

alyth voice

6th Edition, October 1997

Minimum Circulation :1000

ADVERTISEMENTS

Collins Crystal

Fine Crystal and Glass Engraving

The Ideal Christmas Gift

Bamff Road
Alyth
Perthshire

Tel: 01828 633358
Fax: 01828 633361

SCOTT ELECTRICAL

TOSHIBA DEALER

Televisions Videos Tapes
Irons Kettles Toasters
Batteries Light Bulbs

Trading From Post Office
Tel. 632241

Walnut House Therapies

Janet Brown

01828 633599

Email ReikiJan1@aol.com

Reiki Reflexology Therapeutic Massage
Aromatherapy Flower Remedies



FASHION WISE

Tel: 632684

NEW SEASON STOCK ARRIVING DAILY
JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS CLUB
NOW TO MAKE YOUR GIFT GIVING EASY

NEIL ANDERSON

CORGI Registered Gas Service Engineer

Now is the time to have your gas appliances serviced by your local gas expert. Call for an appointment today

The Cottage, High Street, Alyth
Tel : 632996

DAVID SIM

HARDWARE CENTRE

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff will guide you through this Aladdin's Cave of everything for the HOME & GARDEN

Market Square, Alyth Tel : 632309

TAXI SERVICE TO AIRPORTS & STATIONS

D & E TAXIS

"LINNISLA"

ST. NINIAN'S ROAD, ALYTH

TEL : 632672

CAR PHONE : 0831 839087

MURRAY PENNYCOOK

PLUMBING - HEATING
GAS, OIL & SOLID FUEL
CORGI Registered Gas Installer

Clar-Innis, Meigle Road, Alyth

Tel/Fax : 632135

Mobile: 0850 733481

EDITORIAL COMMENT

If this issue seems to be a little heavier than the last it only reflects the mixture of articles received. It would be sad if it means that we have exhausted the seam of reminiscence and joie de vivre because the town is a good place to live, work, play, dance, drink and bring up children. Our principal failing is that we are too modest and would rather grumble about the ills of the world rather than let the world know of our successes and what a great place Alyth is. Come on readers, become writers and let's hear it for Alyth.

To Twin or not to Twin? - That is the Question

Over the past five years the question as to whether steps should be taken to twin with another town has been discussed many times in the Community Council. In the last year alone there have been three separate requests from towns in France for a formal link. One town pulled out almost before the council could give the idea serious consideration. The second was rejected because it was three times the size of Alyth. The most recent has been turned down because the council wasn't sure whether the folk of Alyth would support the idea.

The council is clear that any link must offer opportunities for everyone in Alyth - old or young, with money or without, and not just for those and such as those as seems to happen

elsewhere where the Chairman and Secretary go abroad for a junket at someone else's expense.

There are questions which need to be answered. Why twin? What's in it for us? What do we have to offer?

What are the benefits? What are we looking for in a potential twin?

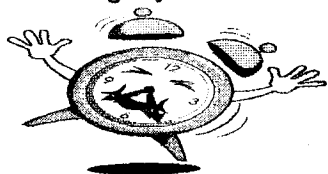
There is national and EU funding available to set up partnerships but do you think Alyth should be involved? You must have a view on the questions above - even if it is, "Wouldn't touch it with a very long stick." Let any of your community councillors know your opinion so that they can have an informed debate.

AN APOLOGY

In the September Edition of Alyth Voice an anonymous letter under the heading "It's a Puzzle." was published. It should be made clear that the author was not one of the injured party and that the writer did not know all the facts. In retrospect this was an error of judgement on behalf of the Editor of the Alyth Voice and he extends a sincere apology to the injured party for the embarrassment caused.

ALYTH OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of Alyth Out of School Club will be held in the School Club Room on Monday 20th October at 7.00 pm. Your support is needed to keep the Club open. Please come along if you can.



ALYTH AMATEURS FC

The 'Ams' are sitting pretty in the league having played five matches to date of which they have Won 2, Drawn 2 and Lost one. They have progressed to the Semi-finals of the Marshall Cup and are still alive in all other cup competitions. The club is happy with the results which have been achieved in the face of numerous suspensions. (Including your correspondent who has been banned for a month which, in his own words, is due to his big mouth!)

