

STRATHDEARN NEWSLETTER

February 2011

Volume 11

No 1

CADISPA REPORT

Remember that long questionnaire you were sent in August? And the follow-on meetings and interviews and focus sessions in the Hall? The Community Planning Study which the CADISPA Trust has drawn up from all the information collected in Strathdearn over the summer is in the final stages of completion and the first discussion on it will take place at the next meeting of the Community Council on Tuesday 15th February (Please Note: Transport Scotland and TranServ have been invited to this meeting to discuss the overtaking lane at Moy and if they accept our invitation, the meeting will begin at 7pm. Please check Notice Boards nearer the time for confirmation of this, or phone Diane on 01808 511207).

Dr Geoff Fagan and his colleagues from the CADISPA Trust will also be making a Presentation on their report on **Thursday 3rd March at 7.30pm** in the Strathdearn Hall. They will return a couple of weeks after this, once we have all had a chance to think over what's in the Report, to run another session when we will get into groups to begin grappling with the task ahead. Check Notice Boards for details of this follow-on session or phone Vivian on 01808 511355. The Community Council intends to draw up a Five Year Action Plan from the Community Planning Study and it would be great to see good attendances at both the Presentation and the follow-on Evening.

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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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

Strathdearn Beaver Colony

For boys and girls aged 6-8 yrs.

Monday(term time) 5.45 – 6.45pm

Contact: Ruth Mantle 01808 511287



Traditional music tuition in Tomatin

Inverness Traditional Music Project tutors are planning a return visit to Strathdearn Primary School in the early spring. We would like to invite local people over the age of 8 years to come along and try the 6-week block of classes. The one hour groupwork class will be offered at beginner's level and tuition in four instruments will be offered, Fiddle, Whistle, Bodhran and Chanter.

Instrument hire is available for fiddles and bodhrans at reasonable rates for the students to take home and practice but advanced instrument hire booking is required. Whistles can be purchased on the first night from the tutor.

The classes will be held on a Thursday evening after Shinty practice from 7.15 - 8.15pm and will start on Thursday 28th April for 6 weeks through to 2nd June 2011. The classes will

start if we can encourage 6 students per class to enrol

For more details and to book a place please contact Margo MacLennan, Traditional Music Co-ordinator, The Highland Council, Education Culture and Sport Service, 13, Ardross Street, Inverness call 01463 663817 or visit www.highland.gov.uk/inverness-traditional-music.

Adults weekly fees are £6 per class x 6 weeks

less £2 discount for advanced payment = £34

Adult Concessions weekly fees are £5 per class less £2 discount for advanced payment = £28

(Concessions are available to Senior citizens,

Adults in full time education holding a Student Union Card,

People on Income support/Job Seekers allowance (income based proof required),

People with Special Needs)

Children's weekly fees £5 per class x 6 weeks

less £2 discount for advanced payments = £28

Special Child Concession £3.50 per class x 6 weeks

less £2 discount for advanced payment = £19

(this is offered to children with special needs or if parent is in full time education or income support etc)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONDOLENCES TO THE FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF:

Jimmy Simpson who died on 27th December, husband of Cathie Simpson. His funeral in Inverness on 5th January was very well attended by family and many friends.

John MacPherson who died at Killin, Perthshire and whose funeral took place on Friday 7th January. John was born at Clune and lived in the district for many years before moving to Edinburgh and then Killin. We send our sympathy to his wife Margaret (nee MacKenzie, sister of Sheila Don) and his

daughter, Mairi and her husband. He was very well liked by all who knew him.

The Rev Lilian Bruce who died on 5th January in hospital in Edinburgh where she retired from being the Minister for Moy, Dalarossie & Tomatin with Daviot & Dunlichity. She was buried at Daviot Church where she wished to be laid to rest.

Ian Dell (John Macdonald) who died on 20th January, husband of Mary Macdonald. His funeral in Inverness was very well attended with many of the mourners also travelling to Dalarossie for the interment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Engagements:

- Toby Hardwick to Gift Perunian from Thailand.
- Suzanne Gerlings to Mark Boiteux-Buchanan.
- Donald Cameron-Mackintosh to Naomi Davidson

We wish them all every happiness in the years to come.

Births:

- Neil and Roxanne living in Dundee, proud parents of Isabella Margaret who was born on 23rd November and weighed 7lb 14oz. A first grandchild for Rev Reg and Mrs Rosemary Campbell, Daviot Manse.
- Jimmy and Heather at Coignafearn, whose daughter Maisie Isobel was born on 11th January, a little sister for Megan and Iona Grace.
- Linda and Andrew Halliday on the birth of their baby son Jacob Luke who was born on the 30th October, 2010 weighing 8lb 9 1/2ozs. A first grandchild for Liz and Doug Campbell.

Happy birthday to Megan Edward who celebrates her 40th birthday on the 3rd of February.

THANK YOU Bob and Jo Irwin would like to say a very big thank you to all who braved the weather and supported their photo sale in December. They are delighted to have raised £122.50 for the Cheerful Chesters in Inverness.

MR JIMMY SIMPSON

People in Strathearn were very sorry to hear that Mr Jimmy Simpson had passed away on 27th December. Jimmy, who would have been 92 in April, was born and brought up with his two sisters in Bridge of Earn. His sister Elizabeth (now 90 years old) attended his funeral, having recently returned from Florida!

Jimmy went to school in Perth and later became a Civil Engineer, working with Perth County Council. When the Second World War broke out, Jimmy joined the 51st Highland Division but was taken prisoner at St Valery following which he spent five years in Poland as a prisoner-of-war. During this time he worked in a sawmill, and Cathy told us that his experiences provided the material for 'lots of tales'.

