



WELCOME TO YOUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER: SUSTAINABLE PETTINAIN UPDATE \ COMMUNITY EVENTS\ NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP \ GETTING TO KNOW PETTINAIN \ COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

FIRST SOME SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS: Welcome to autumn after a long hot summer. We have had fun community activities! Frank Hynds, a member of the Community Council, is a six-times Scottish archery champion. With a microgrant to cover expenses, Frank organised his archery club to come 29th July and offer an archery taster in the hall. Attendees outnumbered places booked, all age ranges were represented, it was a blast! And on that theme we now have 'small arrows', aka darts equipment to use, thanks to a microgrant application from Charlotte in Upper Pettinain! More info about Balbardie Archers here: <https://www.archeryclub.co.uk/>

The 2nd Pettinain comedy night, 20th September was another huge success, with a great line-up of 4 comedians. Everyone was wowed by the closing act, Chris Dinwoodie - a magician with a wicked sense of humour, or a comedian who is a fabulous magician... the act is seamless, so we are still unsure which. This was another fundraiser and as a result SP fighting fund is bolstered by £995!



Top: Archery taster; Right: we show our comedians a good time - Frank (archer) & Chris (comedian) having fun

Susan, Ruth and Fin hosted a Macmillan coffee morning on 27th September and raised a whopping £971. A huge thank to all who supported this event.

UPDATE FROM SUSTAINABLE PETTINAIN SCIO (SPS) BIRTHDAY \ PETTINAIN-150-CLUB \ COMMUNITY SURVEY WEBSITE Sustainable Sustainable Pettinain SCIO is 1 year old! Happy Birthday to us! In year 1 we have made the following possible: retained access to a village hall; made the hall more energy efficient and safer; secured a hall entertainment license; organised multiple community social events including a comedy night, Burns Supper and ceilidh, an Easter Day for children, and VE day celebrations. In keeping the hall open we have supported community access to yoga, clubbercise, darts, archery tasters, soft tennis, badminton, kids' play, and birthday parties. We have supported events for charities such as the Preservation of Ancient Buildings conference using Pettinain Kirk for a study site, and the Macmillan coffee morning.

We are super-pleased to announce that we have a further year of funding from SLC Renewable Energy Fund to run the hall (big thanks to Ian Hope for leading on this). Additionally, we will shortly receive £5000 from a SLC Local Action fund - giving sufficient fund-raised capital to support another year if needed (although priorities for this spend have still to be discussed).

Free high-speed broadband is now available hall (big thanks to Dan and Ashleigh), which opens opportunities for new events, such as gaming nights, or maybe even cinema nights! And we have

had permission from SLC that alcohol can be consumed on the premises with no need for an occasional alcohol license as long as the alcohol is free (e.g., no direct purchase or BYOB levy). So, this should make it easier to host the party / event your heart desires.



L to R: Did you know the hall is big enough for a bouncy castle, and it could take a bigger one than in the photo?! (Thanks to Mark McC for the photo). Ruth's fab baking! Brilliant darts!

Reflecting on what we in SPS have made possible reminds us why we do it... but really success depends on the community, and you reader, bringing your ideas forward. Hall hire is cheap as we subsidise it through grant-funding: £15 per hour in winter. From our web pages, you will find links to book your village hall: <https://www.pettinainvillagehall.com/>. Hit the big blue booking request button on the top right and go for it! Any problems contact bookings@pettinainvillagehall.com

SUSTAINABLE PETTINAIN 150 CLUB: SLC have approved the 150 Club, our planned monthly private lottery for residents from Pettinain parish. Time constraints mean we will have to wait until 2026 to take this further, you can still register from our web pages to find out more.

WEBSITE COMMUNITY SURVEY Here is a short summary of the survey many of you responded to – thanks! The fuller anonymized survey results will be posted later on the website.

