

STRATHDEARN NEWSLETTER

November 2010

Volume 10 No

4.

HIGHLAND COUNCIL – CITY OF INVERNESS

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF ELECTION

Nominations are invited for the election of 10 Community Councillors to Strathdearn Community Council.

Nomination Papers are available from:

1. The new Strathdearn Hall.
2. Notice Boards throughout the Strathdearn area.
3. The Tomatin Shop.
4. The Returning Officer, Mr Duncan Hendry, 53 Sunnyside, Culloden Moor, Inverness, IV2 5ES Tel 01463 790483.
5. Chief Executive's Service, Town House, Inverness IV1 1JJ, Tel 724368, Email morven.macleod@highland.gov.uk

Any elector whose name appears in the Electoral Register as at 1 September 2010 which covers the Community Council area, is entitled to stand for nomination.

Nomination Papers, completed and signed by eligible electors, must be received by the Returning Officer, as detailed above, no later than 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 9 November 2010. If a Candidate, Proposer or Secunder does not know his/her Electoral Number, leave this blank and I will enter it.

If more than 10 valid nominations are received, a postal ballot will take place to determine the successful candidates. All candidates will be asked to write no more than 250 words in support of their candidature, and these will be available for viewing at the Hall, Shop, and on Notice Boards.

In the event of the number of candidates validly nominated being below 50% of the total number being sought, the effect will be that no Community Council can be established.

Duncan Hendry
Returning Officer

22 October 2010

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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Distribution: Mrs S. Mackintosh-Grant

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

First Monday of the Month

September to May (ex.January & December)

7.30pm, Findhorn Room, Strathdearn Hall

WRI

Contact: Mrs Carol James 531220

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

1.30 – 3.30pm Strathdearn Hall,

Art Class

Contact: Mrs Betty Watson 511271

Every Friday

Exercise to Music group

10.30-11.30am, Strathdearn Hall

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

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COFFEE EVENING FUNDRAISER

The **Strathdearn Area Hospice Fundraising Group** will be holding a Coffee Evening on Friday 12th November at 7pm in the Tomatin Hall.

We will have the usual Raffle, Home Made Cakes, Bring and Buy tables along with the popular sales of the Hospice Christmas Cards etc.

Everyone welcome so come along and bring a friend to our very worthwhile fundraiser.

Donations for any of the stalls would be gratefully accepted either before or on the night. Please see Anne Hart, Betty Watson or Denise Barley.

We look forward to seeing you on the 12th.

Irwin Photo Crafts

Bob and Jo are having a clearance sale of photos and photocrafts on Wednesday 1st December from 10am-1pm in the Clune Room at the Strathdearn Hall. Lots of photos from £1, fridge magnets 50p, photo lavender sachets £1, cards etc. A donation from all sales will be made to Cheerful Chesters, a local group in Inverness affiliated to the Chest Heart and Stroke Association, who meet weekly to provide help and support to anyone recovering from Respiratory, Heart or Stroke problems, and who raise money for medical equipment.

TOMATIN COUNTRY STORE

We are delighted to have moved into our new location which is very cosy and suits the shop well. This should also help customers with the winter approaching as it is much closer to the main road.

Following a suggestion made last year and now with the space to do so, we have brought in a selection of nearly new books for sale with all proceeds going directly to the RNLi charity box. With a fixed donation of 50p required from each book, we hope we can raise a significant amount of money for the charity and welcome any donations of books. We anticipate changing the chosen charity benefiting from the sales of the books after approximately 8 months.

It has been difficult for us to maintain a varied stock of fresh fruit and vegetables without a constant level of sales and we anticipate that the supply will become more intermittent as the winter approaches. We would like to ask everyone to be patient with us, with regards to the supply of this; however we will continue to keep a large stock of frozen and tinned vegetables and potatoes as an alternative.

Once again, I would like to thank the village and our sales team for the continual support given to us as it helps us keep the local shop going.

Angus Macleod

MOY WIND FARM

**Don't forget the next
Moy Wind Farm Liaison
Group Meeting.**

ALL WELCOME

Date: Wednesday 1 December at 7pm

Place: Daviot Hall
Daviot Village Road
Inverness
IV2 5XL

Please note the change in venue. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the wind farm proposal. Please see www.moywindfarm.co.uk for further details about the project.

www.moywindfarm.co.uk

CARBONfree
DEVELOPMENTS

The Gunpowder Plot

The Gunpowder plot was a conspiracy planned by a number of zealous Roman Catholics in revenge for the Protestant Government's harsh treatment of Catholics in England. A cellar under the House of Lords was hired and secretly stored with barrels of gunpowder, which were to be fired on November 5, the day when Parliament was to meet, attended by the King James 1, and his nobility. At the last moment the lords received warning of the plot, and in the early morning of the fateful day Guy Fawkes, who had volunteered for the dangerous task of firing the explosive, was discovered by the Government soldiers in the vault beside the barrels of powder. Condemned as a traitor, he died of a cruel death along with some of his fellow-conspirators.

Please remember, when we celebrate this event on November 5th, that fireworks can cause great distress to animals, both in the home and in the fields.

Betty Watson

Moy Windfarm

MOY WIND FARM PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Carbon Free Developments invites you to attend a public exhibition and comment on the revised proposals for a wind farm, to include onsite access and a control building, on the Moy Estate, east of the A9 at Moy, Inverness.

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE:

Thursday 9 December:

Highland Hospice, Inverness, noon to 8pm

Friday 10 December

Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin, noon to 8pm

Saturday 11 December:

Daviot Village Hall, Daviot, 9am to 2pm

Members of the public have until 31st January 2011 to submit their comments. Comments can be made at the exhibitions, sent in writing to enquiries@carbonfreedevelopments.co.uk or by calling the free community information line on **0800 088 4322**.

Please note that comments made to Carbon Free are not formal representations to the planning authority or the Scottish Government. Members of the public will have an opportunity to make such representations when Carbon Free submits a planning application.

www.moywindfarm.co.uk

CARBONfree
DEVELOPMENTS

SCHOOL NEWS

P6/7 went to Scotland's Housing Expo

here is a review by Georgia Ross P7:

To be honest I thought the housing Expo was going to be very boring, but actually it was the complete opposite. It was amazing; every house had its own design features. Not all of the houses were furnished but most of them were anyway. I loved playing at the park. I also loved having the bug hunt with Gavin (the Ranger). Our tour guide (Graham) was very informative and understanding. I also loved the card hunt; me, Kyle and Mitch managed to collect 15 cards. I thought the trip was very good and I am glad that I remembered to bring in the permission slip.

Here is what Andrew Steer, P6 wrote:

I found the housing Expo very exciting and I thought it could not be improved. My favourite house was the upside down house. All the houses were eco-friendly and there was a generator to power all the houses that ran on wood pellets. I had lots of fun and would love to go back.

Primary 1, 2 and Nursery pupils had a very exciting visit from Nick Martin and lots of his "beasties". There were insects, reptiles and even a tarantula!

Some of us were very brave and held a long snake or an enormous lizard. Lots of us just liked to have a good look! We hope he will come back soon.

October Holidays - news from P3-5 class

I went to Landmark and Leroy came to. We had fun. It was cold.

Libby Allen P3

I went to Oban the first week of the holidays. I stayed at my dad's house. One day we went to the park and I played on the swings. We went to the woods and we saw a red squirrel.

Grace Wrightson P3

I went to Orkney for the holidays and I loved it. One of the days we went to the beach and we all played, that was probably the best day in Orkney. When we were travelling to Orkney my dad felt very dizzy but my mum and Emily and I loved it. We were staying with our friends in Orkney. It was 9.00 and we were all tired. When we were coming back from Orkney there was snow on the car. Travelling back was very exciting because I could not wait until school to tell them all about it. When we got back home we had our supper and we all went to bed.

