

# alyth voice

7th Edition, November 1997

Minimum Circulation :1000

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## EDITORIAL

An eminent member of the public recently commented upon what a success the Alyth Voice had become. This had been demonstrated by comments he had received to the effect that there was nothing in it! To him this demonstrated that people were reading it - to the Editorial Board it's a bit of a back-handed compliment. If "there's nothing in it", it's our collective fault - you and us.

On page 5 you'll find an article about the Christmas Lights' Switch On. Note how organisations in Alyth are working together for the common good. What a pity many outsiders don't appreciate the vibrancy of Alyth. Let's all work together to change that misconception.

## Christmas Window Competition

Alyth and District Business Association are going to hold a window dressing competition for all businesses in Alyth, whether Association members or not.

It is intended that the judging will be held over the Festive Period by the Alyth Citizen of the Year 1997 and the Young Person of the Year 1997. A prize has been donated by Alyth and District Business Association which the judges will present to the winner. Let's make the Christmas windows in Alyth the best in Scotland and give the judges a really difficult task. Hopefully the Christmas windows will bring more festive cheer to all.

Michael Kay

## Gardening Notes

### Conifers Galore

Conifers are as wide and diverse as any plant group. Colours range from brilliant green to blues and striking gold with a wide variation in foliage texture from soft and feathery to dense and spikey spines. With careful siting and selection of variety you can provide interest throughout the gardening year. Now is an ideal time to buy and plant conifers as they are coming into their dormant period. Ensure that the ground isn't frosted or waterlogged and add plenty of ericaceous or peat based compost as conifers enjoy acidic conditions. The plant should be well watered before and after planting. Don't add any fertiliser at this time of the year since this only encourages false growth. There are a few conifers which will tolerate alkaline soils, amongst them are the Junipers (one of only three native conifers), Pine and Thuja.

When selecting your conifer always ask what its **ultimate** height will be. Your 2ft high Leylandii could reach 75ft! Many conifers are classed as 'dwarf' but beware, this only means that it is slow growing - there are very few genuine dwarf conifers. Many young trees suffer from wind scorch and frost burn and you can help to avoid this by wrapping them in clear plastic (Bubble wrap is ideal). Ensure that the roots are well insulated with a good mulch of bark or suitable organic material.

I would recommend the following:-

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Columnaris': An excellent columnar shaped conifer. Ideal for a lawn specimen. (Height after 10yrs, 6ft)

*Juniperus communis* 'Depressa aurea': The golden Canadian Juniper turns from gold to bronze in winter. Grow in full sun. (Height after 10yrs, 2ft)

*Picea brewerana*: One of the best spruces. A tall conical tree with a weeping growth habit. Its foliage is blue/green. Protect from frost. (Height after 10yrs, 5ft)

*Sciadopitys* 'Umbrella pine': An unusual plant available through specialist nurseries. Very slow growing. Dislikes shallow soil and needs a sheltered spot with partial shade. The only species available is *S. verticillata*. (Height after 10yrs, 3ft)

*Thuja plicata*: A tall conifer, ideal for hedging. It is not fussy about soil type and will tolerate shade although dislikes waterlogging. It has vivid glossy green foliage with an aromatic scent. (Height after 10yrs, 16ft).

David A Mathie



## Readers' Letters

Dear Sir,

### Drinking in Public Places

In response to the reply by Inspector Mathieson to the Community Council's letter about drinking in public places in Alyth I wish to contribute the following:

Does the inspector really think the law abiding citizens of Alyth have their heads in the sand, when he states that the complaints received do not in his opinion justify a Bye-law nor would any Secretary of State sanction same? Let me therefore offer a little information for what it is worth. Initially a phone call to our local Police Office nine times out of ten would be a complete waste of time (No reply as it is not manned permanently). Next step - Phone the Blairgowrie Office. With a little luck you may get some response, but by the time some action is taken the offenders have absconded from the locus before any charge could be made.

Police patrols (Could this be defined?).

If this means sitting in a car, little wonder no evidence of crime could possibly be spotted. The areas which need to be investigated - preferably on foot patrol are:-

1. The Back of the Public Toilets, Burn Green Play Park.
2. The Pavilion, Diamond Jubilee Park.
3. A secluded spot up the Johnshill Road.
4. The Back of the School, close to the Playing Field.

Investigators in these areas might also find evidence of drug abuse.

I trust that the Police will duly record this information, investigate and at a later date report what progress is being made to alleviate the problem which does exist.

Law and order is all we ask. no more pussy footing with lame excuses.

R. A. Ball JP

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Dear Uncle Angus,

How do you become a member of the Bridge Club? Every time I pass one of your meetings on the way from the Post Office to Margaret Ferguson's or the Creel to Geo's, I am filled with an overwhelming desire to belong. As you stand there, clean shaven, in all your finery - with regal nods acknowledging the salutes of passing motorists, or studying the malt coloured waters of the Burn - I catch tantalising snatches of your debates. My own knowledge of the relative merits of Beluga versus Sevruga caviar is sketchy as is my understanding of the Agrarian party's policy in Moldova;

but I feel I could contribute something to your discussions on dance band leaders in the post-war period.

