



Pitcairngreen Village

Newsletter

edition 194 December 2024

December

How did it get so late so soon?

It's night before it's afternoon.

December is here before it's June.

My goodness how the time has flown.

How did it get so late so soon?

Dr. Seuss

That's December for you! Night before it's afternoon. There's a bleak beauty now when the skies are cloudy. I try not to admit that I can see daffodils poking their arrow-heads up out of the ground and want to tell them "Get back. Keep cosy until your time comes round." Birds are our constant cheerer-uppers. Up in Pitcairngreen fieldfares and redwings are clearing the fallen seeds and the rowan berries. They take the red berries first and deign to feast on the pink or gold ones only when the red are all gone. Firethorn is populated by twitching blackbirds this month.

Thirty years ago whenever I was busy in one part of the garden, I had a blackbird for company. It used to practise its repertoire for me, but here's the difference: it kept its bright beak closed and hummed. I never met anybody else who had witnessed this, and then lo and behold, on "Scotland Outdoors" on Saturday 18th there was an account of this very phenomenon! I've been smiling all week.

Thank you to all our contributors over the past year and thank you to Kirsty who puts the newsletter on the Pitcairngreen Village Hall site for everyone to access .

Thanks too, to the members of the village committee who deliver a printed copy to this without computers and all the people who print off a copy for neighbours.

We wish you a very merry Happy Christmas.

Alison and Heather

NB there is no newsletter in January , next edition February

Diary for December

Friday 1st	Christmas meals in Pitcairngreen until 24th
Monday 3rd	Village Christmas lunch
	Craft group meet in church hall - weekly
Wednesday 6th	Pilates at the Tickled Trout -weekly
	Senior Citizens Christmas meal
	Youth group meet in church hall -weekly
Thursday 7th	Ladies group meet in St Serfs
	Book exchange in Pitcairngreen Inn -weekly
Friday 8th	Rainbows and brownies meet in church hall- weekly
Monday 11th	7pm tree lighting and carol singing
Wednesday 14th	mobile library visits

Pitcairngreen Village Association

Craft Fair

We would like to thank all those who came to help at the Craft Fair last Sunday and to everyone who provided their delicious home baking. It is great to have the help and support of as many people as possible and it is the only way that we can put on this kind of community and fundraising event so thanks to all! We managed to raise a decent amount of money which will help to keep the hall open for the community.

Burns Celebration Dinner - Friday 26th January

January is the longest, darkest month and we thought that instead of our usual St Andrew's dinner we would hold a similar event but at the end of January around Burn's night. It will be run along the same lines with dinner served and some traditional entertainment and familiar Scottish folk songs. Why not book a table and have an evening to look forward to at the end of the month? We hope to see you all there.

Tickets are £15 per person and available from:

Andy Young (andyyoung@btinternet.com or 07719 4538540

Rachel Clark (rachelclark14@btinternet.com or 07909 853267

Village Christmas Lunch

Everyone is invited to come along to the village Christmas lunch on 4th December. Meet old friends and make new ones."There are no strangers here, only friends you haven't met yet"

We will be serving the usual fare of homemade soup and filled rolls, all with a festive twist.

Village hall between 12noon and 2pm

future dates Feb 5th March 4th April 6th

ALMONDBANK TIBBERMORE CHURCH



Rev Malloch will lead all the usual Sunday services in December and January in our church beginning at 10.00am.

Details of special services including Christmas Day are given below.

Usual events will continue as normal namely:

Craft Group – Monday afternoons (Except 11th & 25th December)

Youth Group – Wednesday evenings (Except 20th & 27th December)



Christmas Services and events In December

Thursday 7th– Ladies Group Meeting from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

Monday 11th at 7.00 pm - Tree lighting with Church singalong of Carols and songs followed by refreshments.

Friday 22nd from 6.30pm – Christingle/Crafts.

Sunday 24th from 11.15pm – Christmas Eve Service.

Monday 25th Christmas Day Family Service – Will begin at 10.30 am.



Merry Christmas from the members of Almondbank Tibbermore Church

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

The meeting will take the form of a 'Fun Quiz' with a bit of a chat as well!

News from Primary 3/4.

Our topic for this block has been Scotland through the Centuries. We have really enjoyed learning all about Scotland in the past. We have investigated houses and even used the Highland Folk Museum virtual tour to view the insides and outsides of the houses including the 1730s 'Tacksman's house' and had lots of discussions about the differences in the homes from the past to now.

