

STRATHDEARN NEWSLETTER

August 2009

Volume 9, No 3.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri/Sat 7th/8th August
Highland Game Fair
Moy Estate

Sat 15th August
Church Calendar Auction & Cream teas
Strathdearn Hall 2-4pm

Fri/Sat 21st/22nd August
Art Exhibition
Strathdearn Hall

Saturday 5th September
Flower Show
Strathdearn Old Hall

Saturday 19th September
Strathnairn Farmers
**Agricultural Working Vintage
Rally & Display Day**
Daviot Farm

NEW SPORTS FACILITY

I am delighted to report that after many months of negotiations, Sportscotland has awarded Strathdearn £66,000 to assist with the development of the new sports facility at the Hall in Tomatin. This represents approximately 44% of the estimated cost of the new facility, and whilst other funders are yet to report on our other applications, work is ongoing to ensure that a covered sports ground will be built and in use within months.

Many people helped, and continue to help, in bringing this project together, and I would like to thank them all for their hard work over the past few months.

Duncan Hendry
Community Development Worker

District Nurse: Serena Ferguson, 4 Greenside Avenue, Rosemarkie, IV10 8XA
Tel. 01463 230850 mobile 07824 605644

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

7.30pm, Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall

WRI

Contact: Mrs Carol James 531220

2nd & 4th Mondays of Month

7.30pm, Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall

Needlecraft

Contact: Mrs Chris West 511412

3rd Monday of Month

7.30pm, Findhorn Room
Strathdearn Hall,

Gardening Club

Contact: Mr Alex Don 511729

Every Tuesday

11am Findhorn Room
Strathdearn Hall

Exercise to Music group

Contact: Mrs Denise Barley 511733

Every Wednesday

10.30 am Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall,

Community Coffee Morning

All Welcome

Every Wednesday

2pm Strathdearn Hall

Walking Group

Contact: Mrs Kathy Bonniface 511740

Wednesdays

(During term-time)

5.30 - 7pm Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall

YOGA

Contact: Mrs Pam Hardwick 511766

The beautifully arranged tubs of flowers have been much admired by all who use our Village Hall. Sincere thanks are due to the ladies who financed and organized the fine arrangements. Not only is there a lovely selection of colour and texture but the barrel tubs have been re-stained with the growing medium for the flowers completely rejuvenated. Well done ladies!

Every Thursday

11am – 12noon Tomatin Inn

Coffee Morning

All welcome

Every Thursday

11.30am – 1.30pm Tomatin Inn

POST OFFICE

Every Thursday

1.30pm Findhorn Room,
Strathdearn Hall,

Art Class

Contact: Mrs Betty Watson 511271

(During Term-Time)

Fridays 9.45 - 11.45 am

Strathdearn Hall

Croileagan Tom Aitinn

(Tomatin Gaelic Playgroup)

Contact: Mrs Rosemary Dempster 531215

Last Friday of Month (venue varies)

Strathdearn Book Club

See Notices for details.

Monthly, various dates

Natural History Club

Some indoor, some outdoor, events.

Days vary, so look out for posters.

Contact: Mr David Bonniface 511740

or Mrs Carol James 531220

1st Strathdearn Rainbow

and Brownie Unit

for girls aged 5 - 10.

Contact: Trish (511486)

TOMATIN & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB programme

Strathdearn Hall

August 17th 7.30pm Arrangements for Flower Show

September 5th all day Flower Show

September 21st 7.30pm George Pirie, Alness:

“Begonias

ART IN STRATHDEARN

Our annual exhibition will be held in the Strathdearn hall on Friday August 21st and Saturday August 22nd. Our exhibition also includes woodcraft, pottery and quilting and the very popular exhibition of the primary schoolchildren's artwork.

