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STRATHDEARN NEWSLETTER

February 2015

Volume 15 No 1

Moy, Dalarossie & Tomatin Parish Church are hoping to start MESSY CHURCH this Easter, meeting once a month in the Strathdearn Hall, usually on the last Sunday of the month, from 4pm - 6pm, beginning on Palm Sunday, the 29th March.

MESSY CHURCH is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.

- **It's primarily for people who don't already belong to another form of church.**
- **It usually involves a welcome, a long creative time to explore the biblical theme through getting messy (doing crafts, etc); a short celebration time involving story, prayer, songs, games and similar; and a sit-down meal together at tables. Messy Church is for people of all ages - adults and children. It's not somewhere where children get dropped off - parents and carers stay, and join in the fun!**
- **It's a church for all people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age .**
- **Its aim is to introduce Jesus, to give an opportunity to encounter him.**

To be able to do this, we need help from folks who enjoy simple crafts (nothing complicated or skilled! Eg collage, decorating buns, etc); 'arty' people - eg would anyone be able to do a large, simple drawing for the children to colour in? And if anyone could help with music of any sort - that would be fantastic!

Vivian (01808 511355) or Sandra (01808511246) would love to hear from you!

Strathdearn Community Council

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.Tel. 01808 511733 e-mail Barley@btinternet.com

Printing: Mrs D.Barley, Mrs M Buckle

Distribution: Mrs S. Mackintosh-Grant

Business adverts £10 per quarter page

Next deadline: Thursday 30th April 2015

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: **Davy Elliot PC 229**. Community Beats, Burnet Road, Inverness. Tel. 01463-228485 email David.Elliot@scotland.pnn.police.uk

NB – new number to call, for matters not urgent enough to require 999 ... **please call 101** and you will be put through

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.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

SWRI

7.30pm Strathdearn Hall
Contact: Mrs Margaret Robertson 511243

3rd Monday of Month

Gardening Club

7.30pm Strathdearn Hall,
Contact: Alex Don 511729

Tuesdays, as and when advertised

Zumba

7.30pm, Old Hall
Contact: Georgie Bell 511214

Tuesdays

Keep Fit

11am Strathdearn Hall
Contact: Mrs Denise Barley 511733

2nd Tuesday of Month

Community Council

7.30pm Strathdearn Hall
All welcome

Every Wednesday

Community Coffee Morning

10.30am Strathdearn Hall
All welcome, £1

Every Wednesday

Walking Group

1.30pm meet at Strathdearn Hall
Contact: Mrs Kathy Bonniface 511740

Every Thursday

11.30am – 1.30pm Tomatin Shop

POST OFFICE

Every Thursday

Toddlers' Group (term time)

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

Every Thursday

Art Class

2 – 4pm Strathdearn Hall,
Contact: Mrs Betty Watson 511271

Every Thursday

MetaFit and Pi-yo

6.15 and 7pm, Old Hall
Contact: Sam Bain 0775 352 1423

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 s.culeen@hotmail.co.uk (please note there is a dot in the name)

The toilets in the Old Hall are closed for the winter but paying users of the Sports Facility can ask for them to be opened

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.**

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

STRATHDEARN HALL SCO15320

Hire rates (local):

Findhorn Room	£8 p/hour
Funtack Room	£5 p/hour
Clune Room	£4 p/hour
Old Hall	£7 p/hour

Findhorn /Funtack Rooms together: £12 p/hour

Double rates for non-locals
(ie outside Strathdearn district)

except Old Hall £12 non-local

TOMATIN AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

New members always welcome

9th February A.G.M. please note change of date
16th March Speaker to be arranged
20th April Talk by May Buckle on Bees and Gardens

*Sadly, there have been **several deaths in the district:***

Mrs Eva MacQueen died at the Ballifeary Nursing Home on 27th November. Mrs MacQueen was a much respected lady who was well known in Moy and Tomatin, and loved by many. Our sympathy goes to her family at Dalmagarry and beyond. Her funeral took place on 5th December, and this very thoughtful service was very well attended.

Mrs Mavis Sinclair who used to live at Slochd died just before Christmas on 21st December. Mrs Sinclair was well known in Strathdearn and our thoughts are with her husband, Jack, and their family, Glynn, Avril and John, their spouses and their families at this sad time for all of them.

