

# alyth voice

26th Edition, June 1999

Minimum Circulation: 1100

## Millennium Committee

**A**mid-summer Coffee morning is to be held in Airlie St Hall on Sat 26th June from 10.00am till 12 noon.

Stalls will include: Cake & Candy: Children's lucky dip: Face painting: Raffle.

Entry - Adults 70p and children 30p

**M**illennium Calendars depicting scenes of Alyth Old & New will also be on sale. These can also be obtained from Fashionwise & Seasons shops They can also be ordered by e-mail from the Alyth Voice on [alyth\\_voice@bigfoot.com](mailto:alyth_voice@bigfoot.com).

**P**roceeds will go towards the town clock Project. The countdown to the Millennium is now on with only 6months to go and we have a few more events before its erection and dedication at Hogmanay

## Y2K Celebration Committee

The 3rd meeting of this Committee was held on Wed 19th May in the Alyth Hotel.

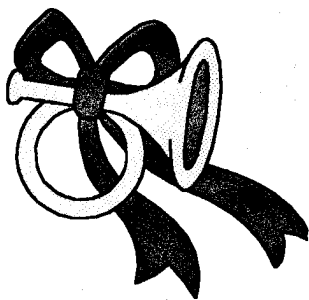
Without repeating too much of past meetings the Hogmanay celebration arrangements are progressing well. At this meeting was a representative of the entertaining artistes, they will now meet to propose that element of the day's program, together with

costings. Contact has been established with a number of other groups for other activities. Fund raising will begin in earnest when a full picture of the costs to be incurred materialises.

A table of events will be on display shortly and that will be published, hopefully in next months Voice.

Meantime if anyone has any ideas, needs, skills(artistic) to impart then please contact the Committee or better still why not attend the next meeting.

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the Alyth hotel - anyone is welcome.



## INTERNET, WEB, E-Mail and all those things

So at last Alyth Voice is truly on the World Map with its own WEB pages and E-Mail address. To date, since the middle of April our WEB site has been visited 80 times by people from all over the world and a number of these have communicated with yours truly via the addresses shown on Page 6(above the adverts)

So what can they view? For a start The Alyth Voice can be read on line (telephone connected), or downloaded and printed just like the hard copy which comes through your door every month. In addition to this we direct them to a Gallery of views around Alyth eg. The Kirks, Den, Square and whatever. Also we include listings of all the advertisers to date, as they appear in the Voice advert. In some instances this gives reference and automatic connection by "Links" to other more sophisticated Web sites that we or they may have (had) designed.

We propose to extend this Web site for the benefit of all at a minimum charge, once we have determined our policy in detail. We believe that it is a medium which will help all of our infra-structure to prosper eg. The Golf courses, Hotels, B&B's, Kirks, Associations and anyone else who wishes to will have a presence, very much attached to Alyth. It is the 21st century business medium.

Many of our adverts already contain e-mail addresses and when displayed on the Web site messages can be automatically sent with little effort. Such a thing happens with the mail I receive.



We will shortly be adding "links" from our site to the Tourist Boards, P&K, Tayside Councils, Chamber of Commerce, The Enterprise boards and whatever else may be suitable. We already exist on most Web search facilities and you will note that my mail and the Web site location come via a third party called Bigfoot. We intend Alyth to make a big imprint on Bigfoot - (you have to include a lot of humour in this medium).

Finally, for the moment, we have a very skilled enthusiast developing this site who is currently at College. There is also a solid background of knowledge for many years to come which will be passed on to generation after generation. We believe that our site will be a leader in the UK - even perhaps the only one with such concentrated coverage - Alyth is the right size to do such a thing.

If you wish to know more about this exciting activity, have your own site and maybe not wait to be approached directly by ourselves then contact the Editor who will be happy to demonstrate the facility at any time.

# EDITORIAL

Apologies for the late delivery of last month's Voice but as you will have noticed it was printed on different paper and comes already stapled and folded - that was a most tiresome task for the editorial staff. The delay was further extended by printing for the Elections. We think it has a more professional appearance, but it does mean that all material has to be in early enough to allow for the printing queue. The method of printing should also see an improvement in any photographs we need to print.

