

STRATHDEARN NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 No 2.

May 2009

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

immediately followed by an
ORDINARY MEETING

in the Strathdearn Hall on TUESDAY 19th MAY 2009 beginning at 7.30 pm

ALL WELCOME

STRATHDEARN HALL AGM

The AGM will be held on Thursday 7 May 2009 at 7.30pm at the Hall
Please would all user groups arrange for a representative
to attend the meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday 8th May

Fundraiser for Malawi Health clinics

Kitchen appliances and cookery demo
Strathdearn Hall, 7.30pm

Tickets £5. Refreshments provided.

Friday 15th May

WRI Fundraiser

Strathdearn Hall 7.30pm
Refreshments and Sales Table

Saturday 16th May

Marie Curie Cancer Care Sponsored Walk

Tomatin/Upper Findhorn
Info: 0870 240 1021

www.mariecurie.org.uk

Friday 29th May

Gardening Club Plant Sale

Strathdearn Old Hall 7.30pm

June (date tba)

Hospice Fundraiser

Strathdearn Hall
Info: Anne Hart 511724

Saturday 11th July

Meallmore Fun Day

Meallmore Lodge 2pm
Raffle, Tombola, Sales etc

Fri/Sat 21st/22nd August

Art Exhibition

Strathdearn Hall

Saturday 5th September

Flower Show

Strathdearn Old Hall

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

First Monday of the Month September to May (ex.January)

7.30pm, Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall

WRI

Contact: Carol James 531220

2nd & 4th Mondays of Month

7.30pm, Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall

Needlecraft

Contact: Chris West 511412

3rd Monday of Month

7.30pm, Findhorn Room
Strathdearn Hall,

Gardening Club

Contact: Alex Don 511729

(During Term-Time☺

Fridays 9.45 - 11.45 am
Strathdearn Hall

Croileagan Tom Aitinn

(Tomatin Gaelic Playgroup)

Contact: Rosemary Dempster 531215

Every Wednesday

10.30 am Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall,

Community Coffee Morning

All Welcome

Every Wednesday

2pm Strathdearn Hall

Walking Group

Contact: Kathy Bonniface 511740

WELL DONE AND THANKYOU

Well done and congratulations to Danni Cameron and Olivia Raine for raising £217.60 for Comic Relief. The girls did a sponsored silence on Friday the 13th of March which lasted from 9.00am to 3.30pm. They managed the whole day in school with all the distractions and were very relieved when it finished. Again, well done to them both.

[sent in by Lee Hammell]

Wednesdays during term-time

5.30 - 7pm Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall

YOGA

Contact: Pam Hardwick 511766

Every Thursday

11am – 12noon Tomatin Inn

Coffee Morning

Every Thursday

11.30am – 1.30pm Tomatin Inn

POST OFFICE

Every Thursday

1.30pm Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall,

Art Class

Contact: Betty Watson 511271

Last Friday of Month (venue varies)

Strathdearn Book Club

See Notices for details.

Contact: Michelle Bertie

Monthly, various dates

Natural History Club

Some indoor, some outdoor, events.

Days vary, so look out for posters.

Contact: David Bonniface 511740

or Carol James 531220

1st Strathdearn Rainbow

and Brownie Unit

for girls aged 5 - 10.

Contact Alison (511369)

or Trish (511486)

**My grateful thanks to all neighbours, friends
and relatives who thought kindly of me during
my snowed-up stay in hospital in February.**

Mary Noble

Thank You.....

To all the people who supported the table top sale in February. The money raised came to £230 - this was presented to the MS centre in Inverness, who thanked everyone in Tomatin for their kindness. Anne Hart

FLOWER SHOW

Just a reminder that the 2009 Flower Show will be held on Saturday September 5th.

The schedule was published in the last newsletter, but further copies will be available from the Village Shop and from Gardening Committee members from mid May onwards.

The schoolchildren's challenge this year is to grow calendula (marigolds) from seed so we look forward to a colourful display from them.

You don't have to be a great gardener to enter our show and with art, photography, handicraft, baking and floral art sections, in addition to flowers and fruit and veg there really is something for everyone to enter.

Step It Up Highland

We enjoy our walking at all times of year, but spring time is particularly special, as we can combine our exercise with looking out for signs of new growth, and the arrival of birds we have not seen for several months.

Always a spring favourite is our woodland walk at Slochd, which we trod recently. The pleasure of seeing the primroses, violets, wood anemones, wood sorrel and others was such a valuable addition to our afternoon. We have also been on another walk to greet our local ospreys, and to enjoy the lapwings, curlews and oyster catchers in the Findhorn valley.

Why not come and join us on Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 PM usually at Strathdearn Hall? This walking is for all: if the present routes are too far for you then we are very willing to plan shorter walks as well for those who would like to get a little more exercise in pleasant company. We always end with a cuppa and a chat.

If you would like to know more, do contact Kathy or David Bonniface on 511740, or Carol James on 531220.

We would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind thoughts and wishes that we received after the loss of a much loved and dearly missed wife, mother and nana, Patricia Paulovics.

