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STRATHDEARN NEWSLETTER

August 2011

Volume 11 No 3

The first in 400 years...

Congratulations to our Community Council Chairman, Mrs Vivian Roden of Old Mill Road Tomatin, who has been appointed the first female Moderator in the 400-year existence of the Inverness Church of Scotland Presbytery, which covers an area from Tomatin to Nairn and Drumnadrochit to Beaully. She is also only the second lay Moderator.

In recent years Vivian has played a major role in setting up winter night shelters for homeless people in Inverness, and is also a vice-chairman of the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust.

50 years at the Distillery

Congratulations to Douglas Campbell, whose 50 years of service at Tomatin Distillery has been marked by the production of a new malt whisky called 'Decades'. Douglas, a master distiller who started work there in 1961 when he was 15, created the drink himself using whiskies which were made in each of the five decades he has been there. 'Decades' has a world-wide release, limited to 9,000 bottles.

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

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 – 4pm Strathdearn Hall,

Art Class

Contact: Mrs Betty Watson 511271

Every Friday (restarting 9th September)

Exercise to Music group

10.30-11.30am, Strathdearn Hall

Contact: Mrs Denise Barley 511733

Fridays (During Term-Time)

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

ART IN STRATHDEARN

**Invite you to the preview evening
of their 2011 ART and CRAFT
exhibition on Thursday 18th
August, in the Strathdearn Hall
Tomatin, from 7pm to 9pm.
We would be delighted if you
would join us for the evening to
view the work of the many
talented artists from this area.**

**Wine and soft drinks will be
served and many of the works will
be for sale.**

The exhibition continues on
FRIDAY AUGUST 19th
11am to 5-30pm
SATURDAY AUGUST 20th 11am
to 5 pm.

**FREE ADMISSION.
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

Strathdearn Hall

SCO15320

For booking or access into the Strathdearn Hall or Sports Facility in Tomatin please telephone the Hall Manager **Steve Culeen 01808 511321** or email sculeen@hotmail.co.uk .

The toilets in the Old Hall are open 9am-9pm from April to October for public use.

The Sports Facility is free for local youngsters to play ball games. Evening groups of adults will be charged. There are also facilities for tennis – please book in advance.

No bicycles, animals or food & drink allowed on the pitch. Open 9am-9pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri/Sat 5th/6th August
Highland Game Fair
Moy Estate

Fri/Sat 19th/20th August
Art Exhibition
Strathdearn Hall

Saturday 3rd September
Flower Show
Strathdearn Old Hall

Sat 17th September
Vintage Rally and Display
Daviot Estate

2011 Flower Show Saturday 3rd September

Don't forget to support this year's Flower Show.

The Schedule for entries is available in the shop and from Alex and Sheila Don, as well as in the previous (May) Newsletter.

Entries will be accepted from 10:00AM to Noon on the day, and the Hall will be open to the public from 2:30 to view entries, tea and coffee, our usual great raffle, and for prize giving at 3:30.

This is the BIG day when everyone in Strathdearn can meet and take part!

Tomatin and District Gardening Club

15th August Strathdearn Hall 7.30pm:
arrangements for Flower Show
3rd September Flower Show
12th September Please note date. Glenkyllachy
Lodge 7.30pm

Mrs Anne Chambers from
Kiftsgate Court Gardens, Gloucestershire
will give an illustrated talk.

New members always welcome.
Enquiries to S.Don 01808 511729

Natural History Club: August 2011

We concluded the 2010 – 2011 programme with a pond dipping exercise up in Distillery Wood on the evening of 28th July. In the Spring, at Soilsean, we found 13 species of beastie with no trouble at all, It was a lot of fun and nobody got wet or too badly midged!

The 2011 – 2012 Programme includes Archaeology for the first time and we hope to welcome friends from the ARCH project into the club.

Some Dates:

Thursday September 29th, 7:30: Susan Kruze from ARCH will be highlighting the heritage of Strathdearn

Wednesday October 5th, 14:00 we are hosting a Highland Archaeology Fortnight event at the abandoned village of Coignafeuinternich. Look out for details nearer the time.

Thursday October 27th, 7:30: will be a club night where members can discuss and plan continuation of the ARCH project and share wildlife observations, photos etc.

Thursday November 24th, 7:30 Alan Hardwick will be giving an illustrated talk on "Cruising the British Isles" – wildlife, coastal scenery and some geology too!

For 2012 there will be more exciting evenings with both archaeological and wildlife themes, together with some "hands on" outdoor events.

As always, all are welcome.

David Bonniface, secretary. 01808 511740

Letter to the Editor:

According to an item in the last issue of the Newsletter, all the phone calls made - regarding the changes being made in our village - are pointless. They have no effect and all the changes will be made.

