear of the Church premises
 - d) Need to refurbish existing kitchen area (Health & Safety requirement)
 - e) Need in light of the above to have a building which will support the present day needs of the Church by providing warm, convenient accommodation for regular use throughout the year
2. **DESIGN & COST**
 - a) Photos and plans of the rebuild are available for inspection in the Church and they include provision of a sloping roof (increasing the cost considerably), independent central heating for the back of the Church and facilities for the disabled
 - b) Estimated Costs are in the region of £65,000
3. **FUND RAISING**
 - a) A small amount of fund raising has taken place to date (e.g. The Smartie Sweet Collection and several donations. Outside grants have also been applied for. But the main start date for these fund raising activities is the Coffee morning to be held in the Airlie St Hall on Saturday 9th March.
In addition to this there are many events throughout the year to help swell the coffers both individual Sponsored events like the Ministers 10 mile run and the Good Ladies Swim mentioned in last months Voice, together with Auctions, Dances and Concerts. Indeed all year long events, which will provide good entertainment whilst at the same time meeting the Church's target. Watch out for details!
4. **BENEFITS**

Well they do seem to be pretty obvious and at some time most people in Alyth or the kin will benefit.

CHRISTMAS WINDOW COMPETITION

The Christmas Window Competition, which is sponsored by Alyth & District Business Association, was a fantastic display for Christmas 2001 with windows in it would seem every business in Alyth.

The displays were in so many various forms, from nativity scenes, snow bound villages, Santa's doing various things, (such as pulling sledges, climbing up chimneys etc.) Snowmen, Skaters on a frozen lake, Christmas trees of so many kinds, heights and colours and so many other fantastic displays impossible to describe here. I hope some photos were taken of all the windows.

The judges Mrs. Jessica Edwards, Alyth's Citizen of the Year and Alyth Youth Partnership, Alyth's Young Citizen of the Year under the lead of youth leader Mr. Joe Murray had the seemingly impossible task of deciding the winners.

But after much looking, discussion and soul searching they decreed that the winners were:-

1st

Mrs. Margaret Darroch, Rendezvous, 59 Airlie Street Alyth
The Christmas Window Competition Shield

2nd

Mr. Colin Nicol, Butcher, 31 Airlie Street, Alyth

3rd

David Sim, Hardware Centre, Market Square, Alyth

All the above received framed certificates.

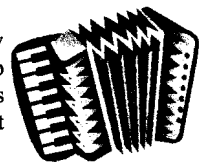
Thanks must be expressed to all businesses for their fantastic windows, which must have been the best in Perthshire if not in Scotland, and brought such festive cheer to Alyth and to all.

Thanks must also be expressed to Jessica & Joe with his helpers for their time and effort spent on judging this event.

SIR JIMMY SHAND SCULPTURE

A project has been initiated to raise funds for a statue in memorial to Sir Jimmy Shand who died on 23rd December 2000. It is hoped to raise sufficient funds to commission a life-sized bronze sculpture to be erected, hopefully, in Auchtermuchty. The commission is likely to be undertaken by David Annand one of Scotland's best sculptors who lives in Fife.

Throughout his playing career, Sir Jimmy Shand made a tremendous contribution to Scottish Country Dancing and his music is loved and appreciated by dancers throughout the world.



A Scottish Country Dance is to be held in Alyth Town Hall on Saturday March 16th 2002 with all proceeds being donated to this fund. The band is the excellent Ian Cruickshanks Band. The dance will start at 7.30 pm and finish at 11 pm.

Tickets will cost £4.00 for dancers and £2.00 for spectators who will be very welcome. This includes supper.

Ian Lees of Radio Tay, will be present during the evening as MC. There will also be a raffle - donations for this and the supper (sandwiches, cakes, biscuits etc.) would be much appreciated.

Please contact 01828 632730 for tickets or any further information.

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Public Notices

Alyth- in- Bloom

Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th April

Airlie St Hall

From 10 am – 11.30 am

Home Baking, Raffles,

“Whisky Trail” etc.

For further information-

Contact-Marguerite McKenzie “Alyth-in-Bloom” Tel: 632749



ALYTH MUSICAL SOCIETY



Tickets for this years production of ‘**OLIVER**’ may be purchased in the Alyth Post Office, Thank you Billy. Dates and times as follows, until the show ends on Saturday 27th April 2002.