We would also like to thank Vivian Roden and Rev Campbell for a lovely service and the support that Vivian has given us during this sad time.

Thank you. Anuska and Family

Natural History Club

Spring seems to be fairly firmly with us at last, with migrant birds such as willow warblers, swallows and sand martins returned. Trees are greening up and the early flowers, coltsfoot, daisies, primroses in flower. Our own Springwatch was, as ever, an enjoyable event and we now look forward to our Summer programme.

In May we will be visiting the Aigas centre near Beauly. The evening will include a talk on the work of the Centre, including the re-introduction of beavers to the Scottish Highlands, followed at dusk by a visit to watch the beavers. This has been arranged at a special price of £10 for members – who may join the club now for the annual membership fee of £5. Existing members are reminded that their subs are also due now!

We will meet at Tomatin Hall to organise the group into a sensible number of vehicles for the trip leaving at 5:45 PM. Warm clothing a good idea – but I have been advised that “crackly” waterproofs disturb the beavers! Please contact me - David Bonniface on 511740 - before May 18th if you wish to come so that I can give Aigas an idea of numbers – which will be limited due to the size of the hide. First come first on the list!

This should be a special evening! (it will be a late return to Tomatin as the beavers only “get going” around 10PM.

June's event is an early evening foray around the village on Thursday 25th June in the company of James Fenton looking at mosses and liverworts: start time 6pm at the Community Hall. Please join us for an informative and enjoyable evening. If you wish to continue with a meal at the Tomatin Inn at 8pm please let me know - David Bonniface on 01808 511740 - before Wednesday 24th June.

It's always difficult to plan events in July and August, due to holidays. We will try and get out as a group during this time but it may be a last minute “phone round” arrangement – a kind of Summer Watch perhaps.

We end the summer on Thursday September 24th at 7:30 with a talk by James Fenton on “Upland Ecology”. This should be of great interest, not only to those who love the hills for leisure, but also to those actively involved in estate and habitat management.

Strathdearn Youth Group Snowboarding Trip

On the 13th of March, 11 youths embarked on a trip to Badaguish. Our group included Fraser Mackay, Tom Bell, Murray Manson, Ruairaidh MacDonald, Hector Bryden, Aaron Newson, Georgie & Hannah Bell, Jessica Fyffe and Louise Beaumont.

We stayed at a Highland Council lodge at Badaguish Outdoor centre. The centre has a number of lodges, an aerial assault course an Astroturf pitch and several swings and challenges over water.

The lodges are nicely furnished, very clean and have good appliances. They are built on two levels and include a kitchen and four bathrooms.

When we arrived at the lodge we were told the rules of the lodge by one of instructors, Ron, before being sent to make our beds. After we had finished he handed out the kit for snowboarding such as waterproofs, jackets, helmets etc. Once all of our new kit was stored safely up in our rooms, we were allowed to relax until lights out.

We were woken at 6:30 am the following morning, and to the surprise of all the adults, we managed to get up! We had finished our breakfast by 7:30, so we had to wait an hour for the instructors to arrive, spent speculating about whether we would be able to go snowboarding and bombarding Alan with various questions.

When they arrived they told us that we were not going snowboarding, but mountain biking instead. It was revealed later that day that on the summit of Cairngorm winds had been gusting at over 100 mph. We then got another set of kit handed out for mountain biking, and made our pack lunches for later that day. The mountain biking was great; we cycled for most of the day, and had lunch on top of a hill with breathtaking views of the countryside. The most enjoyable part was probably coming down the hill that we had our lunch on, as it was the fastest part.

Debbi Mackay and Fifi Bell were our "Chalet Girls" and they served up a delicious spaghetti Bolognese for dinner that night, that was received well, if only it was because we were all starving from the mountain biking.

We went to bed earlier that night, tired and wanting to save our energy for snowboarding the next day.

In the morning the adults, learning their lesson from the previous day, woke us up a little later, but told us we would have to strip our beds and get packed before breakfast.

When the instructors arrived, they told us that the weather had improved and we would get to go snowboarding. We got ready and travelled to Cairngorm in the minibus where we were given our snowboards for the day. We left our stuff at the bottom of the hill and took the funicular to the top where we were snowboarding. The Funicular provides an amazing view of the countryside. However one of Scotland's best skiing runs, The White Lady, had been ruined when it was built.

We were snowboarding in the Ptarmigan Bowl, an easy beginner's run. We were shown how to put on the boards, and were then unleashed on the slope. Ruairaidh was the only one with any experience, so most of us were complete novices to the sport. We started with some easy techniques before moving onto changing direction through weight distribution. That may sound complicated, but it wasn't really. By the time we went for lunch most of us could do the falling leaf, where you go down the slope broadside and

drift from side to side like a falling leaf. The instructors said that we had progressed very quickly, although I'm sure they say that to everyone.

After lunch we tried some more advanced techniques, like jumps and going down parallel to the slope. By the end we were all tired from climbing back up the slope although we would have liked to stay for longer.

We went back to lodge where we tidied up our rooms and got everything packed up and ready to go. After getting everything packed in to the minibus we went home.