Is there a membership fee? Do I have to find a proposer and seconder? Could I be blackballed? Is there an initiation ceremony? Who are the office bearers? My sister is also interested but I note that unlike your junior section which meets in the evening, you have no lady members. Can women join?

An early reply would be appreciated.

Yours in anticipation,  
Adam Neve

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### Best Wishes

Mrs Jean Crighton retired on 1st October 1997 from her post at the Health Centre. The Alyth Voice joins all her former colleagues at the Centre in wishing Jean and Peter a long and very happy retirement.

### AGM

Alyth Bowling and Tennis Club are holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 20th November 1997 at 7 pm. A good turnout of members is requested.

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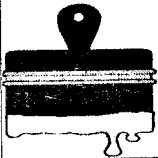
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The Editorial Board members and their contact  
'phone numbers are as follows :

Julie Brown	632986
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Billy Gordon	via Post Office
Simon Ingram	632705
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Rob Tindall	632734

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 of  
any article.

## *And a very merry Victorian Christmas to us!*

Alyth and District Business Association are hoping to make the switching on of the Christmas Illuminations something to remember this year. Folks are always claiming that Christmas isn't what it used to be so the Business Association are going to call their bluff.

The lights are to be switched on on the evening of 29th November. There has already been some interest in the Crooked Dreel and Concealed Hinge Society's suggestion for a Christmas Market at the same time which should add to the evening fun but the Business Association have come up with an additional idea. Not only have some shops indicated that they will be extending their opening hours into the evening but in an effort to recreate 1897 many of the town's business folk will be going about their business dressed in Victorian costume. It is anticipated that besides giving folk 'a bit of a laugh' the idea may attract outsiders into the town to boost trade. Unfortunately your reporter has been unable to find any businessman or woman willing to turn the prices back to 1897!

### **New in Alyth**

The Camno Workshop, selling dolls' houses and wooden toys will be opening in Commercial Street in mid November. Another vacant shop filled! Alyth thrives!

## MEMORIES

I can't believe it is almost forty years since I left Alyth to live in Dundee, then to South Africa and back to Dundee. As my parents were still in Meigle Road and my daughter later married a local lad, the ties were never quite broken and there is still a sense of coming home when visiting.

Of course there have been many changes over the years but there remains enough of the familiar to bring back a lot of memories. Alyth School where the headmaster was Bruce Donald and the High Kirk whose minister was Rev. Sibbald Clark. The Town Hall where films were shown three nights a week (I remember being scared to walk home after a creepy film - the street lighting stopped at Mornity in those days!) and dances were held on Friday nights. Then there were the walks up the Den or round by the Golf Course followed by a cup of hot chocolate at "Delli's". Oh! Happy days indeed.

Greetings to those who share these memories.

Margaret Shepherd (nee Taylor)

### **An Achievement**

Elma Darroch-Birchall of Manchester, daughter of Mrs Charlotte Darroch and the late Ewen Darroch of 39, Parkside Road has graduated as Bachelor of Arts (Honours, 2.1) in Business Administration from Bolton Institute of Higher Education.

## RED CROSS NEWS

Mrs Mary Laurie, Perth and Kinross Director, presented Lynn Andrews, a member of the Youth Group, Alyth with a nursing bursary at a ceremony in the Guide Hut on 24th September.

Lynn has been studying for a nursing degree at Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh and as part of her training went on work placement to Dalhousie Hospital, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The nursing bursary is unique to the Scottish branch of the British Red Cross and we are delighted that once again one of our former youth members who has gone into nursing is able to benefit from this scheme.

Mrs Laurie also enrolled four new members into the youth group: -

Mary Van den Berg,  
Sarah Badzmirowski,  
Sandie Davidson and  
Katrina Duncan.

We welcome them into the group

Anne Cocker,  
Youth Leader,  
Alyth Red Cross

Adam Neve is 55 on November 13th. Happy Birthday from Kay N. Abel.

## ALYTH'S OLDEST CITIZEN

On a dreich October night, two correspondents from the Alyth Voice turned up at the door of Alyth's oldest citizen, Mr Alfred Anderson. Billy Gordon and Sandy McCurdy were given a very warm welcome by Mr Anderson and his son-in-law Graeme Maxwell.

Over a dram, Mr Anderson discussed many aspects of his 101 years. Born while Queen Victoria was still on the throne, Mr Anderson first went to school at the Hilltown, Dundee. Not long after, he and his family moved to Newtyle where his father had a joinery business. He attended North Street and at 14 progressed to Harris Academy in Tay Square, Dundee.

He remembers playing football at Alyth, as a schoolboy with a pitch which had no side lines and the ball could be kicked against a wall and the game continued!!!

In 1907-08, Kinpurnie Castle was built by the Cayzer family. Mr Anderson well remembers looking round the work with his father on Sundays. His father was obviously interested to see how the joiners were doing. There were no security precautions on the site, as it never occurred to anyone that anything would be taken.

