

Alyth voice

9th Edition, January 1997

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EDITORIAL

A Happy New Year to all our readers.

Our north European reticence (yes it is wider than Scottish) would not let us admit that 1997 was a good year, so let us just say that it wasn't **too bad**. That leaves us room to make 1998 considerably better.

Anyone who was in Airlie Street or the Square on 29th November for the Switching On of the lights can be in no doubt about what Alyth can achieve if we all pull together. I've been at many community events, political rallies and football matches and I cannot recall any which exuded the enjoyment and togetherness of that couple of hours in the Square. Why was it a success? Easy; because everyone played a part - the Lights Committee, the Stall-holders, the Business Association, the musicians, those who dressed up, the marchers and everyone who turned out. If we all throw a little into the pot, the resulting stew is one we can all enjoy.

It would never do to end on a positive note. Please read the appeals by the Youth Project and the comments from the Brownies in the light of the above. They need our help!

An Apology

The Editor apologises for a word processing error in last month's Alyth Voice which meant that the Fashion Wise advertisement read, "Jessie would like to wish all her valued customers a very Merry Christmas and," instead of "Jessie would like to wish all her valued customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

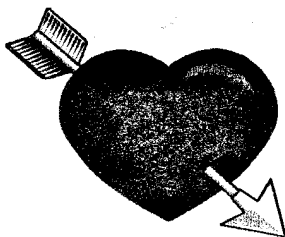
Some readers assumed that this was part of the Granny Kempock Christmas Competition and attempted to complete the sentence in an astute and witty manner. In general the suggestions were amusing but that from Adam Neve was quite disturbing. He should show more respect for our Citizen of the Year.

SMOOTHIES

Calling all you romantics out there - and we know Alyth is full of them. How would you like to show your loved one that you care? If you want to tell Bunnykins that Smudgekins can't live without her then we're here to help. For a mere 50p for twenty words and 5p for each additional word we'll print your message in the February issue - just before Valentine's Day.

To take advantage of this offer submit your message together with the money in a sealed envelope to Billy in the Post Office or Jessie at Fashion Wise by 21st January.

You should note that the Alyth Voice is a family newsletter and may decline to publish certain messages.



Cheer yourself up

Strawberry Yoghurt Crumb Cake

Ingredients

- 100g margarine
- 200g digestive biscuits
- 250mls natural yoghurt
- 200mls double or whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 50g caster sugar
- 400g strawberries (raspberries may be used instead)
- 12½ g gelatine dissolved in 4tbsp hot water
- pinch of cinnamon

Method

1. Lightly grease a 17cm or 20cm loose bottomed cake tin
 2. Crush the biscuits
 3. Melt the margarine then add the biscuits and the cinnamon. Mix well
 4. Press into base of tin
 5. Beat yoghurt, cream, lemon juice and sugar with a wooden spoon until smooth and creamy
 6. Stir in 300g of fruit - cut in pieces if fruits are too large
 7. Beat in dissolved gelatine mixture
 8. Set aside for 20 mins or until just setting
 9. Spoon mixture onto biscuit base
 10. Place in fridge and chill for at least 30 mins
 11. Remove from the tin and place on a serving plate
 12. Decorate with remaining 100g of fruit
- Note leaving in the fridge overnight ensures a better set of the yoghurt mixture

E M

Readers' Letters

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank my fellow workers, musicians and customers who dressed up and made our party on 29th November 1897 such a great success. Our sixpence a nip and one shilling a double was very well received. I expect there were a few sore heads on the following Sunday morning. I must thank my 'advertising agent' Brian for his graphics etc.

Many thanks to Eddie (chippy) for his music on Saturday 20th December and to the crew who made the stovies!

Special thanks to my wife Lily who organised a family get together on 21st December at the Alyth Hotel and to their staff who coped with us so professionally.

In aid of our Christmas Lights Appeal your old coins may be redeemed at the bar. Redemption costs are as follows:- Sixpence = 50 pence, others = £1. If you enjoyed the lights' display come on in and give generously.

Finally a very special thanks to Lily, my family and to my friends for the multitude of cards and beautiful gifts I received on my birthday.

George Robertson

Adam Neve's no' weel so thankfully no letter this month.

Revive a Tradition?

Discussion at the Crooked Dreel and Concealed Hinge Society's meeting on 11th December turned, as it often does, to great Alyth community events of the past. Someone mentioned the Great Alyth Pram Races which had to be abandoned as the supply of old fashioned prams dried up. A sip or two later someone suggested that we could resurrect the tradition using supermarket trolleys.