I think I can speak on behalf of all of the kids who got to go when I say we had a great time. Now I will thank Alan Hardwick for all of his time he put into this, the instructors for taking us out on these great activities, The "Chalet Girls" for cooking for us and Dougie the Millburn Outdoor Education Officer. Last but not least I would like to thank the Beaumont family who certainly helped a lot at meals and during the tidying-up process.

In conclusion I will say that it was great again, but I am sad that the Highland Council is cutting its budget on these things, as both the minibus and the mountain bikes we used are going to be sold.

Fraser Sutherland

STRATHDEARN BEAVERS AND CUBS

The Scout Association provides adventurous activities and personal development opportunities to help young people achieve their full potential whilst having fun. I am interested in setting up a Beavers (6-8 years) and a Cubs (8-10 years) unit in Strathdearn but for this group to get off the ground we need your help.

Volunteering in Scouting is fun and rewarding. You will have the chance to learn new skills, rediscover adventure, make new friends and give something back to your community. For those who are working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme this is a great opportunity to meet the requirements of the Volunteering section of the award! You may feel that you have no skills to offer scouting but everyone has something to give and not all roles involve working directly with young people.

The District Commissioner is happy to come and meet with prospective helpers and once we have a core group of help in place then we can move forward with populating the unit. The headmistress of Strathdearn primary school, Mrs MacRae, has kindly agreed that the unit can meet at the school. If you would like any more information then please do get in touch. Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you!

Ruth Mantle 511287 huskyruth@yahoo.co.uk

TOMATIN DISTILLERY VISITOR CENTRE AND GIFT SHOP

Open 7 days per week until October 09. Tours: Monday - Friday at £2 per person.

Tel: 01463 248 144

If you don't want a Tour, come and browse through our gift shop and watch our DVD - have a taste of our 12 year old single malt whisky, free of charge. (soft drinks supplied for under 18's)

Private Presentation, Nosing and Tasting Tours

Available at £30 per person, please book ahead of time for this one, on: 01463 248 148/144

Church of Scotland
Parish of Moy, Dalarossie and Tomatin
Minister: Rev R F Campbell, Daviot Manse, Daviot. Tel: 01463 772242
www.strathsnairnanddearn.co.uk

Sunday Club:

welcomes primary-school aged children every Sunday morning during term-time in the Strathdearn Hall at 10.30 am (except for the second Sunday of the month when there is a Family Service). Further information from Sandra 01808 511246.

Breakfast Club:

Join us for freshly brewed coffee, bacon rolls and croissants, fresh fruit and yogurt followed by discussion of a Bible passage from John's Gospel, and a time of singing and prayer. Come to the Strathdearn Hall for all, or some of the morning (9.30am for Breakfast/10.30am for the Bible passage/11.30am for singing and prayer) On Mondays 18th and 25rd May, and 22nd and 29th June. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355.

Services (all at 10.30 am unless stated otherwise):

May:

10th : Strathdearn Hall Family Service with Tea afterwards.
17th: Dalarossie Church
24th : Moy Church

June:

7th: Dalarossie Church
14th:: Strathdearn Hall Family Service with Tea afterwards.
21st: Dalarossie Church
28th Moy Church

July:

5th: Dalarossie Church
12th: Tomatin Church
19th: Dalrossie Church
26th: Moy Church

August:

2nd: Dalarossie Church

Other News:

We were very grateful to Mrs Sheila Don and Mrs Betty Watson for the super banner they made for the Easter Prayer Walk this year. It should brighten up our Easter Services for many years to come. Thanks again ladies.

Highland Luis Palau Festival 19 – 20 June:

Churches throughout the Highlands have given their backing to this

exciting venture. For

further details see:

www.highlandfestival.org

All are most welcome to join in any or all of our Services or Activities

TOMATIN AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB
PROGRAMME

18th May Hit Squad Night – Strathdearn Hall 7.30pm,
to tidy up garden area.
29th May Plant Sale - Strathdearn Old Hall 7.30pm
June Garden visit, tba
17th August Arrangements for Flower Show, Strathdearn Hall 7.30pm
5th September Flower Show, Strathdearn Old Hall, all day.

WANTED

Domestic cleaner for 2-3 hours,
once per month.

Phone Michelle on 511411
if interested

Secretary: Sheila Don 511729. New members always welcome.

Strathdearn Primary School Poetry

There once was a lad called Brad
Whose mother was completely mad
He kicked his brother
"NO" said his mother
"I'll throttle you!" said his dad
By Gavin P7 and Lewis P6

There was a young boy called Roy,
Who played with his favourite toy,
The toy was called Billy
They both were really silly
And Roy ended up being a toy.
By Rebekah P6 and Louise P7

"I was watching T.V." said Tom
Then the adverts did come on
He said, "Time for a break"
The T.V. did shake
Tom ran as fast as a bomb
By Tiffani P6

There once was a hamster called Molly
Who liked very much eating lollies
She said "I like hats"
"But I don't much like cats"
Then bit her good owner Holly.
By Ethan P6, Grant P6 and Olivia P7

There once was a sly little fox
Who had very blonde curly locks
He said "Dya like my hair?
Well I really don't care!"
Because I live in a glass box.
By Danni P7, Holly P7 and Sebastian P6

