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# STRATHDEARN NEWSLETTER

May 2013

Volume 13 No 2

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## **DO YOU WANT A PUB/RESTAURANT IN TOMATIN? IF SO, WHERE?**

### **INCORPORATED INTO THE NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE? SOMEWHERE ELSE? WHERE?**

About 18 months ago the Community Council and a planning official from Highland Council spoke to Braemore Estates and George Macleod about their planned developments. Both were scheduled to go ahead. The Community Council, not wishing to compete with, or duplicate, existing or planned provision, sought to plug the gap in services by conducting a community survey in this Newsletter regarding a Café - one of the priorities (and higher than the Pub!) in the CADISPA Study.

The survey demonstrated support for a café with a 'good menu, reasonable prices and quality food' 'Not a greasy spoon' 'Child friendly' and 'dog friendly' 'Country type surroundings; traditional Highland feel'; other comments included the wish for a log fire or log burning stove, couches and Wi-Fi access. It was subsequently decided to incorporate the Café into the new planned community centre. There was further community consultation in June 2012, attended by 51 members of the public, when a plan was chosen to be worked on further once the development company was up and running.

But then an open letter, arguing that the village had lost its heart without a pub, appeared in the last edition of the Strathdearn Newsletter, following which a petition in support of the letter attracted 174 signatures. The CADISPA Facilities Sub-Group chewed this over on 12<sup>th</sup> April. It seems that a sizeable section of the community do not appear to want either George's planned pub or what we were planning to do.

The Community Council also met with local estates and businesses this month. The Pub featured in discussions there too. Fishers and holiday home guests fairly miss it, we were told. We split into discussion groups. One of the groups concluded that one outlet, rather than individual pub, shop, café, and restaurant developments, would be preferable. Another group recognized a social unit was needed where local people could get together, but were concerned that the pub could present a danger to children, if built as part of the new community centre. Was there any mileage in the estates and the development company getting together to form a consortium to build a restaurant/pub/craft outlet for local goods on the Braemore plot?

The CADISPA Facilities Sub-Group were less in favour of this. The most recent discussion between the Community Council and Braemore Estates had indicated that Braemore were still keen to progress their plans, and were making progress. It was considered unlikely, therefore, that they would be interested in pursuing this option with the community. Would the jobs arising from the Braemore development might be of more benefit to the local community than a joint Pub/Restaurant venture with the company? Might the old Freeburn site possibly cater for a different clientele? More aimed at people coming off the A9 than local residents?

What about the location? Was it central enough? It was pointed out that Strathdearn encompassed Moy, the north end of Tomatin, the Distillery, Balnespick, Soilsean and both sides of the Glen, making the discernment of a central focus difficult – and the old Freeburn Hotel had been the pub for 200 years up to 1984! The Group saw this as an outside option, which should not be pursued at present. *continued overleaf.....*

The option the Facilities Sub-Group did favour was the building of a new Pub/Restaurant as part of the new planned community centre, operating more as a restaurant/café during the day with a strict policy on binge drinking and CCTV on the premises.

The plans for the new Community Centre which had been favoured in the Community Consultation in June 2012, and which it was recognized may require further refinement, were looked at alongside a plan produced for the meeting suggesting how the pub/restaurant might fit into the community centre. The additional 'community centre features' in the June 2012 plan would need to be incorporated, including the office for the community company; showering facilities for the Sports Facility, etc. There was concern that the Millennium Hall might be used less once the new Community Centre was built. Would everyone want to meet in the new building with the café, etc?

At the end of the meeting Edward C-M took both plans away to see if he could digitalise them onto a computer with the help of CAD. He subsequently produced a third suggested plan. None of these plans is being reproduced in the Newsletter at the moment because the June 2012 plan is hand-drawn and cannot be reproduced and it would be unfair to circulate the other two, and not that one. We will have to arrange a showing of all the plans together, at the same time.

The Sub-Group recommended:

1. that the community look at progressing the building of the new Pub/Restaurant, and that these Notes and details of subsequent discussion at the 16<sup>th</sup> April Community Council Meeting be inserted into the May edition of the "Strathdearn Newsletter" to inform local residents and give them the opportunity to respond to these proposals.
2. that adequate space for a pub/restaurant be provided in the new community centre to make it viable;
3. that all the buildings within the planned complex should be looked at to make the best use of buildings, available space and marketing possibilities;
4. that consideration be given to possibly moving some elements such as the Office, and perhaps even the showers, into the Millennium Hall.

It was agreed at the Community Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April that we should commission a feasibility study to look into this, apply for funding from Investing in Ideas, and discuss the timing of the feasibility study at the CADISPA Six Month Review on 26<sup>th</sup> April. **In the meantime, tell us what you think? We are listening!**

**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 McCann, who is based at the Police Station, Alltan Place, Culloden, Inverness. **New number to contact local police – telephone 101.**

#### 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](http://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.

**No items are written by the Editor unless expressly indicated.**

Editor: Mrs Denise Barley, Lauriston, Tomatin, IV13 7YN.