Throughout the year we have had some excellent tutors such as Heather Cary (pastels), Mary Black (abstracts), and Daniel Cottam (portraits) and are looking forward to a workshop in September with Jonathan Wheeler, who is well known for his spectacular watercolours. We are grateful to the Strathdearn Charitable Trust for giving us a generous grant to cover the cost of these workshops.

In June some of our group had a trip to Nairn where we walked around the town to various venues where we saw some interesting artwork and many shop windows also displaying paintings. We visited the Black Isle Foundry where we saw a magnificent eagle being constructed for the hydro-electric works at Foyers.

We are a friendly, forward looking art group who meet regularly at the village hall on Thursdays from 1.30 pm-3.30 pm. If you have two hours to spare and are interested in art, come along and you will receive a warm welcome and all the help you need to get started on a wonderful pastime.
Betty Watson (President)

FLOWER SHOW

Saturday September 5th
Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin

Entries accepted from 10am to 12 noon.
Open to all residents of Strathdearn and Moy.

Classes for flowers, vegetables, floral art, baking & produce, photography, art, handicrafts. Special classes for children.
Schedules available at Tomatin Shop or from Sheila Don 511729.

Open to the public from 2:30pm for viewing and prizegiving.

ART IN STRATHDEARN
invite you to their

ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION

in the Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin.
Friday August 21st 10am- 5pm
Saturday August 22nd 10am – 4pm
Free admission and parking
Refreshments available

TOMATIN & MOY SWRI

The new session starts on Monday 7th September at 7.30pm in Strathdearn Village Hall. The talk will be on the University of the Highlands and Islands. It will include information on the setting-up of the University and the courses it will offer. The competition will be for a jar of blackcurrant jam. Hostesses will be Sheila Don and Margaret Robertson.

On Monday October 5th we will be hearing about Sailing with the Disabled on Tall Ships. The competition will be for three fruit scones and the hostesses will be Carol James and Betty Watson.

We hope to hear about the Scottish Ballet on Monday November 2nd. This talk will be followed by a visit to Eden Court in January to see a performance of The Nutcracker. A knitted toy will be the subject of the competition and the hostesses will be Madge Fraser and Lesley Purves.

All WRI meetings are open to everyone. Why come to one of our meetings and see for yourself what a friendly group we are? The WRI has links to other Rurals in the county, the National Federation, and through them to the international organisation Associated Country Women of the World. So, if you are looking for an evening in good company and/or access to a wider community, why not give us a try? We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings, which all start at 7.30pm in the Strathdearn Hall.

Carol James (Hon Secretary) 531220
Betty Watson (President) 511271

THE TOMATIN COUNTRY STORE

I am pleased to announce that I have been handed over the full responsibility of running the Tomatin Country Store. With this in mind, I would like to thank the community for your continual support since we opened in April.

As a village shop, I believe we should try our very hardest to fulfil as many of the community's demands as possible. Thus, we have developed two fantastic new product ranges.

The first, although having been difficult to source, is a Gluten Free Foods range. Although it is named as Gluten Free, we anticipate a number of products in the range will also be Wheat/Milk and/or Lactose Free as well as a number of Vegetarian options. However, we do ask you to be patient while we arrange for this selection of products to arrive.

The second range, which we plan on launching in early September, is the new Bake@Home Range. This comprehensive range of products with well-known brands such as SuperCook and bargain buys from Happy-Shopper and Euro-Shopper which will contain everything you require (we hope) for home baking.

With our product range ever expanding and the shop looking more and more like a mini supermarket with competitive prices, we welcome any suggestions from the community as to new products you would like to see in the shop. Please note that since the last product list was distributed via the last Strathdearn Newsletter, our range has expanded considerably as we have brought in new products upon request such as Nappies, Baby Wipes, Avon Skin-so-Soft and Jam Pot Covers.

We have also set up an ordering facility with A&I Quality Butchers where we are taking orders for fresh meats and pies every Monday before 4pm – we'll do the bit in between - and your order will be ready for collection from the shop on Thursday morning - fitting in perfectly well with Harry Gow Fresh Cake Day when you can get your weekly fix of cakes!!

