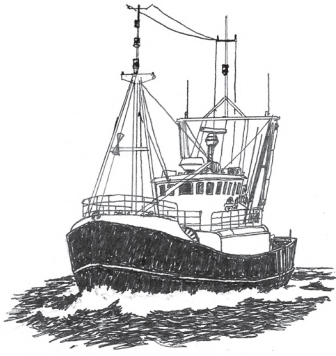




Pittenweem Post

9 October 2026, Issue no. 45

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 sponsoring this issue of the Post.

PITTENWEEM HONOURS SCOTLAND'S MOST INGENIOUS CLOCKMAKER

On 17 September a group of enthusiasts – or Smithies as they've come to be known – came together to celebrate John Smith, Scotland's most ingenious clockmaker, who lived and worked at 19 High Street. Toby and Kate Anstruther of Balcaskie 'unveiled' the blue plaque – metaphorically speaking! – and speeches were given by David Jones, furniture historian, and Eric Young, clockmaker. Two of John Smith's longcase clocks, borrowed for the occasion, were on view in the house next door – Kellie Lodging, which was home to cabinetmaker Robert Wilkie who made cases for the clocks. So the clocks may truly be said to have come home for this special event.

In the words of Eric Young, 'What sets John Smith apart from all the other hundreds of clockmakers of his time was his determination to expand his creative mind and take clockmaking into the public eye as a way to express joy in that time, the wonder of that time and a celebration of music on bells and rolling moons looking down on the passing trade ships on the Forth estuary. What an inspiration he must have felt, looking out to the horizon of a world then, full of unknowns and possibilities.'

Smith's best work is the complex pedestal clock which was given to the Queen Mother and is now part of the Royal Collection. His supreme talent and ingenuity are revealed in a short film made at the time of its restoration last year - [A Musical Clock | A Conservation story](#)

The unveiling was attended by representatives of the British Horological Institute (BHI) and the East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society, Councillor Alycia Hayes and trustees of Pittenweem Library.

The library would like to thank Martin Gorrie, Tony Lodge, David Miller, the donors, and many others too numerous to name for all the help they gave in the research and preparation that went on before the plaque could be commissioned and installed. Fellow library trustees wish to commend Hazel Mills for her outstanding commitment to this project.



L to R: Eric Young, Zen Chowanec and Richard Thomson of the BHI

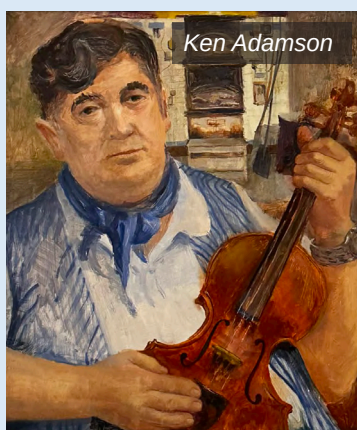


L to R: Jane Forbes (Trustee, Pittenweem Community Library), David Miller (John Smith's house current owner), David Jones, Hazel Mills (Trustee, PCL), Toby & Kate Anstruther (Balcaskie)

THE SEVEN ELDER STATESMEN OF PITTENWEEM

In 2002 artist Nanzie McLeod came up with an intriguing proposal. She would paint portraits of the Seven Elder Statesmen of Pittenweem. But who were these seven elder statesmen and how did they come to be chosen? The first question is easy. They were all men who played important roles in the life of the community – Ken Adamson the baker; fisherman and fish merchant Bill Black; builder John Bowman; Johnny Cunningham who taught at the Waid; electrician Andy Greig; GP Alasdair Kennedy; and Charles Thrower, the minister of the parish kirk.

In each of the portraits the sitter is shown with objects that represented their occupation or were significant in their personal lives. Ken Adamson holds his fiddle, the baker's oven in the background. John Bowman's budgerigars, his pride and joy, are lovingly rendered. Andy Greig is depicted with his accordion – and plays it in a film made by Nanzie's daughter Sarah. Bill Black is pictured with a creel in the foreground and the sea behind him.



When the portraits were completed they were exhibited in June 2003 in Nanzie's studio, 54 High Street – formerly the studio of her grandfather, the artist John McGhie – and after the exhibition the sitters were offered the chance to buy them. Recollections differ about the price but it was certainly a significant sum of money. Some of the portraits were bought at the time and others have found their way into the possession of their families since then. Robert Adamson owns the portrait of his father Ken, Johnny Cunningham's is on the wall of his home, Bill Black's is owned by his daughter and Andy Greig's belongs to his widow and still hangs in the family home.

