

# Alyth Voice

AVID, Pitnacree St, Alyth PH11 8DY  
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Website: www.alythvoice.com

## Drumderg Wind Farm

A preview committee has been formed, the main objective of the committee is to research information on the Wind Farm Proposal.

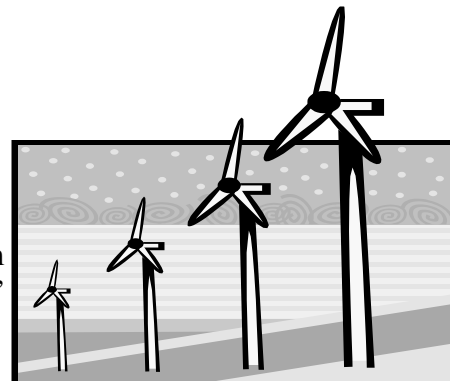
Committee members are -

**Charles Dobbs, Bob Brown, Robert Stewart and Jessie McLean.**

A box has been placed in the Post Office for comments and questions from anyone about the Wind Farm and can also be used for "Letters to the Editor" Alyth Voice, on the same subject.

Give us your views, concerns, questions or comments.

**WEB SITE AVAILABLE SOON**



## ALYTH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Christmas is coming. As usual, the cost of running Christmas Lights is high—replacing bulbs alone is very expensive. The Committee has agreed to a "200 Club"—all net proceeds to go to the Christmas Lights Fund. Only two hundred tickets, costing £1 per month, with payment in advance for a whole year, will be sold.

EACH MONTH, three prizes will be drawn:

1st	£50
2nd	£30
3rd	£20

Cheques for £12 must be handed in at the Post Office, in sealed envelopes, addressed to Mrs Liz Gordon (Treasurer, Christmas Lights Association) When all two hundred tickets have been sold, the first draw will be made. ( Individuals may buy as many tickets as they wish.)

## PUTTING UP CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

On Sunday 17th November the lights will go up. All helpers will gather in the square at 8.30 a.m. as usual.

## SWITCH-ON

On Saturday 30th



November the

Switch-On, by the new Citizen of the Year, will take place, following the Torchlight Parade from the Guide Hut. All those taking part in the Torchlight Parade will gather at the Guide Hut at 6.15 p.m., and the Parade, led by the Blairgowrie Pipe Band, will start at 6.30 p.m. For further details, refer to : Dennis Melloy ( Chairman) on Alyth 632284, David Carver (Secretary) on 633093, or Liz Gordon (Treasurer) at the Post Office.

## COFFEE MORNING

This will take place on 14th December in the Airlie Street Hall, all proceeds to Christmas Lights.

**SANTA CLAUS** will be in attendance.

DONATIONS for the Coffee Morning .  
We shall be very grateful for any donations of HOME BAKING and PRIZES FOR RAFFLES.



Please contact Libby Melloy on 632284

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Have **you** filled in **your** form yet?

Please remember to fill them in and hand them into the Post Office by the **25th November**.

## THE CHRISTMAS WINDOW COMPETITION

### ALYTH & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Once again are sponsoring a window dressing competition for all businesses in Alyth to take part in.

It is intended that the judging will be held over the Festive Period, hopefully between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December, by the Alyth Citizen of the Year 2002 and the Young Citizen of the Year 2002.

The standard of exhibits over the last five years has been excellent, and it is hoped that this year the businesses will do their utmost to assist in helping to bring Christmas cheer to Alyth for the enjoyment of all. Let's make the Christmas Windows in Alyth the best in Perthshire if not Scotland and also it will make the judge's task a really difficult undertaking. It is hoped that all the Christmas windows will be on display by the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2002

The Christmas Window Competition Shield will be presented to the winner along with certificates for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Chairman Michael Kay for ADBA

### Thank You

Doreen McCarthy and family would like to take this opportunity to thank neighbours and friends of New Alyth for the money donated for the beautiful vase for Jimmy's grave.

Thanks also to Tommy O'Mally who organised it all. May I also thank once again everyone for all cards and flowers.