Lisa MacRae P5

On the October holidays I went to Edinburgh dungeon. First we got locked in a jail then we went to court that was funny. After that we saw all these punishments for people that were guilty of a crime. One of the punishments was a pair of pliers that you clipped to your tongue and twist it and then rip out the tongue! My favourite bit was the 50 foot drop. I also liked the woman pulling out the man's guts. There was a boat as well and the voice we were listening to was very loud and my ears were hurting but I had great fun!

Fionn Dempster P5

Strathdearn Primary School News

Everyone returned to school at the end of October after a good holiday. This is a busy term leading up to Christmas with lots of things happening at the school. We would like to welcome a new pupil to Strathdearn, Cari, who has joined our P7 class.

Last term, the Nursery and P1/2 enjoyed a visit to Eden Court to see The Singing Kettle show, 'Calamity Castle'. The whole school enjoyed a visit to Vue cinema in Inverness to see Toy Story 3, as part of the National Film Schools week in November.

P6/7 have been busy taking part in rugby training and a Rugby Festival with Daviot Primary, hockey tournaments and Cross Country events in Inverness. Football training has started again, indoors now at Strathdearn Primary for the winter season.

P1/2/3 are enjoying music sessions with Mr Josey for Kodally Music, which is active music and games. P4/5 are enjoying music sessions with Feis Ross and P7 will be having guitar and drum sessions with Martin O'Parka later this term.

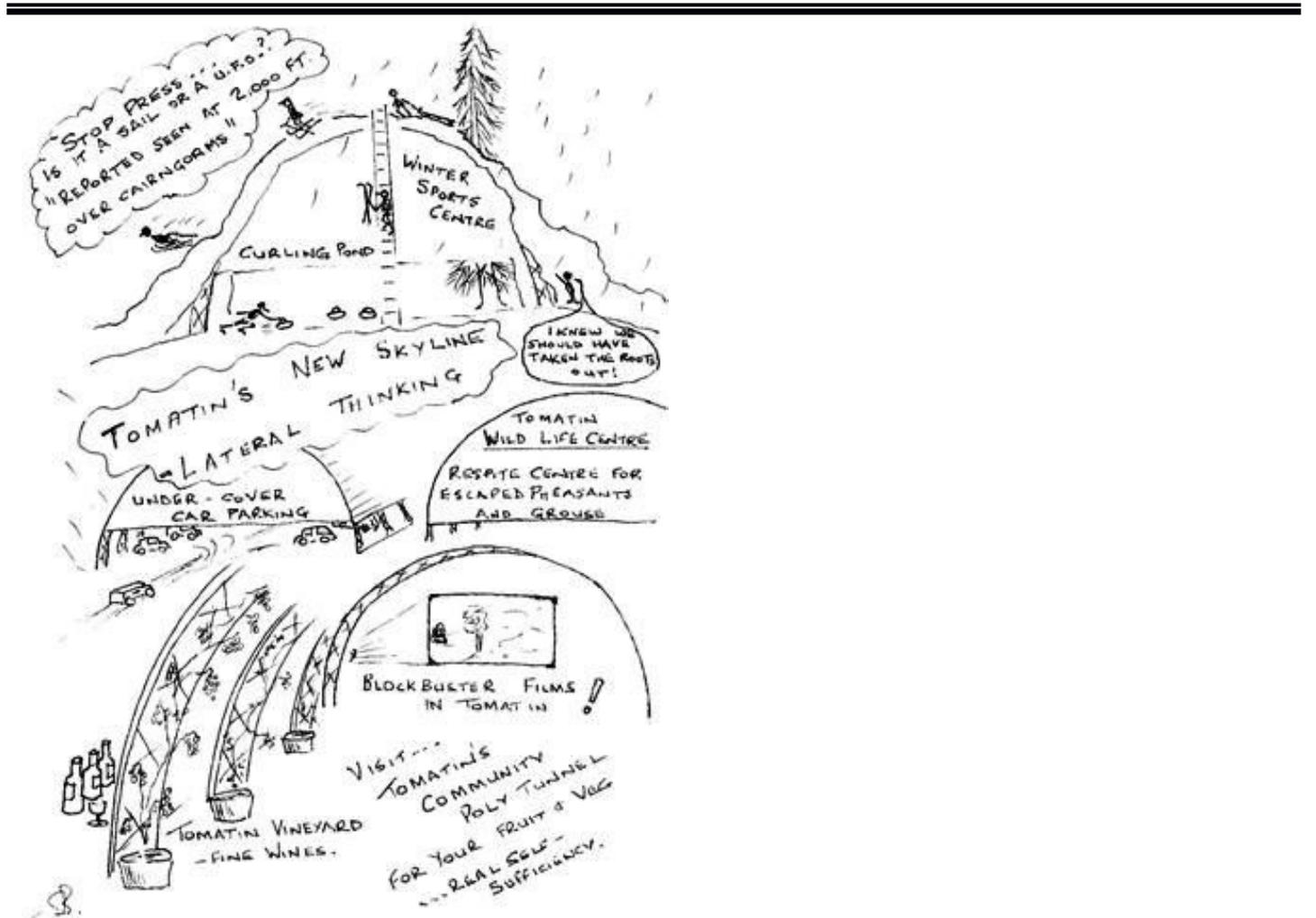
Our Garden Group went to Cairngorm Mountain with Mrs Bishop to plant trees and had a great day out. They are working to keep the school grounds looking good now and taking care of all our plants and shrubs.

Three of our P6 pupils went to Cawdor Primary to be trained as Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO's) and will be responsible for promoting road safety to other pupils throughout the school.

We are taking part in Schools Meals Week, an initiative by Highland Council to promote schools meals. We have voted for our favourite meal, Nursery will be coming in for a school lunch with us, we have invited local VIP's in to have a school meal with us and we are having a cake & juice sale in aid of the charity 'Mary's Meals'.

Also, our Pupil Council are planning an event to support Children in Need in November and we are collecting shoeboxes for the Blythswood charity.

We are also looking forward to our visit to the pantomime in Aviemore in December, which this year is a performance of Aladdin. We are performing a show this year, called 'It's A Baby!' - details of this to follow from school.



A FISHY STORY

Once upon a summer's day
a Pollack swam in Shieldaig Bay.
Close to the Puffin Rock it swam,
saying hello to a big white clam.

Along came a hook slung out by Louise
and thus was the fish's sudden demise.
Carried to shore by a speedboat (not can)
captained by Donal and sea-dog Stan,
up on the grass its guts were spilled,
a poly bag it soon did fill.
It was taken across from west to east
and popped in the freezer for a later feast.
Then with much generosity
it was given to Michelle to have for her tea.
Munching away, about to phone
to sing its praises, when "ouch!" a bone
jammed itself in an awkward place -
you should have seen her miserable face!
A slice of bread, much swallowing....
Nothing moved - tried everything.
No driver to hand, all were out
So had to give Simon a shout.
Off to the hospital we did fly -
Retches and spluttering brought tears to the eye!
Off to the X-ray she did go
To find that Pollack did not show!
Alas, she was told "Come back in the morning."
No sleep now but lots of moaning.
Back to Raigmore sharp at nine-thirty,
The doctor was there, his tools at the ready.
As quick as a flash, the blighter was caught -
one inch long - it hurt not a lot.
I think that guy had caught fish before,
tho' probably not on Shieldaig shore
Karen called: "I thought fish were yummy."
Stan said: "She's trying to be the Queen Mummy!"
And so, pay heed to this fishy tale
Or you may also start to wail!

