



Pitcairngreen Village Newsletter

Edition 197 April 2024

The spring equinox is past so spring should have arrived. We will all be glad to say goodbye to a winter dominated by storms, rain floods and mud but it is clinging on with snow flurries. I am never surprised to see snow at this time of year. My daughter was born at the end of March in a snow storm and it snowed every day after for a week.

However our awful winter is not all bad news. The rain has filled reservoirs. The winds drove the wind turbines and for considerable spells generated more power than fossil fuel generation which comes from gas fired power stations. In fact over the last 12 months renewable energy from wind, solar, hydroelectric and other sources have out competed fossil power generation, with coal now making a negligible contribution to the national grid. This marks a remarkable transformation of the UK power supplies.

It may be dull and gloomy but the brave daffodils everywhere are our ray of sunshine. Survivors, they can be beaten down with wind and rain but pop up again the next day.



Daffodowndilly

She wore her yellow sun bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."

AA Milne

Diary for April

- 1st Village lunch
yoga in Pitcairngreen weekly
Craft group in St Serfs
Tennis Camp ay Methven tennis cours
Aprils Fools day [ends at mid day]
Easter Monday
- 3rd Youth Space in church hall
Pilates in Ticked Trout
- 4th Ladies group meet in St Serfs
- 21st Village litter pick
- 29th West Stormont Historical Society

St Serf's Ladies Group will meet on Thursday 4th April in the Church Hall at 2.00pm.

We will have a speaker from one of the Guild Projects – **Chocolate Heaven**.

Chocolate Heaven is a small chocolate kitchen on a beautiful island in South East Asia.

They provide employment for chocolate makers, fair prices for local growers, producing and selling delicious chocolate in all the flavours we love!

All Welcome

If anyone wants to find out more about our group - please contact:

Carol Duff on 07447 910561

Pitcairngeen Village Association

At the recent committee meeting some dates for forthcoming events this year were agreed.

Litter pick - 2pm Sunday 21st April Part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful campaign, every spring we help to clean up litter from the village and surrounding roads and paths. Pickers and high vis provided and

beer and cake afterwards. Meet at the village hall car park Annual General Meeting - 7pm Friday 17th May, village hall it is important to have as many members attend the AgM and we need a minimum of 20 for the meeting to go ahead. Remember everyone living in the village of

Pitcairngeen is a member! The hall is for everyone to use so please come and along and support the efforts of those who manage it though the year. Drinks will be

Village Fete on the green - Saturday 27 July OR 3rd August - to be confirmed

A great social day out with lots of food and fun for all.

Craft Fair - Saturday 26 October 10 - 3.30pm

Lots of great stalls and coffee with delicious home baking in the village hall

Fireworks on the green - 7pm Saturday 2 November

BBQ and bar at the pub and low noise firework display

St Andrews Night - Friday 30th November

An evening of Scottish music and food.

Please let us know as early as possible if you would like to have tickets or a whole Table

Keep Scotland Beautiful Spring Clean 2024 Sunday 21st April 2pm

We are holding our 16th annual litter pick around the village on Sunday 21st April as part of Clean Up Scotland.

Along with tidying the green we look to tidy the roads leading from the green such as Bridgeton Brae, Dalcrue Road to the bridge, Moneydie Road, part of the Redgorton Road, Bertha Wood circular walk and the Cromwell Park Strip. If we have enough volunteers we may also cover other areas.

If you would like to take part, we meet at the village hall just before 2pm to divide out the routes. Sacks and litter picks will be provided although we cannot guarantee to have enough picks to go around. Please bring your own gloves. We shall have some transport to pick up filled sacks so no need to drag your haul back!

If you are aware of any large amount of fly tipping then please let me know as we may try to tackle that beforehand.

If you cannot make it on the day but would like to take part in litter picking at some time please contact me on sandramillsuk@googlemail.com or 07771653477 to tell me which route would suit you.

We hope to finish at 4pm at the village hall.

Tennis - A Club Near You!

Less than 4 miles from Pitcairngreen you can find 2 beautifully refurbished all weather tennis courts with a small clubhouse.