Doreen McCarthy

#### 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 MBE	632684	Scanning/ Printing
Freida Murray	632545	Layout/Typing

**In Order to avoid disappointment please ensure that Articles/ Ads for publication are submitted by 21st day of each month.**

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

## ALYTH & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Notice of Office Bearers and Committee Members after the Committee meeting on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2002

### Office-Bearers

**Chairperson** Mr. Michael Kay  
**Telephone Alyth 632252/632690**  
**e-mail mike@atcalyth.freeserve.co.uk**

**Vice-Chairperson** Mrs. Flo McNeil  
**Telephone Alyth 632986**

**Secretary /Treasurer** Mrs. Nancy Kay  
**Telephone Alyth 632690**

### Committee

Mr. S. Eno, Mr. D. Brough, Mrs. R. Hognadottir ,  
Mrs, K. Donaldson  
and Mrs. J. McGill

It is hoped that all businesses in the town if possible with the problems of health and hygiene will take part in the Victorian Day Dress Competition on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November and all businesses will also have their Christmas Windows on display by this date.

### Property to Let?

We have a number of prospective tenants wanting to rent in this area. Our properties are fully let and we need more. If you would like us to take the hassle out of letting, give us call. Whatever the condition, we can fully manage your valuable asset, including refurbishment and decoration.

### Property to Sell?

Our client from Devon is looking for a small property in Alyth or Blair (not a flat) Ant condition, 1/2 bedrooms. Cash buyer.  
MT Consultants (Alyth) Ltd  
Alyth, PH11 8LB Tel 01828 633398

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN ALYTH 2002

November 17th	Putting up of Alyth Christmas Lights
November 26th	Alyth Lt Society- Researching your family tree- Jack Blair
November 30th	Coffee Morning-Alyth out of School Club
November 30th	Charity Tables on Victoria Day
November 30th	Torchlight Parade and Alyth Christmas Lights Switch on
December 14th	Christmas Lights Coffee Morning

Please send us details of your events for the diary...



## ROYAL AIR FORCE LEUCHARS VISIT

On Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2002 four cadets from 2519 (Strathmore) Squadron, Cadets Mark Harper, Sean Donaldson, ( both from Blairgowrie ) Andrew



Rathband ( Bridge of Cally) and Christopher Gordon (Alyth )escorted by Flying Officer Michael Kay were invited to Royal Air Force Leuchars in appreciation of their efforts in selling raffle tickets the Royal Air Force Leuchars Air show by Engineering Wing.

On their arrival at SFF (Surface Finishing Facility) and spray bays they were given a health and safety brief and then shown round the section which prepares, repairs, repaints and finishes anything from a Tornado F3, any vehicle from Motor Transport or any ground support equipment. They also saw the paint storage and preparation unit, the bead blasting unit and aluminium blasting unit (which can remove paint from anything metal up to the size of an arctic tanker) and the final drying unit.

The party then moved on to TASF (Tactical Aircraft Servicing Facility) which carries out second line maintenance on the Tornado F3. This consists of any maintenance which is not covered by first line servicing such as engine changes, wing and taileron replacement, avionics replacements and 600 hrs servicing and all testing before the aircraft is returned to squadron service. The cadets asked many questions during this part of the visit and found the Flight Sergeant in charge to be most informative and detailed in all his answers. The photo section snapped many photographs at this point, even one where all the cadets were standing on the wing of a Tornado F3.

A visit to VASS (Visiting Aircraft Service Section) followed where a German Transall C-160 ( it looks like a small Hercules but only has two engines) was doing an engine start, before departing to Iceland, and its take off was watched with great interest.

Four Hawks from 100 Squadron from Royal Air Force Leeming were also at VASS and the Flight Lieutenant in charge escorted the party out to them and each cadet in turn sat in the front cockpit and asked many questions about the aircraft and its flight envelope.

At that point five of the Tornados from one of Royal Air Force Leuchars own Squadrons took off followed shortly by the four Hawks from 100 Squadron.

At the end of the day all the cadets gave thanks all round for the attention, care and time spent with them on their visit as they all had a fantastic day.

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) Squadron, T.A.V.R.A.Building, Union Street, Blairgowrie and speak to the Commanding Officer, Adjutant or any of the Cadets.