✓ Key takeaways

- o The majority of respondents are residents aged 50+
- o Transport is the biggest challenge - most are dissatisfied
- o The type of social events SP volunteers have organized are welcome, with respondents most interested in a quiz night
- o There was moderate interest in first aid training and defibrillator support, but willingness to actively help achieve such changes is lower.

✓ SP response

- SLC transport concerns have been passed to the CC to raise appropriately with Councillors. If anyone sees funding opps for e-bikes, let us know as we could explore this.
- The first fast, funky and furious quiz night is planned for Sat 7th February. More details to follow.
- There have been three coffee mornings in 2025 (Easter tea, VE day, Macmillan). Community participation could be much stronger. Please support these! And consider organising one?
- Annie Clayton has applied to the British Heart Foundation on SPS behalf for a free defibrillator to be sited at the hall – thanks Annie, fingers crossed! We would like to secure another 2 defibrillators – for lower Pettinain and Grange Road end. Who from these areas wants to come forward and help with this project? Locations for the defibrillators are required. Should the bus-stop not be possible, is anyone in lower Pettinain willing to host one? Ditto Grange Road?
- If we secure a defibrillator we can look to combine training here with first aid training.

SPS are open, welcoming and keen all Pettinain interests are represented. Our objectives can be found <http://www.sustainablepettinain.org/> If helping with SPS activity interests you, or have other questions, contact chair@sustainablepettinain.org

NATURE ON OUR DOORSTEP Thanks to Oliver Hubbard for text. In the 20th century, Scotland lost approximately half its hedgerows. The biggest losses were 1960-80s, as agricultural practices modernised and increased mechanisation. Since the 1990s this decline has halted and today, the estimated length of total hedgerows in Scotland is 22,000 kilometres or 13,700 miles. Recent agri-environmental policies and initiatives have enabled the planting of several thousand km in the last couple of decades, helping to stabilise and increase this highly-valuable resource.

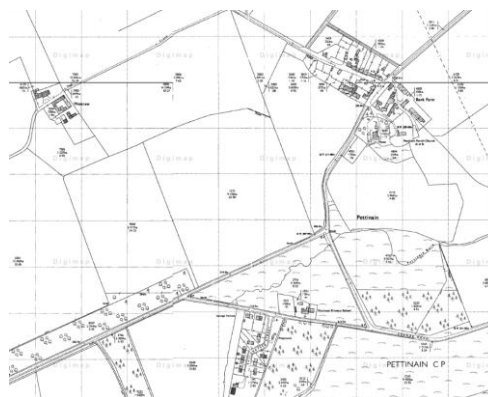
Hedges can often be several hundred years old and serve several practical purposes. As a natural field windbreak, windspeed is reduced, protecting crops and helping to prevent soil erosion.

Livestock use them as shelter from wind and rain, and a well-maintained hedge doubles as an impenetrable barrier for these same animals. Edible hedges were planted with food-producing plants and trees – gooseberry, raspberry, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, elder are commonly seen.

A good hedge benefits everyone. These rich and diverse miniature landscapes create nature highways and visual variety. A 2015 study of 90m of an old hedge found an astonishing 2,070 different species of animals, plants, insects, fungi and lichens. They attract insect pollinators and provide refuge for insects, birds and small mammals that eat pest-species. A 2025 publication in the Journal 'Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment' backed up what "*farmers already know*" (James Robinson: Chair of the Nature Friendly Farming Network (England)): hedges store almost 50% more carbon than intensively-managed grassland. Gardeners can enhance this by weaving hedge cuttings through / under the hedge to decompose and create new habitat for resident wildlife.

And hedges are beautiful! Dog roses and honeysuckles add colour, variety and height in the hedges. Around their edges' wildflowers grow. Who hasn't marvelled at the thick, white-cream blossoms of the hawthorn, the fresh, vibrant green of new beech leaves, or birds darting in and around the heavy green growth of summer, feeding their young and themselves? Watch now, as autumn takes hold, nature offers the season's bounty and the hedges pull back and transform for winter, storing next season's growth underground until spring.