However, there are many people who care about our village and do not like what is happening to it. Therefore the phone calls, and the letters and the objections will continue.

Molly Noble

NEWS FROM THE STRATH

Congratulations ...

.... to **Jack and Mavis Sinclair**, parents of Glyn, Avril and John, formerly of The Slochd and now living in Muir of Ord, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 16th June. Jack and Mavis were married in Egypt.

.... to **Douglas Campbell**, celebrating a different anniversary – **50 years service to Tomatin Distillery** – and it's great to read that his remarkable achievement has been marked by the bringing out of a new malt whisky in his honour, created by the master distiller himself, and using whiskies which were made in each of the five decades he has worked at the Distillery. Called Decades, it has been limited to a world wide release of 9,000 bottles.

.... to **Anne Glynne-Percy** on the birth of her first and very welcome great-grandchild: a daughter, Honor, was born on Sunday 24th July to Annabel (née Glynne-Percy) and Logie Fitzwilliams.

.... to **Cyril and Phyllis Cooling** who recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. They married in Canterbury, Kent, in July 1946, having been friends since they were teenagers, and now live with their son Richard and his wife Liz at Keilingha, Moy. They have four children, eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, so the family party last month in Kent would have been quite a crowd!

.... to **Trish Hallam** who celebrated her 60th birthday on 28th July.

.... to **Rob Nixon** – playing Cricket for Highland and scoring many runs and bowling very well.

.... and to **Toby Hardwick** – playing Cricket for Ross County and also scoring many runs as well.

Hamish MacLean and his dog **Kim** are to be in the Scottish Team in the International Sheep Dog Society World Sheep Dog Trials near Penrith in September. Described as the ultimate global test for working sheep dogs and their handlers, this event has a total of 23 nations and 240 handlers taking part. Good luck Hamish and Kim!

Wishing **Steven Edward and Donna** a very happy Wedding Day on 17th September, and many years of happiness.

Wonderful to read that after two years' absence from Shinty, **Kevin Thain** is showing everyone how to score for Kingussie this season.

Hoping for a **good Grouse Season**, but weather has not been helpful!

To the Editor:

You may remember that we gatecrashed your coffee morning last week on our Lands End to John O' Groats cycle trip with my three children. It was suggested when we were there that I send you an update to let you know how we got on. Well, we all arrived safe and sound, but freezing, at a very windy and chilly John O' Groats on Saturday 23rd July at 3pm. Everyone was pleased to have succeeded in our three week challenge. However, I can say without fear of contradiction that one of the highlights was being made so welcome by everyone at the Tomatin coffee morning. We were quite taken aback by the warmth (emotional and literal!) we are shown by you. The tea, coffee, juice and cakes that we were plied with were extremely generous, and was not matched anywhere else on our route.

Thank you once again for your hospitality, it was really appreciated.

Paul Burns

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

The Guild:

Come and join us at Tomatin Church on Wednesdays 14th September, 12th October and 9th November at 7.30 pm for a short time of worship, followed by fellowship, a delicious tea and an interesting talk from a Guest Speaker. 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) on Mondays 22nd and 29th August; 19th and 26th September; and 24th and 31st October. No charge. Donations (in cash or kind) may be made, if wished. 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 8th August, 12th September and 10th October. No charge for this either, although donations may be made if wished. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355 or Sandra 01808 511246.

Services in August, September and October take place at 10.30am as follows:- First and third Sundays – Dalarossie Church. Second Sunday of the month – Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin (Tea and Coffee served after this Service). Fourth, and fifth Sundays (when there is one) – Tomatin Church.

Special Services:-

Dalarossie Communion Service – Sunday 4th September at 10.30 am.

Healing Service in the Strathdearn Hall with Rev Jim Rettie of the Christian Fellowship of Healing on Sunday 21st August at 6.30pm.

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

Mr Derek Tatlow, died 4th April 2011

The congregation of Moy, Dalarossie & Tomatin and the wider Strathdearn community were very sad to hear of Derek's passing. A conscientious and hard working Elder and former Treasurer of our Church, and a willing and kindly friend to many, he will be much missed.

Strathdearn Primary After-school Art Club put on the map!

It is actually almost three years since I started the art club and I have been ably assisted by Pam Hardwick for the last two of them. I joined the SAA (Society for All Artists) so that professional products and materials could be made available to the children at a competitive price.

The society produces an excellent national magazine, PAINT, every two months for its members, which is a feast of hints, ideas, challenges, etc... all designed to promote inspiration, education and encouragement in the field of art. We regularly used some of the ideas, suitably 'doctored', for our young artists to try. It was the result of one of these challenges that prompted me to submit some pieces of our children's artwork for comment by the experts at SAA. They were so impressed by the quality of the art that they asked if they could produce an article about our club as possible inspiration to other SAA members. The article, including examples of our children's work was duly published in the July edition of PAINT.