But to come back to the question of how they were chosen – the seven men had spent all or most of their working lives in Pittenweem and most were at or nearing retirement. In Nanzie's words, 'Their work and social and cultural contribution to the town has been vital.' The series of portraits celebrates that contribution. In addition, they were all friends or close acquaintances of the artist. As well as the paintings themselves we still have a public record of the project, as Nanzie had the foresight to document it in two short films, each just over 8 minutes long, that are available on YouTube:

[Seven Elder Statesmen of Pittenweem part1](#)

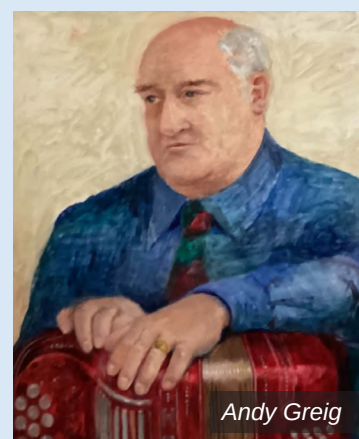
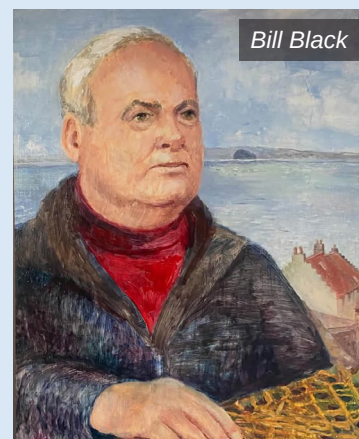
[Seven Elder Statesmen of Pittenweem part2](#)



So if you want to know more about the project or hear the sitters speak about their lives in Pittenweem, have a look at the films – and try to ignore the erratic subtitles! And perhaps people might like to come up with some candidates

for the Seven Elder Statesmen of 2026. Today's nominees must surely include some stateswomen, noticeably absent from the original line up . . .

With thanks to Robert Adamson, Johnny Cunningham, Sarah McLeod, and the families of Bill Black, John Bowman and Andy Greig for contributing information and photographs to this article.



PITTENWEEM PUPILS GO THE EXTRA MILE FOR CANCER CHARITIES

September was a very special month at Pittenweem Primary School with pupils, staff and families coming together to raise money for causes very close to the school's heart.

Following the recent cancer diagnosis of a much-loved member of staff, the whole school community wanted to do something positive to show their support. Throughout September, every pupil and member of staff walked a mile every single day, showing fantastic commitment and determination to raise funds for Cancer Research.

And they didn't stop there! Brave members of staff volunteered to get completely soaked by the pupils at a hugely popular 'Soak the Staff' fundraiser, while many of the children have shown some brilliant entrepreneurial spirit by making and selling their own creations in their spare time to add even more to the fundraising total.

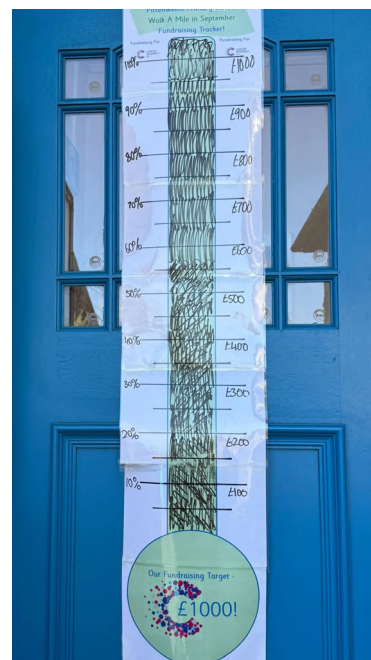
The school's regular Community Café also joined the effort, with all proceeds from its recent café being donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

It really has been a whole-school effort and a wonderful example of what can happen when a small community comes together for someone they care about.

The original target of £1,000 was smashed in the first week but that didn't stop the fundraising work. At time of writing the current total of funds raised is just over £2,500 with more still making its way in.

A huge well done to every pupil, member of staff, family and member of the community who has walked, created, baked, bought, donated — or volunteered to get soaked! **Pittenweem Primary, you should be extremely proud.**

Dates for the diary: Pittenweem Parent Council are holding two events in November. Come along and grab a bargain at the Indoor Car Boot Sale on Saturday 7 November at 10am–2pm. Get into the festive spirit at the Family Christmas Crafts afternoon on Sunday 29 November at 2–4pm.



EARLY YEARS PROJECT COORDINATOR APPOINTED IN ANSTRUTHER

Anstruther Improvements Association has appointed Teresa Sherratt Fynn in the newly created role of Early Years Project Coordinator to lead its early years programme. The position is funded by Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) Offshore Wind Farm Fund – Fife (Anstruther) and administered by Foundation Scotland.

