

# Pitcairngreen Village Newsletter

Edition 200 July 2024



Well, I don't think it will come as a surprise that June was the wettest since 2014. We experienced 6.36 inches of rain, 1.43 more than a typical June. Everything in the garden is very lush [ a Perthshire rainforest?] and the glorious roses somewhat battered. However this wet weather is a favourite for slugs, so if the wind doesn't damage the garden the slugs will . When fruit farmers first started to grow their berries in polythene tunnels I thought they really spoiled the country side. I soon came to realise that they are a blessing to us all. Delicious perfect berries for a longer season , no worries about rain ruining the crop, and a guaranteed income for farmers. The fields round Pitcairngreen were planted with raspberries canes and the mushy rain sodden berries, ie.seconds, were thrown into a barrel for jam or pulp. The beginning of the school holiday saw the beginning of the picking season. Jim Christie gave pickers a lift to the fields sitting on straw bales on the back of a bogie. Once in the fields the pickers were impossible to see in the dreels but you could hear them shouting and laughing. Many people in the community will have memories of "going to the berries" That was 50 years ago and it was another world.

Schools may have broken up but there are still a lot of events locally during the summer when we can all get together.

It is at this time that we think of our young people. The P7s moving on to their next schools; the S 6 going into work or onto college and our college students graduating and heading out into the wide world. To all of them go our good wishes.

Those of you with sharp eyes will have noticed that this is the 200th edition of the village newsletter and time for me to close up my computer. Thank you to all our lovely contributors over the past 20 years. The newsletter is in good hands and will continue to inform us and keep us all in touch Have a lovely summer.

Heather

## Diary for July

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1st  | Craft group at St Serfs<br>Tennis Camp at local tennis courts 1st - 4th |
| 3rd  | Youth space at St Serfs   |
| 27th | Village Fete  |

Chelsea Flower Show, eat your heart out. Now for this glorious experience, you do need to hurry. All along the riverside path between here and Perth there are swathes of wonderful flowers. Maybe it's best to start west of the Bertha Park Bridge, and walk or cycle into Perth. First come acres of Meadowsweet, then drifts of blue geranium and yellow buttercups, brighter yellow Birdsfoot Trefoil, pink Clover, grasses of myriad shades of muted greens and reds. The wild fennel has finished flowering but that lovely smell is all around.

The verges on the Cromwell Park road are pretty spectacular too.

## **ALMONDBANK TIBBERMORE CHURCH**



**The Services on 7th and 14th, July will be led by our minister, Rev Robert Malloch**

**Rev. Marina Brown will lead the Service on 21st July**

**Rev. Margaret Steele will lead the Service on 28th July**

**Any unforeseen changes to this will be posted on the Church's notice board.**

**All Services in July will begin at 11.30am.**

**Tea and Coffee continues to be served in the hall after the Service every Sunday.**

### **OTHER NEWS**



**The Craft Group meetings are held every Monday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Church Hall. Everyone welcome.**



**The Church Youth space, which is a space to chat to friends or enjoy Pool, Table- tennis, Air Hockey,**



**X- Box and games, will **not** take place during the school holidays in July.**

**Please watch Facebook or the Church's notice board for future information.**



**There will be no Ladies Group meetings until October.**

**WEST STORMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Presents  
*PlaidSong*  
**“Songs O’er Time & Place”**  
In the beautiful setting of Murthly Castle chapel  
**Wednesday 10 July**



Refreshments served from 7 pm: Music begins at 7.30pm.  
Booking essential : Free parking  
Tickets £12 (No concessions)  
Available online from: [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)  
And from the Secretary 07823 556 357

PlaidSong are a traditional folk music duo  
[www.plaidsong.co.uk](http://www.plaidsong.co.uk)

[www.wshs.org.uk](http://www.wshs.org.uk) or contact [weststormontsec@gmail.com](mailto:weststormontsec@gmail.com)

West Stormont Historical Society are hosting a musical & historical event which will be held in Murthly Castle Chapel on July 10th from 7 pm with refreshments before an hour of songs and history by local songwriting duo PlaidSong. PlaidSong have played at the Pitcairngreen St Andrews Night and hope that some of you will be able to join them for this summer evening of entertainment in a very special venue. Tickets can be booked online via our website [www.wshs.org.uk](http://www.wshs.org.uk) OR call our secretary on 07823 556 357. Booking is essential and please book early to help us gauge numbers!

