

# alyth voice

10th Edition, February 1998

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## EDITORIAL

If the Crooked Dreel and Concealed Hinge Society hadn't chosen that curious combination of words for its title it might well have settled on something like The Society for the Abolition of February. It is a dreich month but also one where, for lack of something better to do you are forced to look ahead and contemplate goodies to come. This edition anticipates some tasty delicacies from the Valentine's windows, through the Choral Society's Concert to the more distant Jazz and Country & Western offerings. We could even have an election for places on the Community Council - that would be an occurrence of note! (Why not put yourself forward and shake the establishment?) Let us not forget our established societies and banish the blues by supporting the badminton club, football club, guides, scouts, over 50s, Friendship Club and many more. In the past month two separate individuals from nearby settlements have remarked, ruefully to me, "It all seems to be happening in Alyth." Let's keep it that way.

## Dates for your Diary

Through the good offices of the Tourist Board, the Crooked Dreel and Concealed Hinge Society has acquired money to mount two musical events in Alyth this summer. Although details have still to be worked out it seems likely that an event provisionally titled 'Midsummer Jazz on the Burn' will be held in the late evening of 20th June and a country and western / line dancing concert on 18th July. Both events will take place in the vicinity of the Square. There will be no admission charge and the emphasis is on having a good time and drawing a few visitors into the town.

As with the Christmas Market, CDCHS will be responsible for the organisation and is seeking offers from voluntary bodies in the town to run stalls in the Square. If a commercial body wants to run a stall this is acceptable so long as the holder makes a donation to charity and is not in direct competition with any business in town.

A criticism of our last event was that there was nothing to eat but other than that clue we are open to any suggestions. If you are interested please contact Rob Tindall (632734) to discuss the possibilities.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

It's that time of year again, when the folks of Alyth have to give some thought as to who should represent the interests of the town as Community Councillors in dealings with the wider world. By an odd quirk of the constitution, more than half of the members must resign this April. There will be five vacancies as Helen McDonald, Jim Adam, Dennis Melloy, Gordon Oliver and George Smith will all have completed a three year term of office. They are all eligible to stand again if they wish but Gordon has indicated that he will not be commuting from Lisbon to Alyth. Whether the magnificent four stand again or not, there is room for new faces around the table.

It's not an onerous job. You need to be a good listener - not in meetings but to your 'constituents'. It is not party political - you will be expected to keep Alyth's interests at the forefront of your mind during your term of office. There are only ten scheduled meetings each year and there is no pay. Pressure will not be applied at the first meeting for you to take the job of Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary!

Nomination forms will be available from the Post Office and Library in early March to be returned to the Returning Officer (Ian Miller) by 23rd March, with an election, if necessary on 14th April.

Give it some thought!

R Tindall (Secretary)

The Alyth Voice is always delighted to give publicity, free of charge to local groups wishing to publicise forthcoming events. Publication is the 7th of each month with copy required by the 21st of the preceding month.

No milk only buttermilk. O Lord o Mighty what'll I do? You never have any when I come.

(Old saying if someone didn't refill the milk jug). LD



## Readers' Letters

Dear Uncle Dennis,

Can I have a refund?

One of my neighbours asked if I had ever seen a lion dancing. Being an ootbye sort of bloke, I had to confess I hadn't. He told me to get along to the Town Hall on a Friday night. I hurried on down, paid my £2.50 to the woman in shiny boots at the door and took a seat along the back wall.

I assumed that the other folk in the hall were some sort of participative cabaret as they hopped around shaking their extremities in response to American music and the instructions of a small sandy chap at the front. They were fairly enjoying themselves and I bet some of the more substantial of them (and there were a few!) went home a few stones lighter.

They wanted me to join in, but no, I was there for the lion and not the jigging. When the chorus line stopped for a cup of coffee the ring master still hadn't announced the big cats, so I left and went to look for excitement in Geo's.

I'll take a cheque or cash.

Disappointedlly yours,  
Adam Neve



Dilkusha,  
New Alyth

Dear Sir,

I am collecting and collating anecdotes and information about the day in 1949 when the people of Alyth took over the Hill. This was the culmination of, I believe, a long running campaign to establish the rights of access by the local citizenship. It must have been a real fun day out with pipers, dancing and a picnic.