By Donal and Michelle Bryden

Finding Cecil Spencer George at Carn A Choire Mhoir

Thankyou to the people of Tomatin for the compassion and respectful behaviour you have demonstrated not only to the World War Two servicemen who were victims of the plane crash at Carn A Choire Mhoire but their families as well. Patricia and myself are the family of Flight Sergeant Cecil Spencer George who at the age of 22 yrs died in a plane crash on Carn A Choire Mhoire, 3 miles east of Tomatin, on January 6th 1942. Patricia is the only child of Cecil and was born some four months after the crash. After the war Patricia's mother Irene remarried and the family moved to Australia; although Patricia was told her real father had died during the war in a plane crash, she knew little else. As an infant Patricia and her mother Irene attended Buckingham Palace where King George posthumously awarded Cecil the Distinguished Flying Medal. Irene always kept the newspaper article titled "Hero never saw daughter".

In March 2008 Irene passed away after a long illness, as far as we knew she died without ever knowing the details of what had led to the death of her husband Cecil and the whereabouts of the crash. When Patricia and I went through Irene's belongings following her death, we found she carried a photograph of Cecil in her purse - perhaps she had carried that picture of Cecil for over 65yrs. Patricia and myself felt compelled to find out more about what happened to Cecil. One night in late 2008 we did an internet search using the crash date and the location as Scotland, and we were shocked when the image of the Cairn above Tomatin came up. At this point we made contact with the George family in Plymouth and set about planning our next trip to the United Kingdom.

In late July 2010, whilst attending a family reunion in Plymouth, Norman George, Patricia's uncle and Cecil's youngest brother, agreed to meet us at Carrbridge at the Craigellachie guest house on the 10th August and travel with us to the crash site the following day. We met as planned: Norman had ridden up from Plymouth on his motorbike and Patricia and myself had been driven up from Milton of Campsie by my cousin Elizabeth. Naturally we all had investigated the route we needed to take to get to the site, but our combined directions had little in common except the Tomatin Rd. I might add everything looks easy from Google Earth! Our hosts from the guesthouse in fact gave us the best directions.

On the morning of the 11th of August we left Carrbridge on our way to the site. The rain was coming in sideways, driven by the icy wind, and at times the wipers didn't seem adequate as we slowly and nervously made our way along the Tomatin Road [*I think Mr Arnold is referring to the Balvraid road -Ed*]. Norman followed on his motorbike seemingly undaunted by the rain. After a while there was no more road, and we felt our hopes were about to be dashed. However as if it was meant to be, we flagged down a passing motorist and told her of our dilemma. This person turned out to be Mrs Susan Mackintosh Grant and she invited us to wait at her house until she returned. We waited in silence, unsure if in fact our journey had reached an unsuccessful conclusion - in fact we felt a bit demoralised.

Mrs Grant returned, made us all coffee and explained that it would be impossible for us to get to the Cairn at this time due to the terrible weather. Instead she told us the story of the crash, how her husband and other people had placed the Cairn on the crash site near the wreckage, and we were encouraged to attend the local hall and view the information held there about the crash. All of a sudden Mrs Mackintosh Grant stood up and said this will never do and left to make a phone call. After a five minute absence she returned and said her nephew James was staying with her and he would try to take us up to the crash site in his pickup. A short while later we were rattling slowly and carefully up the steep track, accompanied by James, in his pickup. We were silent, full of emotion and anticipation.

When we reached the Cairn we were all struck by the fact that the impact of the Whittley Bomber was only metres from the highest point of the mountain. I know we all thought to ourselves for a few metres more altitude history would be changed, the plane would have cleared the mountain, these men would have lived. We left the crash site knowing more than we had known about Cecil, and with a sense of peace. We thanked James and Mrs Grant, although our words could never express our gratitude adequately.

We took the advice given and attended the Hall at Tomatin where we found the information Patricia had not known all her life displayed on the wall of the foyer. Once again we were lucky - we met Mrs Barley and once again related our story. Mrs Barley was exceptionally helpful and assisted us by photocopying the information from the foyer of the Hall. Many of our questions have been answered, and now the large Australian family, the descendants of Cecil Spencer George, know of their brave father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great great grandfather: we now know what happened to Cecil on the night of January 6th 1942 when the plane crashed into the mountain at Tomatin. It remains our regret that Irene, Cecil's wife, passed on without knowing these things.

Finally, thankyou for being such a wonderful community in Tomatin that you took the trouble to recognise the deeds of these brave men that crashed into your mountain on the evening of January 6th 1942. As a community you should be very proud. We will be back again.

Peter and Patricia Arnold

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths:

Since the last edition of the Newsletter, we have been sorry to note the passing of four former residents:

Mrs Mary Baddeley, formerly of Moybeg, Moy and Meg's Garden, Tomatin, who latterly resided in the Highview Nursing Home, Inverness. Wheelchair bound for many years, Mary's irrepressible spirit and good humour made her a popular person to visit, and an example to those of us prone to complaining about our aches and pains! She will be much missed and our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Mrs Annie Cameron (nee MacGillivray) who lived up the Glen as a child before her family moved to the village (Tomatin). Annie married George Cameron, also from Tomatin, and they spent a good part of their married life in Dalwhinnie before moving to Conon Bridge where George passed away last year. Our thoughts are with their family and friends at this sad time.

Mrs Chrissie MacDonald who moved to Moy with her late husband who worked as a shepherd on the Moy Estate where their sons were brought up. The family moved to Smithton in the 1970s, and Mrs MacDonald lived there until failing health led her to move into a nursing home a few years ago. A kindly lady, she will be much missed by all her family and friends, including her granddaughter Melanie, our postie.

Ben Moore, whose family lived at Smithfield Farmhouse when he was a baby before moving to Daviot. Ben lost his battle against cancer at the age of only 25 – a battle he had fought bravely since the illness was diagnosed while he was training to be an airline pilot in Oxford. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends, with whom our thoughts remain at this time.

Notices:

Would you please insert a thank you notice on my behalf to all the citizens of Tomatin for their thoughts and prayers for me during my sessions in hospital over the year. I would particularly like to mention Angus & Roz, Ben & Hazel, Sarah & Jas, Hamish and Grace, Dougie and Liz, George and Tanya, John & Catherine and Mrs. Grant. I am getting much stronger and am looking forward to taking part in the activities in Tomatin. Once again, thank you.

Ian Hallam

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Archie and Bonnie Cameron-Mackintosh (not forgetting big sister Eve) on the birth of Lily.

Charlie Cameron, who celebrated his 92nd birthday on 23rd October. Pearl tells us he had a lovely day, involving lots of family and friends popping in and a cake with a lot of candles!

Catherine (Kitty) MacLellan and Clinton Davis, both of Tomatin Distillery, on their engagement on 4th September.

Bob Nixon who continues to play outstanding cricket for his club which has had a successful year playing in Highland Inverness.

And to Toby Hardwick who is coaching cricket in Moray-shire.

SNOW CLEARING

A recent press report highlighted that volunteers were being sought for emergency snow patrols in the Inverness area this winter to help people stranded by the weather.

Councillor Crawford called for people to offer their services to assist residents of his Inverness South ward (which includes Strathdearn) if there is a repeat of the prolonged snowy and icy conditions which affected the city last winter – especially people with 4x4 vehicles who would be willing to help in an emergency by getting somebody to hospital for a doctor's appointment or prescriptions, etc.

This should tie in nicely with the work our Snow Clearing Sub-Committee are presently involved in (see the CC Report elsewhere) and hopefully we will be able to take steps to lessen the impact of severe winter weather this year.

POLICE CONTACT

Any concerns about Law and Order, information on vandalism, requests for advice, or any other police related matter should be passed on to our community policeman – PC Alasdair Munro, who is based at the Police Station, Alltan Place, Culloden, Inverness. Tel: 01463 715555 (and ask to be put through to Culloden Police Station).