## TENNIS camps and activities

### 28<sup>th</sup> of June Methven TC

Friday morning

9.00am – 12.30pm

£25 (NM) £20 (M)

### 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Methven TC

Monday – Thursday

9.30am – 12.30pm – 3.00pm

£120 (NM) £100 (M)

single days/mornings available

### Saturdays Methven TC

9.15-10am P1-P4 10-11am P5-P7 £8 (NM) £7 (M)

### July at Morrison's Academy July at Morrison's Academy

Adults session July

Thursdays 6.15-7.15pm

stay for a game

4 weeks block £48

or £15 per lesson



**GIRLS ONLY**

15th-18<sup>th</sup>

4pm special sessions

£35 AND a Racket!

Book your place by contacting Magdalena on:

***m.coaching@wp.pl or 07972358762***

**Magdalena Matelska Accredited<sup>+</sup> LTA tennis coach**

(NM)- non member, (M)- member

To renew your membership or join the club please contact us by email: [methventennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:methventennisclub@gmail.com)

or pick up a membership form at the club, please contact us to arrange.

**Thank you to the teachers and pupils of Methven primary and Madderty primary school for accepting the invitation and playing tennis at the Methven TC at their sport and health dedicated week. Well done everyone. Looking forward to see you at the courts soon.**

**Coach Magdalena**

# **Pitcairngreen Village Fete 2024**

**12-5pm Saturday 27th July**



**KIDS DJ  
BOUNCY CASTLES  
100FT ASSAULT COURSE  
WEE ONES JUNGLE FUN RUN  
AND MORE!**

**ARCHERY & SOFT AXE THROWING**



**PONY RIDES  
VARIOUS MUSICAL PERFORMANCES  
BBQ  
FOOTBALL GAMES  
ICE CREAM VAN  
SMALL BUSINESS STALLS  
RAFFLE  
& MORE**

**COME ALONG FOR A FUN FILLED DAY!**

**A little message from Sam & Calum at the pub, our big day is just around the corner therefore we will not be serving food Friday 5th, Saturday 6th or Sunday 7th July, we apologise for the inconvenience!**

**Enjoy your BIG DAY**

# 1st ALMONDBANK BROWNIES

....last meeting of this brownie year 2023-2024

Alyth-Friday in Guide Hall:Blairgowrie-Saturday Bluebell Woods n' Piggy Lane

## Bluebell Woods Sleepover



Went on a "wool" treasure hike thru old Alyth before supper



Created our own indoor bluebell woods Alyth Guide Hall



Our special Sunny eggs for breakfast  
Slice of pepper + egg  
Fry gently in tsp oil

After lunch took No 57 bus to Blairgowrie  
Dismounted at Piggy Lane, Woodlands  
and country walked thru Bluebell Woods



Before bedtime crafted summer hat hair pins  
Bottle top/string/card



Bluebell Wood  
Enjoy a walk through a spectacular Bluebell Wood and visit the scenic White Lock



Lolly stick "fairy doors" for us to use Saturday



Fun in the Woods

Stopped to make fairy houses and used our doorways made on Friday evening



## BLUEBELL WOODS

### TEA SHOPPE



On return to Piggy Lane set up our tea shop ready to welcome our pick up parents and all enjoy our cakes with tea before setting off for home

Next meeting first Friday September 2024  
Happy Holidays .....