We now have a landline in the shop so if you wish to ask a question, find out if something is in stock or place an order, please feel free to give us a ring on (01808) 511 283.

I look forward to seeing you in the shop!

Angus Macleod

The Tomatin Country Store Ltd

Step it up Highland

In previous years we have taken a break from our regular walks through July and August, but this year we are continuing throughout the summer, and then into autumn.

We are now very pleased that we are running two separate walks (so to speak!): our usual one for people who feel fit enough to walk for an hour and a half or so; but also a shorter walk at a slower pace for those who cannot manage the more lengthy one.

We all meet at 2:00 pm on Wednesday afternoons and usually start from Strathdearn Hall, but both groups meet up at the end for the usual cuppa and chat,

Please join us if you would like the exercise, and the incentive to walk on a regular basis, with a group of friendly people from the village. You would be made very welcome.

Tom nan Clach Windfarm Application

Make your views known at the Strathdearn Community Council Meeting on Tuesday 18th August. The application will be the first item on the agenda and the role of Community Council is to communicate community views on the application to the Highland Council.

In case you don't know

Infinergy is a Dutch company who have submitted a Planning Application to Highland Council seeking permission for the erection of 17 wind turbines each 110m high plus 2 temporary compounds and 2 temporary rock quarries in an area called Tom nan Clach.

Tom nan Clach is part of Cawdor estate and is on the high ground located approximately 5 miles north east of Tomatin but south of the River Findhorn and about half way between Tomatin and Lochindorb. Access to the site will be from near Lochindorb.

Just to be clear.....

This is a completely different application to the Glenkirk Windfarm proposed by Eurus Energy for 37 wind turbines with access from the A9 which has not yet come forward to planning but has already been the subject of a ballot in the community. However, both sites are located next to each other with Tom nan Clach just further east.

From the information submitted with the application it is clear some of the turbines would be visible from Tomatin looking north east and of course from other locations like Lochindorb. Infinergy are also proposing making financial contributions to local communities.

Finally.....

This application will be decided by Highland Council members NOT the Scottish Government and you have the opportunity to communicate your views. At the meeting on the 18th August some of the information (pictures, maps etc) will be presented. If you wish to see the information for yourself CDs, which can be viewed on your own computer, are available to borrow from the Tomatin Shop.

Duncan Bryden – SCC Planning Contact

My Garden of Remembrance

In my young day most of us could not afford expensive plants for our gardens; we would plant from seed and give each other cuttings of plants, and to this day I still have a few left in my garden. Duncan and Sattie MacRae, my in-laws, in 1964 laid the foundation of the garden with an arch of old-fashioned roses, everlasting sweet pea and honeysuckle which flower every year.

Others that I think of as I look at my plants:

- Mr & Mrs Duncan, and Margaret Ross ... Forsythia
- Mr & Mrs Rod Cameron Geranium Psilostemon
- Mr & Mrs Leon & Marg Sparks Euphorbia & Daphne
- Mr & Mrs Jock & Meg MacKenzie Mountain Phlox
- Mr & Mrs Alex Ferguson Big Daisies
- Mrs Margaret Kennedy Geranium & Delphinium
- Mrs Gall Thyme
- Mrs Margaret Webster London Pride
- Pat Duncan & Sadie MacKenzie Snow in Summer
- Hughie Key Pinks (Dianthus Pike)
- Mr & Mrs George & Ann Noble Columbine
- P.H. Mackintosh-Grant Two types of Cotoneaster
- Mrs Alice Grant Lady's Mantle
-

I had lots more which didn't survive, but I still have my memories.

Jean MacRae, Station Road, Tomatin.

The Bra Nicht Moonlight Walk 2009

Well done to all the ladies who took part in this year's "Bra Nicht Moonlight Walk" on Saturday 6th June.