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Printing: Mrs D.Barley & Mrs D.Usborne

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Business adverts £10 per quarter page

Next deadline: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

### SWRI

7.30pm, Findhorn Room, Strathdearn Hall  
Contact: Mrs Margaret Robertson

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month

### Gardening Club

7.30pm Findhorn Room Strathdearn Hall,  
Contact: Alex Don 511729

Every Tuesday

### Zumba

7.30pm, Old Hall  
Contact: Georgie Bell 511214

Every Wednesday

### Community Coffee Morning

10.30am Findhorn Room, Strathdearn Hall,

### Walking Group

2pm Strathdearn Hall  
Contact: Mrs Kathy Bonniface 511740

Every Wednesday

### BUDO/KEMPO

6-8pm Old Hall  
Contact: Lewis Macleod 511354

Every Thursday

11.30am – 1.30pm Tomatin Shop

### POST OFFICE

Every Thursday

### Toddlers' Group (term time)

10am-noon, Strathdearn Hall  
Contact: Alison Tough 07928 532309

### Art Class

1.30 – 3.30pm Strathdearn Hall,  
Contact: Mrs Betty Watson 511271

Every Friday

### Exercise to Music group (re-starts October)

10.30-11.30am, Strathdearn Hall  
Contact: Mrs Denise Barley 511733

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 Hall

SCO15320

For booking or access into the Strathdearn Hall or Sports Facility in Tomatin please ring the Hall Manager **Steve Culeen 01808 511321** or email [sculeen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sculeen@hotmail.co.uk) .

The toilets in the Old Hall are closed for the winter.

The Sports Facility is free for local youngsters (under-18's) to play ball games. Evening/regular groups of adults will be charged. Available for ball games and tennis. No cycles, animals or food & drink allowed on the pitch. No blades or studs. Open 9am-9pm.

Light tokens free to under-18's only, available from Debbie Mackay 511466, Lewis Macleod 511354 or Gavin Edward 511427.

## TABLE TOP SALE

In aid of Moray Inshore Rescue and RNLI

**Raffle, baking, teas**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May  
10.30 – 12.30, Strathdearn Hall

*Information: C. Simpson 511403*

## CHURCH of SCOTLAND GUILD

## COFFEE MORNING

Strathdearn Hall

Wed 22nd May at 10-30am

Baking Stall

in aid of Guild funds and projects sco15653

# Announcements

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## *Erratum:*

*We apologise for giving incorrect information in the February Newsletter about the last resting place of the late Mrs Hardwick and regret any distress this may have caused. Alan has sent the following details about his mother's funeral:*

"She was buried, in the same grave as my Dad, in Dronfield cemetery in Derbyshire and the service was carried out at the church she used to attend, which is St Mary's in the small village of Unstone."

Birth Announcement: To Cullum MacLean (formerly of Tomatin Country Inn) and Lana - a son, Malcolm David born 16 April 2013. Many congratulations to Cullum, Lana and Nanny Sam.

Cyril Cooling will be celebrating his 90th birthday in June. We wish him well as he achieves this milestone and enjoys time with his family and friends down south.

Liz Cooling is hoping to make lavender bags later in the year and will happily come and trim your lavender bushes in return for some of the flower spikes. Give her a call on 07737349082 if you can help.

### **THANK YOU FROM BOB AND JO IRWIN**

We would like to thank Mrs Tanya MacLeod for stocking our cards and Photo Lavender Sachets in her shop, and also to thank everyone who has bought some. Your support is very much appreciated and enables us to continue helping the Cheerful Chesters in Inverness. Last year we raised £694 for them which helped towards the running expenses of the Club, and also meant that together with the proceeds from other fund-raising events, Cheerful Chesters were able to purchase their own Wheelchair for Club use and some Flutter Valves for the Respiratory Physiotherapy Dept. at Raigmore Hospital.

Jo would also like to extend her sincere thanks to everyone for their good wishes following her recent health "blip" and is happy to say that she is fine again now.

A second fresh fish van is now visiting the village, in addition to Mr & Mrs Shearer who come round on Fridays. The new van is JPL Shellfish of Scrabster, and will call by at the Hall at 11.30am on Wednesday mornings.

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## **TOMATIN**

# **LITTER PICK**

**Any volunteers to help tidy the roads in and around Tomatin**

**on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May would be most appreciated.**

**TEC Services will be contacted to provide strong bags, litter picking equipment and collection of the rubbish**

**It would be useful to know numbers helping so we can arrange enough kit.**

**Please contact Diana Usborne on 511482 if you'd like to join us, and meet at the Hall at 10am.**

## LOCAL NEWS *by SMG*

**Births:** Congratulations to David and Annalise Cameron-Mackintosh on the birth of Julia Hilda on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

And to Philip and Emma MacKenzie – grandparents again. Their daughter Lucy and her husband had a baby boy recently, born in Singapore.

**Marriages:** We wish Daisy Greenwell and Joe Ryrie all the best following their wedding in March.

And Alice Murray (Farr Mains) and Jack, every happiness in their married life.

**Deaths:** We are sad to note the passing of Mr Duncan MacLeod, BEM, formerly of Porter's Lodge, Tomatin, on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Duncan's mother was the Raigbeg School Cook for many years – and a very good cook she was. School dinners at secondary school came as quite a shock to ex-Raigbeg pupils! His father, George, was the Tomatin Estate Gamekeeper. Our thoughts are with his family and many friends.

And also Mr Willie Taylor, formerly of Bail an Duin and Old Mill Road, Tomatin, who died peacefully at his home in Carrbridge on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. He and Isobel had had their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the Saturday before. When he lived in Tomatin he was such a kind and helpful gentleman to so many people including the late Mrs Ross of the Old Post Office; the late Mrs Kennedy who used to live next door to the Taylor family, and his children and grandchildren whom he adored. Our thoughts are with Isobel, Kevin, Marie and all the family.

We would also like to send our condolences to Angie Noble on the loss of her mother, Mrs Morrison from Struan, Skye, and to Joanne in Inverness, and Ruth in Meg's Garden, Tomatin, on the loss of their much loved granny.

**Birthday Good Wishes:** To Clare Johnston who celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 26<sup>th</sup> February. The granddaughter of Mrs Fraser, Fox Cottage, Clare is a keen 'Young Farmer.'