So. How many people would be interested in entering a modern version of the old race? One of our number reckons that he can (legally) get hold of enough trolleys. Would you enter a two person team in a race starting at the Blackbird, proceeding via the Bowling Club, Geo's, Lands of Loyal, Losset, Alyth Hotel to the Burnside? Entry might be £10 per adult team and £5 for teams aged 13 to 17years. Entry fees would cover a half in each establishment (non alcoholic for juniors!) and a prize for various

Dear Sir,

Giving and receiving or just receiving?

I would like to say a big thank you to all the Brownies who attended the Remembrance Service at the Parish Church on 9th November. I was very proud of the girls as they joined in the Service and then marched to the War Memorial. Eleven Brownies took part out of an enrolment of twenty. I realise that some of the girls couldn't be there, but where were the rest? The same thing happened at our Thinking Day Service in February when the turnout was twelve.

All the Guiders are volunteers and give up their time to run Brownies etc. We appeal to parents to support us and encourage their girls to come along to these two special services. The services only last about an hour. Please give us your support and come along with your daughter.

Sheena Fotheringham
2nd Alyth Brownies

Alyth Youth Partnership

The Youth Partnership is looking for adults willing to help run a youth club which will operate one night a week from early in the New Year. If you can give two or three hours a couple of times a month, and are enthusiastic, energetic and care about the young people in the town, we would like to hear from you. Training and support will be available to anyone volunteering.

If you are interested to volunteer, or to find out more, contact John Corrigan at Community Education in Blairgowrie (01250 874234) or Seonaid Don at 01828 632605

categories eg junior, mixed sex, all male, pensioners, best decorated trolley etc. - but not insurance or medical costs! We could even try to get the trolleys well in advance to allow teams to give them a pre-race service or to make alterations.

This note is inserted only to gauge interest so if you want to take it further please contact a member of the Editorial Board of the Alyth Voice.

So - let's hear it for Alyth

Apart from being a bonnie, historic, wee toon with a rare Den and a river beloved by a heron, dippers and fish (well, in watery times), with friendly folk, welcoming shopkeepers and hostellers. Where else would you get dolled up in your old Victoriana for the day, before the switching on of the community-funded, brilliant Christmas lights by Jessie and Lisette, our citizens of the year? Hundreds turned out to applaud this community effort and enjoy the lively lorry music and Santa's tour of the Square.

And where else would you ever see or hear, the Moderator in a grand Sandy McDonald kilt, but in the pink Parish Kirk, where people actually speak to you. Mind you I sometimes make it early to listen to the organist's (Elizabeth) superb modern and ancient music.

And will I ever forget my "Away day" with the minister? It's OK - I'm not being irreverent - I won the auction bid to visit "Grampian" with Rev. Oliver (or may I call you Gordon now?). We are so sorry you are leaving us, but we wish you and your family well in your Portugal mission.

After a few year's residence we were chuffed tae be invited tae "The Brae's Berry Ball", and thus on our way tae being a wee part o' Alyth folk lore. Whit brow nicht!

And then there's the dancing in the Toon Hall (coutesy of Libanden & Co). - flashback of my first real click in Kidd's Rooms, Dundee (after graduating frae Hawkhill's "Robbies") tae tango on the very same floorboards.

And there's much more - like our fine and competent Community Councillors; cheery coffee mornings; concerts; Youth Drama; Musical Society which welcomed involvement (if only as a balcony usherette); the Choral Union and that jazzy Perthshire Brass with its unique

Alyth Playgroup

Alyth Playgroup is for children over 2½ years old. It is held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9.30 - 11.30 am in Alyth Primary School. There are two great playleaders - Joyce Duffy and Alison McLaren. At the moment there are nineteen children on the register.

In November when we had our Halloween party Joyce came as a Mexican and Alison as a witch. Most of the children came in fancy dress and there were lots of nice costumes. We also held a coffee morning which raised £102 and would

Georgian conductor of spine-tingling music. For further inspiration I'm listening to one of their tapes now.

Am I tempting fate? Thanks also to our fine Health Clinic Staff and our ever obliging Chemists, my beasties' vets, librarians and all those who provide such excellent service in Alyth.

Speaking of such, where else would one get milk delivered daily (and not pinched) by a whistling milkman, or be convivial with such smiling gentlemen as Postie Keith, Marathon Bin Man Peter, Gardener Duncan and ither Flower Men - now retired?

And where else would you have "cosy" sorting out chats over tea and biscuits frae local Bobbies - for some reason (known only to them) usually after dark?

Tae think that once upon a time all I kent about Alyth wis that it had a great fish and chip shop - and still does!