## Heather editor in chief

Reliable as the moon's passage round the earth has been the distribution of the monthly newsletter around Pitcairngreen and Almondbank. We have been able to take for granted the informative lists of "What's On" in the area, which together are a journal of changes that have taken place over the years. According to Heather, that's a brief journal. Much of the every-day activity has remained familiar from year to year since the inception of the newsletter in 2004. It was just after the Pitcairngreen hall was rebuilt and refurbished. People were enthused by the lovely new facilities and encouraged to fill the hall with exciting activities. We needed to know what opportunities were being offered in the village, and so the Village Newsletter came into being. Heather persuaded and cajoled activity organisers into giving her details of events and clubs and writing brief records of how these activities were developing as they went along. Readers may not be actually involved in a particular activity but they like to see what's going on around them. Requests for the newsletter came from quite far afield, from other communities nearby and far and wide from local people who had moved away but still had an interest in the village.

The newsletter evolved to become much more than a list of events and activities. Heather always finds some little nuggets of information appropriate to the month, and never fails to include a paragraph or two about nature and the season in the introduction. Over the years there have been some really valuable articles contributed by local folk, greatly appreciated.

Heather's prime motivation has always been to bind the community together. Although she distributed the editions by email some of the readers could not access emails, and so friendly neighbours would print newsletters out for them. The Village Committee made sure that this service was available to anybody who needed it. Heather became the fount of all knowledge about life in Pitcairngreen and Almondbank, She would say that gathering information and writing material was a regular pleasure.. Not so the complications the variety of programmes on computers and the many formats contributors used. If some folk were easily able to open the attachment, others would complain that it was inaccessible. The issue seems to have been solved by having each newsletter loaded onto the site of the Pitcairngreen Village Hall, and the readers can "collect" it from there. Many of us use the local Facebook pages to keep up with local life, and sometimes we lift items into the newsletter for those who don't have Facebook. It works the other way too: if the newsletter advises of some event coming up we can add it to the Facebook page to spread the word. There's no formal way to give feedback on the newsletter. Occasionally folk will remark face-to-face that they've appreciated some little snippet of information or that they've absorbed a recipe into their repertoire, but it seems that lots of people do actually read it. Heather we owe you a huge thank you for your life long commitment to all aspects of village life. We've all benefited from your warmth and generosity, so evident in all you write in the newsletters

Alison Duffy

*Alison, thank you for your kind words and your support. And thank you to everyone for all your support and contributions. You are the people who have made the newsletter and made it all worthwhile so thank you all.*

*Heather*



## The Lamplighter

### The Lamplighter

by [Robert Louis Stevenson](#)

My tea is nearly ready and the sun has left the sky.  
It's time to take the window to see Leerie going by;  
For every night at teatime and before you take your seat,  
With lantern and with ladder he comes posting up the street.

Now Tom would be a driver and Maria go to sea,  
And my papa's a banker and as rich as he can be;  
But I, when I am stronger and can choose what I'm to do,  
O Leerie, I'll go round at night and light the lamps with you!

For we are very lucky, with a lamp before the door,  
And Leerie stops to light it as he lights so many more;  
And oh! before you hurry by with ladder and with light;  
O Leerie, see a little child and nod to him to-night!



Recently my daughter sent me a photograph of one of the last three lamplighters in London! Amazing that they had one left alone three. There used to be gas lights in Pitcairngreen and we had our own lamplighter, Bill Grant, who lived at Eastend Pitcairngreen.

His daughter Mary McGilvrey fills in a wee bit more.

“Dad was the Village Lamplighter, getting his matches from Covey’s Shop at Knockerb. He said Mr Covey was always complaining he used far too many matches!

I don’t know how long he was employed as the village Leerie but Dad told me his younger brother Ian Grant took on the position after he gave the job up.

Dad would have been somewhere between 14 and 17 years old he was the village lamplighter. Climbing the ladder every evening to light the lamp and again in the morning to extinguish...it certainly wouldn’t pass the current Health & Safety at Work Act 😂”

AS there was a gas works in Almondbank, somewhere behind the Badgers, I presume they also had gas lighting and their own Leerie

Further information can be found in the late Tom Huxleys book Almondvalley

“Almond valley Past and Present”