

alyth voice

11th Edition, March 1998

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EDITORIAL

Let us make March the month of "can do". Whenever we publish articles featuring the memories of bygone days, the result in the town is invariably debate (or dare we say dispute?). Apparently things didn't happen quite like that. All power to those who have submitted their memories - we still look for contributions from those whose memories differ!

And while we're at it - get up Alyth Hill now. The larks are already trying their wings and voices. Paradise may not last much longer. Is anyone prepared to write defending the destructive ploughing being done by those on motor bikes? Let's hear their point of view.

Alyth Heritage Trust

At the last meeting of the Community Council it was agreed to hold a public meeting in the Lesser Town Hall on Sunday 15th March at 2.30pm to discuss the possibility of setting up a Heritage Trust in the town.

Anyone who has spoken to our senior members of the community cannot help having been enthralled by the stories that they have of Alyth, some from first hand experience, and others with information handed down through generations. Many have photographs, letters, souvenirs and artefacts from old Alyth lying in attics or garages, which they would like to see stay in the town.

It is hoped that in the future we could have a Heritage Centre where any items given to the Trust would be on display for all to see. An example of one of the larger items which might feature is the old fire engine which at the moment is in storage and in need of repair.

The Alyth Heritage Trust would be for the people of Alyth and run by the people of Alyth. If you are interested in conserving the history of our town come along on 15th of March.

Anyone requiring further information please give Dennis Melloy a call on 632284 or speak to any Community Councillor.

The next meeting of the Drookit Eel and C*****d Hinge Society will take place in the Thistle Lounge at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th March. The place was packed at the February meeting (honestly), so you won't be alone.

KEITH OF ALYTH

Probably one of the best known personalities in Alyth reached his half century on 31st January 1998.

A party was organised by "Alyth True Blues" in honour of the occasion and was held in an atmosphere of great merriment in the "THISTLE LOUNGE".

Guests, friends and Keith himself, spared no effort in making the night the success that it was. It will be a topic of conversation for some time to come! Presents were in abundance, to say nothing of a gift pack from no less a place than the hallowed IBROX. This pack even contained signed photographs of the current team players, surely a treasure to any supporter!

Keith made a point of thanking his guests for attending and offered a special thank you to all who had helped organise his special day. The Alyth Voice wishes Keith all the best and hopes that he will enjoy many more happy birthdays.

Alyth Halls' Committee

Monday 16th March

6.30 - 9.00pm

The Alyth Halls' Committee are giving the public of Alyth another opportunity to view the plans for the alterations to Alyth Town Hall. Would all those interested please take this as an invitation to attend. Committee members will be in attendance to answer questions and note comments. It is stressed that all organisations who regularly use the Town Hall should try to send a representative as it will be in their long term interest. It is hoped that there will be a large turnout at the viewing.

Further to the letter in the last edition of the Alyth Voice you may wish to note that Mr & Mrs Allan Gray, Senior and Mr Allan Gray, Junior of Vancouver, British Columbia will be at 'Old Stables', Alyth on 15th, 16th and 17th May 1998 should anyone wish to get in touch.

Readers' Letter

Dear Auntie Margaret,

How do I get to the front of the queue?

Last Saturday morning I walked up the street to have my feet done. Bessie does a grand job - nails and corns. When I came out there was a gaggle of womenfolk outside the Airlie Street Hall, so being of a curious - but not nose - nature I joined them. The doors opened and before I knew it, I was sucked inside and 60p extracted from my pocket. I was sixth in the queue at the door but thirty seventh by the time I reached the cake and candy by the stage. When the scrum cleared all that was left was four greyish scones with blackened raisins on the top and three angel cakes with only one wing apiece.

I comforted myself with a cup of milky coffee and a lemon puff biscuit and bought a Coleus from the plant stall. I went to get some sustenance in the Commercial and sadly must have left my Coleus on the bar.

Yours glumly,
Adam Neve

Jottings

A number of people have expressed initial interest in the 'Round Alyth Trolley Race' mooted in an earlier Alyth Voice. Could those wishing to enter firm up on their initial interest by giving names to Callum Strachan, Rob Tindall or Billy Gordon by 11th March. Come on you drinkers!

