

Pittenweem Post

10 April 2026, Issue no. 39

Pittenweem Post is our monthly community newsletter, produced by volunteers at Pittenweem Community Library. Back issues are on our website 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.

Huge thanks to a generous library member for funding this issue of the Post.

PITTENWEEM'S GOT TALENT

The big event at Pittenweem School at the end of the spring term is the Talent Show. Auditions are held and the whole school gathers to watch the chosen performers – a few from each year. The staff are, of course, very supportive to the performers, but so are the children. Every act, from the P1 singers to the P6 instrumentalists, was greeted with quiet attention and applauded with enthusiasm.

The range of acts was imaginative and inclusive – from singing and dancing to football skills, drawing, horse-riding (on video) and putting a remote-controlled car through its paces. 'If you had the skill, you could show it off' as one of the judges said. Another judge commented that 'the confidence to stand in front of the school was impressive and highlights the encouraging environment the school fosters'.

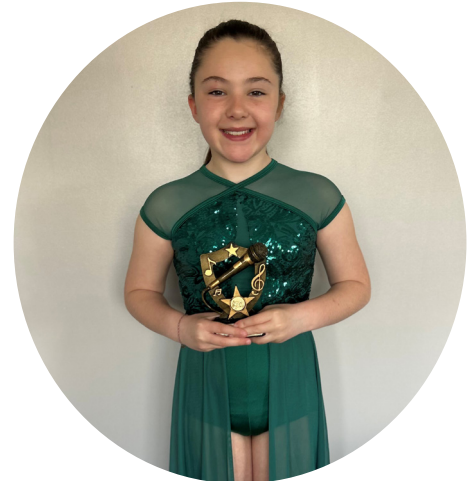
There was audience participation when Isla from P2 danced the Macarena and everyone joined in! There was some very athletic dancing and some good musicians too, especially in P6 with a pianist and a trumpet/trombone duet which impressed the judges.

The judges were members of the Pittenweem community and they had a tricky time choosing the winner from eighteen acts. Plus, they only had the children's 10-minute afternoon break to make their decisions!

Highly commended in each year group were: Ada (P1) and Piper (P2) for lovely singing, Lilly (P3) for her brave achievements in horse-riding, Jorgie and Millie (P4) for an excellent dance which included signing, Adairia (P5) for her singing of a very tricky song, and Linden (P6) for playing the piano to an impressive standard.

The winner was Aria from P5, who performed an excellent dance routine. She was confident in her lovely costume, responsive to her music and made very good use of the space around her. She captivated her audience and was worthy of the Pittenweem's Got Talent cup!

Written by the judges



*Aria with the Pittenweem's Got Talent cup.
Photo courtesy of Arlene Anderson*



The space next to the Cocoa Tree following demolition of the old fish and chip shop in preparation for the new development

A SAILBOAT NAMED *PITTENWEEM*

Back in October 2023 Steve Knipping visited the East Neuk on a trip from his home in San Francisco, California. He had started building a wooden sailboat in 2018 and his time in Pittenweem and a visit to the Fisheries Museum inspired him to name his boat after 'one of my favorite places in the world'. Steve got in touch with the Post to let us know how he came to give his boat that excellent name and to say that he had recently launched the finished vessel in Sausalito, California.

Steve told us that there wasn't much wind on the day of the launch but that they would be going out again soon after. As a tribute to its Scottish roots he christened the boat with 18-year-old Highland Park, a violin performance and a rendition of 'Pittenweem Jo' by a friend (who had honed his Scots accent by listening to a recording on repeat!).

For the technically minded, *Pittenweem* was designed by Paul Gartside (bit.ly/gartsideboats), and inspired by traditional Scottish fishing vessels. Steve says he was moved to see related craft on hand and in images in the Fisheries Museum and sent us a link to a photo journey of the 8 years it took him to build the boat: bit.ly/boatbuildingphotos.

Pittenweem played a pivotal role in an important chapter of Steve's life; he thinks about the wynds of Pittenweem often and hopes to make it back here some day. He will be very welcome!



