

# Pittenweem Post

**13 FEBRUARY 2026 Issue no. 37**

Pittenweem Post is our monthly community newsletter, produced by volunteers at Pittenweem Community Library. Back issues are on our website [www.pittenweemlibrary.org.uk](http://www.pittenweemlibrary.org.uk). Paper copies are also available at Barnetts, One Market Place and the library – copies are free but we welcome donations of £1 to offset the cost of printing.

## THE FUTURE OF PITTENWEEM KIRK

The last Sunday of 2025 marked both an ending and a beginning in the life of Pittenweem Kirk. The Church of Scotland had decided that our church and St Ayle join together to become St Adrian's East Neuk, linked with Crail. For the faithful of Pittenweem Kirk it means becoming part of a new parish, even though for the present both the Kirk and Hall remain in use.

The consequence of the Church of Scotland's decision means that both the Kirk and the Church Hall will be sold. This sacred site has seen Pittenweem become a Royal Burgh in 1541, complete with a Tolbooth Tower, a bell dating from 1662 and, in more recent times, stained glass windows by renowned artists William Wilson and John Blyth. This symbol of Christianity has been part of our community since c. 1200.

It was because of this rich history that a group came together to see how the Kirk could remain the sign it is at the heart of our community. Some of the group belonged to the Kirk, all belonged to Pittenweem, all shared the same vision. The Committee is eight strong, and we have 50 registered supporters. In 2023, undaunted by the scale of the task, the group set about raising the funds so that a full viability and feasibility study (including the Tolbooth) could be done and options explored. £12,750 was raised (due in no small measure to the commitment of Bill Kennaway, chair of the East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society) and these two studies began, undertaken by Arc Architects and Community Enterprise. The initial public meeting, convened by Cllr Sean Dillon, voiced approval for keeping the Kirk as a building but was understandably vague about possible uses.

The study's researcher interviewed many groups in Pittenweem and explored possible uses for the Kirk. The cost of creating useable space within the Kirk, including a kitchen, WCs etc, was calculated.



*Photo courtesy of Margo Arthur*

The conclusion of this detailed work was that conversion costs and possible uses as sources of income were miles apart; and simply keeping the building wind and watertight would cost about £50,000 a year.

Our aim remains of a Kirk, owned and cared for by the community, standing proud at the end of the High Street for centuries to come. Realistically in the current circumstances we are unable to identify a way forward which literally and metaphorically adds up. The General Trustees of the Church of Scotland (and not the local churches) will determine the next step. Whatever happens a watching brief will be maintained.

**Graham Forbes**

**Huge thanks to the West End Bar for generously funding this issue of the Post.**

## BE A PART OF PITTENWEEM ARTS FESTIVAL

Artist registration for the Pittenweem Arts Festival (1–8 August 2026) is now open! Taking part offers artists the chance to show work directly to an engaged audience, gain visibility through our brochure, website and promotions, and connect with fellow artists and art lovers in a truly unique setting. Artists working in all disciplines are welcome, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, textiles, ceramics and mixed media.



*Siobhan McLaughlin, Exhibiting Artist and 2023 Henderson-Inglis Bursary winner; copyright Liam Dickson Photography*



## Poetry at the Pub

Belated Valentine's Day

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February

7pm – 9pm FREE entry (but limited numbers – please book)

<https://www.thirstybooks.com/blog/2026/2/2/belated-valentine>

The West End Bar, South Loan, Pittenweem KY10 2QB



## Henderson-Inglis Bursary Award

Calling emerging artists! We're excited to launch the Henderson-Inglis Bursary Award, supporting early-career creatives with a £750 grant and a prime exhibiting spot. If you're in the first few years of your practice and ready to showcase your work, we'd love to hear from you.

You can register for the Festival and apply for the Bursary via our website:

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

## Your home as a festival venue

Opening your home or space as a venue is a great way to take part in the Pittenweem Arts Festival. Hosts offer anything from rooms and garages to sheds and gardens, agreeing arrangements directly with artists. If you're interested, get in touch; the Festival can provide guidance and connect you with artists. Email [info@pittenweemartsfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@pittenweemartsfestival.co.uk) to find out more.

## Situations vacant: Food & Drink Partner & Graphic Designer/Comms Lead

Pittenweem Arts Festival is inviting applications for two key roles as we plan for 2026.

We're looking for a food and drink provider to deliver high-quality, sustainable catering at the Harbour, a popular gathering point during festival week. This contract covers the 2026 event with the option to extend.