Can I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the daily Wombles of Alyth Den. Two good Alyth folk walk their dogs, lead in one hand and paper bag in the other collecting every bit of refuse they come across. Thank you Nellie & Irene.

I did have one response to my request for someone to maybe write articles for a heritage column but somehow that seems to have passed by. Any more volunteers?

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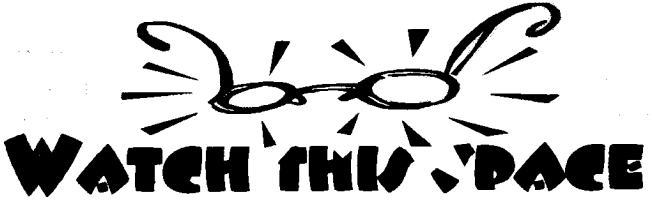
**ALYTH VOICE EDITORIAL BOARD**  
 The Editorial Board members and their contact 'phone numbers are as follows :

Sheila Donald	632847
Billy Gordon	via Post Office
Simon Ingram	632705
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.

- ## *Dates for your diary*
- 10th June Car Treasure Hunt, Alyth Primary PTA Watch for Posters
  - 16th June Drugs awareness evening - Watch out for more details
  - 18th June Musical concert by AMS - Town Hall 7.30pm (watch out for Posters)
  - 26th June Coffee morning, Millennium Committee in Airlie St Hall 10-12noon
  - 26th June Jazz on the Burn - CH&CD Society Start around 6pm (watch for posters)
  - 4th July Manse Garden Fete. 2pm(See P4)
  - 22nd July Bingo Tea, Alyth Bowling Club - Eyes down at 7.30pm (See P4)



Thursday 16th December  
**KEEP THIS DATE FREE**

**ALYTH GALA DAY**  
**Sunday 13th June**  
**Diamond Jubilee Park**  
**12 noon - 5pm**  
**Admission - Adults £1.00**  
**Children under 14 - Free**

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Dear Uncle Geordie

At the start of last month I was dragged into Perth so that SHE could do some fancy shopping. We wandered for miles and finished up in yet another place where the kids in charge wear cummerbunds as skirts.

My idle eyes chanced upon the display in the trendy fruit & veg shop next door where miniscule plastic boxes of "English hot house raspberries" were on sale at £1.65ea. I reckoned that there was no more than sixteen berries in the basket. In real money that's between two bob and half a crown A BERRY. I felt sick as I thought of the fortune I must have eaten in my time (from your fields) and reckon that although Blackbirds may be black on the outside their insides must be lined with gold. Or am I missing something?

Adam Neve

## SPONSORED TANDEM SKYDIVE

(from 12K feet)

Sat 6th March I had the pleasure of joining in the fun with the staff of the Paragon Skydiving Club, all of whom are members of the British Parachute Association, to perform a sponsored dive.

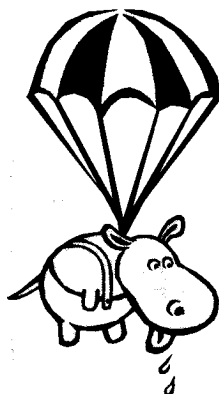
We had made an attempt that morning around 10am but only the static skydivers could get their chance to enjoy a descent from 5000ft. As for the Tandem divers, a ceiling of 10,000ft is required to do the jump. After a long cold time above the grey clouds, we did find a hole where it was possible to drop down through the clouds to see the land and the Tay far below us. My Instructor, a Billy Connolly look-a-like, but a safe person to be with, let me know it was time for our jump. Both of us strapped tightly together moved jerkily to the open side of the aircraft where I was given the final nudge from Stan Laws, my Instructor. I was now in position for the jump. Legs together and held back under the Cessna's body, head back, arms folded tightly over my chest, I heard Stan shout 1, 2, 3 and down and over in a "nice loop", we plunged into the grey tube of cloud.

