

alyth voice

13th Edition, May 1998

Minimum Circulation: 1000

ADVERTISEMENTS

You'll be sure of a Friendly Welcome at the

BLACKBIRD INN & CARAVAN PARK

Delicious Home-Cooked Lunches, High Teas and Suppers served daily • Tourers and Tents welcome • Full facilities available • Ample parking
Telephone: 01828 632293

FASHION WISE

Tel/ Fax 632684

“Summer” T-shirts etc now in stock

Beat the Rush
Pop in to Browse

WALTER DAVIDSON & SONS LTD CHEMIST

9 AIRLIE STREET ALYTH Tel : 632302
Prescriptions dispensed, delivery service available

COSMETIC, VETERINARY, PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT TAYSIDE

Ian Strachan

Painter & Decorator

FREE ESTIMATES

Phone: 01828 633612

ANDY WHITE

JOINER - SHOPFITTER

5 BAMFF ROAD, ALYTH PH11 8DT

TELEPHONE : (01828) 632298

niche PRINTERS

Printing and Stationery Requirements
Wedding Stationery - Website Publishing
Old Photographs “Manipulated” and Printed
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

<http://www.taynet.co.uk/users/niche/>

Telephone - 01382 370329

or E-mail us at - niche@sol.co.uk

MURRAY PENNYCOOK

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

Clar-Innis, Meigle Road, Alyth

Tel/Fax : 632135

Mobile: 0850 733481

BAMFF ROAD GARAGE

**BAMFF ROAD, ALYTH PH11 8DT
TEL: 01828 632376 or 633060
SERVICING, REPAIRS & MOTs
NOW ALSO IN MILL STREET, ALYTH**

QUALITY USED CARS

All vehicles with 3 months warranty & one year MOT
Open Saturday & Sunday 10am to 5pm
Enquiries Mon - Fri at Bamff Rd premises 8am - 5.30pm

EDITORIAL

The Crooked Dreeel and Concealed Hinge Society decided right from the start of the Alyth Voice to concentrate on the positive elements of Alyth. We cannot, however, 'play Mary Poppins' all the time and there are less savoury aspects of the town which people wish us to address. One lady approached a member of the team last month in a very distressed state appealing for help. She had visited the Cemetery to find that her daughter's grave had been vandalised with flowers and plants strewn all over. "OK," you might say, "it was probably just the youngsters bored with nothing to do during the school holidays." You may be right; but surely the parents have some responsibilities. Imagine how you would feel if it happened to the grave of your nearest and dearest.

They just keep bowling along

The Alyth Bowling and Tennis Club would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all who supported their coffee morning on 28th March. The magnificent sum of £476.35 was raised for the Club.

They write, " We endorse the editorial remarks in the last edition of the Alyth Voice - Alyth folk are second to none when it comes to supporting charity and local organisations. Long live the 'Golden Oldies' - may they all enjoy many years of meeting for coffee and a blether at the coffee mornings in Airlie St. Hall."

The "Blue Banana Bush" in Bamff Court bore fruit at Easter.

[Editor's note - We don't understand the significance of the last sentence and hope that it isn't code involving some nefarious activity!]

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

People accessing our web site, when inputting Alyth have been turning up lots of material with a Jewish connection. There apparently are quite a few groups in London with Alyth in the title. One member of CDCHS claims that the first letter of the Jewish alphabet is Aleph. Is this the connection or do you know better?

And it doesn't seem a day too long

On 8th May 1948 Jack Donald married Babs Duncan in Alyth Parish Church Manse. Jack worked as a lorry driver with James McDonald, Wood Contractor, Babs with James Kirkpatrick in the Woods. Jack left to become a janitor at Perth College then transferred to Alyth School as Head Janitor until his retirement. Until her own retirement, Babs worked as an assistant cook. Along the way they brought up a family of three - Muriel now in Rattray, Sheila in Dundee and Alan in Alyth. They are grandparents eight times over. It is rumoured that a party to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary is being held in the Blackbird. The Alyth Voice joins all who know them in wishing them even more years of happily married life.

A Very Busy Group

Alyth Youth Group of the British Red Cross Society entertained Tigh na Leigh residents with an Easter Concert and the residents judged the Group's Easter Bonnet Competition. The Group will shortly hit the road with their concert as they are soon to appear at Belmont Castle in Meigle and Muirton House Nursing Home in Blairgowrie.