Sae - thank you Alyth. But I'm sure many others of you could add much more tae my ramblings.

Jo Havers of Soap Box

Jottings

Remember the mention in the 8th Edition for Isla Duncan's third novel? Sir Elton John is to make a film (starting in Edinburgh in March) of her second Scots novel 'Women Talking Dirty'. Can you believe it? She dedicated it to two folk who now live in Alyth!

I don't know who does it, but a big "thank you" to whosoever does, for I've just been for a trudge in the Den with the dogs and the only litter was a newly discarded chocolate bar wrapper, which of course, I bagged.

like to thank everyone who baked, donated raffle prizes or just came along to support us.

December saw us taking a trip to Koko's in Dundee. The kids loved getting a ride on the bus and they had a great time at Koko's. Joyce and Alison were determined to join in. They had a go on the bouncy castle and then Joyce hid in the haunted house pretending to be a ghost. For Christmas the children made cards and decorations and Santa came to our party.

Playgroup is great fun. If you would like to register your child call Allison Sinclair on 6333264 for an application form.

S F

Alyth Amateurs F C News

by 'the Voice' sports correspondent

'The Amis' have seen some changes in recent weeks.

After many, many years of marvellous service to the club as player, captain, committee member and manager, Rab Kydd has decided to step down so that he can devote more time to his work. Since taking over the reins as manager in June 1996, Rab has put in a huge number of hours ensuring that the town was well represented in the Perthshire Amateur League, Division One. It is hard to count up the number of honours he earned with the club over the years. His work is greatly appreciated by everyone, and the club hope that Rab will return in some capacity once he has recharged his batteries.

Taking over as manager is Scott Gray. Despite being a native of Coupar Angus, (no one's perfect) Scott has been involved with the club for some years, during one of its most successful periods. Scott captained the North of Tay Cup winning team of 1994. Since taking over he has been making the players work hard at their fitness, which has not always been appreciated by some! When asked for a comment about the rest of the season, Scott just said, "Champions!!" This seems to be a positive attitude.

The committee are determined that very soon the pavilion will provide facilities worthy of the town. It is hoped to have the new showers in place within two months and the duties of the club in carrying forward this work has now been spread over a number of members.

The Concealed Whinge Society wishes the Amis every success for the rest of the season.

An Appeal

Mrs Tara Lynn, 2, Wyvis Ave., Glasgow G13 4LL. (0141 952 9785) is looking for any information about her father **Eugene (O)uspenski(y)**. Born c. 1914-15, Russian father, German mother. Lived in Berlin pre 1939. Was at **Balhary Camp** sometime between 1941 and 1948. Any information about her father, the camp and especially photographs gratefully received.

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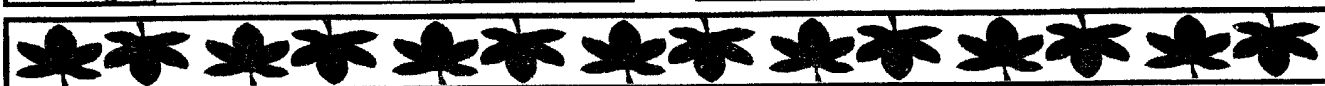
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Alyth Christmas Lights

From Dennis Melloy

On behalf of Alyth Christmas Lights Committee I would like to thank the people of Alyth for the splendid support they showed by turning out in such large numbers for the Switch On.

Crucial to the Lights is fundraising and this is where Alyth comes into its own. I am always amazed that so many people are willing to lend a hand when it comes to baking cakes, making sandwiches and collecting raffle prizes. (Can someone tell me how Jean Kirkpatrick does it?)

The Ian Powrie Concert once more was a great success and thanks must be extended to Ian himself, George McGibbon, Jimmy Fairweather, Hammy Scott, Charlie Blyth, Linda Grant and her dancers, Bob, Gill and Paddy Stewart, Ian Dougall, Wedge Robb and others too numerous to mention for making it a great night.

Donations have come from: Round Table £150, Gala Committee £100, Blairgowrie Area Committee of Perthshire Tourist Board £200, the Former Alyth Entertainments Committee £144, Alyth Branch of the British Legion £100 (proceeds from a bingo tea), Perth and Kinross Council £300, Rotary Club £100 together with some very generous donations from individuals in the community.

Space does not allow everyone who helped put up the brackets and lights to have a separate mention but particular thanks go to Ron Kirkpatrick, John Robertson, Pete Marshall and Drew Ewart for the use of their forklifts and drivers. Without the sparkies there would be no lights so thank you to Ian Milne, George Smith, Stuart Wheatley, Stewart McDonald, John Adam, Gordon Henderson, Graham Maxwell and Bill Fleming. We musn't forget all those who have allowed us to tap into their electricity supply over the period.