Alyth Rainbows are looking for second-hand tabards. Does anyone have any that they no longer need? We would be very grateful. Sightings to Sylvia or Marion.

The Alyth Voice received a marvellous poem, from friends of **Mary Elder**, called "I Love to Live" in honour of **Mary's** 80th birthday. We would like to print it but cannot find out who owns the copyright. We'll print it if we find out, but in the meantime, "All the Best, Mary".

Mr Justin Franks has joined the Alyth Dental Practice as an associate dentist. Justin graduated from Dundee University and before joining the Alyth Practice, worked as a dentist in the Royal Air Force and as a practitioner in Australia, working for the Australian Government

Gardening Notes

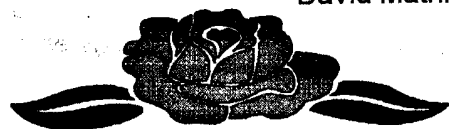
Rhododendrons

Joseph Hooker was a prolific plant collector of the mid to late 19th century, exploring many parts of the Southern Hemisphere. He eventually became Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in 1865. He is best remembered for his Himalayan expeditions (1848 - 50) where he found and introduced 43 species of rhododendrons, 30 of which were new to horticulture. These developed into the rhododendron shrubs we know today. The plants in your garden are almost certainly the direct descendants of the plants he collected almost 150 years ago. Six species of those he collected are particularly important and have contributed to many of today's hybrids. These are:

<i>R. campylocarpum</i>	<i>R. niveum</i>
<i>R. grippithienum</i>	<i>R. falconeri</i>
<i>R. cinnaberinum</i>	<i>R. thomsonii</i>

Rhododendrons range from 60ft giants to 12in alpine hybrids suitable for garden rockeries. They thrive on poor acidic sandy soil and by choosing carefully you can have blooms from late winter to midsummer. As with all plants, select only those in keeping with the size of your garden. As they stop flowering around midsummer they can look dull for the rest of the year, therefore combine them with other acid loving plants such as azaleas, hydrangeas or heathers. They are shallow rooted so will benefit from an acidic mulch in the autumn. Watering with sequestrene will prevent the leaves turning yellow. Dead heading by breaking off dead flowers with finger and thumb, ensuring the bud is not damaged will help prolong flowering. They are relatively disease free but can suffer from bud blast which infects the flower buds. It may be treated by removing and burning affected buds and spraying with malathion. Leaf galls may develop occasionally which are unsightly but harmless. During drought, water copiously and if possible protect from direct sunlight. All the colours of the plant kingdom are available apart from true blue. For more information I would suggest visiting a specialist nursery such as Glendoick in the Carse of Gowrie.

David Mathie



Coming soon to a Town Hall near You

Rehearsals at Alyth Musical Society are now in full swing - but not yet reaching the hectic stage! - for the Society's 50th Production in April. The show is a move away from the traditional (type) with a modern and fresh look at the production of the British musical, "Salad Days" which is set in the 1950s.

Scored for a small orchestral ensemble and not a full orchestra, the music will be provided by two pianos, drums and a bass. The show is bright and breezy with catchy, singable numbers, many well known such as "Look at me I'm dancing", "I sit in the Sun" and "We never look back". Yes - you will know them when you hear the melody!

The story concerns the adventures of Timothy and Jane just after they have graduated from University and centres on a magic piano called "Minnie" which is entrusted to them by an old tramp. A spaceman and a flying saucer also feature.

Watch out for some new faces, and of course, familiar ones. I won't say "old faces" as too many of us might fall into that category! Timothy will be played by Ewan Campbell, many of you will remember him as Nicely-Nicely Johnson from last year's show 'Guys and Dolls'. Louise Adamson takes the role of Jane. Production of the show is once again in the capable hands of Janey MacFarlane.

Due to our faithful audience, support at our Show Concert in October and our Carol Coffee Morning in December, full houses enabled us to meet the cost of this year's production. Salad Days runs from Tuesday 21st April until Saturday 25th April in the Town Hall and tickets go on sale at Fashion Wise, Commercial Street on March 16th (Tel: 632684)

All those involved are working hard to make the 50th Show of the same high standard as previous productions and it is hoped that Alyth theatregoers will turn out in their usual high numbers to support the Society. Don't miss it.