My interest is the possibility of creating or helping to create a piece of community theatre, possibly re-enacting the main features of the event. I would be delighted to receive any information or offers to help with this project. The objective would be to put on some kind of community theatrical event. Not so ambitious perhaps as Dundee's Witch's Blood 1 & 2 and the Bridge but would it not be a worthwhile addition to our millenium celebrations? Alyth can do it!

Sincerely,  
Jim Adam

Dear Sir,

As a "newcomer" to the area, (we have only been here ten years) I would like to congratulate everyone who was involved in any way in making the run up to Christmas 1997 such a good time for the town. What huge community efforts went into all of the things that happened!

The Musical Society's show. The Fireworks display. The Ian Powrie concert. The great Christmas lights procession and switch on. The Youth Theatre Show. So much involvement by so many!

Behind it all, as well as up front, so much individual sheer hard work. Thank you all, for the joy produced by all of these things. Alyth community should be very proud of itself.

Yours sincerely, Hilda Adam

Bill and Eileen Mc Bain have received a letter from Allan L Gray a former resident of Alyth who now stays in Vancouver, British Columbia, following a return visit to his native heath last summer. He also forwarded some photos circa 1947/48 eg of Alyth United which we are unable to publish due to lack of space but which we are sure Bill will be only to happy to show. An edited version of Mr Gray's letter appears below:-

Dear Bill and Eileen,

Thank you for your kindness and hospitality. Son, Allan was born in Alyth fifty years ago, followed by daughter, Sheila. It was really gratifying for my son and I to meet and greet some of the local people who remembered us from that time.

One of our few concerns was about the state of the Burn but no doubt the town can do something about that.

We enjoyed our pub lunches at the Losset and a chat with some of the regulars, and ended our visit to Alyth on a high note with a reservation at the Lands of Loyal dining room. A relaxed atmosphere, good food and a fabulous view.

Our thanks to you and the people of Alyth for helping to make our holiday such a memorable occasion - "Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again."

Sincerely,  
Allan L Gray

## My Granny's Kempock

Gie's ma kempock,  
My granny would say,  
Nay, not that one -  
The one for the day!

Monday's was Blue  
With two pockets inside,  
Filled with trinkets  
She liked to hide.

Tuesday's was Orange  
With ribbons two,  
Combs for her hair.  
Some were new.

Wednesday was yellow,  
Thursday's was Green,  
Just made from sacking  
But what a dream.

Friday's was special,  
Indigo hue,  
The day she got married  
To my grandad, Hugh.

Saturday was Red  
With beads all around;  
What treasures inside  
Waiting to be found

Sunday was Violet  
and special too,  
For in them all  
Were combs from Hugh.

But my other granny kept a  
beastie comb in HER  
kempock

With itchy pow  
And knitted brow,  
I dinnae ken how  
To be astute  
Unless I'm thunken as a  
newt

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Loyal Rd

## The Fun We had

In our young day, fun was skating on the Alyth Burn when it was frozen over and playing ice hockey with a walking stick and tin can as a puck, with a few falls thrown in. We also skated on the Pond down at the Market Muir and the man-made rink beside it. Then came the sledging down Bank St., Kirk Brae, Loyal Brae and Davie Reid's field.

About April out came the skipping ropes and the chalk, for palallies. Then it was football and rounders in the Park after we'd had a day picking berries which we did to get money for our new clothes for going back to school after the holidays. In the summer if it was warm enough we went dookin' at "Craigie's Hole" or out at the Den at the "Stepping Stones", where we dammed up the water to make a pool and slung a Tarzie rope from a tree to jump from into the water. Other times we played tennis down at the tennis courts.

One of the best times we had was when my friends and I put on concerts in Davie Reid's hayshed where we arranged the bales of hay for seats. It was mostly our parents and friends who came to see us perform, then at the end Miss Reid would come out with tea and sandwiches. In the summer evenings we used to play "kick the can" at "The Losset" where there were plenty of places to hide. At Halloween "The Losset" was the place to go; nobody was turned away. After we'd done our party piece, there would be treacle scones on strings hanging from a rope which you had to catch in your teeth without using your hands. There was a tin bath for dooking for apples and a plate of mashed tatties and milk with a few sixpences hidden in them. Other days I'd help Johnnie Stewart cut his kindling and logs and then go round the town with him on his horse and cart selling them. I did the same with Mickey Walker and his horse and cart, selling bakery. It was great fun. It's a pity the young of today are so intent in staying in the house with TV's, disc players and computers. Just think of all they could be doing in the fresh air.