Pam and I are extremely proud of the talent and enthusiasm of the children and I know that they will be thrilled to see our club and the school's name in receipt of such deserved praise in a national magazine. I am hoping to produce coloured copies of the article for the children, which will include the published artwork pictures and a couple of photographs of some of the art club members doing their stuff!

Stan Beaumont *[a copy of the article appears towards the end of this Newsletter – 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:

Law and Order

Apart from the issue of speeding cars along the Soilsean Road in April (this was reported to PC Munro), Tomatin seems to have been crime free!

Wind farms

In April the decision was made to object again to the Glenkirk windfarm.

In May Mr Bryden spoke about the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance. Full information on the SPG is on the Highland Council planning website if anyone wants to make comments.

Regarding the Moy windfarm decision, this was discussed in length, and for full information on this you should view the Minutes.

Applications to the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust

Applications have been made to the Trust by Art in Strathdearn for £720, and from the Hall Committee for £518.60. These were both approved and forwarded on to the Trust.

CADISPA

In April a World Café event had taken place, with over 30 people attending. The top two priorities arising from this were the setting up of a Development Trust or similar body, and the development of a 5 Year Action Plan. In May various sub groups were set up to deal with Facilities; Communications; Medical Services; and Future Planning. In May Mr Rory Dutton from the Development Trust Association attended the meeting, giving a presentation on how they could help us set up the Trust.

Financial Report

Mrs. M Saunders reported that at 31 March 2011 the balance in the current account was £2,929.72.

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.

Brin Herb Nursery

Flichity, Farr IV2 6XD

Herb plants, wild flower plants and plants for wildlife

also a selection of other hardy plants to suit your
Highland garden

The Schoolroom Café

(bookings recommended at busy times)

Outside tables Peaceful surroundings

Freshly prepared light meals and refreshments.

Honest, home produced food using local
and Scottish ingredients where possible

£5.00 Monday lunches

Fine Food Shop

Local, Scottish & speciality food, including
Struan Honey, Geddes chicken & Connage
cheeses

Books, cards, CDs, Ness Soaps

Opening times:

**Plant sales every day during daylight
hours**

**Café & Fine Food Shop:
Every Weekend Thursdays-Mondays
until 26th September, 11am - 5.30 pm**

Tel: 01808 521288 www.brinherbnursery.co.uk

**Quality in the Scottish Highlands,
naturally!**

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Strathdearn Hall (except for July, when we take a summer break). Our Minutes and Agendas are displayed on the Notice Boards throughout the Strath, and in the Shop and at the Hall. They can also be e-mailed to anyone who would like to receive them electronically. Please e-mail Diane at strathdearncc@tiscali.co.uk to arrange this. If you would like to bring some matter to the attention of the Community Council, or have something put on the agenda of one of our meetings, please contact Diane as above, or Vivian at vroden@btinternet.com or phone 01808 511 355.

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY PLAN 2

We have been busy over the summer following up issues identified by the CADISPA Planning Study we commissioned last summer.

Steering Group for the Community Company:

Duncan Bryden and Duncan Hendry had both prepared information on the various legal structures in advance of our May Meeting, attended by Rory Dutton of the Development Trust Association. We opted to set up a Company Limited by Guarantee and set up a Steering Group to report back to the Community Council by 1st November. The Steering Group is to be headed by Duncan Bryden, ably assisted by Councillor Prag, Mike McKay, Carol James and Vicki Cameron-Mackintosh.

In the meantime, it was decided to set up another four groups to do some of the spadework on the issues which have been prioritised by the community, made up of Community Councillors and interested individuals from the community. The idea is that we will hand our findings over to the Community Company, once it is up and running.

Facilities Group

This group was set up to address the provision of Services in Strathdearn, and focuses on the following Priority Points identified at community meetings following on from the CADISPA Study:

No 3 Public toilets/café/looking at re-fuelling station facilities

No 5 Concerns over the planned pub/shop development

No 10 Assurance given to residents that the pub/shop land will not be subject to alternative planning.

The members of this group are Vivian Roden, Edward Cameron-Mackintosh, Richard Cooling, Lynne Stephens and Kathy Boniface.

So far, Vivian and Duncan Hendry have met with George Macleod and Jim Harbison of The Highland Council's Planning Department to discuss what George's plans are for the Shop/Pub/Housing Development; and a similar meeting is being arranged with William Frame and Ranald McWilliam of Braemore Estates to discuss the plans for the Little Chef/Freeburn site.