Along with a group of parent volunteers, Teresa will coordinate the weekly Dreel Babies & Toddlers group, which focuses on play, social and peer support, and helping with literacy. She will also coordinate the fortnightly volunteer-led Community Bookbug sessions, which are run from Dreel Halls and other locations including Anstruther Fire Station, the Fisheries Museum and Willow House Care Home. On social media, Teresa is developing a new Facebook group, Anster Tots, and a dedicated space on Instagram is coming soon.

To inform the next steps in the Early Years Project, the AIA invites local parents and carers to please spend a few minutes to complete the short [AIA Early Years Project Survey](#). If you wish to support the project, or to volunteer at one of the activities, please get in touch by email: teresa@anstrutherimprovements.org.



Teresa Sherratt Fynn



Images credit:
Teresa Sherratt Fynn

FIT TO DRIVE?

I recently passed my 80th birthday and wanted to check my driving is still OK. I drive very little anyway, preferring to walk, cycle and use public transport when I can, but there is the odd journey for which the car is useful. I seldom drive at night by choice.

I have two developing cataracts that have been growing extremely slowly for many years, but my optometrist assures me I am fit to drive. I can read number plates at the required 20 metres or more, but it is getting more difficult to read road signs at a distance, although OK when I get closer.

When I saw that the Safer Communities Team from Fife Council were offering free driving assessments I quickly signed up and turned up slightly anxiously at St Andrews Fire Station. The session lasts an hour or so, mostly with a police officer. After reading a number plate we inspected our car (did you know that the best way to check tyre depth is to put the wheel on full lock because the inside of tyres wears most?). Then there was a 25-minute observed drive around St Andrews and out into the country on a mixture of urban and rural roads.

When we got back, I was told that I drove well within my capabilities, although my aversion to setting off in bottom gear was commented on. We then had a demonstration drive in a police car, showing how to interpret road conditions and driving to them. That was fun!

I took the assessment because I wanted an objective view of my driving ability. It confirmed that so far it is fine. If the suggestion had been that I needed to stop driving, I would of course have done so, but I now feel safer on the road.

I'd recommend the assessment, available to anyone over 65. It operates annually: for details contact safercommunities.projectofficers@fife.gov.uk.

David Andrews

ANSTRUTHER IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATION

VINTAGE



Vintage Stalls, Raffle, Crafts

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER



DREEL HALLS

10:30am - 2:30pm

Entry £3.50
to include
refreshments



Proceeds to
upkeep of
the Halls



The AIA is a registered SCIO under Scottish Charity Number SC016109

John Bellany : Anchored

selected works exploring the inter-relationship between man and the sea



Scottish Fisheries Museum
Anstruther

5 September - 30 November 2026



www.scotfishmuseum.org



The Scottish Fisheries Museum Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland (Co No 45381) and a Scottish Charity (SC006185). The registered office is St Ayles, Harbourhead, Anstruther KY10 3AB.



Brian Taylor



Pete Peddie

LIBRARY EVENING TALKS

WHY DOES SCOTLAND REVERE ROBERT BURNS AND REVILE SIR WALTER SCOTT? AN EVENING WITH JOURNALIST BRIAN TAYLOR

Why is it that most Scots love Robert Burns but seem to have little time for Sir Walter Scott? Brian Taylor is well-known as an after-dinner speaker, writes a weekly column for *The Herald* and has spent his career as a political commentator and broadcaster. He is also passionate about Scottish literature, and we can promise a stimulating evening on Thursday 22 October when Brian will explore the influences behind the current reputations of these two Scottish giants.

COAL FARM, PAST AND PRESENT

Local farmer Pete Peddie contributes regularly to the Post: he captures with humour and insight the impact of the vagaries of the weather and the changing seasons on his land.

On Thursday 5 November Pete will talk about his life at Coal Farm, in his family for almost 100 years. He'll share stories of the past and discuss why he chooses to farm the land the way he does now. Pete is well known locally for his active involvement in a variety of causes. Be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

Talks are held in Coastline Community Church, 21 Session Street, Pittenweem KY10 2QL

Doors open 7pm; talks start 7.30pm. Tickets £7 from the library – see pittenweemlibrary.org.uk for opening hours or email library@pittcllc.org.uk to reserve. Tea, coffee & biscuits included in the ticket price.

THE LIBRARY WELCOMES ITS 1000th MEMBER



Pittenweem Library reached a milestone this week when the 1000th member joined the library since it opened in 2017. Robyn Melrose received a warm welcome and a prize – a book token and a bottle of fizz, presented by library chair Helen Mathers. Robyn and her two daughters, Maisie and Mollie, love coming to the library's popular Bookbug sessions, held every Saturday morning from 9.30 till 10.00.

Membership is free and new members are always welcome.

PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY CRAFTS RAISES ALMOST £5,000 FOR CHARITY

Pittenweem Community Crafts would like to extend huge thanks to all the clever, creative crafters who generously gave their time and beautiful handmade goods for us to sell at this year's Arts Festival. Thank you to everyone who supported us by purchasing these treasures, helping our charitable efforts.

Each year we choose a theme for our makers to get inspired and involved. By combining creativity, community spirit and fun, we fundraise for good causes.

This year we are delighted to announce that our 'This Farming Life' theme raised £4,822 which will be shared between RHET (Royal Highland Educational Trust) and Crossroads (Fife). Thank you to everyone who made this possible by purchasing something special.

We are extremely grateful to the Woolly Brew who accepted donated items on our behalf and to the Coastline Community Church who allowed us to use their wonderful venue during the Festival.

This year's phenomenal success has spurred us on to begin planning for next year. We're always looking for more people to join our crafting community. You don't have to be an expert. If you enjoy knitting, crochet, sewing, papercraft or other handcrafts, you're welcome to take part. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates, our theme for 2027 and details of our crafting get-togethers.

Pittenweem Community Crafts



Crail Community Hall presents

25 Years of Riverdance

This 25th Anniversary production is a powerful and stirring reinvention of the show, celebrated the world over for its Grammy Award-winning music and the thrilling energy and passion of its Irish and international dance.

Watch the amazingly fast feet, the expressions and emotions of the dancers and musicians in detailed close-ups!

Friday, 16th October 2026 - 8.00 pm
Crail Community Hall - BYOB
Tickets £14

www.crailcommunityhall.co.uk





The squad with Kenny McLaren of Pittenweem Properties



The squad with Louise Lewis of The Bank, Anstruther

PITTENWEEM ROVERS KICK OFF 2026/27 SEASON

Pittenweem Rovers kicked off the 2026/27 season in new home kit, sponsored by Pittenweem Properties. We were joined by Kenny McLaren of Pittenweem Properties for a pre-match team photo. Our thanks to Kenny and his team for their contribution. The match against Bridge of Earn finished 1–1.

The Rovers have also been fortunate to receive new match day kit through our sponsorship from The Bank Bar & Restaurant, Anstruther. The squad were joined by Louise Lewis for a photo with the squad in the new track suits & polo shirts.

Our thanks to the owners at The Bank, Anstruther for their generous sponsorship, hospitality and support.

After successive defeats away to Lochgelly United, one in the Scottish Cup and one in the league, the match on 26 September saw the Rovers pick up their first 3 points of the season with an excellent away win against Kirkcaldy YMCA AFC. Second half goals from Harvey Chater, Ryan Allan, Jordan Christie and Cameron Wilson earned Rovers a 4–0 victory. And on 3 October Rovers beat Balgonie Scotia 4–0 at home with Harvey Chater, Cameron Wilson (penalty), Ryan Allan & Kyle Paterson on target.

The next scheduled fixtures are away games at Greig Park Rangers on 10 October and against The Swifts on 17 October.

Iain Wilson

NEWS IN BRIEF

PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The next meeting of Pittenweem Community Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 October at the New Town Hall. The meeting is open to all members of the community.

FUND-RAISING FOR PROSTATE CANCER UK A HUGE SUCCESS

A big thank you from the Menopausal Mermaids to everyone that supported us in our drive to raise funds for prostate cancer UK - we raised £4,428! Thanks to everyone who donated, bought raffle tickets and came to the family fun day at the pool. Many thanks also to every organisation, local business and individual who donated a raffle prize. Our huge appreciation for helping raise such a large amount for a great cause.

WEST BRAES PROJECT

The West Braes Project AGM will be held at 1.30–3.00pm on Saturday 24 October 2026 in Coastline Church Hall, Pittenweem. Come along and find out what we have been doing this year and what the plans are for the coming year.

We would also like to thank all our visitors to the pool, crazy golf and refreshments hut this year – your support is much appreciated and we couldn't maintain the pool and improve the area without you. Also thanks to our amazing team of volunteers for their time at the hut, painting the crazy golf course, weeding and planting, and organising events.

Mairi Kerrigan

SIREN OF PITTENWEEM WORKSHOPS

A partnership project between Waid Community Learning and Development worker Otto Cox and Pittenweem Community Council will kick off on Monday 19 October at Pittenweem New Town Hall. The project will run daily until Friday 23 October from 11.30am to 1.30pm offering S1–S6 pupils the FREE opportunity to compose music, design and make costumes, and produce a film. We want young people to make a bit of noise and a creative mess during the week ... with the aim of showing off the achievements to friends and family, and the rest of the world too! The workshops are supported by the Local Community Planning Fund.

EAST NEUK OPEN STUDIOS AT BOWHOUSE IN NOVEMBER

East Neuk Open Studios will be back at Bowhouse with our annual Winter Art and Craft Market on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 November. Opening hours are 10am-4pm.