We are running a special offer until the 19th April if you would like to become a member. Please email methventennisclub@gmail.com to find out more details. Our club coach Magda can be contacted on 07972 358762 or m.coaching@wp.pl

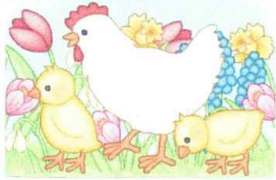
Membership	Description	Join by 19/04/24	Cost from 20/04/24
Adult	Over 18 years	£42	£50
Senior Adult	60 years and over	£38	£45
Youth	18 and under or students in full time education	£21	£25
Junior	Primary school children	£17	£20
Junior with Parent	Where a parent of a school child wishes to play tennis with their child but not play on any other occasion such as club nights	£33	£40
Family 1	One adult and any number of youths/juniors	£67	£80
Family 2	Two adults and any number of youths/juniors	£75	£90
Gate Key	£10 refundable deposit		

Are you and Easter Egg Roller?

Easter egg rolling is the most recognisable Scottish of all Easter traditions as in all likelihood, it originated in Scotland – several more widely practiced traditions have found their way.

Eggs are painted in bright colours and then rolled down a hill, with the person whose egg rolls the furthest being declared the winner. In the west of Scotland, there is a tradition known as "Whuppity Scoorie," which takes place on the night before Easter.

Happy Easter



BROWNIES at ALMONDBANK

The weather hasn't been terribly kind on Friday evenings in February and early March but we've doubled up with Rainbows for fun and themed nights indoors.

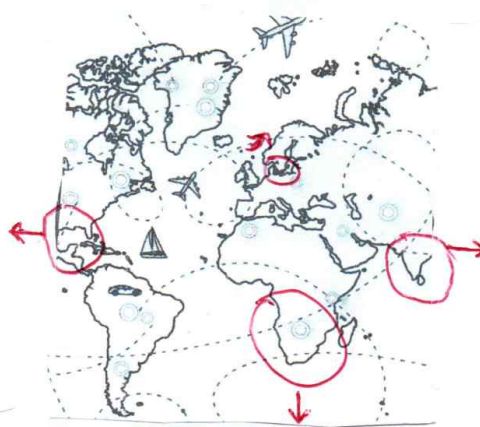
Thinking Day, 22nd February, is a special time in Guiding where we celebrate and remember our Guiding friends all around the world. Our way this year was to make 4 corners of the church a different country, each with an activity/ game/craft representative of each area **North Europe/South Africa/East India/West Mexico** representative of each area and travelled round with a "make believe passport" to get stamped when each challenge was completed.

North of us Europe-Holland ...made apple, cheese, watercress windmill snack

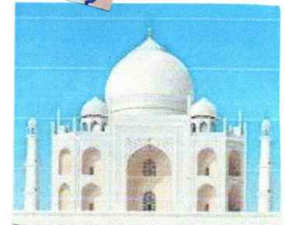


MY PASSPORT

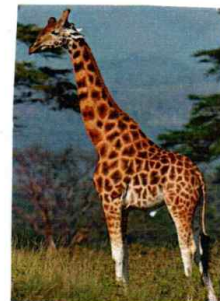
West of us Mexico made Suncatchers from mixed, wool & sticks



India East of us crafted Henna Painted hands



South of us Africa played Mealies using dried beans (like our Pip Squeak & Wilfred game using odd buttons) and talked of elephants & giraffes that roam free beside them compared to our rabbits and deer



To take home for Easter

Baskets made from a Paper Cup



ALMONDBANK TIBBERMORE CHURCH



Services continue to be held every Sunday beginning at 10.00am
Rev. Robert Malloch will lead the Services on 14th, 21st and 28th April.
The Service on 7th April will be led by Rev. Margaret Steele.



Communion will be served at the Service on 28th April.

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 usually operates weekly on Wednesdays from 6.30pm to 8.30pm for those in P7 – S4.

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

However there will be no Youth space held on 3rd or 10th April during the school holidays.



The next Ladies Group Meeting will be held on Thursday 4th April from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

WEST STORMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Navvies at Loch Chon

By James Kennedy

Monday 29 April 7.30 pm

Chapelhill Hall



All Welcome
Refreshments - Members Free – Visitors £5

For further details contact Paul McLennan at
weststormontsec@gmail.com
Pitcairn School from 1939

Rugby

We have been fortunate enough to have had Jess from Perthshire Rugby deliver a four week introductory block of rugby to our Primary 4/5/6 class. Despite the freezing temperatures some of the weeks, the class thoroughly enjoyed learning and improving their rugby skills.

First, Jess conducted a warmup that involved various fun games.

Then, she taught us where our hands should be placed on the ball when throwing and catching.

Next, we practiced passing side to side and backwards.

Finally, we put all our moves together to compete against each other in a game.

Thank you, Jess and Perthshire Rugby, for dedicating your time to help us improve our rugby knowledge and skills.



