



# Pittenweem Post

13 September 2024, Issue No. 22

Pittenweem Post is free to download & donations of £1 are invited for print copies. Brought to you by Pittenweem Community Library with the support of Crail Matters.

## PITTENWEEM ARTS FESTIVAL

The 2024 Festival was an overwhelming success, greatly assisted by what has turned out to be the best week of weather this summer. Thank you for your support. Without the people of Pittenweem there would be no arts festival. Feedback from visitors and exhibiting artists has been overwhelmingly positive, praising the atmosphere, engagement and the quality of art presented.



The Festival featured a record number of artists, including five invited artists of national and international repute, and a diverse programme of events that was enjoyed by children and adults from Pittenweem. One of the highlights of the events programme was the sell-out screening of Liam Dickson's film, *The Long Haul*, about the fishing industry in Pittenweem. We will do more events like this in the future.

**Charlie Poulsen and Pauline Burbidge, two of the invited artists, take a quick lunch break in the High Street**

Planning is already underway for the 2025 Festival. That the Festival takes place embedded in venues across the community is recognised by visitors as being one its most attractive features. It is only possible because of the support of the community. We are launching a short survey to every household in Pittenweem over the next couple of weeks looking to get your views on what you would like to see going forward. Please take the time to complete the survey, it will only take a few minutes, and return it to the Library or the Festival Office.

**Simon Learoyd**

## TALES FROM THE CAVE

During the Pittenweem Arts Festival in August, volunteers from Pittenweem Library told stories and put on performances in St Fillan's cave on Cove Wynd.

One of the stories was a brand new one for 2024 – Burglar Bill, adapted from the book by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. In the story, Bill steals a box and is amazed to find a baby in it, which turns out to belong to Burglar Betty. The two burglars fall in love and realise the error of their ways. Stolen goods are returned to their owners, Bill gets a job at the bakery, he and Betty raise the baby together and they all live happily ever after . . .

**The photo shows Ruth Robinson as Bill with Ailsa Ritchie as Betty**



## **JAN-KAREL QUERIDO (1 AUGUST 1946 – 5 AUGUST 2024)**

We are very sad to share news of the death of Jan-Karel Querido, who passed away peacefully at home after a long and valiant battle against the neurological condition, progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP).

Together with his wife, Anne-Marijke, Jan-Karel moved to Pittenweem in 2007 and quickly became a well-loved and well-respected member of our local community.

Originally from the Netherlands, Jan-Karel relocated to Birmingham in 1969 to train as an optometrist as this profession was much less developed in his home country at the time. He practised optometry for over three decades in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, saving many people's vision and health. After 'retirement' to Pittenweem he worked for a number of years at PLM Optometrists in Cupar and took part in two trips with the charity Vision Aid Overseas to Burkina Faso and Ethiopia.



A familiar face around the village, Jan-Karel was hugely community-spirited. He was heavily involved in the Pittenweem Arts Festival and was one of its Directors from 2009 to 2011. He was also Programme Secretary of the East Neuk Probus Club for several years, organising countless interesting and engaging guest speakers. In June 2022, he received Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the life and development of the club. A keen photographer, Jan-Karel was Secretary of the St Andrews Photographic Society for many years. He regularly took part in photo competitions and particularly loved going to the May Island to photograph the puffins. Jan-Karel was also an active member of the Community Council.

In 2011 Jan-Karel resurrected the opening of Pittenweem gardens with Scotland's Gardens Scheme raising thousands of pounds for good causes over the 11 years he organised the event. The open garden scheme continues today and is held every two years.

Jan-Karel carried out all these roles with his characteristic warmth, efficiency, good sense of humour, and Dutch directness. He will be greatly missed.

## **CELLARDYKE TIDAL POOL RESTORED**

On Friday 30 August MP Wendy Chamberlain unveiled a plaque to thank the many supporters who made this possible. Phases 1 and 2 are now complete and the pool has



been restored to its former glory 90 years after its creation. But the work doesn't stop there – planning for Phase 3 to provide an assisted access ramp is already underway. The surge in popularity of sea swimming has now seen three tidal pools in the East Neuk brought back into use – at Pittenweem, St Monans and now Cellardyke.