We're also recruiting a Graphic Designer & Communications Lead on a 6-month, part-time contract to help shape the festival's visual identity and public presence. The role involves designing our brochure, updating the website, and managing social media and PR content.

Full details and how to apply at: <https://www.pittenweemartsfestival.co.uk/about/vacancies/>

Further information:

[info@pittenweemartsfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@pittenweemartsfestival.co.uk)



*'Warbling Husk' by 2025 Henderson-Inglis Bursary Winner, Aimie Harding*

## EAST NEUK FESTIVAL PROGRAMME FOR 2026 ANNOUNCED



This year's star-studded programme runs from **Wednesday 1 to Sunday 5 July**. For just five days each year, some of the world's greatest musicians swap the stage of the Royal Albert Hall for the wonderful church halls in the East Neuk of Fife.

This year's programme sees the return of star pianist **Christian Zacharias**, the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**, **Opus13** and the **Calidore Quartet**. There's also a focus on the sounds of the Middle East with oud master **Rihab Azar** returning, and Scottish-Egyptian duo **The Ayoub Sisters** and Turkish dance band **Kolektif Istanbul** both making their festival debut in the East Neuk.

This year's Opening Concert is a wonderful showcase of some of Scotland's finest musical talent with **Fergus McCreadie**, widely acclaimed as one of Scotland's (and the world's) finest jazz pianists riffing on Brahms' Ballades before being joined by festival favourite Su-a Lee on cello and Donald Grant on violin for solos, duos and trios.

There's also a chance to hear Beethoven's 'Mega Work' on Saturday 4 July when all three of his **Razumovsky** quartets will be performed back-to-back over the course of a single day. Plus, blowing a trumpet for big talents from Fife, this year's Big Project **Looking for Oswald** is inspired by the rags-to-riches story of Crail-born composer James Oswald. Led by harpist Karen Marshalsay and performed by singer Chris Miles and fiddle player/violist Kathryn Nicholl, this concert performance includes an introduction to Oswald by Tom Davidson and a display of artworks created by pupils of Crail Primary School. Tickets on sale, book now.

[www.eastneukfestival.com](http://www.eastneukfestival.com) | 0131 226 0008



*Kolektif Istanbul; photo courtesy the artist*



*Su-a Lee;  
photo by Neil Hanna*



*Opus13;  
photo by Neil Hanna*

**Crail Festival**  
**Blazin' Fiddles**  
**The Bluebells**  
**Restricted Code**  
**East Neuk Rising**  
**The Blueswater**  
**Withered Hand**  
**Illyria As you Like it**  
**Jill Jackson Quiz Night**  
**Gavin Mitchell Carlyle**  
**40th Anniversary**  
 22 JULY-1 AUGUST 2026  
[crailfestival.org](http://crailfestival.org)  
**Some More Tickets Now On Sale**

## WHY JOINING A CHOIR MIGHT BE THE BEST DECISION YOU MAKE THIS YEAR

There are plenty of things people *plan* to do someday: learn an instrument, meet new people, feel more confident, laugh more, and do something that makes the week feel shorter and brighter. Joining a choir might just check all of those boxes – at the same time.

Let's start with the most important part: it's right here in the East Neuk; it's something to do in the community on a Monday evening; it only costs £2 per week; it's fun and the songs are a great mix of popular repertoire from old school anthems and hits to the best tunes from recent musicals.

Crail Community Choir is about much more than singing. It's a friendly, welcoming way to meet others in the local area, enjoy time together, and be part of something positive and shared. You don't need any previous experience – just an interest in singing and a willingness to join in. As well as being fun, the choir plays an important role in village life. All money raised through our concerts is put straight back into good causes within the area, helping to support local projects and activities that benefit everyone.



Photo Thirdman, Pexels

If you're looking for a way to get involved, meet new people, and contribute to the community while doing something uplifting, we would love to welcome you. Choir isn't just about music – it's a break from routine, a chance to switch off, and a reminder that doing something purely for joy actually matters. Give it a try. Sing, laugh, and be part of something special. You'll wonder why you didn't join sooner. New singers are always welcome to join Crail Community Choir on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in Crail Church Hall.

## WHAT'S ON AT THE SCOTTISH FISHERIES MUSEUM

### Exhibitions

There's still time to catch the excellent **Herring Year** exhibition – complete with original artwork by Jake Brown – and the immersive sound installation by artist Beverley Carruthers entitled **Gu'un the fish n' that**. Both end on 2 March and entry for both is included with the general museum admission.