The club is particularly pleased with the form of two 17 year olds - Andrew Simpson and Ricky Lindsay who are playing with skills beyond their tender years.

Perth and Kinross have given a grant of £2500 to the club towards the upgrading of facilities at the Diamond Jubilee Park which may yet mean that the amenities match the club's performance on the park.



The Moderator's Visit

Every 10 years Presbytery receives a visit from the current Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The democratic government of the Church of Scotland means that the Moderator cannot make decisions or pronouncements on behalf of the church, he can only endorse what the General Assembly of the year or previous years has passed or agreed. In his year of office the Moderator is timetabled to visit Church of Scotland churches and Presbyteries the world over.

On Sunday 14 September, The Right Rev. Sandy MacDonald visited Alyth for an evening service. The Moderator is Right Rev. in his year of office and the Very Rev. after it and for the rest of his years. The service was held in the name of the Blairgowrie Area Churches Partnership and so the church was decorated with banners from every C of S church in the area.

Most area ministers took part in the service. Although this was his only visit to Alyth, Alyth had already served him well. Classic Cars provided transport for the Wednesday with Charlie Palmer driving the Bentley.

The service was memorable. The Beadle estimated that perhaps 500 people worshipped that night. The Moderator was in fine form, yet had to come to terms with the height of the pulpit, passing comment about not needing to have vertigo! Alyth Kirk elder and chairman of the Partnership group, David Brough made a presentation to the Moderator and wished him well on his trip to India. The Moderator signed the Church Visitors' book before leaving, and as chance would have it, his was the last entry. During his sermon he quoted the No. 1 Album by Oasis, 'Be There Now'. For those who were there, it was a great night.

CLASSIFIED ADVERT

WHITEWOOD CHILD'S DESK for sale. First phone call and £1 in aid of Girl Guide Funds secures. Phone Sandy McCurdy 632744



To your left you see a new free service. Have you, as an individual anything you want to get rid of for under £25 ? (No not him, Missus!) Contact the Editorial Board.

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISING WORKS !

**You're reading this, aren't you ?
This space could be yours for only
£5.00 per month !
Contact a member of the Editorial
Board for details.**

**NOT SO MUCH WHAT YOU REALLY, REALLY WANT —
BUT REALLY REALLY NEED FOR WINTER**

SEASONS SHOP

55, AIRLIE ST, ALYTH

We will be pleased to serve you - our seasonal stock includes:-
Checked shirts, Lined trousers,
Socks/Hats/Gloves/Thermals/Boots/Wellies and Slippers galore.

J. & M. Kay
Ladies & Gents Hair Stylists

**13, AIRLIE STREET,
ALYTH**

GEO'S BAR
&
THISTLE LOUNGE
AIRLIE STREET, ALYTH Tel : 632276

The Autumn Garden

Many gardeners feel that Autumn and Winter are seasons of little colour, however there is a huge range of climbers, grasses, shrubs and trees which will provide colour throughout the long winter months and don't forget there are bulbs which provide colour in both seasons. During autumn, cyclamen and Japanese anemones are worth having in the garden and will grow in deep shade. Winter aconites are the first bulbs to come through in early January and look good planted with early snowdrops.

Here are some plants I would recommend to provide autumn and winter colour.

Climbers

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). Its green leaves turn a rich red which last well into autumn. It will tolerate partial shade or sun.

Clematis (*Clematis armandii*) "Apple blossom". Has white fragrant flowers with a hint of pink. It needs a sheltered spot.

Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) Good for shady sites, is winter flowering and has fragrant blooms.

Shrubs

Witch Hazel (*Haemalis*) Showy flowers which appear after the leaves have dropped. Good scent.

Ceanothus "Autumn Blue" One of the hardiest evergreen shrubs with an abundance of blue flowers.

Decaisnea fargesii "Blue Bean" An unusual shrub. It is very hardy and produces sausage shaped blue pods.

Ornamental grasses look good in winter, especially in low light and hoar frost. Festuca glauca "Blue Glow" and Miscanthus sinensis "Silberfeder" are two I would recommend. Try planting the ornamental grasses amongst winter flowering heathers.

