

# alyth voice

25th Edition, May 1999

Minimum Circulation: 1100

## 25 EDITIONS

### GOLF SPONSORSHIP



Four members of Alyth Golf club are playing a golf match with a difference. Iain Waddell & Bill Robertson take on locals Andy Paterson & Bob Dargie to play the last hole of every course in Perthshire in a 14 hour time limit.

They are attempting to raise funds for the special Baby Unit @ Ninewells, The Alyth Year 2000 and other local good causes.

Sponsorship forms are doing the rounds. If you find them hard to find ask at the Alyth Hotel. We hope you will lend your support to these marathon men.

## Alyth Year 2000 Celebration Committee

Two meetings of the new committee have now been held and a number of actions have taken place.

Office bearers are Callum Strachan (Chairman) Will Brodie (Treasurer) and David Carver (Sec).

Meetings will be held on the 3rd Wed every month in the Alyth Hotel - any member of the public can attend. The agreed constitution can be found at the end.

A bank account has been opened with the Royal Bank and a first deposit of £100 lodged therein from the CD&CH Society.

So what are the plans? - at this time consideration is only being given to Hogmanay although some responsibility for the whole year was placed upon the committee.

To date

Venues at which events will take place including the local hostelrys are:

1, Square -

a) Dedication of the Clock approx 6pm to include a torchlit procession - Town hall bell ringing and dedica-

tion by the ministers.

b) Music from 1030pm till approx 0030am

c) Midnight with fireworks, Year 2000 Display and a bonfire on Alyth hill.

2. Town Hall Still to be defined but 1) Youth Theatre 2) Ceilidh plus some TBD

3. Airle St Hall. 1) Evening disco for 14 - 18yrs, 2) Morning and afternoon events TBD.

4. Ogilvie Rooms, Younger disco plus TBD

5. Bowling club - afternoon and evening events.

Alyth is fortunate to have a high number of talented Musicians/Artistes and all are being contacted - If you wish to offer your services please do so NOW. A time/event plan will be produced with marked-in and confirmed events which will be published in the Voice each month.

We are actively seeking funding, sponsors or whatever - we do need money and look to your support-but expect the whole day to be FREE at the time.

For example the CD&CH annual "Jazz on the Burn" and other occasions will have collection boxes for this occasion. Note the Golf sponsorship above left.

### CONSTITUTION

**Responsibility:** The committee is responsible to the People, Associations & Organisations within Alyth and intending to celebrate the Millennium **Objectives:** 1. To assist with and co-ordinate the activities of all Assoc/organisations to celebrate the Millennium in Alyth. this includes Hogmanay and the whole of Year 2000 2. To fund raise to support events and encourage others to do likewise. **Membership** Committee members were elected by the Public Mtg held on the 18th March 1999 but can co-opt other persons as necessary. Any member of the public may attend and address the meeting. **Meetings:** 1. Committee meetings will be held on a regular monthly basis but more frequently if required. Public meetings will be called by the meeting as required. 2. Minutes of meetings will be recorded by the Secretary. A summary of the minutes will appear in the Alyth Voice. 3. Decisions may be taken ex-committee provided approval is sought and given by more than 50% of current members and minuted at the next meeting **Officers:** The committee will appoint a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer from amongst its number and other officers as are necessary for the efficient conduct of the committee **Finance:** 1. The committee will open an account with a reputable Bank or Building Society (preferably in Alyth). 2. Cheques or withdrawals must be signed by two of the three office bearers elected by the Committee and notified to the Committee's bank. 3. The Committee will produce a financial statement at each meeting. 4. When winding up the Committee any remaining assets will be distributed to such voluntary bodies, active in Alyth, as recommended by the committee and approved by a public meeting to be advertised 14 days prior, not less than 10 persons present.

Year 2000

## EDITORIAL

Not much room for me again and still a fair amount outstanding. My apologies to those who have written articles still to be published. Can I ask that you do take care that they are readable. At times I need a crystal ball and have to guess the content.

No room for much comment on the Internet but moves are afoot to get the whole of Alyth on the WEB. If you have access, have a look at our pages, the address is on P6. We are now being read in several parts of the world and intend to enlarge that audience. Anyone who is really keen can ring me. The Bridge/Bandstand - is currently under discussion, my opinion is that there will be some action on this or something similar - but there are other priorities for active peoples so near the Millennium. More about it next month - maybe.