**Mathematics and Fishing: Scotland and Beyond** ends on 23 March.



The Herring Year exhibition



### Half-term activities for families (11 February – 1 March)

*Decorate a herring* and add it to the Shoal Net to create a vibrant installation or use the *dressing up box* to try on fishing clothes in connection with The Herring Year.

Learn about the *iconic patterns on the funnels* of the different fishing companies and decorate your own on Wednesday 18 February 1.30–3.30pm or *create a 'Silver Darling' herring* on Friday 13 February 1.30–3.30pm and Monday 16 from 2–4.30pm.

Join Storytime with Kipper the Cat on Sunday 15 February and 1 March from 2–3pm.

### Trails – of different kinds

Children 9+ and families can follow a special **Art Trail** in the museum's collection or enter a **drawing competition**. Closing date Sunday 22 February.

**Gaelic Word Trail** – words and phrases for all stages and ages can be listened to around the Museum from Saturday 21 Feb – Sunday 1 March.

**Ganseay Knit and Natter** takes place on Thursday 26 February at 7pm.

**The Living Lore** – an afternoon of **Gaelic Songs** on Saturday 28 February 2–3pm as part of *World Gaelic Week*.

For details of all activities please see [www.scotfishmuseum.org](http://www.scotfishmuseum.org) or call 01333 310628.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## ANSTRUTHER PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

Sunday 22 March, 7.30pm,  
Crail Parish Church

Anstruther Phil's exciting Spring concert is coming up next month, followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. A concert in two halves of totally contrasted styles: wonderful soaring cathedral music by Elgar and Howells, followed by a toe-tapping Tango Mass composed by Au Arias, our director.

Here in Crail there will be a world première of this version, with piano and accordion accompaniment. Not to be missed! At the piano you will find Gordon Cree, the most famous knitting man in Scotland, and among the singers will be our lovely student friends once more. Join us for an uplifting evening. Tickets price £12 will be available from members or our website: [www.anstrutherphilharmonic.org](http://www.anstrutherphilharmonic.org).

## EAST NEUK OF FIFE PROBUS CLUB

The next meeting of the East Neuk of Fife Probus Club will be on Tuesday 17 February when Scott Duncan, Rector of Waid Academy, will give a talk on the hopes and achievements of our local school.

Meetings are held in the Coastline Community Church Hall on the first and third Tuesday of the month from October to May, starting at 10.00am for refreshments followed at 10.30 by the talk, which lasts about 45 minutes. If you would like to join please just come along to the talk or contact our secretary Tim Brett at [timbrett324@btinternet.com](mailto:timbrett324@btinternet.com).

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Please see Fife Planning Portal for full details.

25/03304/FULL; 25/03305/FULL

Scottish Water is seeking permission to build a larger replacement combined sewer outflow in the West Shore to replace the current drain, remove excess rainstorm water and prevent internal flooding of houses. The new outflow will measure 71cm in external diameter and be buried under the seabed. Temporary work facilities will be occupied in the West Braes field and access for vehicles provided by a concrete ramp at the slipway entrance to the beach at the old harbour.

25/03294/FULL; 26/00122/Listed Building Consent 19 West Shore, Category B listed building. Large single storey rear extension with flat roof and wooden cladding planned.

## THIS MONTH'S CHARITY:

### The British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal



For more than three years people in Ukraine have been living through a nightmare. The conflict, which escalated in February 2022, has affected millions of people, claiming lives and destroying homes.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society is the lead humanitarian organisation in Ukraine and since the onset of this conflict its work has been supported by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Most recently, we've been able to provide mobile health care units and safe accommodation, give out blankets, sleeping bags, hygiene kits and food parcels, deliver generators to provide power, and distribute food and hygiene kits.

So much has been achieved already, but urgent assistance is still needed. If you would like to help please donate to our Ukraine Crisis Appeal. Already donations given in the last three years have helped transform the lives of those affected by the conflict but so much more remains to be done.

### Donate to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal and help us save lives:

<http://bit.ly/4kptg0U>



One of the most-watched NT Live productions of all time. Academy Award winner Helen Mirren plays Queen Elizabeth II in the much-anticipated return of the Olivier Award-winning hit production that inspired Netflix's *The Crown*.