Bowling Club

The green opens on Saturday 13th April, to which we are all looking forward to..

We had two very successful events in the club recently a coffee morning in aid of Downs Syndrome Scotland and a quiz night for club funds , both raising over 1000.00, thank you everyone who supported these events by attending, donating or helping in any way to raise such fabulous amounts.

As always are looking for new members so anyone interested please come along you will be made very welcome

Our village school - Pitcairn

Not being a native of these parts, or maybe because I'm not a native of these parts, I occasionally come across items of local history that I haven't given thought to before. Recently I met a very interesting lady, retired from teaching, who told me a little about Pitcairn Primary School.

It was the summer of 1939. Great was the excitement in the area in the run-up to the opening of this new school which would welcome the children from Pitcairngreen and the children from Almondbank. The Pitcairngreen children had been taught in what is now the village hall, and the Almondbank pupils had attended the old school on Main Street. At Pitcairngreen the two classrooms had become very run down and dilapidated. The roof leaked continuously. Parents and pupils were very happy to be moving to this lovely new building. Mind you, apparently the youngest child in the procession down the hill had the honour of carrying the tawse to its new home.

However, this was late summer 1939. The run-up to the opening of the school was also the run-up to the declaration of war with Germany.

The opening ceremony was barely over; the children had been in their classes for scarcely a week when the school had to be closed. The authorities felt they had no choice at that moment, while consultations were made and plans developed. Pitcairn was open again to the children just a couple of weeks later, but more significant change was afoot. Scores of children were brought in, refugees from Glasgow in particular, here to have some protection against the bombardments by Nazi Germany. Local families welcomed them into their homes but Pitcairn Primary didn't have the capacity to include them in existing classes, even though class numbers were quite high compared to nowadays. Instead, the Almondbank and Pitcairngreen children attended class in the morning and the evacuee children attended in the afternoon, taught by the same few teachers. Did the city children stay throughout the war? I know that some of the older people in the village were still in touch with them for years.

After Pitcairngreen School was closed, Polish servicemen were billeted in the building throughout the war and so it had to be brought up to a suitable standard. The roof no longer leaked and there were inside bathrooms with running water.

Heather told me that in all the years since, there have been remarkably few headteachers. The first head master was Mr Budge who had been head at Pitcairngreen School. It was rumoured that he hated teaching and he certainly went off to join the Navy during the war. At one point he sent a crate of oranges back for the pupils. He retired and built the bungalow on Bridgeton Brae, Marley Bank.

The second head, who was in post for many years, was Mr Sturt. He lived in the school house, and was a stalwart of St Serfs. After him came Ken Hamilton, the first of a new breed of head teachers. He wasn't there as long as his predecessors and left to become head at Bridge of Earn.

Susan McAlpine followed. People who knew her in those days remember her with enormous affection and admiration. Was there another head between Susan McAlpine and Fiona Lawson? Mrs Lawson, I know, was headteacher for some years until we welcomed

our present head, Jenny Bannatyne, in 2023. If you are reading this, and know of other heads, please get in touch with Heather or me to let me know.

I hope in the next wee while to maybe get to talk to some people who were at the school in the fifties, to get more of an idea of the social history of the school. What was life like as a pupil there I wonder?

Daffodils

The origins of *Narcissus*

The botanical name for the daffodil is *Narcissus*, named after a young man known for his beauty in Greek mythology who was tricked into falling in love with his own reflection. The drooping flowers that characterise most daffodils are said to represent Narcissus bending over to catch his reflection in a pool of water. The name derives from the Greek 'narco', which is the root of the word narcotic. The etymology probably relates to the daffodil's toxicity – all parts of the plant are poisonous. The Romans are known to have planted daffodils in memory of loved ones or comrades fallen in battle. It's likely they brought them to Britain from the Iberian Peninsula, predominantly Spain and Portugal, where the largest variety of daffodil species are found.

Every shade of yellow

Daffodils' uplifting yellow flowers and true perennial habit make them an enduring garden favourite. Clumps of daffodil bulbs have been known to survive in the ground for well over a century, flowering consistently for decades.

There are more than 27,000 cultivated varieties. Despite intensive breeding, most daffodils are yellow. Exceptions include the white-petalled *Narcissus poeticus* varieties and orange and salmon-coloured cultivars.

Father of the modern daffodil

The Rev. George Herbert Engleheart is often credited as the father of the modern daffodil. He registered 720 new daffodil varieties between 1882 and 1923, although only around 30 are still commercially available. The *N. poeticus* species is the most well known