E-mail: alasdair.munro@northern.pnn.poli

ARCHAEOLOGY IN STRATHDEARN

The local ARCH (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands) group have enjoyed a very interesting six meetings on Wednesday evenings from September 1st to October 6th.

Our tutor, Susan Kruse, took us on a speedy journey through the mists of time, from the Mesolithic Age to Neolithic, then Bronze to Iron Age, followed by Romans, Picts, Gaels and Vikings, ending with the coming of Christianity and the early Medieval period.

She showed us slides of how dwellings, tools and pottery evolved and became ever more sophisticated, weapons too, and burial practises changed from simple cists to cremations to impressive cairns and ritual megalithic standing stones. Susan also brought samples of early artefacts discovered in the Highlands, including tiny incredibly fashioned flint arrowheads and scrapers, and hand axes, as well as items of personal adornment – necklaces, earrings, and dress fasteners made of jet or bronze.

None of these have been found in Strathdearn yet, apart from a few arrowheads and there is no record of the actual sites, nor of possible burial cists. The only real evidence of our early settlers is the Pictish carved stone found at Moy in 1932, now in the Museum of Scotland, but there is a life-sized photograph of it in the Hall foyer. There are also the stone foundations of round houses (previously known as hut circles) mainly situated about 1000 ft above sea level and many within sight of each other throughout the Strath. Their occupants were hunters and farmers during a more peaceful era, before the Iron Age meant superior weapons and aggression; also a colder climate and the build up of peat began.

Now is our opportunity to hopefully put Strathdearn firmly on the archaeological map by finding more evidence of previous dwellers here, because ARCH are sponsoring a further six weeks course to focus specifically on our past. The meetings are beginning on Wednesday October 27th to December 1st, 7pm – 9pm at the Hall, everyone interested most welcome to come.

This is a chance to research sites or buildings in our area, suggested by local people, contributing to the creation of a Community Timeline display. We will find out how to look for information about our heritage and learn or hone our research skills, out of doors on occasions, timing and weather permitting.

Time Team, here we come!

Ann Glynne-Percy

November 2010

Strathdearn Primary School ... After-school Art Club

The club was very busy towards the end of the summer term when the children helped to prepare the material for display in the new After-school Art Club art gallery. The provision made by the school has allowed space in the foyer so that every member was able to have at least one piece of their artwork on display. It is the intention that the next session of the club will produce artwork of similar quality so that we can rotate the pictures and allow the children to take home their past masterpieces which are surely worthy of a place on their lounge wall! The annual “Art in Strathdearn” Art Exhibition enjoyed the traditional entry by each of the Primary School students. This year, the theme was that of a “colourful bird”, in any medium. The quality of the entry was superb which gave our judge the unenviable task of choosing the winners... Meggie, Rani and Katie. “Art in Strathdearn” presented two of the prizes while the After-school Art Club awarded a ‘highly commended’ prize. It was also decided that the Art Exhibition should display a sample of the work produced during the year by the members of the After-school Art Club. Six pictures were chosen at random from the youngest at 7yrs to the eldest at 11yrs. This display encouraged some very favourable comments from our visitors, both local and ‘passing through’.

The next session of the club has now started and, as usual, was over-subscribed. As in the past, Pam and I hope to inspire the young ones to venture into areas not normally covered in detail by the school curriculum. We should be proud that we have such a fantastic wealth of young talent in our village. Well done!

Stan and Pam

STRATHDEARN FLOWER SHOW

PRIZE WINNERS

FLOWER SECTION - *The Commemorative Shield:* Pat Wells

2nd Denise Barley 3rd Madge Fraser

6. VEGETABLE SECTION – *The J M Gleeson Quaich:* Alex Don

2nd P Bennett 3rd J McPherson)

7. BAKING AND PRODUCE – *The Carillon Trophy:* Madge Fraser

2nd Sheila Don) =3rd Sandra Flett, Kathy Bonniface, Betty Watson

8. ART SECTION – *The United Utilities Trophy:* Jean MacRae

2nd Alasdair Wallace 3rd Denise Barley

9. CHILDREN

Potato Crop Challenge

Under 8 Years Gold: Finn Mantle Silver: Libby Joe Dempster Bronze: Fionn Dempster

9 to 12 Years (medals) Gold: Lauren Kippen Silver: Alexander Dey Bronze: Kanleigh Sharkey

OVERALL:

UNDER 8 Years: =1st William Ross, Melissa Ross =3rd Finn Mantle, Woody Mantle

9 to 12 Years : 1st Lauren Kipping =2nd Georgia Ross, Sophie Ross, Grant Ross

The JUBILEE CUP for Most Points All Ages: ----- Lauren Kippen

HANDICRAFTS – *The Silver Salver*----- Sheila Don

2nd Jo Irwin 3rd Carol James

FLORAL ART – *The National Windpower Rose Bowl:*----- Carol James

2nd Madge Fraser 3rd Betty Watson

PHOTOGRAPHY – *The Neil Thomson Shield:* ----- Bob Irwin, David Bonniface

3rd Donal Bryden

BEST SCENTED ROSE – *The Rose Cup:* ----- Betty Watson

MILLENNIUM CUP 2010 to Winner of Art: ----- Jean McRae

FINALLY for the most Overall Points:-

THE STRATHDEARN TROPHY: ----- Madge Fraser

2nd Alec Don =3rd Pat Wells, Sandra Flett

THE TOMATIN DISTILLERY VISITOR CENTRE and WHISKY SHOP

Winter Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10.00a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Distillery Tours Available: Monday to Friday at £3.00 per person
with tasting of our Tomatin 12 year old single malt whisky
included.

Tel: Marie MacLeod on 01463 248 144 for Tour times.

Private Presentation & Tasting Tours: available on request at £30
per person

Tel: Gill MacLeod on 01463 248 148 for available dates.

AVON

the company for women

I am your local sales representative covering Tomatin.

If you would like to browse through one of the brochures,
please contact me and I will be happy to deliver one to
you.

Tracy Davidson

Mob Number: 07590 286596

Email: tdprincess1987@yahoo.co.uk

Art In Strathdearn

In August our Annual Exhibition was held over two days in the Strathdearn Hall. This year we held a well-attended preview evening, which was a very friendly and enjoyable occasion, which enabled those who had worked throughout the day to come along and join in. Many thanks to those helped to make the event a great success.

In September Rosie Fisher from Cairngorm Artists tutored us in acrylics and challenged us to explore some new ways of working with acrylic paints. In October Pam Hardwick taught us about working with scraperboard and took along some lovely examples of her work in that medium. We welcomed three new members to our group. We look forward to the Art Club Christmas Party on Thursday 16th December.

Betty Watson, President

TOMATIN & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Meet in the Strathdearn Hall at 7.30pm

15th November Quiz Night

No meeting in December

17th January Slide Show by D & K Bonniface

21st February AGM & Flower Show Schedule

21st March Speaker on Cacti & Succulents

STEP IT UP HIGHLAND

Since we started our walking again in September we have experienced a variety of weather, from idyllic autumnal days with blue skies and no wind, to heavy, blustery rain. The climatic conditions inevitably affect the length and type of walk we do. On the two rainy days the local lanes were used, and we retired earlier than usual to Strathdearn Hall for our cup of tea. However, on the several fine Wednesdays we have ventured further afield to enjoy the truly spectacular colours of this season.

On one of our regular valley circuits at Slocht, not only were the range of golds and browns of the birches beautiful, but the scabious were still abundant in their subtle blues, and the bright orange of the chanterelles positively invited picking and cooking!

