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STRATHDEARN NEWSLETTER

May 2015

Volume 15 No 2

The SCD Medical Group

The Medical group has been quite active with the following projects:

Last year the flu clinic took place in the village hall with a nurse administering injections to the Inverness doctor's patients and a doctor from Aviemore administering their own patients. Tea and refreshments were provided and it ended up being a lovely social occasion, one which we hope to repeat this year. Anyone who qualifies for an injection can come along to the village hall rather than travel to their own surgery.

Prescriptions are now being delivered direct to your door by the pharmacy at Milton of Leys and this service has greatly benefited lots of people.

We now have four Care at Home workers on board, waiting to start caring for people who may need assistance in their own homes. All four have been on training courses and are looking forward to taking up their duties once the red tape is sorted out.

Liz Campbell

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)

SWI

7.30pm Strathdearn Hall
Contact: Mrs Margaret Robertson 511243

3rd Monday of Month

Gardening Club

7.30pm Strathdearn Hall,
Contact: Alex Don 511729

Tuesdays, until end of May

Zumba

7.30pm, School hall
Contact: Georgie Bell 511214

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 Boniface 511740

Every Thursday

11.30am – 1.30pm Tomatin Shop

POST OFFICE

Every Thursday (term time)

Toddlers' Group

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, School hall
Contact: Sam Bain 0775 352 1423

Monthly, from September

Natural History Club

Some indoor, some outdoor, events.

Days vary, so look out for posters.

Contact: Mr David Boniface 511740

or Mrs Carol James 531220

Strathdearn Hall

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 Old Hall is now closed but the Public Toilets are open until October.

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 SC015320

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

GARDENING CLUB PROGRAMME

18th May	...7pm Weeding/Tidying up around Hall
22nd May	...PLANT SALE 7.30 in Strathdearn Hall
JUNE	...Trip to be arranged
17th August	...Making final arrangements for Flower Show
5th Sept	...FLOWER SHOW
21st Sept	...Talk by Gen. Sir Alistair Irwin on the War Graves
19th Oct	...T.B.A
16th Nov	...Quiz night and simple supper

New members always welcome.
Meetings usually 7.30pm, Strathdearn Hall

Annual Community Litter Pick

We are looking for volunteers to take part in the community litter pick on Saturday 23 May from 10 - 12noon.

We will meet at the Village Hall, all gloves, litter pickers, bags provided. The more the merrier!

TOMATIN AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB Annual PLANT SALE

Highland Liliums Members' Plants

Premium Plants, Best Prices

Friday 22 May 7.30pm

ART IN STRATHDEARN

Our club year got off to a good start in February with a fun and productive workshop with Angus Grant, a multi- talented art teacher from Grantown. Painting without brushes was the challenge and members certainly rose to it with some super sea and landscapes created with sponges, fingers and palette knives.

The next workshop is on Saturday June 6th 10 am-4pm with one of our regular tutors, Esther Armstrong. Watercolour and pastel work will be the theme. Our workshops are open to all members of the community - just join the club (£10) and pay the workshop fee (£5) - contact Betty or myself on the numbers below and book a place.

Weekly meetings are Thursdays 2pm-4pm (spring/summer times) in the Findhorn room of the Hall. Come along and nourish your creative side in a friendly and supportive atmosphere!

Betty Watson 511271

Pam Hardwick 511766

HOSPICE COFFEE EVENING Friday June 26th 7pm-8.30pm Tomatin Village Hall

Please make a note on your calendar! A cheerful evening of tea/coffee and cakes is planned to raise money for our local hospice.

We will have the usual bric a brac table -please bring donations to the hall from 3pm on the day. Also a raffle and Home Baking table- again donations most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you!

Contact for offers of help/bric a brac collection etc -
Pam Hardwick 511766
pamela.hardwick@hotmail.com

Betty's Recipes

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO BAKE (but supervise them!)

