



WELCOME TO YOUR WINTER NEWSLETTER: SUSTAINABLE PETTINAIN UPDATE
\\ 2025 BURNS SUPPER \\ NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP \\ GETTING TO KNOW
PETTINAIN \\ COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

FIRST SOME WINTER HIGHLIGHTS: Winter can be cold and dark but that has not stopped our community seeing natural beauty in our wintery landscape and looking to and from our skies. Very appropriate as this year the moon is at a 'major lunar standstill', a phenomenon that occurs every 18.6 years. The moon will oscillate from extremely high in the sky to extremely low, at times barely skimming the horizon - to dramatic effect as the moon looks larger. This may be a perfect year to check out one of the community telescopes purchased with a Community Council microgrant.

More here <https://griffithobservatory.org/extreme-moon-the-major-lunar-standstills-of-2024-2025/>



Photo credits: Moon – Douglas; Aerial view of Cairngryffe St.

- Joseph with his new drone from Santa; Sunset- Sharon;

Remax's new approach to showing clients potential properties – George.

These photos were first shared on the Pettinain community whatsapp channels, so if not on them and want to join please ask and send any good photos to laighglengall@gmail.com

UPDATE FROM SUSTAINABLE PETTINAIN SCIO LOGISTICS \\ LOGO \\ WEBSITE\\

WHAT DO YOU WANT? The hall is now under community management, enabled by Sustainable Pettinain SCIO (SC053698) and funded by the SLC-held Renewable Energy Fund, and our own fundraising activity - which is also for wider Sustainable Pettinain SCIO (SPS) objectives.



The Trustees are still getting on top of the administrative processes, but successes include acquisition of a Business Bank Account and new community web pages which hosts the hall booking system. A big shout to Ian Hope and Dan Jones respectively for these... and to Iain Reynolds for the creation of a new logo. We hope the logo represents community interests, with houses (= people), notable

landmarks (e.g. the church = our built amenities, including the hall), trees (= our landscape and biodiversity) and plough lines on the hill slope (= our farming community, with apologies sheep and cows are excluded to keep it simpler and more effective). The 'able' in sustainable is emphasised to indicate the whole community **enable** success, not just the Trustees. The logo is undergoing some graphic improvement, but we felt fit to share with you now.



If you are unfamiliar with the objectives of SPS, an overview can be found on our new webpages [HERE](#)

<http://www.sustainablepettinain.org/> or

<https://www.pettinainvillagehall.com/> OR FROM OUR QR CODE

Here you will also find links to book our village hall. Hit the big blue button on the top right and go for it! Booking has been road-tested and considered very simple, but there are bound to be some glitches so bear with us, and any problems contact bookings@pettinainvillagehall.com

<https://www.pettinainvillagehall.com>

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The website is still being finessed and new pages will be developed, including space to host newsletters, photographs, and documents about Pettinain that otherwise may be lost as no longer in print. To support the interest in biodiversity in the community there will be a dashboard to record species sightings (or soundings, see the Nature on your Doorstep article).

To help prioritise our activities [PLEASE COMPLETE OUR ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE](#) (oh and book the hall!). It can be found at the web pages above or follow the QR code. Big thanks to Ashleigh, Jane and Isla for organizing.

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

WHAT A NIGHT THAT WAS... A **HUGE** thank you to those who supported the Community Council and SPS Ceilidh on 18th January: great fun and laughter, raising over £1,340 to help hall retention and development. This is not the John Adamson fanzine (see later), but his address to the haggis was **AMAZING!!!** The World Economic Forum (2017) noted "social connectedness is at least as [good for your health](#) as quitting smoking or exercise. It aids recovery from physical and mental illness and provides resilience for stressful life events and transitions." Current research finds similarly. Coming together to eat, dance, hold hands in a large circle, and whoop with abandon creates social connectedness, and having a very local hall enables this. More here:



<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2017/09/being-part-of-a-social-group-is-good-for-your-health-this-is-why/>

WHAT A NIGHT THAT WILL BE The survey responses will help plan the next CC/SPS led entertainment, but ideas mooted currently are a Race Night, Seasonal Quiz, Pot Luck Dinner and Easter Daffodil Tea (maybe prohibition style?!). Watch the Community whatsapp for news. These will be fundraisers. Anyone can organise events, and we can help. Reminder the Pop-Up comedians are booked for 20th September. Frankie's front row seat is being kept warm 😊

NATURE ON OUR DOORSTEP Thanks to Mary Gilbert for this article & superb sparrow photos We enjoy watching birds in our gardens or when out walking. But do you know what the birds are and how rare they are? Can you identify their songs? Our most common bird is the sparrow, but is it a house sparrow or tree sparrow? Do you know your great tit from a coal tit? And what about an

American red cardinal? This rarity was spotted here in late November! - probably an escapee as not found in the UK.