I remember it all so well, the Cessna overhead and then out of sight in clouds. The buffeting of the air, the vibration on my ski glove covered hands, then a tap on each shoulder from Stan to let me know to bring my arms in and cross them over my chest.

Then down the remainder of the grey tunnel at over 120mph where we could see the earth spread out below us. The airfield with its many runways, Ninewells with its two high towers, the Tay bridge and over and down to Newburgh in Fife and beyond to the Firth of Forth. Then all the sound of rushing air stopped, the canopy opened and the sudden jolt was not as bad as I thought it would be. Stan handed me the two loops so that I could guide and steer to the yellow cross far over to the east of the runway. I then got my chance to demonstrate to Stan how a right & left turn was achieved, after that Stan told me to pull hard down on both ropes, We were lifted up quite high for a little while. After steering to the drop zone, Stan took control and he landed us near to the yellow marker.

It was wonderful to do all this and I would have gone back up again given the chance. I hope to do so in the near future. I would like to thank all the people for sponsoring me.

cont'd above



We raised £600 for "The Deaf Children Society" including £160 for the Paragon Skydivers at Grange airfield, Errol, they I am sure deserve more for all the work and time they put into all the charities they help all year round.

I wish to thank my good neighbour Fred Davidson for driving down and back to Alyth with my son Andrew and me. We all enjoyed the day out, cold as it was, and thanks again to Stan Laws, my Skydiving Instructor. It turned out just right thanks to his safe Instruction

AJ Pollock

## ALL WITH THANKS

### Red Cross

The generosity of the Alyth, New Alyth and Meigle people came up smiling yet again for the Red Cross Week. Despite the terrible weather the members and friends of the RC (Freda, Hazel, Joyce & Val) trudged from door to door to collect the total of £648.41p - an ALL time record for us. Many, many thanks to you all.

M MacKenzie, Treasurer

### Friends of Guiding

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make our Jumble Sale such a success.

To the Mums who came, the Brownie Mums who gave cake & candy, the over 50's who turn up year after year, we couldn't do it without you and a special thanks to the ladies who waited at the end for the skip which didn't turn up.

We raised £773 of which we donated £50 to the Kosovo appeal and the rest will be put to good use at the Guide Hut.

Irene Hart, Secretary

### St Ninians

On behalf of the Episcopal Church may I thank everyone who attended our coffee Morning on 15th May. The continual support to all causes is greatly appreciated

Thank you one and all

ps. A donation has been forwarded to the Kosovo appeal fund

Dorothy Oldham

Roseangle, Meigle Rd, Alyth.

### Imperial Cancer Relief Sponsorship

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me for the Sharron Davies mile challenge for the ICR.

I completed my swim of 1 mile, which was 82 x 20metre lengths in 39mins 50seconds.

The amount raised through the generosity of all concerned was a total of £128.02p

Thank you all very much

Ross Duffy

Aged 10.5yrs

## FULLY RECOVERED

Mrs Kate McLeish, 2 Springbank Rd would like to thank everyone for their cards, telephone calls and visits while off with her fractured ankle

She is now well on the Road to Recovery

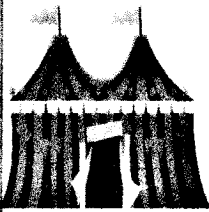
## CATERAN WALK

If anyone is interested in the old Cateran Walk, forestry and well being of the countryside and would wish to join a walk across such country on the 16th June, please ring 632484 for more detail. It will be a strenuous day out (10am till 4pm) and you really must have an interest in such country matters.