HONARY MEMBERS ONLY

10 am –12 noon

and

2 pm –4 pm

Monday March 18th—

Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday

10 am –12 noon and 2 pm –4 pm

Wednesday and Saturday

10 am –12 .30 pm

ALYTH & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Notice of Office Bearers and Committee Members
After the Committee meeting on Friday 15th February 2002

Office-Bearers

Chairperson –Mr. Michael Kay Tel: Alyth 632252/632690
E-mail mike@atcallyth.freemove.co.uk

Vice-Chairperson– Mrs. Flo McNeil Tel: Alyth 632986

Secretary - (Acting until the A.G.M.) Mrs. Karen Donaldson
Tel: Alyth 632479

Treasurer –Mrs. Nancy Kay Tel: Alyth 632690

Committee Mr. P. Barron, Mr. S. Eno, Mrs. J. McGill

ALYTH CHORAL UNION



SPRING CONCERT

ALYTH PARISH
CHURCH

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH

At

7 pm

Admission by programme –available from members
Or
at the door on March 24th

Suggested Donations £5
Concessions £2

CABARET

TOWN HALL

7.30 - 1130pm

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH

MUSIC & CABARET
FEATURING
GEORDIE MCGIBBON'S BAND
PERTSHIRE BRASS

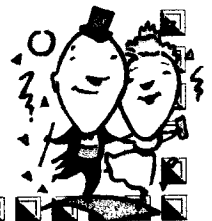
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with Stovies (incl)

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or at the Door

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The Crooked Dreeel are planning a Jubilee Coffee Morning on 1st June.

In the spirit of the Jubilee celebrations we would as you to come along and make this a real fun event. We would like to display any of the following:-
Photos from the Coronation, the Silver Jubilee , Memorabilia from these events,
please contact:- Jessie or Will Tel: 632684

The Voice also need your help with Photos and Stories of the time, for the special Jubilee issue in May. All Photos will be returned.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING THE DAY OF THE CORONATION? WE'D LIKE TO TELL YOUR STORY!!!!

So get into those attics, dust off those family treasures and share them with the rest of Alyth.

Let the youngsters see what they have missed!!!!???

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

P&K Council Tel: 01738 475018 E-Mail: imiller@pkc.gov.uk

THE ONFALL OF ALYTH

by Graeme Cruickshank

For a brief moment in time, in 1651, Alyth became the focus of national attention when it played Host to the Committee of Estates of the Scottish Parliament. This body effectively governed Scotland when Parliament was not in session and its fate at the "onfall of a Alyth" was to snuff out the Scottish nation for almost a decade. The relationship between Scotland and England in the 17th century went through many changes varying from subtle shifts of policy to armed invasions of each other's territory. When King Charles I was executed in London in 1649, the Scots immediately proclaimed his son Charles II, King of Scotland and England as well. A furious English Parliament responded by ordering the invasion of Scotland with Oliver Cromwell as their Commander in Chief. The Scots were humiliated at the Dunbar Drove in 1650, and region after region of southern Scotland fell under English control. In a bold and rather desperate move, the Scots invaded England early in August 1651, Cromwell followed with the bulk of his army, but he left behind a substantial force under the command of Lieutenant General George Monck. The Committee of Estates was intent on raising new levies to chase the remaining invaders out of Scotland, but was continually harried by Monck's troops. They were compelled to quit first Stirling and then Dundee rather hurriedly as the English approached, thereafter selecting the less prominent locations of Kirriemuir and Alyth.

It was while Monck was laying his siege of Dundee that he learnt that the Estates were assembling about 16 miles to the north-west, at the town of Alyth, with the express intention of organising the relief of Dundee. How he gained his intelligence is not recorded, but clearly this opportunity was too good to miss. He therefore dispatched Colonel Matthew Alured with a force of around 800 troopers posthaste for Alyth.

According to the report which Alured sent to Monck he rode there "on a darke rainy night" along a "rough and tedious way" to reach his objective. The Scots were somewhat dispersed, not being confined to Alyth but also in two little unnamed townships, a short distance away. Banking on the element of surprise, Alured's men got beyond the guards without discovery and early in the morning of the 20th August they captured the majority of the Committee of estates.

The Scots at Alyth may have numbered about 4000, five times the size of Alured's force; yet they were caught so totally off guard that they yielded without fight. William Clark, secretary to the English army in Scotland, wrote of an almost dry and bloodless victory", reckoning that not more than half a dozen Scots were killed, while the English did not lose a single man.

The English troopers scooped up a rich booty, but the real reward was the quality of the Scottish captives: 12 Nobles: 17 gentlemen of quality: 9 Ministers: 2 ranking soldiers (all of whose names were recorded) and about 70 other soldiers and servants. The principal prize was Alexander Leslie, 1st Earl of Leven. Though by this time old and infirm, he had gained a proud reputation as a soldier and General, and he was (at least nominally) Commander in Chief of the Scottish Armed forces. Without leadership, the Scottish troops at Alyth simply melted away, and a delighted Alured swiftly conveyed his captives back to Dundee, whence they were shipped off to the Tower of London.