## JOIN THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Are you passionate about making a difference in your local community? Pittenweem Community Council has been supporting our residents for over 50 years and has delivered outstanding service. While the Council itself has limited powers and resources it does provide advice to ward councillors and work with Fife Council to get things done. We play a crucial role in ensuring the voices of Pittenweem residents are heard and acted upon.

### Recent examples of our work include:

- Restoration of the Tolbooth Steeple
- Improved drainage solutions with Scottish Water
- Planning a proposed Anstruther to Earlsferry multiuser path
- Recovering and managing the Common Good Fund to support local projects
- Leading consultations on the Local Place Plan
- Addressing the future of Church of Scotland buildings
- Scrutinising and challenging planning applications

**Why Join Us?** Our Council is currently seeking new members to fill recent vacancies. We meet once a month on the second Thursday at 7pm in the New Town Hall on Session Street, and our meetings are always lively, good-natured and open to the public.

We're allowed up to 10 members, and you must be a resident and on the electoral roll in the Pittenweem district to join. If you're interested in the well-being and future of the Burgh, we'd love to have you on board.

**How to Get Involved:** You're welcome to attend one or two meetings to see if joining the Council is right for you. Feel free to email [pittenweemcommunitycouncil@outlook.com](mailto:pittenweemcommunitycouncil@outlook.com) for more information or to express your interest.

We're eager to bring in fresh perspectives and new energy. If you care about Pittenweem and want to contribute, please consider joining us. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

**Pittenweem Community Council**



## Coastline Friendship Club

All welcome for homemade soup,  
a cuppa and a blether!

Meets every fortnight on a Friday  
11.30-1.30pm  
Coastline Community Church  
Next dates: 20 Sept, 4 & 18 Oct, 1 Nov



Coastline Community Church SCIO  
21 Session Street, Pittenweem  
[www.coastlinechurch.org.uk](http://www.coastlinechurch.org.uk)  
01333 312041 • Charity no. SC052258

## ENOF PROBUS STARTS ITS AUTUMN SEASON

East Neuk Probus Club hosts talks for retired people on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in Coastline Community Church, Session St, Pittenweem KY10 2QL. Meetings start at 10.00am with refreshments followed by a talk at 10.30 that lasts for approximately an hour.

Our new season starts in October and we have an interesting programme of speakers lined up. All welcome!

October 1 Kellie Castle and Conservation, by Sandi Allison

October 15 Scotland beneath the Surface, by Keith Bruce

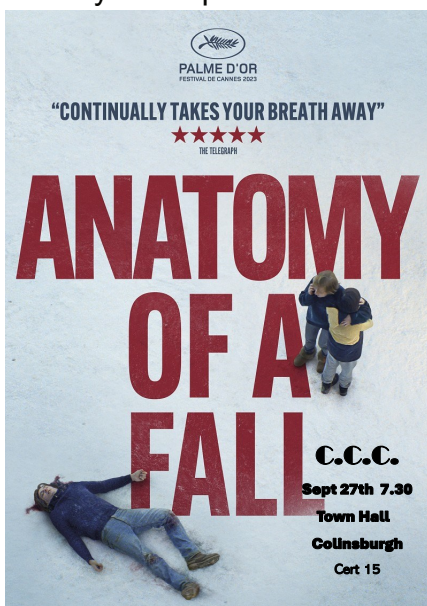
November 5 Alaska, by Tommy Bryson

November 19 War Graves Commission, by Stewart Dodd

We look forward to seeing all our returning members and welcoming new faces. If you would like to join please contact the secretary, Emily Noakes ([emilyn007@btinternet.com](mailto:emilyn007@btinternet.com)), or just come along to the first meeting.