OVEN SCONES

Hot oven - about 220 deg
Heat baking tray in oven

12 oz SR flour
½ teasp salt
1 teasp baking powder
1 tblsp sugar
2 oz butter or margarine
1 egg
Milk to mix

Mix dry ingredients

Rub in butter

Add egg and milk to make an elastic dough

Roll out on floured surface to ½ inch

Cut into rounds and place on heated baking tray

Bake for 12 - 15 mins

SCOTCH PANCAKES

Heat girdle on hob

4 oz SR flour

2 tblsp sugar

Good pinch salt

1 egg

Milk to mix

Grease girdle and heat

Mix dry ingreds in bowl

Add egg and milk and mix to dropping consistency

Drop spoonfuls on to hot girdle

Flip over when bubbles start to rise Cool in folded tea towel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I would like to take the opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to the Community Council and the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust, for passing my application for funds and so enabling me to reach my total amount, to participate in the World Challenge to India. I am also very grateful for all the help, support and good wishes from our fantastic community. At present I am half way through my course of injections, my visa has arrived and I am buying the last items of kit for the expedition. The 14th June is getting closer and it's becoming increasingly real, daunting, but also exciting. I look forward to telling you about my experiences in India in a future newsletter.

Emily MacRae

James and Kitty Macpherson had a baby boy, Elliot James, on 4th March, a little brother for Laura and Daniel. All is well with mum and baby.

Lynda Banks, our Primary School Headteacher, won the title of British Champion for her weight and age class in the GB Powerlifting Championships at the beginning of March. She has been selected for the GB team to compete in Helsinki in June at the World Champs.

Stuart Cross, son-in-law of Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Moy has been promoted to a personal chair at Dundee University. He is now Professor of Law. He has also been appointed to the board of OSCR Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and FRSA Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He is also Chair of Fife Cultural Trust and has recently retired from the board of Dundee Contemporary Arts.

Moy Churchyard

As most of you probably know Richard and I have owned Moy church for the last three years and, as a result, pass through the graveyard frequently.

The council do an excellent job of keeping the grass tidy but there are a large number of artificial flowers and plastic pots which blow around and generally collect by the wall outside the church. I would willingly return these to the appropriate graves but have no way of knowing to whom they belong. I propose to collect up these 'strays' and put them in the building in the graveyard for collection and replacement by the relatives/friends who originally placed them. I won't of course disturb any intact flower arrangements.

If anyone would like me to keep an eye on any grave in particular please let me know on 07737 349082. I would suggest that maybe I could take a photo of any flower arrangement in place and will then be able to identify/replace any windblown artificial flowers or pots.

Liz Cooling

LOCAL NEWS

by SMG

BIRTH

Congratulations to James and Kitty Macpherson on the birth of their third child Elliott James on 4th March, a little sister for Laura and Daniel.

FUNERALS

Mrs Campbell, formerly of Free Farm, Tomatin Distillery, died at Raigmore Hospital on 6th April. Mrs Campbell was such a kind and respectful lady and will be sorely missed by all her family and friends, including her son John, who still lives in Tomatin.

We send our sympathies to Lorna Irvine and her family, and Lewis, on the loss of Lorna's father.

Mr Ian Mearns died peacefully on 12th March, with his family around him, and his funeral was private. Ian, his wife Ilse and their family lived in Tomatin for many years and he became part of the 'Strathdearn Newsletter' team when he made up for Vivian's IT shortcomings by taking on the role of compositor during her stint as Editor. Ian also served on the Strathdearn Community Council. Our thoughts are with his family.

The funeral of Mrs Diana Osborne took place at Dalarossie Church on 6th February. It was a sad day for all her family and friends but the sun shone brightly, the grouse were calling across the river, and the Findhorn was gushing by the graveyard. It was such a beautiful Service and must have been a comfort to Diana's family and friends, and to Edward, who had arranged everything so beautifully, and to whom we extend our sympathies. A sad day for all but Diana's memory will live on.

OTHER NEWS

Lovely to see the lambs appearing in Strathdearn after a long winter, and all the birds returning. Let's hope there will be a good breeding season but there seems to be a lot of seagulls and jackdaws around.

A big welcome to all the newcomers who have come to stay in Strathdearn. We hope they will be happy here among us all.

In 'Country Life' a Marmalade Competition was won by a Mrs Emma MacKenzie from Inverness but it was actually Mrs Emma MacKenzie from Glenkyllachy. Well done Emma!

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

A very big Happy Birthday to Ian Fraser, who was 90 years old on 24th April. Our best wishes to Ian, Elsie and all the family.

And Happy Birthday too to Donna Edward on her 30th birthday on 7th May.

TOMATIN DISTILLERY

Staff at Tomatin Distillery are celebrating after winning one Double Gold and four Gold Medals at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition (the United States' largest and most influential spirits contest which is a blind taste test) for their range of single malt Scotch whiskies. It was the 1988 vintage batch release which won the Double Gold Medal. Matured in a combination of Bourbon barrels and Port casks, this edition is limited to just 2,500 bottles per year and was introduced in April last year.