On another occasion the esker walk near Daviot still revealed some shades of purple in the heather, and the beautiful contrast between the deep green of the pines and the golds of the deciduous trees. We enjoy very much the glacial features on this walk: the sinuous curves of the esker ridges themselves and the deep hollows of the kettle holes now occupied by shallow lakes.

Yet another very recent walk showed us the salmon leaping in the Findhorn, and the thin covering of early snow on the hills above Dalmigavie.

If you would care to join us on our walks you would be most welcome. Remember that we have both a shorter walk and a longer, slightly faster walk. You can choose whichever suits you best. Both usually begin by meeting at Strathdearn Hall at 2.00pm on Wednesdays, and finish with a cuppa and a chat back at the Hall. If you are interested, contact Kathy or David on 01808 511740 or Carol on 531220.

NATURE NOTES

Autumn is here. It is supposedly the season of mellow mists and fruitfulness: I have seen few mists and, although the colours in the trees have been good, I have seen far fewer fruits around this year. The rowan trees in the field have been nothing like as prolific as last year and my berrying shrubs in the garden were all badly damaged by rabbits last winter. All this could be bad news for the winter migrants that are starting to pass through.

I have heard and seen skeins of geese flying over and the first of the fieldfares and redwings have helped the mistle thrushes eat what berries there were. So, if there is an influx of hundreds of these thrushes as there was in November last year, they will find little to eat here. Autumn has brought our pheasants back into the garden. During the summer months we rarely saw more than one, but now up to seven hens are outside the kitchen window in the morning expecting breakfast. One or two may even be on the windowsill tapping at the window asking for food. We have two cocks vying for the females; they are already facing up to each other, sometimes one on each side of the gate or fence. All the pheasants spend some time marching up and down outside the gate, apparently wondering how to get into the garden!

We have also seen the return of robins and dunnocks to the garden. A robin has been sitting on a fence post singing, and two dunnocks skulking in the undergrowth. All three have been under the nut feeders eating the bits dropped by the squirrels. They have been very busy extracting nuts and burying them in the lawn, flowerbeds and planters. I came home from shopping one day to find a whole lot of daffodil bulbs lying on the drive, several with bites taken out of the. When I replanted them, I found a number of peanuts in their place. I don't they would provide the welcome host of golden flowers next Spring!

All the squirrels are coming back into their winter coats and changing colour from rich chestnut brown to much greyer. Their tails are changing too. I have been able to tell them apart during the summer by their tail colours: there was 'pale tail', 'scruffy tail', 'banded tail' and two 'red tails'. It's not nearly so easy now to see how many visits each one pays to the feeders. All I know is that the nuts keep disappearing!

Carol James

Extracts taken from the Inverness Courier 22nd October 2010:

BRONZE FOR JO IN NEW BIKE EVENT

A nurse with a love for sled dogs had triumphed in the new sport of Bikejor at her first European Championships. Jo Brecknell, of Tomatin, picked up a bronze medal in the European Bikejor and Canicross Championships in Belgium this month.

Bikejor is the dryland equivalent of Skijor. Instead of a cross-country skier being pulled along by a dog, a mountain biker is pulled. It is popular in Europe but remains a relatively new sport in the UK.

Mrs Brecknell, who works at the Ian Charles Hospital in Grantown-on-Spey, has competed in a handful of events at home but this was her first European championship and she was delighted to take the medal with canine partner Mungo, a Scandinavian hound who, at 19 months, was the youngest dog in the competition. More than 180 riders competed, covering a route of 3.5 miles of mixed terrain and clocking up an average speed of 19 mph.

The opportunity arose for Mrs Brecknell through her involvement with CaniX UK – the official body for cani-cross (running and racing with dogs). She described it as a fun sport: “You need to have good bike handling skills and obviously a dog trained to run out in front of the bike,” she said.

Mrs Brecknell and her husband Charlie, a firefighter in Inverness, have been racing with sled dogs for 15 years. A friend's passion for huskies and a visit to a race in Aviemore inspired them to buy their own and now they keep seven dogs at their Inverness-shire home and compete regularly in races. However, it is only in the last five years that Bikejoring has been added to the Sled Dog Association of Scotland calendar.

It is a sport the couple both enjoy, although Mr Brecknell has been unable to compete due to an injury. They are now looking ahead to the European Championships in Poland and the World Championships in Germany next year.

Strathdearn Youth Group

Having been relatively quiet for the last year SYG is stirring into more active life once again. With the appointment of a paid youth worker for a six month trial period there will be more activities on offer to the young people of the Strath in the coming weeks.

Success, as always, still depends upon the willingness of volunteers to help. The Group very much appreciates the efforts of the whole Beaumont family, Pam Hardwick and Aaron Griffiths and would like to thank them publicly now for all that they have done to keep the after school Art Club and badminton going (amongst many other things).

Recent activities include a couple of one-offs, a youth club for P4-6 and a youth cafe for P7-S6, and a two day Adventurous Activities expedition in the Cairngorm National Park. The latter was a great success - a triumph of teamwork and spirit over cold water and challenge, and thanks go to the Highland Council for a financial contribution from the South Wards Discretionary Fund. Look out for a more detailed account, from one of the participants, elsewhere in this Newsletter. Thanks also to the adult helpers Simon and Toby for tackling the gorge walking, canoeing, mountain biking and monkey ring swinging.

The programme of events for the next wee while includes :-
Mondays - starting 25th October - Badminton in the School Hall - 7.00-7.45pm
beginners + coaching
7.45-8.30pm players + games

Tuesdays - Old Hall starting 2nd November - Art/Craft/Science 7.00-8.00pm an
hour of creative activity: cooking, writing, building,
fashion, experimentation, photography
and the like. P7-S6

Thursdays - Old Hall starting 4th November - Multisports 7.15-8.15pm - an hour of
varied activities:
Table tennis, circuit training, juggling,
weight training, games etc. P7-S6

Friday 3rd December - Old Hall -
the next Youth Club Night 6.00-7.30pm Juniors
7.30-9pm Seniors

A register of members is currently being compiled and it would be very helpful if parents could complete and return the membership forms that have been posted out. E mail addresses would be extremely useful to assist communication. Ideas spring up quite quickly and it would be handy to update everyone as soon as we can.

Recent discussions with 18-25 yr olds about a possible "Youth Enterprise" project have been gaining momentum and initial approaches to grant-giving organisations are showing promise. If the project comes to fruition it will offer some exciting opportunities to exercise ingenuity as well as acquire and test some new personal skills. Anyone in this age range who would like to be involved in designing, making and exploring possibilities would be very welcome to join in at this early stage. All kinds of skills will be needed, and if all goes well "on the job training workshops" will be starting very soon. Want to know more? Phone 511766.

We look forward to the next few months and would welcome your help and suggestions for enhancing the lives of local youngsters.

Contacts: Rev. Reg Campbell 01463 772242 or Alan Hardwick 511766.

WEATHER FORECASTING

There are over 600 climate stations in the UK manned by volunteers whose returns to the Met Office are an essential contribution to national and local weather forecasting.

The Met Office would like to continue having a climate station in upper Strathdearn, where weather readings have been recorded over many years by several volunteers. This involves having a Stephenson Screen* and a rain gauge in the garden and recording a set of daily temperatures (dry, wet, minimum, maximum), rainfall and weather notes and returning a monthly form to Edinburgh. Anyone willing to do this should contact Carol or Richard on 531220, who will pass on their details to the Met Office Area Supervisor.

[*a Stephenson Screen has Max., Min., Wet and Dry thermometers, and there is a 5-inch diameter rain gauge at ground level.]

15-PANE HARDWOOD DOORS

**1 DOUBLE - EACH DOOR 76cm WIDE
198cm HIGH**

**1 SINGLE - 84cm WIDE
198cm HIGH**

FREE!