In Red Cross Week the girls are holding a Car Wash at the Fire Station from 10am - 3pm on Sat. 9th May. Please bring your car along and have a cup of coffee or tea while you wait at the Guide Hut. The car wash costs £1.50. Proceeds will go to the Medical Loan Department in Perth and the transport fund for the Youth Group.

Anne Cocker

(Youth Worker, Alyth Red Cross)

YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU'RE NOT ON IT!

Have you booked your place on the bus going to Perth Races on the evening of 13th May? If not get along to Peter's (Hairdresser) in the Square quick, or you'll find the bus will leave without you.

Post Card from Latin America - 3

I cycled on through Belize, then because of potential robbers along the way in Guatemala, my bicycle and I took the bus to Tikal National Park, one of the best known of Guatemala's 'biotopos'. It contains very important Mayan ruins.

In Guatemala, ecotourism has taken hold and is helping protect its natural resources. To ensure that the country's beauty lasts longer, a system of 30 national parks and natural reserves known as biotopos has been established and each is responsible for conserving and tending the plant and animal life unique to that region.

The 575 square kilometre Tikal National Park is part of a huge 2 million hectare Maya Biosphere Reserve extending into Belize and Mexico. Walking even just a little way from the touristy ruins, I was able to see plant and animal life different from anything I'd seen before - unless dead on the road.

Guatemala has over eight thousand plant species and many species of animal, but unfortunately the habitat is threatened by the increasing illegal extraction of timber.

A bus took me further down the road to Bio Dula, another biotopo and from there to Livingstone, along the river where the banks are lined with mangroves amongst which many types of wildlife exist.

After this, the road condition and safety improved and I cycled right down to El Salvador. The landscape became more scenic but therefore, there were more hills to climb. On one massive hill a man passing on his donkey offered to swap his donkey for my bike.

Surprisingly El Salvador is a bit more developed than Guatemala but it also has the highest levels of environmental damage in Latin America, there being no environmental protection laws. Most of the land is cultivated for coffee, cotton or sugar cane and only 6% is woodland, however some private organisations are now establishing re-forestation campaigns.

Another huge problem here is crime, people still having guns from the war, so unlike other countries in the region where shops and restaurants come alive after siesta time, here everything closes around six and everyone hurries home before dark - which is what I must do now!

Heading on soon to Honduras.

Fiona (Heron)



Alyth & District Business Association

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Lesser Town Hall on 25th March with a full committee present and many members.

The Chairman welcomed all present, apologies were presented from those unable to attend, minutes read by the secretary and then subsequently proposed, seconded and approved.

The meeting considered and ratified a proposed amendment to the constitution. The Chairman gave his report and in the absence of the Treasurer, presented the audited accounts for 1997/98 which were accepted and ratified by those present.

Office bearers were elected for the new

session and are:- **Chairperson** - Michael Kay, **Vice Chairperson** - Florence McNeil, **Secretary** - Marion Ross and **Treasurer** - Nancy Kay. Committee Members are Pat Barron, Stuart Eno, Karin Donaldson, Eileen McBain and Jeanette McGill.

The Christmas Window Competition Shield was presented by the Chairman to Mr Bob Donaldson, Woodworker, Bank Street.

After the conclusion of business, Mr Duncan Cuthill of the Blairgowrie Area Committee of the Perthshire Tourist Board gave an enlightening talk on tourism in Alyth and the surrounding area. He was thanked by Jeanette McGill. Mr Pat Barron of the Strathmore Golf Centre followed with a detailed talk on the new golf venture - "The Alyth Golf Desk". Karin Donaldson proposed a vote of thanks and the Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all for their attendance.

Readers' Letters

Dear Sir,

Grant School of Dancing

All associated with the School would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who supported our recent Bingo Tea in the Town Hall. We raised £433.84 and are very pleased. Thanks to all the parents who donated prizes, food and their time on the night to help out as our final total would not have been possible without their assistance.

Yours faithfully,
Linda Grant

Dear Joy,

My abject apologies for not attending Kirk on Easter Sunday in my daffy bonnet - but I heard of **your** Paschal resplendence! Maybe next year?

I was meeting family at Edinburgh airport where, of course, I paraded **my** chic Pasqueflower titter - to the bewilderment (but occasional smile and even serenade) of airport folk.

Dare I say "Whit a dour and inhibitive lot some of us are"?

Not Alyth of course!