My llama is quite a charmer
I'd never do anything to harm her
She married a frog
Now they live in a bog
And they both salute Obama
By Charlie P6, Callum P7 and Hilary P6

Jim the canary was fat
He looked like a squished out rat
His mummy said "Go!"
And his daddy said "No!"
The canary was killed by a bat!
By James P7 and Lewis P6

There once was a girl called Carly

Who liked to eat only barley
She bought a new puppy
She did name it Muppy
Then they both road off on a Harley
By Tiffani P6

There once was a little cub
Who always went down to the pub
He ordered a beer
That made him feel queer
And then ate a magical shrub
By Hilary P6, Danni P7 and Olivia P7

I once had a little brown dog
Who loved to walk in the fog
He found a squeaky bone
That sounded like a saxophone
And not like a croaky old frog
By Holly P7 and Sebastian P6

There was a man of Inverness
He was a really big fat mess
He ate a pie
It made him die
He was covered in water cress
By Lewis P6 and Gavin P7

There once was a man called Jerry
His favourite player is Terry
He lived in a house
Which was invaded by a Mouse
And now Jerry lives in a ferry
By Callum P7, Charlie P6 and Hilary P6

HALL SURVEY

As everyone should be aware, the Hall Committee recently asked me to hold a survey of Strathdearn residents, to ask what the future of old Hall should be. The Survey showed a clear and overwhelming majority in favour of demolishing the old Hall, and building a new Community Centre. The results were as follows:

Demolish the Old Hall and build a new multi-purpose Hall on the site of the tennis court/Old Hall	141 VOTES (77%)
Build an extension to the existing New Hall (this will attract VAT)	11 VOTES (6%)
Re-roof Old Hall and upgrade to modern standard	23 VOTES (13%)
Any other suggestions	8 VOTES (4%)

After 28th February the following votes were received:

Demolish the Old Hall... 4 votes

Re-roof Old Hall... 1 vote

These results have been notified to the Hall Committee, and will be discussed at the Hall AGM, to be held on Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm.

Duncan Hendry
Community Development Worker

Inverness Time Bank

Volunteering Highland has launched a new and innovative concept called Time Banking in Inverness.

Time Banking is an exciting way for people to come together in their communities and interest groups to share their talents in a mutually beneficial way. The concept is built on the principle that for every hour a person contributes they receive the equivalent in time credits which they can then exchange. These exchanges of time can be activities such as taking someone's dog a walk to giving someone a lift home from the shops. Everybody's contribution is measured in the time they give. For example, one hour of legal advice is the same as one hour of sewing. Time Banking operates on the belief that everybody - young or old - has something to offer.

If you are interested in becoming a Time Bank member or just finding out some more information please get in touch with Nicola on 01463 711393 or
Email: enquiries@volunteeringhighland.org

MRS PATRICIA PAULOVICS

1950 - 2009

Mrs Pat Paulovics was born in Forres, the third child, and only daughter, of Margaret and Alexander, a farmworker whose job meant that the family had to move around to different places, including Forres, Auldearn, Daviot and Farr.

Pat left school at 16 to train as a cook, gaining her City & Guilds qualifications. She got a job in the Diet Kitchen at Raigmore to begin with, and then when she was 17, went to Guernsey, where she worked as a Cook in the Yestor Hotel in St Peter Port.

It was there she met Steve, when he came to work as a Chef at the hotel. They met on May 14th 1968, and he must have been a good boss because romance quickly blossomed in the kitchen and they were married on the 20th August 1968. They had their differences, like everyone else, but they were to enjoy 40 years of happy married life together.

They had the chance of owning a hotel on Guernsey, but Pat wanted to go home. Her family stayed in a farmhouse between Nairn and Inverness at the time, and Pat and Steve went to live with them temporarily.

They weren't there long. John McDonald from the Tomatin Distillery came to his mother-in-law's house one day and offered Steve a job as a Drying Plant Operator, and shortly afterwards they moved to the Distillery Cottages.

They had four children – Steven, Juliska, Patricia and Anuska – and Pat was a full-time mum until the Little Chef opened, and she went back to work, mainly as a cook. Pat was promoted to supervisor, and she stayed with the Little Chef for a number of years before going to work at the City Florists in the Victorian Market in Inverness. After this she worked as a childminder in the village for a few years, before getting jobs in the Tomatin Inn and the Distillery.

Always a hard worker, when Steve was asked about Pat's hobbies – he said "work" was one of them. A caring mother and grandmother, she also loved flowers and enjoyed gardening - some said she had the best garden in the Distillery.

Pat loved hot weather; and she and Steve enjoyed holidays in Turkey, Bulgaria and Steve's native Hungary.

A spirited lady, Pat fought against her increasingly ill health with great determination and courage, and with all the strength she could muster, impressing the hospital staff with her bravery.

Pat was very much loved, and she gave a lot of love back. She will be missed, but let's be grateful that at least now she's at peace and free from pain.

