

alyth voice

23rd Edition, March 1999

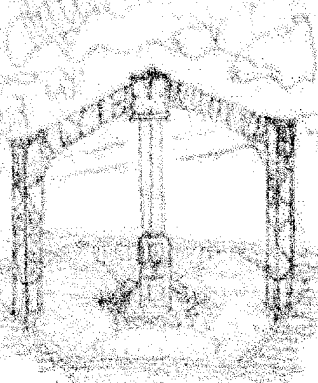
Minimum Circulation: 1100

Dear Adam Neve

I don't know where you've been for the last 4 years but we on the Millennium Committee have been slog-ging since 1995 running big, well adver-tised, well supported fund raising events for the Millennium celebration.

A suggestion box was placed in the Post Office about three years ago after we in- vited members of the community in the local press and the church magazine, to make suggestions on what to do with their

Millennium Clock



money. Sadly, those were not too nu- merous and as you pointed out planning permission has to be sought and got (done).

It was decided, since we no longer had the Post Office clock, which is greatly missed, that a clock at the square would be beneficial to both locals and visitors, also a very appropriate memorial, since we are celebrating the passing of time. If left undisturbed we see no reason why this cannot stand after we are all long gone.

Elma Mitchell, Chairperson.

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION MEETING

The Crooked Dreel and Concealed Hinge Society (CD&CH) will be working in co-operation with the Millennium Com- mittee to help with the co-ordination of certain Millennium celebrations and projects.

So, with a view to preventing clashes of timing and interest, and to try to give everyone the opportunity to contribute, CD&CH has arranged the:

First Co-ordination Meeting in the Alyth Hotel dining room @7.30pm on Thursday 18th March.

A letter is being sent to all the organisations we think may be interested but we realise that we may miss a number of these. Any interested party is invited to send a representative, whether or not it receives a letter of invitation.

Bridge/Bandstand

The idea of a such a structure has been ver- bally well received with many ideas on its loca- tion etc...

BUT DO YOU

The people of ALYTH want it ?

Before the matter can be taken further and a Committee set-up we seek your approval. It will take money (a lot of it) but with hard work, your backing and sponsorship we believe that it is possible.

Below is a a brief questionnaire which we ask to be completed together with your name as proof The ball is now in your court - a poor or nega- tive result & the subject will be shelved indefi- nitely.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SLIP!

Name(s):

Address:

I/We DO/DO NOT support the erection of a new bridge/bandstand or similar structure to commemo- rate the Millennium.

Signed.....

Please return to Alyth Post Office ASAP.
Comments if any:

Results of the Poll will be in next months Voice.

EDITORIAL

Well, there's a thing, space this month to express my opinion - it would be nice to do so! Apologies to the Poets, I hope to use them in later issues.

We are beginning to receive an excess of items with nom-de-plumes, some of which are of doubtful origin. I thought that one, namely Adam Neve (who is he anyway - honestly I don't know!) was enough. I did inherit his somewhat doubtful talents from my predecessor, however his heart does seem to be in the right place and he puts into words a lot of peoples thoughts. Please note that, other than Valentines etc.. responses to letters will only be accepted with a real signature.

Finally before I publish his/her poem, will Dewris Prudence please contact the Editor.

THANK YOU

Can I say a big thank you to everyone who voted for Heather Jackson and myself, and to all who have sent good wishes on our receiving our respective Citizens of the Year awards.

My thanks also must go to everyone who helped make the awards presentation a success. To everyone who came along to the Town Hall to show their support and especially to Billy Gordon for his excellent speech and to the members of the Community Council for organising the day.

