Strathdearn Newsletter

May, 2000
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Stop Press - The Cuckoo was heard in Moy on Monday, 1st May, 2000 – It is definitely SPRING

Letters, Articles, Notices etc for the next issue to:

The Editor
Strathdearn Newsletter
Invermoy Bungalow
MOY
Tel. No. 01808 511303

Local Models – Catwalk Crusade Raises £429.67

They did it in style - one by one to the cheers of the audience the Super Models were out in force. We were entertained in a manner leaving Paris far behind on what could be described as one of the first nights of Spring. The local models, they could have been named Campbell, were strutting there stuff showing the very latest Spring and Summer clothing supplied by C. & A.'s of Eastgate, Inverness.

This was all in aid of the New Oncology Day Care Centre at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness and the unbelievable sum of £424.67 was raised, at one time it sounded as if it could have been the roof. There is no doubt when it comes to supporting charity Strathdearn does it in great style. Behind the scenes on Friday was a hive of activity, excitement and (you probably know the feeling) "what am I doing here". I am delighted to report first night nerves of those involved did not show in any way on the Catwalk. They were all Supermodels indeed.

On Thursday night there was a similar event in Farr, it too was a great success. There was much hilarity and teasing when on walked a Duncan Shearer lookalike in the form of Ross Tokely, of Inverness Caledonian Thistle, followed by John Docherty, their Second Team Manager. The huge sum of £356.30 was raised and a cheque for £785.97 has been presented to MacMillan Cancer Relief

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The W.R.I. Pensioners Outing

The W.R.I. will not be having an outing for the local pensioners this year instead there will be an afternoon tea on Saturday 20th May, 2000 in the Findhorn Room of the Strathdearn Hall from 3 to 5.00p.m. to which all are invited.

R.S.V.P. Margaret Leitch Tel No. 511405 by 13th May, 2000

What Excitement, twins born in the Glen.

Sandy and Sophie are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Katie and Alexander on 7th February. They weighed in at 5lb. 12oz. and 5lb. respectively and to date have doubled in weight. We wish them the very best of health in the future.

Spring means Lambs, Cuckoos & Swallows



The debate about the cuckoo has been going on for weeks now, did you see her or not. However, here are the lambs looking great at Croft Dhu and although April has been one of the wettest for many a year they're looking great. The first swallow was spotted today 30th April but not a squeak from that bird the cuckoo.

Country Corner

Tip for Today

Wendy Duff

Collect all your left-over fat from cooking, when there is enough, mix in old stale brown bread brokenup, some oatmeal, any left over biscuit crumbs, a few currants or some coconut shredded and mix into a putty like consistency. Place in old microwave container and pierce the top. Insert an old elastic band and hang from the tree. The birds will love it!

Garden Clippings

Chris West

Today I have spent the entire day in the garden, the weather has been absolutely marvellous, brilliant Sunshine. When the sun shines it makes you feel like getting outside and getting down to grass roots.

When we moved house last year we inherited four half barrels and a couple of stone sinks, these had grown rather crowded and badly needed clearing out and replanting. One project that I tackled was to turn one of the sinks into an alpine trough. This was down by cleaning out the sink completely; over the drainage hole I placed a piece of slate and then covered the bottom with gravel for free draining. A mixture of gritty sand and soil based compost was used to almost fill the sink, a selection of alpine plants were then arranged to look natural with a few pieces of stone strategically placed. Stones add contours, trap condensation in hot weather and help keep the roots cool. When all the plants and stones were in place they were then given a generous mulch of gravel to cover the whole area and then the whole trough was given a good watering. As these

Plants get established they will spread and spill over the sides. Ideal plants to use for Alpine planting are:- Saxifrages, Alpine Primulas, Aubretia, Sempervivum and Sedums.