★★★★★ 'Wholly tremendous.' *Daily Telegraph*  
★★★★★ 'Funny and truthful.' *The Times*

Wednesday, 4 March - 7.00 pm

Crail Community Hall - BYOB

Tickets £14

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



## PITTENWEEM LIBRARIES



*The Read In, December 2015; photo courtesy of Steven Brown DC Thomson*

This year has been declared The National Year of Reading in a bid to revive reading for pleasure, especially among the young. In Scotland the initiative was launched last month by the Queen at the National Library of Scotland alongside reading ambassadors Sir Ian Rankin and Val McDermid. It seems Pittenweem has always been at the forefront when it comes to providing the community with libraries, the first of a series being established in 1850 just after the Public Libraries Act came into force. As well as council-run public libraries Pittenweem has been home to at least three circulating libraries – we're still researching their history and if anyone has information about them, especially Watt's Lending Library at Kellie Lodging, do please email us at the Post. Meantime here are two personal accounts from Jim Stormonth and Ginny Mackie.

### ***A Pittenweem resident remembers . . .***

I came to Pittenweem in 1951 at the age of 5 and at that time the library was in the primary school. There were a couple of large bookcases at one corner of the Assembly Hall, and tables were placed in front of them on at least one day a week after the school closed in the afternoon.

In the late fifties Fife Council introduced a mobile library. It operated for two afternoons and one early evening session every week. The library van was a large vehicle with a driver and a librarian supplied by Fife Council, and was very popular. I remember they had a system where you could order practically any book. I ordered books through the British Lending Library in Wetherby, Yorkshire, paying a nominal amount per book. At this time there seemed to be a clearing system which worked well and I often received books on loan from libraries throughout Scotland and sometimes from other parts of the UK.

Eventually it was decided that Pittenweem should have its own permanent library and this moved forward when the Old Town Hall became available. The Community Council at the time proposed that the new library and a small community centre should be set up in the old council offices in the High Street, with the Festival Society moving to the Old Town Hall as that would give them a suitable hall upstairs and offices downstairs. However this was not to be and the present set up was established. I have to say I regret that the new Library was not established in the middle of the Burgh to the benefit of all the community.

***Jim Stormonth***

### ***Former librarian Ginny Mackie takes up the story***

In the eighties, Pittenweem readers were served by a large mobile library van with a very shoochy suspension, which left customers feeling a wee bit sea-sick and needing a few minutes on the pavement to steady themselves. Friday mornings on Queen Elizabeth Road and afternoons on the High Street outside the Local Office. Then in the nineties the wonderful news spread that our beautiful Old Town Hall was to be converted into our new Library, a building which has gone through many existences: police cells, panelled committee rooms downstairs, a cool resting place for poor souls retrieved from the sea before their final short journey to the cemetery, a soup kitchen, and upstairs the Town Hall meeting place, where ladies were allowed to sit in the balcony, but NOT SAY A WORD.

The main wall dividing the ground floor was demolished, revealing the different floor heights, and the doorway at the bottom of the internal stairs was blocked up. Something was removed in error above the pillar which now gives a bouncy feel to the middle of the upper floor.

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I always walk around it, not over it, just in case. And then the library opened, very quietly, but what a busy little place it was, so well used and a joy to work in.

Then the devastating, dreadful, crazy news that libraries were to close!!! I decided to chain myself to the railings, and the former Head Librarian for NEF District Libraries, Ian Copland, promised to bring me cake – but there was no need for cake or chains when all those amazing supporters in the photograph turned up on the day, waving their library books and staging a Read In. I will never forget the magic, and relief, as they began to appear at the top of Cove Wynd or puffing up the steps from the harbour. It gave us a short reprieve, and then we held an emotional Candlelit Vigil on a dark Friday night with Fay and Margo closing up for the last time.

But look at it now! What a success story. Well done everyone.

### PITTENWEEM LIBRARY LAUNCHES ITS SPRING TALKS

It may be proving a particularly wet and wild winter, but Pittenweem Community Library and Information Centre looks forward enormously to bringing us all a really creative spring programme this year.

At the beginning of this new lambing season we welcome local experts from The Wool Hoose who are judges on the popular *Game of Wool*, love Gansey knitting, fashion and colour work and will inspire us with **'All Things Wool – an Evening with Di Gilpin and Sheila Greenwell'** on Thursday 19 March.

Next up, we've been so lucky to attract the writers of a *Sunday Times* bestselling book who will examine a horrific yet compelling time in Scotland's history, a time that impacted our own community, on **Thursday 26 March with 'How to Kill a Witch: an Evening with Claire Mitchell KC & Zoe Venditozzi'**.

Hurrah - the clocks go forward at the end of March and on **Thursday 9 April** we'll celebrate our famous local clockmaker by welcoming **David Jones and Eric Young** who will talk about **John Smith of Pittenweem and the Legacy of East Neuk Clockmaking**.