Rob Roy

Real name regrettfully withheld at the author's request. - Editor

## Window Competitions

The Window Competition at Christmas was a great success with the first prize of a bottle of Scotch going to R Donaldson, Woodworker in Bank St., second to Karin Donaldson, Toutie Curios and third to Nancy Kay of J M Kay. All winners received certificates. The big entry and uniformly high standards were a credit to the town and caused the judge to agonise long and hard.

The Alyth and District Business Association is now sponsoring a **Valentine's Window Competition** which is open to all businesses in the town. Jessie McLean, as Citizen of the Year once more has the unenviable task of judging the top three, who will again receive certificates, on Saturday 14th February.

For further details contact Michael Kay, Secretary, Alyth and District Business Association.

## SMOOTHIES

Happy Valentine's Day. Love and Cuddles to three lovely little girls - Bam Bam Bash, Bun and Boo Boo Kid from Grandad Munchkin! xxx

Sweet Adeline. Keep a song in my heart and I'll keep your feet warm. Geordie Bob

Valentine's Day greetings to the 6 Million Dollar Man from your No 1 fan! X

Lots of love to Mummy and Daddy on Valentine's Day - Christie

To my wee Govan darlin'  
This poem comes to say  
That you are my special beloved.  
Have a happy Valentine's Day.

Billy regretfully informs his many admirers that he isn't sending any Valentine's cards or messages this year.

Tanya and Alison, the girls in my life.  
One is the dog, the other's the wife!  
Lots of love to Alison. JB

## Alyth Choral Union

This year the Alyth Choral Union's Spring/Easter Concert will take place in Alyth Parish Church on the evening of Sunday 22nd March. The Choir has decided to perform a number of popular choruses from Handel's "Messiah" with soloists and a chamber orchestra. We hope to give more details in next month's Alyth Voice.

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## From Alyth to Canada and on to New Zealand

Mr and Mrs Bruce Malcolm emigrated to Canada about three years ago and have recently sent the Alyth Voice an account of their impressions of moving from a Canadian winter to an Antipodean spring.

I don't know if any of your readers has been in Fiji but we had a fuel stop there at 4.30am and when we stepped off the plane it felt as if we had stepped into a sauna (fully clothed) - the humidity was very, very high, I don't think that a holiday there in March could be recommended. The temperature on arrival in Auckland was pleasantly warm. (Fiona phoned us from Canada that night to tell us that the evening temperature there was -12C.) Enough of the weather.

While staying with our son Euan and family in Hamilton, his wife was in charge of a committee organising the catering for a rowing regatta which attracted something in the region of 20000 people. It was held on a beautiful lake amidst lovely surroundings. However, believe me, I have never seen so many sandwiches in all my life and I never want to see the same again.

It is very difficult trying to detail all the exciting places and events we have seen. One trip we had with Euan took us past the largest cheese factory in the Southern Hemisphere. Built and operational in nine months. Quite a feat.

One morning in April we left with Euan at 4.30am on a business trip. It is impossible for me to describe the dawn that day as we were looking down on Lake Taupo. The scene was the most wonderful that I have ever witnessed. The light spread across the huge lake in glowing red to start with, gradually deepening in colour as the sun rose higher in the sky. This journey took us well into the country to one of the large power stations in the mountains. Euan was met by a man whose forebears were Maori and he gave us the most interesting description of the three mountains which we saw in the distance. Each one related to a particular Maori tribe.

Now for a little golf talk. We were staying with friends in a district called Orewa and

they took us for a drive around a multi-million dollar development. The apartments are situated around a small harbour where the residents will be able to moor their luxury yachts. The yearly golf subscription is \$11000 with a membership fee of \$32000. Somewhat higher than Alyth or Rosemount, think you? Incidentally Orewa is a district of Auckland and while we were there something unusual happened. We were sitting having a cup of tea when a neighbour called in and our friends thought that possibly we would know him as he had been a teacher in Blairgowrie High School in 1967. Well Euan arrived to take us back to Hamilton and when he walked in he said, "Mr Smith, how are you?" He recognised him immediately as the Maths teacher he had in Blairgowrie. This is only one instance of meeting people in the most unusual places.