# GALA DAY



Sunday 13th June will be fun day at the Alyth Gala. Amongst the attractions this year there is 'Smokey & his Ducks', a kind of comedy act where 'Smokey' will be trying to pen his ducks with the help of his faithful dogs. The McClowns will also be in appearance right from the onset with the Parade featuring the Perthshire Brass Band escorting this year's Gala Queen (Rhiannon Buick) down from the Square to the Diamond Jubilee Park, and throughout the day they will be mingling with the crowds as well as putting on a couple of performances. On a more serious note the main attraction



of the day will be a free fall parachute jump right into the centre of the festivities. Along with the usual outstanding performances from Linda Grant's Highland Dancers and Ippon Karate Club the day is all set for another successful event. Stalls and Car Boots will be there for the folk to browse around and Millers Funfair will also be in attendance. Alyth Fire Brigade, Blackwatch, Royal Navy Reserves and performances by Alyth Youth Theatre will be there for those interested. The day will be officially opened by John Swinney M.P. (newly elected M.S.P.). Sadly the Float Parade has been cancelled due to lack of interest, but the Hill Race will go ahead at the usual time of 2pm (registration from 1pm.)

## Garden Fete

**The Manse Garden**

**4th July @ 2pm.**

**BOTTLE STALL, TEAS &  
SCONES, BAKING,  
SWEETS, RAFFLE**

**MANY OTHER FUN EVENTS**

**OLD CROCKERY (NOT  
CROCKS) REQUIRED  
(leave at Church)**



**PRIZE BINGO TEA**  
**Bowling Clubhouse**  
**Thurs 22nd July**  
**Prizes : Kettle, Toaster, Toastie etc...**  
**Eyes down @ 7.30pm**  
**Bring your own cup**

# J

azz on  
the  
Burn

*JOTB will be on Saturday 26th June. The CD&CH Society are planning in good time and will include a Creche with a bouncy castle etc... in the Ogilvie Rooms until about 9pm for all you Mums and Dads. In addition there will be a variety of stalls and any organisations wishing to have one should contact Jessie in Fashionwise.*

*It is intended to have chairs and tables on the square for the older folk and all we pray for is good weather.*



*There will be a Y2K fund box*

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# Public Notices

## Council Election Acknowledgements

Thank you to the people of Alyth for their support in electing me to represent them as their councillor on Perth & Kinross Council for the next 3 years.

It is a great honour and privilege to be once again given the trust of the Alyth electorate and I look forward to serving the Alyth & Old Rattray ward during my period of office.

My pledge is to continue to represent all of the residents of my ward fairly and without prejudice for the period of the council and I hope that however they voted everyone will feel able to approach me on any matter pertaining to the council. I will continue to advertise my contact details in this publication.

My thanks also go to my team of supporters who worked in a tireless fashion throughout the campaign to achieve my re-election. Their enthusiasm was incredible and their backing was invaluable to me - what a team!

The campaign in Alyth was, as usual, fought without rancour or bad feeling as it should be and I thank my opponents for that. It should also be remembered that on polling day the weather could not have been worse. And it's to the credit of the Alyth folk that we had one of the highest turnouts in Perth & Kinross.

The period ahead promises to be an interesting time.

Yours aye for Alyth, Ian Miller

I would like to convey my warmest thanks to all of the 858 voters who supported me in the Alyth & Old Rattray council elections on Thursday 6th May. To turn out in such large numbers on such a cold and wet day was very pleasing.

It has been hard work, but enjoyable, made all the more so by the many volunteers who delivered leaflets, canvassed, put up posters, helped on the door during the election, everyone in the conservative office, my wife Libby and all who gave me unstinting support throughout the campaign.

I lost, but only by six votes and my sincere congratulations go to Ian Miller who will get my support as Councillor for Alyth & Old Rattray throughout his term of office.

Thank you all once again.

Dennis M Melloy

## BURN FOOTBRIDGE

I would like to express my concern about the footbridge coming from the station houses to Springbank Road, at the back of the old Bakery.

I regularly use this bridge, as do a lot of other people. I hadn't been across it for a while but went for a walk on Sunday. I had my husband and two children with me. The children went to throw stones in the Burn across the bridge, my youngest was about to go nearer to throw the stones when we noticed there were spars missing from the bridge, we got him just in time.

Someone else might not be so lucky. It is a disgrace to Alyth to let bridges get in this state. We all pay our community taxes, surely something can be done about this ASAP.

Jackie Erskine

Ed. This letter has been passed on to the Community Council. It has been commented on that a number of these bridges are deteriorating and that a survey/repairs are needed.