PHONE PURVES 01808 511715

The Strathdearn Youth group trip to Badaguish

The Strathdearn Youth group trip to Badaguish in the Cairngorm Mountain Park was organised for the 11th and 12th of October. The group consisted of Fraser and Lewis Mackay, Tom Bell, Sebastian Beaumont and myself. Supervising and also participating were Alan and Toby Hardwick, Simon Beaumont and not forgetting Ron and Jerry our Leaders. Over both days of the adventure the group would be mountain biking, gorge walking and canoeing: something we were all looking forward to after our last canoeing expedition.

The first day we woke to find a covering of frost on the ground and the group wondered if gorge walking was really such a great idea but after an early meeting at the Village hall we departed for Badaguish.

The morning began with a surprise visit from Donal and Duncan Bryden who joined us for the mountain biking. The cycle took around 3 hours on mostly flat terrain with the occasional downhill which Tom, Toby, Fraser and I really enjoyed attempting to reach top speeds! A good performance all round in the cycling, particularly Donal who kept up with Ron at all times with almost no effort.

After the frosty start it actually cleared up nicely and the sun was shining for us but what seemed like a warm day was soon described by some as freezing. The temperature of the icy cold gorge could not have been far off 0 degrees. The gorge walking meant we first had to climb up through a narrow gorge testing not only our teamwork skills but also strength, having to clamber and pull ourselves up through fast flowing waters while helping and encouraging the person behind us. When we reached the top we enjoyed a competition of who could make the biggest splash, by jumping from the bank, Jerry was the winner of a well earned Mars Bar! The thrill of sliding back down the narrow gorge was amazing. It probably took us around an hour to get up but only 10 minutes to get back down! We couldn't get the cold wetsuits off quick enough at the end and enjoyed the warmth of our dry clothes.

Our lodge was warm and comfortable and everyone was starving and looking forward to dinner which was pizza prepared and cooked by Sebastian and Lewis. As we were eating, the CD player played our 'Desert Island Disks' a CD we were asked to bring along which included our favourite song. This was taken very seriously by Tom who had several favourite songs! Later we entertained ourselves on the monkey rings which crossed a pond, very few of us managed to cross without getting damp but Lewis was an absolute natural! Then early to bed for everyone.

The next morning the house woke to the smell of bacon and eggs cooked by myself and ably assisted by Fraser and Tom. After Breakfast a quick tidy up of the lodge and we were set to move on.

Canoeing began at 12 and after being partnered up on the riverside we were soon off. With the group remembering the basics we were thrown into challenging rapids which Toby and myself completed quickly but not with any style or control especially with the rapids before lunch as we were the first to land in the freezing water, but we put on a great show for the spectators enjoying lunch on the bank! Later we were given a challenge to stand up in the boat while travelling down rapids. Simon and Lewis struggled with this and were the second to go into the Spey but Sebastian and Alan magically sailed down with no effort at all!

As the day drew to a close the only challenge remaining was to stay awake during the journey home. Simon appeared to be the only one that managed it in our car with Fraser, Tom and I catching up on some well earned sleep.

Thanks to Alan for organising an amazing trip where young and old bonded and enjoyed the adventurous activities that boys love!

Murray Manson

WHISKY DISTILLING IN STRATHDEARN

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I am doing a course in Cultural Studies at the UHI, and as part of this am working on a project about the history of whisky distilling in Strathdearn. I would really like to hear from anyone who could tell me more about this - or who has any stories to pass on. Please phone 01808 511 355 if you can help. Thank you very much.

Katie Roden

POSTBOX

Where had the postbox gone!?! Flown away with the swallows in the winter - but the geese have brought the box back!

[No geese were harmed in the returning of the postbox - we're very grateful to Pat and Dave Wells for their determined work in ensuring the postbox was returned much faster than would otherwise have happened, and a bigger one is promised in future months - Ed]

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

These are some of the issues that have been raised and/or dealt with over the past couple of months:

Dalmigavie Road

Highland Council decided to de-list the Dalmigavie road.

Law and Order

PC Munro reported that there had been 184 calls in July and August, but that this had included many routine enquiries. In October, a member of the public reported that posters belonging to her had gone missing from the noticeboard. Another member of the public advised that the fencing around the new sports facility had been damaged, and it had been reported it to the construction company so that they could tell the police.

Wind farms

Mrs. K Bonniface had represented the CC at a meeting in the Town House regarding the windfarms at Glenkirk and Tom nan Clach. The conclusion was that Tom nan Clach was turned down, Glenkirk was recommended for refusal - the decision to be made by Scottish Ministers, and the Glenkirk access track was not discussed pending the Scottish Ministers decision. Thanks were given to Mrs. K Bonniface for attending this meeting on the CC's behalf.

Regarding the Moy Liaison Group Meetings, Mrs Saunders reported that they had reduced the number of turbines nearer to the Daviot end, and a detailed auditory survey had been done, but this had been done in the summer when there was more traffic due to the roadworks then under construction, so perhaps these were not normal circumstances.

Paths Project

In September Mrs. S Watt had a report done by Chris Cairns, which had been prepared earlier in the summer. The idea was to try to go ahead with the paths network from the A9 bus stop to Juniper Drive. In October, Duncan Hendry reported that the Paths Sub-Group would like to proceed with part of this project, from Juniper Drive to the Shop. The initial estimated cost of this will be approximately £50,400 inclusive of VAT, but at least 75% of this figure would be funded from outside sources. They would need to go and talk to people whose gardens the paths would pass by. The Paths Committee will then come back to the Community Council for approval.

New Sports Facility

In September it had been noted that the roof for the new sports facility had arrived and would be constructed in the second week of October. Discussion took place on whether the new sports facility should be left open, or locked. The general consensus was it might be better left unlocked from 9am to 9pm, otherwise youngsters might not get the use of it. **It is very important that nobody goes into the Sports Facility on a bike or other wheeled vehicle as this will damage the surface.** At the October Meeting, it was noted that Ben Sanderson of Penderfeed arrived on Sunday 17th October, and it was estimated that with decent weather, it would take one week to put up the roof, then Doe Sports would require a further two weeks to finalise the ground works. These were estimated times and were subject to weather conditions and no unexpected problems occurring.

Applications to the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust

In September, applications had been forwarded to the Trust from Rosemary Dempster on behalf of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Strathdearn Primary School and Strathdearn Nursery, and in October applications had been forwarded from the Tomatin and Moy SWRI.

Road Safety

Unfortunately, there are always reports of speeding traffic going through the village.

Several members of the public expressed their concern with regards to safety, on the 2+1 lanes at Moy.

Snow Clearing

Mrs. D Mackay reported that there had been a recent meeting, and then proceeded to read out a report from this meeting.

There were basically three options:

To carry on in the same way as last year, and just get through any bad weather as best we can;

To organize a pilot scheme, based on a good neighbour sort of basis, whereby we all try to help one another, and people in need e.g. elderly etc or;

To organise a major programme, which will be a lot of hard work.

Mr. D Bryden talked about setting up lists of people with access to diggers etc, and people with 4x4's that may be willing to help out.

CADISPA

At the start of September some focus groups had taken place with the research team. Mrs. V Roden gave an update on the CADISPA Study, and went over some of the figures that they had got back already from the surveys. They will be

coming back in December to give the Community Council an update. At the date of our September meeting, there had been a 28% return rate of surveys, but they were trying to get at least 30% back.

There had, at the date of our October Meeting, been a 30% return rate of surveys. They were all now at the statistician, and it will take approximately a month to get the figures back. Mrs. V Roden then read out an email about which photo should be put on the front of the CADISPA report. Everyone was in agreement that it was a good idea to use the winning photo from the Flower Show – of “A Village Scene” - on the Report. This was taken by Joanna Usborne.

