

alyth voice

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EDITORIAL



Rob Tindall - retiring Editor in Chief of the Alyth Voice and his wife Margaret. Everyone is sorry to see them leave the district to return to their

roots in Northumberland. Both have been staunch pillars of the community since their arrival some twenty five years ago, in particular the Community Council, CH&CDSociety, The AMS and many other local organisations.

We know that you will be returning frequently for family visits and both of you will always be welcome back. Your criticisms and advice on all local matters will be most welcome.

Pictures in the Voice are a new project and it is only fitting that the Tindalls should be in at the grass roots to keep their faces in our memory for many years to come.

Again, thank you from everyone for all you have done for the community.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

RASPBERRY & COCONUT MUFFINS

250g (10oz) SR flour
150g (6oz) Castor Sugar
100g (4oz) Coconut
2 large eggs - beaten
90mls (6tbsp) Sunflower oil
175mls (6floz) Milk
100g (4oz) fresh Raspberries
Demerara Sugar



Method

1. Put oven 180C, 350F, Gas 4
2. Sieve flour into bowl, stir in the coconut and castor sugar.
3. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients. Add the eggs, oil and milk. Beat well together
4. Carefully fold in the Raspberries, taking care not to break them up too much.
5. Spoon mixture into 12 muffin cases.
6. Sprinkle tops with demerara sugar.
7. Bake for 20 - 25mins until golden brown, crispy on top and springy to the touch.
8. Cool on a wire tray.

Delicious served warm.

NB. Frozen raspberries can be used but they must be thoroughly defrosted and free from juice.

Dates for your diary

- 8th August Blairgowrie Fire Station - Bi-Annual Open Day, 12.30-4.30
A Great time for ALL the family
- 13th August Diamond Jubilee Park Public Mtg in the Town Hall.
(see article on page 6)
- 29th August Wheelbarrow Race - Entry details from/to Callum Strachan
Tel: 633140
- 30th August Treasure Hunt Walk - Square to BBQ in Den in Aid of Alyth Lights- watch for notices

Ed : It is intended to continue a Diary in future editions - brief details of entries to any Editorial board member



QUOTE! President Eisenhower -
"Teenagers are like airplanes: You only hear about the ones that crash"

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
Jim O' Brien.	632484
Callum Strachan	633140

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.

Readers' Letters

Dear Ed,

MUSIC IN THE SQUARE FOR NOTHING?

A shock, getting that rumour from you. But my usually reliable sources confirm it. Overwhelming majority in favour of no charge for "Jazz on the Burn" and "Hoedown", so I was told. Something about celebrating the community spirit of Alyth, and getting people together for no other reason than fun. Letting folk from outwith Alyth in without charge, too. Sounds like muddled thinking to me. And coming from the Concealed Cons and Crookit Deals Society. Where's the catch? That's what I ask. Still, maybe we'd better make the best of it before someone changes their mind. Oh, and they say if you want to give to something, do so to a local charity. I really don't know what the world's coming to. See you at the next free entertainment, Yours ever. ETHEL

JUST JAZZ

I wish to thank the organisers of "Jazz on the Burn" for a most enjoyable night. The weather played a big part and the Church Autumn Fayre fund is £50 in hand from my stall on the Square. Thank you Margaret and June for helping. We are looking forward to the 18th of July and The Line Dancing. It would be nice to see more stalls. Thank you people for spending your money - many were looking for a Charity Tin to put money in. How about a Christmas Lights collection. Joy Dewar



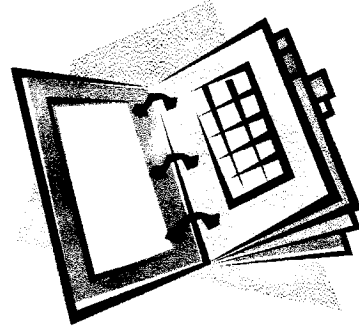
Ed; Two letters on a similar theme. Be assured the CH&CD society had considered some form of collection BUT it was unanimously rejected. They had however approached all local Assoc, Clubs etc.. suggesting that they erect stalls - the result - ONLY ONE STALLI.

BUT - Isn't it nice for a change to get something for NOTHING !