## Alyth Primary PTA - AGM Summary

At the AGM the following were elected office bearers:- Past Chair - Mrs D Brown, Chair - Mrs E Gordon, Vice Chair - Mrs R Murdoch, Secretary - Mrs S Heap, Treasurer - Mrs M Clift, Adviser - Mr M Lindsay. Committee members; Mrs J Proctor, A Duthie, S Buick, D Phillips, A McLaren & Miss F Littlejohn.

It was decided to make a donation to the school funds of £2000. Part of this money will be used to purchase Dictionaries to gift to Primary Seven children before they move to High School. Some will also be used to help finance the buses to take children to the pantomime in Dundee.

A full schedule of proposed events was agreed and will be advertised in due course.

Evelyn Gordon - Chairperson

## Alyth Youth Partnership

I would like to bring to everyone's attention that we had a break in at the AYP (former TSB building). I was rather disappointed after over 2 years work (sometimes rather tedious) to lose everything just 3 weeks after buying it. Most of the young participants of AYP feel the same. We are bringing this to your attention in hope of gaining return of the following items.

1 x AIWA LCX 300 mini hi-fi system, 1 x SONY playstation + 4 games + 3 control pads + 1 memory card. Thank you

Seonaid Don - on behalf of AYP

## HALL CHARGES

Please note that details of increased charges, effective from the 1st June, for use of the following halls, are displayed on the Town Hall notice Board

Town Hall, Ogilvie rooms, Lesser Town Hall & the Town Hall bar area

Alyth Halls Committee

## PUBLIC COMPUTERS

Consideration is being given to maybe siting one or more computers within the Town by P&K Recreational Services to provide facilities for the use of any association or individual. (BUT NOT GAMES).

This is a serious project and if anyone has any ideas or can foresee any use for themselves or their organisation to maintain minutes, budgets or whatever will they please indicate such an interest to the Alyth Voice by letter/note for passing on to necessary authorities.

## ALYTH IN BLOOM

A public meeting to discuss the AIB was held as advertised with approx 9 people present. NOT a lot of interest, but a LOT of enthusiasm from those present.

However the true picture of who is responsible and for what, is not clear and the Chairman of the Community Council agreed to clarify matters with P&K council before any clear course of action could be taken and the meeting re-convened.

The Millennium Committee displayed the plans to erect the new clock in the S. African memorial garden. This will entail some rework of the area in the autumn.

# ADVERTISEMENTS

The Alyth Voice WEB site is: [www.bigfoot.com/~alyth\\_Voice](http://www.bigfoot.com/~alyth_Voice)  
E-Mail Address: [alyth\\_Voice@bigfoot.com](mailto:alyth_Voice@bigfoot.com)

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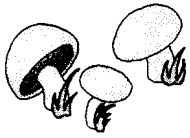
19 Commercial St, Alyth.

Tel: 01828 633632

# NATURE WATCH

## Forest life

Three years ago I visited Creag Meagaidh National Nature Reserve with a party of others. We had gone there as part of the celebrations for the tenth anniversary of the Reserve. Pausing to wait for some of the people in my group, we were wondering what had become of them, when up they came, headed by Fred



Last, clutching a large fungus, a bolete. Now, Fred Last is the retired professor of Edinburgh University's Institute of Ecology and Resource Management and one of his great interests is the close relationship between fungi and plants. Many country people

know that specific fungi are associated with particular types of woodland. Prof. Last told us that it isn't so much that those fungi prefer a special type of woodland as that certain trees favour particular types of fungus-land. At least 80% of the world's flowering plants, he told us, are able to flourish because of the infection of their root hairs by the filamentous root systems of many species of fungi. This kind of relationship, known as mutualism or symbiosis, exists both between plants and fungi, and in the animal kingdom. Cows and sheep, for example, depend on bacteria in their rumens (one of their several stomachs) to break down the forage they eat in order to make it digestible. In the case of the flowering plant it is the plant that produces sugars that feed the fungus, while the fungus, through its mycorrhizas can provide the tree with nutrients such as phosphates.