### **Congratulations 50th Wedding Anniversary Bruce & Maud Malcolm Left Alyth 1995 for Canada Avid readers of the Voice**

#### ***"An ODD Appeal"***

*A BIG thank you to my request last month. I was overwhelmed by the generosity. I never expected that I would receive so much lovely wool, buttons and offers of help. A pat on the back. On behalf of the Romanian orphans and a very happy CAT I thank you all most sincerely.*

*An Alyth O.A.P.*

*ps. it is still coming*

#### **ALYTH VOICE EDITORIAL BOARD**

The Editorial Board members and their contact 'phone numbers are as follows :

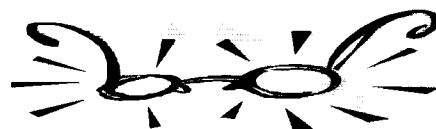
<b>Sheila Donald</b>	<b>632847</b>
<b>Billy Gordon</b>	<b>via Post Office</b>
<b>Simon Ingram</b>	<b>632705</b>
<b>Jessie McLean</b>	<b>632684</b>
<b>Jim O' Brien.</b>	<b>632484</b>
<b>Callum Strachan</b>	<b>633140</b>

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*

- 9th May 7pm. Organ Recital - @ Alyth Parish Church (for Christian Aid see P4)
- 13th May 7pm. Alyth -in-Bloom Mtg in the Lesser Town Hall (See P5)
- 15th May 10am. St Ninians Church. coffee morning Airlie St Hall.
- 22nd May 10am. Alyth Brownies coffee morning Airlie St Hall.
- 4th June 7pm. Ceilidh in aid of "ENABLE" in the Alyth Town Hall (See P4)
- 26th June Jazz on the Burn - CD&CH Society



## **WATCH THIS SPACE**

### ***Maïow***

***Young Black & White Male neutered CAT  
Felix look-alike***

***Last seen middle of month***

***A very much loved family pet - other pets are pining  
If seen please ring Alyth 632397***

### **TAXI**

David & Elma Mitchell have now ceased trading as D&E Taxis and wish to thank all customers for their patronage over the last 23yrs. The business is to be continued by Derek Brown with a name change to DB Taxis and can be reached on the same number 01828 632672.

We wish Derek (who has been driving with us for over two years), all the best and hope that you will continue to give him your support

### ***Football Charity Match***

***On behalf of the Burnside Inn Darts Team we would like to thank everyone who took part in the Charity Match on Sunday 11th April. We also wish to thank our sponsors Walter & Maureen (Burnside Inn), Rod MacFarlane (referee) and all who supported and bought raffle tickets.***

***The Alyth Playgroup & Beavers will benefit by some £250.***

***Irene Campbell & Douglas McDonald***

On behalf of the Millennium Committee I wish to say thanks to the Alyth quiz league for their very generous donation of £500 to our fund. This is a great boost for us and will help with our expenses for the millennium arch and clock which we are erecting for Alyth. We had a very enjoyable evening at the quiz night in Losset Inn where we were presented with the cheque. Thank you once again to all concerned

Elma Mitchell

# Jazz on the Burn

*Just to remind to you that JOTB will be on Saturday 26th June. The CD&CH Society are planning in good time and hope to 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*

Dear Ed

Poison them, bomb them, drown them, smoke them out or make life generally uncomfortable for them. What bloodthirsty folk we have in Alyth. And what is "them"? Some recalcitrant Balkan or middle eastern nation? NO, its just that Sal my neighbour has a plague (one or two really!) of moles on the lawn and the above is a summary of the advice she has received.

My own view is that they are good for drainage and if you have moles on the lawn you won't have as much moss so I'd just flatten the molehills. When we lived out bye even that mild action caused offence to our only neighbour (do you remember one-eyed Mina) who really laid into me. She was convinced that the moles were God's messengers and since they were blind they communicated with him by writing in braille on the fields.

You can't win them all but I seem to win none

Adam Neve

## PICTERS

No I don't try everything once - I'm not that brave or daft - But I did enjoy my first picters in Blairgowrie Toon Hall, expecting to have to stamp the floor (as of old) when the projector might break down. But it didn't.