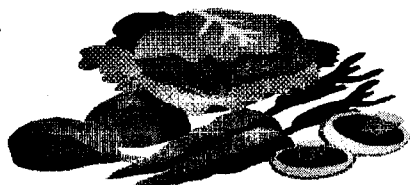
Many trees also provide terrific autumn colour. Amongst the best are Crab apple Liquidamber, Maple, *Sorbus* and *Katsura*, the leaves of which turn a vibrant red.

These are the plants I would select for my dark months' palette. If you have any gardening queries or problems I should be quite happy to try to resolve them if you address them to me through the Alyth Voice.

David A. Mathie

Bye bye Carrot fly

Have you given up trying to grow carrots? I tried every potion on the market and note with horror that some have recently been removed from the shelves as too dangerous. I also tried a number of nostrums supplied by ancient sons of the soil. But all these ploys and poisons met with very limited success. This year, brothers and sisters, I cracked it. I covered the newly sown seed with horticultural fleece and left it on as the plants developed (only removing it for thinning) until the beginning of September when all danger was past. The result - perfect, unsullied roots.



Ian Powrie Variety Show

Following last year's successful concert in aid of the Christmas Lights Appeal, and by popular demand, the Ian Powrie Show will be returning to the Town Hall on Friday 21 November.

The line up will include Ian Powrie, The George McGibbon Band, Shannus, Gillian Murray, Linda Grant Dancers and the compere is Mr Magic, Ian Dougal.

Once again it is in aid of your Christmas Lights and without the generosity of the artistes the event would not raise as much.

Tickets are available from Jessie at Fashionwise, Commercial Street priced at £5 (£4 for concessions) for a downstairs seat and £6 (no concessions) for the balcony. You are advised to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment

[The recent Bingo Tea in the Town Hall raised £272.72 for the Christmas Lights' Fund]

Readers' Letters

DRINKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

From Inspector Peter Mathieson, Tayside
Police

In July 1997, the secretary of Alyth Community Council wrote to me asking that the Police support the enactment of a bye-law which would effectively prohibit the drinking of alcohol in certain public areas within Alyth.

On receiving this letter I carried out a check of all complaints made to the Police by the residents of Alyth over a period of a year and found very few which specifically made mention of persons causing annoyance by drinking in public. Police patrols in the area have also found little evidence of a problem caused by the consumption of alcohol in public areas of Alyth. I therefore wrote back to the Community Council and informed them that the Police could not support the introduction of a bye-law.

The person who ultimately decides whether or not to introduce a bye-law is the Secretary of State for Scotland and I can assure you that he cannot do this without being in the possession of overwhelming evidence to the effect that a problem exists. If the people of Alyth wish the Police to support them in their efforts then it is up to each and every individual to report incidents direct, at the time they are happening. By doing this it will give the Police a chance to see the problem first hand and hopefully be able to take action there and then. Each incident will be recorded and held on file.

Anyone wishing to report such incidents should contact Alyth Police Station Tel No. 01828 632336. If the Alyth Station is unmanned then your telephone call will automatically be redirected to Blairgowrie or Perth.

If you live in Alyth or receive a copy of the Alyth Voice you qualify to be a member of the Crooked Dree and Concealed Hinge Society. All members are welcome at the next meeting:
7.30pm, Thistle Lounge
on
Tuesday 28 October

Dear Uncle Bert,

Her Heart's Desire

Your expertise with small furry mammals is well known and I turn to you in this capacity. My daughter wants a mole for Christmas! I once saw something called "Mole Fanciers' Monthly", but it was on the top shelf and I couldn't reach it so I still need answers to the following:-

1. What size hutch will it need or do I have to dig a burrow in the kitchen floor?
2. Can I keep worms in the freezer or will we have to dig fresh everyday?
3. Will it use a litter tray or do I have to take it 'walkies'? Can you buy poop scoops for moles?
4. Are they affectionate or do they have to be muzzled when visitors call?

Yours in desperation,

Adam Neve

ALYTH VOICE EDITORIAL BOARD

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

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Julie Brown | 632986 |
| Sheila Donald | 632847 |
| Billy Gordon | via Post Office |
| Simon Ingram | 632705 |
| Sandy McCurdy | 632744 |
| Jessie McLean | 632684 |
| Callum Strachan | 633140 |
| Alix Tindall | 663485 |
| 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.