Yours Sincerely Dennis Melloy

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

- 5th Mar Alyth Bowling Club - Childrens Disco 6.30 - 8.15 & 8.30 10.30pm
- 6th Mar Friendship Club - Coffee morning in Airlie St Hall - 10 - 12 am
- 7th Mar Adult Education AGM 7.30pm in the Alyth Hotel
- 18th Mar Millenium celebration Co-ord Mtg. Alyth Hotel - 7.30pm (See P1)
- 20th Mar CD&CH & Perth Brass - Coffee Morning & Photo competition - Airlie St Hall
- 22nd Mar Last day for Community Council nominations (See P5)
- 3rd April Easter Egg Decorating & Coffee. Alyth Guide Hut (See P4)

LOST:-

GENTS GOLD SIGNET RING with initials

R.L.B inscribed on face

RL Bruce
22 Morn Street
Alyth

REWARD >>>> £££££

Och Mon

Its been my pleasure

Harry Mitchell (Butcher - Airlie St) would like to thank ALL CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS for all the support he has had for the last 9 years and hope you will give Colin Nicol the same support.

Please note

Last month's article from The Red Cross contained a misleading detail. Jill Andrew is in fact a House Conveyance Solicitor in Edinburgh and it is her sister Lynn who was awarded the Bursary to complete a BSc(Hons) in Nursing. Lynn is now a Staff Nurse at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.



Dear Editor,

One of the great assets of Alyth is the burn running through the centre. The other is the number of interesting old buildings throughout the town, some of which are beginning to need refurbishment.

Could I suggest that the Millennium fund might offer a prize to a student of Architecture in Dundee in the town & Country planning dept to do a survey of these buildings and produce a plan for upgrading and refurbishment before these parts of our history are lost to the community. I happen to know that work of this sort is already part of their course.

Perhaps we might also include new features such as the Bandstand proposed in your columns, though I would suggest the park, beside the main road bridge near the square would be a more suitable site.

Perhaps a vandal proof set of seats outside the Airlie St Hall and a flower feature also cemented in, would be another idea to brighten the centre for both residents and visitors.

We have a fine legacy in Alyth. Don't let us lose it by neglect.

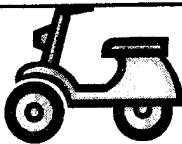
Yours Faithfully
Marjory ER Grieve(Mrs), Meigle Road

Dear Sir

I hope your society has plenty of money because I'm going to sue for punitive damages. My marriage was formerly very happy but it is now in a rocky state and all because of that anonymous doggerel you published in your last issue which had been composed by some shameless Hussy. To say that it caused a stushie in the Neve household is putting it mildly. I was sitting watching EastEnders when SHE (my lovely wife) struck me on the back of the head with last month's issue. She refuse to believe that my evening stroll is not to keep a tryst with some wanton woman in the big park. My life is a misery. But, ladies, watch yourselves, she will be scrutinising carefully your behaviour in the queue at the Chippie to try to determine whether you're the one who is after her man and with a hot fish supper in her hand she's dangerous.

Yours miserably Adam Neve

KEEP BOB ON THE ROAD



Now that Bob is on the move again with a new set of shiny red wheels, he would like to thank those caring local gentlemen for their generous financial help towards the acquisition of vital ramps.

Viz: Stanley Sim (Squares Ironmonger) via the auspices of Rotary Club: ClassicRestorations: Andy White, our famed joiner: and Norman Laing, (Blairgowrie Garage).

Without their practical and prompt help, his independence and mobility around the town would not be so assured

Thank-you, Gentlemen all, Robert Smith

SCOTTISH NIGHT

On behalf of the Millennium Committee may I thank the people of Alyth for once again supporting us so well at our Scottish Night in the town hall on 29th January. It was a very enjoyable and successful evening, netting about £400 for the Millennium fund.

Thanks also to all the local artistes who so willingly gave their time and their talents free of charge for this special occasion.

Only one thing marred the whole proceedings and that was the absence of our dear friend and colleague, Andra Kirkpatrick, greatly missed by us all. It was lovely to see Nell and the family there and we wish them well.

Andrew Kirkpatrick

Andra' Kirkpatrick, a quiet modest man
Had a corner in everyone's heart
We'd like to acknowledge the worth of this man
But how and just where do we start?
As a young man he'd visions of being a vet
But, came war and a sawmill to run
So he served King and country upon the high seas
Then came home like a dutiful son.