We cannot deliver the Alyth Voice to all the outlying houses and farms in the Alyth area but recognise that 'the folks who live on the Hill' and other places might like a copy. This month we are increasing the print run to 1100 copies and if the landward folk place an order at Fashion Wise or the Post Office we'll reserve a monthly copy for you to pick up.

Valentine's Window Competition 1998

The Competition, sponsored by Alyth and District Business Association was judged on Saturday 14th February by Mrs Jessie McLean, Alyth's Citizen of the Year. The number and content of the displays were excellent which made Jessie's job extremely difficult. After much looking, examining and thought, she decreed that the prize winners were:

1st : **Sally Marchant**, Singing Kettle, Airlie St.

2nd : **Stuart Eno**, Camno Workshop, Commercial St.

3rd : **Margaret Darroch**, Rendezvous, Airlie St.

Michael Kay and the Alyth Voice join together in congratulating the winners and all who took part and thanking Jessie for her sterling efforts.

Alyth & District Business Association

Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm on 25th March 1998

in the Lesser Town Hall

Guest Speaker

All Business Persons Welcome

Michael Kay, Chairman

Alyth Gala Day

There is a "new" attraction for Alyth Gala day on 14th June. To celebrate the centenary of the diamond Jubilee Park, the "Float Parade" will return. The response to letters sent out initially to local organisations has been overwhelming. So for all those interested, "the float parade **WILL go ahead**". Entry forms are now available by 'phoning **Joan Duncan** on **632016**. Joan will give you further details when you phone. Even if you didn't receive an initial letter you are more than welcome to join the parade. Entry fees are £10 per float and all the money raised will be returned in prizes for the best three floats. Why not make Gala Day a great success again, celebrate the Park's centenary and raise some money for your own organisation by having one of the best three floats?

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MY YOUTH

When I was young guid times we had, the bairns were wild, they wern'a bad.
They broke the street lamps just for fun, they'd ring yer bell and aff they'd run.
We'd meet an' then decide wha's turn it was tae seek or hide.
We'd kick the can an' roonders tae. That's the games we used tae play.

The summer days, they were the best, we'd play a' day without a rest.
A jeelie piece was a' we'd hae tae keep us ga'en for a' the day.
We'd great adventures up the Den, made huts tae shelter fae the rain,
Had tarzies swinging fae the trees, got elbows skinned an blidin knees.

The big park was anither place, on Horse Show Day we used tae race.
Po'ur Tully Duffy his wellie lost, an Bandy pipped him at the post.
Steppin stanes in the burn, could no be beat, ae' shooglie stane an oor feet were weat.
We'd batter oor socks on the hot gassy wa', an we'd mak ae' sock the length o' twa.

For Bonfire Nicht we a' worked hard, tae gither stuff we had tae guard.
The Springbank Gang's was aye the best, cos they'd set fire tae a' the rest.
My David he was fae that crowd, a scruffy lot - they swore oot loud
But noo they've grown up I can bet, a finer bunch you'll never get.

Oor Smythe Street Gang a motley crew, the Allans, McKendricks tae name a few.
At Walker's yerd on the auld milk float, we imagined the hurls we never got.
There was Heelie Murray an London Bill, Wee Peezer Grieve, they a' liked a gill.
Auld Archie Beaton an Roddie tae, nae characters like them the day.

We'd play till dusk an then some mair, but efter dark we widnae dare.
"Get up this close," we'd hear Ma shout, "afore I gie yer lugs a clout."
When dark nights cam in the hoose we'd bide, we'd mak clootie rugs by the fireside
Ma had an auld sweetie tin foo o' treasure, an they bits an bobs ga'e us oors o' pleasure.

We'd play hide the thimble and blind man's buff, if I didnae win I'd gae in the huff
Cos I was the Baim an spoilt ye see, or that's what the rest wad say tae me.
I dare say I was, but it was braw, tae have brithers and sisters, mi dad and ma.
I love them a' dearly an am proud tae be, the bairn o' this Allan Family.