Tomatin Under 11's Football

Last year we were fortunate to be awarded £250 by Awards For All, for the purchase of new goals for use at the Raigbeg pitch. These goals were intended to be used for training, tournaments and for the use of the community at large. Unfortunately one of these goals was damaged beyond repair after only 1 week! The nets of both goals are now damaged.

Whilst we have tried to affect a repair could I ask all users to use the equipment responsibly as we have no funds to replace the goals and their misuse impacts on the wider community.

Steven Raine Tomatin U 11's

ART IN STRATHDEARN

Our Art Club continues to flourish with afternoon sessions in Strathdearn Hall on most Thursdays from 1.30 to 3.30. Membership has grown with eighteen now on our books the furthest travelled coming from Newtonmore and Farr. Due to this increase the Hall Committee kindly purchased a further four small tables similar to those existing but with folding legs to suit storage requirements.

This year our first tutor was Heather Cary from Drumnadrochit who, with a great sense of humour and particular skill in teaching, introduced us to pastel painting of dogs. Her methodical approach touched on historical aspects, the importance of understanding the skeletal structure, articulation, movement and character of the animals. After painting from her photos of dogs we had to sketch Heather's own spaniel and dachshund in various poses. She prefers to paint live animals as she can then better appreciate their character. Heather teaches a variety of subjects at Inverness College her most recent qualification being in fly casting!

On 14th May we look forward to welcoming Mary Black from Hopeman who is going to open our eyes to abstract painting in whatever medium we choose so the results of this could be very exciting.

Some time in June we hope to have an outing to Farr to join Jenny Sargent and, weather permitting, capture some of her landscapes.

On Monday 27th April six of us paid a visit to Bogbain where we enjoyed a special lunch and demonstration of watercolour painting by Paul Taggart from near Fearn.

Our Annual Exhibition in Strathdearn Hall on 21st. and 22nd. August this year will give you the opportunity of seeing the results of our efforts and those of our Primary School who will be displaying the work of their painting competition.

Towards the end of this year we shall be

welcoming the return of Jonathan Wheeler from Findhorn who enjoyed two workshops with us last year. He and his Brazilian wife joined us at our Christmas lunch.

Anyone who wishes to contact our club should 'phone our President Mrs. Betty Watson.

Alasdair Wallace

ENERGY SAVINGS DAY

On Saturday 28th February, we had an Energy Savings Day in the Hall, at which a representative from the Energy Savings Trust gave advice to members of this community on a number of issues including energy purchase and consumption designed to reduce the amount spent heating and lighting our homes.

Many residents took advantage of the free advice and information available, and many are having Home Energy Checks, where a representative comes to your house and advises on how savings can be made. Having just had one of these myself, I can confirm it was informative, interesting, and above all free. There were no intrusive questions, just a few general enquiries designed to supply the information required to enable the best advice to be given. One of the things I was told immediately was that my loft insulation was woefully inadequate, and should be at least 27 centimetres deep (that's about 10 inches for those of us of a certain vintage), and that increased insulation would be on the report sent to me. It should also be noted that some measures to save you money cost you nothing at all!

The Energy Savings Check was one and a half hours of my time well spent which will lead to me saving money over the months and years to come.

For anyone wishing to take advantage of this Home Energy Check, phone 01463 258847, and ask for an appointment.

Duncan Hendry
Community Development Worker

SCHOOL NEWS

THE HIGHLAND EUROQUIZ

The start

On Thursday the 12th of March there was a Euroquiz heat at Millburn Academy in Inverness. The quiz was open to any school in the Highlands. Each team could only have four members and they had to be Primary 6s. The winning team would get to go to the parliament building in Edinburgh. The winners of each heat in every Scottish region would also go to the parliament building on the same day. The Strathdearn Primary 6s decided on a team. The team was: Rebekah Macleod, Hilary Steer, Grant Ross and myself, Lewis Mackay. We brought the rest of Primary 6&7 for support. We got a bus to Millburn Academy and we were directed by staff to the assembly hall. Each team had a table. The rest of Primary 6&7 were sitting in the audience. There were twelve teams entered including us. Before the quiz started there was juice, biscuits and muffins for us to eat. When all the teams arrived the quiz started. There was a total of three rounds and then the best two teams went head to head in the final.

The quiz

All the questions were on a Powerpoint projected onto a big screen. The first round was 20 questions and each one was multiple choice. All the questions were focused on the European Union or the EU for short. We scored a very pleasing 17/20. In the second round it was also 20 questions but it wasn't a multiple choice round. We scored a respectful 16/20. In the third round we worked in pairs and got a good score of 34/40. We came 3rd in the whole competition. Balloch and Portree got to the final and Balloch won.

My opinion

I think the team did very well and did the school proud. The new Millburn Academy is amazing and I can't wait till I go to Millburn!

By Lewis Mackay P6

FLYBE FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

By Charlie Fuller P6

On Wednesday the 25th of March 8 Strathdearn pupils travelled to the Tulloch Caledonian Stadium in Inverness for the Flybe Football Festival

The team

The team included:

Grant Ross (C), Charlie Fuller, Hilary Steer, Rebekah MacLeod, Tiffani Morgan, Keely Cameron, Kyle MacLeod and Ewen Ross. All the pupils are from p5/6.