We round off this exciting programme on Shakespeare's birthday. What could be more appropriate than meeting **Rufus Norris, Director of the National Theatre from 2015–2025**, who will share insights on the theatre in his talk: **'All the World's a Stage'** on **Thursday 23 April**.

All talks take place in Coastline Community Church at 7.30pm. Doors open 7pm, tickets cost £7, including refreshments, and will go on sale soon at the Library. All welcome.



### 'ALL THINGS WOOL' – AN EVENING WITH DI GILPIN AND SHEILA GREENWELL

Di Gilpin, hand knit designer, lover of wool and judge on the *Game of Wool* Channel 4 programme, has been in the fashion industry for over 40 years. Well known for her Wool Hoose at Comielaw Farm, packed full of colourful yarns, Di, along with Sheila and other partners, established East Neuk Knits, the new fibre festival at Bowhouse which proved so successful last November. She and Sheila will share stories about what inspires them, the special techniques they have developed and the changing world of fashion they have contributed to. You may already be a knitting devotee or curious to know more about what inspires folk to knit. All are welcome to **'All Things Wool' – an Evening with Di Gilpin and Sheila Greenwell** on Thursday 19 March at 7.30pm.

PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE

## SPRING 2026 EVENING TALKS

**Thursday 19 MARCH**  
ALL THINGS WOOL  
Di Gilpin and Sheila Greenwell of  
East Neuk Knits

**Thursday 26 MARCH**  
HOW TO KILL A WITCH  
Claire Mitchell KC and Zoe Venditozzi, writer and educator

**Thursday 9 APRIL**  
JOHN SMITH OF PITTENWEEM AND THE LEGACY OF  
EAST NEUK CLOCKMAKING  
David Jones, furniture historian, and Eric Young, clockmaker

**Thursday 23 APRIL**  
ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE  
Rufus Norris, Director of the National Theatre 2015-2025

Doors open 7pm, talks start 7.30pm  
Coastline Community Church  
21 Session Street, Pittenweem KY10 2QL

Tickets: £7 available from the Library on Cove Wynd  
Mon & Wed 2–5pm; Fri & Sat 10am–1pm

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Charity number SC047013

## DOS MUNDOS, ANSTRUTHER

I opened Dos Mundos 20 years ago, originally with the desire to share beautiful and original products from around the world. I had travelled and worked as a TEFL tutor in Thailand and Peru for a few years and was inspired by unique styles, textiles and clothing. I had contacts with a number of small producers in South East Asia, Spain and Morocco from whom I imported.

Over the next few years I looked closer to home for inspiration and now stock more brands from Scotland, the UK and Scandinavia. Bringing up children, Brexit and Covid all contributed to this change in suppliers and focus. Importing from small companies in Europe was no longer as simple, and Covid threw up many questions on what I stocked. Neoprene was something I needed more than dresses! Luckily I'm not the only one who agrees. Dos Mundos now stocks a wide range of cold water swimming accessories to make your experience in the water as beneficial as possible.

People ask me for tips on what to wear for their first experience of swimming in the sea. I am always happy to share my experiences and advice as I have become a convert over the past few years, from the occasional dip in a wetsuit to a daily skins swim.



Photos by @mitchellmacgregor.news

## Celebrate Mother's Day at Crail Community Hall



### Westlife

*Celebrating 25 Years of Hits*

screening from the

Royal Albert Hall

7.30 pm

Saturday, 14 March  
2026



### Flamenco Experience

*& Spanish Afternoon*

*Bring your own Spanish food and drink*

3 pm

Sunday, 15 March  
2026



Tickets £14 each  
[www.crailcommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.crailcommunityhall.co.uk)



The most important thing to have for your first time is neoprene gloves and shoes/boots, and a hat. Protecting your extremities is key. You can then choose whether to opt for a regular swimsuit or a neoprene long-sleeved style. The latter will provide you with more warmth and protection. Don't stay in too long on your first dip – you will still feel the buzz when you get out! Make sure you have a towel (towel robes are best to enable you to take off wet clothes), and cosy loose clothing to put on afterwards. Mittens and a hat will help you thaw out. We also stock woollen accessories, but by far our best-selling item is the neoprene beanie which is both thermal and waterproof. Not limited to the sea, I recommend them for walking/running/ golfing in extreme conditions – or Scottish winters!