### **Sporting Prowess:**

June and John Carson must be proud of their grandsons Rory and Calum, who are regularly mentioned in the "Inverness Courier." They play Rugger with Highland Under-18s and Under-16s. Well done boys.

Also featured in last Tuesday's 'Courier' was Charlie Fuller, who along with two other young players from the Highland Hockey Performance squad moved closer to gaining full international recognition after attending a Scotland Under-16 training camp at Bellahouston in Glasgow. "The boys, together with the remainder of the performance squad, have been training hard over the winter, undertaking strength and conditioning sessions, as well as additional pitch sessions which are on top of their usual club training and matches," said proud Dad, Miles Fuller, Co-ordinator of the Highland squad, who added, "At times during the training camp, it was fantastic to see three of the eleven boys on the pitch that come from the Highlands." We wish Charlie and his companions every success.

### **Other News:**

I met twin boys – Ronan and Alfie - outside the Shop on 10<sup>th</sup> April in their double pram. The family is renting a house in Tomatin. There seems to be so many young faces around which is good for the Toddler Group which has started up on Thursday mornings in the Strathdearn Hall.

Hoping the weather will get kinder for the farmers in Strathdearn, and in fact, everywhere, for the lambing –and that the wind disappears!!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TOMATIN DISTILLERY** upon winning two categories at the World Whiskies Awards 2013. The Tomatin 12-year old won the Highland Single Malt 12 Years and Under category, while the Tomatin 18-year old received the award for the best Highland Single Malt 13 to 20 Years.

# Strathdearn Village Hall Annual General Meeting      Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm.

Could all user groups please ensure that at least one representative attends this meeting, for insurance purposes and also in case of the need for voting.

Your Hall needs YOU!  
Strathdearn Hall is looking for a **new Minutes Secretary** for the AGM and Committee meetings (4 per year). In order to stay open, the Hall must have a full and functioning Management Committee, so if you can spare some time to help we would like to hear from you, preferably before the AGM. Any local Hall users willing to come along and join the Committee are also always welcome. Contact: Denise Barley 511733 [Barley@btinternet.com](mailto:Barley@btinternet.com)

The Hall Committee would like to take this opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation for 16 years of care and service given to the Hall by retiring committee member **Mr Alasdair Wallace**. Alasdair was a key member of the groups that organised the building of the New (Millennium) Hall and also, ten years later, the Sports Facility; the Hall Committee has been very fortunate to be supported by someone with his expertise and experience.

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TOMATIN AND DISTRICT  
GARDENING CLUB

**Annual PLANT  
SALE**  
**Highland Liliums**

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## Members' Plants

Friday 31st May 7:30pm

Strathdearn Hall

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## FACE PAINTING

Add extra fun and colour to your child's party this year with face painting!

I am a fully insured and accredited face painter with lots of experience and lots of designs to give your party guests a fun face to go home with! (Full faces on over 3's, hand or cheek designs for younger children.)

*Contact me for prices and availability:*

Pam Hardwick

Tomatin (01808) 511766.  
Mobile 07949 076053

## WELCOME TO EMMA

We are pleased to say that Emma Maclean is presently working with us as our Temporary Local Development Officer pending the setting up of the development company and the advertising of the permanent post. Emma is experienced in local development, having previously held a similar post on the West Coast, and she's putting her skills to good use getting the setting up of the company organized, among other things!

We hope you'll get the chance to catch up with Emma over the summer (assuming we get one!) but would ask that you do not contact her direct to ask her to undertake work. Emma's time is pretty task specific, she only works part-time, and she has her nose pretty much to the grind-stone dealing with the most pressing matters from the five year action plan.

Nevertheless – we hope Emma will enjoy her time with us, and if you do come across her, please make her feel welcome.

# Art in Strathdearn



The year has started well with Daniel Cottam taking our first workshop in March when we had a go at live portraiture. Rhoann Bisset kindly sat for us and deserves praise for her remarkable patience and endurance. Keeping to the same position hour after hour is not as easy as it might look. The day went by very quickly not least because we had no choice but to concentrate and maintain focus. I do not know what Rhoann thought of the end products but at least she got one portrait to take home.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April Esther Armstrong returned to our club with a watercolour workshop in the morning and pastels in the afternoon. This time the second medium is to rescue what might not have worked out in the morning or improve old watercolour paintings that did not get the desired grade and have been sitting in a cupboard at home. Hopefully out of the old paintings new will emerge. Nothing is ever completely lost.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May Margrit offers techniques in watercolour as a taster session for anyone to join. So, if you fancy having a go at painting in this medium simply come along from 1.30 pm till 3.30 pm.

If that does not interest you can we invite you to our **“Try your hand at.....” open day on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June from 1pm till 4 pm at the village hall.** Club members will help you create a painting in different mediums and with different techniques, such as using a glass surface to create texture, letting colour find its own way on gesso primed surfaces, create a small silk painting or using pastels, watercolour etc. We are sure that there will be something for everyone. Just come and choose. There is no fee. We provide the material and would love to meet you and show you that one does not have to be an accomplished artist to be creative. The beauty of art is that anything goes as long as it pleases your eye and tickles your imagination.

**We are looking forward to seeing you on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June at the village hall, 1 pm till 4 pm.**

**Until then .....**  
**Margrit Perrin** (President)

## **TOMATIN & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB.**

20 MAY Tidying up around the Hall 7.30pm

31 May PLANT SALE 7.30p.m in the Old Hall.

Plants from Highland Lilliums and local plants.