The event

The eight pupils and auxiliary Mrs Bishop, got a Bremmers of Aviemore bus up to the stadium. There were 12 teams there including Strathdearn from all over Inverness. At first a man called Jake did a warm up with all the participants, while the teachers got the fixtures. Strathdearn's first game was a draw with a great goal from Keely Cameron. When the games were on the other teams would have a training session with the Caley youth team. The games were 5 minutes long, then after 8 games and 8 training sessions it was lunch followed by a small tour of the stadium and then after that it was back to some more football. During the second half of the day 8 first team players came and met some of the participants, a lot of the children who took part got the first team autographs. Once the football was done the only thing left to do was the prize giving.

The prize giving

There were four different types of awards: best player, best team celebration, best team support and best goal. Everyone who took part got a goody-bag from the first team players.

Opinion

Hilary Steer stated, "It was a fun and interesting experience."

Grant Ross said, "It was fun and enjoyable."

From Dulnain Bridge to Nakom Nyah

Extracts from an unpublished book written by the late Murdo MacAskill, Alt-Dhubhag, recording his wartime experiences.

Before the guitar was finished I had got hold of a mess room form with a straight grained pine seat and started making a fiddle. Vic finished the guitar and then kept working on, producing two mandolins and a second guitar. My thirty eight year old memories of many details of these instruments is now very indistinct. The guitars and mandolins all had plywood breasts and backs joined by sheet metal sides. Necks and fingerboards were of teak. The strings were the steel wires taken from D3 and D8 signal cables, the lower ones being wound with the very thin copper wire taken from old coils. The strings of the first guitar were tuned by wooden pegs similar to fiddle strings, but whether or not the others were the same I cannot now remember. Vic was very “knacky” at metalwork jobs and may have improved the tuning system of the later instruments. The fiddle breast was hewn with chisel and hammer from a piece of the mess room form, beginning with the concave underside, where a narrow ridge, one quarter inch deep was left all round the shape about one eighth in from the edge. The back was similarly hewn from a piece of hard wood. Neck and fingerboard were also of hardwood. The scroll curved upwards from the underside of the neck instead of down and then up. It seemed that although I had been used to fiddles all my previous life, I had never taken a good look at a scroll. The rib, a strip of single ply, was glued to the ridges left on breast and back, but made more secure by tiny wooden pins inserted in small holes, drilled through rib and ridge at intervals. I remember nothing about the stud or tail piece but they must have been adequate.

What my plans were for making a bow I cannot now imagine but before I came to that problem I had a visitor. He was Dennis East, a professional violinist who had played with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, a very pleasant man who presented me with a bow. At a Sunday night concert the home made fiddle was displayed, its history described, and another professional musician played the melody in F on it.

Our Staff Captain, when shown the instrument, picked it up, a minute change in his melancholy expression indicating that it might smell. Then in his languid, weary voice he enquired, “Does it play decently?” Don Robinson told me that one morning during our first week at Changi he was detailed to serve

as a runner or messenger at an administrative office which had been set up for our unit. Arriving there he found the small room occupied solely by the Staff Captain, who paid not the slightest attention to Don’s entrance, though both had been in the unit two years. After a few minutes Don sat down on a chair. About an hour afterwards another officer came in. The Captain, indicating Don, enquired of him, “What is this man?”

Strathdearn Sing Song

On Thursday the 19th March, Strathdearn Primary Schools pupils from primary 4-7 invited the communities senior citizens to listen to the children singing World War 2 songs. The event was held in the gym hall.

Learning the songs

The children enjoyed seven World War 2 songs. They were: Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, We’ll Meet Again, Kiss Me Goodnight Sergeant Major, Quatermasters Store, Hey Little Hen, Goodnight Sweetheart and Sing As We Go. The P4-7 pupils rehearsed once a week with Mrs Pringle for nine weeks.

The Performance

The Primary 7 pupils greeted the audience and took them to their seats. Some of the older children said some introductions to each of the songs. After the singing we asked the senior citizens some questions about their time in the war. All of the guests were in the war apart from Charlie Cameron, aged 90, who was a soldier in the war.

Afternoon Tea

The P 6-7 class made and decorated cakes and biscuits, which were served with tea and coffee afterwards in the school canteen with posters and models of Anderson shelters that the children made as a homework project. It was also Pearl and Charlie Cameron’s 61st wedding anniversary and Mrs MacRae presented the couple with a present and card on behalf of all the children and staff at Strathdearn Primary school. The P 5-7’s chatted to the senior citizens about their experiences in the war.

By Olivia Raine P7

NEWS FROM STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At our April meeting the CC recommended approval of an application from 5 young people wanting to undertake the expedition element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. You can look forward to reading an article written by Robbie, Murray, Hamish, Hannah and Lauren about their experiences in a future Newsletter.

We also recommended approval of another application for funding assistance from Fraser, who hopes to spend his gap year in Namibia, among other things teaching Maths, English and Science in primary schools under the auspices of Project Trust. We wish him well.