J S F or Jo Si Fouters

Dear Editor,

I had previously regarded the Alyth Voice as a publication which only printed quality articles - hence my own regular letters. I was extremely embarrassed when I acted upon your article last month titled 'Berry Interesting'. I have long and distinguished service in dreels all around the town and as you will recognise from my previous letters, a keen interest in modern developments. Training in picking the new chocolate flavoured berries seemed right up my dreel and I got Chrissie to drive me to the college to enrol. You cannot imagine how I felt when I showed the article to the girl on the reception desk (who can't have been more than a third of my age) and she giggled uncontrollably and went into the back office to show her mates. I'm not going to write to you again if you print any more rubbish like that and can I have Chrissie's petrol money?

Your esteemed correspondent,
Adam Neve

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT

St. Ninian's, besides being a very bonnie wee church contains a plaque which is proving a **must** for connoisseurs of brass memorials. The plaque erected in memory of a member of the Ramsay family killed in the Boer War is very rare or even unique, in that it depicts a soldier in Highland Dress.

Happy Birthday - to Us

This edition of the Alyth Voice means that we have now celebrated our first birthday. We get reaction to individual items but it would be good to hear **your** views of the publication as a whole. Let us have your comments - good or unfavourable - to keep us on the rails.

ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

Alyth Primary School is holding a **Fun Day and Car Boot Sale** on Saturday 30th May at the School from 12 noon onwards.

Attractions include - Bouncy Castle, Ball Pond, Barbecue, Fancy Dress Competition, Face Painting, Beat the Goalie (if the School can find a suitable goalie!) etc.

There will be the usual stalls - books and toys, plants, bottle, arts and crafts, cake and candy etc.

Anyone wishing to reserve a space for the Car Boot Sale can do so by telephoning 01250 873577. A space costs £5 and they will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. (No traders) **Setting up time** will be from 11am.

SPECIAL A ball signed by the Scotland World Cup '98 Squad will be raffled. Any local business or individual wishing to contribute a raffle prize in support, should contact the school. Activities will be held indoors if the weather is less than kind.

During Christian Aid Week (May 10 -16), representatives from our three local churches will embark on the Annual Door to Door Envelope Collection throughout Alyth and District. Be as generous as you always are - last year the exercise raised £1035.

Stock the Borders and Have a Coffee

St Ninian's Church will be holding its Annual Coffee Morning in the Airlie Street Hall at 10am on Saturday, 9th May. Last year, helpers became concerned at the copious quantities of milky coffee consumed by some patrons which was apparently of exceptional quality. The plant stall is always a feature of this event but we don't know yet whether 'yuppie red lettuce' plants will again be on sale!

ADVERTISEMENTS

BALLROOM AND LATIN DANCE CLASSES

Restart on Wednesday 27th May with Beginners 7.00 and Intermediate 8.15pm

LINE DANCING

Restarts on Friday 29th May with Beginners at 7.00 and Intermediate at 8.15pm

All Classes in the Town Hall. Details from Dennis Melloy (A)UKAPTD (B)(HC) on 01828 632284

"BUNTERS"

Cafe & Take-away

5, Wellmeadow, BLAIRGOWRIE

Tel: 01250 875575

Breakfast, Lunches, Evening Meals

Buffets Catered For

Try our freshly baked baguettes today!
Sandwich platters now available

DUNCAN'S V.G.

10, Commercial Street (Tel: 632321)

Off-licence, Greetings cards, Stationery, Papers, Magazines and Newspaper Delivery

The Convenient Store that opens earliest and closes latest

Open: Mon: - Sat 6 am - 10 pm

Sunday: - 7 am - 10 pm

Old Stables

Losset Road, Alyth Tel: 01828 632547

Mobile: 0374. 60.77.55

Bed & Breakfast

Quality Self-Catering & Fully Furnished Apartments

Glenturret Perthshire Tourism Award Winner

Scottish Tourist Board Highly Commended - 2 Crowns

Cabbage, Sprouts & Cauliflower Plants
Terracotta Pots & Planters
Compost to fill your containers
Herbicides, Pesticides & Fungicides to protect them all

at **DAVID SIM**
HARDWARE CENTRE

Market Square, Alyth Tel : 632309

MICHAEL J DORWARD

5 Commercial Street, Alyth

Tel:632303

Homemade Sweet & Sour Chicken

- Ready to heat

Pork & Lemon Pepper Stir Fry

Steak Stir Fry

QUICK READY MEALS

THE CAMNO WORKSHOP

19 Commercial St, Alyth

for

handmade wooden toys & name puzzles

YEAR - ROUND CLUB NOW AVAILABLE

Tel: 633632 for opening times

BAMFF ROAD GARAGE

BAMFF ROAD, ALYTH PH11 8DT

TEL: 01828 632376

SERVICING, REPAIRS & MOTs

NOW INTRODUCING OUR NEW FAST FIT SERVICE

Exhausts, batteries & clutches. **Best Prices guaranteed**

Free fitting on all exhaust systems & batteries. Full warranty on all work carried out.

CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

The Ten Brigs o' Alyth by D Richmond

The Alyth Burn is bonnie, it runs doon fae the Den.
Meanders through oor weel loved toon, and bridges it has ten.
Now they are a' important an' serve us toonies well
An' just think if they brigs could speak, what stories they could tell.

The first is strong an' sturdy, an' has bore monie a load
O' trees, an' logs, an' pit posts fae Kirkies up the road.
It sees a' the bonnie brides pass on their wedding day
An' a' the doon toon worshippers as tae the Kirk they gae.

The next ane doon is famous, the pride o' oor wee toon,
Twas just a pack bridge lang ago, took shepherds up and doon
But then they made it wider, built a dyke along each side,
The Roman Brig for a' tae see on postcards far and wide.

Next in line is Lawson's Brig, the workers wandered doon
Fae Tootie Street at break o' day, tae spin an' work the loom.
They crossed it in the mornin, an' wishing there an' then
The factory whistle it wad blaw, tae let them hame again.

Newbiggins Brig, anither ane for factory workers tae
Fae doon Springbank, an' Parkside Road, they crossed tae earn their pay.
A handy ane through Barrel Wynd, twas there tae save yer feet
Used as a short cut fae Bamff Road, ower tae Commercial Street.

Next ane has a red phone box, standin by its side,
It helps the weary travellers get ower tae whar they bide,
For that's whar a' the buses stop, the place they ca' the Square
Wi baskets, tubs, an' borders o' flowers planted there.

The big stane brig, it crosses at the centre o' the toon,
Below it is the rushie, whar the water tumbles doon.
A meeting place for auld an' young, they sit along its side
An' that's the ane the motors cross, 'cause it's rare an' wide.

The James Street brig, like David Street's, was there without a doot
Tae tak the women tae the green, tae hang their washin oot.
Aye, that was lang ago, when the greenie poles were there,
But noo it is a bonnie park, a washin green nae mair.

Cairnleith brig, or sometimes we cad it Cairnleith Docks,
The bairns were always building dams wi divets, wid or rocks.
Beside it was the Laundry but noo it's been hauled doon.
They're ga'en tae build some hooses there, a credit tae the toon.

The last in line, the Belsen brig, built for the Springbank folk.
It bids the water fond fareweel, as it runs doon tae Pitcock.
They'd cross it wi their piece bags, tae the tatties they wad go
Climb on tae Duncan's lorries, a' standin in a row.

Well, a've mentioned each an ev'ry ane, that crosses in the toon,
There's ither anes, of course there is, that cross ower up an' doon
But I wadnae like tae argue, 'cause I really dinnae ken,
Is there anither toon like Alyth, that can boast o' bridges ten?

IN BRIEF

LOST - Dark coloured
Tabby cat called Muffin.
Cambridge Street area.
If found please Phone
632594 after 6pm.

Congratulations to
**Alyth Bowling Club B
Team** on winning the
Strathardle and District
Carpet Bowls League
and also the Thorne
Trophy.

It may be the Alyth
Voice's loss, temporaray
we hope, but well done
our horticultural expert,
David Mathie who has
taken up a new
appointment as course
manager at Letham
Grange, near Arbroath.

The next meeting
of the **Drookit Feel and
Continual Whinge
Society** will be held in
the Airlie Street Lounge
on Thursday 14th May at
7.30pm. All who are
seriously interested in
promoting Alyth and
having a good time in it,
are invited to attend. It is
anticipated that the first
financial statement of
the Society will be
presented. It is not true
that members will drink
until both sides of the
balance sheet agree.

The CDCHS is
particularly grateful to
the Alyth Quiz League
for their award of £100.
The Society showed its
appreciation by allowing
all the League teams to
beat its team in the fun
quiz which took place at
the presentation!

Alyth in Bloom

Helen McDonald, the Chairman of Alyth in Bloom, wants readers to be aware of the considerable efforts made in the town by Marguerite McKenzie, Douglas Dewar and the lads from Balharry when Helen had a spell in hospital.

Heathers were planted in the gardens of the little park as well as two shrubs - one of which has unfortunately been damaged by youngsters riding bikes over it. It was hoped that they would be given a chance to grow. Please use the paths.

The garden at Toutie Street was tidied up through the efforts of Duncan Ross, who is ever helpful, and Frank Gibson. Two flower tubs have been placed there thanks to Donald McKenzie. It is planned to repaint the seat.