Lt-Col Roy Millington, father of our Editor, Denise, died on 11th January. He had been very ill, and to Denise and her brother, Derek, we send our condolences.

Mr Willie MacQueen of Strathnairn died suddenly on 16th January. Our condolences go to his children, Ruth, Caitlin and Alistair, and his many family and friends.

And we were very saddened to hear of the death of **Mrs Diana Usborne** on 29th January. Diana was one of this Newsletter's production team, faithfully photocopying and folding many editions over several years. She will be much missed, and our thoughts go out to Edward, their daughters, Joanna and Sarah, her mother, Ann, and all her family and friends.

The afternoon **Service at the Strathdearn War Memorial** on 9th November was very well attended and three young students from Strathdearn School stood out among us all and recited poems that they had written. We were very impressed and would like to thank them very much.

The Hoolie in the Hall on 15th November was a big success, if a bit noisy, and was enjoyed by all those who were there.

Welcome to two babies born on 19th November – Annabelle Logie-Fitzwilliam and her husband had a little boy (a great-grandson for Mrs Ann Glynne-Percy); while Lotty was born to Susie and Marc (a granddaughter for Mr and Mrs Tony Gerlings). Our best wishes and congratulations to both families.

Since the last Newsletter, Mrs Glynne-Percy's granddaughter Sarah Usborne has become engaged to Phil, and **our best wishes go to the young couple** who plan to marry in 2016.

The School Concert (5 Gold Rings) was so well acted by all the pupils and enjoyed by us all – it certainly put us all in the Christmas mood and was so entertaining.

This winter has seen quite a bit of snow, and also cold and high winds. Hurricane force winds last month resulted in a fairly prolonged power cut (especially for the people of Moy), whilst in Tomatin the loss of power to the pumps caused a reduction in water pressure, and for some a complete loss of water supply. Some mobile phone networks have also proved unreliable this winter – with several periods of loss of service lasting between a few days to over a week.

Everyone in the district was neighbourly and kind, including SSE, who set up a food van at the Strathdearn Hall providing hot drinks and food free to anyone without power and in need – which was much appreciated – thank you SSE.

The Community Council Snow Clearing Scheme (kindly funded by the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust) which has not been used much in the past few mild winters has come into its own this winter and Mr Michael McKay has done a great job co-ordinating it with the help of other volunteers. Our thanks to Michael, Sandy, and others who have helped.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



The Old Manse, Moy

This will take place on Easter Saturday 4th April at 15.00. Please bring a ready plated contribution of food for a shared tea afterwards. It can be quite wet underfoot in the garden so wellies are advisable. All ages are welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Any queries please phone Richard & Liz on 01808 511353.

Family Tribute
for
Eva MacQueen

Euphemia Mary Margaret, lovingly known as Eva, was born on July 3 1917 to William and Mary Davidson. She grew up in Fortrose, where her father was a painter/decorator and her mother ran a guest house.

Eva loved swimming in the sea and playing tennis but disliked school, where she was always getting into trouble for talking and giggling.

For many years she was a girl-guide leader before taking up a career in nursing. Her career spanned almost two decades, including nursing servicemen during the Second World War in Caithness before returning to the Royal Northern Infirmary, and then becoming a Sister Tutor in the Nursing School at Eden Court.

In 1953, Eva married Charles MacQueen, a farmer from Dalmagarry, Moy. There they created a stable, happy and God-centred home for their children: Rosemary, Lilian, Myra, Ruth and David. Charlie died in June 1995.

Eva soon adapted to country living and in the summer months, along with the duties of a busy mum and helping out on the farm, Dalmagarry also became a busy B&B, noted for its wonderful meals and hospitality. In addition Eva ran the Red Cross in Tomatin for several years.

Dalmagarry was a notorious accident black spot and Eva's nursing skills were most useful as she rendered First Aid to scores of victims.

Eva's welcoming hospitality was her great hallmark, whether family, friend or stranger - from tramps of the road to nobility, all were treated with equanimity, on one occasion even opening her home to give afternoon tea to 42 Japanese tourists whose coach had broken down on their way to Strathpeffer.

Telling others of the wonderful Lord Jesus was second nature to Eva. Her attitude of gratitude came from a deep rejoicing in a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ whom she loved so deeply. She relied on His strength when she was a busy mother and farmer's wife, and when she was old and frail and residing in Ballifeary Home. There she delighted in the care that was given to her and was ever grateful for the visits from her children, her 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

'Godliness with contentment is great gain', says scripture - that's what made Eva rich and she tried to share that wealth with all whom she came into contact with.