The walk was brought about after the tragic death of Melanie Rose, a Breast Care Nurse at the Highlands Breast Centre, in a car accident at the end of 2007. During 2008 one of her close friends, Nancy Hamilton, encouraged and cajoled friends and work colleagues to make this event happen in memory of Melanie.

Sadly Nancy herself died of secondary breast cancer in February 2009. In the last weeks of her life Nancy organised the route and much of the detail of the walk, which is to raise awareness of breast cancer and aim to raise £50,000 for cancer sufferers in the North of Scotland.

Approximately 1,000 women turned out to walk 13 miles in torrential rain, which is an amazing increase on last year's numbers. So keep this event in mind for 2010 and hopefully more women will show support and make this an annual event. After all it's an excuse for a night out with the girls, as if we need one!!!
Melanie the Postie.

Betty's recipes: Barbecue Time!

Still some Summer sunshine and time for a Barbie!

This is a great barbecue sauce for brushing over chicken or meat and serving hot with the food.

- 1 large onion, skinned and chopped
- 1 can chopped tomatoes in juice
- 4 level tbsp soft brown sugar
- 1 tbsp vinegar
- 2 tbsp cooking oil
- 2 crushed cloves garlic
- 2 level tbsp mustard
- 2 tbsp worcester sauce

Fry onion and garlic till golden. Add other ingredients. Simmer for 20 mins.

Barbecued chicken:

Brush 12 chicken pieces with sauce and grill both sides till cooked. Just before serving brush again with sauce Happy barbecue!

VISIT TO THE EMERALD ISLE

When my sister Jean told me last year that she would love to visit Ireland and asked me to go with her, I readily agreed. In the end we were accompanied by my niece Liz, her teenage son Randall and his friend Matthew, one scottie dog (Scottie) and a Patterdale terrier (Flo). We managed to fit into Liz's car with the help of a convenient rooftop container which held the minimum amount of necessities stuffed into plastic bags and set off for the crossing from Troon to Larne. The weather was perfect and the two hour crossing very pleasant. We had booked a self catering cottage on the Inishowen peninsula in County Donegal which was fantastic and had five bedrooms with a wonderful sea view and a huge garden where the boys could play tennis and football, with a little help from the dogs! To Malin Head, the most northerly part of Ireland, was a short drive and all along the coastline were sandy beaches and stunning views. The harbour village of Greencastle had an interesting maritime museum and a ferry crossing of ten minutes took us to Northern Ireland where we visited the famous Giant's Causeway and Bushmills distillery which is reputed to be the world's oldest distillery, dating from 1608.

Another day we visited Omagh in County Tyrone and stood in the main street where a monument has been erected to those killed in the bomb blast in 1998 and Derry city, a lovely town, also with a troubled past, and a highlight of our visit was a trip to Donegal town, driving past the beautiful Blue Stack mountains. There was so much to take in of this lovely country, from charming little cottages and villages to spectacular seascapes and everywhere, forty shades of green!

If you want the address of the cottage I will pass it on as Inishowen peninsula is one of Ireland's best kept secrets!

Betty Watson.

Elizabeth (Elaine) Smith

Elizabeth (Elaine) Smith of Foresters House, Lynebeg, Moy, died at Raigmore Hospital on Sunday 3rd May 2009 after a long illness. Elaine was a member of the Moy WRI and a Sunday School teacher. She attended the Strathdearn Playschool in Tomatin village hall when her children were young. She will be missed and remembered by all who knew her.

Molly Noble

Mary Rose 1913-2009

Mary passed away in Ballifeary Home, Inverness on Sunday, 19th July, 2009. She was 96 years old and was born in Laggan, near Newtonmore, on 1st January 1913 to John and Isabella Carr. Her father was a gamekeeper on Strathmashie estate. Until July last year Mary lived at Ruthven Farm with Lewis, her son. Her husband Willie was from Ruthven and they met in Laggan while he was working there.