Dear Uncle Paul

I hope that you are the same Uncle Paul Ramsay that lives in the big house on the way to Tullymurdoch because if you are I think you may have found our Dot's skirt. It was about this time last year that she told me she was going out looking for blackberries. I said she was far too early but she said they ripened quick by the side of the road at Coldside. She went off in the gloaming with some pal or other. The upshot is that she came back as I was watching the late film and tried to sneak upstairs but I noticed her skirt. The poor bairn told me that she had knelt on a wasps nest while picking the berries, had torn her skirt off in terror and not daring to go back had hid in the Den until it was dark and she could walk home. She'd lost all her berries but miraculously hadn't been stung once. Oh she's a grand Lass so please can we have her skirt back?

Yours. Adam Neve.



Dear Ed

So you've noticed it too! Yes, its still not there any more. (No, not the skip - not yet anyway) There I was, like you - all bundled up and naewhere to deposit!

Whit am I gabbing on aboot? How long is temporary? Way back in May the official reply was that the vehicle uplifting wir paper-bank required to be fitted with a new attachment to meet health & safety regulations!

The sign states "Amenity Skip & Recycling Centre" NOT only is that funny but it is truly fantastic. JSF.

Sport 'n Brief

GOLF CLUB

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OPEN LETTER FROM IAIN BUTCHART (GENTLEMEN'S CLUB CAPTAIN)

Last week during the British Amputee Golf Association Open, I realised the honoured and privileged position which fellow members of Strathmore Golf Club have entrusted in me as Gentlemen's Captain.

I was fortunate enough to be involved on all 4 days. On day one I played 27 holes during their practice day with Nils (14) and Kaj (20) from Denmark. Day Two was the Texas Scramble where the team I played in consisted of Geoff from Australia (scratch), George from England (18) and Seamus from Ireland (27). Day 3 and 4 were their own two rounds of Stroke Play for the British Open. This was won by Geoff with a total of $74 + 71 = 145$ Gross. On these days I had the pleasure of watching "friends" compete and play golf to an exceptionally high standard. I also attended two social functions, one at the Angus Hotel the other at Atholl Palace and was treated with the courtesy extended to the Captain's of the host club.

I would especially like to formally thank Andy Bell, Dawn Butchart, Jim Cunning, Jim and Liz Davidson, Rhoda Fraser, Jennie French, Wilma Nicoll, Ian and Joan McCouig and Pete and Chris Tinker who played in the Texas Scramble and those who were able to attend the Dinner/Cabaret held at Angus Hotel on Thursday Night. As ambassadors of the club they are people who will not be forgotten by myself nor the amputees with whom they played.

Hopefully in 4 yrs time this prestigious event will return to Strathmore when again we can extend an even warmer welcome and involve all members of the club because this is an experience not to be missed.

Dek & Dave-World Cup 98

We went over to France, to see the boys in Blue
How the Scots would fair I did nae have a clue
the first game was in Paris, a city oh so fine
Where the Tartan Army drank their beer and polished off the wine.

So its off to St Denis to see the opening show
And hoped the lads frae Scotland could put one over Ronaldo
Brazil they scored so early on I nearly shed a tear
Now a drubbing from the Samba boys was the Tartans greatest fear

But things they turned and from the spot Collins he
did score
All you could hear after that was the Tartan Army
roar
We danced around and sang our song and heard a
Scots fan say
"that the Boys fae bonnie Scotland will beat Brazil
today"

But alas it weren't to be, a win we would not get
Cause Tommy Boyd slipped the ball into his own wee
net
So after that we made our way back to the Eiffel
Tower
Where we partied with the Samba boys until the
early hour.

So onward we marched, down the West coast to go
A win surely against Norway in sunny Bordeaux
Then along came match day, we had so much fun
Drinking with Vikings in the hot sun
So the match it started Scotland playing so well
Would we get our first win, only time would tell.

As it came to halftime the score was zero zero
Up until then every player was a hero
But shortly after halftime we looked and cried OH
NO!
Norway were one up, a goal was scored by Flo

But the Scots they fought like Bravehearts refusing
to go under
So sure enough when Scotland scored it was the
toothless wonder
So the match was over with a score of one- one
It was time to party again and have lots of fun.

Now two games had passed and we knew by then
That we had to get a win in St Etienne
Two days later came our match, our spirits they were
high
But we knew we had to win or our World Cup dream
would die.