Tomatin Country Store

(Alex Macleod)

I wish to thank Christine for her short time with us in the Tomatin Shop. We wish her the best of luck as she moves on to pastures new and will be missed.

Christine brought many fantastic innovative ideas to the team, one of which was the motivation for us to install our new display refrigeration unit. This opened our door to a fresh range of butchery from Grants of Speyside to compliment the produce supplied by A&I Quality Butchers.

We have recently moved to Swansons for our dairy products and weekly delivery of fresh fruit and vegetables every Tuesday. This has so far proven to be a great success and our range will increase with demand and continued support.

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by the increase in traffic parked around the shop door caused by the building of the 6 houses in the Neacreath Development and appreciate everyone's willingness to co-operate. There will be no interruptions to the shops opening hours throughout the development.

We wish to thank all customers for their continued support.

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

Relocation of the bus stop during Phase 1 building at the Tomatin Country Inn site.

With thanks to Cllr Crawford, Cllr Gowans, Nicola Drummond and George Macleod, The Highland Council have agreed to leave the bus stop where it is.

O2, EE, Vodafone Coverage

Mrs. Roden has written to a few of the mobile phone networks to complain about the regular interruptions in service in the area. Mrs. Roden received a dissatisfying letter from O2 stating that they do not guarantee 100% coverage all over the UK. The service isn't fault free; a range of different geographic, atmospheric or other conditions or circumstances beyond their control can impair it. Coverage can be affected by things like the thickness of the walls of the building you're in. Seeing as we didn't get a satisfactory result, Miss Cornwall wrote to our local MP to complain.

Law and Order

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

In February/March/April, PC Elliot reported that other than traffic offences, criminality in the area remains very low. Members of the public should remain vigilant and make sure buildings and belongings are kept secure. Speeding is still an issue and measures will be put in place to tackle this.

Applications to the Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust

Following, are some of the Applications that were submitted, and recommended for approval over February, March and April.

A request for £14,000 per annum for 2 years from Strathdearn Parent Council. The aim of the project is to provide safe, sustainable and adequate childcare within the Strathdearn catchment area, where presently there are no childcare facilities.

A request for £1000 to enable Danni Cameron to take part in The World Challenge. This includes 2 weeks of trekking in the Himalayas and a week of helping in an orphanage in Rajasthan.

A request for £820.80 from The Community Council. The leasing option of £820.80 was agreed last year. A photocopier was purchased by the Trust some years ago, to enable the Strathdearn Newsletter to be sent out to every household within the community council boundary. Last year it came to the end of its working life, and the Community Council, having explored a number of options, agreed to enter into a lease agreement to replace the photocopier. The leasing option of £820.80 was agreed last year.

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

Road Safety

It has been reported that pot holes on Station Road and also on the old A9 road leading into the village are worsening. It was also reported that the cattle grid at Lynebeg, which needs to be crossed to gain access, is sinking and in a bad state of repair.

Financial Report

At the 31st February 2015 the balance in the current account was £1640.20.

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

Closure of the Old Hall

It has been regretfully decided that the Old Hall will have to close with immediate effect, on Health and Safety grounds, although the Public Toilets section can stay open meantime as that part of the building is not affected. A Health & Safety inspector took a thorough look at the building in mid-April and concluded that the main hall area was unsafe on several counts. This decision was a joint one by the Hall Committee and Strathdearn Community Developments (who will take over the ownership and administration of the whole Hall complex on May 13th).

The building has been in a bad state for many years and demolition was discussed 5 years ago - there had been a community ballot in 2009 in which the overwhelming majority voted to get it demolished and a new one built - but since it was unlikely that a new building would materialise for several years, the Hall Committee have worked hard since 2010 to keep the building watertight and presentable, to extend its use as long as possible. This winter the roof went into terminal decline, breaking up all over and springing leaks which can't be patched. The only way to keep the building open now would be to have a new roof put on at a cost of over £30,000. There are also other safety issues to consider, such as the ageing electrics.

There was a meeting in March of representatives from the SCCT, SCD, Community Council and Hall Committee to discuss this eventuality and how local activities dependent on the Old Hall could be helped to keep going, given the much higher cost of using the hall in the school. It was agreed that any local group/event with more than ten participants which would have needed to use the Old Hall because they couldn't fit into the New Hall rooms could be granted a funding subsidy to offset the extra cost of hiring the school. Organisers of any such group/activity should contact the Hall administrator (Lee-Anne Cornwall) in the first instance to discuss this.