SPRING AT COAL FARM – IN PRAISE OF DUNG

Knock, knock ... Who's there? Duncan ... Duncan who? Dung can make your roses grow!! And not just roses! All agricultural crops will benefit from an application of well-rotted farmyard manure, dung. While dung will benefit any crop, we put ours on before we plant the tatties, the only place it can go in the rotation. It can't go in front of the spring barley, because that is all grown for malting and the maltsters require low nitrogen in the grain sample. The nitrogen in the dung would undoubtedly make the barley unsaleable for that outlet. Dung in front of winter wheat may make it grow too tall and be at risk of falling over – lodging. While that may sound innocuous, lodged wheat is a very bad thing as it robs the yield and makes it hard to combine. We can't put the dung in front of the carrots, because any lumps in the soil will make the carrots wonky and not able to be packed for the supermarket. So the potatoes get the goodness in the first instance.

And what goodness! Dung has generous amounts of N, P, and K, the macronutrients which plants need lots of to grow and flourish. It also has lots of the micronutrients which are similarly important in smaller quantities. But it is the boost to soil organic matter which is the icing on the cake. Scientists are discovering how much a healthy soil can keep the plants strong and vigorous and the organic matter is fantastic for a healthy soil microbiome – the microscopic organisms like fungi, bacteria and protozoa – that keep the soil alive.

However, despite its undoubted brilliance as a fertiliser and soil-conditioner, dung does give rise to one of the least pleasant jobs of the year. The dung is dispersed using big spreaders with rotating rotors at the back which fling the dung out a few metres either side. These rotors get wrapped up with the string and netwrap which is used to make the bales. Before the spreader is returned (we hire one in, rather than owning our own), all this plastic has to be cut off and unwound ready for the spreader to be washed out. The well-rotted dung, up close and personal, is greasy, stinky and unpleasant, even for farmers. This black ooze gets everywhere and even with gloves on, well ... it will be a while before I bite my fingernails!

Pete Peddie

THE WEEM GALLERY CELEBRATES ITS FIRST DECADE

It must gladden every gallery owner's heart to hear the words: 'Ohhh – what a gorgeous place!', the response of a very happy customer coming into a space that is wheelchair friendly. Mark Feely, the owner of the Weem Gallery in the High Street since 2016, is known for his open, friendly and helpful manner and he takes obvious pride in the rich cornucopia of pieces on display, from paintings and glass to ceramics, jewellery and cards, catering for all pockets. He has a real vision of what works.



Mark studied design at the Glasgow School of Art in the late 1990s. Having learned every aspect of picture framing from John Fisher, who ran the Fisher Gallery with his wife, Jan, Mark started as the 'Weem Framer' in the Blue Door Gallery. He seized the chance to take on the tenancy of his current premises, formerly a butcher's shop, when it became available. Mark employed joiner Colin McIvor to completely refit the space, stripping away the 1960s layers to Edwardian times when it was a house, and back to the original brickwork and stone. Two layers of concrete were removed from the workshop, revealing the earth floor.

That workshop provides the bread and butter of the business: picture framing. Busy all year round, Mark welcomes the skills of framer Holly Murray. Even during Covid the business continued: email requests led to pictures being left in bags just inside the door. Mark takes trouble to discuss each client's ideas, providing a range of options. He is unfazed by challenge.

The gallery is busiest between April and October and is a lovely blend of gallery, gift and upmarket souvenir shop with many pieces reflecting our coastal setting. The north-facing windows offer



the even grey light that displays art at its best. Mark originally built his vision round the Fisher Gallery and has expanded: pieces come from local crafters, including Lisa Rooney's lasercut designs, Michael Audsley's 'Backyard Banjos', Gill Norval's Dibujo tea towels, Garry Brown's clocks and Dave Mckeen's wood art. Pottery is also popular. His stable of around a dozen artists provide work, rotated regularly to give a fresh look. Gwen Adair, Penelope Anstice, Jilly Ballantyne, Jem Bowden, Jan Fisher, Leonie McMillan and Gina Wright are among his contributors. The Gallery opened for the Festival 10 years ago, and the Festival remains central to its success.

When asked what gives him a buzz, Mark says he loves 'playing shop'. The high quality and unique nature of the work ensure pieces sell themselves when displayed well; he values the huge help of his gallery staff. A buzz too must come from whoever wanders in and remarks: 'This place is so beautiful'.

Who would have expected the visitor from New Hampshire, a descendent of Lucy Anderson, the baby daughter of the May Isle's lighthouse keeper and sole survivor of the coal asphyxiation tragedy of 1791! One of the rescuers later married Lucy and they settled in the States. What a great story.