## COLINSBURGH COMMUNITY CINEMA

The sixteenth season of the Community Cinema gets underway in Colinsburgh Town Hall on Friday 13 September with a screening of the Scottish comedy *The Big Tease*



starring Craig Ferguson. The cinema will be screening eight films up to the Christmas holidays including

Film and Food on 28 December where Alan Parker's *The Commitments* will be accompanied by a meal.

Films are screened every second and fourth Friday.

Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm screening, cost £5.00.

The full programme can be found on the cinema website:

[www.colinsburghcommunitycinema.co.uk](http://www.colinsburghcommunitycinema.co.uk)



## SUPPORT YOUR PITTENWEEM POST

The Pittenweem Post is entirely produced by volunteers, which we're delighted to do, but we do need some funds to cover printing costs. We think the printed edition is a great idea because it includes more people in the community – not everyone is online!

If you or someone you know would enjoy the printed version, these can be picked up at Pittenweem Library, Barnett's bakery, One Market Place and Robert Adamson Hair Design. And if you have any spare change to help with printing costs, you'll find collecting cans next to the stacks of printed copies. Thanks for your support!

The Post is also available on the library website <https://pittenweemlibrary.org.uk> and at <https://crailmatters.com>

## VISITSCOTLAND SET TO CLOSE ENTIRE NETWORK OF INFORMATION CENTRES

The St Andrews VisitScotland tourist information centre is set to close on 31 January as part of a strategy to close dozens of iCentres throughout Scotland. Most will operate as usual until the end of September as part of a phased two-year closure programme. VisitScotland has said it is currently engaged with stakeholders to discuss local arrangements. The national tourism organisation said they made the decision because of changes in the way people plan their holidays, with most using online resources and travel specialists to research and book all aspects of their trips.

Our Community Library in Cove Wynd is also an Information Centre, which welcomes visitors from across Scotland and indeed the UK and overseas. Current information about what is happening locally is always available, as are our local publications and local history resources. A steady stream of tourists drop in over the summer months and are delighted to find folk on duty at the desk ready to chat to them and offer advice. It would seem that our role as an Information Centre is more crucial than ever. And we have a public access computer should anyone wish to look for further information online.

## ANSTRUTHER HARBOUR FESTIVAL

Over 3 days from Friday 30 August, the Anstruther Harbour Festival & Muster drew big crowds to its food and crafts stalls and to various entertainments for young and not-so-young alike. And more than 30 visiting boats made their way to Anster for the Muster.

The Fisheries Museum's Zulu Gallery hosted a Sea Shanty Workshop and a dance display by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, with top traditional music from the Iain MacPhail band.

The Festival marquee on the pier hosted events throughout the weekend, including a big ceilidh, headline band Coaltown Daisies and local rock/ folk bands, kids disco and kids activities, St Ayle Church's Service of the Sea on Sunday morning and even a Tea Dance. Other regular Festival events included *The Reaper* open to the public, a pipe band parade, Lifeboat Open Day, and Scottish Submariners' Association annual memorial service for those lost at the 1918 Battle of May Island.



## PITTENWEEM'S LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Councillor Alycia Hayes reports that Pittenweem's Community Council has been working hard on the formulation of a Local Place Plan. Once completed, this plan must be referred to if council officers are considering making changes through planning etc in the area. Local residents were sent a survey to complete last year asking what they liked and what needed improvement in Pittenweem. It is not too late for folk to make a contribution – the plan can be viewed at:

<https://pittenweemnewtownhall.co.uk/community-council>, in Pittenweem Library, or on the Pittenweem Facebook page.

Please note that submissions should be sent to [pittenweemcommunitycouncil@outlook.com](mailto:pittenweemcommunitycouncil@outlook.com) and must be received by the end of September.