It's nice tae gae back an think o' the days o' no much money an cast aff claes
For we'd plenty laughs an plenty tae dae, the young anes are bored noo, or so they say
But the bairns the day dinnae hae the fun that we had in the days when we wir young
They're stuck in the hoose wi' computers ye see - aye things are no what they used tae be.

Doreen Richmond

Alyth Neighbourhood Schemes

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes were set up in Alyth a number of years ago. For some reason or other they would appear to have "fell by the wayside" despite efforts by police to rekindle them.

About 18 months ago efforts were again made to resurrect them but this was met by an overwhelming (80%) lack of interest. Enquiries in the town have shown that the general feeling is that the majority of the people want to be involved in a scheme - as long as somebody else is running it.

Brian Provan is making one final effort to spark interest and appeals to all the current co-ordinators to contact him with a view to putting the Alyth area back on the Neighbourhood Watch map. Should any co-ordinator feel that he or she has "had enough" then it would be very helpful if someone else from the area contacts Brian and he will provide the necessary information.

It seems that many people have no objection to being a co-ordinator but do not want to attend meetings. Attendance at meetings is not an essential part of being a co-ordinator, but having a concern for for the wellbeing of your own area is.

Anyone interested can contact Constable Brian Provan or Constable Graham Jack at Blairgowrie Police Station. (Tel 01250 872222). If neither is in, please leave a message.

Information supplied by Pc. Brian Provan PC7143, Blairgowrie Community Liaison Officer.

VIVA MEXICO

Fiona Heron, from New Alyth is cycling in Central and South America and has promised to keep readers up to date with her travels and adventures in part of the world few of us are likely to see.

Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico
30.12.97

Now one month in Mexico and I've reached Villahermosa, about 300 miles south of the Gulf port of Veracruz from where I began cycling over a week ago.

This large country is hugely varied in climate, altitude and culture and already I've crossed hot desert plain, volcanic hilly country and flat swampy land with wonderful bird life. Swirling clouds of vultures along the road usually signify a dog or wild creature whose life has been taken by the traffic.

The area from Veracruz to here has been identified as the cradle of Mexican civilisation, where the Olmecs flourished about 3000 years ago, long before the Aztecs or Maya. Their society was already diverse with the Olmec rulers using the people's myths, rites and beliefs to control food production and exchange. Religious art was expressed in the form of extraordinary stone monuments, - especially giant heads - ceramics and jade figurines.

Thanks to the oil boom in the state of Tabasco, in the late 1970s, Villahermosa was transformed from a humid, swampy stopover on the way to Yucatan to, as its name says, a 'pretty city'. It now contains some impressive archeological museums displaying the Olmec relics.

In fact it's not very hot at all, due to a phase of abnormally cold weather throughout the country (or did I bring that from Scotland?) and people are having to wear jackets in the evenings. But the coolness is good for cycling and tomorrow I'll be heading further south into Central America after experiencing the thrills of a Mexican New Year.

The Grant School of Dancing will be holding a Bingo Tea on Thursday 26th March in the Town Hall to raise funds. Money raised will be spent on transport to competitions, dancing pumps, class track suits, Christmas outings etc. For more info contact Linda on 632899.

SHOWCASE UPDATE

The organisers have now finalised arrangements and it is confirmed that the Showcase will premiere on Saturday 28th March. At the very reasonable ticket prices - £3 for the balcony it is expected to sell out fast. Tickets can be obtained from Fashion Wise and Blairgowrie High School and there may be other outlets (see posters).

The first of the fundraising campaigns has begun. On Sunday 8th March, 20 participants will undertake a sponsored walk to Blairgowrie via the back roads. The walk starts from the Square at 12 noon and anyone insane enough, is very welcome to join in.

A couple more acts could be accommodated on the 28th as there is still about half an hour to fill. Alyth Youth Theatre has joined in and will perform a twenty minute play they have written themselves.

More smaller events are planned, possibly culminating with another Showcase in December. Suggestions for these lesser events would be most welcome. In the meantime get your skates on for the big night in March.

Robert Stewart, Showcase President

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	633485
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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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