

STRATHDEARN NEWSLETTER

May 2010

Volume 10, No 2.

The Late Mr Ritchie Steventon

Ritchie's friends and neighbours packed Dalarossie Church for his funeral service on 15th March. Born in Carluke on the 20th September 1937, the son of a coal miner and a housewife, he and his brother, Andrew, grew up in Carluke where Ritchie became an Apprentice Motor Engineer when he left school.

He became a skilled mechanic, and spent all his working life in the motor trade, an interest he maintained in his retirement, not always to the universal approval of everyone in the village!

After he served his time, he ran a 24 hour Breakdown Recovery Garage and Petrol Station in Carluke, where he married Janette. Sadly, their second child, a daughter, died at birth. Their other children, Sonia, Dale, Gary and Brian – are now scattered across the country. The family grew with the arrival of grandchildren and then great-grandchildren. Sadly, he never got to see his latest great grandchild – his grandson Jason's baby daughter, born on 28th January – he was making arrangements to go down to see her when he died.

When Ritchie's grandchildren were asked what they remembered about him, the first thing they said was that "his door was always open", and the second that "if he could help someone, he would – and he helped us a lot". Another memory was that Ritchie loved to whistle – he was always whistling as he went about his business. But his musical interests were not confined to whistling. He loved listening to Radio 2 – and in the late 50s he was a drummer in a band, travelling to gigs with his drum kit fitted into a bubble car!

He and Janette parted in the early 70s, and after his divorce he moved to Stoke on Trent to run a garage. In the mid 80s his son Gary moved to Beaulieu with his family and not long after Ritchie moved north too, initially staying in Inverness in a flat which looked out onto the Kessock Bridge, before moving to Tomatin nearly 20 years ago.

He loved his dogs, first Bobby, and then Titch, and Cat – the stray cat who decided to adopt Ritchie. She sat on his window sill till he let her in and they lived happily together until his last illness.

Ritchie was a great collector of clocks. At one time he had over 200! When he passed away there were still over 130 left on the walls of his living room. He also loved bargain hunting, enjoying going round charity shops and car boot sales. When his grandson Craig and his wife Laura moved with their little boy, Cameron, to Kingussie, Ritchie was delighted to discover the Big Shed – a house clearing shed selling bric a brac – bringing home little presents for Laura. He also liked going to Morecambe and Lancaster to visit his family – travelling at night when the roads were quieter, stopping for a feed at Ballinluig. He would stay in the south for a week, combining his family visits with going round the charity shops there, as well as buying tools, always impressed by the cheaper cost of living in England.

Ever the optimist, Ritchie faithfully bought lottery tickets three times a week, sometimes winning modest amounts, and he liked to end his day with a nice pint or a whisky at the Tomatin Inn. He enjoyed the companionship of his friends and neighbours, who will miss him.

Don't forget to vote!
Thursday May 6th, Strathdearn hall **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

First Monday of the Month

September to May (ex. January)

7.30pm, Findhorn Room, Strathdearn Hall

WRI

Contact: Mrs Carol James 531220

Needlecraft - stopped for the summer

Contact: Mrs Chris West 511412

3rd Monday of Month

7.30pm Findhorn Room Strathdearn Hall,

Gardening Club

Contact: Mr Alex Don 511729

Every Wednesday

10.30am Findhorn Room, Strathdearn Hall,

Community Coffee Morning

All Welcome

Every Wednesday

2pm Strathdearn Hall

Walking Group

Contact: Mrs Kathy Bonniface 511740

Every Thursday

11.30am – 1.30pm Tomatin Shop

POST OFFICE

Every Thursday

1.30pm Findhorn Room, Strathdearn Hall,

Art Class

Contact: Mrs Betty Watson 511271

Exercise to Music group

Stopped for the summer

Contact: Mrs Denise Barley 511733

(During Term-Time)

Fridays 12.15 – 2.15pm Strathdearn Hall

Croileagan Tom Aitinn

(Tomatin Gaelic Playgroup)

Contact: Mrs Rosemary Dempster 531215

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)

Strathdearn Beaver Colony

For boys and girls aged 6-8 yrs.

Monday(term time) 5.45 – 6.45pm

Contact: Ruth Mantle 01808 511287

MOY, DALAROSSIE & TOMATIN
PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

invite you to

AFTERNOON TEA

in the Strathdearn Hall at 3.30pm on

Friday 21st May

Entry £2

BAKING & BRIC A BRAC STALLS

(All proceeds to Guild Projects and Church Funds)

All very warmly welcome

TOMATIN & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

PLANT SALE

Strathdearn Old Hall
Friday 28th May at 7.30pm

Plants from:

Highland Lilliums

Brin Herb Nursery

And from local members

Raffle Tea & biscuits

Brin Herb Nursery, Flichity, Farr

25th Anniversary!

Join our voucher scheme today - Bring this advertisement

Or quote SD01 for **FREE VOUCHER**

Herb & wild flower plants, seeds, pots

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Themed weekends £5.00 Monday lunches

Opening times:

Plant sales every day during daylight hours

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until 27th September, 11am - 5.30 pm

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Qualified Massage Therapist

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Please call Karen for details on
07725 099609

TEETOTAL TOMATIN

Summer's here and we've got no beer,
they've gone and shut our pub.
No whiskies fine or sparkling wine.
No welcome bite of grub.

No refuge for the tourist
whose needs are Scotland's gains.
There's plenty room for turbines
but not a lot for Inns.

How different the social scene
from many years ago,
when Strathdearn boasted seven Inns
as written records show.

Our last pub closed and shuttered;
such a desperate situation.
One day it's alive and well
the next day - execution!

Summer's here and we've got no beer,
they've gone and shut our pub.
No whiskies fine or sparkling wine.
No welcome bite of grub.

Donald MacAskill
28th April 2010

James Duncan Joiner & Building Contractor

Hazelbank, Tomatin,
Inverness-shire
IV13 7YN

Tel 01808 511338

Mobile 07977 558865

Email jamesduncanjoiner@btinternet.com

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

First... A very sheepish apology from the Editor to Ian and Lesley Purves and their son Andrew, whom I mistakenly married off on Christmas Day because I overlooked the word "engagement" in their message. I'm very sorry for the confusion caused!

CONGRATULATIONS:

Andrew Purves (son of Ian & Lesley Purves) became engaged to Jacki Ferguson on 25th December

The Marriage of **Miss Lisa Miemczyk**, formerly of Dell Cottage, Tomatin, and Mr Brian Melrose, is to take place on 22nd May and we wish them every happiness and a wonderful day also.

A few weeks later, **Miss Annabel Glynne-Percy** is to marry Mr Logie Fitzwilliams on 3rd July and we wish them every happiness and a happy day too.

We are delighted to welcome baby **Rebecca Nixon** who was born to Robert and Nicola on 26th April and weighed in at 8 ½ lbs. Our best wishes to all the family, including Grandad Robert and Granny Evelyn!

Congratulations to **Gordon Grant** of Archer's Cottage, who with his co-driver Daniel Johnstone from Inverness continued to follow in their fathers' footsteps this year as they took part in the Snowman Rally for the fourth time. The boys grew up watching Gordon's dad, Gordon Senior, taking part in rallies co-driven by Daniel's father, Donald. The duo tackled the Snowman in the same Peugeot 106 GTI that Gordon, a mechanic at Ness Motors, has had since their first year in the event. They did very well, coming 34th overall out of 124, and winning 3rd in their class. Their car was also the highest placed Peugeot. Well done Gordon!