I will always choose brands that prioritise the planet, and the people making the products. Purchases should bring us happiness, and the entire process should be a fair one. In the past year I have started stocking Danefae clothing, Rapanui, Vurchoo jewellery, and will continue to bring in new suppliers over the coming year. I aim to offer something different from other high street shops and hope to get back out travelling soon to broaden this eclectic mix.

**Elizabeth Tobon**

## PITTENWEEM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### **Scottish Poems at Pittenweem Primary**

There was a real buzz around Pittenweem Primary School as all children across the school have been learning and performing their Scottish poems. Favourites like 'Dino's Café', 'A Dug, A Dug', 'Sair Finger' and 'Social Dancin' ' have been brought to life with great character and confidence. Shortlisted pupils were invited to perform in front of a panel of judges, and the hard-fought battle saw some fantastic winners who will share their poems at the Scottish Afternoon in front of family and friends, along with showing off their ceilidh dancing. A lovely celebration of Scottish culture for the whole school community.

### **Food and Farming at the Bowhouse**

P5 and P6 pupils enjoyed a fantastic food and farming trip to the Bowhouse at the start of February for a busy hands-on day of learning. They learnt about life and work on the estate, hearing from a wide range of people involved – from beekeepers and farmers to butchers and chefs. They loved getting up close to livestock, having a go at making their own butter, and even sampling some delicious local produce. It was a brilliant opportunity to learn where food comes from and to experience rural life first-hand. A great day was had by all!

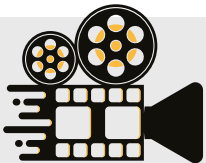
### **Glee Challenge with Crail Primary**

Pittenweem Primary pupils, along with their classmates from Crail Primary School, are getting ready to take part in the **Scottish Primary School Glee Challenge**. The children have been working hard practising their songs ahead of the sectionals competition on **6 March** at the Caird Hall in Dundee. We're wishing them all the very best of luck and know they'll do their schools proud.

## WEDNESDAYS ARE PENS-DAYS IN PITTENWEEM!

Do you have a New Year's resolution to be more committed to your writing? Want to meet new writing friends? Feel your writing could benefit from a peer support group?

**Well, you're in luck!** There are two writers' groups which meet in the library at 6.30pm on alternate Wednesdays, so take your pick, or join both! East Poetics is the place for the poetically inclined and Pittenweem Pens is for those interested in other forms of writing. Email [pittenweempens@gmail.com](mailto:pittenweempens@gmail.com) for more information.



### COLINSBURGH COMMUNITY CINEMA

Two February offerings on the silver screen at Colinsburgh. The first, the whimsical **The Ballad of Wallis Island**, is on February 13 at 7.30. When Charles Heath (Tim Key) wins the lottery he buys an estate on a remote island. He then decides to indulge a whim and organise a concert with his favourite act, McGwyer and Mortimer. They arrive independently for Heath has not realised that they split up acrimoniously years before. A very British gentle comedy of flawed people and redemption.

On 27 February there is very different fare – **Juror #2**, the latest film directed by the eternally young Clint Eastwood, now in his nineties not that you can tell from the film. Justin Kemp (Nicholas Hoult), an upstanding family man, is called for jury service. As the case of murder unfolds he realises that he unwittingly is involved, and finds himself in a serious moral dilemma. A tense drama about the cost of doing the right thing.

Doors open at 7.00; film starts at 7.30.



**Pittenweem  
Pens**

A new local group for  
writers of all levels

6.30-8pm  
at Pittenweem Library

Fortnightly  
meetings

£3 per person

Find us on Facebook  
and Bluesky  
[@pittenweempens](https://www.facebook.com/pittenweempens)

for more info or to join, email  
[pittenweempens@gmail.com](mailto:pittenweempens@gmail.com)

Friendship | Support | Sharing

## RURAL TRANSPORT

For many people in North East Fife, getting from A to B is not a matter of convenience – it is a daily challenge that affects access to essential services, work and community life. Rural transport is not a 'nice to have'; it is a lifeline.

Bus services are a vital part of that lifeline, yet too often they are unreliable, infrequent or poorly connected. Constituents regularly tell me about buses that are late or cancelled, journeys that take far longer than advertised, and timetables that simply don't reflect how people actually need to travel. When you live in a rural or semi-rural community, missing a bus can mean missing a medical appointment, being late for work, or losing an entire morning just trying to get to the nearest town.

These challenges are made even more acute as local services disappear. With bank branches and post offices closing, people are increasingly expected to travel further just to withdraw cash, pay in cheques or manage their accounts. I recently tested one such journey myself, after applying for a banking hub in Cupar and being told by LINK that one wasn't necessary because a nearby bank was 'only 20 minutes away' by public transport. The reality was a longer, more expensive trip – and that's before factoring in delays, walking distances or mobility needs.