There had been no battle at Alyth nor scarcely even a skirmish. The English simply fell upon the surprised Scots with devastating effect. The clerk of Alyth Kirk session recorded the event as "the onfall of Alyth" perhaps using the word in its alternative sense, a calamity. The session book gives a number of hints as to the ways in which Alyth suffered. There was no preaching the following Sunday because the local minister, Rev John Rattray, was among those captured, and it was to be another 10 months before he returned from imprisonment in London. John Sandman, a local Smith, was paid six shillings to mend the box, which was broken by the English at "the onfall of the town of Alyth". It would seem that Alured's men, in their greed for booty, had even robbed the Church. Janet McHerbie a poor woman, whose

husband had been taken at "the onfall", received financial assistance, as did David Henderson, being wounded by the Englishman at "the onfall" and consequently unfit for work. [Note: This Kirk Session book is not housed in the National Archives of Scotland. If anyone knows of its whereabouts, please notify the Church of Scotland.]

The immediate affect of the "Onfall" was that Monck was free to storm Dundee. Its defenders had given an impudent reply to his summons for their surrender, confident that the Estates were organising the relief, but events at Alyth meant that no relief would be forthcoming. The capture of Dundee was a disaster not just for its inhabitants and for the countryfolk who had taken refuge there, but for many people from Edinburgh, Leith, and the Lothians who had fled there with all their wealth. The plunder was great, the slaughter even greater.

The most notable man not to be captured at Alyth was the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Loudoun. He had been away meeting with important nobles who were not part of the Estates to enlist their aid in recruitment, and was then on his way back. He had reached the East end of Loch Tay, less than a day's journey from Alyth, when news reached him of "the onfall". He was aware immediately of the serious repercussions that would follow, calling it "a sad disaster and bloe". Loudoun made a courageous effort to keep the Committee of Estates alive, and it flickered on at a further five locations which became increasingly remote, until it was finally snuffed out.

Something else of great importance had a very lucky escape. Concerned by English advances the Parliament, in its last act before going into an enforced recess that lasted for almost a decade, instructed William Keith, the Earl Marischal, to take the Scottish regalia to his stronghold of Dunnottar Castle for safe keeping. Having done that, no sooner had he joined the Estates at Alyth than he was captured, with the key to the closet were the items were secured on his person. By great good fortune, he was permitted a visit from his Uncle prior to being shipped off to London. He managed to slip the key to him, thus allowing the Honours of Scotland to be smuggled out of the castle and into concealment beneath the floor of Kinneff Church, were they remained undiscovered until their safe recovery at a Restoration in 1660.

At Alyth, on Thursday the 28th August 1651, the Scottish government was effectively extinguished. Just six days later, at Worcester, Oliver Cromwell caught up with the Scottish army and routed it, effectively ending Scotland's military opposition to England. By 1652, the country had been reduced to no more than a conquered province of England, and the Parliamentary Union of the following year extinguished Scottish independence. "The onfall of Alyth" may be absent from most books which deal with Scottish history, and featured only briefly in those which do give it a mention, but it should be remembered as an event which had a considerable effect upon the fate of the Scottish nation.

Summary of the final lecture in 2001 given to the Alyth literary society by Graeme Cruickshanks

Please send in any comments about the above article and let us know if you would be interested in hearing more, as a talk can be arranged.

ALYTH BOWLING & TENNIS CLUB

Forthcoming Events:-

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

March 2002 by Paul Ramsay

The gales of late January have resulted in the loss of some old landmarks among the park trees here. The tall poplar up whose trunk I watched tree-creepers forage last spring is now a huge corpse and lies blocking the Burnished path. When Ken Barclay comes to thin the Tay Bridge Wood we shall ask him to cut up and remove this relic. Poplars, like the related aspen, can reproduce vegetatively by sending out suckers and the old giant had a couple of its young growing near its foot. For some time it was thought that aspen could only reproduce by vegetative means in this country because botanists and collectors had such difficulty in finding fertile seed. Why wouldn't aspen set fertile seed was the question? Further research has shown, however, that aspen do set viable seed here, but that they are very irregular in doing so.

Winter and death are often seen as synonymous and spring is thought of as a time of rebirth, but even in the depths of winter the signs of spring are to be seen in the overwintering buds of trees. Now, towards the end of February, golden catkins are hanging from the hazels in the Den of Alyth, and the rooks are busy nesting at Pitnacree. As I write, the snowdrops behind my house are being covered by a fresh fall of snow. The forecast for tomorrow suggests that this will all melt and we shall return to a landscape of moisture and wetland.