RUFUS NORRIS ON LIFE IN ST MONANS

Rowena Goldman caught up with Rufus Norris about what makes living in St Monans so special for him.



Rufus was the Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the National Theatre (NT) from 2015 to 2025. He received the Society of London Theatre Special Award 2025 for his services to theatre and, in 2023, an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the University of St Andrews.

What made you choose to live in St Monans?

I first visited St Monans in 1988 with my then-girlfriend Tanya Ronder, who has deep family roots there. I was immediately seduced. Now married (in the Auld Kirk) with grown children who have known it since birth, we have spent as much time in the village as our working lives have allowed for since then. When my own career evolved in the way it did, we both knew a period away from city life was something we wanted, so we decided to try a year in the only place we wanted to be when my contract at the NT finished. After a few weeks, it was clear to us both that that was it – this was now home.

What do you love most about it?

Most of all, we love the sea. We swim in it, walk by it, collect seaweed from it, kayak on it, and go to sleep with the sound of it. We now live in the cottage Tanya's grandmother lived in – and where we had our wedding reception – so every corner is resonant. The size of the village is perfect and the fact it is not too remote from travels is very handy. We have wonderful neighbours, a growing community of friends, and they are reflective of an open-hearted quality that pervades the place.

Of all the East Neuk villages, what sets St Monans apart for you?

Apart from the personal connection, I think St Monans is particular. The Kirk is unique and the walks in both directions are gorgeous in very different ways. But a combination of factors – not

least the large boat shed that stood in the harbour for decades – meant that it was overshadowed to some degree by Pittenweem and Elie on either side, and it still has an unassuming quietness in comparison that suits us.

Any local habits you've picked up which have surprised you?

There is a calmness, a local wisdom, almost, of appreciation in the everyday which seems to be curing me of some of my workaholic restlessness.

What's the most memorable thing that's happened to you since moving here?

Being in a kayak when the dolphins go past is pretty special. Some of the storms have been alarming, battering the windows when the waves hit them ...

What's your favourite hidden corner of St Monans?

Not telling you. It's hidden.

Are you keen on winter sea-swimming?

Yes. We try to get in weekly year-round and daily in the warmer months, but it is pretty parky and I didn't fare that heroically in January and February this year. Must try harder. Though we've never got in and regretted it.

How does St Monans shape and inform your work?

My work is evolving at the moment – partly because I want to find a way to work that means I can be at home for most of the year – so it is shaping it pragmatically in several ways. Certainly, the quieter environment is seeping into my bones, which makes for a less frenetic way of thinking and working. I love being outside though, so there is constant distraction in the best way. Various projects are brewing that are undoubtedly inspired by the people, history and landscape, but being away from the competitive bubble of London also makes the pressure to produce less dominant, and that is entirely welcome. I hope I'm better placed to answer that question in another year or three.

If you could transpose a well-known play to be set in St Monans, what would it be and why?

I've always been more drawn to new work than existing ones in my own directing practice, so it's more about what new stories this environment promises. Something to do with the community evolving, and how the deep history of the place can be reflected within that.

Continues on next page →

Beach or woodland?

Beach, particularly if it's rocky and varied.

River or sea?

Sea, every time.

Cullen skink or Cumbrae oysters?

Cullen skink. It's a regular in our house.

If you had to introduce a friend to the essence of St Monans in one day, what would you show them/do?

We'd get in the sea, have a walk to Elie and back, go to the harbour for a cuppa in the Giddy Gannet. Along the way, we'd drop by the fish sheds and get something fresh to cook. We wouldn't need to call by neighbours as we would doubtless meet some on the way.

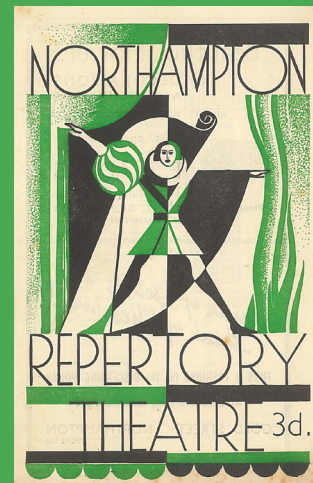
Best advice for those choosing to live here?

Be considerate. Use the local amenities. Get outside in all weathers.