THE SCOTTISH POPPY APPEAL 2010

From the Tomatin Community, a tin at the Distillery and The Shop: **£302.15** was raised (including £86.40 at the War Memorial on Sunday 14th November and £45.25 Strathearn Primary School). Thank you all for giving so generously to such a worthy cause and the Scottish Poppy Appeal wishes to thank you all too.

THANK YOU from the Community Council to:

- Mr Jimmy Duncan who generously donated tins of paint for the Strathearn War Memorial fence - and to
- Mrs Diana Usborne who organised the painting of the fence.
- We also wish to thank Mr and Mrs Alasdair Wallace for decorating the Christmas tree in the Strathearn Hall kindly helped by two young boys from Old Mill Road - the tree looked very pretty and welcoming so a big Thank You to you all.
- Also, it is wonderful to see the new Sports Facility being used and the young of Tomatin really enjoying it. We hope it will always be a success. Well done to everyone who put so much work and time into the construction etc and to those who continue to keep an eye on it.

After the war Jimmy worked for various companies throughout Scotland as an engineer. He had three children, Rhoda, James and David, by a previous marriage, all of whom, despite being scattered around the UK and Canada, keep in regular contact with Cathy.

Jimmy and Cathy married in 1987 and enjoyed a happy married life together for well over twenty years. Jimmy was full of fun and there were a lot of laughs – and stories. Cathy remembers Jimmy beginning to tell her the story of his capture at St Valery as they set off from Ullapool one fine day on the ferry to Stornoway. He was still telling her about what had happened at St Valery when they arrived in Stornoway!

Among Jimmy's interests were fly-fishing and curling – he was a keen curler who never walked but always ran along the ice! He was still curling up to two years ago at the Ice Rink in Inverness.

One of Jimmy's biggest achievements was the building of his house in Tomatin which he worked on for many years. It was no wonder that it took him many years for he built the whole house himself, including the stairs. The only thing he didn't do was the roughcasting. What a sense of achievement it must have given him to sit in his warm, comfortable home once it was finished, knowing he'd done it all by himself.

Our thoughts are with Cathy, his children, and all the rest of his family and friends who will miss him very much, but take comfort in happy memories.

REV LILIAN M BRUCE BD ThM

Her friends and former parishioners were sad to hear that Rev Lilian M Bruce had passed away peacefully in hospital in Edinburgh on 5th January.

Born and brought up in Edinburgh, she had an older brother, Alex, and a younger brother, Malcolm. She was educated at James Gillespie's High School for Girls and studied Divinity at St Andrews University, graduating in 1967. Miss Bruce began her ministry as an Assistant Minister in Orkney, before moving to the USA to study at the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School where she completed a Master's degree in Theology. She then joined the staff of Rochester Presbyterian Church, New York State, before completing her training for the ministry at New College, Edinburgh.

Lilian was ordained at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh in 1971, attracting press interest at the time as one of the first women Ministers in the Church of Scotland. She then served as an Associate Minister at Currie Kirk in Midlothian until she

was inducted to the charge of St Boswells in the Borders. In 1980 Lilian became a missionary to the Presbyterian Church of East Africa at St Columba's Church, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. She also taught at the Anglican Theological College in Tanzania. In March 1986 Lilian was inducted to the charge of Daviot and Dunlichity linked with Moy, Dalarossie and Tomatin.

She was a thoughtful and insightful preacher; a very good administrator who kept meticulous records; and someone who was always keen to encourage others on their Christian journey, generously sharing her considerable knowledge, including books from her personal library. She loved her dogs - Pepper, and later Oscar - and was interested in local history. Lilian wasn't always easy to work with, but she demanded as much of herself as she did of others (possibly even more so) – and a lot of this came from her genuine desire to see things done properly.

She was also very kind and compassionate to folk in need of help. There was no better person to have on your side if you were experiencing difficulty, illness, or distress. At such times she had a knack of saying the right thing – sweeping away the things that didn't really matter, and getting to the heart of the problem, before giving good, practical advice.

It was very hard for her and for all her friends, inside and outside the Church, when she had to demit from the Ministry, the vocation she loved, owing to ill health which, being Lilian, she resolutely fought for nearly 11 long years. Our sympathy goes out to her family and friends, and to all the many others whose lives Lilian touched, who will mourn her passing.

MR J A MACDONALD (IAN DELL)

The people of Strathdearn were sad to hear that Mr John Macdonald (Ian Dell) had passed away on 20th January. He died peacefully in Raigmore Hospital with Mary, the wife with whom he had spent almost 55 happy years, and his nephew, Jimmy, by his side.

Born in Bunloit, Glenurquhart, Ian and his family moved to Dell Farm when he was three years old. He attended Raigbeg School, and then farmed at Dell until he took early retirement and became an agricultural rep. Even after he retired he liked to keep in touch with his fellow farmers, and enjoyed going to the Mart. Ian was also a good neighbour to his farming neighbours.

During the War he served with the Home Guard and he continued his commitment to public service later in life when he was elected as a County Councillor. He was also a hard-working and conscientious community councillor for many years.

A faithful church attender, his other interests included the Tomatin & District Sheepdog Society, of which he was the Secretary, and shinty. Local teams used to play for the Strathdearn Cup in a field near Dell. He was also a keen badminton player, and a supporter of the Liberal Party, driving the late Russell Johnston MP around the Highlands on constituency business. He will be much missed by Mary and all his family and friends, with whom our thoughts lie.

SCHOOL NEWS

Skiing on Cairngorm Mountain

For the first time ever, P7 from Strathdearn Primary teamed with the P6 and P7 from Daviot Primary School for a trip up Cairngorm Mountain for 3 full days ski tuition.