HIGHLY COMMENDED Strathdearn Primary pupil wins FSAS poster design competition

Following the success of previous poster competitions, the Food Standards Agency in Scotland (FSAS) invited all primary schools across Scotland to design posters promoting either good food hygiene, healthy eating and physical activity, or food allergy awareness. The FSAS was delighted to receive over 6700 entries from 240 primary schools.

Drew Hallam, a Primary 5 pupil at Strathdearn Primary School in Tomatin scooped one of the 11 runner-up prizes with an eye-catching design highlighting one of FSAS's key messages. The overall standard of the posters was excellent; however, the judging panel felt that Drew's design put across the message exceptionally well.

The 11 highly commended designs, along with that of the winner will feature in the FSAS's 2015 calendar which has been distributed to key Scottish stakeholders including all Local Authorities and NHS Health Boards throughout the country.

Drew said, "I am so happy as this is the first competition I have ever won."

Geoff Ogle, Director of the FSAS said: "The competition is a fun way of encouraging school pupils to think creatively about the importance of safe food and healthy eating. We hope they will have learnt from the valuable lessons underpinning the competition and will go on to tell their family and friends about the importance of washing hands thoroughly, cooking food properly to help prevent food poisoning, the benefits of healthy eating, physical activity and being allergy aware."

In addition to the framed print, Drew was also awarded vouchers to the value of £50 and his school received £250 in vouchers to spend on FSAS approved projects.

ART IN STRATHDEARN

Tomatin's art club meets every Thursday, 1.30pm-3.30pm and anyone interested in dabbling with water colours, pastels, oils, ink, pencil or with any medium they fancy is most welcome to come along to the village hall for a friendly 2 hours of creativity! After the AGM (Feb 12th) we will be planning the year's workshop days when professional artists are invited to the hall to inspire and instruct.

To learn more, contact:

Betty Watson 511271 or Pam Hardwick 511766

Annual membership £10, weekly charge £2.
Everyone welcome

Back by popular demand...

Hoolie in the Hall

Sat 14th March 2015

8:00 pm prompt till Midnight

£5.00 Per Head Donation

BYOB

Pot Luck/Jacob's Join (aka Bring some Grub!)

Live Band

Plus, we welcome all musicians for an Open Mic and Music Jam Session

Come on folks...let's have a hoedown!

Strathdearn Village Hall, Tomatin

For more information, contact Christine

On 077 8651 4528 or 01808 511 718

STEP IT UP HIGHLAND

Alas, the weather has not been so kind for walking since the beginning of December. There have been almost no Wednesdays when we have ventured out without snow on the ground. However, except for the two week break over the festive season, there has been only one day that we cancelled walking altogether.

There are of course a number of reasons why we should continue despite the snow and cold. One is the sheer beauty of the landscapes we have seen when the countryside is totally white, and the sky very blue. One notable walk three weeks ago took place along the Clune Road, which was snow covered, but the views over the hills and woods were spectacular. Another reason is quite simply that if you make the effort to go out, with appropriate clothing and footwear, you feel so much better, and more alive, than huddled up indoors. It can be very exhilarating. In addition, the exercise is still beneficial and the opportunity to get together afterwards for a cup of tea and a blether helps to dispel any sense of isolation one may feel in the depths of a severe winter.

So please feel free to join us if the idea appeals to you. At the moment we meet at 1.30pm at the village hall on Wednesday afternoon. Either phone Kathy or David on 01808 511740 or Carol on 531220, or just turn up if inspiration takes you!

Natural History Club

Due to a combination of weather and personal commitments there will be no formal programme of events until September, when we hope, refreshed by the summer, we will resume a programme of entertaining and informative talks. Meanwhile, those members interested in the local history and archaeology will continue updating the historical records with fresh photographs and data. Interested people should arrange ad hoc meetings as and when they find something of common interest.

In the current harsh winter weather it is particularly important to keep your bird feeders well stocked. It has been particularly gratifying to have crested tits return to the garden after some years of absence. It has also been great to see flocks of long tailed tits, who in the past have flown through the garden, develop a taste for suet balls, up to eight at a time trying to grab a beak full. Quite a sight!