Jimmy Duncan (for Strathdearn Community Developments)

Denise Barley (for the outgoing Hall Committee)

TOMATIN & MOY SWI

The Rural has changed. Since the beginning of March, 'Rural' is no longer included in the name of the National organisation. The Scottish Women's Institutes have updated their name, logo and motto. This redesign will help make the SWI more relevant and appeal to a new and younger audience by creating a greater awareness of who we are and what we do in the present day.

The name change is designed to show that the WI is for all women, not just those in rural communities. The logo is a heart with a small gold lobe and a larger blue one beside the letters SWI. The motto "Women Together" shows that the SWI is a place where women with common interests can meet to share skills and knowledge.

An important aspect of this change is a new website which will enable potential members of all ages to find out about the organisation and their local institute.

A pilot project will see meetings hosted in city locations with the hope that new Institutes will then form. These may have a less formal structure and be more relaxed, but will be guided by current members.

This updated look will not change Tomatin and Moy SWI. We are still the same friendly group who meet once a month from September through the winter to May, on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Strathdearn Hall. We welcome visitors to hear the talk of the evening, have some refreshments and a good blether.

Look out for our posters in August to find out who will be our guest speaker in September and come and join us.

Carol James (Vice President)

Strathdearn Community Developments Company

On Thursday 30th April, Strathdearn Community Developments Co. held its first AGM. Thanks to so many of you for turning up and making it a full house. It was especially pleasing to see some new members enrol on the night. Everyone was issued with a ballot paper for the election of a new director to the board, and votes were cast before the evening began.

Chairman Richard Cooling got proceedings under way with a summary of progress and a report on our financial situation, then each of the directors spent too long reporting on their areas of responsibility. This gave Ed Cameron-Mackintosh time to count the votes and Richard announced that Lewis Macleod was to be our new director. Congratulations to him (my advice: get a bigger email inbox, Lewis) and thanks also to Barbara MacAskill for standing.

Then it was the turn of our guest speaker Helen Houston, legendary in fund-raising circles, to give us an inspiring talk on the subject of "Learning Lessons from the Kyle of Sutherland." Her area differs from Strathdearn in having a dwindling population spread over a larger area, but the lessons about teamwork, determination, and making good contacts apply equally to us. It was an education to hear how much this formidable lady and her team had achieved for their area in a short period of time. A question and answer session brought the evening to a close, and audience and board went home with fresh motivation to work together for the good of our community.

The date of the Hall transfer is set for 13th May 2015 when the much appreciated Hall committee will meet for the last time at their final AGM where they officially hand over the Hall complex to the Development Company. It should be recorded that Denise Barley and chair-person Carol James and her committee have carried out sterling work and support for the activities and running of the Hall and must be congratulated on an outstanding period of service to the community.

Unfortunately the Old Hall building doesn't want to carry on without them: the roof covering started to disintegrate all over this winter. A Health and Safety inspector examined the building and concluded that the main hall area is unsafe and would have to close immediately. It is hoped that smaller groups of ten or less will be able to use the New Hall instead. Larger groups who have to hire the more expensive school hall will be offered a subsidy to make up the difference. One bit of good news is that the very capable Lee-Anne Cornwall has agreed to become hall administrator. If you want to hire either hall, please contact Denise before May 13th, and Lee-Anne thereafter.

The future will become clearer upon completion of the feasibility study which we have commissioned into our plans for a new hall and inn/restaurant. Makar Construction from Inverness has been appointed to carry out the study. Their directors Neil Sutherland and Brian Burns have met with development officer Charles Morgan, lead director James MacPherson, and other board members. After the information gathering stage, they will collate their findings into a report containing their recommendations. Decisions with far-reaching consequences will then have to be made. The board propose to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting some time in the summer to consult with the community over these important decisions.

The Paths Project is making steady progress despite bureaucratic obstacles and it is hoped that spades will meet soil before the end of May. Lead director Duncan Bryden recently held a meeting on site with the appointed contractor Mr Ross McGowan and planners and engineers from the roads department. This should clear the way for approval of our planning application which has been lodged with the planning department for some time.

The Care at Home scheme will be launched in the next few weeks. Liz Campbell and Frank Roden have been working with Highland Homecare to interview applicants. Four local people were chosen as Care Assistants and have now completed training in Moving and Handling and also had the necessary background checks. They will begin as soon as Social Work complete their assessment of the home care requirements for our area.