Alongside returning members we have some new members who will be participating for the first time and some wonderful guest artists.

There are great food and drink options at Bowhouse and plenty of free parking.

We hope you will come and see the amazing work of local artists and creatives. It's a great opportunity to start looking for Christmas gifts!



www.eastneukopenstudios.org

SATURDAY 7th and Sunday 8th NOVEMBER

BOWHOUSE, ST MONANS
10AM-4PM

East Neuk
Open
Studios

WINTER
ART & CRAFT
MARKET

BOWHOUSE

FREE ENTRY

EAST NEUK ARTISTS, MAKERS & DESIGNERS

INVITED ARTISTS

FOOD | COFFEE | BREWERY & TAPROOM

BOWHOUSE, St Monans, East Neuk, Fife KY10 2DB



EAST NEUK OF FIFE PROBUS CLUB

The next meeting of the East Neuk of Fife Probus Club will be on Tuesday 20 October, when Evelyn Boyd will describe the aims and successes of staging the Anstruther Harbour Festival.

Following this, on Tuesday 3 November Nicola Davidson will be talking about how we can protect ourselves from fraud and scams.

Meetings are held in the Coastline Community Church 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.



WEST END BAR

Is it really a month since we sold up? The hardest part about leaving wasn't the labyrinthine legal and tax discussions but saying goodbye to so many of you. Oonagh and I were so touched by your warm good wishes.

When we bought the pub nearly nine years ago, we inherited a bare cellar and old carpets. We always had in mind a picture of a cosy village pub and knew we could bring that back to the West End. There were the tangible things – hand-painted signage, sanded and varnished floorboards, new tables and chairs, lighting, and a fresh coat of paint inside and out. Then everything else: a clean, organised cellar serving a well-stocked bar; a kitchen serving simple well-cooked dishes; the decision not to serve food in the bar (Oonagh's firmly held belief that the pub is for drinking and chatting, not the reek of malt vinegar); and service that was warm and welcoming to regulars and visitors alike, but dismissive of cliques and the idea that all customers are equal but some are more equal than others. Not in our pub.

Then COVID came. With two years under our belts, we were able to step back and take the opportunity to really make the pub our own. We managed to 'cut our cloth'. To look across the bar now and see the mix of people chatting away, as often as not with folks they've only just met, is great to see.

So, the next chapter! We're so pleased to have sold to Chris and Anne, who've made the huge journey from Philadelphia to Scotland, back to where Anne has family roots. I'm sure you'll hear more from them soon, but what better way to get to know them than to pop into the pub and say hello. We wish them the best of luck and trust they can count on your continued generous support.

For us, what's next? Who knows! For now, we're enjoying a bit of downtime. We're also enjoying sampling the multitude of cuisines Leith has to offer, if not the four flights of tenement stairs...

Thank you one and all.

Tim Findlay-Coulson

NEW MINISTER AT ST ADRIAN'S EAST NEUK

Hello! My name is Revd Jake Lehman and I am delighted to have accepted the call to serve as the new minister at Crail Parish Church linked with St Adrian's East Neuk. This means that I will be serving the congregations and communities of Pittenweem, Anstruther, Cellardyke, and Crail.

If you stop me for a chat on the street, which I hope you do, you'll notice from my accent that I'm not from around here. In September 2025 my family and I moved to Scotland from Kalamazoo, Michigan in the United States where I had served for 15 years as a minister in the Lutheran church. During the past year we lived in Stirling where I served at St Ninians Old Parish Church while getting acclimated to Scottish culture, customs ... and weather.

My family consists of my wife Melissa and our three children, aged 17, 14, and 10, who attend school at Waid Academy and Anstruther Primary. We've truly enjoyed our new home in Scotland and look forward to settling into a new community and ministry here in the East Neuk. I look forward to getting to know you all in this lovely corner of the world, so don't hesitate to stop me and say hello if you see me out and about, or reach out for a coffee, conversation, or anything else you need!

Warmest regards, **Jake Lehman**



EAST NEUK CHURCH SERVICES

St John's Episcopal Church, Pittenweem

11 October 11.30am: Holy Communion led by Revd David Gordon. 5.30pm: Choral Evensong at Crail Parish Church with St Salvator's choir.

18, 25 October and 1 November 11.30am: Holy Communion led by Revd David Gordon.

8 November 10.50am: Remembrance Day Commemoration outside the Kirk at the War Memorial followed by 11.30am service in the parish church; 3pm Local musicians' concert in St John's. All welcome.

<https://eastneuk-episcopal.co.uk/about-1/st-john-s>

St Adrian's East Neuk @ Pittenweem, Anstruther and Cellardyke

Sunday services at 11.30am.