17 June To be arranged.

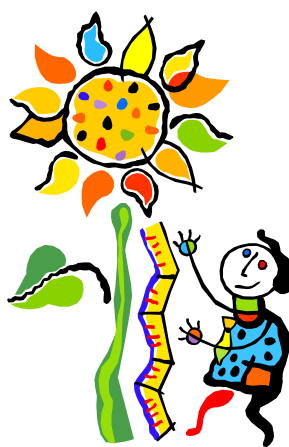
19 Aug Final arrangements for Flower Show 7.30pm

7 Sept FLOWER SHOW entries 10am--12noon

Open to view 2-30p.m

Schedules available soon.

Contact S.DON on 511729 or D.BONNIFACE 511740



## **Attention Children!!**

**Have you planted your sunflower seeds yet?**

**Flower Show Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

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### **Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust Application Form**

Please note that there have been a couple of minor amendments to this form.

If you wish to make an Application and don't have the most recent form, this can be found on the new Strathdearn Website - [www.strathdearn.org](http://www.strathdearn.org) and is also available from Diane Ross at [strathdearncc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:strathdearncc@tiscali.co.uk)



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## STEP IT UP HIGHLAND

At last the better weather has returned we hope! Days are now certainly much longer. Therefore we have reverted to our usual walking time of 2.00pm on Wednesday afternoon. We still start from Strathdearn Hall.

Our recent walks have included Balvraid, the Clune road, Distillery Wood, the Soilsean circuit and the woods at Moy. However, we now have a new aspect to our outings, as Stan Beaumont, who is one of our very regular walkers, has recently acquired a scooter mobile (affectionately known to us all as "Stan's Ferrari"). For some time now Stan has been the backbone of our shorter, slower walk, but is now trying out using the Ferrari for part of our route, and then getting off to walk as far as he wishes. This means that for a little while one of us has the fun of riding on the Ferrari. I can thoroughly recommend it on our local tracks!

Seriously however, this reminds us all that one of the primary purposes of Step it Up is to provide a means, in the company of others, of getting out into the fresh air and taking some valuable exercise. This should help to keep us healthy. However, it does much more than this: we are lucky enough to live in one of the beautiful areas of Britain and our regular walks help us to explore and appreciate this beauty, along with like minded people who become firm friends. The blethering and the banter all help to make a most enjoyable afternoon.

If you feel that you would enjoy joining us then do come along and give it a try. You can contact Kathy or David Boniface on 511740 or Carol James on 531220.

### Stan's Ferrari ...

You may have noticed a new vehicle frequenting the highways of Tomatin. It has four wheels, is the traditional red in colour, is super eco-friendly and economical, but sadly will only manage a maximum speed of 5 m.p.h. with a following wind ... so the village speed limit is quite safe! I acquired my mobility scooter to assist me in my walking on the days when the legs are not talking to me. I try and be self-disciplined by 'earning' scooter rides by doing walking exercise as well. This is important otherwise the scootering rather defeats its own object. It has been christened Stan's Ferrari!

Since I moved to Tomatin some 5 years ago, I have benefited greatly from the service provided by Kathy and David Boniface, and Carol James, who freely give of their time and expertise to Step-it-up-Highland. They need no introduction, but the dedication they

give to providing regular weekly walks is very inspiring, absolutely tailored to the physical needs of the individual ... always with the weather and safety being of paramount importance. Never have I been left to my own devices, regardless of conditions ... I always feel safe.

I was feeling a bit guilty that my slow walking pace was not giving my Step-it-up 'guardian' a decent walk. It was pointed out repeatedly that that was the core reason behind the weekly event.

Ferrari to the rescue !

As my walking deteriorated, I started using my Ferrari on Wednesday Step-it-up's. I found that if I did a bit of riding, then a bit of walking, then more riding etc., etc., it achieved several plus points, namely fresh air and the all-important exercise. This relied on the unstinting co-operation of my walking partner who had to risk life and limb by driving the buggy during my walking modes. Rather than being a chore, this newly found departure from Step-it-up has become a source of endless entertainment. (I think!)

The above routine was good providing we started our walks at the hall. We have now moved on yet another step. With our trailer modified to include a ramp, (thanks to son Simon), I can now load the Ferrari single-handed, and tow everything to where-ever. We tried this out this week on Wednesday and drove to Ruthven. Our whole Step-it-up group then continued, en masse, all the way to the Bucket Bridge... my rides punctuated by walks. This has always been one of my must do's, but up until now, outside the scope of my capabilities. Not only can we now keep together as a group, but everyone gets a decent walk. I have to watch it now, as I have the newly found ability to pass the fast walkers!!! Wow!

I have found that the commitment of the weekly event is all important to me, as it is too easy to just say ... I can't be bothered today ...! I am greatly indebted to the service provided by our Step-it-up colleagues. I am just amazed that more people do not take advantage of it. I have learned so much on these Wednesday outings ... wild life, local natural history, etc., and we always finish up at the hall with tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. Well, we *have* to replace all the burnt calories, don't we ?!!!

Thanks again to all concerned for your support and co-operation also to all our regular walkers and their visitors who appear from time to time.

Why not come and join us for a very sociable couple of hours. Apart from enjoying our fantastic landscape, you never know, you might even get to driving a Ferrari. Now that's something to look forward to!!!!

Stan Beaumont

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

**Breakfast Club:**

We meet in the Strathdearn Hall on the last two Mondays of the month beginning at 9.30am with freshly brewed coffee, bacon rolls and fresh fruit; moving on to Bible discussion, praise and prayer. Join us on Mondays 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June before our summer break in July and August, starting up again on the last two Mondays in September. Everyone equally welcome whether from a church background – or not. For further information phone Vivian on 01808 511355.

**Afternoon Tea:**

Join us at the Strathdearn Hall for freshly made sandwiches and delicious scones and cakes between 3 and 4 pm on Mondays 13<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355 or Sandra 01808 511246.