There are excellent guides to help learn and understand which feathered friends you saw or heard e.g., The (pocket size) Field Study Council 'Guide to the Top 50 Garden Birds'; the RSPB 'Handbook of Scottish Birds'; Royal Horticultural Society 'Birds in your Garden'. Each has wonderful images and descriptions. For sound, the most popular app is 'Merlin Bird ID' made by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It can identify birds across Europe (or globally, depending on your setting), identifying if they are uncommon, rare or endangered...you can create a list of the birds you have identified.

The RSPB conducted their annual Big Garden Birdwatch 24th-26th January – a chance to sit with a cuppa, relax for an hour and count garden birds. The Scottish Ornithological Society tracks numbers of birds seen in gardens, parks and reserves and [seek reports in S. Lanarkshire](#). Amateur records can be important research resources and thus the SPS and the Community Council webpage dedicated webpage to record sightings – and of all the wildlife – is great. In the meantime, as this is the winter newsletter don't forget to ensure freshwater is available for birds when freezing – and be aware of spreading disease when feeding.

Editorial notes: 1. the RPSB have pulled bird tables (horizontal feeders) over concerns they spread deadly diseases to finches. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/keep-your-garden-birds-healthy> 2. If someone in the community is interested in uploading sightings to the biodiversity recording webpage, we can train you. In the meantime, send your lists and photos if willing to share to chair@sustainablepettinain.org

DISCOVER PETTINAIN In the autumn 2024 newsletter we profiled Pettinain Kirk. There are many local farms in our community and some may know little of them. John Adamson has just joined the Community Council so we asked him to share his story. We all pass Swaites and Glentisset *en route* to Thankerton or Lanark respectively, so now you know better these landmarks. We are an interesting bunch with different stories, and it helps community spirit to understand one another and our area better. Contact laighglengall@gmail.com if you could be profiled next in **Discover Pettinain**. *Now, over to John and family, with thanks!*

Swaites Farm is 3rd generation, farmed by the Adamsons, having moved from Southolm Farm, Pettinain in 1954. Then the farm was milking 20 Ayrshire cows and 40 breeding sheep but today is milking 210 cows and 250 breeding sheep. This increase led to purchasing Glentisset Farm in Pettinain and renting Cloburn Farm and a few other fields locally.

Swaites is run by John, his wife Avril, their two boys, Jay & Ryan, along with John's parents William & Margaret and 3 full-time members of staff (Dee, Megan & Carson). The cows, predominantly Ayrshires and Red & White genetics, are milked twice daily starting at 5 am.



Top: male house sparrow - brown head/grey crown & cheeks, black bib; Middle: Redwing enjoying rowan berries; Bottom: American Red Cardinal (courtesy of a shy Pettinain resident).



Milk is sold to Muller UK and to the public through Co-op stores. During winter cows are fed twice daily with grass silage, made during the summer and clamped in an indoor pit, along with 8 kg of blend (maize, wheat, dark grains, soya & rape meal). The cows are grazed outdoors during the summer if Scottish weather allows! If not, it is back inside to the winter feed regime. A balanced and nutritional diet is central to a cow's milk production.

As a family we enjoy showing our cows at local and national shows. 2024 was very successful with Swaites Bracken (top) and Swaites Bright Spark (bottom) both winning their sections and Interbreed at the Great Yorkshire Show. We hope to one day win the big showing event of the year ... Carnwath Show! *(editorial notes: the Great Yorkshire Show is a BIG event; we flagged Carnwath show in the last newsletter, come along, Saturday 26th July 2025)*

Lambing starts early April with a mix of indoor and outdoor lambing. Lambs are mostly sold for meat production from September onwards. They are mostly Scottish Blackfaced ewes on the hill with a few English Herdwicks (much to Grandpa's disgust!).

Farming is a 24/7, 365 days a year job. Hard work but rewarding and important: **No Farming, No Food, No Future!**

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS: WHO WE ARE \\ AGM \\ 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 like this or organised events. Chair: Fin Stuart \\ Treasurer: Susan Waldron \\ Secretary: Sharon Hope \\ Ordinary members: Iain Reynolds, Ashleigh Dodds, John Adamson, Franks Hynds.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The AGM was 21st November 7 pm in Pettinain Hall. The existing office are continuing, in lieu of replacement volunteers – although we may need a new secretary soon. We welcome John Adamson and Frank Hynds as ordinary members. John was introduced earlier, Frank has recently moved to Raeburn Common. We thank Ian McLeod for time as an ordinary member, he was more than ordinary! The next meeting is 20th Feb. Please come.

PLANNING UPDATES We have no knowledge of new planning applications or further news re the Cloburn Quarry application.

FUNDING UPDATES: COMMUNITY COUNCIL MICROGRANTS For the first time we will spend our full microgrant allocation. Funding has supported the Comedy Night, Ceilidh & Burns Supper, purchase of pizza ovens, the new community web pages, the Forever Young Club (operating out of Thankerton, open to all), Friends of Biggar and Lanark Museum, a Badminton Group & new communal badminton equipment, SPS, and a Community council allocation for discretionary use (plans are also to support the hall sustainability with this). We hope our annual £5000 allocation will be renewed for 2025/26. Please email laighglengall@gmail.com for further information.