BM

## NEW IN CIVIL

Gwen Wood, a partner of Ridley, Seath & Co., Solicitors in Perth is to be available in Alyth Town Hall for consultations each Tuesday evening from 7 - 9 pm commencing Tuesday 17th February 1998. The firm deals with all aspects of law including criminal cases, civil litigation, matrimonial disputes, domestic conveyancing and wills and executries. An appointment can be made for you by telephoning their office on 01738 630737 or you can just call in at the Town Hall during consultation times.

## GOOD FOR A MAN

Is it the cold weather affecting the dogs' digestive tracts or our imagination that fouling is once again a problem in the town? Our feet, prams, wheelchairs and vulnerable children are once more at risk. Please Fido, train your owner to clean up after you. Don't pooh pooh the idea.

So Alyth is to get its first double yellow lines - on the corner of Airlie St/ St Ninian's Rd. Let's hope they're the last. But they won't be if we don't park sensibly!

*The next meeting of the Hackett and Binge Society will take place in the Thistle Lounge at 7.30 on Thursday 12th February. All welcome.*

## ALYTH SHOWCASE

For a long time the idea of an Alyth Showcase has been a dream. Having talked to some very talented artistes it now seems that they share my dream. None of the many shows in Alyth in 1997 were aimed specifically at youth but this could be remedied by the Showcase which if it comes into being will be one of the largest and best organised shows to be held in Alyth for a long time.

Immense public support is needed and I am appealing for help on both the projected nights. We require ushers, stage hands and catering personnel. A stage manager, preferably someone with previous experience is also needed. If you think you can help call me on 01828 632964.

It is intended that the show will open in the Town Hall on Friday 27th March and run for two nights. It will last for about 3 hours. Tickets priced £5 (balcony) and £2 (floor) will be on sale from 7th February. Watch for the ad in the Blairie for outlets. It will start at 7pm and run until 10pm.

VIPs ranging from professional actors and musicians to senior staff from Blairgowrie HS are expected to attend.

Anticipated acts are myself (stand up comedy), Supersegway - Simon Cuthbertson (lead vocals), Derrek Johnston (lead guitar) and Ally Barrow (drums). Auditions are to be held for other acts - and future events - contact me for details. The backing I have had so far has been amazing and with luck it will all be worth it.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Robert Stewart (Showcase President)

## Alyth Youth Drama Day

Tuesday April 7th this year is to be Youth Drama Day in Alyth. By arrangement with Perth and Kinross Council, Arts and Heritage, and at the request of Alyth Youth Theatre, the Hop-Scotch Theatre Company will be in residence at the Town Hall on that date.

The Drama Day will take place during the school holidays. All young people in the Alyth district are welcome to take part in this fun day of theatre workshops and training sessions and to experience all aspects of theatre. Watch out for flyers and posters giving further details. Places are limited, and anyone wanting to make an early booking should contact Jim Adam on 633287.

## ABC

"Carpe Diem".....

.... well in this case 'seize your badminton racket' (apologies to Latin purists). For many years that is exactly what members of Alyth Badminton Club have done. As with other groups, the club has always enjoyed a great deal of local support. Why has the club been so popular?

The club has always seemed to attract good players who can regularly be found in the later stages of local, regional and, in some cases, national competitions.

Additionally, in previous years the club has supported a junior section. In fact with the aid of coaching sessions it is hoped to rekindle the interest of younger players in badminton with a view to the future of the club.

Members welcome anyone who wants to play badminton. If you want to play for fun or play competitively in matches or tournaments, then why not come along? You'll find us in the Airlie Street Hall on Monday nights from 8pm.

## ALYTH VOICE EDITORIAL BOARD

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

<b>Julie Brown</b>	<b>632986</b>
<b>Sheila Donald</b>	<b>632847</b>
<b>Billy Gordon</b>	<b>via Post Office</b>
<b>Simon Ingram</b>	<b>632705</b>
<b>Sandy McCurdy</b>	<b>632744</b>
<b>Jessie McLean</b>	<b>632684</b>
<b>Callum Strachan</b>	<b>633140</b>
<b>Alix Tindall</b>	<b>633485</b>
<b>Rob Tindall</b>	<b>632734</b>

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.

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