We have also researched the clothes starting from the Tudor Era to now. We loved seeing how the clothes have changed, a lot of us loved the fashion of the 1960s and 1970s.

The topic we loved most was schools in the past and how they have changed. We really enjoyed seeing lots of pictures and again exploring the school in the Highland Folk Museum virtual tour.

We have recreated fantastic pictures from Scottish Artists including Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Steven Brown and Gillian Kyle. You will see some of our fantastic McCoo pictures and Glasgow Rose pictures below.



Pitcairngreen Inn
Festive opening times:


1st-24th December - normal opening hours (closed Mondays/Tuesdays)
25th - CLOSED
26th - bar 12-6pm, kitchen 12-5pm
27th - CLOSED
28th-30th - normal opening hours
31st - bar 12-12am, kitchen 12-8pm
1st January - bar 2-6pm, kitchen CLOSED
2nd & 3rd January - CLOSED
4th - back to normal opening hours



Pitcairngreen Inn's Project Christmas 2023

We've decided to do something a little special this year, Pitcairngreen Inn's Project Christmas. We are hoping our community can come together and help out this amazing charity - **PERTH KIDS Christmas Operation 2023**

We can all be guilty of overbuying at Christmas, some toys lie untouched, these could be regifted to a local child in need, or if you are in a position to buy a wee something, anything would be greatly appreciated

 If you'd like to donate something, please drop it off to us between now and the 10th December, we ourselves will be donating as much as we can too, we hope to gather enough presents to make a difference to those in need. Thank you. Alternatively, if you'd like to donate a few pounds the charity direct then you can find their GoFundMe page on **Perth Kids Christmas Fundraiser 2023**

Shop Local at Christmas

Support our local shop at Christmas. Bridgeton Stores have great offers on spirits, wines and beers coming up next week. The prices are comparable and frequently less than supermarkets offers. There will be a selection of boxes of biscuits, and sweeties, tubes of Pringles, soft drinks etc.

Christmas wreaths will be in stock again. They sold-out very quickly last year so don't delay getting yours.

The shop supports the village needs so support them at Christmas. Closed on Christmas and New Years Day. Watch out for notice of shortened hours.

The Dipper



Thanks to Phil Hannah for the photograph

The Dipper

It was winter, near freezing,
I'd walked through a forest of firs
when I saw issue out of the waterfall
a solitary bird.

It lit on a damp rock,
and, as water swept stupidly on,
wrung from its own throat
supple, undammable song.

It isn't mine to give.
I can't coax this bird to my hand
that knows the depth of the river yet sings of it on land.

Kathleen Jamie

Yoga

Way back at the beginning of the 21st Century, the village hall was extended and upgraded. At the opening party villagers expressed a wish to see “things happening” in the new hall, such as yoga and there has been a yoga class in the hall ever since. The lovely Rosanne Falkener has been taking a Dru Yoga class there for nearly 20 years. Dru yoga is based on gentle flowing movements and breathing and reducing stress and giving more energy.

Over the years many villagers have benefitted from her expertise and enthusiasm. She travelled from her home in Errol through ice, snow, floods, road works and many more inconveniences, at night, to take the class. But time moves on and has come to a point where she can no longer make this weekly journey. We appreciate what she has taught us and her faithfulness to the class.

Thank you Rosanne from all your students.

The full moon on 26th December is known as “the cold moon”. No prizes for guessing how it got that name!

William Soutar Winter Song

Let me remember when the frost
Is White upon the stem
Those colours which the year has lost,
Those flowers arrayed in them.

Let me recall when snow is hung
Along the iron bough,
Those variegated birds which sung
And in the heart sing now.

And let me not forget, when ice
Is paved above the pool,
The swan which moved with her device
Sun-clear and summer-cool.