Meanwhile Edward is following up information supplied by the CADISPA Trust on community cafes, and Richard is following up information which came from the Association of Scottish Community Councils about a company in the south which is looking for two pilot sites in rural areas of Scotland to install their above surface fuel depots. Apparently they are used in rural areas of Scandinavia, but so far none are installed in the UK. They first advertised for interest from Community Councils in February and so far have had interest expressed by a dozen CCs. However, none have committed to it yet and it will be on a first-come-first-served basis for the first two CCs that commit to the scheme. Richard is waiting for an information pack with more details of the scheme but it looks as if the two pilot sites will have the equipment installed "at cost" and subsequent sites will be charged the normal rate. However, the "at cost" expense is still £70,000 for a manned version (with the unmanned

version likely to cost more) – and given the provision of cheap supermarket fuel in Inverness – we'll have to be sure that any such project would be viable, assuming we manage to get picked as one of the pilot schemes. Richard is also following up further information supplied by the CADISPA Trust on other rural fuel systems.

Medical Provision Group

The purpose of this group would be to focus on Priority Point 4 – "Medical Services Improved." So far, Liz Campbell is in a group of one! Although this was the community's fourth priority, perhaps people have been put off from coming forward to join this group because they are afraid it will just be about arguing about the loss of a resident community nurse – but there is much more than that for the group to consider.

There is hope though – The Communications Group may be able to look at Medical Provision once they have looked at mobile phone and broadband coverage! So Liz may not be alone for much longer!

Communications Group

Addressing the provision of better and faster broadband and mobile phone coverage (Priority Point 7). The members of this group are Edward Osborne, Carol James, Vicki Cameron-Mackintosh and Bob Wilson and were last heard preparing a questionnaire to find out the community's requirements.

Future Planning Group

This last group is not totally allied to the post-CADISPA Study community Priority List, but is relevant to Priority Points 12 (Investigate the options for the re-opening of the Railway Station); 17 (Community interest in the railway station site registered with Scottish Ministers); 13 (Community Council to identify space in community for development of small businesses. Asset register to be drawn up of available space); and 15 (Land release for housing – an example of this might be working with local landowners to identify further sites if, say, the current affordable housing negotiations were to fall through for any reason - or community facilities (for example, if it was found in the future that there was a need for more community facilities, say, outwith the present Hall complex, working with local landowners to find a solution to this)

The task for this group, at this stage, would be to identify where the community would like/would not like to see development taking place and feed this back to Planning / possibly register an interest in the railway station site with a view to possible future reopening of the station – it would not be about progressing the actual projects which would be Stage 2 of the Plan. The members of this group are Duncan Bryden, David Boniface and Ann Glynne-Percy, and Duncan has written a report on their activities elsewhere in this Newsletter.

NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUPS – WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 7-9pm in the Strathdearn Hall. Space for another couple of recruits on the Future Planning Group and also vacancies on the Medical Provision Group!

**Fed up with the same old faces on the Community Council?
Think you could make a difference?
Your chance is coming this Autumn!**

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2011

TIMETABLE

Monday 8 August	Publish Notice on creating the Supplementary Register of 16 and 17 year olds
Wednesday 31 August	Closing date for electors to be included in Supplementary Register
Monday 19 September	Publication of Notice of Election
Tuesday 20 September	Earliest date for receipt of Nomination Papers
Tuesday 4 October	Latest date for lodging Nomination Papers
Thursday 6 October	Latest date for withdrawal of Nomination Papers
10 October – 24 October	School Holidays
Tuesday 25 October	Post out of ballot papers, where election is contested
WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER	ELECTION DAY – postal ballot papers must be received by 5.00 p.m.
Thursday 10 / Friday 17 November	Counting of the Votes.
By Friday 16 December	Notification issued regarding the calling of the first meetings of the new Community Councils

Community Company Steering Group

Arising from the CADISPA report the Steering Group charged with taking forward plans for a Community Company are Cllr Thomas Prag, Carol James, Mike McKay, Vicky Cameron-Mackintosh and Duncan Bryden. Summer holiday commitments mean that the group will not meet for the first time until August. The purpose of the group is to prepare the ground for setting up a community company in Strathdearn to help take forward community development proposals.

Future Planning Group

A sub group involving Ann Glynne Percy and Duncan Bryden, which David Boniface also intends to join, met briefly once to consider the scope and content of a map based document to help the community make decisions about future developments in Strathdearn. In broad terms it is proposed the map might identify:

1. existing development – housing, transport, services, water etc,
2. proposed development in the current local plan and ‘live’ applications
3. general future priorities identified by community in the CADISPA study

The group’s outcomes will also be used to inform Highland Council’s Inner Moray Firth Development Plan which, from 2012, will be the development blueprint for the Strathdearn area.