They began married life in Millburn Road, Inverness and moved to Ruthven when Lewis was about 4 years old. Isabel was born a few years later.

Mary was a very hard worker and looked after many relatives over the years as well as working on the farm. She was a good cook, keen gardener and even keener fisherwoman. She is well known in the Findhorn fishing fraternity and has a pool near Shenachie named after her – the Mary Rose pool. Willie suffered from rheumatoid arthritis and died in 1984.

Mary enjoyed reasonably good health until her later years and fished well into her 80s, driving herself to the riverbank in the argocat. Watching golf and snooker on TV was another pastime. She certainly epitomised the saying that doing crosswords keep the mind active as she was “sharp as a tack” until the end. She was very close to her granddaughter Jacqui and in recent weeks enjoyed hearing her great granddaughters, Dandy and Lulu, sing on the telephone.

Lewis and Isabel thank Vivian Roden for the comforting service and everyone who attended Mary’s funeral at Daviot Church. All the cards and letters received are very much appreciated.

Rainbows and Brownies

The 1st Strathdearn Rainbows and Brownies have been very busy over the past few months. We have visited the Eden Theatre, the Police and Fire Stations and a local veterinary clinic. A big highlight was our trip to Raigmore Hospital theatre suite, when all the girls had a shot at lying on the theatre bed and learning about theatre nursing and surgery.

We are looking forward to a big fundraising event at the Moy Field Fayre in August when we shall run a chocolate tombola and hook a duck game - with the proceeds funding a Brownie camp in 2010. If anyone would like to donate some chocolates towards the stall or help please contact Trish.

In September, the celebrations for 100 years of Girl Guiding will kick start with a pop concert at the Ironworks Inverness, with many more activities planned for 2010.

A warm welcome to Amanda Ingram, who joins us in her role as pre-warrant Rainbow Leader, and a big thank you to Eilidh Cameron (Young Leader), Louise Beaumont (Rainbow Helper) and Unit Helpers for all their help. Finally, a thank you to all parents and friends who have helped at the meetings; we are always looking for more help.

Any enquiries about Rainbows and Brownies please contact Trish on 01808 511486.

Project Trust

I can hardly believe 9 months has passed since I posted my application to Project Trust in November and now with the fundraising complete I have recently returned from my 5 day training course on the Isle of Coll which prepares me for my year ahead. On 2nd September I will leave to work with pupils at Gqaina School, Gobabis in the north-east of Namibia,

I would like to thank everyone who entered the Logo competition (£260 raised) and those who joined in with the Quiz Night (£1,300 raised).

Fraser Manson

WELL DONE! to:

Amy MacQueen, Dalmagarry, who has graduated as a Master in Science from Glasgow University with a First in Molecular and Cellular Biology. Amy also won an extra prize for being first in her class! She is presently on a work related placement in Stevenage before going to Cambridge to study for her PhD.

Rosie Hardwick, who graduated with an MA (Hons) in Psychology from Aberdeen University.

Blair Paton, formerly of Keilingha, who graduated from Glasgow with a 2:1 Honours Degree in Sports Science.

Fraser MacKay, first year, who won three prizes – for Maths, History and Art & Design.

Jessica Fyffe, first year, who won prizes in Geography and Religious Education.

Fraser Sutherland, second year, who won prizes for History and Science.

Callum Carson, second year, who won the Geography prize.

Callum Fyffe, fourth year, who won the Maths prize.

Chloe Ferguson and **Becky Carson**, who've been busy showing Chloe's pony Dusty. At the Native Pony show in May Becky and Dusty were placed 5th in the In-hand section and 2nd in Ridden. At the recent working horse show at Brodie Castle, Becky and Dusty were 2nd in both the In-hand and Ridden classes and Chloe and Dusty were placed 1st in the Lead Rein class and took the Reserve Champion Rosette for the Junior classes

Hannah Bell, who was one of the Attendants to this year's Marymas Queen in Inverness.