11 October at Cellardyke at 11.30am. Revd Jake Lehman

18 October Café Church at Anstruther at 11.30am. Revd Jake Lehman

25 October at Cellardyke at 11.30am. Revd Jake Lehman

1 November at Pittenweem at 11.30am. Revd Jake Lehman

8 November at Anstruther: Remembrance at 11.30am. Revd Jake Lehman. Preceded at 11am by a short act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, Anstruther

8 November at Pittenweem: Remembrance Day Commemoration outside the Kirk at the War Memorial at 10.50am followed by 11.30am service in the Kirk led by Revd Gilbert Nisbet.

www.stadrianseastneuk.org

Coastline Community Church, Pittenweem

Sunday services with Sunday school at 10.30am. Tel. 01333 312041

<https://coastlinechurch.org.uk>

Crail Parish Church

Sunday services at 10am. Tea & coffee served following the service. www.craillchurch.com

Most Holy Trinity Church, Crail

Sunday Mass at 9.30am. Wednesday Mass at 12 noon.

www.stjamesparishstandrews.org.uk/craill

Kilrenny Parish Church

Sunday services at 9.45am. Services are recorded and available on the church website, along with additional information on events

<https://e-voice.org.uk/kilrenny/>

Kingsbarns Parish Church

Sunday services at 9.45am. For more information, contact Revd Wotherspoon via 07711 706634 or

wotherspoonrig@btinternet.com



The poster features a red circular logo with a white cross and the text 'Church of Scotland Guild'. The main text is in a playful, pink, cursive font. It invites people to an 'AFTERNOON CUPPA' on Monday 12th October, between 2pm and 4pm, at Cellardyke Church Hall. The activities listed are tea, coffee, cake, raffle, and plenty of chat. It states 'All Welcome' with a £5 entry fee. The purpose is to raise funds for guild projects and church funds. At the bottom, it mentions 'St. Adrian's East Neuk - Church of Scotland - Charity No. SC000181'.

St. Adrian's East Neuk Guild
invite you for an
AFTERNOON CUPPA
Monday 12th October
Between 2pm and 4pm
Cellardyke Church Hall
Tea, Coffee, cake,
raffle
and plenty chat!
All Welcome.
£5 Entry
In aid of Guild Projects
and Church Funds
St. Adrian's East Neuk - Church of Scotland - Charity No. SC000181



The poster has a white background with blue and green text. It features two small illustrations of church buildings. The title 'Coffee Morning' is in large, bold, purple letters. Below it, 'Come for a Cuppa and a Chat' is in green. The text invites people to a Wednesday morning coffee/tea and chat/blether and raffle at the Parish Church Hall, James St. The time is 10.00 - 11.30 am. It thanks 'regulars' and local groups, charities, and the parish church. It ends with 'All Welcome' and 'Come along and support us.'.

**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 St.
Wednesdays
10.00 - 11.30 am
Back again through **Autumn and Winter**
Special thanks to all our 'regulars' supporting
Local groups, Charities and the Parish Church
All Welcome
Come along and support us.

Credit: Son of the Sea. Festival Ceilidh in full swing



SHAPING THE FESTIVAL TOGETHER FOR 2027

A couple of months on from this year's Pittenweem Arts Festival, we've had time to look properly at the feedback from our surveys – and there has been a lot of it. Literally hundreds of people have shared their views on what they enjoyed, what could be improved and what they would like to see in the future.

There is plenty to feel positive about. Visitors continue to rate the Festival highly, with 93% of those surveyed saying they would be likely or very likely to recommend it. Artists were positive too: 92% described the Festival as commercially viable or satisfactory, while 89% said they were likely to return.

Just as encouraging has been the response to efforts to make the Festival feel more rooted in Pittenweem and the East Neuk. Community feedback has shown real appetite for live music, family activities and a stronger local flavour. Evolving elements such as our community ceilidh, more local performers, street entertainment and food from nearby producers have all featured in feedback. These are exactly the kinds of ideas we want to keep developing: not simply bringing a Festival to Pittenweem, but making sure more of what happens reflects the place in which it happens.

Of course, there is still work to do. Feedback has highlighted practical matters including the organisation of food provision, toilets, seating, signage, traffic and parking, as well as how visitors move around the whole village. These may not be the glamorous side of an arts festival, but they make a considerable difference to residents, artists and visitors alike.

That brings us to 2027 – and an invitation.

We have set up a Festival Forum so that Pittenweem residents can help shape our thinking for next year. You certainly don't need to be the Festival's biggest fan to take part. We would genuinely welcome a range of views, including constructive criticism – the Festival occupies the village for a week and its impact is felt by everyone.

