

Pitcairngreen Village Newsletter

Edition 195 February 2024

Well here we are, the first newsletter of 2024. So far the year has thrown all weathers at us, rain, floods, snow, ice , and now in the last week of the month balmy temperatures in double figures. But we have had some magnificent sunsets and sun rises and delicate twinkly frost patterns so it hasn't been all gloom.

Things are moving in the garden . Snowdrops are popping up on a daily basis. Their cool elegance countered by the glorious pop of colour from the aconites..However these are a deadly beauty as all parts of the plant, especially the roots are deadly poisonous . Emperor Claudius was allegedly poisoned with aconiette.

The birds are not exactly singing but a lot of chirruping as the birds are more active. Probably with longer days we are more active too.

Diary For February

1st	Ladies group meet in St Serfs. Book exchange in Pitcairngreen Inn weekly
2nd	Fish Friday at Pitcairngreen Inn Rainbows and Brownies meet in Church Hall. weekly
5th	Yoga in Pitcairngreen Village Hall weekly Craft Group meet in St Serfs. weekly Village lunch in Pitcairngreen Hall 12 noon - 1.30pm
7th	Youth Space meet in the Church Hall Pilates in Tickled Trout weekly
8th	Library van visits
13t	Shrove Tuesday
14th	Ash Wednesday St Valentines Day
23rd	Fish Fry Day at the pub
26th	West Stormont Historical Society
29th	Leap Year Day

St Serf's Ladies Group will meet on Thursday 1st February in the Church Hall at 2.00pm. The speaker will be Alasdair Dawes and he will be giving a talk/presentation on his experiences at the Scout Jamboree in South Korea

All Welcome

If anyone wants to find out more about our Group - please contact Carol Duff on 07447 910561

ALMONDBANK TIBBERMORE CHURCH



Services continue to be held every Sunday beginning at 10.00am and Rev Robert Malloch will lead all Services in February. Any unforeseen changes will be posted on the Church noticeboard

Tea and Coffee continues to be served in the hall after the Service every Sunday. All welcome so please come along.

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 now operates weekly on Wednesdays from 6.30pm to 8.00pm for those in P7 upwards.

A space to chat to friends or enjoy Pool, Table- tennis, Air Hockey, X- Box and games.



The next Ladies Group meeting will be held on Thursday 1st February and the following one on 7th March both beginning at 2.00pm.

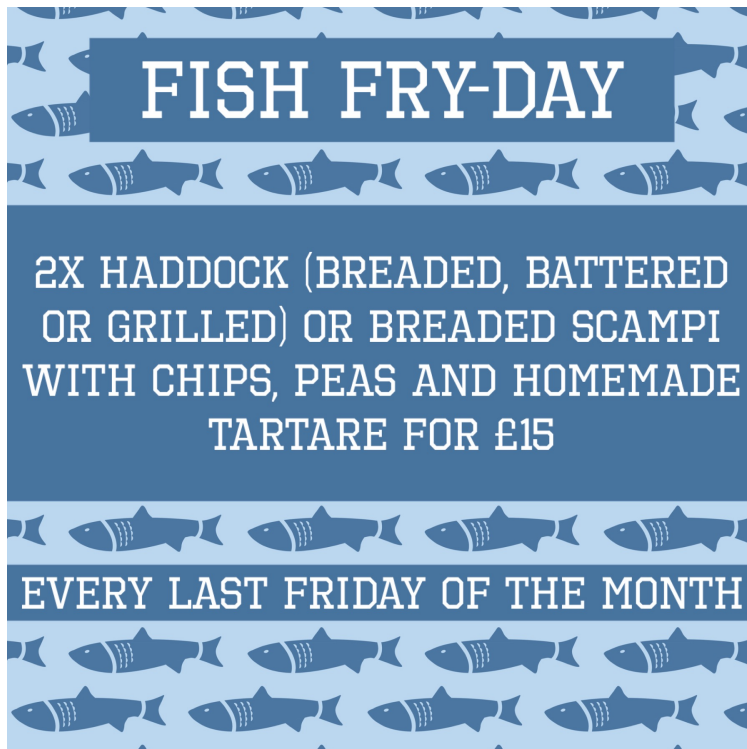
Report from School

P6/7 Newsletter Update January 2024

We are all very excited to be in school for a new year. This term our P6/7 class have been learning about Scottish Literacy. We have learned the meaning of different scots vocabulary and had a go of using it in our writing.

We have also been learning Scots poems as part of our Scots Poetry Competition. The final will be held on 25th January where we will celebrate Robert Burns.

In PE we have been learning Scottish dancing. So far, we have learned the Canadian Barn Dance, Dashing White Seargent and Strip the Willow.



FISH FRY-DAY

2X HADDOCK (BREADED, BATTERED OR GRILLED) OR BREADED SCAMPI WITH CHIPS, PEAS AND HOMEMADE TARTARE FOR £15

EVERY LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Hair ice fungus: fibre-optic candyfloss?