The group would welcome further members willing to contribute to the planning process and will meet again in mid to late August.

Duncan Bryden

SUCCESSFUL BIRDIE RESCUE...

Living at the top of Juniper Drive for three-plus years, we have become regular annual hosts to families of house martins. Last year we had 5 families, to be repeated again this year, even though one nest had to be rebuilt as it came unstuck during a winter gale.

The adults have been so very busy feeding their youngsters and must travel quite considerable miles in a day.

We were quite distressed this week to find one of their nests had become detached from a gable, presumably because of the weight of four very hefty chicks. The nest, broken in two, and the 4 youngsters, were now on the lawn, apparently none the worse for their impromptu flying lesson, judging by the racket! Whilst not wanting to handle the chicks, but being aware that the prowling cats would welcome an easy meal, the little ones were transferred by gloved hands into a lidless shoe box and placed on the porch wall beneath the gable. Simon fixed a short plastic shelf across the top of the gable and returned the halves of the nest plus the chicks back to their original surroundings. Kath and David Bonniface and Carol James assured us that the right action had been taken. This was happily confirmed when less than an hour later, 'mum' had found her babes and both parents were visiting and feeding them.

We find that the pleasure we get out of seeing the martins busily rear and attend their families and watching their amazing flight patterns, more than compensates for the bit of mess they make. Another bonus is that while our house martins are in residence, there is a marked absence of the dreaded midges ... who needs a Dyson?!!!

A truly happy ending ... the least one could do after all the hard work mum had done!

The Beaumont family, with a little help from our knowledgeable friends!

GREEN DOG WALKERS

The Green Dog Walkers Scheme is described as “*a non confrontational way of changing people’s attitudes towards dog fouling*” and aims to make indiscriminate dog fouling socially unacceptable. The scheme has been running in Falkirk for almost two years and has proved a great success, with over 1500 people signing up to it, and some areas reporting a 99% decrease in dog fouling!

The scheme is run by community groups, with support from the Highland Council. Dog owners/walkers sign a pledge to always clean up after their dog, always to carry extra “poo” bags to give to people who need them, and to encourage others to clean up after their dog in a friendly, non confrontational way. Green Dog Walkers will be identified by a green wristband, snood or a green dog collar.

The scheme was brought to the Community Council’s attention by George Macleod, and is initially being rolled out in Ross, Skye and Lochaber, although it is intended to extend the scheme to all of the Highland Council Area.

The Community Council thought it sounded like a good idea, but there was some concern about who would empty the extra bins that would be needed!

Further information is available from Mandy Macleman on 01349 868471, or e-mail greendogwalkers@highland.gov.uk

THE TOMATIN DISTILLERY CO. LTD.

VISITOR CENTRE OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday 10.00 - 17.00

Tours from 10.15 Monday to Friday - £3.00 per person

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

Please contact Visitor Centre for Tour availability - 01463 248 144

NOTE: Anyone under 25 years of age. Please be prepared to show proof of age when buying alcohol.

Acceptable forms of I.D. are : Cards bearing the PASS hologram, Photographic Driving Licence, Passport

From Melanie the Post

As many of you know, due to changes within the Inverness Delivery Office I will no longer be the regular postie in the Moy and Tomatin area. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in setting up the petition and for taking the time to go round the doors to get signatures, and to the individuals who wrote in personally to object. I am disappointed that they have not been taken with the seriousness that they were intended.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who has sponsored me so far for my New York Marathon challenge. You have all been so supportive and generous. If there is anyone who would still like to sponsor me you can either see me when I am in the area once a week or, if it is easier for you, you can donate online at: www.justgiving.com/MELANIE-ARCHIBALD . All donations go to Marie Cure Cancer Care.

On one final note, can I just thank everyone in the area for their kindness over the last four and a half years. To Jean and Andrew Mackay for my daily 'Tea stop'. To everyone who has taken the time to stand and chat - it's not just you ladies that like to gossip! To all the men who have come to my rescue while stuck in the snow, and to my very own personal AA breakdown man - you know who you are! Thank you all, it really hasn't felt like work!

Take care
Melanie x

Royal Mail
7 Strothers Lane
Inverness
IV1 1AA

Dear Mrs Macrae

Thank you for your letter in which you ask that Melanie be allowed to remain on the Tomatin delivery.

I can confirm that a delivery revision is in the process of being implemented within the Inverness City and rural areas, which means a number of delivery routes will change along with staff duties. I am aware that this kind of change can cause anxiety, particularly for those who feel their current service is very good. We do appreciate your kind comments. We would hope to reassure customers that where jobs in a delivery office alter significantly as a result of a major change we have longstanding procedures and agreements in place to ensure that proper allocation of new duties takes place.