When the match had started our hearts were filled
with glee
But it soon turned to sadness when we were down
by three
Soon after the game finished the tears began to
swell
But some tears were for Morocco because they were
out as well

Although we were beaten we sang loud in the
ground Just to prove the Tartan Army are the
greatest fans

around.

Derek Fairweather

Public Notices

Bowling

Best wishes to Ian Strachan who will represent Perthshire in the singles at the Scottish Green Bowling finals in Ayr starting on the 6th August. This is the 4th time, having first reached the Semi's in 1996

The Bus Shelter

The Community Council recently complained to the Director of Roads and Transport about the state of the bus shelter in the Square. He has responded by pointing to the long history of abuse suffered by the structure and asking what the public would like to see done about it.

There are various options:

1. Leave the present structure as it is.
2. Demolish the shelter and replace it with a bus stop.
3. Re-site the shelter somewhere else in Alyth.
4. Replace the current shelter with a cantilever design without seats. This would still provide some protection from the rain.

People may have other ideas and these would be considered. If you have a view, and you must, let the Community Council know what you wish to happen. Put your suggestion on a piece of paper and hand it in to any member of the Community Council.

ALYTH YOUTH PARTNERSHIP has recently secured the lease of the old T.S.B. building. We are now looking for help from anyone concerned enough to try to do something for young people. A.Y.P. is a fully constituted group with charitable status and plenty of big ideas. Perhaps you could help us with fund raising (mega-bucks); share your skills or interest; help with the building; or even just make tea and be round to make sure we can open as many hours as possible. To find out about our short term plans as well as our vision for the long term development of the project and of course to volunteer please contact Seonaid Don (632605), George Alan (632804) or Jim Adam (633287)

DIAMOND JUBILEE PARK Management Association

A working group comprising of local organisations have been meeting with representatives of Perth & Kinross Council with a view to taking over the day to day running of the Park

A Public meeting will be held in the in the Lesser Town Hall on Thursday 13th August at 7.00pm with the following Agenda

1. Discussion regarding the Management Association
2. Adoption of the Constitution.
3. Election of Office bearers.
4. AOCB

EVENING CLASSES

Will take place in ;

Alyth School during the Autumn term in the following subjects.

Monday - Computing, Keep-fit, legs, bums & tums,

Tuesday - Pottery, Needlecraft & Golf,

Wednesday - Aromatherapy - Alyth Hotel classes start week beginning 21st September & enrolment is at Alyth School on Tuesday 8th September - 7.30 to 8.30pm, Library Sat 12th September - 10 to 11.30am.

Further information from Pam Drysdale on 01250 873641.

ALYTH HALLS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The public rooms within Alyth have been managed locally for some 20yrs

At a time when services are under considerable pressure The Committee is seeking to consult individuals and ALL user groups within the community to provide any ideas and opinions on what additions and improvements could be made.

YOUR views are MOST important and it is hoped that you will spend a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return via Alyth PO, the Library, Hallkeepers or any Committee member.

MR Johnson
Alyth Halls Chairman.

Next Mtg of The CH&CD will be held in The Thistle lounge GEO's Bar on Thursday 13th August @7.30pm
Everyone interested in the wellbeing of Alyth is welcome to attend.

Circulation of the Alyth Voice has now risen to 1100 copies distributed by volunteers to the local community FOC. Cost of publication is covered by Advertising. The CH&CD society is non-profit making

The Alyth Voice website is www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~gizzy

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Letter from Latin America

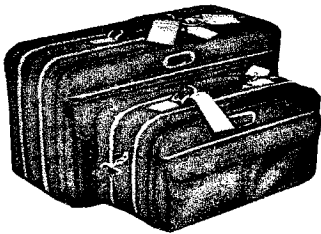
Fiona Heron (New Alyth)

Over into S America and Columbia.

Between Central and S America, the Darien Gap lies, an extensive wilderness of rainforest, conveniently separating the two parts of the continent and Panama from Columbia. It might be imagined that this area would be dangerous due to wild animals, tribes or plants, but NO. It is dangerous to travel through - possible only on foot or by boat - because of Bandits or possibly Officials suspecting one of drug smuggling.