This was paid for after a successful funding application to the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust in September last year.

Season passes were purchased for our 11 Primary 7 children, which worked out much cheaper than buying 3 daily passes. Equipment was hired and the children were put into ability groups with one tutor for each group supplied by the The Ski School on Cairngorm Mountain. The children were really fortunate with the weather, and there was lots of snow, so the 3 consecutive days worked out really well.

The comments from the children were all very positive. The days were long and hard, but they were amazed at how much fun it was and how they went from being non-skiers to being able to ski from top of the mountain to the bottom. Some children who could ski a little became really competent after what amounted to 12 hours intense training.

I don't think parents had any trouble getting their children to bed each day as when the children returned to

school on the bus, they were really happy but very, very tired.

I will certainly book again next year for the older children to have the same experience.

Linda Cleworth
Head Teacher

Favourite Television Programmes by P3 pupils

Grace Wrightson

My favourite programme is The Simpsons. Lisa and Homer are in The Simpsons. I watch it sometimes. The Simpsons are a crazy family. They do funny things like crashing the car. I enjoy it, it is funny. When Lisa goes to school it makes me feel happy.

Lewis Kennedy

My favourite programme is Horrible Histories. The characters are King Henry and Cleopatra. I watch it

every day, sometimes with Andrew. The programme is about history. I enjoy it

because it makes me laugh. The best bit is when people get their heads cut off.

Rhuairdh Cameron

My favourite programme is Horrible Histories. The characters are King Henry and Cleopatra. I watch it every day after school. The programme is about gruesome history because there is lots of blood. Rotten Romans is my favourite part because it is very funny.

Kyle MacDonald

My favourite programme is Glee. The characters are Finn, Rachel, Puc and Artie. I watch it once a week with my mum, dad and Lolo. The programme is about a singing club. I enjoy it. It is hilarious. The club sings and dances. I like the music. It is cool.

Libby Allen

My programme is called Sponge Bob. The characters are Patrick and Mr Crabs. It is about friends living in the ocean.

behaviour. Mrs Davidson says we are the best class in the whole school! We are all very proud of ourselves!

News from Primary 1 & 2

We are all glad to be back at school after the long Christmas holiday. We were very excited when Iona's new baby sister, Maisie came to visit us in our class. She is gorgeous!

Our project this term is Castles. We voted for our favourite idea, which was Megan's idea! We decided to go on an outing and are going to visit Urquhart Castle at Drumnadrochit in February. It is a ruin now so no-one lives there any more. In March we are going to visit Kilravock Castle near Croy. People still live there so it will be very interesting too.

We are all working hard and are earning lots of Achievement Points for our good

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

Law and Order

Unfortunately the hall windows had again been smashed in November. There have also been two break-ins at the same address at Moy.

Wind farms

West Coast Energy Limited gave a powerpoint presentation on the Daviot Windfarm at the January meeting, where several issues were raised from the public in attendance.

2+1 Lane at Moy

Several letters have been sent from the Community Council regarding the safety aspect of this. The overtaking lane has now been coned off until further notice.

New Sports Facility

The new sports facility was officially opened by Kevin Thain on Saturday 27th November, with Mrs Debbie Mackay representing the Community Council. Several of the other Councillors were also present. It was reported in December that this facility has been receiving very good usage by locals and by outsiders.

Applications to the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust

Applications have been made to the Trust by the Strathdearn Hall for painting the inside of the Old Hall, for a fence along the south side boundary and for an asbestos survey. The Youth Group also made an application for a Youth Worker and for a Youth Enterprise Project. These have all been approved and forwarded on to the Trust.

Road Safety

Unfortunately, there are always reports of speeding traffic going through the village. Our smiley face is still not in operation, but will hopefully be back with us soon.

Snow Clearing

Mr John Cameron-Mackintosh and Mr Lewis MacLeod are now also part of this sub-group. Mr Mike Mackay has agreed to co-ordinate the snow clearing over and above what the Highland Council do, with Mr Colin Tucker taking care of the Lynebeg and Moy areas, and Mr Sandy Ferguson

dealing with the south side of the river. It was made clear at the January meeting that the public did not have a right to demand clearance, and that vulnerable people would be cleared first, with individual requests considered last of all.

We are in the process of trying to obtain salt to be put down beside the recycling bins for public usage.

CADISPA

The Community Council have received a draft report for reviewing. CADISPA will be coming to Tomatin on Thursday 3rd March to give a presentation.

Community Council Elections

At a meeting on 9th December a new Community Council was formed, with the changes being that Mrs. P Wells and Mrs. D Mackay no longer wished to stand as Councillors and Mr. T Gerlings took his place on the Community Council. On 14th December Mr. L MacLeod was co-opted onto the Council as a full member, with Mr. M Davies coming on as an Associate Member for a period of one year, to represent the more youthful members of the public in Strathdearn.

Financial Report

Mrs. M Saunders reported that at 31 December 2010 the balance in the current account was £3,269.06.

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 (apart from **Tuesday 15th February**, when it will be **7.00pm**) 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 Osborne (Vice Chair) Tel 511482; Margaret Saunders (Treasurer) Tel 511755; Duncan Bryden (Planning Contact) Tel 511411; John Cameron-Mackintosh (Road Safety Contact) Tel 511239; Ann Glynne-Percy Tel 511210; James Duncan Tel 511338; Gavin Edward Tel 511427, Tony Gerlings Tel 511222; Lewis MacLeod Tel 511354; Michael Davies 511719.

NEW SPORTS FACILITY

After many years of planning and fundraising, our new Sports Facility in the grounds of the Strathdearn Hall was opened by

Kevin Thain on Saturday 27th November.