Financial Report

Mrs. M Saunders reported that we had a balance of £3,084.12 in the account.

New Community Centre

Mr. D Hendry reported that he had had a meeting with a representative from the Big Lottery on 28 September 2010, as we would be seeking major funding from them.

Heritage Group

The Heritage Group (ARCH) was to start meeting again on the 27th October 2010, from 7-9pm in the Village Hall for 6 weeks.

This is only a handful of the issues dealt with by the Community Council – to get the full picture, read the Community Council Minutes on the Notice Boards – or better still, come along to our meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in the Strathdearn Village Hall. We hope to see you there!

If you would like something put on the Agenda, please get in touch with a Community Councillor. We are:- Vivian Roden (Chair) Tel 511355; Edward Usborne (Vice Chair) Tel 511482; Margaret Saunders (Treasurer) Tel 511755; Duncan Bryden (Planning Contact) Tel 511411; John Cameron-Mackintosh Tel 511239; Ann Glynne-Percy Tel 511210; James Duncan Tel 511338; Pat Wells Tel 511351; Debbie Mackay Tel 511466; Gavin Edward Tel 511427.

NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

We have another interesting and entertaining programme lined up for Autumn 2010 to Summer 2011.

Bob Irwin, whose stunning photographs did so well at the Flower Show, will be talking about wildlife photography in October before this goes to press.

In November Al McNee will be giving an illustrated talk about the birds of Fair Isle. Al is a leading figure in Scottish bird watching and an entertaining speaker.

The Draft Programme:

- **October – 28th Thursday 19:30 Bob Irwin:** **WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY**
 - **November -25th Thursday 19:30 Al McNee:** **BIRDS of FAIR ISLE**
- 2011**
- **February – 24 Thursday 19:30 James Fenton** **The Highlands – Arctic/Antarctic Comparisons**
 - **March - 24 Thursday 19:30 Hilary and Pete Moore :** **The INSH MARSHES**
 - **April 20th Wednesday Step it Up Walk with Katy Martin** **DISTILLERY WOOD POND**
28th Thursday 19:30 – **AGM**
 - **MAY– Spring Watch – Ruthven – Coignafearn.** **(date to be fixed later)**
 - **July - 28th Thursday 19:00** **Pond Dipping**

Everyone who enjoys the outdoors, our lovely local scenery and wild life, please join us!

LOCAL NURSING SERVICES

Strathdearn nursing services are covered by the Inverness East Community Nursing Team.

The Nursing Team's telephone number is 01463 230850

The office hours are 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and if you phone during these hours you will either get through to a member of staff or hear a message asking you to leave your contact details so that a nurse can phone you back as soon as possible.

If you phone outwith office hours (ie. after 6pm and before 8am on weekdays or any time during weekends or public holidays) **you will hear a message asking you to telephone NHS24.** Alternatively you can leave your contact details and someone will phone you back during normal office hours (8am to 6pm Monday to Friday).

Some people in the community already receiving nursing care may have special arrangements in place should they need a nurse out of hours and they do not necessarily have to phone NHS24. In all other cases **NHS24 provides the "Out of Hours" service for the Nursing Team (and also covers for the times when GP surgeries are closed).**

The NHS24 telephone number is 084 54 24 24 24.

When you dial NHS24's number you hear a message telling you that calls are recorded and that if it is a life-threatening emergency you should "Press 1" or "Hang up and dial 999". In order to save time and deal with the most urgent calls as soon as possible, some options are given to filter-off less urgent calls. The options given are for callers needing advice or help with medication, toothache or diarrhoea and vomiting. Advice on flu may soon be added to the list of options. **The last option is for those needing urgent medical attention and you are asked to "Press 5" or "wait and your call will be answered".**

The person at NHS24 who answers is known as a "call handler" and he/she will ask you some straightforward questions and then transfer you to the most appropriate help. The call handler will ask you the reason for your call, your name, date of birth, confirmation of home address (or give the address you are calling from if you are not at home), the phone number you are calling from and the name of your GP Practice (or that of the person on whose behalf you are calling).

If you need nursing advice you will be transferred to a "nurse advisor" who will check your details quickly and help with your query.

Sometimes the nurses' lines are very busy and if your symptoms are not urgent, the call handler will give you a time within which you will be called back. However, they will also ask you to phone back if your symptoms (or those of the patient you are calling on behalf of) worsen. This allows your need for advice and help to be re-assessed and possibly moved "up the list". If you are cut off during a call, NHS24 will call you back providing they have your correct phone number.

The message played when you first call NHS24 may be changed in the near future to make it quicker and easier to follow. At present, though, if you dial NHS24 and hold the line you will be answered by a call handler and transferred to the appropriate person to help you.

FINALLY, IF YOU THINK IT IS AN EMERGENCY AND LIFE IS IN DANGER ALWAYS DIAL 999.

Postscript: **The Emergency Services and Medical Services ask that we all have our house names or numbers positioned so that they are easily seen. This helps them find us quickly if urgent help is needed.** Pat Wells

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 most Sunday mornings 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).

Dates arranged at the start of each term. Further information from Sandra 01808 511246.

The Guild:

meets on the second Wednesday each month between September and April, usually at 7.30 pm in Tomatin Church.

New Members welcome.

10th November: Miss Amelia Martin

8th December: Members' Night

12th January: Discussion Topic

All welcome. Further information from Sheila 01808 511729.

Breakfast Club:

Join us for freshly brewed coffee, bacon rolls and fresh fruit, followed by discussion of a Bible passage and a time of singing and prayer. Come to the Strathdearn Hall for all, or some of the morning (9.30am for Breakfast/10.30am for the Bible passage/11.30am for singing and prayer) On the last two Mondays of November and January – and thereafter on the last two Mondays of each month up until and including June. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355.

Thanks to all those who supported our Soup & Pudding Fundraising Lunch on 23rd October which raised £186.50 which will enable our Church Catering Team to cook six meals in the Homeless Shelter this year.

Services (all at 10.30 am unless stated otherwise):

November:

7th: Dalarossie Church

14th: Strathdearn Hall Family Service for Remembrance Sunday with Rev Bart Buell.

Strathdearn War Memorial Remembrance Day Service 3 pm

21st: Moy Church

28th: Tomatin Church Service taken by The Guild

December:

5th: Dalarossie Church

12th: Strathdearn Hall Family Service

19th: Moy Church

Christmas Eve:

7pm: Family Service 11.30 pm: Watchnight Service (both in Tomatin Church)

26th: Tomatin Church

January:

2nd: Dalarossie Church

9th: Family Service in the Strathdearn Hall

16th: Moy Church

23rd: Tomatin Church

30th: Moy Church

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

Betty's Recipes

Roast Sausages with Garlic & Sage

1 lb Sausages	½ lb Cherry Tomatoes on the vine
8 Shallots peeled and halved	Splash of White Wine
Drizzle Balsamic Vinegar	1 tblsp Redcurrant Jelly
1 Handful Sage Leaves	Olive Oil
Garlic to Taste	¼ pt Water

Preheat oven to 200°C

Put sausages, shallots, sage and garlic in an ovenproof dish, drizzle with olive oil and a dash of white wine and roast for 30 minutes. Stir in the redcurrant jelly, balsamic vinegar and ¼ pt water, place tomatoes on top and roast for a further 10 minutes

Want to make a difference by helping older people be safer and feel more supported in their communities?

Are you 50+ with a few hours to spare each month?