**Services (all at 10.30 am unless stated otherwise):**

**May:**

5<sup>th</sup> Dalarossie Church

12<sup>th</sup> Strathdearn Hall Tomatin – All Age Service with Tea and Coffee after the Service.

**(Children are especially welcome at the Services in the Hall on the second Sunday of the month – there are often activities for them to take part in – and it doesn't matter if they're noisy!)**

19<sup>th</sup> Dalarossie Church

26<sup>th</sup> Tomatin Church

**June:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Dalarossie Church

9<sup>th</sup> Strathdearn Hall Tomatin – All Age Service. Tea and Coffee after the Service.

16<sup>th</sup> Dalarossie Church

23<sup>rd</sup> Tomatin Church

30<sup>th</sup> Tomatin Church

**July:**

7<sup>th</sup> Dalarossie Church

14<sup>th</sup> Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin – All Age Service, Tea and Coffee after the Service.

21<sup>st</sup> Dalarossie Church

28<sup>th</sup> Tomatin Church

**August:**

4<sup>th</sup> Dalarossie Church

11<sup>th</sup> Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin – All Age Service. Tea and Coffee after the Service.

**All Warmly Welcome to any or all of our Services and Activities**

**TRIBUTE – DUNCAN MACLEOD, B.E.M.**

The funeral service of the late Duncan MacLeod B.E.M. was held at Dalarossie on the 8th March.

Duncan was born in Grantown-on-Spey in 1944. He spent the first eighteen years of his life in the Glen with his parents and brother and sister; then in Tomatin where he was Petrol Boy at the Freeburn Hotel.

He then went on to join the Royal Military Police and served with distinction, finishing his military career after 23 years service having reached the rank of Class II Warrant Officer. His army career took him to some far flung places including Northern Ireland, West Germany, Libya, the Philippines and the Falkland Islands. Duncan's most rewarding and exciting detachment was in Kowloon, Hong Kong, where in 1983 he was recognized in the Queen's Birthday Honours List receiving the British Empire Medal for his services towards security for the British, Chinese and Gurkha Battalions, and for reducing local crime when he captured a notorious gang of house burglars who were terrorizing an area of Hong Kong where British Military families lived.

Returning to civvy life, his first job was in Dundee's University of Abertay as Head of Janitorial Services. In 2001 he returned to Inverness and worked in the Museum & Art Gallery as an attendant, serving tourists and natives alike, a job he loved very much until he retired, aged 68.

He is survived by his wife Julie, daughter Fiona, two granddaughters and his brother and sister.

## 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

It had been reported that the left hand electric box at the Sports Facility had been broken into several times. It had also been brought to people's attention that there had been a lot of thefts going on here and in the surrounding areas, of farm equipment and of domestic oil, and urged the public to be vigilant.

PC McLennan was in attendance at the March Meeting and had updated everyone on crime figures for the month, and had said that from 1<sup>st</sup> April there would no longer be a Northern Constabulary, it would now be Police Scotland. 101 should be dialled at 14p per call to phone the police if it was not an emergency. 999 should still be called in any emergency situation.

### Paths Project

Progress is being made on this, and for full information please see the Minutes, or come along to one of the meetings.

### Applications to the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust

Over the last few months three Applications have been received. These were from Art in Strathdearn, Strathdearn Toddler Group and Tomatin United Football Club. These were all approved and forwarded on to the Trust. Full details of all these applications can be read in the Minutes.

### Financial Report

At 28 February 2013 the balance in the current account was £1,620.54.

### Windfarms

In February it was noted that the appeal for Daviot Windfarm had been turned down.

Regarding upgrading the size of the turbines on the Moy Windfarm, there has been no specific feedback from any of the Moy residents.

It was noted that it would be towards the end of May or early June when the planning would be going in for Kyllachy Windfarm.

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

If you would like something put on the Agenda, please get in touch with a Community Councillor. We are:- Vivian Roden (Chair) Tel 511355; Edward 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; Tony Gerlings Tel 511222.

## **Tomatin Wins at World Whiskies Awards**

Tomatin Distillery is celebrating winning in two categories at the World Whiskies Awards 2013. The Tomatin 12 Year Old won the *Highland Single Malt 12 Years and Under* category, while the Tomatin 18 Year Old won the *Highland Single Malt 13 to 20 Years* category.

The World Whiskies Awards took place in London at the end of March, where more than 300 whiskies from around the world battled it out during three intensive blind tasting rounds for the coveted title of '2013 World's Best Whiskies'. Judges for Whisky Magazine's independent editorial panel were drawn from the best drinks journalists and retailers across the world, with industry representatives made up of master blenders, distillers and brand ambassadors in the final round. "Only the very best entries in each category were recognised so we are understandably delighted with not one, but two category wins. Awards like these reflect the recent growth we have been experiencing with the Tomatin brand, and they really highlight the hard work we put into creating a quality Scotch Whisky product" said Stephen Bremner, Sales Director.

## ESTATES MEETING

Five members of the Community Council met with Councillor Crawford, representatives from 11 local estates and 1 business on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

The agenda was a brief summary of the work of the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust; a short overview of the 5 year action plan and the initial work done on potential projects; group discussion on what issues affect the estates and businesses most; and any issues of common concern.