THANKYOU:

Many thanks to all those who gave cards and words of condolence after the sudden death of my mother, Shirley Bertie, in January. They were much appreciated. **Michelle Bryden**

Jane Manson and family and **fifi Bell** and family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the very kind friends who sent letters and cards following the death of our mum, these messages meant so much and have gone a long way to helping us at this sad time.

Thankyou to Mrs Tanya Macleod for the sum of £163.93 from the proceeds of the Thursday coffee mornings, given to the SSPCA and Munloch Animal Aid. **Jean MacRae**

We want to say a huge thankyou to Jimmy Irvine for all his help in keeping the Glen Road open through that awful winter. Some days we just wouldn't have been down the Glen without him! **Marnie Macleod**

After many months of discussion and negotiation, the "Smiley Face" speed monitor sign is now in place in Tomatin village. It is hoped this is making a significant difference to the problem of speeding vehicles through the village. The Community Council is very grateful to Mr John Cameron-Mackintosh for all the work he put into this project. (*This was given to me shortly before the Smiley Face stopped working we live in hope that the malfunction will be quickly remedied! Ed.*)

And a big thankyou from the Editor to the large group of Strathdearn residents who give freely of their time to make sure this Newsletter is delivered through every letterbox. The Newsletter was started by Helen MacLennan ten years ago, continued after she passed away by Vivan Roden and Ian Mearns (who kindly stayed on to help me during my first year) and is now produced by me with much-needed and appreciated help from Diana Osborne and Susan Mackintosh-Grant on printing day. The present delivery team are David Bonniface, John Cameron-Mackintosh, Sandra Day, Susan Mackintosh-Grant, Marian Hendry, Lorna Irvine, Roger MacPherson, Vivian Roden, Margaret Saunders, Edward Osborne and Alasdair Wallace. Thank you all and keep up the good work!

THE GREAT HIGHLAND BLIZZARD

We certainly had a hard winter this year, with prolonged snow and ice for three months before it eventually disappeared – to come back again! One remote West Highland village – Polloch on the Morvern peninsula - was cut off for several days. The village which has about 20 residents was only accessible by an alternative route round a 16 mile barriered private road round Loch Shiel, used by forestry vehicles and not suitable for cars! One hardy resident of the Forestry Houses in Polloch was forced to take refuge with his daughter in nearby Strontian. He was philosophical about it all, however: "It's just fun and games. When you come to live in the Highlands you have to accept whatever it throws at you!"

But generally this year, the weather was more consistently (or persistently!) wintry than affected by a severe snowstorm as was the case in 1978, when "The Great Highland Blizzard" raged for five days from January 26th – 30th. The air in the circulation of that storm was not abnormally cold, so around the Scottish coasts and in the central lowlands snow turned readily to sleet and rain, and Scotland's main population centres saw very little snow on the ground.

It was, however, a different story inland where near-zero temperatures were accompanied by a gale. Snow clung to power and telephone lines where it froze, bringing them down. And a dramatic increase in drifting on 28th January overwhelmed the efforts of the highways departments keep even trunk roads open. A depth of 3feet of snow was reported from Clashnoir, six miles south of Glenlivet. Some 200 cars, two buses, and three trains were stranded. Many people had found shelter – one cottage at Slochd took in no fewer than 63 travellers!

During the days after the blizzard, helicopters rescued hundreds of people from remote sites. The death toll of six was surprisingly low in the circumstances. The human story of the snowstorm revolved around a middle-aged motorist who was dug out of a giant snowdrift on January 31st. He had become stranded by the blizzard as he travelled between Inverness and Wick, and his car had been buried under a snowdrift for four days.

This man was found alive because he had a small supply of food and he knew how to survive. He had kept clear an opening in the side of the drift to maintain an air supply and he had the sense to stay inside his car. But – to the delight of the newspapers who told his story afterwards – he was a travelling salesman and he carried a case of ladies' underwear. He used these samples to pad out his own clothing and to wrap his feet and hands, keeping hypothermia at bay.

Researched by Susan Mackintosh-Grant

(Many of us have vivid memories of the 1978 Blizzard, often retold round firesides. Mine is of spending two days trapped at Meallmore Lodge, then a hotel, with my husband and a Beardie pup and 12 other people. We had to dig our way through 6 ft of snow to get to the outside larder for food, toasted T-bone steaks over the open fire as there was no electricity, and on the second day waded back out to our cars and had to dig **down** to find them! We got home to Aviemore on a helicopter. - Ed)

TRAINS AT TOMATIN

Over the years, the Community Council has flagged up the desire to have the Tomatin Station re-opened so that local residents would be able to catch a train at Tomatin, rather than have to travel to Carrbridge, Aviemore or Inverness. Our pleas have always fallen on deaf ears so far, due mainly to the reluctance of the train companies to add the extra stopping time to journeys which would be necessary if the train stopped at Tomatin, and the fact that apparently the platform would have to be rebuilt, there is no longer a bridge so a replacement would have to be built – and basically, they say, not enough people would use the Station at Tomatin to make it viable.

If we are going to be doing another Community Plan, then perhaps this might be best left to come up under the consultation process for that, but it would in any case be good to get an indication of the level of support, or otherwise, there would be for trains stopping at Tomatin once more. We are therefore going to put it on the agenda of our next meeting on **Tuesday 18th May**. **Please come along and give us your views, or let us know beforehand (vroden@btinternet.com) or 01808 511 355 if you are unable to attend and you have views on this.**

Strathdearn School Trip to Belmont 2010

On Monday the 19th of April 2010 Strathdearn Primary 6/7 class along with Daviot Primary 6/7 class very excitedly left the school car park for the long journey down to Belmont near Coupar Angus. We were all heading that way because we were going on a residential school trip to the Belmont Centre.

On arrival we got shown our dormitories which were very clean and tidy. We then met our tutors "Brad and Scott" who are from New Zealand. They were both very nice. We also got 4 meals a day. Breakfast – 8ish , Lunch – 12ish , Dinner - 5ish and Supper around 8 o'clock at night. Hot chocolate was often a favourite at Supper!

During the week we also encountered lots of challenging activities such as Pole Climb, Flying Fox (zip wire), Tree Climb, Mohawk Walk, Night Line, Archery and many more. We also had a Disco and BBQ on the last night and were so busy we had no time to be homesick in our action-packed week.

This trip was by far the best trip the schools had and all 20 of us had a fantastic time. We all achieved new things and enjoyed the freedom and the responsibility around the centre and would all like to thank Mrs Robinson and Mrs Shearer (Daviot Head) for taking us away. We all had a GREAT time and would love to do it again some time.

Lewis Mackay P7

1st Strathdearn Rainbows and Brownies

The Rainbows and Brownies have had a busy few months. We have enjoyed belly dancing, craft making, and learning how to make Easter crispy cakes and to boil the perfect breakfast egg. We also enjoyed our recent trip to Eden Theatre to see Gang Show 2010. This term we are working towards our first aid and centenary badge and we plan to make the most of the summer weather (when it finally arrives). Four Brownies are also taking part in the Big Brownie Take-Over weekend at the end of April to celebrate 100 years of Girl Guiding. We welcome any new members (ages 5-10 years) and if any parent would like to help at our meetings, then please do not hesitate to contact Trish (511486) or Amanda (511250).