--ooOoo--

Recipe

Betty Watson

Rainbow Trout Annamoe

Ingredients

1-2tbs. Extra Virgin Olive Oil
4 Bay Leaves
4 Trout, cleaned, heads removed etc.
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
4 Sprigs Fennel
Juice of 2 Oranges
175ml Dry White Wine

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to 400deg. F., 200deg.C. or Gas Mark 6.
2. Brush a dish with olive oil. Place bay leaves in dish and set fish on top, brushing each one with olive oil. Dust generously with black pepper and tuck sprigs of fennel around fish.
3. Mix orange juice and wine and pour into dish. Cover with oiled foil and bake for 15 to 20 minutes removing foil for the last 5 minutes and basting fish with the liquid in dish.
4. Serve trout from dish accompanied by a green salad and new potatoes.

Alternatively if you wish to serve fish cold, allow them to cool in the covered dish. Drain well and serve with salad mayonnaise lightly flavoured with grated orange zest and finely chopped fennel. **Serves 4**

Melton Mess

1 lb. Strawberries
3tbsp. Orange Juice or Liqueur
1/2pt Double Cream
2oz Meringue shells, roughly crushed

Chop the strawberries and mix with the orange juice or liqueur. Whip the cream until holding its shape. Fold in the strawberries, their juice and meringue. Spoon into dessert dishes and serve decorated with strawberries and mint leaves. **Serves 4**

Church of Scotland Intimations

Retiral of Organist

We are sorry to be losing Mrs. Moira Watt, who has played the organ for us for the last eight and a half years, but pleased that she is to continue playing one Sunday each month. We are also glad to have obtained the services of Mr. Kenny Davidson from Inverness who is taking over from Mrs. Watt.

Family Services

We are pleased that Sunday Club has been running successfully in the Strathdearn Hall during school term time since the end of October. We have decided to join them for two Family Services before the end of term. These special services will take place in the Findhorn Room of the Strathdearn Hall on Sunday 14th May and on Sunday 11th June, both at 10.30am. Please note there be no services in Tomatin Church on these dates. All very warmly welcome.

Midweek at Moy

We will be running a fourth series of Midweek at Moy starting on 7th June in Moy Church at 7.30pm. The programme will run every Wednesday evening until the end of August and will include Healing Services, Praise and Prayer Evenings, Bible Studies and Discussion Topic Evenings. All very warmly welcome.

Church Services

Dalarossie Church	First and Third Sunday of Month
Tomatin Church	Second and Fifth Sunday of Month
Moy Church	Forth Sunday of Month

Unfortunately the Minister has been taken ill and is recovering in Raigmore Hospital. We hope she will be back with us soon. In the meantime, the Presbytery has appointed Rev. Bart Buell as Interim Moderator. If you need the services of a Minister over the summer, please phone Vivian Roden on 01808 511355 who will liaise with the Presbytery.

The Story of the Kessock Bridge

On 23rd March Alasdair Wallace of Tomatin gave an illustrated talk on The Building of Kessock Bridge, the first bridge in Scotland to be designed to resist earthquakes. The Bridge is 1052m long being anchored longitudinally at the south main pier. When it wakes on a summer morning it can expand at each end as much as 300mm. Special joints allow this freedom and are designed to resist the impact of 11.25t wheel loads and vehicles weighing up to 180tonnes.
The main piers can each resist the lateral wind force of 500t but cannot hold the deck longitudinally against earthquake forces which may amount to 0.1g i.e. About 1000tonnes for a 10,000t bridge. So two oil filled hydraulic buffers are fitted in the north abutment which hold the bridge against rapid seismic movement. An orifice within the 'pistons' allows the oil to flow through while the bridge expands and contracts at up to 75mm per hour.

It was steady winds from the Moray Firth which proved most troublesome as predicted in tunnel tests carried out by Glasgow University. To control bridge oscillation eight spring dampers are installed under the bridge near the middle of the main span. Kessock Bridge is very similar to Rees Bridge across the Rhine close to where the allies first crossed the Rhine in the Second World War. Dr. Homberg designed Rees Bridge in 1965.