Are you confident at giving presentations ... or have you time to assist our speakers? The Stay Safe Project* is looking for a)older volunteers who understand the concerns of their generation and can, with training, talk about a wide range of issues relating to safety in the home and the support services available for older people, and b) for volunteers to assist the speakers

Some of the important topics we'll be covering include bogus callers, personal safety and the support available from the police and fire service. And, of course, we'll undertake to fully train and support the speakers and their assistants so that they will have all the knowledge and skills they need to visit social and community groups around Inverness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE INTERESTING AND REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT CAROLINE KEITH AT HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CARE FORUM ON 01463 718817

* The Stay Safe Project is a new partnership between Age Scotland, Highland Community Care Forum, Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service, Highland Senior Citizens Network and Northern Constabulary

POSTBOX BLUES

There is usually no more dependable object in all the land than the humble postbox. Surprisingly, on the 18th October my letter remained unposted, because, as we all know, the local postbox at the Old Shop had disappeared.

Surveying the damage to the immediate area, the following possibilities entered my head.

Had the price of scrap iron rocketed!

Did the collection man lose his key!

Was it the first casualty of the Con-Dem axe!

Maybe a rare little bird had tried to hide in vain from a bunch of twitchers!

Had someone posted a Business Plan for Tomatin and suddenly got real!

Did some deliriously happy person make a terrible mistake when they approached the box with a winning lottery ticket in one hand and a postcard in the other!

I was so disappointed to learn that a lorry had simply backed into it.

Donald MacAskill

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST

Financial statement for the period 1 July to 30 September 2010

Income

Bank interest and dividends	£	2,196
Tomatin Football Club - part of contribution to cost of grass cutting machine		211
<i>Total income</i>	£	<u>2,407</u>

Expenditure

Grants:			
Sports Facility	£	25,000	
Hall roof repairs		761	
Strathnairn Farmers		1,000	
Repairs to notice boards		106	
Dehumidifier for Hall		719	
	£	<u>27,586</u>	
Loan to Strathdearn Hall for sports facility (see Note 1)		30,000	
Community development worker (June to August 2010)		2,126	
Administrator's fee year to 31 March 2010		4,000	
Postages year to 31 March 2010		89	
Independent Examiner's fee year to 31 March 2010		705	
Room hire for trustees' meeting		16	
Deutsche Bank investment management fees		488	
Decrease in value of investments (see Note 2)		14,449	
<i>Total outgoings</i>			<u>79,459</u>
Excess of expenditure over income for the period	£ (77,052)
Funds at 30 June 2010			448,896
Funds at 30 September 2010	£		<u><u>371,844</u></u>

Consisting of:

Deposit and current accounts with Royal Bank of Scotland	£	148,527
Investments managed by Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management		221,657
Income due at 30 September 2010		2,148
	£	<u>372,332</u>
Less: Payments due at 30 September 2010		(488)

Funds at 30 September 2010	£	<u><u>371,844</u></u>
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Notes:

1. An interest-free loan of £30,000 was given to the Hall Committee to assist with cash flow during construction of the sports facility. It will be repaid by the end of November 2010.
2. Investments managed by Deutsche Bank are at 30 June 2010 as the valuation at 30 September 2010 is not available yet.

Sports Facility

As you will no doubt have noticed, the long awaited Sports Facility is nearing completion and will soon be ready for use. The official opening will take place at 11am on Saturday 27th November 2010 and everyone in the community is invited to attend. The opening will be carried out by Tomatin's Kevin Thain, a well-known player with Kingussie Shinty team. Following the opening, refreshments will be served in the Hall.

The facility comes with a set of Terms and Conditions which are included for your information, but these are not designed to put people off using the facility - the Hall Committee would like to see the pitch used as often as possible, by as many people as possible. Please also note how to book the facility to ensure that your group has priority at a particular time, as the pitch will generally be open during the day for local youngsters to play games on.

The pitch is designed for most ball sports, including tennis, and the benefits of lighting and a roof will allow it to be used throughout the year. The lights will be operated by a token system.

Many people have spent a lot of their time ensuring that Strathdearn has this unique facility and the best way to thank them is to use it, enjoy it and do so safely.

Hall Committee

NB: Steve Culeen, Hall Manager, will be moving to Toulouse (Balvraid road) at the end of November. He may have a new phone number thereafter. Email remains the same: sculeen@hotmail.co.uk

STRATHDEARN HALL

BOOKING AND HIRING PROCEDURES

The Sports Facility is an all-weather sand-filled grass surface with floodlighting. Changing and toilet facilities are available in the Old Hall.

The use of the Sports Facility is by approval of the bookings secretary. This is to ensure that the pitch remains in good condition and to avoid damage to the surface and fences. Approved activities include:

- football
- tennis
- shinty
- hockey
- basketball
- fitness training

The bookings secretary is Steve Culeen, telephone 01808 511321, email sculeen@hotmail.co.uk

- all bookings should be made through the bookings secretary who will maintain a calendar of bookings;
- bookings should be made at least 3 days in advance, later bookings cannot be guaranteed;
- all hirers are required to sign a booking form and agree to the terms and conditions of hire.

Regular users will be required to make block bookings. Allocation of time slots is at the discretion of the bookings secretary. Hirers making block bookings will sign a booking form at the beginning of the hire period. No hire period will be in excess of one year. Hirers will be invoiced monthly in arrears.

Single bookings for group use or for tennis will be made with the bookings secretary. A booking form will be completed on the first booking. Payment must be made to the bookings secretary at the time of booking.

The Sports Facility will be open from 9am until 9pm seven days a week. If the Old Hall is required for changing and/or toilet facilities then a key will be provided and arrangements made for its immediate return at the end of the booking time. Floodlighting is by tokens, paid in advance.

STRATHDEARN HALL

Terms and Conditions of Hire of Sports Facility

These standard conditions apply to the hiring of the sports facility ("the premises") and associated facilities.

1. The Hirer shall be over 18 years and shall be responsible for the supervision of the premises and behaviour of all persons using the premises, whatever their capacity, including proper supervision of bike and car parking arrangements.
2. The Hirer shall not use the premises for any other purpose other than that described in the booking form and shall not sub-hire the premises or allow them to be used for any unlawful purpose or in any unlawful way or bring on to the premises anything which may endanger the same or which may render invalid any relevant insurance policy.
3. All persons using the premises shall behave in a manner that does not cause damage, injury or nuisance to the premises, other users of the ground or neighbouring property. The Hirer shall be jointly liable for any damage caused to the premises, equipment and fences including malicious and accidental damage.
4. The Hirer shall comply with all conditions and regulations made in respect of the premises by the Local Authority and the Licensing Authority.
5. The premises must be vacated at the end of the hire in a timely manner and hirers shall be responsible for ensuring the premises are left in a clean and tidy condition with all rubbish removed.
6. The Hirer may request a change to their original booking giving a minimum of 3 days' notice and any such change will be dependent upon availability. Strathdearn Hall Committee reserves the right to close the premises due to unsafe playing conditions or to the safety of those using them. If a credit is given in respect of a cancelled booking, the Hirer must use the credit for the next booking.
7. The Hirer shall adopt measures for the appropriate protection of any child involved in activities on the premises and shall be aware of the needs of any such child.
8. The Hirer must comply with an equal opportunities policy and must not discriminate on the grounds of race, nationality, colour, ethnic or national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, creed or disability.
9. The Hirer must report all accidents involving injury to the public to a member of the Strathdearn Hall Committee as soon as possible.
10. No alcohol, glass bottles or any form of glass shall be brought on to the premises.
11. No bikes or skateboards or any other wheeled vehicles are allowed on the surface of the premises.
12. A Hirer failing to comply with any of these regulations and conditions shall be liable to forfeit the use of the premises without any adjustment of fees in respect thereof, such forfeiture to be without prejudice to any other claims or remedies which the Strathdearn Hall Committee may have against the Hirer.