We were sad to note Alasdair Wallace's resignation at our March meeting. Alasdair has done a power of work for the Community Council, always cheerfully, and has given us the full benefit of his considerable engineering knowledge which he was always ready to put to good use for the community. He is very much missed. At our April meeting we were, however, glad to welcome Debbie MacKay to her first meeting as a co-opted Community Councillor. We're looking forward to working with Debbie who will be, we are sure, an asset to the CC.

We continue to search for a suitable bench to be placed in the garden area overlooking the river, in honour of the late John (Jocky) Macdonald. The Gardening Club have kindly offered to plant and maintain some flowers in a planter we are also arranging to buy, and we are very grateful for this kind offer. We are sure Jocky would have approved.

Highland Council wish to sell the former Raigbeg School building and playground which raises concerns about access to the football pitch behind the old school which Mr Tinsley of Corrybrough has allowed the community to use. We have asked Highland Council for some more time to allow this situation to be clarified.

The Tomatin Gateway Feature near the old Freeburn site continually suffers from large lorries or similar vehicles driving over it, leaving big tyre marks in the grass. Mrs Susan Mackintosh-Grant has very kindly tidied it up once again, replanting the damaged area with grass seed, and we are most grateful to her for this.

Mr Chris Cairns of local company Conserve gave a presentation on the art of path construction, to aid councillors in their consideration of a possible path-creation project in Tomatin village.

Concern was expressed about fires being lit in the Distillery Wood and the area near Molly's Seat – 5 in total recently. This is a particularly dangerous practice, given the close proximity of houses and forestry. Please do be responsible when visiting this area – and leave your matches at home!

Concerns were also voiced again about the speed of some motorists passing through Tomatin and the danger to pedestrians because of this.

Betty's Recipes

Have a Mexican Fiesta!

Avocado with Lime Dressing

2 avocados
1 tblsp olive oil
1tblsp lime cordial
Pinch salt

Mix dressing. Pour into halved and stoned avocados. Serve.

everything

rice and

Chilli con Carne

1lb minced beef
½ lb onions
1 tin beans (red, chilli or baked)
1 tin tomatoes
1 garlic clove(crushed)
1 good pinch chilli powder(or to taste)
1 good pinch cinnamon

Fry meat, onions and garlic. Add

else and simmer 1 hour. Serve with

mixed veg.

Fundraising Event

Food Demonstration by the Kitchen Range, Dingwall using Up-to-Date Kitchen Gadgets



in Strathdearn Hall
Friday 8th May 7.30 pm Tickets £5

All proceeds to Mzuzu and Bandawi Health Clinics, Malawi
Enjoy sampling the delicious food along with a glass of wine/fruit juice.
The Kitchen Range sales table will be available. Cash/Credit Cards/Cheques accepted.
Liz Campbell: 01808 511235 Catherine Cameron-Mackintosh: 01808 511239

STRIDING AHEAD – A PATH NETWORK STUDY FOR TOMATIN

Do you ever stumble, amble, trudge, toddle, traipse, meander, walk, stride, trot, jog, run, cycle, ride or ski on the roads or in the countryside around Tomatin village? Have you ever had to leap for sanctuary on the road verge as a car, van or lorry rushes by - ever so close? Do you worry about your children walking or cycling on narrow or busy roads for fun or to get to school? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then you might be interested in being part of Community Council plans to carry out a study to look at a possible path network around the village, close to where most people live.

Paths in many cases only require quite modest works; perhaps all that is required is to address a barrier like a fence. Others may be more complex and require an engineered or surfaced solution like a pavement or a new bridge for example. Obviously those who own the land will be consulted and their agreement obtained.

A number of routes are already being used by people and others have been suggested. The Community Council would like to know which routes you think are most important - they may be the most used routes, those in need of most urgent action, those that go to a community building, view point or heritage site or those that meet a specific need like a safe route to school. You could suggest a completely new route or one that takes in a piece of road. Should we have signs or way marks for those on foot?

The first step of the study is to agree the purpose of a path network and then prepare a clear brief, setting out what questions need solutions. Your views will help. Once funding is in place, the brief can then be given to someone, chosen by a Steering Group, to guide them in consulting with people and preparing their proposed solutions for paths, route priorities, construction methods, cost, maintenance and management.

A small Steering Group has been set up to gather views, prepare the brief and oversee the study. Its members include Pat Wells, Debbie MacKay, Susan Watt, Denise Barley and Duncan Bryden with Duncan Hendry (CDW). If you have any thoughts on paths please write them down perhaps also with a sketch map and give them to one of the steering group or to a Community Councillor.

Duncan Bryden - duncan@brydenassociates.co.uk or 511411

TOMATIN AND MOY SWRI

The final meeting of the 2008/2009 session will take place on Monday 11th May at 7.30pm in the Strathdearn Village Hall. After the business of the AGM, members will be tasting each others baking and enjoying a good blether. We will end by raising our glasses to the next session.

This will start on Monday 7th September, with a talk about the University of the Highlands and Islands. Before then we will be hosting a fundraising coffee evening on Friday 15th May at 7.30pm in the Hall. There will be a Raffle, a Baking Stall, and bric-a-brac for sale. We look forward to your company that evening.