Feedback from the discussion included:

- The Pub – fishers, etc really missed this.
- Peter Graham from Coignafearn Estate had useful first-hand experience of developing small business units in the Moray area. At present Coignafearn's plumber was coming from Rothes! All the estates spent a lot on maintenance – it would be good if tradesmen could be sourced more locally. Peter kindly agreed to share his knowledge with Emma about the small business units.
- The untidiness of the village – Corrybrough and Clune offered to do their bit to help by tidying up their area – including pulling the ragwort.
- Faster broadband
- Football pitch – should this be beside the school?
- Any mileage in getting together to form a consortium to build a restaurant/pub/craft outlet on the Braemore site? (Another group thought it would be better to have one outlet housing a pub, shop, café, restaurant.)
- People from Estates sometimes don't like coming to public meetings because they feel others are hostile?

There was positive feedback from Evaluation Forms – and another meeting is planned for the beginning of August.

+++++

## Strathdearn Toddler Group now running every Thursday

Earlier this year a few of us decided to look into the feasibility of running a toddler group in Tomatin. At Easter time we held a raffle for the chance to win an Easter egg and a bottle of Tomatin whisky (kindly donated by Tomatin Distillery). We raised £120. We have also applied for grants and tried to get the word out there about the group to as many parents and carers of babies and toddlers in the area as possible. We are pleased to say that the results are looking good! The toddler group has now been running since the beginning of

April. The number of members are increasing but we would like to welcome more parents/carers and little ones to join us. The more the merrier!

The sessions take place in Tomatin village hall between 10am-12pm every Thursday (during school term time only). Admission is £2 per family. If you are on facebook just search for "Tomatin Toddlers". Befriend us to get the latest updates. Alternatively you can contact us by email or phone as per below. We hope to welcome many more of you to the group soon.

Alison Tough (Chairperson) -  
alison224@yahoo.co.uk or 07928 532 309  
Helena Ekerot (Secretary) -  
helena@obsenviro.com or 07958 477 735  
James Macpherson (Treasurer) - j-  
mac@sky.com or 07527 883 606

### BLANK PAPER BLUES

I stared in vain at the empty page  
with a biro full of ink.  
But I couldn't write a single word  
so I had to draw a blank.

A month of frost has numbed my brain,  
my fingers barely work.  
I very much doubt that I'll thaw out  
before the Whitsun break.

I'm sorry for the daffodils,  
likewise the birds and bees.  
No burst of colour on the ground,  
no singing in the trees.

The humble snowdrop does its best  
to brighten up the scene.  
They stand about in little groups  
and shiver in the rain.

Now at last the page is filled  
and the biro's work is done.  
I'm off on the march in a desperate search  
for that stranger called the sun.

*Donald MacAskill*

## **Kyllachy Wind Farm - update from RWE**

The proposed development, known as Kyllachy Wind Farm, is situated on land to the south of the operational Farr Wind Farm and will consist of up to 20 turbines, with an installed capacity of up to 50 megawatts (MW).

Representatives of RWE npower renewables (RWE NRL) attended the April meeting of Strathdearn Community Council to advise of the intention to submit the planning application to The Highland Council in June 2013. The community will be kept advised through Strathdearn Community Council and Strathnairn Community Council who will be informed of the submission date. RWE NRL will also issue a newsletter to all households in the two community council areas.

The Highland Council will also formally advertise the application in the local press. Statutory consultees and members of the public will have four weeks from the date of the advertisement to formally provide comments, should they wish, to The Highland Council.

The planning application, including the Environmental Statement (ES) and a Non Technical Summary (NTS) will be made available to the community. A hard copy will be placed in Strathdearn Hall and an electronic copy will be provided to Duncan Bryden as a representative of Strathdearn Community Council. In addition, the documentation will also be available to view at Highland Council offices.

For further information about the proposal please see [www.npower-renewables.com/kyllachy](http://www.npower-renewables.com/kyllachy) Queries can be directed by email to [Kyllachy@rwe.com](mailto:Kyllachy@rwe.com)

## **Tomatin and Moy SWRI**

The 2012/13 session will draw to a close with the Annual Meeting on Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>. The session has seen a varied programme of interesting talks and demonstrations. Members have also enjoyed taking part in several village functions and had a couple of social events.

The 2013/14 session will start on the first Monday in September when an equally diverse and informative programme is planned. Meetings include a talk or demonstration, a competition, a short but lively business section and social time, when a good blether is had by all.

The WRI is open to all women regardless of age, political inclination or religion and we have a relaxing two hours of time out, once a month. Do come and join us! Look out for information on the community notice boards and in the newsletter.

*Carol James*

## **Brin Herb Nursery**

Flichity, Farr, IV2 6XD. Te: 01808 5218288  
[www.brinherbnursery.co.uk](http://www.brinherbnursery.co.uk)

**Open for plant sales all day,  
every day**

**Herb plants, wildflower plants and  
plants for wildlife**

**The Schoolroom Café  
will be open on the following long  
weekends:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> May: 11am - 5.30pm  
7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> June: 11am - 5.30pm  
or by appointment for groups of 8 or  
more.**

**Also the weekends of 6th July, 3rd  
August, 7th September 2013**

**The shop will be open 8am - 5.30pm  
on above long weekends  
and by arrangement.**

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

## **Natural History Club**

We are concluding our winter season with the AGM on the 25<sup>th</sup> April.

We were very pleased that the "Not So Long Ago" project in February was so well attended. We are accumulating a great fund of amusing and informative material for the archive.

Into Summer and Autumn we will continue a mix of Natural/Local History activities – some of these may be weather dependent and at relatively short notice. It would be helpful if all interested could contact me with their email addresses at [davidbonniface@aol.com](mailto:davidbonniface@aol.com).

Speakers for the Autumn include Katy Martin of the Ranger Service with her postponed talk on local wildlife and how to spot the clues they leave behind them. I think this would be extremely interesting for children too – and maybe an earlier start time than our usual 7:30 would be advantageous. Could interested parents let me know please?