On 23 April Rufus Norris will give the last of Pittenweem Library's spring talks, All the World's a Stage, at Coastline Community Church, 7.30pm – only a few tickets left!

A Lifetime's Theatre Going

An exhibition of theatre programmes from the 1930s onwards



13th April - 25th April

during Library opening hours

**Pittenweem Community Library
and Information Centre, Cove Wynd**

pittenweemlibrary.org.uk

SCIO Charity registration no. SC047013

A LIFETIME'S THEATRE GOING

An exhibition of theatre programmes from the 1930s onwards at Pittenweem Library

Some of you may remember Graham Cockburn, who lived at St Margaret's farmhouse in Pittenweem from 1997 until 2015. Graham, who lived until he was 99, was a keen theatregoer for all his adult life and he bought and kept programmes to every performance he attended. The first one in the collection is from 1934 and is for a performance of *Much Ado about Nothing* at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Graham's theatrical tastes were very varied. As well as Shakespeare – which he particularly liked – he went to other classical and modern plays, reviews, musicals, ballets and operas. He was lucky enough to see many famous actors over the years including Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud, Ian McKellen, Judy Dench and Peggy Ashcroft.

His collection of programmes on show in the library include many London performances spanning the Second World War. There is a lot of interesting information on these tiny programmes such as advertising and what to do in an air raid. The collection of programmes demonstrates the changes in theatre production over the years and will be a trip down memory lane for some of you. As he continued to enjoy seeing live performances here in the East Neuk you may even see your name in print!

The exhibition is in Pittenweem Library and Information Centre and runs from 13 to 25 April during library opening hours.

Tim Cockburn



POETRY OF PLACE

Thirsty @ The West End Bar

'Always in pubs I meet them, the defeated ...' declared the Irish poet, Patrick Kavanagh.

If Kavanagh had lived long enough to visit Pittenweem's Thirsty @ The West End Bar poetry evenings he would have revised the opening line of this poem from his 1936 collection, *Ploughman and Other Poems*. Far from defeated, the local readers who turn out, somewhat shy at first, now have a growing confidence in tackling a wide range of verse and reading it out loud.

The first Poetry in the Pub session was held in January in lieu of a Burns Supper – less haggis and more home-grown readers of poetry in Scots and Gaelic (oh, and in English too). MacDiarmid, MacLean, and MacCaig featured alongside Don Paterson, Tom Leonard, William Soutar, and Thirsty Books' authors Alison Flett and Eddie Gibbons.

In February, a heady – not quite aphrodisiacal – potion of love poetry was concocted by readers; ingredients included Shakespeare, Philip Larkin, Brian Bilston and John Cooper Clarke. Thirsty Books celebrated St Patrick's day in advance on 12 March with Yeats, Heaney, and MacNeice, alongside Eibhlín Dubh Ní Chonaill, Owen O'Neill, Michael Longley and, yes, the aforementioned Paddy Kavanagh.

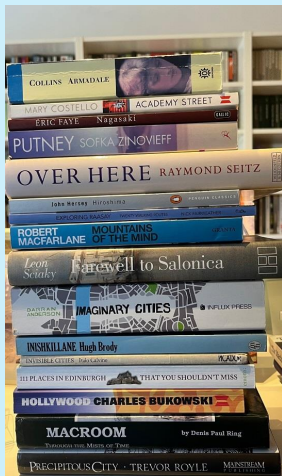
The season will finish with Poetry of Place on Thursday 16 April at 7pm. Every place imaginable has inspired poets. If you want to be inspired, the place you want to be on 16 April is the back room of the West End Bar.

www.thirstybooks.com/blog/2026/3/16/poetry-of-place

Space is limited so please text 07598 323440 or email thirstybooks@hotmail.com to book a place.

Seán Bradley

THIRSTY @ THE WEST END BAR POETRY OF PLACE



Thirsty Books
presents 2 hours
of poetry.



West End Bar
Pittenweem.
Bring a poem to
read!



Thursday
16th APRIL 2026
7pm - 9pm.

**Free entry. Limited numbers:
text 07598323440 or email
thirstybooks@hotmail.com to book.**



Love beachcombing?