My new extended hedge, planted in December 1997 as a part of the Countryside Premium Scheme, is looking pretty well for the most part. Only the hazels and some black thorns are looking a bit thin. Well, that was what I thought as I walked along the hedge on my way to check a couple of young plantations a little while ago. First the pine: yes, that was looking very well, the candles on last year's shoots extending nicely, eventually to become this year's growth. I walked on, jumped over the rabbit fence that divides the two areas and looked to see how the new Douglas firs were doing. This bit of woodland was restocked last year with Sitka spruce, and some Norway spruce and Scots pine for the squirrels. All of a sudden I realised that I was looking at the frayed stem of a young sapling. How could this be? A small heap of droppings confirmed the suspicion. Roe deer were present. How could roe have come through the fence? I found the answer at the corner, where I was going to cross the style. The rabbit netting had been pushed down and a few short strands of



brown hair had been caught in the wire. I pulled the netting back up to the top wire, twirled the loose ends around it and went on my way. Once home I rang Chris Potter, our shooting tenant, - no reply, but the next morning he rang me with some interesting news. While out on the hill he had come across two young red deer stags inside the new native pinewood. The next afternoon a search and destroy mission revealed that they had probably entered the young wood through a fence over which a tree had fallen during the winter. Luckily for them they escaped by the way they had come in.

In the country to the north of us there are many red deer, many more than there should be. Yet I feel sorry when people say that there should be no red deer in this corner of Perthshire. As a matter of fact once the plantations in the Forest of Alyth get a bit

older and their owners, or their agents, cease to pay attention to the maintenance of the fences, red deer will get in anyway and it will be almost impossible to get them out.

Some years ago we had an incursion of a few fallow deer. They had come over from Strathardle, I guess, and went about here in a family group. It was exciting to watch the bucks fighting during the rut in the autumn and their presence added to the variety of life. One day I became aware that I had not seen them for some time and asked what had become of them. It seemed that someone had shot them. Perhaps they represented an unacceptable risk to arable crops, or that someone's woods could not tolerate their presence. Crops and young plantations need protection, but it seems a pity that deer, which are part of the soul of the forest, should not be allowed to stay in woodland in suitable numbers. They delight us with their presence as well as providing the sportsman with a worthy quarry. In small numbers they can contribute to the capacity of a forest to regenerate and, by their browsing, create diversity in the habitat from which other creatures benefit. This is not quite the same as the mutualism with which I began this piece, but it has something to do with it.

Paul Ramsay

## Heritage Trail

Dear Editor

*My mother, whom people know as Daisy regularly sends me The Voice recognising some names, some not.*

*I remember going to school, up the Burn on the stepping stones, with clothes rationing heaven help if my shoes got wet, to gentle Miss Geddis & formidable Miss Edwards and Miss Spark.*

*Going to the berry and tattie picking, running like blazes in the dark to the Bakery for morning rolls for our 'piece', my mother walloping because I had my clothes on top of my pyjamas - it was so cold. At the farm a van with hot pies & bridies and the farmer's tea, nothing ever tasted so good. Playing in the barns, Len Robb chasing us all over.*

*Various regiments training in the hills, marching down to Alyth junction to see off the HLI. POW camps on the other side of Town, German & Italian - I don't think there was one attempt to escape - who would wish to do so from Alyth?*

*How I enjoyed John Howe's auctions with my 6d or 1/- and coming home with a tray of lovely 'junk' which old Arthur threw away as soon as my back was turned. Little did I know that I would eventually have my own 'Antique' shop in Harare until I retired. I now help at an Auctioneers with Antique sales. I return to see my Mum when I can, its grand to see familiar faces and to be recognised - There's no place quite like home!*

*Joyce 'Barnett' Brown, Harare, Zimbabwe, Africa*

*Ed; If Joyce's mother would like the complete letter then please ask for it at the Post Office*



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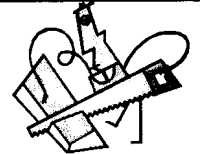
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