The board of Strathdearn Community Developments Company meets once a month. The meetings are open to 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 11th May and 11th June at 7.30pm in Strathdearn Hall.

Steve Cormack (Director)

Flower Show 2015

Saturday 5th September

Here are the classes for this year's show.

Time to start preparing now!

Children's Sections (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"

Children's Challenge: To grow a pattern with mustard and cress

Children must state age on tickets.

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)

Photography (mounted - see Notes on Exhibits)

1. Winter.
2. Silhouette
3. Holiday or day out
4. Nature's Gifts
5. Shades of purple and pink
6. 3 Pictures on one sheet of A4 telling a story.

Floral Art

1. Single Colour Arrangement (to be viewed all round)
2. Foliage Arrangement (max 18") (to be viewed from front)
3. A seaside arrangement
4. A miniature arrangement (less than 6")

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

Baking & Produce Section

1. 1 Marble cake
2. 3 Chocolate chip cookies
3. 3 Pancakes
4. 3 sultana scones
5. 3 Oatcakes
6. 3 Plain flapjacks
7. 4 Squares coconut ice
8. 1 Cake decorated with floral theme
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 Plain white loaf (2 lb tin)
17. 6 Eggs

Art Section (any medium)

1. Seascape
2. A pet or pets
3. Local structure
4. A windy day
5. Still life

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.

Full schedules including rules, display requirements etc are available in the Village Store, or from Sheila Don

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 these Services. 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.

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, 18th and 25th May; and 22nd and 29th June (we have a summer break in July and August). 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 the second Monday of each month. Further information from Vivian 01808 511355 or Sandra 01808 511246.

Future Focus:

Our Church has decided to set aside some special times for prayer and reflection regarding future directions and priorities. We are looking at what it means to be church in our community in the 21st Century and through prayerful reflection seeking the Lord's vision for the future. Steve Aisthorpe, the Church of Scotland's Development Officer for the Highlands, is leading a series of workshops to help us in this process. We've had the first of these, but there's still time for interested people to join in. Our other meetings are on Monday 25th May from 7-9pm and Monday 8th June from 7-9pm, both in the Strathdearn Hall; and on Saturday 27th June we are having a Lunch & Vision Day also in the Strathdearn Hall.

Services (all at 10.30 am unless stated otherwise):

May:

- 10th Strathdearn Hall All Age Worship for Christian Aid Week. Tea after the Service.
- 17th Dalarossie Church
- 24th Tomatin Church
- 31st Tomatin Church

June:

- 7th Dalarossie Church
- 14th Strathdearn Hall All Age Worship with Tea after the Service.
- 21st Dalarossie Church
- 28th Tomatin Church. Steve Aisthorpe preaching. Sacrament of Holy Communion.

July:

- 5th Dalarossie Church
- 12th Strathdearn Hall All Age Worship with Tea after the Service.
- 19th Dalarossie Church
- 26th Tomatin Church.

August:

- 2nd Dalarossie Church

All warmly welcome at all our Services and Activities

PROPOSED TOMATIN ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION AND ACCESS ROUTE

In November 2013 Scottish Hydro Electric-Transmission (SHE-T) published a plan to construct a large substation at Garbole, accessed via the public roads through Tomatin village and along the Glen. SHE-T proposed to “upgrade” the Glen road in order to take the large lorries needed to transport the heavy transformers to the substation.

As readers probably know, the plan triggered widespread opposition from the local community and several local estates. In addition several hundred visitors from all over the world who cherish Strathdearn for its scenic grandeur, wildlife and cultural heritage wrote to SHE-T. Some expressed outrage at the plan to industrialise such a wonderful area and others related very poignant reasons why the Glen is so special to their families.

SHE-T updated its plan in the March 2015 Newsletter. The substation site has been relocated from the roadside into the forest above Garbole. This “site 5” was originally discounted by SHE-T but a reduction in the area needed for the substation has apparently now made it a feasible location. Save Strathdearn Campaign proposed a site in a hollow on the moor at the south end of the Farr turbines but we are told this was unacceptable to the landowner, who offered the site in the forest instead.

“Site 5” is a compromise but at least this ugly development will not mar the approach to the old stone bridge at Garbole. **However, SHE-T’s “option 1” for access remains the public road through the village and along the Glen.** “Option 2” is to use the Farr wind farm haul road, therefore avoiding the village and Glen roads.