## HUGHES FAMILY VISIT TO PITTENWEEM

Hundreds of folk will have walked past the blue plaque on the wall of 37 Mid Shore this summer, and some may have glanced up and read the commemoration in honour of Sir Walter Watson Hughes, born in Pittenweem in 1803, and one of a long line of the Hughes family in Fife. Walter was an apprentice cooper before emigrating to Australia. There he made his fortune in mining and farming. He gifted £20,000 towards the founding of the University of Adelaide in 1874 and was known thereafter as Father of the University, which has just celebrated its 150th anniversary. This very generous donation went on to inspire many others. A statue to him as the founder of the university was erected by his nephews in tribute.



We were so glad to welcome his descendant, Parry Agius, to the Community Library at the end of last month, almost 221 years to the day of Walter Hughes' birth. Walter went to sea and was involved in the whaling business in the Arctic before settling in Adelaide, marrying a local girl and turning to sheep farming in the Adelaide Hills. He instructed his shepherds to look for traces of mineral deposits and subsequently became a shareholder in a copper mine company. He later secured the lease on an additional property which led to the establishment of a second mine, the Moonta mine, which paid out dividends of over a million pounds – only one of his extraordinary financial successes.



Hughes was knighted in 1880 for his services to South Australia and died in England in 1887.

Parry and Jill Agius from South Australia said their visit to the Library had been heartwarming. Parry is a direct descendant of Walter and the first from his family to travel to Scotland to visit the birthplace of his forebear. An Aboriginal, Parry was recently awarded the South Australian NAIDOC Male

Elder of the Year award in acknowledgement of his significant achievements in the field of Aboriginal culture, reconciliation and advancement. He and his wife kindly donated various books to the Library including one outlining the history of the 25 Aboriginal tribes in South Australia, and rich in photographs. Great conversations were enjoyed.



**One Market Place**

[www.onemarketplace.scot](http://www.onemarketplace.scot)

**PRINT & COPY SERVICE  
GREETING CARDS**

**26 HIGH STREET, PITTENWEEM**  
Email: [hello@onemarketplace.scot](mailto:hello@onemarketplace.scot)  
**01333 311579**

*Night time window display, Market Place*

## THE PITTENWEEM REGISTER

Many of you will have heard of *The Pittenweem Register*, Pittenweem's own newspaper that was published from November 1844 till March 1856. It was founded by James Scott (1792 – 1855), a native of Midlothian who came to Pittenweem in 1843. It was an unusual publication, a single column printed on one side, intended to be sent away in letters. It first came out 'now and again, as occasion requires' and was given away 'as a wrapper round goods purchased'. However from December 1844 it came out weekly and cost a halfpenny. It was full of news and personal stories and clearly reflected the style and sense of humour of its editor.

Copies of most issues are preserved in the archives of the Fisheries Museum and some years ago Fife Family History Society converted them to a digital download, which is available for £5 from <https://fifefhs.org>

On 6 September 1845 *The Register* gave this account of the fishing.

**THE FISHERY** *It was on Thursday week that the great success attending our fishermen's exertions commenced, and the same good luck continued throughout Friday and Saturday. The fishing, for these three days, was of the right sort; it was general — no boat came in without a fair share, and some got splendid hauls. The whole shore of Pittenweem was covered with heaps of herrings. The fishermen continued their labour, night and day, with scarcely any time for rest; and the women employed in the curing of the fish had a fair opportunity of showing the extraordinary industry and cheerful disposition of which they are possessed when extra labour is required. . . The sea, about a mile from Pittenweem, is covered with boats from all quarters.*

A report of the harvest was printed in *The Register* on 13 September 1845 when, as Pete Peddie comments, the weather was a lot more favourable than it has been this year.

**HARVEST** — *The reaping hook and scythe are at work all round. Mr Aitken of Carnbee, has tried the scythe; and, from the great progress it makes where the grain stands erect, it is likely to come more generally into use. Mr Williamson of Grangemuir, has upwards of 30 shearers at work. The weather continues to be all that could be wished for harvest operations.*

### HARVEST AT COAL FARM

As of 26 August harvest has arrived at Coal Farm. Usually the approaching harvest is awaited with eager anticipation. This year, however, there is more than a little apprehension. All the crops that we grow, especially the wheat and potatoes, thrive in hot, sunny conditions, but this year there has been precious little of either. As it turns out, yields so far have been poor-to-middling. Not as bad as I may have feared but certainly not approaching a bountiful harvest. It will be a relief to get this poor crop into the shed and we can start again with next year's crop full of expectation and hope!