The Committee and helpers have put a lot of effort into achieving the awards which Alyth has received from Perthshire in Bloom. (Karin Donaldson has kindly put them on show in Toutie Curios.) You can help keep Alyth beautiful by respecting the work done and as ever there is room for volunteers to assist Alyth in Bloom's activities.

Alyth Families Unite

The opening lines in Graham Reid's next panto could be, "My daughter's gone to the West Indies". "Jamaica?" "No. She went with my new son-in-law, Christopher Richmond."

Georgie, elder daughter of Jan and Graham Reid of Airlie Place and Christopher, only son of Doreen and David Richmond of Airlie Street were married in Alyth Parish Church on 18th April and are honeymooning in Jamaica.

Bridesmaids were Shirley Mollison and the bride's younger sister, Kirsty. The best man was the groom's father, with Derek Fairweather and Drew Mollison as ushers.

Christopher's colleagues from the Black Watch formed a Guard of Honour whilst the Sun - Alyth Voice's only serious competitor - rushed out an edition with a special front page as a tribute to its intrepid reporter, Georgie.

It's sad that the married couple are to make their home in Glasgow, not Alyth, but they carry our best wishes for a long, happy marriage.

'Non' to Twinning?

It was disappointing to find that 1,690 people in Alyth are not interested in twinning with a similar sized town in the Loire Valley, France. That's the message which must be taken from the turnout of ten at the meeting called by the Community Council on 29th March. Can it be that so many people believe that 'twinning is not for the likes of us'? (Thirty letters were sent out to organisations active in Alyth and a general invitation extended to the public.)

The line your Community Council has consistently taken is that twinning isn't worth a candle if it only means that 'those and such as those' go on a junket. To try to involve all it was decided to involve local groups on the principle that a midfielder might not see the point of going to Chaingy on an exchange but might become involved if the exchange was a 'home and away' football match. For midfielder substitute SWRI, Youth Club or Over 50 member.

Why twin? It would be easy to blind you with euro-psychobabble, but basically it boils down to 'What know ye of Alyth who only Alyth know?' We can quote examples of people who have formed lifelong friendships through twinning but also others who have tried and whose only gain is that they can now quote experiences and not blind prejudices. Contact a community councillor now.

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
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.**

ADVERTISEMENTS

IAN MILLER - Local Councillor

SURGERY AT ALYTH PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH
AT 7.30PM DURING SCHOOL TERMS OR CONTACT BY TELEPHONE:

S.N.P. OFFICE: 01250 876576

HOME: 01250 873304

The one stop furniture shop

Large selection of comfy chairs to try including

Electric Recliners.

3 pce. Suites from £399

Sofa Beds, Futons and Chairs from £58

Dining Sets from £230

Rugs, Curtains, Nets and Muslins -all from stock

J & J HOWE

30 Reform Street, Blairgowrie Tel 01250 872361

SCOTT ELECTRICAL

TEL: 632241

Free Delivery & Installation

on all Television & Video Equipment

Satellite Equipment

supplied & fitted

RENDEZVOUS

(Margaret's)

59 Airlie Street, Alyth

Tel: 632097

Open Tues - Sat

Special rates for O.A.Ps

TAXI SERVICE TO AIRPORTS & STATIONS

D & E TAXIS

"LINNISLA"

ST. NINIAN'S ROAD, ALYTH

TEL: 632672

CAR PHONE: 0831 839087

NEIL ANDERSON

20, High Street, Alyth

Spring Cleaning!

Remember your gas appliances

Have them expertly serviced by your

local Gas Service Engineer

Tel: 01828 632996

Agents for Dry cleaning/Launders - Shoe Repairs

Name Tapes - Alterations

Seasons Shop

55, Airlie Street, ALYTH

Continuity offered on:-

WORKWEAR, BOOTS, WELLIES, SLIPPERS,

PYJAMAS, NIGHTDRESSES, ETC

CANVAS and COTTON coming soon

Classic Restorations (Scotland) Ltd

Pitnacree Street, ALYTH, PH11 8DY

Telephone: 01828 633293

Fax: 01828 632529

Rolls-Royce - Bentley - Jaguar - Daimler - Aston Martin - Alvis
CHARLES @ CLASSIC-RESTORE•DEMON•CO•UK

GEO'S BAR

&

THISTLE LOUNGE

AIRLIE STREET, ALYTH Tel : 632276

Easy Access for Wheelchairs and Toilet

Facilities for Disabled