West Stormont Historical Society

Dates for 2024

29th January in Bankfoot Church Centre

Robert Burns by Len Murray

26th February in Bankfoot Church Centre

The Scots Matadors - helping to tame the Wild West by Ewan Pate

25th March in Murthly Village Hall

Cleansing Fires - the story of Murthly part 2 by Paul McLennan

29th April Chapelhill Village Hall

The Navvies at Loch Chon - building Glasgow's water supply by James Kennedy

Chansons is performing a glorious Christmas concert on 16th December in St John's Kirk. Do come and hear us, Perth's chamber choir, with Howard Duthie playing the magnificent organ and a line-up of very skilled soloists and instrumentalists, under the baton of Areti Lyperopoulou



chansons
Perth's Chamber Choir

Gloria

Vivaldi Gloria
Haydn Little Organ Mass

Areti Lymperopoulou conductor
Howard Duthie organ
Colleen Nicoll soprano
Ulrike Wutscher mezzo

Instrumentalists from the City of Perth Sinfonia

7.30pm Saturday 16th December
St John's Kirk, Perth

Tickets £17.50 (inc. £1.50 booking fee) Concessions £5 (U 25)
At Perthshire Box Office, www.chansons.co.uk and on the door

Heavenly Dancers? Not all were in the sky

On the night of 25th November the Northern Lights were clearly visible above Pitcairngreen. They were not, however, the only heavenly dancers that night. A charity ceilidh in aid of the MY NAME'S DODDIE FOUNDATION was held in the village hall. It was billed as "an old-fashioned hooley" and that's exactly what it was. The music was provided by the famous Orwell Ceilidh Band and Pitcairngreen Inn ran the



lively and popular bar. From the first dance – the Gay Gordons of course – to the final Orcadian Strip the Willow the floor was packed. The raffle featured over 40 prizes donated by many local businesses such as the Tickled Trout, Standard Aero, Walkers of Aberlour and Trees Plus as well as Perth-based sponsors ranging from Marks and Spencers to Henderson the Jewellers. A fab-u-lous evening was had by all and a cheque for £1500 is now helping the quest for a cure for MND.



Fiona Keatings

Fun from the Brownies



PUDSEY PARTY FUN

Fun challenging evening
In pairs with a dice ...

Which Brownies finish
all activities first ??

"Puzzle !!! close your eyes"
Which eye does Pudsey have
covered with a spotted bandeau ??



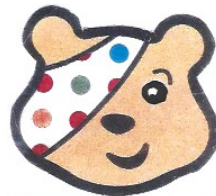
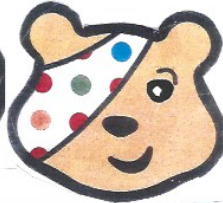
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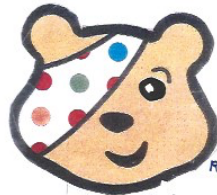
ICE and DECORATE 2
a biscuit



"BLINDFOLD"
Aim to replace
PUDSEY'S EYE 3



Make up
PUDSEY PUPPET 4



Lime
Ribena Orang
hemon
Make yourself
A DRINK 5

WRITE your
name **BACKWARDS** 6

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A Politically Correct Christmas Poem from Dr Steve, Humour matters

**Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.**

**And labor conditions at the North Pole,
were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.
Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety,
released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.
And equal employment had made it quite clear,
that Santa had better not use just reindeer.
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!**

**The runners had been removed from his beautiful sleigh,
because the ruts were deemed dangerous by the EPA,
And millions of people were calling the Cops,
when they heard sled noises upon their roof tops.
Second-hand smoke from his pipe, had his workers quite frightened,
and his fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened"**

**To show you the strangeness of today's ebbs and flows,
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.
He went to Geraldo, in front of the Nation,
demanding millions in over-due workers compensation.
So...half of the reindeer were gone, and his wife
who suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,
joined a self help group, packed and left in a whiz,
demanding from now on that her title was Ms.**

**And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion
that making a choice could cause such commotion.
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur...
Which meant nothing for him or nothing for her.
Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot,
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.
Nothing for just girls and nothing for just boys.
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.**

**No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish upon the truth.
And fairy tales...while not yet forbidden,
were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden,
for they raised the hackles of those psychological,
who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.**

**No baseball, no football...someone might get hurt,
besides - playing sports exposed kids to dirt.
Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passe.
and Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.**

**So Santa just stood there, disheveled and perplexed,
he just couldn't figure out what to do next?
He tried to be merry he tried to be gay,
but you must have to admit he was having a very bad day.
His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground,
nothing fully acceptable was anywhere to be found.
Something special was needed, a gift that he might,
give to us all, without angering the left or the right.
A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision,
each group of people in every religion.
Every race, every hue,
everyone, everywhere...even you!
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...**

"MAY YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES, ENJOY PEACE ON EARTH"

