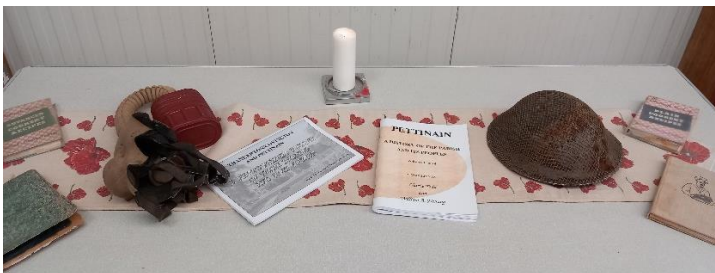


PETTINAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL JUNE 24/25 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO YOUR JUNE NEWSLETTER: COMMUNITY EVENTS \\ SUSTAINABLE PETTINAIN UPDATE & THE NEW 150-CLUB \\ NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP \\ GETTING TO KNOW PETTINAIN \\ COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

FIRST SOME SPRING HIGHLIGHTS: Bunny rabbits, unicorns, cakes, and gas masks all could be found in Pettinain Village Hall this spring. Our fantastic 'Easter Eggstravaganza' organised by Anne Galloway and Kay Lawrie, had face-painting (Easter Unicorns!), bingo, craft tables, a chocolate fountain, and family prizes. A month later tables and chairs were outside for a VE Day Commemoration organised by Daphne Alexander and Jane MacConnell; inside was a thoughtful display with local history books, a gas mask and helmet, and a lit remembrance candle for those who gave their life for our freedom. We learned that Pettinain really is a community of excellent bakers! Thanks to everyone supporting these events, which raised ~ £160 after hall booking costs.



UPDATE FROM SUSTAINABLE PETTINAIN SCIO (SPS) FINANCES \\ SUSTAINABLE PETTINAIN-150-CLUB \\ COMMUNITY SURVEY \\



Sustainable Pettinain SCIO has been managing the hall now since 7th November 2024, just over 6 months and in addition to the above, the following have been possible: community pizza night, pop-up comedy night, 2025 Burns Supper, access to community yoga, badminton, kids play, and a conference on the Preservation of Ancient Buildings that used Pettinain Kirk for a study site. More

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great events and sports classes are planned – for example, from Tuesday from September onwards the Hall will be hosting clubercise exercises classes with Chelsea: reviving go's anthems whilst burning calories! Please bring forward your ideas to use the hall and book for your own events. You will find links to book your village hall at <https://www.pettinainvillagehall.com/>. Hit the big blue button "Booking Request" and go for it! Any problems contact bookings@pettinainvillagehall.com

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Financial sustainability is a key priority to retain the hall. It costs ~ £15-20k per year to run the hall. Our biggest cost is energy with electricity bills ~ £1k per month, mostly on heating (a thinly-insulated metal box...who would have guessed). We have revamped hall lighting to LED lights (brighter, cheaper) and an energy survey is scheduled to explore how to make the hall more energy efficient. Rentals are unlikely to generate sufficient income to retain the hall: during the past six months we have received ~£1.2k in rental income. We have applied to South Lanarkshire Council 'Renewable Energy Fund' for a 2nd year of funding, and volunteers have been running events to i) build up a fund that can be used for sustaining the operations of the Hall when grant funding is no longer available, and ii) for other activities in line with the objectives of our village SCIO. But we do need your help: book the hall, attend events, volunteer, and donate! Which leads nicely onto....

SUSTAINABLE PETTINAIN 150-CLUB: Welcome to your monthly lottery, a simple way to raise funds for Sustainable Pettinain activities, but with a cheeky chance some cash. 60% of funds raised will support Sustainable Pettinain activities; **40% of the funds will be returned each month to 3 cash winners!!!** The 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners will take home 20%, 15% and 5% of the pot. The more players, the more money raised and the larger the cash prizes.

Here is an example to whet your appetite: If 50% of 150 dwellings in Pettinain Parish sign up to the £10 monthly donation (only £2.50 per week), the shared pot will be £750. The odds of winning would be 3 in 75 (National Lottery players, eat your heart out). Each month, three residents would win £150 (1st), or £75 (2nd), or £38 (3rd). Sustainable Pettinain would receive £488 (£5856 a year).



We're inviting you to join this good cause and keep Pettinain thriving! Please see our web pages under the Sustain Pettinain heading, where you can register interest to play: <https://www.pettinainvillagehall.com/page/150-club>. Registering interest does not commit you to anything, it allows us to update you. Once community interest is confirmed we will apply for a gaming license (permitted for local charities) and thereafter formally launch the 150-Club.

OUR ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE to help understand better community interest. Thanks to all of who have completed this. We will keep the survey open for another month and summarise responses in the next newsletter.

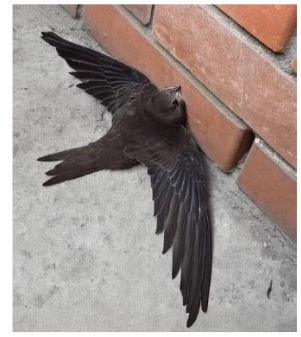


Just a reminder the objectives of SPS can be found on our webpages [HERE](http://www.sustainablepettinain.org/) <http://www.sustainablepettinain.org/> or easily accessed FROM OUR QR CODE. SPS are open, welcoming and keen all Pettinain interests are represented. If helping with SPS activity interests you, or have other questions, contact chair@sustainablepettinain.org

GREAT EVENTS COMING: Biggar Show Sat. July 19th; Carnwath Agricultural Society, Sat. 26th July; Biggar Horticultural Society Show 6th Sept.; **Pettinain Comedy night 20th Sept.2025.** **WE WILL OPEN THE WEB PAGES SOON FOR TICKETS TO THE COMEDY EVENT.**

NATURE ON OUR DOORSTEP *Thanks to Mary Gilbert for text and the superb photos.*

Many residents have noted noisy pond parties as amphibians started to mate. But how to identify frogs from toads: frogs always look wet, have smooth bodies and a pointed chin; toads look dry, have a rough/nubbled body and a round chin. Frogs lay spawn in clumps and toads as a string.