The pitch, which is designed to accommodate as many different sports as possible, has been well used since the opening, and the Hall Committee hope to see these numbers increase as better weather arrives. It has been encouraging to see the high usage throughout what will hopefully be the worst part of the winter.

With the Children's Play Area and the new Sports Facility complete, the Hall Committee will now be concentrating on building a new Community Centre to replace the Old Hall, thereby completing a comprehensive transformation of the Hall and grounds, to bring Strathdearn a range of facilities second to none in the Highlands.

Thanks are due to many local residents, too many to mention, who have volunteered countless hours to ensure that the people of Strathdearn have modern facilities in our area of which we can all be proud.

Duncan Hendry (Community Development Worker)

The speech given by Mr Alasdair Wallace at the Opening of Sports Facility 27th November 2010:

"On behalf of our Strathdearn Hall Committee, welcome to everyone. Apologies from Glen Fraser, our Hall Committee Chairman, whose work prevents him from being with us. For your information the others on our Hall Committee are Caroline Chainey, our Secretary; Denise Barley our Treasurer; Jimmy Duncan and Debbie Mackay who recently joined us; and myself.

This pitch is fairly standard as is the protective netting around it but the roof covering is a little different. It was designed and manufactured in central Canada, containerised and brought here by road, sea and road. Penderfeed, in the Borders were responsible for erecting the structure and fixing the cover. The material is similar to the roof of the o2 dome in London. It came

in one piece and was rolled out alongside the structure. It was then pulled over. We had wanted the cover to be green but it would have been much darker and more costly as it would have required the lights on for much longer.

This facility has had a long gestation period and our thanks are due to all those who sat round the table month after month. Especially I would like to thank Col. Donnie Grant, our retired Chairman of the Hall Committee and our Trustee Mrs. Ann

Glynne-Percy, both of whom attended the meetings faithfully.

Once we had decided what we wanted we then had to find the pennies to pay for it. Duncan Hendry, our Development Officer, was our key fund raiser and he deserves a special thank you for getting the funders on board and acquiring the money once the work started on site. I'm delighted to report that the first money was raised by our own young ones over 3 years ago at the

Vintage Tractor Rally at Daviot with the able assistance of Dave Carson and others.

Sincere thanks are due to our principal funder SportsScotland who also provided useful ideas for the pitch. Secondly, thank you to our Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust who provided substantial funding. To Leader and to the Gannochy Trust we say thank you. The total cost of the project including Professional fees is £190,000.

For the preparatory work, documentation, drawing and tendering etc we are grateful to Inverness Architects Thomas Munro & Co. and in particular Catriona Duguid who is the Project Architect for office and site works. Without a contractor we would have no pitch and no roof so special thanks to DOE for a job well done without any fuss or trouble. DOE are based in Methil, Fife and carry out work throughout the Scotland.

To open this Sports Facility we are very fortunate in having our own Kevin Thain from across the road. Kevin went to Kingussie High School and from the age of 5 he skied and played shinty.. At 17 he played for Kingussie's First shinty team and enabled them to win the most senior and oldest trophy in shinty, the Camanachd Cup, twelve times with one as Captain. This has put Kingussie into the Guinness Book of Records. He has played for Glasgow and represented Scotland 3 times at Croak Park in Dublin. With a tally of 700 senior shinty goals, he is the second highest scorer ever.

After school Kevin qualified at Inverness College in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. He worked at Ardersier and was offshore on the Brae Field for five years. He now has a thriving electrical business in Aviemore and Cumbernauld north of Glasgow.

Kevin Thain is very well qualified to do the honours for us today and , on your behalf, I ask him to officially open our Sports Facility..... "

Strathdearn Youth Group

Since the last Newsletter SYG has been quite active, in fact there have been over 30 events in total, which amounts to 300-400 "youth occupied hours". Thanks go again to the volunteers who keep the whole show on the road. In particular Diane Ross made the Tuesday art/craft/science possible and enjoyable, Rhoann Bisset lent her physiotherapeutic skills to the Thursday multisport sessions and Pam Hardwick has been a Trojan, helping Stan Beaumont with the after school art club as well as organising all the games at badminton on Mondays. It is good to see Aaron Griffiths back helping with the badminton coaching too.

The Youth Enterprise Strathdearn project, for 18-25 yr olds, has made good progress with several strapping young men of the Strath maintaining a keen interest in the first chosen activity, the building of a yurt. Overall it is an £8,000 project and so far, thanks to the frenetic efforts of Rev Reg Campbell, the group has received, in grants, £3000 from the Highland Council Wards Discretionary budget and £2000 from the Scottish Communities Foundation, both of whom we thank. The Community Council also has approved of applications to the Windfarm Trust for £1000 for the yurt building and a further £1000 to develop the youth enterprise concept. There are 2 other grant applications in process which, with a bit of luck, will raise sufficient funds. The first training workshop has taken place at the premises of Red Kite yurts in Callander, where Aaron, Liam Taylor and Innes Crofts learnt the mysterious art of steam bending wood. They incidentally put in some extra work for Red Kite as a "persuader" to get us a larger yurt for the same money. Well done them. The next training workshop will be very soon, and anyone within the age group is welcome to join in this very interesting exercise, and contribute ideas to longer term youth enterprise development.

Activities in the near future will include the re-starting of the youth club for P7-S6, meeting in the village hall on Friday evenings 7-8.30pm (first one 4th February), with perhaps an outing each month. February's trip will be a visit to Inverness Ice Rink on Sunday 20th, to check out our skating skills. Youth Highland's Activity Co-ordinator will be paying visits to run team building sessions, which are threatened to involve ropes, cooking utensils, dodgeballs and medical stretchers. They are looked forward to.