Strathdearn Beavers Update

Whilst lamenting about the distance local children have to travel to the nearest Beaver colony, a neighbour joked that I should set up a group myself and 9 months later the 30th Inverness (Strathdearn) Beavers held their first meeting on Burns night. There are now 14 children (boys and girls) in the Beaver colony and we meet on a Monday evening at Strathdearn Primary school. Activities so far include linking up with a community in Kenya, making boomerangs, going on an alphabet hike, learning about nature and playing lots of games! We have more exciting activities planned for the summer and hope to spend as much time outdoors as possible including a sleepover later in the year. The Beavers and leaders will make their promise for the first time at the end of May and the District Commissioner has kindly agreed to support us on the night. Thanks to Sarah, Debbie, DoE volunteers Murray, Georgie, Hannah and Robbie, Strathdearn Primary school staff and parent helpers for all your support. If you would like to find out more about joining the colony or volunteering then please contact Ruth Mantle on 01808 511287 or strathdearnbeavers@yahoo.co.uk.

MOY, DALAROSSIE & TOMATIN PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Invites Everyone in Strathdearn
to come to an
EXHIBITION
showcasing what the Church does locally, and
further afield
(and enjoy a delicious CREAM TEA)**

**on SUNDAY 13th JUNE 2010 between 2 and 4 pm
in the Strathdearn Hall**

**No Charge
All will be very warmly welcome**

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

At our February Meeting: Law and Order

PC Munro reported that, of the 18 calls made to the police from this area, half were concerning the weather. Two crimes were reported – one being the theft of a taxi headrest by some youths, the other concerning E-Bay fraud. The public need to be aware of credit cards being cloned.

Two motorists were caught speeding. 'Operation Navigate' involving radar guns will be starting once the weather improves.

Fly tipping is also considered an offence, as a dumped sofa was found at Slochd.

Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust Financial Report

Mr Osborne produced the financial statement for the period to 31st December 2009 which showed a balance of £496,831.00. There was a total income of just over £75,000. Once the new Sports Facility has been paid for, approx £168,000 will have been paid out for projects within the community.

Digital UK Roadshow

Prior to the switchover from analogue to digital TV in October 2010, there will be a Digital UK roadshow on 11th August to inform the local community on how to receive a TV signal. A trailer will be parked in the Hall car park and advice will be given on the varying satellite companies ie Sky, Freeview and Freesat.

Update on Tomatin Estate's Development Plans

Mr and Mrs Osborne declared an interest.

Mrs Roden read out an email from Richard Heggie, Urban Animation, reporting that a topographical survey needs to be done on the area below the church prior to proceeding with the housing development to the north of the village and, in turn, the sports field is connected to the housing. As he will also be providing feedback for the footpath study, it was suggested that he talk to Mr Chris Cairns.

Mr Bryden noted that it was encouraging that the Estate was actively involving the community in these long term developments.

Recording Archaeology in Strathdearn

Mr George Grant, North of Scotland Archaeological Society, asked if there would be 3 – 6 people who may be interested in forming a group with the object of having the history of the Strath written up. Architecture for Communities in the Highland (ARCH) would be willing to help set up the project. As Mrs Glynne-Percy and Mrs Osborne had already been in discussion with Mr Grant, their names were put forward. Mr Macaskill and Mr Don were also suggested as interested participants. Mrs Roden agreed to set up a meeting in the Hall. This meeting took place in April, was well attended and a course is to be set up in the autumn. Watch the Noticeboards for further details.

At our March Meeting: Moy Wind Farm: A Presentation was given by Mr. Dominic Farrugia, of Carbon Free Developments, with regard to the proposed Wind Farm development at Moy. Mr. Farrugia agreed to write to the Community Council with regard to the formation of a liaison group. The liaison group met for the first time on 15th April. There were concerns initially because the liaison group intended to consult on both the planning application and community benefit – which have to be kept separate by Community Councils – community councillors who take part in community benefit discussions cannot vote on the planning application. The windfarm company resolved this by agreeing to hold alternate meetings to discuss the wind farm proposal and community benefit. Edward Osborne and James Duncan have been appointed by the CC to represent them on community benefit, and so far Margaret Saunders has been appointed to attend the meetings dealing with planning although there is a vacancy for another community councillor. Pat Wells is representing Strathdearn Against Windfarm Developments at the liaison meetings. Carbon Free Developments Limited will be staging an Exhibition in June at Tomatin,

Daviot and in Inverness. Watch the Noticeboards for further details. If you would like to contact the liaison group you may do so at liaisongroup@moywindfarm.com

Paths Project: A second presentation was given by Ms Susan Watts with regard to the Paths Project. The Core Paths Sub Group will put together a working document and present this to the Community Council._

Gritting and Snow Clearing: Mrs. M Saunders requested that the CC arrange to have containers for grit available for snow at Moy – under the railway arch and at the Old Station. Cllr Pedersen to source them from Highland Council, and Trust Application to be completed re funding.

Mrs. Saunders also raised the issue of snow clearing on private roads, requesting that consideration be given to the possibility of formal arrangement being made for this locally. After discussion Mr. D Bryden proposed that CDW prepare a report and liaise with HC TEC Services.

Recycling of old Mobile Phones and Ink Cartridges:

Mrs. Glynne-Percy made people aware that Highland Hospice was looking for old mobile phones and ink cartridges.

And at our April Meeting:

NHS Consultation: Changing Community Care: The Highland Community Care Partnership (NHS Highland and the Highland Council) is consulting on its plans for Community Care to make sure that they fully reflect what matters most to people. To help them do this they have produced four short consultation documents (dealing with older adults in need; younger adults in need; support to people with mental health problems and or/substance misuse (alcohol and drugs); and one document detailing their overall approach entitled Adults in Need: Common Approaches). These documents aim to summarise their plans for improvement; and offer people the opportunity to give us their views. For further information, or to request extra copies of the materials, please call Martine Stewart on 01463 702 807. Online surveys and consultation booklets can be accessed at www.fhcommunities.org The consultation is open until 15th June, and if you do respond, the Community Council via Vivian Roden (01808 511 355 or vroden@btinternet.com) would be glad to receive feedback to make sure the CC response mirrors the concerns of the community.

Dunmaglass Windfarm: Highland Council has voted to approve this windfarm and there will be discussions on community benefit options at our next CC Meeting on 18th March.

THE TOMATIN COUNTRY STORE

As we have now completed our first year as the Tomatin Country Store, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their strong continued support. I would also like to thank our wonderful team Karen, Liz, & Tony who have all worked hard to make the shop the success it is today.

Thanks again to everyone! Angus Macleod

Betty's Recipes

Gammon with broccoli and cheese sauce

4 gammon steaks
8oz broccoli
1oz butter
1oz wholemeal flour
Half pint milk
2oz grated cheese
Wholegrain mustard

Grill ham and keep warm. Cook broccoli till tender and keep warm. Make sauce with butter, flour and milk. Stir in cheese and mustard. Transfer ham to plate. Top with sauce and broccoli and serve with new potatoes.

5 minute chocolate mug cake

4 tablespoons flour
4 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cocoa
1 egg
3 tablespoons milk
3 tablespoons oil
3 tablespoons choc chips (optional)
Small splash vanilla extract
1 large coffee mug

Add dry ingredients to mug and mix well. Add egg and mix well. Mix in oil and milk. Mix in choc chips and vanilla. Put mug in microwave and cook for 3 mins at 1000 watts (high)**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 breakfast (healthy options available!) in the Strathdearn Hall on the last two Mondays of May and June, 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).

Summer Programme:

- 1st Sunday of the month: Dalarossie Church
- 2nd Sunday of the month: Family Service in the Strathdearn Hall with Tea
- 3rd Sunday of the month: Dalarossie Church.
- 4th Sunday of the month: Moy Church
- 5th Sunday of the month
(when there is one): Tomatin Church

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

We hope as many Football Club members and other users of the field as possible will come to this meeting.