We also look forward to welcoming visitors to our meetings! If you would enjoy a variety of talks and activities in good company, please come along to one of our meetings, which take place on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm. Look out for details in the Newsletter and on the Notice boards.

Carol James, Hon Secretary. 531220

HOSPICE FUNDRAISING GROUP

We will be having our Annual Strawberry Tea in the hall some time in June, to raise funds for the Hospice, please look out for posters nearer the time with the exact date and time.

With your help we managed to raise the grand total of £1199.19 over the year for this worthy cause.

Please call Anne Hart on 01808 511724 if you require any further information.

MEALLMORE FUN DAY

This year the FUN DAY at Meallmore Lodge will be held on Saturday 11th July at 2pm there will be the usual Raffle. Tombola and Sales Table etc..... so come along and enjoy yourselves.

Strathdearn Youth Group Report

SYG has been very busy - over 2000 "Youth engaged hours" since the last report. Including :- a very successful "Mobile" dance project in conjunction with Eden Court Theatre; lots of badminton - both playing and also helping to train a Special Olympics athlete; a tenpin bowling outing; foot painting; tee-shirt making; parents Xmas party; a backstage theatre visit + "grinning and greetin" workshop; a swimming outing; a couple of drumming sessions; street dancing; team entries into the annual Youth Highland competitions and the Fairburn Challenge; a remarkably successful residential weekend in the Cairngorms mountain biking and snowboarding (see article from horses mouth); and a very good day out weaselling and abseiling.

We received a £500 grant from the Highland Council South Wards Discretionary Fund to help finance the residential weekend and are hoping to receive a further £200 weaselling money. Thank you HC.

The group is working well at the moment and the extra parental help volunteered over the next few weeks is both vital and much appreciated.

The "voluntary" help from the teenagers who took part in the snowboarding is especially welcome. They have been a credit to the community on every outing and are to be congratulated on the contribution they are making here in the village.

PROPOSED GLENKIRK WINDFARM AND ACCESS ROUTE UPDATE

The site visit and hearing scheduled for 27 April 2009 for the proposed Glenkirk windfarm and access route was postponed following a legal submission to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit and to Highland Council, on behalf of Strathdearn Against Windfarm Developments (SAWD). This is to enable the developer, Eurus Energy UK Ltd. to properly comply with European and Scottish Environmental legislation.

Further information from Pat Wells, SAWD Convener. Tel. 01808 511351

Planning and watching paint dry have nothing in common!

“Where is my community going?” is a question John Swinney MSP, the Scottish Cabinet’s main man responsible for all public spending, says we should all be asking because “communities should be at the heart of all planning decision making.” He was speaking on the 29th of April at the launch of the new planning system available through the internet. “Most people do not bother with planning until it hits them personally,” said another planning boss.

But from summer 2009 communities from Tomatin to Thurso and from Moy to Montrose are going to be given many more ways to become involved in planning for their future. Here are some of them:

- Individual planning proposals will be submitted on line and the information they contain will be posted for public scrutiny and comment.
- For larger proposals (wind farms?) the applicants will have to meet with and talk to the community and prepare a record of those discussions before their applications are accepted by the Council.
- The public will know what has been approved they will be encouraged to contact the Council if they think any planning conditions are not being met.
- The views of Community Councils will carry greater weight.
- The Council have started to prepare future plans for the Highlands and Strathdearn will be in the mix. Housing allocations, water, sewage, green space, allotments, schools, roads, transport, renewable energy, shops, business premises, sports facilities, paths, churches, community safety and amenity, historic sites, and climate change are just some of the things communities can comment on.

The recent past has just seen our country lose 800 billion pounds and it seems unlikely we will ever get back to where we were, so future opportunities should seem pretty important to most people.

OK but I am too busy earning a living/with family/driving/doodling/dozing/drinking or just doing stuff to get involved. Fine, many of us are, but now anyone with access to a computer and the internet can type in www.eplanningscotland.gov.net find out information and make their views known at any time of the day or night and you could attend a Community Council meeting – all much more interesting than watching paint dry!

Opting out is certainly a choice. But there is a lesson from the classic book - A Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy - where the earth is in danger of being destroyed by the Vogon Destructor Fleet to make way for a hyperspatial express route because no one commented on the Galactic Civil Service planning application. Don’t complain in five years when a landfill site, in the plan, appears at the foot of your garden!

Duncan Bryden

Strathdearn Community Council

www.tomatin.org.uk

publishes the "Strathdearn Newsletter" quarterly, delivering it free to every home in Strathdearn. The Newsletter is sponsored by Tomatin Distillery and Mr & Mrs George McLeod. This is a community newsletter, and the views and opinions expressed in contributions submitted by members of the community are not necessarily those of Strathdearn Community Council, nor of the Editor.

Editor: Mrs Denise Barley, Lauriston, Tomatin, IV13 7YN.

Tel. 01808 511733 e-mail Barley@btinternet.com

Printing: Mrs D.Barley & Mrs D.Usborne Distribution: Mrs S. Mackintosh-Grant