Using the public roads would mean months of heavy traffic and disruption while the Glen road was being altered, followed by many more months during construction of the substation itself – an unacceptable prospect for many people. However, at the recent drop-in event SHE-T stated that if the majority favoured the wind farm road it would use this route rather than the public roads.

Addressed envelopes and Campaign leaflets with an enclosed update and list of reasons why the public road should NOT be used are available on the noticeboard in the Tomatin Store and the box at Garbole. Alternatively email: sam.oconnor@sse.com or write to: Samantha O’Connor, SSE Corporate Affairs, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Rd. Perth PH1 3AQ

Please note the deadline for submitting your representation is 15 May 2015.

Public pressure succeeded in getting the substation site relocated. Now pressure is needed to ensure the wind farm haul road is used, **not the village and Glen roads. Please help us to achieve this and avoid months of noise, disruption and potential danger on our local roads.**

Finally, for information: A Scottish Government Reporter appointed by ministers has upheld RWE-Innogy’s appeal against the unanimous refusal by Highland Council of its Glen Kyllachy planning application. Planning approval has been signed off by John Swinney MSP. This allows the developer to construct 20 turbines 110m high around the existing Farr turbines, together with associated tracks, holding compounds and borrow pits. There will be a 132kV powerline from the wind farm substation to the new Tomatin substation.

Pat Wells (Save Strathdearn Campaign)

Natural History Club

Programme for Autumn:

Thursday 24th September: Antarctica
Thursday 22nd October: Gardening for wildlife
Thursday 26th November: Cairngorm Experience

Further details of what promise to be most entertaining illustrated talks in the next Newsletter.

Tomatin Distillery

Press release 23rd February 2015

1. We are delighted to announce a new addition to the Tomatin Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky core range – The Cask Strength Edition. Matured in a combination of Bourbon and Oloroso Sherry Casks and bottled at 57.5%, this addition to the range showcases the true Tomatin style in its most natural state.
2. We are delighted to announce a new limited edition Cù Bòcan release – The Virgin Oak Edition – the second release in the trilogy showcasing the influence of each cask type which makes up Cù Bòcan; Sherry, Virgin Oak and Bourbon. Please see attached information for details.

These products have been launched today and will be available from our usual stockists in the coming weeks.

Ladies only

Mobile Aromatherapy massage

Have a relaxing Aromatherapy massage in the comfort of your own home.

De-Stress Neck Back and shoulders (This treatment is concentrated around the neck back and shoulders area to ease away the stresses of everyday life). This massage helps to soothe tight sore muscles.

30 mins Treatment Time: cost £15.00

Full Body Aromatherapy Massage

Promotes relaxation and well being, The hydrating oils help to moisturise the skin, while the massage helps you to escape the stresses of everyday life with an hour of pampering time out.

Treatment time 60 mins: cost £30.00

Additional mileage charge maybe charged for addresses which are not in Tomatin.

Contact 07773 594349

Tranquility Therapies

Going for Gold at San Francisco

Tomatin Distillery has won a record number of Gold Medals at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition for its range of single malt Scotch Whiskies, with one Double Gold and four Gold medals.

The San Francisco World Spirits Competition, the largest, most influential international spirits competition in America, is judged by a prestigious panel of nationally recognized spirits experts. Judging is based on a blind, consensual procedure, ensuring competitive integrity as it remains the nation's most respected spirits competition.

This year's shining star is one of the distillery's latest additions to the range, the 1988 vintage batch release, which scooped a Double Gold medal. Matured in a combination of Bourbon barrels and Port casks, this edition is limited to just 2500 bottles per annum and was introduced to the range in April 2014.

Launched at the same time as the 1988 was the 14 Year Old, also matured using Bourbon and Port casks. This, along with the distillery's 12 and 18 Year Old expressions, all won Gold medals in this year's competition.

Cù Bòcan Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky is a lightly peated single malt also produced at the Tomatin Distillery – production switches to peated malt for just one week per year. The standard edition, using peated whisky matured in Bourbon, Sherry and Virgin Oak casks, also won a Gold medal at this year's awards.

Stephen Bremner, Sales Director, commented on the win: "These latest medals are testament to our commitment to producing a world-class product here at the Tomatin Distillery. Our wood policy is second to none; we produce a high quality spirit which develops into great whisky through maturation in the right casks. The result is a varied range of whiskies providing whisky consumers with a choice of flavours and styles."