Let there be light

During the long dark nights, right hand turns off the A9 in rural areas can be needlessly hazardous. I offer the following verses in complete exasperation.

"Please illuminate our junction!"
I begged the A9 folk
But ten long winters later
We are still kept in the dark.

'We've heard your plea but officially
We feel you're just being awkward,
You have no right to an overhead light,
or one within the bollard.'

As time went by, now dim of eye,
dark driving had its troubles,
For safety's sake I took a break
while the medics fixed my pupils.

Now sound of sight I faced the night
On a city shopping mission,
But the main concern on my return
was the dark Tomatin junction.

A blaze of lights approached me
And, much to my surprise,
I nearly missed the turn-off
With my reconditioned eyes.

A bulb within the bollard!
Such a trivial expense
when they've wired up all the cameras
from Perth to Inverness!

DGM

Flower Show 2015

The future of the flower show is currently under discussion. Notices will appear soon. Meanwhile anyone who wishes to make a contribution to its organisation or content should contact Sheila Don or Carol James.

Camp America June - September 2014

Last year I decided to try something different and applied to 'Camp America' which have summer camps all across the states. I was lucky enough to be taken on as a counsellor at Camp Echo in New York State. Camp accommodated 600 children and 250 counsellors. As I was to find out it is not all kumbaya, toasting marshmallows and fishing in the creek - camp is hard work.

Our day started at 7.45 with the whole camp being woken up by tannoy, "Good morning camp echo, echo, echo. It's time to get up, up, up, up, up, not down, down, down, down, down. It's going to be a beauuuutiful day." Myself and four other counsellors were then in charge of getting our kids (15 boys) out of bed and dressed for flag raising - these kids will be with each other all day participating in activities and also at meal times. Girls met at summit camp flag, boys met at base camp flag. This was a chance for counsellors to meet their group leaders and discuss events planned for the day like campers birthdays etc while the campers sang the national anthem and raised the flag with the boys village leader, Dave Brand.

After flag raising, lower camp (freshman etc) had breakfast and upper camp (seniors) had cabin clean up supervised by the cabin counsellors - counsellors whose job it was to stay with their bunk all day ensuring they got to and from activities safely. After the hour they would swap. However for me, and the rest of the activity staff, it meant having breakfast in your department - away from your kids. This was so we could have our morning meeting, get our rota for the day and get our area set up for the kids arrival at nine. The food was just like you'd imagine; waffles, bacon, eggs, pancakes and lots and lots of syrup!

The campers would start activities at 10.00am and each period would last fifty minutes with the bunks having ten minutes to get to their next activity. There were all sorts of actives that the campers took part in from milking the cow to go-carts. However, I was in high ropes so this consisted of working on the zip line that flew over the lake, the climbing wall, the high ropes course, the vertical play pen, the leap of faith and the flying squirrel. There were fifteen members of this team each day a different variation of these six high ropes activities. It was always a good day if you had zip line.

Lunch was at 12.10pm and activity staff met their bunk at the dining hall allowing the cabin counsellors a meal away from the kids. Lunch was always a good laugh, everyone gets involved with the singing and its encouraged to get on your chair and just dance - sometimes for the whole of lunch! After lunch it's rest hour where we take the kids back to the cabin and play cards, sleep and just chill out for an hour before we start activities again.

Again afternoon activities just followed the same pattern as the morning, fifty minutes for each activity and ten minutes in-between. Afternoon actives finish at 5.15pm when boys head back to base camp and girls to summit for snack and go - an ice cream or piece of fruit. This period of the day was called twilight, campers enjoyed free play for an hour. Most kids tended to play basketball or football with all of the activity counsellors joining in.

At 6.30pm everyone again met at their flag poles for flag lowering. This is taken very seriously with the national anthem being sung. After flag lowering, lower camp went for dinner while upper camp had shower hour. Shower hour was always hard work. There was always at least one camper that would insist he'd showered even though he still had ice cream on the corner of his mouth!

Evening activity began at 8.30pm. It was always different. Depending on the activity, you could be with just your grade or with the whole camp. There were dance competitions, basketball games, swimming parties and even bands brought in to play. After the evening activity, there was s'mores (cracker with layers of marsh mallow and chocolate) on the beach or milk and cookies - just what you want before you try and get fifteen already hyper kids to bed!