### VICTORIAN DAY

*Victorian Day which will take place on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2002, is a fun day that is sponsored by Alyth & District Business Association. On this date Alyth will once more step back in time, into the year of Victoria of 1900. Most of the business owners and staff will be dressed in Victorian Style, and giving courteous and old-fashioned assistance and service to all. Unfortunately there are no promises of prices from over one hundred years ago but one never knows.*

*In conjunction with Victorian Day, which has taken place over the previous five years and brought a great deal of fun and jollity to all that have been involved. There is also a Victorian Dress Costume Competition, which will be judged during the day by the Alyth Citizen of the Year 2002, and the Young Citizen of the year 2002. The winners) will be presented with the Victorian Costume Shield and there will also be framed certificates for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places.*

**It is hoped that all businesses and business personnel will be taking part, and that there will be many locals in period dress to add to the sense of belonging to times of long ago.**

*Also many Charity or Charitable Organizations from Alyth and District will have stalls with items for sale etc. in the Airlie Street Hall between 1.00. p.m. and 4.30.p.m. If wish to have a charity stall please contact Michael Kay on telephone 01828 632252/632690. There will be no charge for anyone/group taking part as all rental costs are being paid by Alyth & District Business Association*

*In Alyth Square at the conclusion of the Christmas Lights switching on ceremony by Alyth Christmas Lights Committee there will be two Victorian Dress Competitions. The competitions will be for children up to the age of 16 years old followed by an adult competition for people in Victorian Dress which will be also judged by The Alyth Citizen of the Year 2002, and The Young Citizen of the Year 2002.*

**Everyone from near and far is invited to come along to Alyth and join in on our day of jollification.**

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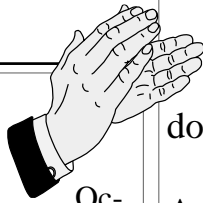
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**Pop in and look around**

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 ner**

**We may have that gift  
 you are looking for**

# Public Notices



Once more our many thanks to all who gave to and attended our Coffee morning on the 19th October.

As usual Alyth people turned out in good numbers in spite of the bitterly cold day.

We made **£559** and we thank you all.

*St. Ninian's Episcopal Church Alyth*

Alyth Primary School P.S.A. would like to thank everyone who helped out, gave donations and came along to the Fun Day.

A total of **£650** was raised

## WANTED

**Chest Freezer, any size considered, condition not important as long as it is in fill working order.**

**Contact:-632684**

## *Alyth Out of School Club*

**Coffee Morning  
Airlie Street Hall  
Saturday 30th  
November  
10 am –12 noon**



If you have any query regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact Sheena Fotheringham on Tel no 01828 633589

## HOUSE WANTED TO BUY

2/3 Bedroom House wanted in local area (Alyth, Meigle)

Please Contact :

## **Alyth and District Alzheimers Carers Support Group**

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning. We were overwhelmed by your generosity which realised the splendid sum of **£1008** for our funds.

This money will be used to help carers and sufferers locally, and we will keep you informed of how it is spent.

Regarding a previous notice in the Voice, 2 seat alarms, not seals as printed, were purchased, however we bought 3 seat alarms as, if you bought 2 the third was half price, so saving £100.

(Apologies for the error-Freida)

## **Windows 95, 98,ME—Win 2000.XP**

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## **Ian Miller** Local Councillor. **SURGERY AT ALYTH TOWN HALL**

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**OR CONTACT BY Tel: SNP OFF: 01250 876576 Home 01250 873304**

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



## Alyth Choral Union

Alyth Choral Union will be holding its Annual Carol Concert on Sunday 8th December 2002 at 7 p.m. in Alyth Parish Church.

Admission is by programme (available at the door) -price £3.00. Concessions £1.50 including refreshments at the end of the concert.

The programme will consist of Carols Ancient and Modern - from the choir -carols for audience participation , solo items from Perthshire Brass and from Ian Manson (Baritone)

The Choral is also holding a Social Evening on Saturday 16th November in the Ogilvie Rooms. There will be a Buffet Supper, and entertainment will be provided by a Barbershop Quartet from Perth. Tickets will be available from members.

If you would like any further information about either of the above, please contact the Secretary,- Dorothy Lindsay.

## Alyth Primary School

Following last year's success with the signed Harry Potter T-Shirt, Alyth Primary School have obtained another fantastic prize for their Library Draw. A Curling Brush, signed by Ladies Olympic Gold Medal Winning Team of Rhona Martin, Debbie Knox, Janice Rankin, Fiona MacDonald and the team coach Russell Keiller. This prestigious piece will surely be highly desirable, and sought after by many collectors and curling enthusiasts. There are many other superb prizes in the draw, including a £20 Campus Sport voucher, a Caithness Glass paperweight and a large Teddy Bear. The draw will be made in Alyth Primary School on Wednesday 20th November 2002. Tickets priced £1 for a book of five, are available at the school office, Alyth Post Office and Lunans. All proceeds of the draw will be used to buy books, for use by the children, in the Learning Resource Centre (Library) in the school.