His marriage to Nell was a blessing from Heaven
And he knew what a treasure he had
Ewan and Ron made their family complete
And made them a proud Mum and Dad
Down at Millhaugh 'mong the larch and the firs
You would find this good man hard at work
Happy on tractor, forklift or the saw
In the shadow of his parish Kirk.

And he did love his Kirk, o' that there's no doubt
As an elder he was always on hand
You aye felt the better o' Andra's quiet word
His smile or the shak' o' his hand
But the session, as clerk, was Andra's domain
He was one of God's very select
With his wry sense of humour, this quiet, gentle, man
Deservedly gained our respect

When the Alyth Millennium Committee was formed
Rev. Oliver took the chair then
But Andra' was there, at Gordon's right hand
With the HOW and the WHERE and the WHEN,
Then the chair was vacated, he wouldn't step in
The committee got me for their pains
I was helped and encouraged and guided by him
T'was Andra' was holding the reins

We'd many a laugh at those meetings of ours
They were mostly "informal with fun"
And Andra's stock saying was "you could dae that"
When there was a job to be done
We'll miss him so much, with his wise, canny ways
His candour, his readiness to laugh
We feel privileged and proud to have shared in his life
This simple man from the Millhaugh.

Elma Mitchell

ALYTH PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION

Have *You got Your* pictures ready for the big event? If you haven't there's only a few days left in order for you to do so! The closing date for all entries is Friday 12th March. Billy Gordon, at the Post Office, is acting as collector of pictures until close of business that day. Having said that, it would help with the task of organising the prints for judging if as many pictures as possible are made available as soon as you have them ready, so please don't wait till the last minute before handing your entries in. Talking of judging, a panel is lined up and ready to judge the pictures on the 15th March.

In case you haven't yet obtained an entry form from Fashion-wise or the Post Office you will find one printed below.

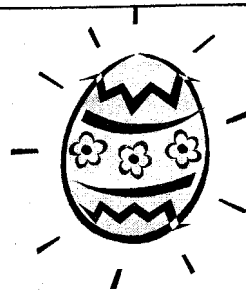
Just to remind you of the rules, the exhibition and competition are separate, although judged by the same panel. You can enter a max of 2 prints for the competition, these can have been taken anywhere in Scotland, and can cover any subject. There is no limit of prints for the exhibition, but the subject matter is limited to Alyth, places, people or some special event. Prints should not be smaller than 5x7 inches and mounted on card. Both colour and black and white prints are fine. For both events there will be junior and senior categories, with 18 years being the cut off for juniors.

On the day of the Exhibition, 20th March, The Perthshire Brass will be having a coffee morning in the Airlie Street Hall, so you will be able to look over the prints entered for both the competition and the exhibition, then enjoy a nice cuppa!

May the organisers take this opportunity to 'wish everyone entering the best of luck.

Paul Prettyman (CD&CHS)

**EASTER EGG
DECORATING
COMPETITION**



Alyth Red Cross Youth Group

The competition will be open to 4-12 year olds, which will fall into categories of 4-6yrs, 7-9yrs and 10-12yrs. There will be a 1st, 2nd & 3rd prize for each age group

The eggs will be judged on Saturday 3rd April in Alyth Guide Hut, between 10am and 12noon, where tea and coffee will be served at a charge of 60p per person (juice will be available for children). There will also be a raffle. Entry forms will be available from the Post Office, Library and in various shops in Alyth.

An entry fee of 50p/egg will be charged which can be brought along with the entry form on the day of the competition. All egg entries should arrive before 11am. For more information contact:

Angela Don on 632605 or Kevin Todd on 632046

ALYTH PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION/EXHIBITION

Name	Address	Tel No:	Age

PRINTS ENTERED FOR COMPETITION, SUBJECT MATTER - SCOTLAND

Title Print 1	Title Print 2

PRINTS ENTERED FOR EXHIBITION, SUBJECT MATTER - ALYTH

Title Print 1	Title Print 2
Title Print 3	title Print 4

NB. FOR EXHIBITION PRINTS CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET

Public Notices

PATIENT NOTICE

WITH EFFECT FROM SATURDAY 6th MARCH THE HEALTH CENTRE WILL ONLY OPEN UNTIL 11am ON A SATURDAY MORNING.