It is hoped to introduce Youth Achievements Awards soon. A peer group assessed scheme, with National moderation, it recognises challenges taken on by young people, not necessarily in an academic setting. Sounds a bit onerous but is designed to give recognised accreditation for what youngsters enjoy doing anyway.

The next "bigger" outing should be a ski-ing day in the mountains with Ron Woodwark of Highland Council Outdoor Education, 12th March.

Looking further on Liz Cooling has very generously offered to host an Easter Egg Hunt and "community day" at Keilingha, Moy, 23rd April, which SYG is very much looking forward to helping with. Thank you Ma'am.

Suggestions as always are welcome for activities/objectives. It has been noted that the Group is doing less than it used to for primary aged children. It does its best, and would like to do more. Being affiliated to Youth Scotland gives insurance, child protection and health and safety policies, and training back up to do all sorts of activities. SYG, nevertheless, is an organisation that depends upon volunteers and manpower is the limiting factor.

More could be done with more helpers volunteering, and SYG is extremely grateful to those who do. You make a difference to young people. Thank you . *Alan Hardwick*
511766

1st Strathdearn Rainbows and Brownies

Last term the girls completed their Stargazer and Centenary Challenge badges and had great fun eating astronaut food. We celebrated Christmas with the Beaver's and had a fantastic dinner at The Dairy, Daviot and somehow Santa found us there too. Sadly the Unit has temporarily closed due to a fall in numbers. However, the younger members have crossed over to Beavers. Thank you to Eilidh Cameron, Louise Beaumont, and Amanda Ferguson for all your help over the past year. *Trish Sheldon*

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:

Meets on the first and last Sunday of each month during term-time in the Strathdearn Hall at 10.30am. All primary school aged children welcome. There is also a Family Service in the Hall at 10.30 am on the second Sunday of the month. Further information from Sandra 01808 511246.

The Guild:

Meets on the second Wednesday each month between September and April, at 7.30 pm in Tomatin Church. New Members welcome.

9th February: Evening of Favourite Hymns and Readings

9th March: A Speaker from the Scottish Prison Service

13th April AGM

All welcome. Further information from Sheila 01808 511729.

Breakfast Club:

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). All welcome to join us on Mondays, 21st and 28th February; 21st and 28th March; and 18th and 25th April – and thereafter on the last two Mondays of each month up until and including June. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355.

Afternoon Tea:

Join us at the Strathdearn Hall for a blether over freshly made sandwiches and delicious scones and cakes between 3 and 4 pm on Mondays 14th February (Valentine's Day!); 14th March and 11th April – and thereafter on the second Monday of the month up to and including June. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355 or Sandra 01808 511246.

Services (all at 10.30 am unless stated otherwise):

February:

6th Dalarossie Church (If snowy, please phone one of the numbers in this Notice
in case the Service has been changed to Tomatin Church.)

13th Strathdearn Hall Family Service (Tea after the Service)

20th Moy Church

27th Tomatin Church

March:

6th Dalarossie Church

13th Strathdearn Hall Family Service (Tea after the Service)

20th Moy Church

27th Tomatin Church

April: Venues of Services to be confirmed.

Sadly, Moy Church is due to close in March. Our rota of Services in different Churches will change because of this, and new arrangements will be confirmed.

Other Services:

World Day of Prayer Service: Friday 4th March at Daviot Church. Time to be confirmed.

Good Friday Service: Friday 22nd April at 7pm in Tomatin Church.

TOMATIN & MOY WRI

The first meeting of 2011 will be held on Monday 7th February at 7.30pm in the Strathdearn Hall, when member Liz Cooling will talk about her work in a hospital premature baby unit – “Born Too Soon”. The competition is for a knitted hat for a premature baby. The entries and any other baby clothes will be donated to Raigmore Hospital’s neonatal unit. Hostesses for the evening are Madge Fraser and Margaret Robertson.

The next meeting will be on Monday 7th March, when Fiona Young will describe “the Cairngorm Farmers’ Market”. The competition is for a jar of marmalade and the hostesses are Susan Mackintosh-Grant and Carol James.

In April “Women’s Health” will be the subject of local nurse Karen Carson on Monday 4th. The competition is for an Easter Bonnet and the hostesses will be Kathy Bonniface and Betty Watson.

All WRI meetings are open to non-members and we look forward to welcoming visitors.

Carol James (Hon Secretary)

Moy wind farm Community Benefit Sub-group

Thanks to everybody who replied to our recent mailing asking for ideas on how we should use the community benefit from the proposed Moy wind farm. If the plans are approved, community benefit payments could be more than £550,000 per year over 25 years.

People came forward with a lot of strong suggestions and we are now looking at a list of over 30 projects. These range from grants or loans for micro renewable projects to apprenticeship schemes in rural skills.

Our sub-group has members from throughout the Strathnairn and Strathdearn areas including members of both community councils. Over the next few weeks we will be using the set of criteria presented at the Moy Wind Farm Liaison Group in October to select a shortlist of project ideas which should provide longterm benefits for the area.

The ideas on the shortlist will be worked up in more detail and we will send out more information to residents. This will be followed by a survey of all local residents which will be used to help us decide which projects to pursue.

You can contact us at communitybenefit@moywindfarm.co.uk;

Richard Cooling, Chair of the Moy Wind Farm Community Benefit Sub-group

WINDFARMS UPDATE

GLENKIRK : Eurus Energy UK Ltd. the developer for the proposed windfarm at Glenkirk, is expected to submit another Addendum shortly because the number of turbines has been reduced slightly and the turbine lay-out modified. These changes are an attempt to mitigate the visual impact of the windfarm on the Lochindorb SLA (Special Landscape Area). As a result some turbines have been moved westwards over the ridge and will be more visible from the Tomatin side of the hill.