Bed time for my 7th grade was at 10.00pm. Myself and fellow counsellors would have to be back in the bunk with the campers by this point ensuring all of them had brushed their teeth and were in their PJ's before circle time. Circle time was where we reflected on our day at camp, with everyone giving two positives for the day (shakes) and one negative (a pound). The campers were then allowed ten minutes of flash light time in their beds before all lights were turned off.

With temperatures of around 32 degease Celsius and humidity levels averaging 80%, the working day was made extremely challenging but as hard and long as each day was this didn't take away from the fact that summer 2014 was the best summer of my life. I have already signed up for summer 2015 and cannot wait!

My thanks to the Charitable Trust for supporting my application.

Murray

Manson

TOMATIN & MOY SWRI

The next meeting of the Rural will be on Monday 2nd at 7.30pm in Strathdearn Hall. It will be a Mystery Evening featuring a Pot Pourri Pie. Kathleen Line asks that everyone bring a packet of small Pot Pourri bits and a pair of scissors.

The competition is for a Needlecase made out of felt. The hostesses are Kaye Francis and Susan Mackintosh-Grant. It promises to be a most interesting evening, so come and join us to solve the mystery of the Pot Pourri Pie.

The April meeting will be on Monday 13th (second Monday as the first one is Easter Monday). The subject of the talk has not been confirmed so look out for the posters nearer the time. The competition is for three rock buns and the hostesses are Madge Fraser and Cathie Simpson.

The May meeting, on the 11th, (2nd Monday again) is the AGM, when Business will be followed by members sampling each other's cooking while having a good blether.

We're a friendly group who would love to have your company at our meetings

Carol James (Vice President)



Strathdearn Primary and Nursery News

<http://strathdearnblog.wordpress.com/>

Thank You!

Thank you to all of you who came to our Christmas Show. The children performed brilliantly and they should be very proud of themselves. All the hard work paid off once again!

We raised **£448** from the raffle which has boosted our school funds. Thank you to all those who donated prizes and bought tickets.

Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival

The annual music festival will take place between 5th and 19th March at different venues in the valley.

Many of the children will be performing at the festival in Solo Verse Speaking, Choral Verse, Choir and Scottish Country Dancing.

Lots of practising going on at the moment!

Garden Help

If there is anyone who would like to help with our school garden and polytunnel then please contact the school. Thank you.

A Plea

Our nursery is in great need of a comfy armchair for the storytelling corner.

If you have such a chair that you would like to donate then please give us a call on 01463 226197. Thank you.

Nursery Enrolment – Week beg 9th February 2015

If your child is eligible for nursery for session 2015/16, then please give us a call or come to the school office for the relevant documents.

Funded Early Learning and Childcare is available for 3 and 4 year olds within the eligibility dates below –

‘4 year olds’ - Those born between 1 March 2011 – 29 February 2012 are eligible for a funded place from August 2015.

‘3 year olds’ – Those born

- between 1 March 2012 – 31 August 2012 are eligible for a funded place from August 2015.
- between 1 September 2012 – 31 December 2012 are eligible for a funded place from January 2016.
- between 1 January 2013– 28 February 2013 are eligible for a funded place from April 2016.

It is important that you enrol your child/ren even if they are not going to be starting nursery in August 2015 as this has an impact of our staffing for the year. Further information can be obtained from the school or in our online Nursery Handbook - (<https://strathdearnnurseryhandbook.wordpress.com>)

Chanter Lessons

Some of the children have started learning chanter thanks to our chanter tutor, Mr Chris MacDonald. The chanter players are progressing well and enjoying learning how to play this instrument.

ICT Football Fun

Last month, P1-3 Class enjoyed football coaching from Inverness Caley Thistle. The class worked on their football skills and fitness.

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

January meeting cancelled

Unfortunately we had to cancel our January meeting because of adverse weather conditions.

Connectivity in Strathdearn

Ms. Maskrey from Community Broadband Scotland came along to our November meeting and explained that Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) aims to bring fibre broadband to at least 95% of premises in Scotland by the end of 2017, and Community Broadband Scotland (CBS), which is a Scottish Government project led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, are focusing on ways of providing faster broadband for the 5% least likely to benefit from the DSSB rollout.

Tom nan Clach Community Open Day

The open day was held between 2pm and 7pm on the 9th December in the Old Hall. The information provided echoed the presentations given by Ms. Milligan at our September and October meetings. The proposal is for 13 turbines and the application is expected to be submitted in the summer of 2015.