As with all farmers throughout the ages, the arrival of some new technology is much anticipated. In the article from 1845, the arrival of the scythe merited a mention in the *Pittenweem Register*. Before this time crops in Scotland were generally cut with a sickle. The scythe was new technology with the ability to clear the fields faster. There was a wee bit of new technology at work for us this harvest. Our neighbour, who does our combining, has upgraded his combine – bigger capacity and a bit newer than the old one. It has certainly made short work of the fields it has cut so far, with a nice pile in the shed waiting to be dried. With the weather continuing to be very unsettled (unlike 1845!), the bigger capacity is proving to be a godsend.



**Peter Peddie**

## PITTENWEEM NEW TOWN HALL NEWS

Margaret Wardlaw, who has been chair of the new town hall (NTH) since 2014, will retire on 30 September 2024. This will bring about changes within the team, but the energy and enthusiasm displayed by the new volunteers will be a good support to the incumbent and new trustees. These volunteers are representatives from some of the current users of the NTH including keep fit, art class and indoor bowling.



The NTH offers a good community space for group activity – also a well-equipped kitchen and car parking facilities. The current rental hire is very competitive and we would welcome new enquiries from different disciplines. More information is available on the website: [www.pittenweemnewtownhall.co.uk](http://www.pittenweemnewtownhall.co.uk)

## CHANGES TO THE EXPRESS BUS SERVICES (X60/61)

Councillor Sean Dillon reports that on 29 July Stagecoach made changes to their Express Services (X60/61). These included welcome additional evening and Sunday services, but also the reduction of stops between St Andrews and Leven, including the one nearest to the Community Hospital and leaving Tollcross as the only bus stop in Pittenweem served by the X60/61 bus. This move clearly has an adverse effect on the elderly and less mobile residents of our community.

Sean Dillon reminds residents of the petition he has devised calling for an urgent rethink when decisions are made following the current 90-day trial period. This can be accessed at:

<https://www.change.org/SaveOurStops>.



Pittenweem  
Parish Church



# Coffee Morning

Come for a  
Cuppa and a Chat

Church Hall, James St

**Wednesday 25 September**

10.00 - 11.30 am  
in aid of

**MACMILLAN CANCER  
SUPPORT**

Special thanks to all our 'regulars' supporting  
local groups, charities and the Parish Church

All Welcome

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

**Councillor Fiona Corps**

Scottish Liberal Democrat Party

[Cllr.Fiona.Corps@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Fiona.Corps@fife.gov.uk)

Phone: 07935 702924

**Councillor Sean Dillon**

Scottish Liberal Democrat Party

[Cllr.Sean.Dillon@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Sean.Dillon@fife.gov.uk)

Phone: 07927 589584

**Councillor Alycia Hayes**

Scottish National Party

[Cllr.Alycia.Hayes@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Alycia.Hayes@fife.gov.uk)

Phone: 03451 555555 ext: 430489  
(diverts to mobile)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Do you enjoy singing?** Anstruther Philharmonic Society (or The Phil for short) are looking for people to join the choir. They have a dynamic new conductor and are full of energy and enthusiasm – rehearsals begin Tuesday 17 September, 7 – 9 pm at Coastline Community Church in Pittenweem. Whatever your level of experience you will be warmly welcomed. For more information and to register your interest, email [secretary@anstrutherphilharmonic.org](mailto:secretary@anstrutherphilharmonic.org).

**Pittenweem Parish Church:** during the Arts Festival over a thousand visitors enjoyed the daily concerts in the church and had the chance to see the wonderful stained-glass windows by William Wilson. The 'Blind Date with a Book' sale raised the amazing total of £1,216 for the British Red Cross and a further £1,700 was donated to church funds. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the church throughout the festival.