**We are currently looking for
volunteers to help with our Dreel
Shelled Wall Restoration Project**

We need volunteers to regularly help to collect undamaged white dogwhelks or buckies of any size. We aim to collect small amounts of shells from a variety of locations to reduce the negative impact on the environment. NatureScot have given permission for small scale shell collection for the purpose of our restoration project.

After the shells are collected volunteers will clean, dry and organise the shells for storage.

Volunteers can also get involved in sharing information about the restoration project in person at community events or on social media.



If you think you can help, please speak to Julia or email:
julia@anstrutherimprovements.org, phone or message
07497 370556



Anstruther Improvements Association is a registered SCIO under Scottish Charity Number SCO16109

FIFE MP TO RUN LONDON MARATHON FOR CHARITY

This year, I'm taking on the London Marathon to raise money for two fantastic charities: Fife Carers Centre and PANS PANDAS UK.

The marathon takes place on 26 April, which suddenly feels very close. Training has certainly been a challenge, particularly fitting it around parliamentary life. Some evenings' votes in Westminster run until 10pm, and I'm constantly travelling between London and North East Fife. But knowing I'm doing it to support two incredible organisations has kept me motivated throughout, and I'm really looking forward to the day itself.

Fife Carers Centre is a brilliant local organisation that supports carers of all ages across our community. As well as helping carers in their day-to-day roles, the charity ensures they receive support for their own physical, emotional, mental and financial wellbeing. It provides advice on benefits, help with emergency planning and offers workshops, information sessions and one-to-one support.

Carers play an extraordinary role in our communities, often quietly providing vital care for loved ones. I am particularly proud to support Fife Carers Centre as I now serve on the organisation's board following my work in Parliament to pass the Carer's Leave Act. This legislation introduced a new right to five days of unpaid leave each year for carers, helping people balance their jobs with their caring responsibilities.

I'm also running to support PANS PANDAS UK, a charity established by parents whose children are affected by the conditions PANS (Paediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome) and PANDAS (Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections).

These conditions can cause both neurological and physical symptoms, often appearing suddenly and dramatically in children. Although they can sometimes be treated with antibiotics, they are still not widely recognised and are frequently misdiagnosed, meaning families can spend years searching for answers.

PANS PANDAS UK works to ensure that everyone affected by these conditions receives the care and understanding they need. That begins with raising awareness and improving knowledge of the conditions among healthcare professionals and the wider public.

This is an issue that came to my attention through local families in North East Fife who contacted me looking for support. Their experiences led me to establish and chair the All-Party Parliamentary Group for PANS and PANDAS, so that families' voices can be heard in Parliament and we can push for better awareness, diagnosis and treatment.

If you are able to support the fundraising, I would be extremely grateful. Every donation, no matter the size, will make a real difference to the work these organisations do.

Donate to PANS PANDAS UK: 2026tcs.londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/wendy-chamberlain

Donate to Fife Carers Centre: 2026tcs.londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/wendy-chamberlain-fc272

Wendy Chamberlain, MP for North East Fife



Wendy after completing the Paisley half-marathon



Fay Smith and Aileen Campbell draw the raffle at their tea party on Saturday 4 April. People from throughout the East Neuk and beyond braved the weather to support their event, which raised over £2500 for Cancer Research UK.

THIS FARMING LIFE DROP-IN CRAFT SESSION

Pittenweem Community Crafts group invites local makers of all abilities to get involved in a creative project inspired by this year's theme: 'This Farming Life'. We'd love you to make a handmade item – knitted, crocheted, sewn, or any other form of handcraft – to celebrate rural life in our farming community.

Some clever crafters have already created and generously donated some beautiful work; check out our Facebook and Instagram pages to see some fabulous pieces. All these unique, handcrafted goods will be sold during Pittenweem Arts Festival, with all proceeds going to support RHET and Crossroads (Fife), two charities which do valuable work in our community.

To help spark ideas and bring people together, we're hosting a friendly drop-in craft session on Saturday 23 May, from 11am to 1pm at the Festival Office, High Street, Pittenweem. Whether you're an experienced crafter or just starting out, everyone is welcome. Come along to work on your project, share skills, or find inspiration over a cup of tea. It's a wonderful opportunity to be creative, connect with others and contribute to a great cause.