Hopefully we really will be seeing Spring by the time you read this!

## Grants Paid by the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust

2013	January	SCC - Community water testing (revision of cost)	1 5.21 60
		Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for December	0.00
		Hardship Fund (1 application)	622.99
			659.19
			<u>169.98</u>
		Strathdearn Hall - Public Toilet management costs	1.45 2.16 1.07 0.00
March		Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for January	80 0.00
		Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for February	80 0.00
April		Paths project - site survey Conserve Ltd	1.55 1.60
		Strathdearn Toddler Group - Room rental for year, insurance etc	50 0.00
		Tomatin United F.C - team & match costs	1.20 2.00

### Strathnairn Road closures

The Inverarnie closure will commence from Monday, April 29.

The road will be closed for three weeks in order to remove and replace the existing culvert. A short diversion route will be put in place for road users.

The road will be fully closed during this period. The road closure will initially be from Mid-Lairgs junction (with access for local traffic only) through to the east of the access to Farr Community Centre. The access to Farr Community Centre will be maintained from Inverarnie during the works.

On completion of the Inverarnie culvert, the Contractor, R J McLeod, is intending to complete some road construction works at the Littlemill bridge site. This could last for up to five days including the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May. To accommodate this, there will be a full road closure from Mid-Lairgs junction to approximately 100 metres west of the current site compound entrance at Littlemill Bridge. Local traffic will need to use the diversions that have been put in place and local residents west of the Littlemill bridge site will gain access from the west across the newly opened Inverarnie culvert.

Originally, it was anticipated that the road would be fully closed for two months but the construction team have been able to carry out the majority of the work under traffic management through the use of traffic lights and stop/go signs.

A letter will be delivered to all households living in the closure area on Monday so they are fully informed. Information will also go up on the Dunmaglass website and Twitter account

### 'THE BRIT AND THE BOER'

*Tim Boles of Old Clune Lodge writes of his racing exploits in South Africa last winter:*

'After the billing:

<http://www.zwartkops.co.za/the-brit-and-the-boer/>

Well things went very well for us - see above for the prize haul!

<http://www.zwartkops.co.za/round-two-battle-of-the-giants-at-kyalami-on-saturday-the-9th-february-2013/>

despite being in the wrong race with the sportscars in our respective classes we did fine! Sarel drove the socks off Butch my Camaro - and at times I too had my moments..... Butch ran faultlessly - my thanks to the excellent race preparation of Scott Racing- well done guys! see:

<http://www.classicamaroclubuk.com/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=2867>

We got a first overall in the Enduro race in class at Kyalami - the key prize - and managed to finish 8 at the end of the Kyalami Enduro behind a set of hot kit cars GT40s and Daytona Coupe replicas (with the exception of 1 Chevrolet Corvette GS) - so we were certainly the first 4 seater and you could say the second "dare I say real" car home!

Despite running out of fuel - well in fact it was a blown fuse in fuel pump - I did just enough laps to clinch a 2 in that TransAM race- and I got a 3 in the TransAM race at Zwartkops the previous weekend!

Sadly the Kyalami meeting was marred by the deaths of 2 motorbike racers in separate incidents.

Not bad for a Tomatin boy?

## STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST

Financial statement for the period 1 January to 31 March 2013

### Income

Bank Interest and dividends	2,075
Windfarm company - sixth annual payment, including indexation	57,219
Increase in value of investments (see Note)	<u>171,494</u>

*Total income* **230,788**

### Expenditure

Grants:		
Community water test kits	15	
(Hall toilet attendance fees)	1,070	
Hardship Fund (Anonymous)	1,452	
Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi to/from Aviemore day centre	<u>2,200</u>	
(Dec, Jan & Feb)	4,737	
Community development worker	1,894	
Postage	27	
Administrator Fee	4,000	
Deutsche Bank Investment fees	2,198	
<i>Total outgoings</i>		<u>12,857</u>

Excess of income over expenditure for the period 217,931

Funds at 31 December 2012 **269,090**

**Funds at 31 March 2013** 487,021

### Consisting of:

Deposit and current accounts with Royal Bank of Scotland	70,055
Investments managed by Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management	417,097
Income due at 31 March 2013	<u>2,067</u>
	<b>489,219</b>
Less: Payments due at 31 March 2013	<u>2,198</u>

**Funds at 31 March 2013** 487,021

Investments managed by Deutsche Bank are at 31 December 2012 as the valuation at 31 March 2013 is not yet available.

## Strathdearn 430 years ago

(sent in by Duncan Bryden)

I recently came across this description written 430 years ago, in 1583, by Timothy Pont. Pont lived between 1565 and 1614 and was the first person to produce detailed maps, derived from 20 years of walking the Scottish countryside. Pont's maps are among the earliest surviving to show a European country in minute detail. Pont described Moy and part of Strathdearn. The description is transcribed as Pont wrote it; hence the language, but a little careful reading shows familiar place names.