I can recall getting my money back at London's Barbican centre cinema after 3 breakdowns! Quarter of an hour to the start of the film only 10 folk were downstairs - don't know about the balcony crowd - and I thought dejectedly, this could be my 1st and last Blair film show. But NO - by 5pm the place was nearly full and it was a really good audience, mostly youngsters, but several stoic accompanying film buff adults.

A few even brought their tea with them to supplement the goodies available in the foyer. Shame a few left so much behind. Most managed to find the bins in the dark!

The corridorless trains of my childhood stood me in good stead with my stamina and retention. Twas not so my young peers who seemed to revel in their urgent, dark dashes to and fro.

OK. so it does lack the grandiosity of the Lochee "Stack" with its popcorn - but it was grand to see so many well behaved youngsters being trusted to go to the picters on their own. Says much about Blair & district's safe and caring attitude too!

But whit about the film - "Its a Bugs Life" - well it was great. Maybe next time, I'll get to see the evening grown-up show.

See you there in the queue

Josi Blethers (Top o'Toon)

In a previous Voice, a contributor used the word Pulchitruide. It is interesting to see the change in familiar phrases when this word is used, for instance: Black Pulchitruide - Who would bet on this horse?

or  
Pulchitruide and the Beast - Makes the Beast sound really respectable.

Pulchitruide is only skin deep - Thank goodness for that.

Pulchitruide is in the eye of the beholder - See an optician immediately.

Sleeping Pulchitruide - A previous sickness no prince can cure.

A Pulchitruide Spot - We won't go there again.

Lastly:

The keen fisherman - See the lovely fish I have caught isn't it a Pulchitruide - No it is a Pilchard! or a thing of Pulchitruide and a joy forever.

Bert Aitken, St Ninians Road

Ed: I reckon Pulchitruide comes from the can of worms which is part of Adam's vocabulary.



**CEILIDH**  
in aid of "ENABLE"

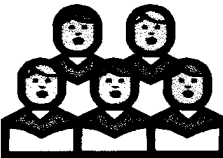
There will be a varied programme by talented local performers ensuring an enjoyable evening's entertainment.  
*Alyth Town Hall, 7pm. 4th June*

Tickets at £4 (concession £3) will be available throughout May from Committee members or "Seasons", Airlie St.

*Alyth Musical Society*  
**Sing Along Concert**  
**18th June in the Town Hall**

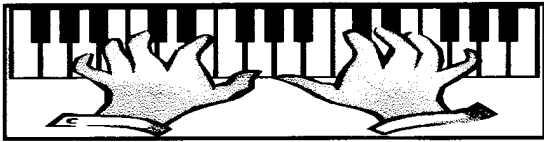
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**ORGAN RECITAL**



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Including music by Bach and Widor, and congregational singing

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The Oven Bistro is unique in Tayside, having the only wood burning oven north of Edinburgh. The oven is igloo shaped and burns logs internally and is actually in the Bistro so that diners can watch their food being cooked.

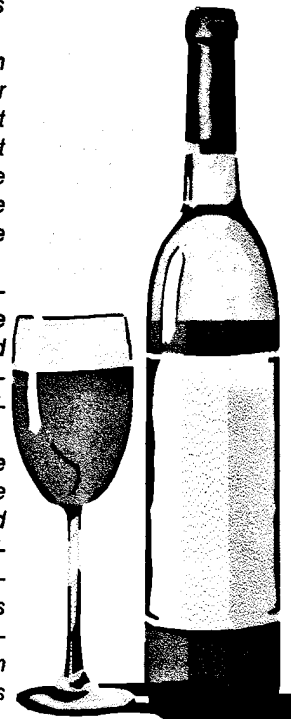
Traditionally these ovens were used on the continent for baking breads and pizzas, but in recent years have been used more and more for all types of cooking.

There are two styles of cooking. Firstly, fast cooking using the very fierce heat generated by the burning logs. The floor temperature of the oven is about 320 centigrade, while the roof temperature is around 800 centigrade. When you think that a domestic oven reaches a maximum of 250 centigrade it gives an idea just how intense the heat is! The second method of cooking is using the gentle heat when the oven is heating up or cooling down. This is when the breads are baked or the slow roasting and braising is done. We have all heard stories from older generations of how they would take the Sunday roast to the Bakers for him to put in his oven overnight when he had finished baking, the same principle is used in this oven.