Law and Order

Our community beats officer is PC Davy Elliot. Contact details can be found on the front page of the newsletter.

In November/December, PC Elliot reported that other than traffic offences, criminality in the area remains very low. It was mentioned that there have been a spate of break ins around the Grantown area, and members of the community should remain vigilant.

Applications to the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust

Following, are some of the Applications that were submitted, and recommended for approval over November and December.

Tomatin Creative Sewing for £700. With the aim to help maintain the local sewing group.

Tomatin Children's Entertainment committee for £800. This is to help fund the annual Christmas Party.

Miss Emily Macrae for £700. This will help towards Emily taking part in The World Challenge which takes place in Northern India this summer.

Miss Holly Williams for £1000. This is also to help towards Holly taking part in The World Challenge this year.

More details of all these applications can be read in the Minutes.

Road Safety

It was reported that water on the road at Soilsean doesn't drain away and there is a blockage in the culvert which is a safety concern. The problem has been reported and is on a maintenance schedule.

Snow Clearing

The winter maintenance budget and the level of service is something that is being considered as potential future saving by the Highland Council. There are no proposals for the current year and they will be running the same routes as last year. Grit bin filling is presently ongoing and the paths around the village would be treated when there are sustained winter conditions, not for intermittent daily frosts and ice conditions.

Mr. Mackay, Snow Clearing Co-ordinator, helped by Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Crofts, and others as required, will continue to clear the roads around the village under the terms of the existing Snow Clearing Scheme agreed by the CC.

Tomatin Swing park

It was reported that the swings in the swing park were in bad repair, some with screws coming loose, which is a health and safety concern. It was also noted that other than the baby swing, there is no apparatus for younger children. Cllr Crawford will contact Community Services regarding these matters.

Financial Report

At the 31st November 2014 the balance in the current account was £2,044.27.

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; Denise Barley Tel 511733

Strathdearn Community Developments Company

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness?" asked John Steinbeck. Hmmm . . . it seems this winter in Strathdearn is preparing us for a very sweet summer indeed. Never mind, SCD has a cure for winter blues. We have been given our very own page on the community website. Now you can draw the curtains, throw another log on the fire, and settle down for an evening browsing the minutes of our past meetings. And if that's not enough winter cheer for you, here below are our latest efforts to make Strathdearn a better place.

Charles Morgan has settled into his role as company Development Officer with gusto. His wide previous experience has prepared him to cope with all the varied tasks we throw at him. He deals with tenders, planning permissions, reports, application forms, contracts, lawyers, and more, all with aplomb. Already it's hard to remember how we managed without him. More slowly, certainly.

In the autumn, the Amenities Project group completed its report. It concluded we should investigate the viability of both a new larger community hall facility next to the old hall and an inn/restaurant facility on a separate site. To this end we are going to commission a feasibility study of our proposals - a professional analysis of all the factors which will determine whether our plans are possible, and if so, how best to implement them. It will include costed proposals, business plans, and architectural drawings for both buildings. A brief summary of what we require from the feasibility study was issued to four companies. Tenders to complete the study are due by 27th January and we anticipate three bids. The winning bid is then expected to complete the feasibility study by June 2015. We will keep you informed of developments and seek the views of the whole community at key stages in the process.

The engineer's report on our proposed path from the A9 bus stop to Juniper Drive has been sent to Highland Council. We are awaiting their comments before submitting a planning application, hopefully within the next 10 days. Meanwhile, tender documents for the Paths project were sent to three contractors and two of them have submitted bids to carry out the project as per the specification. A subgroup of the SCD will review and award the contract to the successful bidder. We expect work to begin in early March 2015 and be completed by the end of May or early June.

Following our advert in the autumn newsletter, ten applications have been received for the post of Care at Home assistant. Highland Home Care will be setting up interviews within the next two weeks on the company's behalf. NHS Highland has assessed the needs of our community and have passed the details to Highland Home Care to determine the number of hours we require.

Nicola Macleod is supervising the handover of the Hall to Strathdearn Community Development Company. She reports that the transfer is in its final stages and lawyers are expected to complete the paperwork within the next month.

As mentioned above, we now have our own page on the Strathdearn community website - click the link in the drop-down menu under "About Strathdearn." As well as the eagerly awaited access to our minutes, you'll find the dates of future meetings, information on becoming a member of the company and news of important developments.