STRATHDEARN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST

Financial statement for the period 1 January to 31 March 2015

Income

Bank Interest and dividends	1,482
Increase in value of investments (see Note)	3,675
Grant refund - WRI Xmas lunch	135

<i>Total income</i>	<u>5,292</u>
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Expenditure

Grants:		
Hoolay in the hall		278
Tomatin war memorial fencing repairs		428
Orienteering course for young people		250
Rugby coach training course for young people		100
Snow clearing - N Ferguson		270
World Challenge - E MacRae		1,000
World Challenge - H Williams		1,000
Community Council - annual lease for printer		821
Hall ownership transfer - legal fees		4,250
Website maintenance (semi-annual)		218
Weirs of Aviemore - Taxi to/from Aviemore day centre		1,905
	(Dec, Jan, Feb)	

10,520

Community development worker	1,500
Postage, stationary & misc running costs	19
SCCT annual administrator fee	5,000
Hall hire	16

Deutsche Bank Investment fees	942
<i>Total outgoings</i>	<u>17,997</u>

Excess of income over expenditure for the period	-	<u>12,705</u>
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Funds at 31 December 2014	<u>361,731</u>
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Funds at 31 March 2015	<u><u>349,026</u></u>
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Consisting of:

Deposit and current accounts with Royal Bank of Scotland	59,894
Investments managed by Tilney Investment Management	288,600
Income due at 31 March 2015	1,474
	<u>349,968</u>
Less: Payments due at 31 March 2015	942

Funds at 31 March 2015	<u><u>349,026</u></u>
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Investments managed by Tilney are at 31 December 2014 as the valuation for 30 March 2015 is not yet available.



At Moy, Dalarossie and Tomatin

Moy, Dalarossie and Tomatin Parish Church are looking at different ways of being Church and have started **Messy Church** - a church for people outside church (although established churchgoers are equally welcome!) in which we seek to explore the Bible and encounter Jesus in non-traditional ways through the mediums of crafts, a short worship time and sharing a meal together. It is suitable for adults and children, but children have to be accompanied by an adult. At our last meeting we celebrated the birthday of the Church (Pentecost), made kites, windchimes and paper aeroplanes, ate birthday cake - and had fun!

We meet once a month, on a Sunday afternoon, in the Strathdearn Hall, and the dates of our meetings for the rest of the year are:

Sunday 31st May from 4pm - 6pm

Sunday 28th June from 4pm - 6pm

**Summer break in July and August
although there has been talk of a barbecue or
similar during the holidays.....**

Sunday 27th September from 4pm - 6pm

Sunday 25th October from 4pm - 6pm

Sunday 29th November from 4pm - 6pm

Sunday 20th December from 4pm - 6pm

Further details from Vivian (511355) or Sandra (511246)

Hope to see you there!

PILL POPPING BLUES

Old age comes with many pills
all different shapes and sizes.
A variety of chemicals
ensuring extra summers.

Popping pills from blister packs:
an anxious task for sure.
For you get the odd explosion
when they land upon the floor.

On bended knee with torch to see
I search and search again.
Found at last, the danger's past
for dog or little bairn.

Determined are the chemists
to make me search in vain.
They've changed the colour of some pills
from white to bottle green.

This wicked aggravation
has got me seeing red.
Now all those goddamn wayward pills
are hoovered up instead.

Donald G MacAskill

From: Bruce Street <brewster999@bigpond.com>
To: questions@strathdearn.org
Sent: Monday, 17 November 2014, 2:34
Subject: Freeburn Inn

Hello this is a family history query:

Donald McBean and Elizabeth Kennedy and family sailed on the St George for Sydney in 1838. They were from around Kingussie and Newtonmore. I did find an article about them and many others, meeting and leaving together on St Columba's day 1838 in Kingussie, and walking to Fort William.

In Australia they settled on the Goulburn River at Mitchelltown - Old Crossing Place run.

They had a punt for ferrying people and animals across the Goulburn and a bush inn called the Freeburn Inn - at the junction of Major Creek and Goulburn River.

I guessed it was named after an inn back home, and found the Freeburn Inn at Tomatin, at the junction of the Findhorn River and the Freeburn.