Crossing the Isla recently on my way to buy some things at East of Scotland Farmers in Coupar Angus (electric sheep netting and a replacement for the controller for an electric fencing unit, if you are wondering) I noticed a group of oystercatchers sitting on the bank. So they are on their way back too.

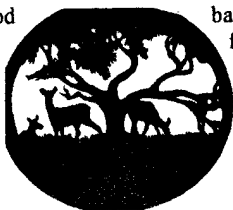
Jackdaws, rooks and crows have been with us all through the winter as usual. They go about their business, picking up the leftovers from the sheep troughs with noisy enthusiasm. The mixed flocks of jackdaws and rooks have intrigued me for a long time. Jackdaws seem to roost in old buildings like our farm steading, whereas rooks nest colonially in high trees. I imagine those rooks from Alyth having a daily routine that involves flying up to Bamff, where they are joined by the jackdaws from their roost in our farm buildings (not to speak of the odd bird that may have found somewhere to nest in a chimney – having managed to prise off the wire netting so laboriously placed there by Gordon Inkster and Oscar). Through the day rooks fly back and forth over Balduff Hill to the foraging grounds of Kilry before eventually returning to their roost in Alyth for the night.

Jackdaws are particularly fond of parkland because the grassland, especially if it is old pasture, supports a range of insects that they like to eat. Something similar applies to rooks too. With their longer bills they can pierce further into the ground and catch the leather jackets that contribute to their diet.

Perched at the top of the snow covered trees I see jackdaws apparently in pairs, engaged in various conversations of courtship.

The snow has ceased and a brilliant landscape lies beyond the kitchen window. Gobbets of snow fall from the boughs of the trees.

This is a time of year for preparation. The broom in the young pine plantation is being cut back. Trees that have fallen in the winter gales are being cut up and removed, before being converted into firewood. It is a time for lists and the finalization of plans. Standing in a woodland clearing, where Jim Duncan and I had been discussing the siting of a temporary fence, we noticed a roe doe passing along the edge of the plantation several hundreds of yards ahead of us. Some moments later we saw a buck in the woodland nearby. His antlers were in velvet and he was accompanied by two does. As we stood back to consider our plans a male sparrow hawk flew into a tree and perched there for a few moments before taking off again.



Come fill the cup, and in the Fire of Spring
The Winter Garment of Repentance fling:
The Bird of Time has but a little way
To fly—and Lo! The bird of time is on the Wing.
(verse 7 of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayam, translated by Edward Fitzgerald)



ALYTH HALLS COMMITTEE

The Committee meets in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the 2nd Tuesday of every month and is responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the Town Hall and Ogilvie Rooms. A purely voluntary group of people, it operates within the confines of a Management Agreement with Perth & Kinross Council. Some finance is provided by a P&K grant but this is supplemented by the income from lets.

Owing to continued budgetary restraints P&K have undertaken a review of the letting of all public buildings, schools and halls, which will be the way ahead in the forthcoming years. We as a Committee have to take note of the review and incorporate it into our procedures. To this end our next review of letting charges may well have to see some increases. We intend to hold a public meeting after our review, probably in May/June, and all regular users will be invited together with any other interested parties, or individuals who wish to attend. Meantime any regular user wishing to know more detail of the possible changes should contact a Committee Member.

Before that we have the regular meetings and the AGM. All meetings are open to the general public. We are currently short of Committee Members therefore anyone wishing to participate in this worthy cause is most welcome to do so.

So what do we do, what are we doing at the moment, what is to come?

In the past two years the cellar has been concreted, the stage re-floored, gantries erected over the stage to support lights and scenery, many minor repairs and decoration, purchase of new tables and kitchen equipment. Currently whilst not exactly our remit, provisions for the disabled are being installed. In cooperation with the musical society we are seeking ways to improve both provisions for scenery, and to possess our own lighting and sound equipment so that we do not need to hire (very expensively) for every event. We are also seeking tenders for replacement of the curtains, which have been there for over 40years.

It is a very active Committee, responsible for part of the heritage, but the burden on individual members, whilst at times heavy, is well balanced and you do get a lot of satisfaction from such an activity.

You will have noticed our next event (2nd March) is to be an indoor car boot sale and the next one on the 22nd March is a Cealidh (see advert on Page 5). Both events will raise much needed development funds. Who, for example, can remember the last time the Bar/Lounge downstairs was refurbished? This project is not in our current plans, but is being actively thought about as something that needs to be done before long.

School Dates –Holidays 2002

Easter 28th March—15th April
Summer 27th June—20th August

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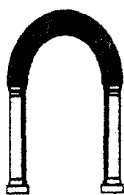
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ELECTIONS

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THE POST OFFICE AND LOCAL PRESS
WILL ALSO BE INFORMED OF THESE
DATES.