The coffee mornings are back at the Church Hall, James Street, every Wednesday at 10am. On 25 September all proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Support – please come along! Full details on the poster.

**Charles Street speed cushions:** Fife Council has dropped the plan to install speed cushions along Charles Street following objections from residents. Instead the council will install flashing 'Your Speed' signs, which have been shown to be more effective. Thanks to our local councillors for supporting this.

**Fife Coast and Countryside Trust** does an amazing job looking after large areas of our wonderful countryside, including the Coastal Path and local nature reserves. You can find out all the latest news about their work here:

[Summer newsletter from Fife Coast and Countryside Trust \(mailchi.mp\)](http://mailchi.mp)

## Reminiscence Café

- ★ FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH (11AM-12.30PM)
- ★ 7 OCTOBER, 4 NOVEMBER & 2 DECEMBER
- ★ PITTENWEEM LIBRARY, COVE WYND



Pittenweem Library has a Reminiscence Café for older members of the community.

Everyone is welcome to come along for a cuppa, chat about times past and present or just to enjoy the warmth of company in the library.

Hope to see you there!

If you'd like to find out more, please email us at [library@pittcllc.org.uk](mailto:library@pittcllc.org.uk).

SCIO Charity registration no. SC047013

PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE

### AUTUMN 2024 EVENING TALKS

#### AN EVENING WITH ALEX MUIR

After 62 years in the millinery trade, 40 of them in Pittenweem, Alex Muir has agreed to give an interview. We look forward immensely to hearing of his lifelong interest in hats.



#### THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER

Doors open 7pm, talk starts 7.30pm  
Tea and biscuits included in the ticket price

#### Coastline Community Church

21 Session Street, Pittenweem KY10 2QL

Tickets: £6 available from the Library

Opening hours: Mon & Wed 2-5pm; Fri & Sat 10am-1pm

Pittenweem Library Cove Wynd, Pittenweem KY10 2LE  
WEB: [pittenweemlibrary.org.uk](http://pittenweemlibrary.org.uk) EMAIL: [library@pittcllc.org.uk](mailto:library@pittcllc.org.uk)  
FACEBOOK: @pittcllc

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Charity number SC047013

## BUS TRAVEL IN RURAL AREAS – GO FLEXI

Go Flexi is an on-demand bus service that provides a flexible way of travelling around rural North East Fife. The service is funded by Fife Council and operated by Moffat and Williamson, and is available to anyone travelling in specific Flexi Zone areas.

You might find Go Flexi useful for shopping trips, to catch a train or bus, college trips, or to visit friends. The service times are

Monday to Thursday: 7am to 6.15pm

Friday: 7am to 11.30pm

Saturday: 8.15am to 11.30pm

Sunday: No service



### Flexi Zones

There are 6 Flexi Zones around North East Fife, each serving large rural areas. Travel is permitted anywhere within a Flexi Zone and to nearby interchange points outwith the zones. The East Neuk is in Zone 4 and you can see a map on the Fife Council website

[Bus travel and public transport - Go Flexi | Fife Council](#)

### How to book

You can book using the Go Flexi App or by phoning 01382 540 624. Bookings must be made at least 1 hour before you travel and can be made up to one week in advance of your journey.

## PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY CRAFTS

### for Pittenweem Arts Festival



Once again, our crafters excelled themselves, creating lots of lovely items for our Winter Wonderland theme for this year's Festival.

Our thanks to everyone who donated and helped to make this another successful event. Thanks also to Fiona at the Woolly Brew for all her support.

This year we will be donating £2050 to Alzheimer Scotland and £2050 to the East Neuk Foodbank.

*Pat Fraser*

Material for inclusion in Pittenweem Post should be sent to [post@pittcllc.org.uk](mailto:post@pittcllc.org.uk) and received by Monday 5pm for publication in Friday's issue. Deadline for October 2024 contributions is **Monday 7 October** and the PP will be published on Friday 11 October.

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