Rob Nixon, named as Highland's top bowler in a recent newspaper Cricket Report.

Douglas MacDonald, the owner of the garage in Carrbridge, who received the Queen's Fireman's Service Medal – a great honour – from her Majesty in recognition of years of frontline emergency work in Strathspey. The MacDonald family much enjoyed their day in Holyrood.

And to **Strathdearn Primary School**, who boosted their green credentials by winning a prestigious national award – a "Keep Scotland Beautiful" silver award, to add to the bronze award they won last year.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Mr and Mrs Alex Don and **Mr and Mrs Angus MacKenzie** who celebrated their Golden Wedding

Anniversaries earlier this year and to **Mr and Mrs Charlie Cameron**, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Rhea Newson, who celebrated her 21st birthday recently

Margaret Sutherland, who was 60 on 22nd June and retired as Property Manager with Innes and Mackay, Inverness.

And finally.....

Daisy Jane Hallam was born on 9th April to Jamie and Victoria - a new baby granddaughter for Trish Hallam. Daisy was christened in Dalarossie Church on 4th July by Rev Reg Campbell. Welcome to the world, Daisy!

Natural History Club

In May we visited the Aigas centre near Beaulieu. We had an entertaining and informative presentation by the resident biologist about the Aigas centre and their work on beavers. He then took us up to the lochan where the beavers have their lodge and we were treated to some excellent views of these fascinating animals. I for one learned a lot – for example that they do not eat fish – and that generally their "river management" is not harmful to fish migration as the dams are easily bypassed when the stream is in spate.

June's event was an early evening foray around the village on Thursday 25th June in the company of James Fenton looking at mosses and liverworts. To my amazement these plants which I usually think of as "weeds" on the lawn, flowerbeds and paths proved to have an interest and fascination of their own. Most of us rounded up the evening at the Tomatin Inn making another good night out.

Listen / look out for news of a possible outing in August – it's difficult to find a good time when so many people are either busy or holidaying.

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, game and habitat management.

I'm still trying to put together a programme for autumn and winter, but I'm confident that we'll continue to get first rate speakers and see lots of interesting things. Come and join us!

David Bonniface

TOMATIN DISTILLERY

RETIREMENT

Douglas Campbell, Distillery Manager, retired from Tomatin Distillery Co. Ltd.. on 27th March 2009, after 45 years working at the Distillery.

At a Presentation in the 'Still House Suite' at the Distillery, where a full contingent of staff gathered to give Douglas a big send off, a gift of a Laptop Computer was presented to him from the Company and work colleagues, and his wife Liz was presented with a bouquet of flowers. A Dinner was held, at the Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness, with the Chairman, Directors and Managers of the Distillery, where Douglas was the topic of speeches, and he shared many memories of his 45 years at Tomatin.

Douglas will continue on a part time basis with the Company, working with the Marketing Department, promoting Tomatin Brands around the world.

DEATH

The death of Dennis Eames, aged 63 years, on 7th July 2009, was a great shock to former colleagues at Tomatin Distillery, where he had worked for over 30 years - starting as office Clerk and latterly becoming a Director of the Company - retiring in 2006 due to ill health.

His funeral was held in Ness Bank Church on 15th July, where many of his Distillery colleagues attended.