Crouch & Hogg's senior engineer on Kessock Bridge was David Wright, a first class honours graduate from Aberdeen University and a particularly able engineer who worked for Alasdair Wallace for 7 Years. Towards the end of 1980 David was diagnosed as having cancer with a 50/50 chance of survival. He fought bravely supported by his wife Stephany. Between sessions of chemotherapy he returned to work in the office but, tragically, he died, aged 34 in June a year or so before the bridge opened.

On the 6th August, 1982, the wettest day in Inverness for 9 years, the Queen Mother opened the bridge. Some weeks later Steph. Unveiled one of the plaques on the bridge towers which had been awarded by the Saltire Society.

A lively discussion ensued with wide ranging questions. Over £80 was collected at this talk appropriately in aid of the New Day Case Oncology Unit to be established at Raigmore. A vote of thanks was given by Helen Maclennan.

School Snippets from Moy

Moy Primary – Alex MacQueen

Moy Primary School was opened in 1895 and replaced the Free Church School at Tullochclury. There were 14 pupils in the school when it first opened but by the end of the year 59 had been enrolled. In those days chirdren had to take a 'piece' to school for lunch. A belt was used in school and if you giggled you'd get it. If you were lucky you got sent to the corner.

Now there are 9 pupils and although the school is 104 years old they still get taught in the same classroom.

Our School – Rhea Newson P7

All 9 of us enjoy going to Moy School. We enjoy going on trips and doing work in the classroom. We all have a timetable to follow and know we've got to work hard. One of the favourite things we do in school is drama, making up plays and doing our concerts. We also love doing science but don't do as much as we'd like! It's fun to be at school and to play with all our friends.

Projects – John Beal P6

Last term we did a project about home life in the Second World War. It was really interesting to find out how people lived, about rationing, the blackout, the dig for victory campaign and evacuees. It was even more interesting when we wrote to our Grandparents and asked what life was like for them during the war. We got loads of information.

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Local Events

First Monday of Month at 7.30pm
Findhorn Rm, Strathdearn Hall
WRI
For more information call 01808 511400

Third Monday of Month at 7.00pm
Findhorn Rm, Strathdearn Hall
Gardening Club
No Meeting in Jan. For more information call 01808 511251

Every Sunday at 10.45am
Findhorn Rm, Strathdearn Hall
Sunday Club
For more information call 01808 511237

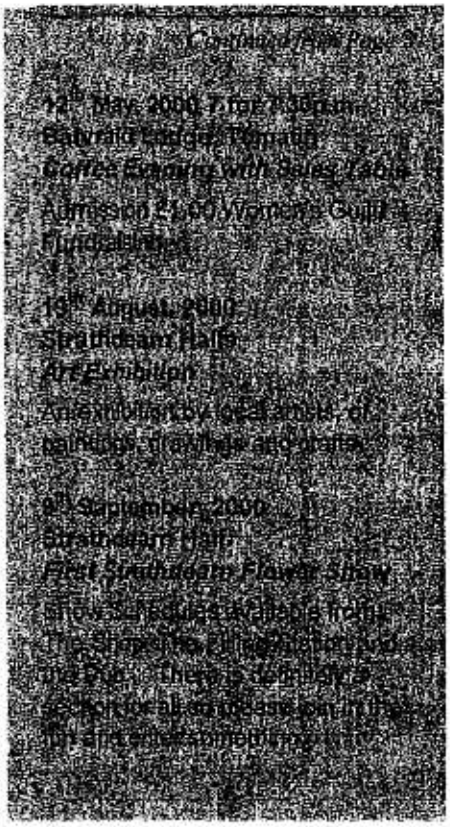
Every Tuesday at 10.00am
Findhorn Rm, Strathdearn Hall
Playgroup
For more information call 01808 511323

Every Friday at 7.00pm
Sports Hall, Strathdearn Hall
Line Dancing
For more information call 01808 511374

Every Friday at 9.00am
Sports Hall, Strathdearn Hall
Keep Fit
For more information call 01808 511292

Every Wednesday at 1.00pm
Findhorn Rm, Strathdearn Hall
Art Class
For more information call 01808 511441 or 511274