The dishes coming out of the oven have a very subtle smoked flavour and are very tender as the fast method seals in the juice of the meat or fish and the slow method dishes are generally well covered to make sure that no moisture escapes and the meat bastes in its own juices.

We try to source all our supplies locally and change the menu with the seasons. Vegetables, salads and herbs come from our garden in season and are raised on organic principles.

The style of the cooking tends to be rustic and imaginative and we have gone to great lengths to make the food affordable to appeal to a wide audience. Within a month we will be opening for a range of morning coffees from our espresso machine and simple lunches centred around Italian style Pizzas with thin crispy bases which the oven cooks beautifully.



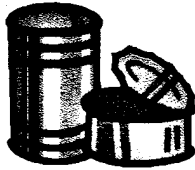
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# Public Notices

## REFUSE SKIPS

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### Opening times:

Mon - Fri            7.30 - 7pm  
Sat & Sun            9 - 7pm

## LAWNMOWER

Would the person who uplifted the "Mountfield" Motor mower from its storage place in the Alyth Parish Church please forward name and address. In return they will receive the instruction book and tool kit that goes with it.

ps. or maybe mow the lawn weekly.



Alyth Venture Scouts  
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## Bowling Club & Tennis Club

Junior membership fees due by 31st May  
Over 12 - £7.50p, Under 12 - £5  
**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**  
Payment to Mr J Brewster in clubhouse  
nightly

## Christian Aid Week this year is from 9 - 15th May.

Representatives of our three local churches will collect throughout Alyth & District in the usual door to door envelope collection. Last year £1169 was raised in this way and it is hoped that you, the Alyth people will again give generously towards the plight of the world's poorest people.

# ALYTH - in - BLOOM

So what's it all about? Does it concern me?  
Am I interested?

## Most importantly - can I be bothered?

The AIB Committee has existed for a number of years. With the increasing pressures placed on local government finance it is becoming ever more important that the Town speak up for itself and gain recognition to reap rewards which will provide a pleasant environment for us to live in.

These are the aims of AIB whilst at the same time organising events eg. Best Garden, maybe a Flower/Vegetable show and even enter the Town into Floral competitions.

Members of the Public are needed to help with these objectives in a number of ways at no cost (except time) and little physical effort.

1. Committee Members to organise matters
- and 2. Willing helpers/Groups for some manual work in the flower beds, Burn and surrounding areas.

Interested? - Want to know more with NO commitment?  
then PLEASE COME TO THE PUBLIC MEETING

**13th May, Lesser Town Hall, 7pm**

## ALYTH HALLS COMMITTEE AGM(summary of minutes)

The AGM was held on Thursday 27th April in the Lesser Town Hall with 8 persons present. Last years minutes were read and accepted. A financial statement was presented by the Treasurer and accepted.

All present were elected/relected to the Committee. New Office bearers are Callum Strachan(Chairman) Helen MacDonald(Treasurer) Mike Johnston (Sec). Meetings will be held 2nd Tuesday of the month unless otherwise advised, M Johnston. Secretary

# 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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# NATURE WATCH

## Birds of a Feather

Hill lambings are in full swing by now and foresters are nearly at the end of the planting season. While shepherds and woodmen go about their seasonally driven tasks others find that a season of Annual General Meetings is upon us. The National Trust for Scotland, the Scottish Landowners' Federation and many others call upon their members to listen to their progress during the past year and endorse their plans for the future. So I found myself towards the end of April going to the AGM of the Aigas Trust, whose chief interest is in furthering environmental education.

I drove to Aigas, which is in Strathglass, and went to Glen Strathfarrar with my host the day before our meeting. Walking in the ancient pinewoods of the glen my companion pointed out a stout greenish finch. "Look", he said, "A pine cross-bill". I looked through my binoculars and there, indeed, was this bird with the powerful bill, whose crossing mandibles give it its name.



The bird was a female and she was nosing about on the branches of a dead birch tree. I began to wonder if she had a mate, and sure enough, poking about on a higher branch of the same tree was this amazing bright cinnamon pink bird - more a miniature parrot than a finch with his brilliant chest and rump.