If you have an old mobile phone that you no longer use, or a used-up ink cartridge, you can drop it off at your nearest Highland Hospice shop or store. Highland Hospice receives £3 for every handset received no matter what age or condition it is. They get £100 to spend at Argos for every 100 mobile phones they receive, and also get money for old ink cartridges (except Epson or Canon). Why not organise a phone drive at your place of work, a printer cartridge drive at your church or at your child's school? Please spread the word about this great opportunity to help Highland Hospice raise much needed funds!

FOOTBALL FIELD AT RAIGBEG

Following on from the Community Consultation carried out in this Newsletter at the end of last year on Tomatin Estate's plans for development in the village, the CC indicated to the Tomatin Estate's planning consultant that their preferred option for planning gain would be a sports field in the field opposite the planned housing development between the back Station Road and Sandside. In the meantime we obtained permission from the Tinsley family to continue to use the Raigbeg Field. There has now been a delay in Tomatin Estate's plans, and Highland Council are keen to sell the old school. A decision requires to be made on the football field and so there is to be:

A MEETING

with the Tinsley Family and Officials from the Estates Department and Planning Department of Highland Council at the Raigbeg Football Field on Wednesday 5th May at 12 noon

Strathdearn Flower Show

Tomatin & District Gardening Club - Strathdearn Flower Show Saturday 4th September 2010

At our show there is a class for everyone, no matter what your interest, and we look forward to your entry. Please support The Strathdearn Flower Show, it is a restricted show to take account of our difficult growing conditions. So let's have a bit of local competition and support the Gardening Club's effort to make it even better than before.

The 2010 Flower Show Schedule.

Baking & Produce Section

1) 1 Date and Walnut Cake (2lb loaf tin) 2) 3 Coffee Cream biscuits 3) 3 Pancakes 4) 3 Cheese scones 5) 3 Oatcakes 6) 3 Almond slices 7) 4 Chocolate peppermint creams 8) 1 Decorated Halloween cake 9) 1 Jar Raspberry Jam 10) 1 Jar Strawberry Jam 11) 1 Jar Blackcurrant Jam 12) 1 Jar Marmalade 13) 1 Jar Jelly (any variety) 14) 1 Jar Lemon Curd 15) 1 Jar Chutney - Any Variety 16) 1 Milk loaf (8" round approx)

Art Section (any medium) 1) Painting of a bird 2) Beach Scene 3) Abstract 4) Woodland 5) Animal Portrait

Children's Sections (8 Yrs & under; 9 -12 Yrs)

1) Animal made from fruit and/or vegetables 2) Egg Cup Flower Display 3) Garden in a Tray no bigger than 15" x 10" 4) Grown from seed, bulb or tuber by Me 5) Painting or drawing of a flower or flowers - A4 size or less 6) Photography - Your Choice- (Mounted see notes) 7)

Challenge Potato crop from one seed potato. Seed potato will be provided by the Gardening Club. Entrants to sow seed potato in own pot and compost.

Handicrafts

1) Exhibit of Patchwork and/or Quilting 2) Exhibit of Knitting 3) Exhibit of Embroidery, Cross Stitch, or Tapestry 4) Exhibit of Crochet 5) Any craft (other than above)

Photography (mounted - see Notes on Exhibits)

1) Tomatin village scene 2) Wildlife 3) Winter 4) A Fern or ferns 5) Night scene 6) 3 pictures telling a story on an A4 sheet

Floral Art

1) Single Colour Arrangement (to be viewed from front) 2) Foliage arrangement <18" (to be viewed all round) 3) Button hole 4) Arrangement incorporating water.

Flower Section

1) 5 Sweet Peas - Mixed 2) 5 Sweet Peas - same colour 3) 3 Antirrhinums 4) 3 Carnations/Pinks 5) 3 Calendula (Marigold) Stems 6) 3 French Marigold Heads 7) 3 Pansy*Heads - Same Colour 8) 3 Pansy* Heads - Different colours (*note pansy not viola) 9) 1 Rose Stem - Single Bloom 10) 3 Rose Stems - Floribunda 11) 1 Rose Bloom - for scent 12) 3 Fuchsia Heads - same colour 13) 3 Fuchsia Heads - different colours 14) 1 standard Fuchsia 15) Fuchsia - up to 7" pot 16) Fuchsia - over 7" pot 17) 3 Begonia Heads 18) 3 Dahlia Stems 19) 1 Vase - 4 Herbaceous Perennial Stems same species and variety 20) 1 Vase - 4 Herbaceous Perennial Stems mixed species 21) 1 Vase - 4 Annual Stems same species and variety 22) 1 Vase - 4 Annual Stems mixed species 23) 1 Vase - 4 stems of flowering shrubs 24) 1 Pot Plant - Flower 25) 1 Pot Plant - Foliage 26) Planted Container up to 18"

Vegetable Section

1) 1 Cabbage 2) 1 Cauliflower 3) 3 Carrots 4) 3 Onions 5) 2 Leeks 6) 3 Potatoes - White 7) 3 Potatoes - Coloured 8) 3 Beetroot 9) 2 Turnips 10) 1 Lettuce 11) 3 Tomatoes 12) 2 Courgettes 13) 1 Pepper - any colour 14) Basket of 5 kinds of Vegetable not decorated. 15) Any

other Vegetable 16) Display of 5 different cut Culinary Herbs 17) Parsley grown in pot 18) 3 beans - any variety

Rules 1.) The entry Fee in all sections is 20p up to a maximum of £5.00. Thereafter free. Entries for the children's section are 10p 2.) Children's entries. **Must** state age on all labels 3.) Exhibitors are limited to one entry per class. 4.) Each entry must have a label attached- available on the morning of the show or from Club Members. 5.) 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded in all classes at the judges' discretion. Prizes may be withheld or modified if the exhibits are considered to be below standard. 6.) All entries must conform to display requirements 7.) No produce to be removed until after 3.30pm.

The Judges decision is final in all matters.

Display Requirements Flower Section: Flower head to be displayed on a black card. You can, for example, utilise a tinfoil tray with a piece of cardboard glued on top so your flower head can be in water.

Roses: single Bloom means large flowered HT type rose, may have bud on stem. Floribunda means cluster flowered rose.

Vegetable Section: Carrots to be trimmed back to at least 1" of foliage. Tomatoes must be displayed with calyces.

Onion tops to be tied or whipped using string. Lettuce - roots may be wrapped in plastic. Leave some outer leaves on Cabbages.

All entries in vegetable section to be displayed on paper plate as provided.

Photography Section: Photographs to be mounted on a card or board not exceeding 9" x 7" and exhibitors name & address on reverse of card. Exhibits may be pinned or bluetacked.

Baking & Produce Section: Jams- all jars must be full, Bread should be baked the day before the show.

Prizes may be withheld or modified if exhibits are considered unworthy of the prize offered.

Potato Challenge (Children's Section)

The Challenge is to grow a crop of potatoes for exhibition at the Strathdearn Flower Show.

A seed potato will be supplied to Primary School Pupils with pointers regarding sowing, growing and watering. Entrants use own pot and compost. We are looking forward to a large entry in this section which will have special awards and prizes. As this is a special section, points will not be awarded towards the Jubilee Cup.

Trophies

The Strathdearn Trophy to the exhibitor with the most overall points.

The Commemorative Shield to the exhibitor with the most points in the Flower Section.

The J M Gleeson Quaich to the exhibitor with the most points in the Vegetable Section.

The National Wind Power Rose Bowl to the exhibitor with the most points in the Floral Art Section.

The Carillion Trophy to the exhibitor with the most points in the Baking & Produce Section.