The board of Strathdearn Community Developments Company meets once a month. The meetings are open to members of the public although technically attendees should be Members of the Company so if you're not signed up yet, please contact strathdearn@hotmail.co.uk. There may be a confidential section to each meeting, if needed, to discuss issues such as staffing matters. The next meetings are scheduled for 12th February and 12th March at 7.30pm in Strathdearn Hall.

That's all, folks.

Steve Cormack (Director)

Betty's Recipes.

EASY CHOC AND ORANGE CHEESECAKE (serves 6)

Grease an 8 in loose bottomed cake tin

Base...4 tbsp melted butter

4 oz digestive biscuits, crushed

2tsp cocoa powder

Chocolate layer...

1lb 12 oz marscapone cheese

7 oz icing sugar, sifted

1 tbsp orange juice

Finely grated orange rind

6 oz dark chocolate, melted

2 tbsp brandy

Make base with butter, biscuits and cocoa and press into base of tin

Mix mascarpone with sugar, orange juice and rind

Add melted chocolate and brandy and mix well

Spread over biscuit layer, cover with clingfilm and chill thoroughly.

Turn out onto serving plate and decorate with orange twists.

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST

Financial statement for the period 1 October to 31 December 2014

Income

HMRC Tax repayment	271
Windfarm company - ninth annual payment, including indexation	60,038
Bank Interest and dividends	1,396
Increase in value of investments (see Note)	- 153,518
	<hr/>
<i>Total income</i>	-91,813

Expenditure

Grants:	A & M Maclennan - Grass Cutting	966
	Post Office - Stamps for pensioners	1730
	Strath Primary school	10960
	WRI Xmas lunch	1400
	Hoolie in the Hall	404
	Children's Xmas party	800
	Tomatin Creative Sewing	700
	Strath Hall - Lighting	60
	- Public Toilet Attendant's fees	1070
	Royal British Legion - Memorial wreath	30
	Website maintenance	212
	Strath sports coaching - Sports equipment	251
	Andrew Young - Clay Pigeon shooting support (remainder)	500
	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi to/from Aviemore day centre (Sept, Oct, Nov)	1905
		<hr/>
		20,988
	Community development workers	1696
	Postage, stationary & misc running costs	41
	Hall hire	12
	Glen Kyllachy legal fees	540
	Independent exam fee of accounts	870
	Deutsche Bank Investment fees	1380
	<i>Total outgoings</i>	<hr/>
		25,527

Excess of income over expenditure for the period	<hr/>	-117,340
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Funds at 30 September 2014	<hr/>	479,071
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Funds at 31 December 2014	<hr/> <hr/>	361,731
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Consisting of:

Deposit and current accounts with Royal Bank of Scotland	75,415
Investments managed by Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management	286,305
Income due at 31 December 2014	1,391
	<hr/>
	363,111
Less: Payments due at 31 December 2014	1,380
	<hr/>

Funds at 31 December 2014	<hr/> <hr/>	361,731
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Investments managed by Deutsche Bank are at 30 September 2014 as the valuation for 31 December 2014 is not yet available.