For many people, particularly older residents or those on low incomes, these journeys are simply not practical.

The same issues arise when accessing GP appointments, hospital services, the Jobcentre or training opportunities. Poor transport links can limit job prospects, isolate communities and add unnecessary stress to everyday life. Rural residents should not be penalised for where they live.

That is why I strongly support the campaign to reopen Newburgh railway station. A station in Newburgh would be transformational, improving connectivity not just for local residents but for businesses, visitors and young people looking to access education and employment. It would reduce reliance on congested roads, offer a more sustainable travel option, and help ensure Newburgh is properly connected to the wider region.

We need a joined-up approach to rural transport – one that recognises the reality on the ground and puts communities first. That means properly supported bus services, fair assessments of travel times, and long-term investment in projects like the Newburgh Railway. Rural communities deserve transport systems that work for them, not against them.

**Wendy Chamberlain**

## NEWS FROM PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The council last met on Wednesday 21 January 2026 when issues for discussion included funding (from the Common Good Fund and NNG Community Benefit Fund), the future of the Gyles Centre, the North East Fife Strategic Plan, and the Cruden housing development's proposed lease of Common Good Land. The council is planning to hold a community-wide event in the autumn to showcase and celebrate Pittenweem's community groups and venues. For a full account of the meeting please see the minutes on the New Town Hall website <https://pittenweemnewtownhall.co.uk/community-council> and the community noticeboard in Market Place. The council will be setting up a new website so in future you will be able to read the minutes and other news there. Meantime PCC news can be found on their new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/people/Royal-Burgh-of-Pittenweem-Community-Council/61586665565825/>.

The members of the community council are Graeme MacGilchrist, Val Morrison, Stewart Moreland and Louise McEwan, now joined by two new members, Simon Learoyd and Janet Dick. Biographies of Graeme, Val and Stewart appeared in the April 2025 issue of the Post, see <https://pittenweemlibrary.org.uk/pittenweem-post-issue-28-11-april-2025/>.

### Now meet your new council members:

**Janet Dick** I moved here just over 4 years ago after a lifetime of living and working in Edinburgh. I was an active member of the area I lived in until I decided I'd had enough. Pittenweem is now my home. This place is special because of the people who live here, they are what make our community and every one of us has a part to play in taking care of that.

**Simon Learoyd** After a career in financial services, Simon is now retired and lives in Viewforth Place. He was previously a member of the Pittenweem Arts Festival board for six years and is currently a Board member of the Glasgow School of Art and a Trustee of the Faculty of Advocates. He regards the Community Council as an important forum for the local community to have a voice to be able to provide direction to the preservation and future development of the village where we all live.

The next PCC meeting will take place on **Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 7.00 pm in the New Town Hall** and members of the public are very welcome to attend.



## WINTER AT COAL FARM

We are now in the full throes of winter – persistent east winds, dreich, unpleasant and uninspiring! This also means we are fully into the winter work routine which mostly involves keeping the cattle happy. We don't own any cattle, but we have a bed-and-breakfast arrangement with a farmer from Arncroach. He brings his cattle to us in November and we look after them until it is time for them to go back out to grass at the end of May. Feeding them is straightforward – he brings down bales of silage and we cut the bales on the passageway and let the cattle eat as much as they want. Keeping them clean and dry – bedding them – is a little more complicated. Bedding involves rolling out round bales of straw round the reed till it is all nicely covered in fresh, golden straw. While some farmers have mechanised this aspect of their daily routine and can do it from the tractor seat, I have chosen to do this a more old-fashioned way where I drop the bales in and then clamber in, cut the wrap and roll the bales out manually. The inside of the bales is nice and dry, but because of the extremely wet January the bales are heavy and unwieldy.

The complication, mentioned above, comes from the love cattle have for a good scratch. If they can get over their wariness of humans, they become a wee bit addicted to a good hard rub near the top of their head. So much so, that they stand right in the way until I have performed my allotted task. Then they will reluctantly move out the way only for another to come and take its place and demand similar treatment! If I am not paying proper attention, they will sometimes give me a dunt with their head, to remind me of the job in hand. There is one particular cow that will bulldoze her way through her pals to get them out of the way so she can get her head scratched first. I don't know precisely what her breeding is. She looks like an Aberdeen Angus but I think there must be some continental blood in her veins with this cavalier attitude to queueing!



