



Christian Purdie



Name: Christian Purdie

Although the Annals of Penicuik say it was shortly after midnight, court records say it was actually around 2am that John Lowrie (or Laurie) spotted Christian, Mareon and Agnes at their wee bonfire.

Why were they out at that time of night, in the middle of a field? Perhaps a private party or seasonal celebration? We don't know if they lived nearby, or maybe even decided to camp out there for the night.

It might have been in the warm Summer months of 1659- it is said John took 2 years or so to make his accusation of witchcraft. The fact so much time had passed may not have helped his case.

*Ah am Christian Purdie.
They said they saw us circle a fire at midnight,
napkins in our hands.
It was Yule,
and we warmed cloths.
That was the whole o' it.
Still, the man spoke against us,
so we asked the pricker.
Needles tae the skin proved us women, not
witches.
They cleared us,
and punished him for lies.
Yet I shook as I walked home,
for truth
is a quiet friend,
and fear speaks loud.*