On the day/night the Business Association with their Victorian Day and the Crooked Dreel with the coordination of the stalls all added to the fun and let's not miss Wedge and Emma Robb and friends who supplied the music. As members of the Lights Committee special thanks must go to Libby, David Carver and Callum Strachan for efforts beyond the call of duty.

We're now looking at next year. An Old Tyme Music Hall? Other bright ideas? Let us have them. Well done Alyth. All take a bow. Thanks.

Dennis

Granny Kempock

Last month's Christmas competition generated a lot of interest regarding the identity of Granny Kempock. "Fortunately" our quiz coincided with a feature in the "People's Friend" which gave a description of the 'lady' in question!

Thanks to everyone who entered, their efforts were much appreciated. After long deliberation it was decided that Mr J M Bruce, Ivybank, Hill St. was the winner. The Crooked Dreel will be in touch with Mr Bruce to present him with his hamper of frozen food.

Mr Bruce's answer was:-

'Overlooking Gourock Bay is a 6 foot standing stone. For centuries, 'the granny' has bestowed good luck on all passing ships. In 1622, a girl named Mary Lamont was burnt as a witch, on a charge of intending to throw the stone into the sea to cause shipwrecks'

It is believed that the standing stone dates from 2000 BC and in Druid times was an altar to Baal. In former times, sailors and fishermen, about to set out on a voyage from Gourock, used to take a basket of sand from the shore to Granny, and walk round the stone 7 times, chanting a song to bring them luck. Newly married couples also danced around the stone to gain Granny's blessing.

'Granny Kempock also refers to a small ferry owned by Ritchie & Co which used to sail from Gourock to Helensburgh, Kilcregan and ran on cruises round the Firth of Clyde.

Thanks to Mr D A McCurdy for research

Next month we hope to publish 'My granny's Kempock' by J Balfour

Crooked deal and Three Wheeled Society

The Crooked Dreel and Concealed Hinge Society has received a grant of £350 from Perth and Kinross Council to support its activities. CDCHS aims to be self-financing and through the generosity of advertisers, the Alyth Voice is self supporting although it has occasionally suffered from 'cash flow' problems. The grant will enable the Society to plan ahead more securely and to contemplate events and projects where start up money is needed. Why don't you come along to the next meeting in the Thistle Lounge at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th January and help us decide how to spend the cash? Unfortunately putting it behind the bar isn't an option!

Gardening Notes

Dwarf and Slow-growing Conifers

Following on from November's notes on conifers I now want to look at a particular group suitable for rock gardens and pots - the dwarf or slow-growing conifers. Dwarf conifers are those whose ultimate height is two feet or less with a similar spread. This is not to say that you are restricted to conifers of this height as many other species can take years to grow to a substantial size. When choosing your conifer, choose wisely by considering where you intend to plant, light, shade, soil type and most importantly try to ensure that it is going to be in scale with other plants, particularly if developing a rock garden where oversized conifers will look totally out of place.

When selecting your plant choose a conifer having a bright healthy appearance with strong lower growth. The soil should fill the width of the pot and look as if it has been in place some time. Freshly turned soil suggests that the plant has been lifted out of a nursery bed to obtain a higher price. Avoid tired plants with drooping leaves or browning leaf tips which indicates a lack of water. Dwarf conifers being compact are prone to frost damage, especially in the early spring when tight close growth holds water. Without protection this growth freezes and the plant is killed.

The following are ideal for rockeries or tubs and troughs:

Abies balsamea "Hudsonia". Dark green foliage with aromatic scent. (Height after 10 years - one foot)

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana "Minima aurea". A golden yellow specimen plant in full sun. Very slow growing. (Height after 10 years - one foot)

Chamaecyparis elwoodii "Pygmy". Very slow growing. Protect from frost. (Height after 10 years - eight inches)

Juniperus communis "Compressa". An excellent dwarf conifer. A good choice for a trough or pot. (Height after 10 years - one foot)

Juniperus squamata "Blue star". One of the best dwarf conifers. Grow in a sunny position in well drained soil. (Height after 10 years - sixteen inches)

Picea glauca albertiana "Conica" Neat compact habit with soft dense foliage. Grow in full sun. Produces a nice conical shape. (Height after 10 years - three feet)

Thuja occidentalis "Rheingold" Is noted for its golden summer foliage which turns coppery in winter. Dense foliage with a fruity scent. (Height after 10 years - three feet).

A peaceful, prosperous and productive New Year to all readers.

David A Mathie

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
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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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