The United Utilities Trophy to the exhibitor with the most points in the Painting Section.

The Silver Salver to the exhibitor with the most points in the Handicraft Section.

The Neil Thomson Shield for Photography

The Jubilee Cup to the exhibitor with the most points in the Children's Section.

The Millennium Trophy (Donated by Strathdearn Community Council) will be awarded to a different Section each year as follows: **2010- Painting**, 2011- Vegetable, 2012- Photography and 2013- Children's.

The Rose Cup to the winner of flower Class 11, The Rose Bloom for Scent.

Private Presentation & Tasting Tours - £30 per person : Tel. Gill 01463 248 148

Come and browse round our Gift Shop - lots of new exciting gifts for all occasions
Shop open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday
Sunday opening from 12 noon to 4.30 p.m.

DISTILLERY NEWS

On 28th April at the Tomatin Distillery Co. Ltd. A.G.M., Mr. Robert Anderson took over as C.E.O. when Mr. Tom McCulloch stepped down as Managing Director of the Tomatin Group, after 20 years working with the Distillery, as Manager and Director. He will continue to work for the Distillery part time, as a consultant.

Mr. Anderson has worked for Tomatin Distillery since 1988, as Accounts Manager, Company Secretary, and Financial Director.

All at Tomatin Distillery wish him every success in his new position.

Congratulations to Robert and Nicola Nixon, on the birth of their baby girl, Rebecca, born on Monday 26th April in Raigmore Hospital, and also to proud grandparents, Bob and Evelyn Nixon, Tomatin Distillery.

Tomatin Distillery Co. Ltd.

Visitor Centre and Gift Shop

Open 7 days per week – Easter to October
Tours Monday to Friday - £3 per person : Tel.
Marie 01463 248 144

Newsletter December - March 2010

After a 7 week break over Christmas, during which I was able to see some of the amazing attractions that Southern Africa has to offer, I returned to Gqaina.

The school term was due to begin on Wednesday 13th January; however it did not start until a week later. This was because most of the children live hundreds of kilometres away in small villages and the fastest form of transport the families have is a donkey-cart. Some are lucky and have access to the more up-market, expensive and modern edition, the horse and cart. This possesses more power, a better feel as you steer round corners and an all round more comfortable ride!

The school was built for the San Bushmen Tribe thirty years ago. The Bushmen are traditionally hunter-gatherers, living in the bush and earning nothing more than what they need to live on. They were the first inhabitants of Southern Africa long ago, and lived with no interference or connections with the rest of the world. In some parts of Namibia and Botswana they still do, but it's not easy. One of Africa's greatest dilemmas in the 21st Century is how to preserve old cultures and traditions while accepting and adapting to the new.

The school's aim is to introduce the Bushmen into modern-day society. Fifty per cent of the pupils attending the school are of the San Bushmen Tribe. The remaining half is made up of children who belong to the Herero, Damara and Owambo tribes. Every child can speak their tribal language - this is their mother tongue. Every child can also speak Afrikaans (which is what children of different tribes speak to communicate with each other) and English, which is what their classes are taught in. Some children's mother and father may be of differing tribes and have therefore grown up speaking two tribal languages. One boy I know speaks 5 languages - this really puts me to shame but my Afrikaans is improving.

The classes start at 7am. All the teachers meet in the staff room for a morning prayer. There are 9 teachers, excluding John and me. From there John and I go our separate ways. Sometimes we are assisting sometimes we are teaching classes of 40 pupils in temperatures around 35 degrees celsius and all they want to do is dance, they love dancing. Six months later I am still amazed how good they are, their feet move so fast and their rhythm is perfect. 300 pupils and I haven't seen a bad dancer! When the bell rings at 1pm to mark the end of the school day, the pupils receive lunch. Most meals, most days, is pap. Pap is maize porridge and does not taste like something that should be going into your body, quite the opposite in fact

Gqaina is a boarding school and ninety per cent of the learners stay in the hostels, only a few returning home each day to a nearby settlement. The age range is 5-18, massive for a primary school and can often be problematic. Recently an older boy was expelled for inappropriate behaviour with a younger one. The hostel accommodation is dark, dirty and crowded yet they are all immensely proud to show you what they have inside their lockers: old magazine cuttings, dirty socks, empty toothpaste tubes. We did find one older boy was keeping bread he was given at meal times in his locker. He told us he used it to give to the girls, provided they gave him something in return!

It is currently the rainy season in Namibia, which provides us with green leaves, and bright orange sands marking the outskirts of the Kalahari and the awesome sky: in light, so big and blue it looks like wallpaper; in darkness, lying on your back, a deep black sheet. Stars so close you could touch them; moonlight bright enough to write this newsletter.

Fraser Manson

'The Demise'

On that day in 2007..... the note in my diary read - "Such a horrible sight met our eyes when we opened the P & J this morning – the Freeburn Hotel is flattened and we just can't believe it ! The hotel should have at least been given a decent send off, to let all the ghosts that must be hovering around there have a chance to say goodbye!"

Lately, Charlie and I have been sitting talking it over – quite a lot – and I feel moved to write our thoughts down before the memories fade. We suddenly came to the realization that Charlie is the oldest living native of Tomatin, and he remembers the Freeburn as a high class hotel with many Lords and Ladies visiting in the 1930's. It was very popular with the fishing enthusiasts. Charlie's first job in 1932 was as 'Boots boy', a job which really covered a lot of useful chores, including polishing the guest's boots and shoes every morning. He would collect them from outside the bedrooms early in the morning, and polish them 'until he could see his face reflected', before returning them before the gentry were awake. He soon learned there was more to it, when he placed a pair of ladies shoes outside a gent's bedroom by mistake, and got into bother! From then on he chalked numbers on the footwear to correspond with the room numbers.

He well remembers his first day trying to get the hang of things, and as he had to be up so early he had a room in the staff quarters. His home was only a quarter of a mile from the hotel, but he says, as he jumped into the cold staffroom bed, he never felt so homesick in his life!

Later, he was 'boots /bar man' – and he also took care of dispensing petrol from a single hand-operated pump. The pump handle worked by 'one turn - and back - and one back' per gallon. If you wanted a large quantity you pulled out a peg and left it turning until the tank was full. The pump was always busy as the lodges filled their vehicles there as well as passing motorists.

The owners during this time were referred to as the 'Misses Gunn', (two sisters) and came from the Caithness area. Isobel ran it all and her sister was the cook. She died there. The food was always first class and the dining room was upstairs. The food was transported by a 'dumb waiter' – a box-shaped lift

operated by ropes and pulleys through a narrow shaft that connected the kitchen with the dining room. The waitresses wore black skirts with crisp white blouses, or dresses with white collar and cuffs. Each room had a bell pull which rang downstairs, and brought a prompt response from staff.

There are many questions cropping up – maybe someone has some answers. The bar was the 'hub of the community' (as noted by Vivian) for generations. There was so much camaraderie and friendship. We always said that in the shooting season it was over flowing with fur and feathers flying as the keepers compared notes over a pint.

And now Tomatin Inn is closed also, so we have taken another backward step. Isn't it time to find another way whereby all the community have an opportunity to meet socially and get to know each other? The older folk, who may only like a game of bowls, dominoes, some music or a whist drive, or best of all a blether, are missed out completely. I think this building (Tomatin Inn) is listed – so I trust it wont be demolished like the Freeburn was!

We hope there is a written history somewhere of the Freeburn Hotel, 'the well loved place', and we also wonder where the visitors book might have got to? Hopefully in future a new 'Freeburn' will welcome trade and adorn the entrance to Tomatin village.