Nicola Mowbray



PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The meeting of the Pittenweem Community Council on 18 March 2026 covered a range of local issues, with key discussions focusing on community concerns around access arrangements for the Cruden Homes development (including traffic, communication, and mitigation), progress on establishing the NnG community fund panel, and the launch of new website www.pittenweemcc.org.uk to improve communication and centralise information. Members reviewed recurring themes from past consultations, such as traffic calming and community facilities, highlighting the need to prioritise and deliver achievable projects, while also noting a decline in community activity but opportunities for revitalisation. Additional updates included the Pretty Pittenweem project, potential collaboration with Remembering the Accused Witches of Scotland on a historical display, and concerns over council policies on street decorations. Correspondence highlighted delays to Scottish Water works until at least 2028, and reports raised broader frustrations with planning processes, council resourcing, and lack of local investment. Several actions were agreed, particularly around improving communication, progressing community initiatives, and following up with relevant authorities.

The next meeting of the PCC will take place on **Wednesday 15 April** at 7.30pm in the New Town Hall, Session Street.

NEART NA GAOITHE OFFSHORE WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND (PITTENWEEM)

Pittenweem has been awarded £10,800 per annum as the community benefit from offshore windfarm developments. This will be administered via the Community Council with the support of Foundation Scotland. We will be setting up a panel of residents to oversee the allocation of individual grants to local groups, charities etc.

Panel members wanted

Would you like to make a difference to the Royal Burgh of Pittenweem and District? Volunteer panel members will guide strategy for how funds are spent and help make decisions on funding applications. We are looking for three residents to join the panel. The time commitment is likely to be no more than three meetings each year.

To apply, contact Rae Sedman at Foundation Scotland on 07942 769623 or email rachelsedman@foundationscotland.org.uk. Deadline for applications: 15 April 2026



BOWHOUSE ACHIEVES FARMERS MARKET CERTIFICATION

Bowhouse Market has been awarded Farmers Market accreditation from the Farm Retail Association (farmretail.co.uk) as part of a scheme to bring consistency and clarity to what it means to be a real farmers market.

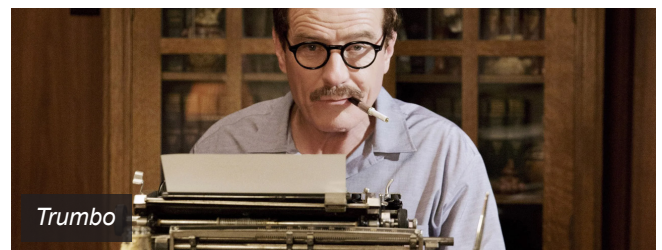


Farmers markets across the UK provide thousands of farmers with a viable local route to market their produce. The 'Real Farmers Market' accreditation scheme has been refreshed and devised to give the public a clear understanding of which markets are true farmers markets.

To achieve accreditation several key principles must be met: champion the farmers, prioritise local produce, be proud of your provenance, understand your products, be correctly insured, follow all correct legal procedures and enforce all principles. Bowhouse strongly advocates all these principles.

Kylie Clark, Business Operations Manager at Balcaskie and Bowhouse, said: 'We're incredibly proud to have achieved Farm Retail Association accreditation. It means a lot to us and recognises the hard work, passion, and integrity of everyone who makes our market what it is.'

Emma Mosey, Chair of the FRA, commented: 'It is vital that there is an industry standard for farmers markets in the UK so customers can be sure of the provenance and locality of the produce. When a farmers market has demonstrated their credentials and been awarded certification, it shows an ongoing commitment to these values. The FRA is proud to support and promote certified markets.'



COLINSBURGH COMMUNITY CINEMA

Colinsburgh Community Cinema's season continues with a first: the screening of *Linha de Passe*, a film by the Brazilian directors Walter Salles and Daniela Thomas, on 10 April. This is the first time we have screened two films by the same director in the same season. In January we screened *I'm Still Here*, Walter Salles' Oscar-winning political docudrama, which scored a very respectable 4.6 out of 5 on the audience 'button vote'.

Set in the slums of Sao Paulo, *Linha de Passe* follows the journey of four brothers as they follow their dreams and attempt to escape the trap that poverty has laid for them. The Brazilian 'soap opera' star Sandra Corveloni is superb as Cleuza, the boys' mother.