SO I FLEW

The road from the airport followed continuous bends and curves, first up over the mountains, then down again through a jewelled mountain side, a sea of lights caused by the dense building upwards from Medellin centre. El Valle de Aburra was discovered by the Spanish in 1541, so-called because one of the many Aboriginal groups here were the Aburra. 80 years later it was called San Lorenzo de Aburra, and then in 1645, containing still only 700 people, it was called El Valle de Nuestra Senora de la Candelaria de Medellin.



How much more orderly and together the country and people seemed to me after Central America. More book shops for one thing.

However armed Police presence was everywhere, and frequent searches of bags and men(only) went on, even in the Cathedral.

Also after Central American countries, this land, about the size of France, Spain & Portugal combined, seemed massive.

Due to the rainy weather - El Nino again - I left the North until my return in a few months and headed South over Columbias Sierra, through Menizales, Cali and Papayer.

The scenery is spectacular and I realised I had finally reached the great Andes. On the folds of hills lie coffee, banana and sugar plantations.

From Papayer I visited the tiny mountain village of Silvia on market day. This was my first encounter with indigenous peoples of the Andes and here live the very traditional Gumbiaros, as well as some Otavaleros.

The clothing of Gumbiaros is mainly indigo and fuschia cloth wrap, even worn by men. Walking out on a country road, I was passed by a few on bikes and motorbikes, zooming along, hairy legs in big boots on show, and scarves flying behind them. All including little children, wear little bowler hats perched on their heads over bowl style haircuts.

The journey here, and throughout the area, went through stunning landscape and later I saw a painting exhibition by Manuel Guerrero Mora, which really managed to catch and depict how the mountains looked during these rainy months, as clouds passed over the quilt-like plots of land, and certain parts were spotlighted by occasional shafts of light

.....to be cont'd

Nature Watch

Last month I mentioned a woodpeckers' nest in a rotten birchtree. By now the nestlings must have flown, if they survived the damp and cold of the past month. Not far from the woodpeckers' hole is a buzzards' nest. Earlier in the summer I remember looking up at it and seeing a young buzzard's head appearing above the parapet from time to time. No doubt this nestling and its mate, if it had one, will have flown, well fed by its parents on the numerous rabbits that live around here.

This is the time of year when family parties of birds are to be seen flying about together, the young of the year having been raised successfully to this point. Family parties of peewits and oyster catchers congregate in groups of their own species before flying down to the sea shore for the winter. In the case of buzzards the families stay together until the young birds move off to find territories of their own.

This is a tough time for any young bird and especially so for a young bird of prey. Mortality rates are high. Hunting for rabbits is not a dodder for an adult bird at the best of times, but for a young one it is a very exacting activity. The same thing goes for most predators, whether they are lions or sparrow-hawks: a huge amount of time is spent hunting, little of it with success. It does not take too many failures to starve, particularly in winter.

Difficult as life may be for the young buzzard, numbers of the species have increased a great deal over the last thirty to forty years. The reasons seem first, that the increase in woodland has provided the birds with more sites for nests. Secondly, as numbers of rabbits, the buzzard's main prey, have recovered since the myxomatosis epidemic of the fifties there has been plenty for the birds to eat, if they can catch it. Thirdly, with legal protection, fewer people are inclined to shoot or trap the birds than they were in the past.

The sight of so many buzzards, however, is not welcome to everybody. There are those who complain that there are far too many of the birds and claim that the dearth of partridges and other game birds is due to them.

The facts are against these people because research over the years has shown clearly that changes in farming practice are responsible for the loss of the grey partridge from so much of the country, and for the dramatic reduction in numbers of so many species of bird that used to be commoner. These include the curlew, peewit, thrushes, and blackbird.



Just as people unthinkingly blame the buzzard (and the sparrow hawk, the hen-harrier, the peregrine falcon and the golden eagle) for various misfortunes so it is wrong to blame the farmer. Since the last world war farmers have been encouraged to increase agricultural production. All a farmer's instincts are to make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before and so if you give him the tools he will certainly do his best to do the job.

What needs changing now is the Common Agricultural Policy. Currently £400 million are pumped into Scots agriculture by way of grants for production and only £12 million are paid to the farming community for agri-environmental works. This needs to be changed. Things are beginning to, but slowly.

So, spare the buzzard (et al.) and cherish the farmer, you never know when you may need him (or her).
Paul Ramsay

Ed. Sorry about the print size on these but both articles are too good to leave out.

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