We are also looking for new members of the Festival Board. As a charity, the Festival depends on people prepared to contribute their experience, local knowledge and ideas throughout the year. If you have skills you think could help – or simply a fresh perspective – we would be delighted to hear from you.

And the search is now open for one of our 2027 Invited Artists. Professional artists living and working in Scotland are invited to submit proposals, with particular interest this year in ambitious three-dimensional work. Applications close on 7 December 2026 – full details are available on the Festival website.

Whether you would like to join the Forum, explore becoming a Board member, or simply tell us what you think, please contact info@pittenweemartsfestival.co.uk.

Positive, critical or somewhere in between, we would much rather have the conversation directly and use it to make next year's Festival work better for Pittenweem.

POP-UP CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOP COMES TO PITTENWEEM

Children and families in Pittenweem and the wider East Neuk will have the chance to browse and enjoy a wonderful selection of children's books when Ginger and Pickles Bookshop opens its doors in October at the Blue Door Gallery, 5 Charles Street, Pittenweem.

Running through to the end of December, the pop-up shop will offer books for children of all ages, from newborn to young adult. Shoppers can expect a carefully curated range of books from old favourites to newly published titles.

The bookshop will open at the following times:

10:00 - 17:00 Wednesday

10:00 - 17:00 Friday

10:00 - 16:00 Saturday

For more information or to order books, please visit www.gingerandpicklesbookshop.com or email hello@gingerandpicklesbookshop.com or Instagram [@gingerandpicklesbookshop](https://www.instagram.com/gingerandpicklesbookshop).

The shop is looking forward to welcoming local families and those visiting the East Neuk in the run up to Christmas.



UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO RETAIN PITTENWEEM PARISH CHURCH

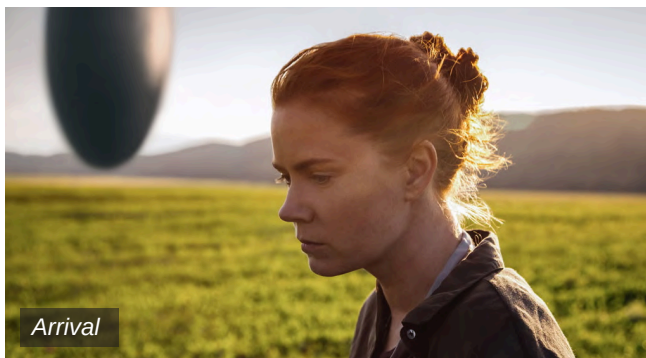
As many readers will be aware, St Adrian's East Neuk – Pittenweem, formerly Pittenweem Parish Church, is due to close and be sold by 2027. In 2024, the Friends of Pittenweem Kirk was formed to try and keep the building for our community. In light of this the then Pittenweem Parish Church and subsequently St Adrian's East Neuk Kirk Sessions gave the Friends until September 2026 to raise funds for an off-market purchase of the building. Unfortunately, at the beginning of September, it was made clear that the Friends were not in a position to do so and, therefore, the Church of Scotland has begun the process of putting the church on the open market. The Kirk Session extends its thanks to the Friends and the East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society for their efforts.

However, all is not lost. A new group has been brought together under our leadership to make an eleventh-hour attempt to save the building. The Pittenweem Old Kirk Enterprise (POKE) is going to build on the feasibility study and architect's appraisal carried out by the Friends of Pittenweem Kirk to put together a business plan and begin raising the necessary asking price of £77,500 to buy the building.

Due to the likelihood of the building being placed on the open market in the coming months, this will require our community to come together if we want to keep this building at the heart of our community and retain it for generations to come. If you would like to get involved, please email us at pittenweemoldkirk@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook at 'Pittenweem Old Kirk Enterprise', where we will be posting regular updates on our progress. We will also be including updates in future editions of the Pittenweem Post.

While both the Church and Church Hall are due to be sold, both continue to be used on a regular basis at present. Details of church services and events can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Pittenweem Post.

Aileen Campbell and Sean Dillon



Arrival

COLINSBURGH COMMUNITY CINEMA

The new season successfully got underway with a screening of **Hamnet**. Next up at 7.30pm on 9 October is the multi-award-winning Italian film **Vermiglio** directed by Maura Delpero. Set in 1944 in a remote village in the Italian Alps, it tells the story of the family of Cesare, the local schoolteacher. Cesare is a severe patriarch who, as his elder children approach adulthood, finds his authority waning. The war intrudes with the arrival of an Italian soldier, a Sicilian deserter who falls in love with Cesare's eldest daughter. Their romance shatters the tense order of the family and changes the course of everyone's lives.

