



Pitcairngreen Village Newsletter

Edition 196 March 2024

It is March again, a month when we optimistically say goodbye to winter and welcome spring. A month which includes St Davids Day and St Patricks day, and if you are Cornish St Pirans Day;- the first day of meteorological spring and the first day of spring at the spring equinox,;-clocks go forward;-we celebrate our mothers on Mothering Sunday and then there is Easter Lesser known events in March include National Peanut Butter day on 1st March: Mustache March to raise awareness of mens health: and national Pig day on 1st March This is celebrated in the American mid west to “accord the pig its rightful place as one of the most intelligent domestic animals”. Not exactly relevant inn our community but I couldn’t resist it.

Diary for March

1st	first day of meteorological spring St Davids Day
4th	Yoga in Pitcairngreen Village Hall weekly Craft Grop meet in St Serfs weekly Village lunch in Pitcairngreen Village Hall
6th	Youth Space meet in church hall. Weekly Pllates in Tickled Trout weekly
7th	Ladies group meet in ST Serfs
10th	Mothering Sunday
16th	Charity coffee morning in bowling club
17th	St Patricks Day film in village hall
20th	Spring equinox - first day of spring
23rd	quiz night at the Bowling Club
25th	West Stormont Historical Society meeting
29th	Good Friday
31st	Easter day Clocks go forward

ALMONDBANK TIBBERMORE CHURCH



The Services on Sundays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March will all be led by Rev Malloch beginning at 10.00am.

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

The Service on 31st March will be the Easter Service.

The Church Board will make a decision about a Good Friday Service on the evening of 29th March at its meeting on Monday 26th February. Please watch out for information on the Church's notice board about this Service.

Almondbank/Tibbermore Church Ladies Group is hosting the World Day of Prayer this year and all members and friends of the Church are invited to join them at the church on Friday 1st March at 2.00pm.

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 – S4.

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

Early warning there will be no Youth Group on 3rd or 10th April.



The next Ladies Group Meeting will be held on Thursday 7th March from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

West Stormont Historical Society

The Society continues its usual series of talks. Ewan Pate came along to Bankfoot Church Centre on Monday the 26th of February to talk about the 'Scots Matadors'. Members and visitors welcome.

Our next topic evening in Luncarty Church Centre, again at 7.30pm, will explore the subject of 'Local Transport' – come along and bring your own maps or photographs and share your thoughts and memories with others. These evenings are proving to be really good fun as the conversation meanders through the ages!

We are also on the look out for some willing volunteers who might be prepared to do some research – a little hands-on history! WSHS have two future projects in mind and we would love to find some folks who would be keen to do some historical searching – all help will be given and we welcome all enquiries from anyone interested in expanding their historical research skills! weststormontsec@gmail.com

Next month's talk on the 25th of March will be held in Murthly Village Hall:

Cleansing Fires: The Story of Murthly Pt 2 by Paul McLnan

Village Lunch.

Yum! The diners always say how much they enjoy the food, especially the home-made soups and cakes. Folk seem to enjoy being offered recipes they haven't tried before.

Of course, everybody comes for the company and the craic each month. There is nothing better for the lunch team than to hear a real buzz of conversation round the room.

We need you to spread the word. As with every other community activity we need enough patrons to be able to meet costs, even though the team provide most of the ingredients themselves and do not claim expenses.

See you on 4th March! 12 noon village hall

BOWLING CLUB

We are currently preparing for the new season, which will start mid April, as always in the close season not a lot happening, the carpet bowls have continued throughout the winter keeping the club ticking over

We are having a quiz night on Saturday 23rd March, 7 for 7.30, teams of four 20.00 per team, so get your quiz hats on and come along, if you wish to attend please call me on 01738 583330 to book a table as numbers are limited

Margaret

Juniors TENNIS camp in METHVEN

1st - 5th of April

Monday – Friday

morning 9.30am – 12.00 noon

Cost: £80 Members: £70

afternoon 12.30pm – 3.00pm

single morning/afternoon: £20 (NM) £18 (M)

whole day 9.30am – 3.00pm

Cost: £120 Members: £100

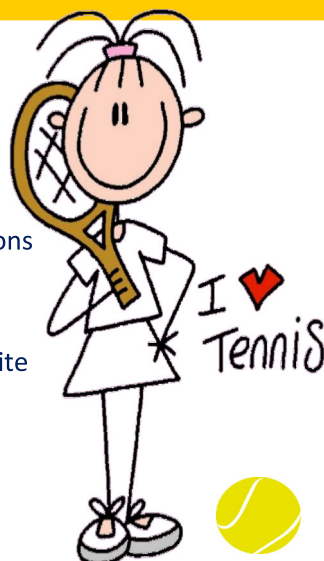
single day £30 (NM) £25 (M)

early drop off 9am/late pick up 3.30pm by arrangement

maximum number of participants 10



- Activities for all players aged 6 to 14 years
- Tennis skills instruction and strategies
- Great learning environment with lots of fun sessions
- Fun drills, contests, with a game based approach
- Dream maps, Chess, Pictionary, bring your favourite game for those rainy moments
- Match play



Book your place by contacting Magda on:
m.coaching@wp.pl or 07972358762

Magdalena Matelska Accredited⁺ LTA tennis coach

All sessions to be held at Methven Tennis Club King George V park Methven

To renew your membership or join the club please contact us by email: methventennisclub@gmail.com

St Serf's Ladies Group will meet on Thursday 7th March in the Church Hall at 2.00pm.

The speaker will be PC Blair Wilkie and she will be giving a talk/presentation on Wildlife Crime.

All Welcome

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

Should we have our tatties in the ground by Good Friday?