All Grants Paid by the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust

	<i>Balance b/f</i>	<i>All Grants</i>
		317,189.83
2014 January	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for December	700.00
February	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for January	900.00
	Community Council - Website maintenance January 2014	20.00
	Strath Farmers - Sheep clipping course	648.00
	Community Council - Website maintenance February 2014	20.00
March	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for February	800.00
	The CADISPA Trust - Travel expenses January	157.50
	The CADISPA Trust - Travel expenses March	157.50
	Community Council - Website maintenance March 2014	20.00
April	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for March	635.00
	Sports Coaching Programme (1 appliation)	579.60
		563.60
		300.00
		<hr/>
	Strath Art Club	1,443.20
	Comm Council - Printer Lease	1,159.00
	Tomatin United F.C.	820.80
	Highland Hospice on behalf Rosalyn Hallam	1,350.00
	Georgina Bell - Silver Lake Camp trip	583.20
	Murray Manson - Camp Echo Lake trip	877.50
	Strath Farmers Assoc - Vintage Rally 2014	877.50
	Morton Fraser - Legal fees	2,000.00
May	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for April	600.00
June	Ewen Ross - Clay pigeon shooting summer camp	635.00
	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for May	1,000.00
	Andrew Young - Clay Pigeon shooting support	635.00
July	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for June	500.00
	A & M Maclellan Ltd - Grass Cut 1 of 2	635.00
	Strathdearn Community Developments	952.48
	Shaun Morgan - Grass Cut 1 of 3	150,000.00
August	Morton Fraser - Legal fees	250.00
	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for July	1,802.00
September	Shaun Morgan - Grass Cut 2 of 3	635.00
	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for August	250.00
October	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for September	635.00
	A & M Maclellan Ltd - Grass Cut 2 of 2	635.00
	Royal British Legion - Memorial wreath	965.58
November	Community Council - Website maintenance April to September 2014	30.00
	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for October	212.00
	Strath. Hall comm - Sports facility lighting u-18's	635.00
	Strath Primary School	60.50
	Tomatin & Moy Wri _ Christmas Lunch	10,960.00
	Post Office - Stamps to pensioners 1 of 3	1,400.00
	Post Office - Stamps to pensioners 2 of 3	1,017.60
	Rugby balls etc for sports coaching in strathdearn	636.00
	Hoolay in the hall - Christine Gray	250.84
	Hoolay in the hall - Margaret Saunders	154.25
	Andrew Young - Clay Pigeon shooting support (final instalment)	250.00
	Tomatin Children's Entertainment Comm (Xmas party)	500.00
	Tomatin Creative Sewing	800.00
December	Post Office - Stamps to pensioners 3 of 3	700.00
	Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi for November	76.32
	Memorial Fencing - Michael Mackay	635.00
	Strath Hall comm - Attendant fee	427.82
		1,070.00
	Total grants paid to date	<u><u>510,304.42</u></u>

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

All Age Worship:

takes place in the Strathdearn Hall at 10.30 am on the second Sunday of the month. Families are especially welcome. There are usually activities for children during the Service. Donations to the **Highland Foodbank** are also welcomed at the Services in the Hall. Any of the following items will be much appreciated:- Breakfast Cereal / Pasta or Rice / Tinned Potatoes / Oatcakes or Crackers / Tinned Vegetables / Tinned Tomatoes / Tinned Fruit / Long Life Fruit Juice / Tinned Ham or Corned Beef / Tinned Soup / Tinned Tuna or Salmon / Tinned Mince or Stew / UHT Milk / Tinned Custard or Rice / Teabags or Coffee / Sugar. Further information from Sandra 01808 511246.

The Guild:

Meets on the second Wednesday each month between September and April, at 7.30 pm usually in Tomatin Church, although we are having an 'away evening' on our next meeting on 12th February. New Members welcome.

11th February Speaker: Miss Becky Williams, Youth for Christ.

11th Marc: Speaker: Paul Jenkins, SSAFA.

21st March Theme/Topic Day at Crown Church, Inverness.

8th April AGM in Tomatin Church

All welcome.

If you need a lift, or for further information, phone May 01808 511448

Breakfast Club:

Beginning at 9.30am, freshly brewed coffee, bacon rolls and fresh fruit, followed by discussion of a Bible passage and a time of singing and prayer. All welcome to join us on Mondays, 16th and 23rd February; 23rd and 30th March; and 20th and 27th April – and thereafter on the last two Mondays of each month up until and including June. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355.

Afternoon Tea:

Join us at the Strathdearn Hall for a blether over freshly made sandwiches and delicious scones and cakes between 3 and 4 pm on Mondays 9th February; 9th March and 10th April. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355 or Sandra 01808 511246.

Services (all at 10.30 am unless stated otherwise):

February:

8th Strathdearn Hall All Age Worship with Tea after the Service.

15th Tomatin Church

22nd Tomatin Church

March:

1st Dalarossie Church

8th Strathdearn Hall All Age Worship with Tea after the Service.

15th Dalarossie Church

22nd Tomatin Church

29th Tomatin Church

April:

5th Dalarossie Church Easter Sunday Worship/ the Sacrament of Communion

12th Strathdearn Hall All Age Worship with Tea after the Service.

19th Dalarossie Church

26th Tomatin Church.

Other Services:

World Day of Prayer Service: Friday 6th March at 7pm at Daviot Church

Maundy Thursday Informal Communion Service: 2nd April at 7pm/Strathdearn Hall

Good Friday Service: Friday 3rd April at 7pm in Tomatin Church.

All warmly welcome at some or all of our Services and Activities