Pearl Cameron

Natural History Club

Once again Tom Prescott provided us with a most entertaining evening interpreting the moths we had trapped overnight and fascinating us with the range and beauty of these fascinating insects. By the time this goes to press we will have completed our second annual trip to the Aigas centre, where this year we will be looking at pine marten.

NEXT DATE:

Thursday May 27th, 6:30 - evening Spring Watch – a leisurely tour of the strath noting the impact of Spring on the flora and fauna. Meet at the Hall in Tomatin.

I would be grateful if new members and interested parties could send me your email address, if you have one, to:

davidbonniface@aol.com

so that I can keep you up to date on new events and changes to the schedule.

*David Bonniface
(Secretary)*

confined to the roads. A walk near the Findhorn revealed celandine and coltsfoot, as well as the wild call of the curlew and familiar tones of lapwing and oyster catcher. We revelled in these signs of spring. On the hill track from Ruthven, many frogs were croaking, and in the wayside ponds much frog spawn was found. Alas, two weeks and two feet of snow later many pathetic, flattened, corpses of frogs were found.

We do walk in Step it Up Highland for all the healthy benefits it brings, but also enjoy the freedom and sense of well being that exercise in such beautiful landscapes can bring.

If you would like to join us on a Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 PM at the Strathdearn Hall you would be most welcome; we should very much enjoy your company. Just let Kathy or David know on 01808 511740, or Carol on 01808 531220.

ART IN STRATHDEARN

The art club meets on Thursday afternoons in the Strathdearn hall from 1.30 pm -3.30pm. The sessions are quite informal and members are

encouraged to experiment in whichever medium inspires them so we may have artists working in watercolours, pastels, acrylics or painting on silk .We have a welcome stop for tea and a chance to assess our progress (or otherwise!). From time to time we have visiting tutors and we are happy to welcome back Jonathan Wheeler in July, an outstanding watercolour artist. Later on, Rosie Fisher from Speyside will be helping us to improve our skills in acrylics.

Our annual exhibition will be held on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st August in Strathdearn hall and will include local crafts and an exhibition of paintings by the very talented primary school children. Hope to see you there!
*Betty Watson
(President)*

WRI

The AGM, with accompanying Taste & Try, will take place on Monday 10th May, which is the last meeting of this session. We start

again in September - look out for notices in the next Newsletter. We look forward to meeting you then - new members are always welcome. Contact Carol James 531220 or Betty Watson 511271.

Tomatin & District Gardening Club

Meetings usually 7.30pm, Strathdearn Hall. New members always welcome.

17th May Hit Squad Night

Tidying around Strathdearn Hall

28th May PLANT SALE 7.30pm, Old Hall Open to the Public

June Trip To be arranged

16th August Flower Show Arrangements

6th September Flower Show, all day.

Contact: Sheila & Alex Don 511729

Step - It - Up

At last, after a long, hard winter, we are able to walk again on some of our favourite paths and tracks, instead of being

**COMMUNITY PLANNING
IN STRATHDEARN**

- What do **you** think about living in Strathdearn?
- What ideas have **you** got for the future?
- Where would **you** like to see development taking place? Or not taking place?
- What do **you** the community should be aiming to achieve in the next 5 years?

The 2006 Strathdearn Community Plan is nearing its sell-by date and the Community Council is looking to produce an up-to-date Plan, taking into account the views and opinions of the local community.

One way of doing this would be to work with The CADISPA Trust (Conservation and Development in Sparsely Populated Areas) with whom a sub-group of the CC met last week. CADISPA started off as a project under the auspices of Strathclyde University, but now operates as an independent trust which aims to enable ordinary people to become as informed as their professional counterparts in the regional and developmental authorities, and for these people then to work together from a position of understanding, equality and power-sharing. CADISPA can help local people to

identify and prioritise their own local agenda with a view to these local people prioritising and deciding upon their own local development.

If CADISPA was asked to carry out a Community Planning Study in Strathdearn

they would ask the questions the community wants asked. The study would take between five and six months and they would plan to consult everyone in Strathdearn over the age of 5 years – including those who are temporarily away from the area, including eg in the Armed Forces or away at University. The community could also opt for CADISPA help to update the existing Strathdearn Community Plan, which would be a cheaper option.

The first phase of the Community Planning Study would involve CADISPA working in partnership with a steering group of the Community Council. The next phase would involve the development of an Action Plan. The full CADISPA Community Planning Study would cost £9,350 - three times as much as the existing Community Plan drawn up with the help of the now defunct Partnership for Rural Inverness & Nairn – but everyone would be consulted, CADISPA would continue to work with the community for 3 – 5 years and Strathdearn people would also be eligible to attend local CADISPA training sessions. The community would also have to give permission to CADISPA to record the community's

progress and share this with others.

This is on the agenda of the next CC Meeting on 18th May at 7.30 pm in the Strathdearn Hall – come along and make your views known!

ARCHAEOLOGY IN STRATHDEARN

The proposed Strathdearn Archaeology group held an inaugural meeting at the Hall on April 15th, and met George Grant, Susan Kruse and Janet Cooper, members of ARCH (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands), who will tutor us through what promises to be a very interesting project.

They were pleasantly surprised to see such an enthusiastic gathering awaiting them – fifteen, with a further five unable to be there that evening, and each of us were asked what our particular interests were that could be included in future meetings.

Strathdearn has a long history of occupation from prehistoric times to the present day but, apart from General Wades Military Road, there are almost no written references to bygone times. The aim of the group would be to research as much of the past history of the Strath as possible, record data and create a Community Timeline for future generations to learn about and so appreciate the heritage about us.

Several local maps were on display at the meeting, dating from

1580, 1654, 1747 and 1830, also the first Ordnance Survey map before the coming of the railway. Many place names are familiar over the centuries, though some are hard to decipher as Anglicised versions of the original Gaelic. It would be fascinating to bring to life knowledge of what are now overgrown ruined homesteads, to find out who lived there - some remembered even now, such as the Coigs – and what occupations people had, apart from crofting.

Susan Kruse, one of the Highland Region archaeologists brought some amazing artifacts from excavations for the group to see, and handle. It was awe-inspiring to hold a tiny flint arrowhead, thousands of years old, and think what skill had shaped a weapon capable of bringing down prey.

ARCH are committed to several other projects at present but hope to come to Tomatin again in August for a series of meetings to set us on our way to research and record the heritage of Strathdearn through old buildings, anecdotes, photographs, Parish records and memories passed down generations.

Ann Glynne-Percy

Plants for Strathdearn

The Gardening Club were asked to give their tips on the best plants and strategies for maintaining a successful garden in this difficult upland climate. Many thanks to David Bonniface, Alex Don, Carol James and Betty Watson for their contributions, collated below.

Recommended books:

For the rabbit problem - Gardening With The Enemy, by Janet Thomson ISBN 0 9530013 0 X

Most comprehensive – Garden Plants for Scotland, by Kenneth Cox and Raoul Curtis-Machin ISBN 9 780711226753

Some help – Great Plants for Tough Places, by Sharon Amos ISBN 9 781855859432

The particular challenges faced by gardeners in this area:

Altitude (*1,00ft above sea level*); weather (*windy and cold, late frosts until June and a short growing season*); soil (*acidic and poor in nutrients because of the rain*); local flora (*moss and heather soon take over*); rabbits and deer are a big problem: deer love roses and like to nip the heads off delphiniums etc, while rabbits will devastate a garden in a night. The only answer is adequate fencing.