DISCOVER PETTINAIN: The article on hedges may leave you wondering how has our landscape changed over time? Historical maps are a fascinating resource to find this detail. Such maps can be accessed from free The National Library of Scotland <https://maps.nls.uk/os/> These comparative Pettinain images a century apart (left, 1860; right 1970) show that the prevalence of hedging and field trees has decreased over the years, similar to many other UK landscapes. And some new forestry areas, some as a plantation crop, have been developed.



If you poke around in the online maps additionally the location of the Roman Fort in Cloburn Woods and a limestone mine addit can be found!

Please share

anything else interesting you find for future newsletters... There is a great project here is anyone wants to apply for a microgrant to generate some good images for the hall or a booklet about Pettinain and how it has changed!

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

MICROGRANTS The Community Council (CC) is recognized 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. Chair: Fin Stuart \\Treasurer: Susan Waldron \\ Secretary: Ashleigh Dodds \\ Ordinary members: Iain Reynolds, John Adamson, Franks Hynds.

MEETINGS: The last committee meeting took place on 3rd September. The minutes will be on the Pettinain Hall web pages under the CC menu. Key items discussed were 1) the scatter flat in Raeburn Common, 2) the Cloburn Quarry planning application, 3) road safety and 4) the potential community endowment from the Rural Development fund overseen by Councillors, all substantial issues to discuss. Disappointingly, and this is the norm, parish attendance was very low.

The AGM will take place in the village hall on 17th November 2025, 7pm. Please come along. We need new committee members to at least replace Treasurer and Chair: Susan has been treasurer since 2017 and before that secretary. Fin has been chair for 5 years. The responsibility to maintain this statutory body and the benefits this confers needs to be shared by others. Those leaving post can 'support' new incumbents and it is not onerous really...but if the CC goes we will lose so much...

ROAD SAFETY UPDATES Repeatedly since March 2024 the CC have written to SLC outlining concerns over road safety. It took SLC more than 6 months, to respond, with a very full email explaining why the status quo would remain in the short-term. We understand Council resources are limited, but road safety is increasing concern, with recently 2 vehicles overturned near residences. It was agreed at the last meeting to table to SLC a risk assessment outlining hazards and mitigating actions. This was sent on 12th September and hard copies were sent to SLC Chief Executive and legal team. As hoped, this elicited a quicker response. On 8th October 2 SLC roads engineering officers carried out a site walkover in the 30 mph zones. Key areas discussed were a speed limit reduction and demarcating pedestrian paths on the roads. We await now feedback.

PLANNING UPDATES The application to extend Cloburn Quarry for 40 years has been approved in principle. The SLC planning summary failed to include summary comment from our Community Council objection (this position to reflect feedback we received). The CC is formally a consultative body with a statutory right of reply where individuals cannot. SLC failed to not recognize and respect that in their actions. The outcome may have been materially different if this was brought properly to the planning committee attention. The CC lodged a formal letter of complaint about this omission -not upheld - so are now considering whether to take the matter to the Ombudsman.

FUNDING UPDATES: COMMUNITY COUNCIL MICROGRANTS have been awarded from our 25/26 £5000 allocation to support an archery taster session, the community Comedy Night, an individual to compete internationally in a dance competition, the purchase of darts equipment for the hall. Three other applications are in draft, but if successful there would still remain up to £1500 to allocate before April 2026. Please contact us if you have an idea for £500 to support community-focused or charitable activities which i) enhance quality of life for residents and ii) contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities! The application process is simple with a decision generally made quickly. Email pettinaincommcouncil@pm.me

FINALLY, GREAT EVENTS COMING: Christmas Fayre in the hall on 7th Dec. 1-4pm, organized by Anne Galloway (of the great Easter fun day, helpers welcome). First, fast furious, fab quiz: 7th Feb! Clubbercise (Tues. 6.30pm) and yoga (Sat., 10am) open to all (a small charge). We use Whatsapp, and Facebook, to share event news between newsletters. To be added to contact chair as above.