REIKI - I'll have a portion of that.

An advertisement has been appearing in the Alyth Voice for Reiki, but what is it? To enlighten our readers we asked the question and this is what we learned.

Reiki is a Japanese word meaning Universal Life Energy - the energy all around us. Reiki is also an ancient art of natural healing rediscovered in Japan over one hundred years ago. What is described as Reiki - the Usui System of Natural Healing - can be defined as follows:

It is gentle, but powerful "hands-on" technique, which brings wholeness to both recipient and giver.

It restores the natural balance in the body.

It provides deep relaxation, thus evoking a sense of peace and well-being.

It works on the emotions, mind and spirit as well as the physical body.

It complements - but does not substitute - the healing properties of all modalities including orthodox medical treatment, natural therapies, massage, psychotherapy etc.

It can be given in conjunction with any other treatment.

It is not intrusive, since the Reiki energy will pass through clothing, plastercasts etc., so that no disrobing is necessary, nor is it manipulative, unlike massage.

It has no connection with any religion, cult, dogma or special belief system.

The technique can also be used on plants and animals and at a distance.

To benefit from Reiki you need only to be open and willing to receive the energy.

Everyone can learn it.

So now you know!



ST. MOLUAG

St. Moluag brought Christianity to Alyth and founded a church on the hill where the 'Auld Arches' stand today. The original church would have been an oblong building, made of timber with a thatched roof, maybe 30ft by 10ft. Eventually a stone building was put up with a chapel attached which was dedicated to St. Ninian. The stone building eventually decayed and was abandoned. A new church was built on a nearby site in 1839. The remains of the old stone church can be seen still - the 'Auld Arches' in the High Street.

St. Moluag was a contemporary of St. Columba in the 6th. century. The story goes that both men were sailing to Lismore at high speed. Moluag saw that Columba's craft would probably be the first to land and claim Lismore. Moluag siezed an axe and cut off his little finger, threw it onto the beach and cried, "My flesh and blood have first possession of the island and I bless it in the name of the Lord."

Thus it was that the island of Lismore became the centre of Moluag's missionary work. One year later Columba based himself on Iona.

Moluag founded many churches and had an advantage over Columba in that he spoke the Pictish tongue. He came from a Pictish district of Ireland and was trained in a Pictish monastery. Columba was a Gaelic speaker and needed an interpreter when he addressed the Picts.

The name of the saint was Luag and the prefix 'Mo' stood for 'my dear'. The name of the Catholic church in Alyth is derived from this name but through time came to be transformed into Luan. Moluag's staff and hand bell were venerated for many years. The staff was in the care of the Duke of Argyll and the bell is in the National Museum. St. Moluag's day was the 25th of June and a market or fair was held on that day. Gradually the occasion became known as the 'Simmalogue Fair'.

Nell Hart

Note: There is a plan to have a 'Simmalogue Fair' in aid of the Millenium Fund.

ALYTH'S CHRISTMAS MARKET?

Some readers may have visited one of Germany's Christmas markets; if so they will have experienced the bustle and sheer fun of bright lights, smells of hot food and the near indecipherable calls of stall holders. For those who haven't been, what happens is that traders set up stalls in the local square, or along the wide streets and sell small Christmas toys, gifts, trinkets, seasonal hot snacks, biscuits and cakes and mugs of scalding spiced wine. The whole event lasts through Advent - give or take a week or two.

At its last meeting the Crooked Dreeel and Concealed Hinge Society considered whether there was anything it could do to enhance the ceremony of switching on the Christmas Lights in Alyth. It was noted that Coupar Angus had recently held a Street Fair. Couldn't Alyth have a mini Christmas Market in the Square or along the west bank of the Burn, by the TSB building?