L: What are you looking at? Middle: Dating & mating; R: Stranded swift – help me please gently Swallows, swifts and house martins have recently arrived. If you see one on the ground, wings splayed, you might think it sick or injured, but often it has simply grounded itself. Don't leave it thinking it will fly off like a tit or finch that hits a window. They are acrobats in the air but cannot take off from a flat surface - like an aircraft they need a runway. Very gently pick it up and slowly raise your arms up - let it look at the air and feel the breeze, gently open your hands and it will fly off. Don't throw it into the air as you see on TV with bigger birds, that will not help it.

Spring is when female brown hares box their over-amorous suitors, often seen early morning. Though superficially like rabbits, hares are rangier, with long back legs and a lolloping gait. If rabbits spot you, they bolt for their nearest hole; hares will elegantly sprint across the field to safety, their long, black-tipped ears pinned back. Of note: hare coursing where trained dogs catch and brutally kill hares is an illegal 'blood sport' (wildlife crime). Tell-tale signs are "groups of vehicles parked ... perhaps near a gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track", and "vans with dogs". Report a live hare coursing incident by calling 999. If hare coursing has taken place and suspects have left call 101. The date, time, exact location of the activity, and a description of vehicles, people, dogs, and direction of travel are useful information to report. More about all wildlife crimes here: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/rural-crime/wildlife-crime>.

DISCOVER PETTINAIN: Please contact pettinaincommcouncil@pm.me if you could be profiled next. Now, over to perhaps our most globally-connected Pettinainer: Maurice Hughes, aka 'GM0NBO' (Gold Mike Zero November Papa Oscar). Thanks GM0NBO for sharing!

"I been a HAM radio enthusiast for over 40 years, since my brother passed on his CB radio – a communication medium very popular in the late '70s when internet and mobile phones were just under development. I remember sitting in the cupboard under the stairs, with a small antenna on a 'biscuit tin' and talking to people locally - not under the beady eye of parents, very exciting. I would hear people in Europe talking but they could not hear me. The solution was bigger and better equipment: an aluminium pole in the garden as an antenna and an amplifier boosted the signal. This opened up Europe for conversation, but I could still not talk to people from places like America, New Zealand, Japan, Jamaica, and the Cocos Islands. So I needed bigger and better equipment 😊 I now use professional quality radio equipment and amplifiers, and large masts and a motorised antenna that can be tuned 360° to receive and send signals to any part of the world.

HAM radio was named to describe radio operators thought unskilled. Not quite true! For my HAM radio license to use new frequencies legally, in 1989, I had exams. The 1st part of this test required skills in morse code and I was assessed able to transmit and receive up to 25 words per minute -

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4-beam motorised mast, 10m high

unexpected 'congratulations' from the army on this result was somewhat unnerving as they informed me I could be enlisted if needed as a radio operator! For the 2nd part of the test, I showed expertise in electronics - for example identifying what needed added to a circuit board to function as a transmitter – and in atmosphere physics, which influences if calls are short (Europe) or long (Australia).

Two conversations stand out. 1. Once ~ 1000 were people buzzing one radio operator (RO) for chat, indicating he must be special. The RO antenna was tuned to talk only to the UK. I was right person, right place, right time, and so conversed with the King of Jordan! (later confirmed by his aides). 2. While chatting with a friend 3 miles away, a request came to join the call. The new caller was a diamond prospector from Botswana in his land rover in the Kalahari desert...from deepest, darkest south Lanarkshire I could dream of sun, sand, diamonds."

Maurice is happy to talk to neighbours further about this – contact Isla on our whatsapps (unless you have a radio!). And until then from Maurice: "Thanks you for the QSO (*conversation*). 73s from GM0NBO, Maurice in Pettinain, South Lanarkshire Da-di-da".

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS: WHO WE ARE \\ MEETINGS \\ PLANNING\\

MICROGRANTS The Community Council (CC) is an organisation recognized by and supported by South Lanarkshire Council and other statutory bodies as a voice that can represent the Community. We receive Council funding to distribute to the community and we try to maintain community spirit through newsletters or organised events. Chair: Fin Stuart \\ Treasurer: Susan Waldron \\ Secretary: Ashleigh Dodds \\ Ordinary members: Iain Reynolds, John Adamson, Franks Hynds.

MEETINGS: At our 20th Feb 2025 we sadly accepted the resignation of Sharon Hope, secretary for many years (thanks Sharon), but welcomed Ashleigh Dodds to fill her boots. The 5th June meeting focussed particularly on concerns over traffic. Notably, the CC have written to SLC 3 times in 6 months over concerns about speeding. The minutes will be available on the pettinainvillagehall website under community council tab.

PLANNING UPDATES We have no knowledge of new planning applications. A liaison group is being explored with the quarry about everyday activities; their planning application is under consideration.

FUNDING UPDATES: COMMUNITY COUNCIL MICROGRANTS We have received our 25/26 £5000 allocation and can award grants up to £500 to support local groups and individuals for community-focused or charitable activities which i) enhance quality of life for residents and ii) contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities. Already we have interest for a community 1st aid session, a community archery taster session, and a fermentation workshop. The application process is very simple with a decision generally made quickly. We will consider applications as received until 50% of the funding is allocated and then we may have to set submission deadlines. Please email pettinaincommcouncil@pm.me for further information.