At 16, he left school and became an apprentice in his father's business. In 1914 when war was declared, he went to a camp near Crieff with the 5th Black Watch territorial regiment. After a time he was entrained to Dundee and was in billets at Hawkhill School before embarking for France. Mr Anderson was wounded once, and after the war he returned to work with his father, eventually taking over the business.

Whilst working on the Alexandra Street houses, Mr Anderson had a load of wood delivered by rail to the town. The wood was so long it took up three goods wagons. After the load arrived at the station it was due to be delivered to the site by the railway's horse and lorry. After a couple of days' waiting, Mr Anderson discovered that the station master, Mr Willie Lyle (ex Newlands) had been delivering to the shops and had not bothered to deliver the wood. After some heated words with Mr Lyle, Mr Anderson used his influence

with the wood suppliers and the wood was delivered the next day.

One of the jobs of the joiner in those days was to act as the undertaker. Prior to the First World War, the hearse was horse-drawn, but once he returned the motor-hearse took over. One of his jobs was to walk alongside the hearse to pace the procession, as the people would walk behind from the church to the cemetery. He well remembers making coffins, whilst his father also bought in coffins.

(To be continued next month with football, awards and a TV appearance.)

## THAT'S OUR BOY!

Alyth boy Gavin Turnbull (13) has been nominated for this year's Radio Times/Newsround Press Pack Awards. He is already Newsround (Scottish) reporter run by the Children's BBC programme Newsround. The ceremony for the Press Pack Awards took place on Monday 3 November at the BBC Television Centre, London.

## Coffee Morning

Alyth Mothers and Toddlers Group are holding a Coffee Morning on **Saturday 29th November** from 10 am to noon. Entry 60p, 30p for children and OAPs.

## Happy Wanderers

Did you know that Alyth has its own branch of the Ramblers' Association? It has over 50 members and walks fortnightly throughout the year, usually meeting in the Square at 9.30 on Saturdays. Although it offers one Munro in its summer programme other walks are easier and members are reputed to feast on local produce, such as crab or cream teas when they stop for refreshment. For further information contact **Anna May on 632263**

## CONCERT

Don't forget Alyth's Caledonian Concert of the Year with Ian Powrie and support on 21st November. It's selling out fast. Get your tickets from Fashionwise. NOW!

## Ebenezer Scrooge at the Town Hall

On Saturday December 13th. Alyth is promised a look at Charles Dicken's story "A Christmas Carol" that will change all your previous notions of this classic. Alyth Youth Theatre are presenting Lisette Johnston's "Ebenezer Scrooge" in the Town Hall. (See posters for details). Those lucky enough to see last year's production of "Wonderwall" will know they are in for a treat. Lisette has her very individual way of presenting stories. At seventeen she is in tune with young minds today. The group promises laughter and pathos with this play presented by our biggest cast yet. We have a Tiny Tim guaranteed to bring out the Kleenex, an Ebenezer Scrooge to hate, a Cratchet family

you will all empathise with and angels and ghosts to laugh at or fear. All that and dancers too!

We know many of you came to see "Wonderwall" thinking, "We have to support the youngsters", and went away having been royally entertained. Don't just "support" us this time! Come along and have a very good evening.

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Alyth 50+ Club meets in the Ogilvy Rooms on the first Wednesday of each month, until May, excepting January when we go to see a Christmas Show. Our Hobbies and Crafts group meets each week, again on Wednesday but in the afternoon, same venue, at 2.30pm.

## ALYTH CITIZEN AND YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR 1997

It seems only last month, but it's nearly twelve since Billy Gordon was named Citizen of the Year for 1996 and Angela Don Alyth's Young Person of the Year. The time has come to cast your eye over your neighbours and decide who is worthy of nomination for 1997. This year the Community Council has enlisted the help of the Alyth Voice and you can make your nomination by using the form below - if you don't want to mutilate your precious copy you can still get a form from the Library or Post Office.

The rules are simple: -

1. The Citizen of the Year can be any age; the Young Person must be under the age of 21 on 1st January 1998.
2. The nominee must be resident in the area covered by Alyth Community Council or work in the area.
3. The person making the nomination must be resident in the Alyth Community Council area.
4. You cannot nominate a close relative.
5. You can only make one nomination in each category.
6. Your completed form must give the name and address of the nominee, your own name and address and the reason for the nomination. For the Young Person award the Community Council looks specifically for someone putting something back into the community.
7. The decision is made by the Community Council - it is not an election decided by the number of 'votes' cast by members of the public

### ALYTH CITIZEN / YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

I (name) \_\_\_\_\_ of (address) \_\_\_\_\_

wish to nominate (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
of (address) \_\_\_\_\_

for Alyth Citizen / Young Person of the Year\* 1997 because:-

Signed

\*Delete where inapplicable.

Return to Billy Gordon at the Post Office by Tuesday 18 November 1997

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