DAVIOT : The developer, West Coast Energy Ltd. has advised that the number of turbines has been increased from ten to thirteen.

Meeting : A "Windfarm information meeting" is planned for 23 March at Daviot Community Centre. Further information will be displayed on Strathdearn and other local notice boards nearer the time.

Pat Wells, S.A.W.D.

Public Meeting - Windfarms

The Committee of Strathnairn Community Council invites all residents of Strathdearn to a public meeting on Wednesday 23rd March at 7-30 in Daviot Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the pros and cons of Onshore Wind Farms. The editor of the Inverness Courier has agreed to chair the meeting, and along with representatives of the Wind Farms we will have a guest who opposes them. We also intend to invite all Candidates standing for election in May to the Scottish Parliament. Numbers count. If you would like to hear more or give your views please come along.

Jim Crawford

Councillor. Inverness South, Highland Council

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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RECYCLED COMPUTERS

Highland Council has entered into a contract with Fujitsu to replace its computer equipment over a 5 year period. As part of this both organisations wish to benefit the local community by distributing 7000 PC units* over the lifetime of the project through a recycling partnership with ReBOOT. ReBOOT is a computer recycling social enterprise based in Moray and a registered charity.

Fujitsu are funding ReBOOT to provide this service and ReBOOT in turn will provide a range of training opportunities for different groups. ReBOOT are establishing a facility in Inverness to carry out this service.

It is proposed that the refurbished machines should be available to voluntary and community based organisations operating in the Highland area. This could include charities, social enterprises, community councils and clubs or groups such as Scout or Guide groups.

Should your organisation wish to be considered for one of the refurbished computers, we ask that you complete a short survey. The information that you provide will assist us in prioritising the distribution and will be used solely for this purpose. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

The survey is available electronically on survey monkey and can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JDP9VYR>

If you are unable to complete the survey electronically or know of any organisations who may wish to be considered for this programme but are not on email, paper versions of the survey can be provided by contacting the Policy Team on 01463 702006. The closing date for responses is **Friday 25th February**.

Thank you.

* One unit is either a PAT tested computer and monitor or laptop with: certificate of authenticity; anti-virus software; Open Source office programme and; a 3 month return to base warranty with ReBOOT. Additional support after 3 months will be available from ReBOOT.

Alison Clark, Policy Officer

Chief Executive's Service, The Highland Council Tel: 01463 702512

BETTY'S FISHY RECIPES

Fish is rich in omega-3 and has no saturated fat. Here are two tasty recipes...

Sardine paté

1 can sardines, drained

3oz cream cheese

Finely grated lemon rind

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 garlic clove, crushed

Black pepper

loz butter, melted

Mash sardines and blend in cheese. Add lemon juice, rind, garlic and seasoning Mix well and spoon into two small dishes. Smooth tops and cover with melted butter. Decorate with lemon twist and sprig of parsley.

Smoked salmon flan

Shortcrust pastry

4oz smoked salmon pieces

1 tablespoon chopped parsley

2 eggs

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

5 fl oz single cream

3 tablespoons milk

Line flan dish with pastry. Cover with salmon pieces. Sprinkle with parsley. Beat eggs, seasoning, cream and milk together and pour into flan case. Bake 15 mins in hot oven. Reduce to moderate and bake till set and golden.(20 -25 mins)

HORSE RIDING IN STRATHDEARN

As a horse rider in this area, along with my children, it is with great regret I say that we dread going out on to the roads, as we must to enable us to reach some fantastic places to ride.

May I take this opportunity to ask anyone reading this that, when passing horse riders on the roads, they just take a moment to slow down and go as widely as possible past the horses. This makes such a huge difference to the safety of riders and horses. On single track roads where there is obviously no room for us all to fit on the road at one time, please give us time to pull off the road and let you past.

We always acknowledge drivers with a wave of thanks.

In the Highway Code it states the following:

“When passing animals, drive slowly. Give plenty of room and be ready to stop. Be particularly careful of horse riders especially when overtaking. Always pass wide and slow. Horse riders are often children, so take extra care and remember riders may ride in double file when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Look out for horse riders signals and heed a request to slow down or stop. Take great care to treat all horses as a potential hazard: they can be unpredictable, despite the efforts of their rider.”

Many thanks for taking the time to read this.

Diane, Georgia and Melissa Ross

TOMATIN DISTILLERY CO. LTD.

Visitor Centre Opening Times:

Monday to Friday 10.00 to 17.00

Tours from 10.15 Monday to Friday - £3 per person

Please contact Visitor Centre for Tour availability: 01463 248 144

Weekend opening from Easter to October - Sorry no Tours -

Saturday 10.00 - 17.00. Free entry with DVD viewing and Tasting

Sunday 12.30 - 16.30. Free entry with DVD viewing and Tasting

**At Tomatin Distillery we can offer a Private Whisky
Presentation and Tasting Tour at £30 per person (2 Hours)**

Please contact Office for Private Tour availability: 01463 248 148

MOY CHURCH

Moy Church was designated an "Unnecessary Building" by the Presbytery of Inverness in 1993. The congregation appealed against this decision but lost the appeal, although the Church has remained open.

The congregation has continued to use Moy Church for monthly services, and the "Midweek at Moy" midweek fellowship also met there for almost ten years over the summer months. The building was kept in as good repair as possible, and the roof was replaced and the building reharled, rewired and redecorated in the hope that it could continue to be used, but the time has come when, sadly, the congregation of Moy, Dalarossie & Tomatin Church of Scotland have decided to close Moy Church due to a number of pressing reasons. The fact that Moy Church has neither disabled access nor toilets breaches disability discrimination legislation, and the congregation cannot get permission to put these in because the Church has been designated an "Unnecessary Building." Very few of the Moy community worship there nowadays, and Moy Church is the most expensive of the congregation's three churches to heat.