I had thought that crossbills in Caledonian pine forest must be our own Scots crossbill (*Loxia scotica*), but my friend assured me this was not always the case. We continued on our way discussing the forest and looking out for other birds. There were gold crests in the tops of the trees and a dipper in the burn, but no goshawks flying through the forest, nor eagles. I wondered if pine martens would eat grey squirrels in preference to reds. You would think they might because they spend more time on the ground and are not as nimble or as small as red squirrels. A red squirrel might escape a marten by running onto smaller twigs than would bear a marten: what of the goshawk as a predator of squirrels? Would it consume grey squirrels? These were questions to which we could find no firm answers.

The next day I came down to breakfast to find my host conversing on the telephone with Roy Dennis, the well-known naturalist. The native Scottish crossbill is found in remnants of the Caledonian pinewoods, but the smaller common crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) lives with it in these woods and in other coniferous forests in the British Isles, having settled here after large invasions earlier this century. Scandinavian parrot crossbill (*Loxia pytyopsittacus*), of which the Scottish species was once thought to be a sub-species, also erupt into this country from time to time after a good breeding year. Where there are different species of crossbill in one wood they do not inter-breed. Although they are very hard to distinguish from each other visually their songs are different. Crossbills roam forests in bands, looking for cones to open in their search for the seeds that are their main food. Many coniferous trees have seed years

in which they produce cones and seed, and then a gap for a number of years in which they do not produce cones. The



crossbills roaming habit seems to have evolved as a response to the waywardness of their food.

Back at Bamff this weekend (24-25 April) I have seen a goldfinch, chaffinches and bullfinches, but no intriguing crossbills to remind one of the continuing processes of evolution. I am reminded by the chack chack sounds of the flocks of fieldfares that they are on their way north to breed and that we live in a world of constant flux and change.

Paul Ramsay

## Heritage Trail

*In recent weeks I have received correspondence via the Internet E-mail from a number of people both at home and abroad. In the first instance an Alyth lass who I hope will become one of our regular contributors on heritage matters.*

*I also received one from a Mr John Clayton (sr) of Virginia USA with respect to his ancestral roots being in our lovely town. Some of you may have met him during a visit he made whilst on holiday.*

*To cut a long story short he is a descendant of a Mr Hugh Warden whose Father and Grandfather were Headmasters of Alyth School between 1713 and 1750 at which time Hugh emigrated to the USA and established the family together with others in a place called "Wardens Field". Some help in this venture was given by none other than George Washington. John Clayton has Hugh's original journal, copies of which have been given to Alyth, and the family bible dating from those times.*



*Now we come to another Warden about who John Clayton has no knowledge until he reads this article on the Alyth Voice WEB site.*

*This gentleman is called William Warden born on 1st May 1777 and most probably another member of the same family. He became a Surgeon in the Royal Navy and at one stage was a close friend of Napoleon who when captured, sailed in HMS Northumberland to his final exile in St Helena in 1815. To the displeasure of London society he wrote a book "Letters from St Helena" which praised Napoleon. Needless to say, upon his retirement from the RN he returned to his birthplace in Alyth and a position in the local school (a family trait?). He had in his possession a Ship's Bell - which he had acquired from a captured French sloop as spoils of war and had originally been made for a Church in Poullan sur Mer, France. Some time later the school moved to larger premises and the Bell was presented to the town of Alyth to be hung in the tower of the Town Hall.*

*It is still there, although it has not been rung for many years.*

*nb. Life is full of strange co-incidences and it becomes more so when only recently (before these stories came to light) both the Halls and Year 2000 Celebration committees are considering the Bel's use during the Millennium.*

*Today there are no Wardens in Alyth - but in Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus and throughout Tayside there are quite a number and just maybe, some of them are related.*

*It may also be that others will read this and recognise some other connection or detail about this family, the Bell or even Napoleon*

Editor

# ADVERTISEMENTS



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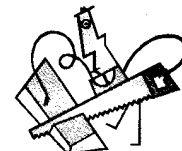
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## ANDY WHITE

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Stewart MacDonald

## Electrical Contractor

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## MIS 'n' MERS

### HAIR SALON

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Hair tip: Perm hair before colouring as Perm lotion fades colour!

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