CDCHS does not have the resources or range of skills necessary to mount such an event but would be willing to coordinate affairs and act as general factotum eg checking legal, licensing, hygiene and health and safety issues IF a spectrum of Alyth organisations was interested in having a go. The Bracket and Hinge Society talked about roast chestnuts, baked potatoes, toffee apples, hot dogs, beefburgers, tablet, sweet and savoury pancakes, coffee, gluhwein (hot spiced wine), non-alcoholic punch, stalls selling candles and arts and crafts etc. Perhaps shops in the vicinity could stay open late to add to the festive feeling. Any money raised by those selling goods would go to the stallholders themselves - the Crooked Binge doesn't seek to raise funds for itself and the Lights Committee just want everyone to have a memorable evening.

The switch-on is probably going to be on 29 November so if your organisation whether WRI, Youth Club, Over 50s, Scouts, Guides, Friendship Club, Show Society, Business Association, Football Club or whatever you will need to very quickly get in touch with Sandy McCurdy (632744), Dennis Melloy (632284) or Rob Tindall (632734) so that the Concealed Dreeel and Crooked Hinge can see whether such a project is worth pursuing.

NEW TO ALYTH

Your Alyth Voice reporter made it his business to go in to the Alyth Hotel to find something out about the new owners - he recognises that well bred Alyth folk are much too shy to poke their noses into other peoples' lives. So, here's the gossip :-

Those now in charge are Carol Brodie, Will Brodie MBE, Ian Brodie and Mother - rumoured to be a sprightly octogenarian.

Carol comes from Hull, and is married to Will, an Elderslie lad who will soon be completing 23 years service in the British Army, having served in various locations both here and overseas. He was awarded his MBE for services to the Army in Cyprus.

Ian, not surprisingly is also an Elderslie lad and comes to Alyth via Manchester and Somerset.

The family is running the hotel in partnership - each doing whatever task is required at the time. They have however appointed a chef from outwith the family.

It is intended to reopen the hotel to everyone, serving drinks and bar meals, and dinners and high teas at the weekend.

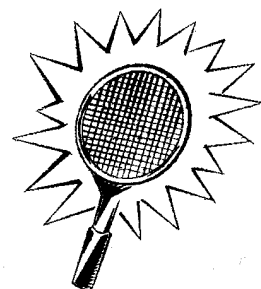
Everyone coming into the hotel can be sure of a warm welcome.

Jottings

St Ninian's Church will be holding their annual autumn Coffee Morning in the Airlie Street Hall on Saturday 18 October from 10 am to noon. Besides coffee and eats there will be the usual range of stalls and this year looks a particularly good one for bric a brac.

Alyth Badminton Club meets in the Airlie Street Hall on Mondays from 8 to 11pm. Players' abilities range from beginner to league champion. All standards of players are welcome. Your local club needs you.

Have some fun while keeping fit!



ADVERTISEMENTS

IAN MILLER - Local Councillor

SURGERY AT ALYTH PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH DURING SCHOOL TERMS OR CONTACT BY TELEPHONE:

S.N.P. OFFICE: 01250 876576

HOME: 01250 873304

ANDY WHITE

JOINER - SHOPFITTER

5 BAMFF ROAD, ALYTH PH11 8DT

TELEPHONE : (01828) 632298

The Losset Inn, Alyth

Lunches, Bar Suppers, Bed & Breakfast
Tel: 632393

AA Recommended QQ
Scottish Tourist Board Recommended 3 Crowns

"BUNTERS"

Cafe & Take-away
5, Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie
Tel : 01250 872519

Breakfast, Lunches, High Teas,
-BUFFETS CATERED FOR -

"WORLD OF ICE CREAM & SANDWICH BAR"

NOW OPEN AT :
6, Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie

Tempt your taste buds with a variety of Ice Cream
flavours too numerous to list and a selection of
sandwich fillings to suit all tastes - POP IN TODAY !

ROBERT DARGIE

PAINTER & DECORATOR



5D BAMFF ROAD
ALYTH

Tel: 633282

C.S. STRACHAN

BUILDING CONSULTANT

43, AIRLIE STREET
ALYTH

Tel : 633112

THE ALYTH HOTEL

(Now Under New Ownership)

Everyone coming in can be sure of a
warm welcome from

Carol, Will, Ian & Mother

TO LET Office Premises

Bamff Road, Alyth

Contact: F. McNeill

Airlie Mount

ALYTH

Tel: 632986