I've read that the McBean Clan was strong around Tomatin and wondered if Donald's family were from there, as I haven't been able to locate any of his ancestors. He was a shepherd, father's name John, and worked around Newtonmore. Can you direct me to someone local who could help with my McBean query.

cheers
Bruce Street

Donald McBean 1801- 1875, father John, mother Elizabeth.
Married Elizabeth Kennedy 1803 - 1877 in 1826.
Her father was John, mother Ann Robertson. (Birth dates and parents from arrival documents).

His native place I assume Badenoch, misspelt.

STEP IT UP HIGHLAND

Spring seemed to be long in coming this year, but that has given the opportunity to observe the changes in the countryside at a slow but very observable rate. More than one of our walks has still been on snow, with one memorable one in the woods at Moy where we were on absolutely pristine white, with trees still laden, and absolute silence but for ourselves. However, since then, we have seen the wood anemones and primroses opening at Slochd and the celandines and coltsfoot near the Findhorn. We still have the pleasure to come this month of an annual spring walk at Slochd where we observe one of the best displays of wild flowers in this area.

We also look out for signs of the spring bird migration, and enjoy the sight and sound of the willow warbler and the increased bird song from the blackbirds and robins, but on the day we went looking for the ospreys they had still not returned.

I spoke to someone in the village last week who was thinking of joining us on our walks, but was worried whether her pace would be fast enough. As I told her, and wish to stress here, the Step it Up walking group is not a long distance rambling group. The scheme was set up to encourage people, who, for whatever reason, are perhaps not taking enough exercise, to get out and enjoy a walk in the fresh air with like-minded people, at a pace which suits you. We organise two paces of walk: one a little faster for those who are able, (but this is by no means a fast walk), and one which can be quite slow and short to suit some of our friends. There is no sense whatsoever of competition: we are just there to add to our sense of well-being.

This is also increased by our after-walk blether over tea and cakes at Strathdearn Hall. With regard to this may I send a sincere thank you to the Wednesday Coffee Morning hostesses, who so kindly leave us some of their delicious goodies to accompany our tea. We really do appreciate it.

As the days are now so much longer we have reverted to our summer walking time of 2.00pm on Wednesday afternoon, so why not give us a try?

If you are interested, just come along to the hall for 2.00pm on a Wednesday, or contact Kathy or David on 01808 511740 or Carol on 531220.

Tomatin Firewood

Phone James: 07527 883 606, Email: tomatinfirewood@gmail.com, Website: www.tomatinfirewood.co.uk

Free local delivery on any order over £30 (Strathdearn only, excluding coal)

Please note due to spinal fusion operation on 27 March I will only be able to operate machinery or carry out firewood deliveries. Briquettes and pellets customers will have to offload deliveries until I am fully fit again.

Firewood

Softwood loads (processor cuts to 20, 25, 30, 33, 40 & 50cm)

Cut to 20cm - 1m³ - £70, 2m³ - £130, 3m³ - £170

Cut to 25cm - 1m³ - £60, 2m³ for £100, 3m³ for £135, 4m³ for £170

Hardwood - see website for more details. Will be processing beech, oak, sycamore and elm over summer.

BSL Biomass supplier:

50cm logs for log gasification boilers- 4.5m³ load - £160

Wood Pellets (Verdo) - £30 for 10 packs, **£270** for 96 packs (£520 for 2 pallet loads)

Wood Briquettes: (Verdo- Moisture content under 10%, slow burning, ideal for stoves and open fires)

£5 per 10kg pack, £35 for 10 packs, **£280** for 96 packs (pallet load)

Peat: £7 per bag or 5 for £30

Kindling: £7.50 large net sack, 6 for £40

Coal: House Coal (25kg bag) -£8.50 **Superglo** (Smokeless) (25kg bag) - £10.50

Sawdust: £10 per cubic meter (collection only, please give order in advance)

Please note these prices are for deliveries within Strathdearn only and are subject to availability/ change.

Summer Services - The complete firewood processing solution

Processing: Can process diameters of up to 35cm using a Posch 360 processor and log deck (see website for video). Timber lengths to be processed will have to be at least 1.5m in length. Initially processing will be carried out at base.

Timber forwarding: Valtra N91 and 11Tonne timber trailer with a 1.5T Botex timber grab will be available initially for forwarding timber from roadside to other locations in Tomatin. Trailer can be used to forward timber to firewood processor and for chipping operations.

Splitting large diameter timber lengths: Lasco splitting cone on 6T excavator can break up larger diameter timber into smaller diameters which can then be processed

(For further information and pricing please call to discuss or arrange a visit)