On 6th and 7th January this year, 2024, contributors to our local Facebook pages posted excited photos of these beautiful structures in our woods and river banks, I had noticed far more than I'd ever seen before. But they're ephemeral, disappearing as suddenly as they blossom. Touch them, and they're hardly there. I found out some fascinating information about them in an article written for "Discover Wildlife" by Nick Baker. <https://www.discoverwildlife.com/plant-facts/fungi/hair-ice-facts> An extract is below.

At first glance hair ice doesn't look like much. But against the dark, mouldering litter of wind-fallen twigs, branches and leaves, a pearly luminescence catches the curious eye, drawing you in for a closer look. Only then do you notice the wispy weirdness. A fluff that looks more fabric than ice, a perfectly coiffured beard of fine threads radiating out from the dead wood. What could it be... fibre-optic candyfloss?

Hair ice is most often seen on a winter's morning, having grown the previous night on rotting wood. It only occurs when several other factors are just right: moisture, atmospheric conditions and temperature. And there has to be a secret extra ingredient – a fungus called *Exidiopsis effusa*.

The hair ice itself is formed of a multitude of threads, each less than 0.02mm in diameter, which seem to grow from the bare wood (not bark) of dead deciduous wood of several species.

The air temperature needs to be just under 0°C, and colder than the wood, which cannot be frozen. It turns out that the diameter of each ice thread coincides with the diameter of the tubes in the dead wood and is formed by a process of exudation. When cold air freezes water on the surface of the wood, sandwiching a thin layer of water between the ice and the rotten wood, the water in the pores of the dead wood expands and draws more water out from the pores on the wood's surface. There it freezes in turn and adds to the base of the growing ice filament. It's a real winter wonder, seldom seen – not just because the conditions required are so specific, but also because the effect is almost invisible if there is snow or frost on the ground. If you find it once, it's worth making a note of the location, as the phenomenon may repeat itself over several years.



Leap Year Day 29th February

Every four years, thanks to a quirk of the earth's orbit and the combined efforts of Roman Emperor Julius Caesar and 16th-century Pope Gregory XIII (of Gregorian Calendar fame), we must add an extra day to the end of February to create a leap year. But neither Caesar nor the Pope could have predicted the weird and wonderful celebrations and superstitions that have arisen because of it.

In the 21st century, women are free to propose to their partner at any time they choose, but for centuries it was solely the gentleman's prerogative. Tradition states that once every four years, on 29th February, the tables are turned and matrimony-minded women have the chance to ask their sweetheart to marry them instead.

Folklore suggests the tradition began in [Ireland](#) in the 5th century, with a deal brokered between St Brigid of Kildare and St Patrick, but the tradition has spread across Europe and beyond. In [Scotland](#) women intending to propose are advised to wear a red petticoat visible to their love – perhaps to give them fair warning. Unfortunately, it isn't always happily ever after. Supposedly originating from a law passed by Queen Margaret of Scotland in 1288, any man who refuses a Leap Day proposal should be issued with a fine, which can amount to anything from £1 to a silk gown.

February 14th

I like that boy
In Mrs Jones class.
I like his face

He doesn't know me, although
when we
were in the p[layground
I thought he
looked at me
Once.

I could give him
Some secret
Sign. I know
his address. He'd
Never guess
Who sent
A Valentine

Ann Boner

Shrove Tuesday

Beat the batter
In the bowl
Heat the butter
In the pan
Toss the pancake
If you can

In the Shrovetide
Pancake races
Pancake experts
Show their paces
Pancakes dropped
Or held aloft
Pancakes proud
Pancakes flopped

With watering mouths
And hungry hearty
We will have a pancake party.
Cram as many
As you can
Some with treacle
Some with jam.
Pancakes fat.
Pancakes neat
Piles of pancakes
Eat eat eat

Named Storms

One storm follows another, each with a new name. The Met Office started naming storms in 2015 when the forecast storm had the potential to cause disruption or damage to help make the public more aware of the coming storm. The storm season runs from August one year to September the next. They are named alphabetically and last year they only reached to storm Betty, in August. This year we are now up to letter J and its only January.

The names are chosen from a list of suggestions by the public but this year the Met Office UK, their Irish and Dutch equivalents decided to name them after well known scientists and physicists. Our latest, storm Jocelyn was named after Jocelyn Bruneel-Bell, an astro physicist from Ireland.

The next storm will be Kathleen. Lets hope not any time in the near future!

West Stormont Historical Society

Unfortunately, we were not be able to hear the talk that we were looking forward to having on 29th January about Robert Burns, because of the sad death of our speaker.

Our next talk is on 26th February in Bankfoot Church Centre at 7.30pm. Ewan Pate will talk on "The Scots Matadors- helping to tame the Wild West"

Village Lunch

The first village lunch of 2024 will be held on Monday 5th February in the village hall. Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy soup and filled roll in the company of friends and neighbours. 12noon to 1.30pm

The Orchid Society

The Perth branch of the Scottish Orchid Society has ceased to exist after a Special AGM of the parent Society on Sunday 14th January.

There has been little interest from former branch members to re convene meetings also no one has offered to take over responsibility for organising meetings.

Very many thanks for having the use of Pitcairngreen village facilities up to February 2020.

Kind regards,

Brian H Brocklehurst.



The bowling green on a frosty January morning