## Volunteers Wanted Now!

### W.R.V.S.

Do You have a few hours to spare each year?

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## NOVEMBER 2002 ARTICLE FOR THE 'ALYTH VOICE'

By Paul Ramsay

Autumn sees a strange transaction in our rivers and burns as salmon run up to breed and eels take the rainy, moonless nights to return to the sea and their own reproductive fate. No spent eel has ever been known to come back from the ocean and only a few salmon survive one breeding season to return to the sea and start on the whole great journey again.

From time to time eels arouse my curiosity and this has been the case lately for a couple of reasons. In the first place, they form an important element in the diet of otters, which are much more abundant in these parts once again and, secondly, because of the recent publication of a book about eels, 'The Book of Eels', by Tom Fort, fishing correspondent of 'The Financial Times'.

Fort describes the origin of his interest in the eel to a childhood fascination with the fish and its biology. He interweaves this with encounters with eel fishermen in various countries as well as telling the story of the discovery of the eel's life cycle and extraordinary journey to its breeding grounds in the Sargasso Sea (the exact whereabouts within which are still undiscovered). The successful tracing of the journey of the eel to the Sargasso Sea was the triumph of the Danish biologist, Johannes Schmidt, in the 1920s. Up to the end of the nineteenth century the eel's life cycle had been a mystery and the subject of many curious myths.

We accompany the author on visits to old fashioned fishermen, who live a hard life catching eels in a variety of ways that come under the heading of 'sustainable' and we go with him, too, to meet fishermen who have become part of an international trade. All too often the old fashioned men are the last of their line because their sons will not follow them in their traditional calling, using methods of fishing that go back to Stone Age times. The others are likely to be the last of their line because they are destroying local stocks by over fishing.

The European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) is in decline throughout its range because it is being over fished and because it has fallen prey to the destruction of habitat (the loss of ponds and wetlands) and the eel's intense sensitivity to pesticides. As with the salmon, certain other factors having to do with climatic change and its influence on the great oceanic currents may be important. In the very early stage of their life elvers, as the young eels are called, swim from their birth place in the Sargasso Sea and depend on the currents of the Atlantic to carry them across to Europe and North Africa. Changes in these currents make it more difficult for the tiny fish (five to seven centimetres long) to make their way across the ocean.

Fort is not so much worried about the future of the eel, which he believes will survive even if reduced in number, as he is about the loss to humans that will be sustained by the collapse of eel fisheries: economic and social losses and, as he sees it, in the breaking of another link with the wild.

Thinking about Fort's book I looked up the Register of Cupar Abbey to see what references there might be there to eels in this part of the world. There were two or three references in the charters to eels and eel traps, one of which was dated 1473 and included instructions to the gardener at Carse Grange to keep eels in a stank. It was common, besides, for millers to trap eels. Mills, as anyone who looks at Stobie's map of Perthshire of 1783 will see, were widespread. William Robertson told me once that when his father went to live at the Braideston in the 1920s the nearby miller on the Water of Dean earned as much from sending the eels he caught to Billingsgate market (by train from Meigle) as he did from the flour he milled.

The excellence of eel flesh was well recognised by the monks of

the Middle Ages, as it is to this day. The late Jane Grigson, the celebrated cookery writer, gave several recipes for eel in her book 'Fish Cookery' (Penguin 1975) and praised its delicacy and richness ('Sometimes I think it's my favourite fish'). Having read in Tom Fort's book that the Spanish and Portuguese were great eaters of eels I was keen to try the fish on a recent visit to Spain. I asked our friends, the Chestertons, about the availability of eel and was told that it was now scarce and very expensive. So I didn't get to eat eel on this visit, but had to confine myself to *chorizo* and wonderful smoked ham from that talismanic creature of the Andalusian *dehesas* (the forests of cork oak and Spanish chestnut) the Iberian pig.

The current decline of the eel is another gloomy tale among so many, but we should not turn away from these things. Thanks to the recognition of the causes of the decline of the otter (and a number of other birds and beasts) in this country various chemicals were banned from use. The result, twenty years or so later, is the recovery of the otter. This is wonderful news!

### *Josi -Top O' Toon They're at it again!*

*What kind of folk are they, to dump their "surplus" household goods on this local farmer's land?*

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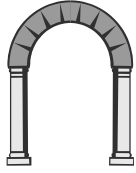
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