However, we must also consider that operational changes on a particular round may result in a member of staff moving to a new duty. I

understand that many of our customers build up very good relationships with their postmen and postwomen and changes on a delivery round may not always be welcomed. However, I would like to reassure you that we are confident customers will continue to receive the high level of service they receive from Melanie. In addition, and delivery officers deployed to a new round are always given the appropriate training and support.

Thank you for contacting me and I hope I have been able to clarify the situation

Yours Sincerely

Jeff Heafey

Collections and Delivery Sector Manager

POSTIE BLUES

News spread like wildfire through the Strath,
all households shocked and angry.
Some mailbox chief, a downright thief,
had stolen our wee Postie.

This rage of local fury proves
this sudden switch won't work.
We can safely say that it doesn't pay
to upset the Strathdearn folk.

We are happy with our Postie,
A lass so fair and bonnie,
it's such an awful pity that
she's not here on the Sunday.

In and out and round about
fair buzzing, like a bee,
from the Mains of Moy to Ruthven
and way up by Coignashie.

Melanie has qualities
important in Strathdearn.
We need a distance runner
when her wee red van breaks down.

It's our belief that the Postal Chief
will heed our big Petition.
For a poor excuse will quickly rouse
a huge Strathdearn Rebellion.

Donald MacAskill

TOMATIN AND MOY SWRI

The 2011-2012 session of WRI starts on Monday 5th September in Strathdearn hall ,with a talk on whisky production by Ian Hallam. Competition: whisky fudge. New members will be most welcome!

On 9th July we had a fundraising event at Keilingha, Moy, where Liz and Richard Cooling kindly hosted a strawberry tea in their garden. Unfortunately the heavens opened and we had to take shelter in the conservatory along with a few courageous souls who braved the elements! However, after a lovely tea, things dried up a bit and we were able to enjoy the beautiful garden. Very sincere thanks to Liz and family and all the staunch WRI members who refused to be defeated and raised £173 for WRI funds.

On 11th July members paid a visit to Logie Steading where we had tea and cakes and a look at the lovely gallery and shops. Thank you to the drivers who took us there.

Our next visit will be to the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Base at Rothiemurchus, on Monday 8th August, where Simon Steer will be there to show us around. Members who wish to go please meet at Strathdearn Hall at 6.45pm.

Further information will be given to members on forthcoming talks, etc.

Betty Watson (President)

WRI: Programme for Autumn

September 5th: A Talk by Ian Hallam:
Production of Whisky.

Competition: Whisky Fudge.

October 3rd: A Talk by Liz Cooling:
Craftwork and Sewing.

Competition: Chocolate Brownies.

November 7th: Proposed outing to Eden Court.

December 5th: Christmas Dinner.

Step it up Highland

We have very much continued to enjoy our walking on Wednesday afternoons, with walk leaders for both the longer, rather faster walk, and the shorter, slower walk.

There are many paths in our local area that we explore. Recent ones have included along the Findhorn from Ruthven to the Streens; upstream from Daltomach to Coignascallan and over the hill from Dalmagarry to the distillery, as well as gentle ones around the village lanes and in Distillery Wood.

As mentioned in the May Newsletter, our group was congratulated as we are “friendly and welcoming”, and are able to run two walks of differing length and speed. As a result we have been awarded a “prize” of a trip out in August to the Folk Museum at Newtonmore, which should be a most enjoyable day. This will be on Wednesday August 24th, leaving the Hall after the coffee morning. Pack a picnic lunch!

Otherwise Wednesday walking in August will be rather disrupted by holidays and commitments to the shooting estates, but we will be back to normal in September and would welcome new walkers then.

We meet at Strathdearn Hall at 2:00PM on Wednesdays and finish back at the Hall for tea, coffee and a chat.

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

Blue bin recycling day is TUESDAY

Your blue recycling bin will be collected every 4 weeks on the following dates

2011

August 9 – September 6 – October 4 – November 1 & 29 – December 27

2012

January 24 – February 21 – March 20

Please refer to press for Christmas arrangements.

For more information please contact 01349 886603

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

At our June Community Council Meeting there were developments concerning the Raigbeg site. Mr Ronnie MacRae, the Director of the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) was in attendance. The CADISPA survey showed that the community wants affordable housing, but that there is more of a need for rented accommodation. The Community Council had been trying to develop affordable housing in Strathdearn since 2003. In view of this, Mrs Roden had received the Community Council's permission at the April Meeting to discuss the viability of the Raigbeg site with the Tinsley family, with a view to pressing on with its development; and to discuss with the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust how best to meet the community's aspirations to provide rented housing for local people, without waiting for the Community Company to be set up.