**Pete Peddie**



**St Adrian's East Neuk  
Church of Scotland  
Pittenweem,  
Anstruther & Cellardyke**



## Coffee Morning Come for a Cuppa and a Chat

Looking for something to do on a **Wednesday morning?**  
Then come along for a coffee/tea and a chat/blether  
and Raffle! to the Parish Church Hall.

**Church Hall, James Street**  
**Wednesdays**

10.00 - 11.30 am

**Back again for 2026**

Special thanks to all our 'regulars' supporting  
Local groups, Charities and the Parish Churches

**All Welcome**

Come along and support us.



St John's Episcopal Church, Marygate, Pittenweem

Please join us for our next organ recital

**Music at St John's**  
Sunday 22nd February 2026  
at 3pm

**Andrew Johnstone**

playing St John's Chamber Organ  
and featuring music by

*J.S. Bach, Ann Mounsey Bartholomew, Guy Bovet,  
Maurice Greene, John Redford, Josef Gabriel Rheinberger*

Enjoy tea, cake and music for the soul  
in our welcoming space

**This is a free event open to all,  
any donations are welcome at the door**



St John's Episcopal Church is a registered Charity No SC010982

## DON'T MISS YOUR COPY OF THE POST!

*Would you like to receive the Post by email?*

If so, all you have to do is send an email to [post@pittcllic.org.uk](mailto:post@pittcllic.org.uk) with *Subscribe* in the subject line.

You will receive an email on the second Friday of each month with a link to the new issue of the Post. The Post keeps you up to date with what's happening in the Pittenweem area. If you enjoy reading it please tell your friends and neighbours.

Interested in contributing? Our editor would love to hear from you at [post@pittcllic.org.uk](mailto:post@pittcllic.org.uk).

## ACCOMMODATION WANTED

I'm looking for 1 or 2 bed accommodation in the East Neuk, from **April 17 – July 4**.

*I'm currently in Pittenweem and wish I could stay, but time is up.*

Just me and my hypoallergenic cockapoo.

Please contact  
[rowena@nickotimefilms.com](mailto:rowena@nickotimefilms.com)



## ANSTER NIGHT TALK

**19th February | 7:30pm**

Dreel Halls, High Street West, Anstruther KY10 3DJ

### FINDING THE FAIRY QUEEN'S VOICE: THE HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM OF A SHIP FIGUREHEAD

For decades, an enigmatic figurehead, known as The Fairy Queen, has been displayed in the Scottish Fisheries Museum. But where did it come from, and what does it symbolise?

In this talk Ellie Hyland shares the findings of her research into The Fairy Queen, a journey which explores the broader history of figureheads, from the people who made them to their legacy in maritime communities.

**Entry £3, free for AIA members. Tickets on the door.  
Hot drinks & biscuits included.**



FREE COURSES



## FREE Courses in Anstruther

**Numeracy Communication Literacy  
Basic Computing Employability**



- ✓ Small group and individual attention from the tutor.
- ✓ Courses run on **Mondays** in Anstruther Learning Centre - just 2 hours per week. Classes available in other locations and on other days, in NE Fife.
- ✓ Join at any time and work at your own pace.
- ✓ Work towards SQA qualifications in Numeracy, Communication, Literacy, Employability and ICT (Information and Communication Technology).



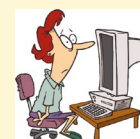
**If you're interested, phone or text Fiona on 07711390864  
or Nicki on 07872677907**

## FREE IT Course in St Andrews

**Digital Skills - using Laptops, Tablets,  
iPads and Smartphones**



- ✓ Small group and individual attention from the tutor.
- ✓ Courses run on **Friday mornings** in Cosmos Learning Centre - just 2 hours per week. Classes available in other locations and on other days, throughout Fife.
- ✓ Join at any time and work at your own pace.
- ✓ Work towards SQA qualifications in ICT (Information and Communication Technology)



**If you're interested, phone or text Nicki on 07872677907  
Email - [nicki.brown@fife.gov.uk](mailto:nicki.brown@fife.gov.uk)**

Material for inclusion in the Pittenweem Post should be sent to [post@pittcllic.org.uk](mailto:post@pittcllic.org.uk) by 5pm Friday, one week before publication. **Dates for your diary:** the next issue will be published on **Friday 13 March 2026**, contributions to be submitted no later than **Friday 6 March**.

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**We thank you and hope you have enjoyed reading the Post! Why not also become a contributor?  
We always appreciate receiving news, information and stories – past and present – about our community.**