The usual out of Hours arrangements apply from 11am onwards

The Carers Support Group

"Supporting People Who Care for Others" is recommencing in March 1999.

This year's programme is as follows:

30th March	Informal Social Group
27th April	Citizens advice and Benefits
25th May	Reflexology
29th June	Relaxation Therapy
27t~ July	Allerdyces - aids and equipment
24th August	Social Evening
Time:	7p.m.
Venue:	Meigle Community Day Hospital

Please feel free to bring along a friend or anyone whom you think would benefit from attending our group. If you require transport, or any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kate Wright, Senior Charge Nurse, Meigle Community Day Hospital Tel: 01828 64021 Fax: 01828 640714

VALENTINE'S WINDOW COMPETITION 1999

Sponsored by the A&DBA was judged on Saturday 13th February by Alyth's Citizens of the Year The number and composition of the displays was brilliant and made Dennis and Heather's job extremely difficult but after much looking, examining and discussion, they declared that the prize winners were:

- 1st. Jessie McLean, FASHIONWISE, Commercial St, VALENTINE Shield and Certificate.
- 2nd. Stuart Eno, CAMNO WORKSHOP, Commercial St, Framed Certificate.
- 3rd. Salley Miller, SINGING KETTLE, Airlie St, Framed Certificate

Thanks to all who took part, congratulations to the winners and also thanking Dennis & Heather for their sterling efforts.

Chairman MICHAEL KAY.

ALYTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ELECTION OF MEMBERS 1999

There are three forthcoming vacancies in the membership of Alyth Community Council for the term 1999-2002.

Nomination forms for persons wishing to put themselves forward as candidates may be obtained from Alyth Post Office or Alyth Library. Retiring members are eligible for re-election.

Completed forms should be returned to the Post Office by noon on Monday 22 March marked "for the attention of Councillor Ian Miller, returning officer". Should an election be necessary it will be held on Tuesday 20 April 1999.

Signed Pat Eady, Secretary.

ALYTH ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The A.G.M. of the above Association will be held in the Alyth Hotel on Sunday 7th March at 7.30pm.

Large turn-out requested to ensure the continuation of evening classes in Alyth.

Pam Drysdale, Secretary

Ed Comment: Continuation of Evening Classes is in doubt - Support must be given for them to continue.

ALYTH & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30pm on TUESDAY 16th MARCH 1999

The Lesser Town Hall, Alyth

ALL BUSINESS'S WELCOME.

Marrion Ross (Mrs)
Secretary.

Michael Kay
Chairman.

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IAN MILLER - Local Councillor

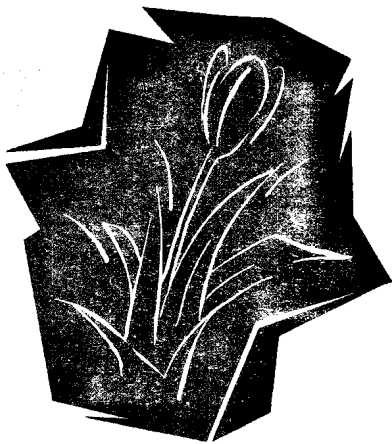
SURGERY AT ALYTH TOWN HALL (Old Council Chambers) ON 1ST
MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7.30PM DURING SCHOOL TERMS OR
CONTACT BY

TELEPHONE: S.N.P. OFFICE: 01250 876576 HOME: 01250 873304

NATURE WATCH

Snowdrops & Tourism

Snowdrops and aconites are flowering at the back of my house. As these are among the first harbingers of spring here I feel justified in mentioning them, even though they have probably been in flower for some time in more favoured climes. The other evening I heard the cry of an oystercatcher – rather early for here, and then saw a



couple of these birds sitting on a fence near Scones lethendy.