This is news to me. Maybe that's where I've been going wrong and a good dose of folk wisdom might help my potatoes? If we turned to science now would it confirm that this is a good idea?

The Farmer's Almanac has great information on the Good Friday potato lore. Generations have used Good Friday as the right time to plant crops like potatoes. According to folklore, plants grow better and bear more fruit when planted on Good Friday. This appears to have started in the 1600s when potatoes were just arriving in Europe and people, particularly Irish people, were concerned the tubers might be evil, all those eyes and all. In order to protect themselves from the malevolence of potatoes they began planting them on Good Friday often after sprinkling the soil with Holy Water.

It makes sense in a philosophical sort of way to extend into practice the feeling of rebirth and wellbeing we experience at Easter in the increased light of the equinox. However even in Britain the warmth of the soil on Good Friday will vary hugely between northern and southern gardens. Better to go by that maybe.

Film Afternoon in Village Hall

On Sunday 17th March the Friends of Cognac group, who meet in the village hall are having a film afternoon. They will be showing "The Man in the Hat" at 2pm. Everyone is invited to come along and the £5 entry included popcorn and tea, coffee and and cakes at the intermission.

Village Newsletter

This term in Primary 1/2B we have been learning about Dinosaurs. We have learnt that not all prehistoric animals were dinosaurs. We have learnt about when dinosaurs were around, what they looked like by looking at fossils. P1/2B agreed that the best bit so far was dinosaur day. During this day, a dinosaur egg got delivered to our class and we wrote newspaper reports about it. We freed dinosaurs that were stuck in ice using shovels, tools and salt to free them.



Easter_the original moveable feast

Heather suggested I should find some explanations for the fact that Easter falls on a different date every year. So off I went to our friend t'Internet. People talk about research leading you down rabbit-holes, and that's what happened to me. Easter bunny holes in fact. But Easter first:

The holiday, which celebrates Christ's resurrection from the grave following his crucifixion, can occur on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, which looked at Easter dates between 1600 and 2099, the rarest date for Easter is March 24. Within those nearly 500 years, the holiday occurs only twice on that date. And here's another interesting fact: The last time Easter landed on March 24 was in 1940—and that won't happen again until 2391.

Easter's exact date varies so much because it actually depends on the moon. The holiday is set to coincide with the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon. The "full" moon implies maximum light. Here we go, down a circular rabbit hole because "Paschal" just means Easter. Early Christians wanted Easter to coincide with Passover, because they believed that Christ's death and resurrection happened after the Jewish holiday. The fact that Passover is also on a different date each year, is because the Jewish calendar is tied to solar and lunar cycles, But it's more complicated than that. The Christian calendar is actually tied to the solar calendar, and the timing of the major holidays has to do with the seasons and with light, which is why Christmas occurs around the winter solstice, after the longest night, when 'the Light of the World' arrives. Orthodox Christians still follow the Julian calendar, the previous one created by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, meaning that Easter falls between April 4 and May 8 for them. (There's another rabbit-hole if you are interested.)

The Paschal Full Moon is the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Another hole in this rabbit warren: what is the vernal equinox? It means the spring equinox, which can fall on a different date each year.

What Is the Spring Equinox?

In 2024, the March equinox happens on March 19 at 11:06 P.M. This falls on a Tuesday and is the astronomical beginning of the spring season in the Northern Hemisphere and the autumn season in the Southern Hemisphere. However, , the church always recognizes the vernal equinox as March 21. Interestingly, due to time zone differences, there hasn't been a March 21 equinox in mainland U.S. during the entire 21st century! They won't see a March 21 equinox again until 2101.

The Equinox. The first day of spring.

A Light exists in Spring
Not present on the Year
At any other period —
When March is scarcely here

Emily Dickinson

In the Northern Hemisphere, the spring equinox (also called the **March equinox** or **vernal equinox** across the globe) occurs when the Sun crosses the celestial equator going south to north. It's called the "celestial" equator because it's an imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator. Imagine standing on the equator; the Sun would pass directly overhead on its way north.

At the March equinox, the Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere receive roughly equal amounts of sunlight; neither hemisphere is tilted more toward or away from the Sun than the other.

Actually day and night are not exactly equal on the equinox for two reasons: Daytime begins the moment *any part* of the Sun appears over the horizon and is not finished until the last part of the Sun disappears below the horizon. "If the Sun were to shrink to a starlike point and we lived in a world without air, the spring and fall equinoxes would truly have equal nights."

What do rabbits have to do with Easter?



In my curmudgeonly way I have often resisted the Easter-rabbit thing, scorning it as another American influence (like Trick and Treat instead of "guising" at Hallowe'en).

However, my attitude is only partly justified.

The bunny, originally called "Oschter Haws," or Easter Hare, who lays a nest of colorful eggs for well-behaved children, hails from Germany. I suppose the idea of an egg-laying hare is no more daft than Santa Claus. First mentions of it date back to the 16th century.

Later, in 1682 a German physician and botanist, Georg Franck von Franckenau wrote about the children's story of Oschter Haws, who laid eggs in the garden. Children would hunt for them as they do on our Easter egg hunts today. In the 18th century artist's images of the Easter Bunny began to proliferate in America and from then on in Germany, America and Europe generally, traditions surrounding the Easter Bunny grew more and more elaborate featuring chocolate eggs and chocolate bunnies as well as toys. There's big profit to be made in chocolate at Easter round these parts."



Tea for 21

16th March

10am-12pm

Pop in for a chat,
cuppa and home
made sweet treats



All welcome



Almondvalley
bowling club
Help raise
awareness and
funds