On 24 April we visit the 'land of the free' with *Trumbo*. Dalton Trumbo was a very successful screenwriter and decorated veteran of the second world war. Despite his evident patriotism he was jailed and blacklisted during the early fifties by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. He refused to be silenced by McCarthy and exposed the absurdity and injustice of the McCarthy witch-hunt. His put-down of John Wayne, to his face, is worth the entrance price alone.

Cinema opens at 7pm, film starts at 7.30, tickets £5.

Peter Marshall

Springtime
CRAFT
WORKSHOP

Sat 18 April (10–11.50am)
The Art Rooms, 47 High Street, Pittenweem KY10 2PG

A fun workshop for children in P1-7
Drop in, no charge!

Hosted by Pittenweem Community Library and Pittenweem Arts Festival. Donations welcome.

Children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult throughout the workshop. Older children can stay unaccompanied but must be brought and collected by an adult.

SCOTTISH WATER PROJECT DELAYED

Scottish Water has revealed that work to upgrade the West Shore sewer network, due to start in a few months, has been delayed, and that early 2028 is currently the earliest start date that it can now commit to, subject to regulatory approvals and confirmation of delivery schedules.

Bill Porteus, former Chair of the West Braes Project, has kept in contact with Scottish Water regarding this important project. Reflecting the local mood, he stresses that upgrades to our water infrastructure should take place as soon as possible and is disappointed that it is now seriously delayed. Bill wrote to Wendy Chamberlain MP and Willie Rennie MSP expressing concerns and they have both taken up the matter.

In a written reply to Willie Rennie, Alex Plant, Chief Executive of Scottish Water, recognised how important the works are for the community, particularly given the historic flooding issues experienced during periods of prolonged or intense rainfall. He stressed that the project has not been cancelled. Securing regulatory permissions has taken longer than forecast, reflecting the complexity and sensitivity of a marine construction project in a highly exposed location. These delays, and to ensure that the work is limited to a single summer/autumn construction season, mean that the work needs to be rescheduled to 2028.

Bill Porteus finds this unacceptable and urges others to take it up with Scottish Water directly and through their local representatives to try to reverse the decision to delay.

Alex Plant says he understands local concern and would also like to see progress as soon as possible. He has asked the project team to review whether any elements can be accelerated without compromising safety, environmental compliance, or the need to avoid multiyear disruption. He has undertaken to keep engaged with the community and to organise a public information event once revised dates are confirmed.

KELLIE CASTLE HOSTS WORLD-RENOWNED PIANIST

Kellie Castle and Garden are delighted to be hosting classical musician and conductor Janusz Piotrowicz on 5 May for a concert featuring works by Liszt, Chopin, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky. The recital will take place in the atmospheric surroundings of the Drawing Room at Kellie Castle, performed on the original Stodart fortepiano.

At age 20 Janusz won the Nawrocki Prize for the most poetic interpreter in the Warsaw International Chopin Competition. Since then he has toured the world receiving the highest accolades for his profoundly moving performances and we are delighted to welcome him to the East Neuk of Fife.

Tickets are available for this once-in-a-lifetime evening of music at the Kellie Castle & Garden Eventbrite page:

eventbrite.co.uk/o/kellie-castle-amp-garden-33797293499



The Stodart piano at Kellie Castle

THE WEST BRAES PROJECT

The team welcomed the start of the new season on Easter weekend. Planned opening hours are 11am – 5pm throughout the school holidays then returning to weekends only until the summer break in July. We hope to see you all back for a game of crazy golf, a dip in the pool or just a cup of tea at the hut!

We also have a couple of projects coming up including replacement of the railings around the seating/changing area and clearance of the rocks from the pool once the weather settles down. Dates will be advised for the rock clearance as the pool will need to be drained.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help – whether at the hut, painting our crazy golf course, completing funding applications, gardening or maintenance. If you have a couple of hours to spare, do please email us at thewestbraesproject@gmail.com. We also welcome supervised younger volunteers who can gain hours towards the Saltire Award – more information available from the Project.

Mairi Kerrigan





Since December Pittenweem has had a new service – Sandy’s Fruit and Veg van, touring the burgh every Thursday afternoon. As well as fresh fruit and vegetables the shop stocks eggs, local honey and Barnett’s bread, and orders can be taken in advance at sandysfruitandveg@gmail.com. Payment is by cash or card.