### Statheirin in Murrey and Lochmuy.

*Kirk of Mui from Inveresse 8 myle south situate on the west syde of Loch Mui. Loch mui is tuo myle in lenth and on in breadth somewhat ovale shapen, it lyes SE and NW. Illen na Muye is in the midst of the Loch, but neerest the west, a bow shotte in lenth its shape is thus and in it is Mackintoish his house scituate called after the name of the isle. [Dowrie fl]*

*In this Loch are fownde trowts called Reedwmys takne only betuxt Mickalmess and Hallowmesse*

*At the North end of the Loch standes Muymoir, at the west a woode [Cloichscoilik or the cloven stone] equall in lenth with the Loch, at the south end of both lyes Tulloch Cleure. West of the Loch stands Mui begg and the kirke Alt na slanach from the Loch NW and W 1/2 myle ane wood called Kyle na hiren just west from it ane other called Craig na Eun or the birds woode, hear is a burne tuixt the townes and the woode 2 myle in lenth and a burne at every towne running into the loch. Item a third wood called Derirr na cloich or the scrablachwood. Item another wood 1/2 myle above Mui beg W called Derirr na Shamprak or the Cleverwoode ane other woode due S. from Mui beg called Liadeirr or Letir the lyart woode and a bush beneath it neer the south nooke of the Loch called Letyir beg.*

*The other woode which extendes the lenth of the loch is called Letyr Moir.*

*The water of Fintack runnes out of the Loch SE and upon it is a milne, it runnes into Findorne fourteen myles above Darnowaye. Tulloch mak garre is W of Fintacke. Slyach is E. of Fintack lying besyde the milne. The townes over against other midway tuixt the loch and water.*

*At the inver of the water NE of Findorne lyes Ruven on the syde of Findorne water. On that same syde lyes Keanraig a myle beneath Ruven with a great Craige named Craigcrokan or the Steepie craige. 1/2 myle under it on the same syde lyes Lagriach or the spotted valley. The nethermost towne of that part called Bothagan not 1/4 myle distant from the other towne.*

*On the S. syde of the water of Findorne which runnes from SW to NE standes Cochlachin 4 myles from Mui begg. Above that 1/4 m. standes Baalcrohan and from that 1 m. standes Pollochack or the Loch poole. A wood interjected twixt the forsaid townes called Dow letyir. then a wood above called Letyirgaleirie. Corry bruoch beg or the little bray quarrell a towne standing a myle SW from the last named towne and Letyir galeirie interjected betuixt the two, ane other called Corry bruoch moir 1/2 myle from the other it lyes due south from Findorne.*

## By way of a change ... a bit of light-hearted maths!

Note: The older generation may find this a bit of a challenge ... to the younger generation, it will probably be double dutch!  
**Consider the clues and work out the answers ...**  
**...then simply add them up to give the total... SIMPLE !**

CLUE	£	:	s	:	d
Boys name					
Girls name					
A bicycle					
Male singer					
Pet pig					
Gorilla leg joint					
Distant object					
Sun, moon, star					
Royal headgear					
Door opener					
A stone					
A ruler					
Leather worker					
Poorly mollusc					

---

**TOTAL**      £ 32 : 7 : 10 ¾

If you get the correct answer ... Well Done! ... it shows your education wasn't wasted!  
If you didn't get it right, try again. If you really have to throw the towel in, you'll find the answers in the next Newsletter.  
No apologies from the compiler!

*Stan Beaumont*

## Nature Notes

Spring has officially sprung down south, according to the Met Office. Around Tomatin there are signs that it will be here soon. The hazel catkins are blowing in the wind along the Balvraid road, and under them celandines are flowering. The first primrose is out and the shy wood sorrel blooms are opening.

Some birds are showing that Spring is on the way: a Pied Wagtail was walking along the ridge tiles; a flock of about fifty Lapwing were feeding in the field across the river; a number of Oystercatchers are calling to each other; and a pair of Curlew have been walking round the field.

However, the migrants from overseas have yet to arrive. I have not seen a Swallow or a House Martin and I have listened in vain for the Willow Warbler's haunting song. The days are longer and the sun, when shining, is getting warmer, but the strong wind's bitter chill reminds us that, at the end of April, Spring hasn't sprung here yet.

*Carol James*



# 2013 Flower show Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September

The full schedule for the show will soon be available from Sheila Don or at the Village Store.  
Here is the list of categories and classes.

## Flower Section

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

## Handicrafts

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

## Floral Art

1. Single Colour Arrangement (to be viewed from front)
2. Foliage Arrangement (max 18") (to be viewed all round)
3. An arrangement with natural wood (up to 12")
4. An arrangement in a teapot.

## Vegetable Section

1. 1 Cabbage
2. 1 Cauliflower
3. 3 Carrots
4. 3 Onions
5. 2 Leeks
6. 3 Potatoes - White
7. 3 Potatoes - Coloured
8. 3 Beetroot
9. 2 Turnips
10. 1 Lettuce
11. 3 Tomatoes
12. 2 Courgettes
13. 1 Pepper - any colour
14. Basket of 5 kinds of Vegetable (not decorated)
15. Any other Vegetable
16. Display of 5 different cut Culinary Herbs
17. Parsley grown in pot
18. 3 Beans - any variety

## Baking & Produce Section

1. 1 Madeira Cake
2. 3 Melting Moments
3. 3 Pancakes
4. 3 Plain scones
5. 3 Oatcakes
6. 3 Rock cakes.
7. 4 Whisky truffles.
8. 1 Decorated birthday cake.
9. 1 Jar Raspberry Jam
10. 1 Jar Strawberry Jam
11. 1 Jar Blackcurrant Jam
12. 1 Jar Marmalade
13. 1 Jar Jelly—any variety
14. 1 Jar Lemon Curd
15. 1 Jar Chutney - any variety
16. 1 Wholemeal loaf (2 lb tin)
17. 6 Eggs

## Art Section (any medium)

1. Pen and ink wash.
2. Farm animal
3. Breakfast—still life,
4. Human figure
5. Transport.

## Children's Sections:

### Two Age Groups (8 Yrs & under, 9 - 12 Yrs)

1. Animal made from fruit and/or vegetables
2. Egg Cup Flower Display
3. Garden in a Tray no bigger than 15" x 10"
4. A painting of flowers
5. To make a decorated treasure chest from a shoe box.

**AND**

**The Children's Challenge:** To grow a **sunflower** from seed