Taking all these considerations into account it has been decided at meetings of the Kirk Session, Congregational Board and a specially held Congregational Meeting to 'reluctantly agree to the closure of Moy Church.' This decision has not been taken lightly, or hastily. Along with the Presbytery a date will be arranged for a final service of thanksgiving and closure, and this will probably take place in March. The Redundant Churches Trust and the Mackintosh Trust have been informed for their interest. The closure of the church will not affect the access to, and use of, the graveyard.

In the church newsletter the Minister thanked all those who have supported Moy Church down through the years, adding that their faithfulness and dedication had served the Church well. The closure of Moy Church will also mean the loss of the last public building in Moy.

STEP IT UP HIGHLAND

Several of our walks since the November publication of the Strathdearn Newsletter have inevitably been snowy ones, and in those conditions we choose our routes very carefully, as many of the hill tracks can have deep snow or, during a thaw, can be icy. However, there are the compensations of seeing the landscape in all its differing moods. On one cold but sunny Wednesday a walk up through Distillery Wood revealed a magnificent low angled sun outlining all the hills sharply, with a backdrop of amber and turquoise.

On one of our January walks we were accompanied by the Step it Up coordinator from Inverness. It is her task to keep in touch with all these groups in the Highlands. She seemed very much to enjoy and appreciate what we are doing, and to enjoy the beautiful views up Strathdearn.

Over the last month or two we have also been able to incorporate into our walks some enquiries and photographic opportunities to aid our researches for the Arch project taking place in the village. For those of you who may not have heard of this, a group of interested people in Strathdearn are looking into the archaeology and visible historical remains of the area to produce a record which will soon be available for all to examine. A number of our walkers are involved in this, and have welcomed the opportunity to visit abandoned settlements and former schools to further their enquiries.

As this addition to the walks has been quite successful we may occasionally incorporate other aspects of interest also, and on one Wednesday in April we shall be accompanied by our local countryside ranger.

You would be very welcome to join us on our walks, whether you choose the shorter or the slightly longer, faster alternative. Both usually start by meeting at Strathdearn Hall at 2.00pm on Wednesdays, and finish with tea, coffee and a chat back at the Hall.

If you are interested, contact Kathy or David on 01808 511740 or Carol on 531220.

Football Training Camp

On 4 July 2010, I set off for Garscube Sports Complex in Glasgow for a week's training with Celtic's Youth system.

When I first arrived at the camp, I was really nervous because I did not know anyone and wondered what the people would be like. It was an international camp with people from Canada, Texas and Abu Dhabi. Everyone was really friendly and the facility looked very welcoming, with the coaches at the desk waiting for us to register. That evening was our first training session and consisted of a football match with all of us playing together. I felt I did really well for my first training session.

On Monday, I met my goalkeeper coach who was a great instructor and we did basic training with him. Tuesday was a half day because World Cup football was on TV in the evening. We were able to get finished, showered and have dinner in time to watch the game.

Wednesday was the best day because we went to Celtic park and then to the Celtic first team's training facility in Lennoxton. The trophy room at Celtic Park was huge and we saw replicas of trophies Celtic had won over the years. The dressing room had the player's shirts from last season - I thought this was amazing. We walked out down the tunnel - an unforgettable experience. We then took the bus to Lennoxton for our training session. This consisted of two small sided games and was great fun.

Thursday was our last day of training before the final day's presentation ceremony. The goalkeepers focused on diving. We had lunch with the Kilmarnock players because Garscube is their main training ground. That final night we ordered pizza for dinner as a treat. On the Friday I woke up with a painful wrist. This prevented me playing in goal so I had to play outfield and was not so bad.

At the presentation everyone received certificate signed by Celtic manager, Neil Lennon and a group photograph of all of us who took part in the training. We were also given a Celtic goody bag containing DVDs, a Celtic football, a model of Celtic Park to make among other things.

It was a wonderful experience and even if you don't support Celtic I would encourage anyone to go.

James Alexander Duncan.

LYNEBEG JUNCTION BLUES

In 2010 the highway men
filled speedsters full of joy.
They had built an overtaking lane
on the flat A9 at Moy.

They listened not to locals
who had safety fears in mind,
Not least the Lynebeg turnoff
at the speedway's very end.

Inevitable near misses
forced the closure of the lane,
but it seems the trusty drawing-board
will not be used again.

'It's built to British standards,'
said the wise men from the south.
'But we'll upgrade to Glasgow standards
by the middle of the month.'

'We are sending north a wee man
with loads of magic paint,
to decorate the junction
and stop the headlong sprint.'

'You know we are the experts
and we'll get things right for you.
But just in case,
we'll put in place,
a paramedic crew.'

Donald MacAskill

Strathdearn Primary After-School Art Club...

The art club only met a couple of times before the Christmas holiday, but these were most successful and enjoyable. The children were introduced to the wonders of watercolour masking fluid. Each and every one produced a fantastic painting of a snowy mountain scene, a selection of which are now on display in the art club art gallery. The memorable thing about masking fluid, according to the children, was its rather obnoxious smell!!!