Mrs Roden and Mr MacRae had accordingly met with Mr George Tinsley, who wished to increase the development to six plots to be sold on the open market to make the project viable. This would mean using part of the football pitch, although Mr Tinsley had given an assurance in an e-mail that he would not develop on the football field until we had managed to secure another field. Mrs Roden had written to Mr Colin Glynne-Percy regarding the football field it was hoped Tomatin Estate would give as 'planning gain' near Sandside.

Mrs Roden then asked members of the public for feedback, and one member of the public asked how likely it would be that local people could rent rather than outsiders. Mr MacRae spoke about this, and also about grants, and the difficulties to get RSL properties in a small community. Community based ownership was also discussed. Mrs Glynne-Percy asked where the houses would go, and Mr MacRae produced a plan for everyone to have a look at. Members of the public asked about the windfarm money being used for it. If the CC wanted to pursue working with a Registered Social Landlord such as Albyn Housing or Cairn, then Mr MacRae can try to help with this.

Mrs Roden pointed out that there may be benefits to community ownership of these houses, if rented. A member of the public asked if the affordable housing will be built before or after the private ones, and Mr MacRae advised that this would all have to be worked out. If need showed, then rented accommodation could be looked at, as an asset to the community. A member of the public asked about funding land from the windfarm money, and another asked if the village could build a house itself, and Mr Bryden spoke about the various options we have.

Cllr Crawford asked if we knew what the demand was for low cost rented accommodation, and Mrs Roden agreed to email the figures to him. Mr Hendry pointed out that the Charitable Trust could invest in properties, and then they would get a return through rental income. Mrs Roden asked if the feeling of this meeting was to pursue the need for affordable housing, and the general opinion was yes.

A member of the public asked about sheltered housing. Mr MacRae said that if anyone was interested in the affordable houses, they could get in

touch with him in confidence. Mr Osborne proposed, and Mrs Glynne-Percy seconded, that the Community Council, in principle, supported the development of four affordable housing plots and six open market plots on the Raigbeg site.

Mrs Roden thanked Mr MacRae for attending, and he then left the meeting.

If you are interested in affordable housing in Strathdearn, either renting or buying a plot for self-build, please contact

Ronnie MacRae, Director, The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, 5 Ardross Terrace, Inverness IV3 5NQ. Tel: (Office) 01463 233 548 (Mobile) 07810 391 059 E-mail: ronnie.macrae@hscht.co.uk Skype: ronnie macrae

to register an interest. It is very important to know who is interested, and whether they are interested in renting or buying a plot.

MOY WS2+1 OVERTAKING LANE AT MOY

Members of the Community Council met with Transport Scotland and agreed by a majority decision to go along with Transport Scotland's Option 1 - to redesign the scheme to the most up to date standard and monitor by CCTV cameras to observe compliance. This basically involves repainting the lines to create a longer taper to get drivers back on the left hand side of the road before the Lynebeg junction. It will reduce the overtaking lane length to 900m.

The main pros of this are that it can be installed quickly with little disruption and forward visibility will be decreased through the junction reducing the temptation to overtake at the end of the overtaking lane. It also maintains full access to Lynebeg and the new layout (junction wrapped in double white lines) reinforces that it is illegal to cross into red hatched area. Also the revised layout forces overtaking vehicles to merge in turn at a more suitable location in relation to the Lynebeg Junction providing more safety margin for errors of judgement and encouraging safer driving behaviour.

The cons are that drivers may still break the law by crossing over double white line, and it reduces the overtaking lane length to 900m.

Option 1 is to be installed as first option and monitored by CCTV cameras to observe compliance. If this doesn't work, other options will be looked at.

TRAFFIC CONE BLUES

I'm not a happy traffic cone,
I think I'm going to cry.
We have all been given notice
on the 2+1 at Moy.

The Highwaymen have spoken
with predictable contempt.
They will fix the Lynebeg turn-off
with loads of magic paint.

No hint of an apology
for the dangerous combination
of speeding up the traffic
before the local junction.

A stack of us believe
that magic paint won't do.
To stop the traffic straying
they'll be needing super glue.

We've guarded this fiasco
for seven months or more.
And we really should remain
until it's properly secure.

Donald MacAskill

Tomatin Firewood

As oil and electricity continue to rise in price and fossil fuels become increasingly scarce, there is now a growing demand for clean sustainable energy. Burning local, sustainably sourced wood fuel is not only a cheaper option for heating your home, but is also greener. The carbon that is released from burning wood is recovered by replacement trees, making it a carbon neutral source of fuel. Ideally wood should be sourced locally, cutting delivery fuel usage and minimising and the carbon output.