ADVERTISEMENT

Tomatin Distillery Visitor Centre and Gift Shop - open 7 days per week to the end of October - come and have a look around our Gift Shop, take a Distillery Tour for only £2 per person, or have a tasting of our wonderful Tomatin 12 year old single malt, free of charge - and now, you can come and have a Kenco coffee or a cold can of juice, while you browse around, or sit in our picnic area (weather permitting)

For more information on Tours etc. please phone Marie or Fiona on : **01463 248 144**
Tomatin Distillery Website and On-line Shop: www.tomatin.com

From Dulnain Bridge to Nakom Nyah

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

“Soon after making our home-made instruments we had a band going:- Jimmy Ross from Glasgow on the guitar; Don Robinson from the Midlands on the mandolin; another Englishman called Mercer on the accordion and me on the fiddle. One of these cheerful natural Cockney comedians, Johnny Jayes was attracted to us and soon became our conductor and manager. A friend of his, Roy, also tagged along. He was a well spoken fair haired little fellow in his mid twenties who fancied himself as a female impersonator and had let his hair grow a good bit. While passable in looks as a male, his short beaky nose did not assist his female appearance. He must have been very good natured to put up with the constant ragging he got from us, especially Don and Johnny. Though he failed to entertain our audiences very much, he never failed to entertain us. We acquired a very good baritone singer whose name I have now forgotten. He used to sing, “Because”, “Smiling Through”, “I’ll Walk Beside You” and such like. Our entertaining efforts took place in the hospital wards.

I think it’s correct to say that entertainment kept building up during these months of 1942 at Changi, until it became the main business of the place, dominating every other interest. The place seemed full of first class actors, musicians, singers and comedians who were held back from being sent to working camps because of their entertainment value, to officers especially, who made up an increasing proportion of the people who remained there.

Less than six weeks after the surrender, “Arms and the Man” was put on in a makeshift theatre. I remember General Percival being pointed out to me. He sat in the front row, the afternoon our unit was there. Probably for the benefit of country bumpkins like myself who had never before seen a play, the producer, at the end of a short speech of introduction, said, “Some of you will find parts of the play peculiarly applicable to recent events. I can assure you that it is presented to you exactly as it was written.” For me, none of the succeeding very sophisticated productions of comedies and thrillers matched it.

Two female impersonators must be mentioned, one I can only remember as Gloria, a straight actor whose impersonations of well known actresses and film stars of the thirties was astonishing; the other, Bobby, had a boudoir dressing table act in which he back chatted to plants in the audience. The latter could have been the start of the permissive society!

There was one activity which greatly surprised many of us when it began – plain, common square bashing. This took place on a large tarmacaded area surrounded by low wooden sheds a little to the north of the rifle range and our cookhouse. For many weeks the loud bawls and barks of drill sergeants, and the stamping of many feet, could be heard by us for long periods each day. We never heard of any rational reason for it. We soon got used to the noises and since it did not concern our unit, paid it no further attention.

Chef’s Recipe:

Fillet of Scottish Cod with Spinach, Mussels and Mustard Cream.

- One large piece Cod Fillet, skin on
 - Spinach
 - 6 Mussels
 - Double cream
 - Wholegrain mustard
 - Tarragon
 - White wine
1. Pan fry the cod in a hot frying pan, skin side down. Cook for 3 mins until skin is crispy, then turn over. Put into oven for 4 mins until cooked.
 2. Sauté some spinach with salt & pepper and butter.
 3. Cook the mussels in some white wine until opened, with salt & pepper.
 4. Make mustard sauce: some fried onion, white wine, fish stock, plus double cream, wholegrain mustard and freshly chopped tarragon.

Easy!!

John W.Morrison, Tomatin Inn.

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.

The Guild:

Meets in Tomatin Church at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month between September and April inclusive to hear some interesting talks and enjoy a time of fellowship. Our Autumn speakers are:

9th September: Paul McLaughlan, New Start.

14th October: Chief Supt Andy Cowie, Northern Constabulary.

Breakfast Club:

Join us for breakfast (healthy options available!) in the Strathdearn Hall on the last two Mondays of September, October and November, beginning at 9.30 am. Stay for a discussion of a Bible passage, and a time of praise and prayer. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355.

Services (all at 10.30 am unless stated otherwise):

August:

9th : Strathdearn Hall Family Service with Tea afterwards.