**The last session guided the children to making a Christmas card which included paintings of sweets and lollipops, which they were obliged to eat at the end of the art club. No comment! After starting up again last week, we are encouraging them to show their creativity by jointly producing a woodland tableau using just scrap materials. Not finished yet, but there are some very interesting birds, butterflies, creepie-crawlies, owls and a squirrel showing great promise. Enthusiasm ... fantastic as usual!
*Stan Beaumont & Pam Hardwick***

ARCH : A REQUEST TO ALL

There may be some folk who are in receipt of this newsletter who may not be aware that over the last three months, a dozen or so enthusiastic local people have been turning their attentions to helping to produce a lasting collection of the history and heritage of Strathdearn. This has been possible with the help and expertise of Susan Kruse of ARCH (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands). The end result will be documentation and interesting facts covering periods over the last 10,000 years, right through to present day. It will take the form of a display which will appear for several weeks in the village hall from the beginning of February, accompanied by a permanent file, which can of course be added to, ad lib, over future years.

HOW YOU CAN HELP..

If you have, or know of anything which you think may contribute to the big picture of the Strathdearn of yesteryear, please get in touch. As an example, many people and/or their forebears attended schools at either Moy, Dalarossie or Raigbeg.

Do you have any photographs or other family keepsakes collecting dust in that shoebox in the attic? Most people can come up with the odd anecdote relating to the 'good old days'.

Perhaps you have an old map or sketch. Rest assured that your treasures will be treasured, copied or photographed, and duly returned to your shoebox in the attic! This is a wonderful opportunity for you to be part of the history of the district. I am sure our children will really appreciate this effort in the years to come.

Many thanks in anticipation of your interest and help.

You may make contact with the group through Stan Beaumont, "Beinn Alainn", 8 Juniper Drive, Tomatin, IV13 7ZB or phone 01808 511716 or email: stanbeau@tiscali.co.uk. I will make sure your information is passed on to the relevant people in the group.

NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

Our 2010-2011 programme got off to a great start with a talk by Bob Irwin on wildlife photography, which was entertaining, with super photographs, and which also had useful tips for the rest of us who try to catch those elusive shots where the bird is always just too far away (or gone by the time you press the shutter!).

Al McNee braved the first snow in November to give us a brilliant slideshow about Fairisle. A talk that will have inspired many to visit this beautiful and special place.

Our next event (Thursday 24th Feb) is a talk by James Fenton on "the Natural History of the Arctic". James has entertained us in the past with mosses (yes, mosses can be fun) and also with the ecology of our own moorlands. With Arctic oil very much in the news and climate change still a hot topic (sorry) this is a must evening for everyone.

A serious point. We get first class speakers, talking on topics relevant to the environment around us, of a quality that get millions of viewers on TV, but only a handful turn up on the night.

Some dates:

Thursday Feb 24th 7:30 Strathdearn Hall,
James Fenton: The Natural History of the Arctic.

Thursday March 24th 7:30 Strathdearn Hall,
Hilary and Pete Moore: The Insh Marshes.

Wednesday April 20th 2PM Strathdearn Hall,
a joint event with Step it Up – we will be joined by countryside ranger, Katy Martin.

Thursday April 28th 7:30 Strathdearn Hall:
AGM plus general discussion on local observations, members' photos etc.

Please support the club. It is open to all.

David Bonniface, secretary 511740.

TOMATIN & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Meetings held in the Strathdearn Hall at 7.30pm

21st February : Annual General Meeting &
Flower Show Schedule

21st March: Talk on Cacti and Succulents

18th April: Mr Alistair MacLean on
Rhododendrons

ALL WELCOME

Contact : A & S Don 511729
D & K Bonniface
511740

ART IN STRATHDEARN

The art club is up and running after our Christmas break and we welcome back some of our members who were unable to come during the recent bad road conditions.

We ended the year with a delicious Christmas lunch in the Strathdearn Hall, a very happy and festive occasion. A big thank you to Val, who gave of her valuable time and culinary talent to help make it so! We wish her every happiness in her new home.

With our AGM approaching on Thursday 17th February, we are thinking of what we can do to keep the art club as a focus for learning and developing skills in a wide spectrum of arts and crafts in the community and we are very grateful to the Strathdearn Development Trust for their help and support in this aim.

At the start of another challenging year, my thanks to all the members for all that they do and especially to Alasdair and Norah for looking after us so helpfully, also to Cliff and Denise for all their hard work on behalf of the club. Happy painting!

Betty Watson(Pres).



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.police.uk

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 NHS24 telephone number is 084 54 24 24 24.



STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST

Financial statement for the period 1 October to 31 December 2010

Income

Windfarm company - fifth annual payment, including indexation	£	52,606
Bank interest and dividends		1,340
Increase in value of investments (see Note 2)		18,373
<i>Total income</i>	£	<u>72,319</u>

Expenditure

Grants:			
Primary School transport	£	9,774	
Youth Worker for Youth Group		1,500	
Outdoor equipment for Nursery Class		900	
Painting Strathdearn Hall		822	
Tomatin WRI for senior citizens' Christmas lunch		678	
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (3 individuals)		390	
Remembrance Day wreath		25	
	£	<u>14,089</u>	
Community development worker (September to November 2010)		2,187	
Deutsche Bank investment management fees		538	
<i>Total outgoings</i>			<u>16,814</u>
Excess of income over expenditure for the period	£		55,505
Funds at 30 September 2010			371,844
Funds at 31 December 2010			<u><u>£ 427,349</u></u>

Consisting of:

Deposit and current accounts with Royal Bank of Scotland	£	187,059
Investments managed by Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management		239,542
Income due at 31 December 2010		1,287
	£	<u>427,888</u>
Less: Payments due at 31 December 2010		<u>(539)</u>

Funds at 31 December 2010	£	<u><u>427,349</u></u>
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Notes:

1. The loan to the Hall Committee to assist with cash flow during construction of the sports facility has not yet been repaid as grants are still awaited from other funders. The Committee hope to be able to repay it by the end of March 2011.
2. Investments managed by Deutsche Bank are at 30 September 2010 as the valuation at 31 December 2010 is not available yet.