Plants that are less likely to be eaten by rabbits:

Anemone, aquilegia, catmint, crocosmia, daffodil, flowering currant, foxglove, gentian, hellebore, hosta, iris, lily, lithospermum, pampas grass, paeony, potentilla, rhododendron, vinca

Flowers and shrubs that seem tempting but present problems:

Many are just too tender, like Ceanothus and some Japanese Maples. Late flowering plants like Gladioli are susceptible to early frosts. Certain vegetables need protection from cold eg runner beans, courgettes, tomatoes, cucumber, peppers. Some plants can be irritating to the skin eg hellebore. Some are poisonous eg laburnum, monkshood, rhododendron.

Lady's Mantle is very invasive and difficult to eradicate once it has a hold.

Some fruit trees can be a disappointment at this altitude. Clematis can be difficult to establish.

Perennials that do well here:

Aquilegia, alpine geranium, astilbe, bulbs of many kinds, catmint, celmisia, cranesbill, crocosmia, delphinium, dianthus, forget me not, foxglove, gentian, geum, heathers, heliopsis, heuchera, honeysuckle, hosta, jacob's ladder, japanese anemone, lady's mantle (a weed!), lillium, lithospermum, lupin, marjoram/oregano, mecanopsis,

michaelmas daisy, monkshood, narcissus, nepeta, paeony, poppy, potentilla, primula, pulmonaria, rosa rugosa, saxifrage, sedum, Siberian iris, snowdrop, St.John's wort, violet

Roses can do well if the right varieties are planted, but need a lot of care and attention. Suggestions: Silver Jubilee, Fragrant Cloud, Grandpa Dickson, Margaret Merril, Wendy Cussons, Alec's Red, Gertrude Jekyll, Queen Elizabeth.

Annuals that do well (most of them really, if you can protect them from frost and rabbits)

bedding begonias, busy lizzie, calendula, candytuft, godetia, lobelia, nigella, nicotiana, pansy, poppy

bedding begonias and lobelia seem to really like a lot of rain!

Shrubs: acer, broom, buddleia, cotoneaster, daphne, dogwood, elaeagnus, forsythia, philadelphus (mock orange), pyracantha, rhododendron, ribes (flowering currant), viburnum,

Trees: amelanchier, aspen, beech, birch, bird cherry, all conifers, hawthorn, lime, oak, pyrus (weeping pear), rowan

Vegetables and Fruit: beetroot, broad bean, cabbage, carrot, celery, kale, leek, lettuce, parsley, parsnip, potato. Blackcurrants, gooseberries, plums, raspberries, redcurrants, strawberries, rhubarb

STRATHDEARN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

P6/7 News

Wow! Strathdearn Primary School is very pleased to be back after a great Easter holiday. We are all cracking on with the library too. We have labelled books, put up shelves/bookcases and had parent helpers in to help catalogue our books so they are ready to go on the shelves! Also we have received lots of great books for the library and are very pleased with the progress we have recently been making.

Our trip to Belmont is nearing as well and we are all excited and ready to go. While we are there P6/7 will be participating in many activities, such as: pole climb, kayaking and hill walking to name a few. The class is going with three pupils from Daviot Primary School and we are hoping to have a great time!

Finally the sun is shining brightly over the school and we are getting outside and planting vegetables, fruit and potatoes over in our garden area. Also sports day is coming and it should be a fun day!

P4/5 News

The P4/5 class are looking forward to our trip to Edinburgh. We are going to visit the castle, then walk down the Royal Mile and finally end up at Holyrood Palace. It is going to be very interesting. We are also looking forward to swimming every Monday. Sports Day is in a couple of months and we are really looking forward to that too!

We have been learning about 3d shapes this term. We have also been talking about all the things we are good at in school and at home and our relationships with our family and friends.

We are all very glad that all the snow is gone and it's very sunny so we can go out and play.

Written by Lauren and Jade.

P1/3

Here are some comments made by the P1-3 children about this term -

I like learning about holidays - Anna

I like reading - Meggie

I like getting homework - Michaela

I love doing P.E. - Skye

I am looking forward to doing our trip to Landmark - Rhuairdh

I'm looking forward to the summer holidays - Finn

I'm looking forward to going to the airport - Rachel

We're glad to have Ethan here - Kyle

I'm looking forward to having the new teddies in the library - Kayleigh

I like doing numbers - Ethan

I like learning about the timetables - Melissa

I like doing maths on the Smart board - Lewis

I like doing handwriting - Libby-Jo

Chloe, Robert, Megan, Grace and Libby all love doing maths.

Strathdearn Primary School Library

After months of hard work by the P6/7 pupils, they are delighted to be able to finally open the new Strathdearn School library.

They are very grateful to all parents and adult helpers who have given their support and time with getting the books ready.

They are also delighted with all the art work that has been produced by Stan and Pam with the help of the school art club and the community adult art club.

The opening will take place on Thursday 13 May at 2.00pm to which **everyone is warmly invited.**

If you would like to take part in our adult book swap section please feel free to bring along a book to swap for a small fee of 50p that will go to Charity.

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST

Financial statement for the period 1 October to 31 December 2009

Income

Windfarm company - fourth annual payment, including indexation	£	50,323
Bank interest and dividends		1,285
Income tax repayments		745
Increase in value of investments (see note)		23,013
<i>Total income</i>	£	75,366

Expenditure

Grants: Christmas lunch for senior citizens	£	700
Remembrance Day wreath		22
Strathdearn Beavers		1,092
After School Art Group		550
	£	2,364
Community development worker (September to November 2009)		2,200
Independent Examiner's fee year ended 31 March 2009		690
Legal fees and expenses (2006 to 2009)		1,421
Deutsche Bank investment management fees		475
<i>Total outgoings</i>		7,150
Excess of income over expenditure for the period	£	68,216
Funds at 30 September 2009		428,615
Funds at 31 December 2009	£	496,831

Consisting of:

Deposit and current accounts with Royal Bank of Scotland	£	275,129
Investments managed by Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management		221,028
Income due at 31 December 2009		1,150
	£	497,307
Less: Payments due at 31 December 2009		(476)

Funds at 31 December 2009	£	496,831
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Note:

Investments managed by Deutsche Bank are at 30 September 2009 as the valuation at 30 December 2009 is not available yet. The valuation at the end of September showed an increase of 11% over the previous quarter.

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST

Financial statement for the period 1 January to 31 March 2010

Income

Bank interest and dividends	£	1,961
Increase in value of investments (see note)		7,986
<i>Total income</i>	£	<u>9,947</u>

Expenditure

Grants: Computer grant for Strathdearn Primary School (part)	£	2,500
Speed indicator sign		2,670
	£	<u>5,170</u>
Community development worker (December 2009 to February 2010)		1,600
Deutsche Bank investment management fees		504
<i>Total outgoings</i>		<u>7,274</u>
Excess of income over expenditure for the period	£	2,673
Funds at 31 December 2009		496,831
Funds at 31 March 2010	£	<u><u>499,504</u></u>

Consisting of:

Deposit and current accounts with Royal Bank of Scotland	£	269,551
Investments managed by Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management		228,537
Income due at 31 March 2010		1,920
	£	<u>500,008</u>
Less: Payments due at 31 March 2010		(504)

Funds at 31 March 2010	£	<u><u>499,504</u></u>
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Note:

Investments managed by Deutsche Bank are at 31 December 2009 as the valuation at 31 March 2010 is not available yet.