16th: Dalarossie Church

23th : Moy Church

30th: Tomatin Church

September:

6th: Dalarossie Church Sacrament of Holy Communion

13th:: Strathdearn Hall Family Service with Tea afterwards.

20th: Dalarossie Church

27th: Moy Church

October:

4th: Dalarossie Church

11th: Strathdearn Hall Family Service with Tea afterwards.

18th: Dalrossie Church

25th: Moy Church

November:

1st: Dalarossie Church

**Saturday 15th August at the Strathdearn Hall from 2 - 4
pm**

Join us for

A Calendar Auction, Cream Teas, Baking etc.

365 days for you to buy,choose a special gift in thanksgiving for your gift!

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

NEWS FROM STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Snow Clearing – and yes, we do know it's August but we're being prepared! The CC is investigating a Pilot Snow Clearing Scheme to be carried out during exceptional snowstorms (at the discretion of the CC) subject to obtaining the necessary funding from the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust. We would be looking at salting icy pavements, bus stops, the Hall Car Park, local churches' car parks (if required); widening junctions for safety reasons. We would also look at "digging out" those who are very elderly, or disabled, or who have a medical condition requiring possible access to hospital or other medical services, including pregnant mothers. In these cases a referral would be required from the community nurse, a doctor or a minister. Any snow clearing carried out would be prioritised in terms of health reasons, junctions, and pavements. This is all very much at an early stage, but we wanted to give notice that we are looking into this. Insurance requirements will also need to be considered. If our plans do come to fruition, however, tenders will be sought from self-employed contractors to carry out the work, and any contractor interested in tendering for this should contact Vivian Roden on 01808 511 355 vroden@btinternet.com who will keep their names and invite them to submit tenders at the appropriate time.

Wide Single Plus 1 Overtaking Lane at Moy: Staying with the theme of roads for the moment, the CC has objected to this, but our pleas have not been heard. The Draft Side Roads Order has been made by Scottish Ministers "in the interests of road safety to allow the stopping up of U348 Lynebeg Road to the west of the A9 at Moy, due to the proximity to the proposed WS2+1 overtaking lane scheme. Access for pedestrians and cyclists from the A9 will be maintained. Vehicle access to U348 Lynebeg Road west of the A9 will be from the B9154 in Moy village. The CC Chair has been in (fairly acrimonious) correspondence with Scottish Government civil servants on this issue and the civil servants have referred her to Transport Scotland, from whom nothing has been heard! As it stands, the residents of Lynebeg will have to walk across the three lanes of traffic (although they could take refuge on the hatched area in the middle of the road, as one civil servant helpfully pointed out!) to access Moy village and the bus stop on the old A9. An underpass is vital to their safety, but so far Transport Scotland have not given any indication that they are going to build one.

So – please write to David Middleton, Chief Executive, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF – and raise your concerns about this with him. It may be helpful to also write to Stewart Stevenson MSP, the Minister concerned, or one of our MSPs – Fergus Ewing, Mary Scanlon, etc.

The "Smiley Face" near Morile should be in place before too long, and hopefully this will help our eternal speeding problem in Tomatin.

To further help promote the safe use of the roads, Lynne Stephens is helpfully organising a **Road Safety Day** in the Strathdearn Hall. Watch the Notice Boards to see when this is happening.

Tomatin Football Field: A sub-group is looking into ways of trying to secure access to this when the old school is sold. Matters have been delayed by summer holidays, but we hope to make some progress on this soon.

Paths Project: A survey is being carried out by Conserve Ltd on the possibility of paths being built from the A9 bus stop into the village, and then on to Juniper Drive via the roadside, as well as recreational paths in Distillery Wood.

This is only a snapshot of the issues dealt with by the CC – come along to our meetings to get the full picture. Our next meeting is on 18th August, and thereafter on third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Strathdearn Hall (although we did take a "summer holiday" this year and didn't meet in July). We hope to see you there!

Strathdearn Community Council
www.tomatin.org.uk

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