A few weeks ago my wife and I were in Spain for a week on a time-share promotional freebie. The coastal strip has, as everybody knows, been terribly overdeveloped in the rush for prosperity of the last thirty and more years. On the other side of the coin is the great

benefit of cheap holidays in the sun for millions of people, coupled with the prosperity the tourist industry has brought the people of Andalucia.

The countryside beyond the urbanised coastal fringe of the Costa del Sol was fragrant with the pink blossom of almond trees. The oranges and lemons were laden with fruit, and great plantations of olives spread over the landscape. In the native scrub beyond and between cultivated areas rosemary and broom were in flower. Some lavender, too, bloomed. Rising above the olive groves in the hills, pinewoods took their place as the dominant form of vegetation. At a viewpoint in the Biosphere Reserve in the country round Ronda I saw irises coming into flower, deep blue and gold. The countryside of Andalucia is marvellously beautiful at this time of year and its people have in abundance those Spanish characteristics of hospitable courtesy and dignity.

We drove to Granada one day along a new motorway, across a mountain range, and then through a great open landscape with olive plantations, orange and lemon groves and wheat fields. On the way we passed by Fuentevaqueros, the birthplace of the poet Federico Garcia Lorca, whose poetry catches the essence of the landscapes of his homeland. In Granada we visited the Alhambra and Generalife. These date from the fourteenth century, a time when Islamic culture was at its intellectual and artistic peak. The courtyards and buildings with their delicate plasterwork, intricately carved woodwork and delightful tiles are monuments to the Islamic spirit and epitomise its architecture. We were lucky to be in the gardens of the Generalife in the late afternoon when the pinkish buildings and dark cypress trees of the Alhambra were bathed in a hazy golden light – an unforgettable experience that reminded me of the Mediterranean water-

colours of Turner and Edward Lear.

On our way back to Benalmadena, where we were staying, we stopped at a service station. This was a modern structure with a tower like a space rocket, but when we entered the building, brilliant with chrome fittings, it was wholly and splendidly Spanish. There was a circular central counter from which coffee and drinks were served. Overhead hung rows of smoked hams. Some of these were from pigs that had been fattened on acorns in great forests in the hills and mountains to the north. To the side were stacked Spanish delicacies and standard fare – pastries, dried beans of many kinds and much else. How inimitably Spanish this all was, and yet we could pay for whatever we bought with our British credit cards.

In its curious way this building gave me a key to the sustainable tourism of the future both here and in Spain. Change is accepted – the modern building with its new service station; but the national characteristics continue – hams from the ceiling, coffee and all the things you would expect in a Spanish café.



Tourism is the most important single economic activity in many parts of the world now. This is true for Scotland as it is elsewhere. Time and again I see comparisons of the economic contributions made by various land uses in relation to tourism. Tourism comes out top by far. Here in the parish of Alyth we have the

hills and the prospect of green tourism through ventures like the Cateran Way. The area is becoming a centre for golf, and there is the built heritage of the buildings of the town, as well as an archaeological inheritance of note in the Forest of Alyth. Yet we must not allow unsuitable developments to ruin the special qualities that bring people to visit us. We are lucky compared with the Andalucians because we have not had the same pressures to develop, but the new pressures are with us and will be all the more so as the Common Agricultural Policy is reformed and farmers are forced to consider their future. So, how did I begin? Ah, yes – snowdrops and aconites! There are more of them out now.

Oh, and by the way we didn't buy a timeshare, but I wonder if Raymond did?

Paul Ramsay

DID YOU KNOW?

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Imperial acre = 4840 sq yds
ie. 48 Scots = 61 Imperial (acres that is)

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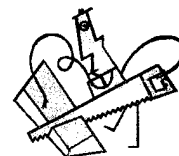
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