Windfarms in Strathdearn – April 2010 Update

Wind farms – ‘millionaires love ‘em but billionaires don’t’ – was a recent comment by a millionaire (presumably) who had just been given planning approval for a wind farm on their land. You, like most folk, are probably not in either category but that should not prevent you from holding and expressing an opinion. Wind turbines are, after all, now an established part of the Strathdearn landscape and there could be more in the future. Should all the proposed wind farm plans be approved, turbines will be visible from many people’s houses. Were all the financial contributions they might offer the community to be accepted there could be £1,500,000 in the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust account! The Trust currently has approximately £500,000 in the bank.

Farr Wind farm

Visible on the skyline to the west of Tomatin this established wind farm of 40 turbines generates community benefit funds on an annual basis.

Glenkirk Wind farm

If approved, this wind farm of 34 turbines would be located to the east of Tomatin on high ground between Strathdearn and Lochindorb. A ballot demonstrated that a majority of the community objected to the application although the final decision rests with the Scottish Government. Community benefit could be negotiated but, to date, there have been firm proposals put forward.

Tom nan Clach Wind farm

This proposed wind farm site for 17 turbines, scaled down from 50, is located next to Glenkirk but just outside the Strathdearn boundary. A full planning application has been lodged with the Highland Council, who would determine this application. Following discussion at an SCC meeting, an objection, on behalf of the community, to this application was sent to Highland Council. Early discussions on community benefit have taken place, but any payment would be shared with several other communities.

Dumnaglass Wind farm

This proposed wind farm site is next to Coignafearn but just outside the Strathdearn boundary on high ground to west of Tomatin. At a recent hearing, when the SCC objection to this project was restated, Highland Councillors voted in favour of this proposal but the final decision rests with the Scottish Government. Recently, the Dumnaglass developer has asked to open negotiations on community benefit payments shared with at least one other community.

Corriegarth Wind farm

This site, not far outside the Strathdearn area to the north-west, was recently given approval for 20 turbines by

Highland Council. There have been no negotiations with the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust on community benefits relating to this site.

Moy Wind farm

The largest wind farm proposal to date in the Strathdearn area is for 55 turbines east of Moy. Scottish Government will decide on this application. The developers – Carbon Free Developments Ltd – are a small company, recently set up, to develop wind farms. They gave a short introductory presentation on the project at the SCC meeting in March 2010. Possible community benefits including lump sums and contributions to residents’ electricity bill payments have been proposed. They have set up a ‘Liaison Group’ and invited the SCC and others to be represented.

People wishing to make their views on the Moy proposal known can do so at SCC meetings and/or direct to Carbon Free Developments Ltd:

Mr Dominic Farrugia - Managing and Technical Director
Office: 0845 123 5394 Mobile: 07840 927093 Email:
enquiries@carbonfreedevelopments.co.uk

Carbon Free Developments Ltd
Office 11, Evans Business Centre
3 Whitehouse Road, Stirling FK7 7SP Web site:
<http://carbonfreedevelopments.co.uk>

In summary windfarms, in place or proposed, in or close to Strathdearn are:

Location	Turbines	Status
Farr	40	Operational
Glenkirk	34	Application with Scottish Government
Tom nan Clach	17	Application with Highland Council
Dumnaglass	33	Application with Scottish Government
Corriegarth	20	Approved by Highland Council
Moy	55	At proposal stage

The SCC role is to communicate community views to the Highland Council and wind farm developers. The SCC has and will make all reasonable efforts (through SCC meetings, the Newsletter and notice boards) to inform Strathdearn residents and to urge people to inform themselves and to make their own views known should they wish.

*Duncan Bryden
Planning Officer, Strathdearn Community Council*

WINDFARMS UPDATE

Pat Wells

Tom nan Clach (Currently 17 x 110m high turbines).The developer, Infinergy, has produced a 3rd addendum following objections to Highland Council that environmental impact survey details for part of the proposed windfarm site had not been included in earlier publications. The addendum was advertised in the Inverness Courier on 30 May with 28 days to submit representations to Highland Council on **any** aspect of the proposed development. This proposed development is likely to be the subject of a planning hearing in June, possibly together with the planning application for the access road to Glenkirk. (The proposed Glenkirk power station application will be determined by Scottish Government ministers with Highland Council a statutory consultee.)

Glenkirk (Currently 31 x 110m high turbines).The Environmental Statement relating to the proposed Invereen access route to Glenkirk (a raised road across the floodplain and a new bridge crossing of the river) has been submitted to Highland Council. Advertisement is scheduled for 7 May (Inverness Courier) with 28 days for representations. In addition the developer, Eurus Energy has been required to provide another addendum covering issues omitted from previous publications. Currently the date for this submission is not known.

Moy The Scoping Opinion document and a booklet showing some visualisations of this proposed 55 x 125m high turbine development are now available. The site runs from the north end of Loch Moy towards Craggie and sweeps south east towards the southern end of Loch Moy. Significant numbers of turbines (between 26 and 55) will be seen over a wide area, including the Black Isle, Milton of Leys, Muir of Ord, Kinmyles and Clachnaharry. More locally it will be highly visible from Daviot, Meallmore, parts of Moy, and along the Clune road from Press to Drumbain, the Green Road and parts of the Balvraid Road (especially the southern end). Between 26 and 38 turbines will be visible

from the Distillery Wood tracks and some dwellings at the north end of the village. Up to 25 turbines will be visible from the Findhorn Bridge through the village and from the Distillery houses. Obviously many and in some cases, all, the turbines will be visible from the higher ground around Strathdearn. The developer, Carbon Free Developments, intends to submit a section 36 application to the Energy Consents Unit (Scottish Government) by the end of this year.

Further information available from Pat Wells
tel. 01808 511351

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.

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I am doing a project for my college work and my theme is old and new Tomatin. I would be very grateful if anyone could give me old pictures of Tomatin which I would take great care of and return. Please contact me on: ruth864@hotmail.co.uk
many thanks
Ruth Noble.

Strathdearn Youth Group ...
Strathdearn Primary After-school Art Club

The last few weeks have been quite busy. The children's watercolour landscape paintings were finished and are been mounted 'as we speak'. Our thanks go to Alan Hardwick for his kind contribution and effort. It is the intention to create an art gallery in the school foyer so that parents and visitors can enjoy seeing the works of art. The standard is very high, particularly bearing in mind

the age of the artists.

The children have been usefully employed from time to time in progressing the artwork for the proposed new library with its sea life theme. To make a change from fish, fish, and more fish, it was decided to have a break and be topical, so our younger members created their own ideas of what the Icelandic volcano might look like. These were in acrylic and turned out really well.

When the library project is completed, it is the intention to try tuition in yet another medium, namely pastel, for which Pam will be passing on her expertise. As with the previous watercolours, the children will learn the correct use of pastels and will have the use of dedicated pastel paper.

Stan Beaumont

Strathdearn Youth Group ...

Youth Club

Earlier this month, the Youth Club met and had a most enjoyable evening using the facilities offered in the new hall.

Karen and Pam were busy helping the children to prepare and cook pizzas, which tasted just as yummy as they looked!

Meanwhile, Tony, Derek, Reg and Stan kept the boys and girls occupied designing and decorating fabric pencil cases/make-up bags using fabric paints. Both the culinary and artistic abilities were to be praised. Thanks for the all the adult support: without their help this event would not have been possible.

We are quite concerned at this time, as most of the Youth Club equipment is still being stored in the old hall. This includes the pool table and table tennis tables. It is fairly common knowledge that the building is suffering from

damp, mould, leaks and the odd mouse. If anyone has any constructive ideas as to the way forward, suggestions would be most welcome.

Karen Beaumont

Dog Fouling in the Village

Having been out walking recently I have noticed that this has become a problem again. Could owners **PLEASE** clean up after their dogs?

Thank You
Debbie Mackay

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