We were hoping to screen **Project Hail Mary** on 23 October, Ryan Gosling's latest film that has been tipped for Oscar success. Unfortunately, the licence is with Amazon, who part funded the film, and is not available to us. Instead, we are screening **Arrival** starring Amy Adams and Forest Whitaker. Adams plays a linguist who, when spaceships land on earth at 12 different locations, is recruited to attempt to communicate with the extra-terrestrials. As the perceived threat of the 'aliens' creates tension between countries she has a race against time to evaluate the reasons for their arrival. An intelligent sci-fi film that looks at the meaning of language and our, at times, irrational fear of the unknown.

On Friday 20 November we will be screening the **People's Emergency Briefing**. This screening falls outwith the usual programme and entrance is free. The film brings together experts in the field of climate change under various headings: food supply, our health, national security, global warming, etc. Experts talk for a few minutes on their own topic to explain the dangers of inaction and possible solutions. Alongside our usual audience we will be inviting our local politicians (Holyrood, Westminster and Fife Council) as well as interested organisations. This film is being shown in hundreds of venues throughout the UK and it is hoped it will start a national discussion on the problems of climate change.

Find more details at:

colinsburghcinema.wordpress.com



SPOOKY FUN FOR FAMILIES AT KELLIE CASTLE & GARDEN

Put on your best 'guise and join us for a weekend of spooky family fun at Kellie Castle & Garden with our annual Halloween Kids Trail running 23–25 October. Follow the clues to hunt for hidden letters around the garden, piece them together to reveal the magic word, then claim your prize!

The trail is open 10am – 4pm each day with last entry at 3pm. Four-legged, and eight-legged, friends are welcome on leashes and please wrap up warm and dress for the weather as the trail is based outside. Tickets are £5 per child, and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are available on the day from our welcome desk or can be purchased in advance from the Kellie Castle & Garden Eventbrite page: bit.ly/HalloweenTrailAtKellieCastle

Remembrance Sunday 2026

Remembering What is Lost



Artwork by Priya Logan priya@largo.org.uk
Used with the permission of Largo Communities Together

- themes of Remembrance and Nature
- texts from the book "The Lost Words" co-authored by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris
Reader: Jane Forbes
- music by Folk by the Oak, Richard Rodney Bennett, Antonio Vivaldi and Karine Polwart

Robin Bell	organ
Claire Latto	oboe
i	
Greg Smith	guitar/vocals
Yvonne Stephenson	mezzo soprano

BLISS evolved through making music in the Aurrie Mor, Lower Largo. Formerly St. David's Parish Church of Scotland, it is now a performance venue, ideal for small-scale music and other events. Its original pipe organ (installed 1920) makes a regular contribution.

St John the Evangelist Scottish Episcopal Church
Marygate, Pittenweem KY10 2LH
Sunday 8th November, 3pm
Entry by donation



Credit: Karalina S

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 editorial team would love to hear from you post@pittcllc.org.uk.

Outstanding Event Highlights

Make sure you book your tickets now!



Friday, 16 October 2026, 8.00 pm
Riverdance – 25th Anniversary Show

See the close-ups, the amazingly fast feet, the expressions and emotions of the dancers and musicians, and the creative camera angles that show the work more intimately and revealingly than is possible for an audience sitting in the stalls.
Celebrated the world over for its Grammy Award-winning music and the thrilling energy and passion of its Irish and international dance!

Wednesday, 11 November 2026, 7.00 pm
National Theatre Live – Golden Boy

Brought to life with a live string quartet and filmed live from the Almeida Theatre. Olivier Award-winner Sam Yates (Vanya) directs this propulsive drama exploring ambition, identity, and the high price of success.
Leading the cast in this searing revival of Clifford Odets' knockout American classic is Golden Globe winner Josh O'Connor (The Crown, Challengers).

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 November 2026, 11am - 4pm
Christmas Fayre – FREE Entry

30 Arts & Crafts Stalls, X-Mas Café, Primary School Performance ...
Find all your Christmas presents in one place.
Enjoy fabulous cakes and refreshments in our Christmas Cafe.
Crail Primary School children will sing at 12 and 1pm on Sunday 15 November.
30 stalls with local arts and crafts, tarot readings and much more...

We look forward to seeing you at Crail Community Hall!
<https://www.crailcommunityhall.co.uk/>

Tickets: £14

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/crail-community-partnership>

Elie & Earlsferry History Society

EVENING TALK

The Last Prior of Pittenweem

Professor Anthony Lodge

John Roule, the last prior of Pittenweem, was vilified by the Reformers and, as a result, left little trace on the historical record. This talk seeks not to re-habilitate him but to produce a more informed assessment of his life and career in the run-up to the religious revolution of 1560.



Thu 29th October at 7.30pm

at Elie Church Hall

Refreshments will be served.

All welcome (non-members £5)



Elie & Earlsferry History Society Registered Charity No SC035015

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

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We always appreciate receiving news, information and stories – past and present – about our community.