The schedule for Pittenweem is as follows:

2.15 Milton Road	3.45 Charles Street
2.30 St Abbs Crescent	3.55 Station Court
2.45 Braehead Road	4.10 Ninian Fields
3.00 The Gyles	4.25 University Avenue/Terrace
3.10 Abbey Wall Road (top)	4.35 Queen Elizabeth Road
3.20 Lady Wynd/Marygate	4.45 Sandycraig Road/The Toft
3.35 New Grange Park/Crescent	

See [sandysfruitandveg on Facebook](#) for more information and schedules for other villages and holiday parks.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Pittenweem gardens open for charity

A date for your diaries! This year Pittenweem gardeners are keeping up the tradition of opening to the public in aid of charity and for the first time the gardens will be open on both Saturday and Sunday, doubling the chance of visiting on a sunny day. The dates are 13 and 14 June, and this year’s charities are the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Alzheimer Scotland. More information in the June Post and at scotlandsgardens.org/pittenweem-gardens-in-the-burgh.

Doors Open Days 2026 – advance notice

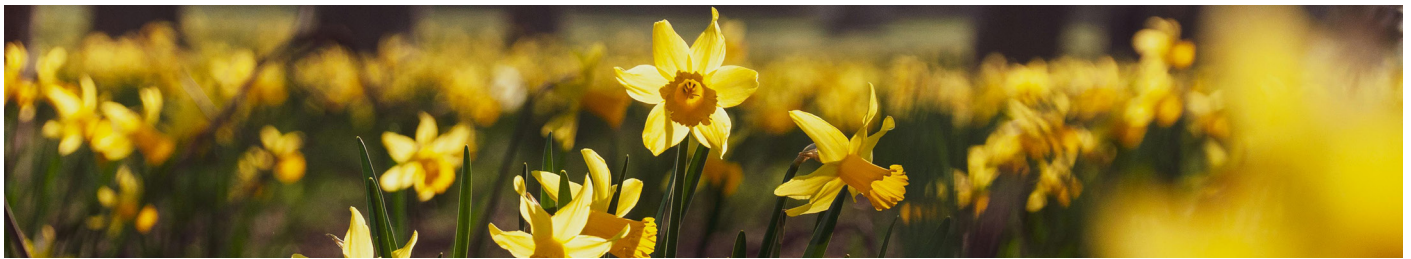
Venues across Scotland have started working behind the scenes to plan their events for this year’s festival, which will take place on weekends between 5 and 27 September. Buildings in East Fife will be opening their doors to the public on the first weekend, 5/6 September, Central Fife on the second weekend, 12/13 September, and West Fife on the third weekend, 19/20 September.

Pittenweem planning report 26/00660/FULL

An application for planning consent for a mobile sauna based at the West Braes pool has come from a local business called Scottish Seaside Saunas. They already operate similar wood-burning stove saunas at Cellardyke, Elie and St Andrews. Responses to Fife Council by 21 April.

Pittenweem to get ‘postbox of the future’

The postbox by the Hub is destined to become one of Royal Mail’s new digital ‘smart’ postboxes. For a flavour of what’s to come, see bit.ly/digitalpostboxes.



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 email post@pittcllc.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@pittcllc.org.uk.

The Priory Singers Present

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Talitha Kearey, soprano
Alex Hayes, tenor
Jim Tribble, piano
Sarah Moerman, director

Featuring Scots Singer and Performer
Lynne Campbell

Music by Haydn, Faure, Tippett, and more!



Crail Parish Church
Saturday 9 May
at 7.30pm



TICKETS

Tickets available online, from a choir member, or at the door
£12/£5 concession; children under 12 free

Generously supported by Fife Council Local Community Planning and by the Helen Main Trust

Pittenweem Tennis Club had to postpone their Family Fun Day last weekend because of rain, hail and gale force winds! If you were disappointed to miss this, please come along to the rescheduled event on Sunday 19 April.

FAMILY FUN DAY

PITTENWEEM TENNIS CLUB

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 2-4PM

COME AND JOIN US TO START THE NEW SEASON WITH A BBQ, PIZZAS, BOUNCY CASTLE (IF GOOD WEATHER) & BALL MACHINE.

Material for inclusion in Pittenweem Post should be sent to post@pittcllc.org.uk not later than 5pm Friday, one week before publication. **Dates for your diary:** the next issue will be published on **Friday 8 May 2026**, contributions please not later than **Friday 1 May**.

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