There is a growing variety of wood fuel boilers and stoves on the market. You can now replace your oil boiler system with a wood chip or log boiler, saving you hundreds of pounds in fuel bills annually. Or if you have an open fire you may wish to consider a wood burning stove. Some traditional fireplaces can be as low as 20% efficient, with around 80% of the heat going up the chimney, whilst a wood burning stove can be up to 80% efficient with only 20% going up the chimney. In addition, a wood burning stove with a back boiler facility can be plumbed in and used to partially or wholly to heat your home's central heating system and hot water, as well just heating your living room.

Tomatin Firewood is a new business hoping to start up in September 2011. We aim to become the local supplier of choice, providing a continuous source of high quality firewood to customers living in the local area. Initially we will be offering both soft and hard firewood tailored to the size that you desire for your stove or open fire. We will offer both seasoned and unseasoned wood and can offer mixes of both hard and softwood. In time we plan on expanding our service to include supply of wood chips, removal of large or hung up trees and installation of wood burning stoves and wood chip boilers.

Presently we are looking for new customers or interest, and any suggestions are most welcome, so please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you are presently using another supplier we will aim to match or beat their prices. We are also interested in any woodland that requires thinning/ management.

Contact: James
Mobile: 07908 958 607
Email: tomatinfirewood@gmail.com
Website: www.tomatinfirewood.co.uk

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST

Financial statement for the period 1 April to 30 June 2011

Income

Bank interest and dividends	£	1,400
Grant contribution from Strathdearn Gun Club		764
<i>Total income</i>	£	<u>2,164</u>

Expenditure

Grants:			
Fencing at Hall	£	3,264	
Strathdearn Youth Group for Youth Worker		1,000	
Art in Strathdearn		720	
Snow clearing		105	
	£	<u>5,089</u>	
Community development worker (March to May 2011)		1,641	
Administrator's fee for year to 31 March 2011		4,000	
Postages for year to 31 March 2011		94	
Deutsche Bank investment management fees		556	
Decrease in value of investments (see Note)		130	
<i>Total outgoings</i>			<u>11,510</u>
Excess of expenditure over income for the period			£ (9,346)
Funds at 31 March 2011			440,745
Funds at 30 June 2011			<u><u>£ 431,399</u></u>

Consisting of:

Deposit and current accounts with Royal Bank of Scotland	£	182,932
Investments managed by Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management		247,693
Income due at 30 June 2011		1,331
	£	<u>431,956</u>
Less: Payments due at 30 June 2011		(557)

Funds at 30 June 2011	£	<u><u>431,399</u></u>
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Note:

Investments managed by Deutsche Bank are at 31 March 2011 as the valuation at 30 June 2011 is not available yet.

Strathdearn Village Hall

At Village Hall AGM in May, there was a change of officers when the chairman Glenn Fraser and secretary Caroline Chainey stood down and were replaced by Carol James and Diane Ross respectively. As previously, the treasurer is Denise Barley and committee members are Alasdair Wallace, Debbie Mackay and Jimmy Duncan. The Hall manager is Steve Culeen (01808 511321).

The Old Hall toilets have been open to the public since April and so far there have been few problems in the daily management of these, with the exception of children leaving taps running and flooding the floor on several occasions. There was, however, a serious problem in June when all the drains for both Halls became blocked, closing the Hall for several days and requiring a great deal of remedial work: not only emptying the septic tank but digging out the soakaway and reinstating it with new stones. (It seems the village has suffered from collective amnesia over the last few decades and it had generally been assumed that the Hall was on mains drainage!) Another problem that needed attention was the electrics in the Old Hall - one of the lights was faulty and causing users to get electric shocks off metal surfaces. This has been made safe by Thain Electrical.

The Hall pays a meter charge for its water, and costs have been very high, so the water pressure has been turned down to help reduce these costs.

The Sports Facility was well used in the winter but is staying mostly empty in the summer, when outdoor pitches are more inviting. There was a welcome increase in usage of the Old Hall this year, in the wake of money spent on repairing leaks and internal decorating.

Plans for a new Community Centre to replace the Old Hall are progressing. The Hall committee has commissioned Thomas Munro Architects to draw up a possible design and work out likely costs, which will be referred back to the community for consultation later this year. The Community Development Worker, Duncan Hendry, is in discussion with the Big Lottery Fund about grants, but this aspect is likely to be a major hurdle, as funding for local projects is now much more difficult to come by unless the area is considered 'deprived', which Strathdearn certainly isn't.

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: alsadair.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 Council

www.tomatin.org.uk

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Please note: no item in this Newsletter is written by the Editor unless specifically attributed