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School Snippets from Moy:

School Trips – Douglas Armit P5

Last November we went to Edinburgh to see lots of things on our project about Rain Forests. We went to the Museum, of Scotland to see the rain forest exhibition. There were two ladies there telling us about the rain forest itself. We got to taste some food, play musical instruments and some of us touched the hissing cockroaches! We looked at rain forest life from the point of view of the insects, the rainforest people and the tourists. We had time to look around more of the museum and then we went to the Museum of Childhood where we saw lots of old toys and games. Then we had to go to the station and on the way back the train was delayed and we got home late.

--ooOoo--

Findhorn Salmon Fishing, Tomatin Area

Allan J. Bell

With this winter being a lean one, fishing was expected to start in late April. As you all know the last two weeks have been quite severe with snow and rain

Over the last 3 days, with a falling water and rising temperature this has resulted in 2 Salmon being lost on Saturday 29th April in the village area.

Hopes are high for a sizeable run, and good fishing for the following weeks, weather permitting.

--ooOoo--

News from Raigbeg School

Yes, Summer is finally here! Or at least at the time of writing!
The six pupils in Primary Seven have started their activities leading up to moving to Millburn School. On Wednesday 3rd May, we travelled to the Barracks in Inverness for the Safe Highland event. All the emergency services had set up displays and events. Later the same day, all the P7s going to Millburn met for a disco at the school.
Comments:

Graham
'I liked the construction site. We learned not to go into a building site to play there, If you see anyone else doing it, you should phone the company. I liked the disco and I met a girl and went out with her'

Gordon
'I thought the best thing was the train set-up. We had to imagine going for a ball on the track. It would be very hard to get a ball back in two seconds because the train sounds its horn two seconds before it hits you. I never knew that a train was so heavy and goes so fast. I know now that I shouldn't go on a train track. I also thought the event was quite fun and I would like to do it again.'

Matthew
'On the farm you mustn't make hideouts in holes because they might fall in. You should not be playing with matches or with candles. If you are under age 13, you are not allowed on a tractor.'

Ross
'I had a great time at the Safe Highlanders. My favourite stall was about Water Safety. The officer told us how to help someone when they are drowning. I thought the disco was brill. I met a girl and went out with her.

Nicholas
'The man from the daily Press came and told us he wanted to take our photo and our name and address. The Policeman said that you could be fooled and that you had to check their ID. The pressman's ID photo was for somebody else and the ID was out of date so we should not even have spoken to him. The Policeman had the photographer come back to us and he was a policeman too.'

Jordan
On Wednesday, we went to the Safe Highlanders. I liked the Lift of Life event. You had to get their head and lift the chin so that the airway was clear and they could breathe.

The disco was great. It was 20p to get in. My friends Graham and Ross were there and we met out friend Nick and we danced. ----

The P7s will also be going to a Basketball tournament at Millburn before their full day visit to the school. This will give them another chance to meet the pupils who may be in their S1 class.
The School will be holding a Dress in Red day. On Friday, 12th May as fundraiser for the British Red Cross. We will also be learning basic First Aid
For the end of session Concert, P4-7 are writing and performing a comic play 'Prince Cinders', a modern version of Cinderella. Primary 1-3 will be performing music of the Rainforest. – Watch out for posters!

--ooOoo--

Sudden Spring

Spring is sudden: it is her quality
However carefully we watch for her,
However long delayed
The green in the winter'd hedge
The almond blossom
The piercing daffodil,
Like a lovely woman late for her appointment
She's suddenly here, taking us unawares,
So beautifully annihilating expectation
That we applaud her punctual arrival.

George makes it number TWO

George Reid has completed his second London Marathon in the incredible time of 4 hours 10 minutes. This time seems very fast, from the point of view of one who could not even think of running 26 miles, but George did in fact beat that time last year, only by minutes mind you, It truly is a great feat.



When asked if he planned to compete in another marathon the reply was "I'm off to Dublin in October and hopefully New York in November". We'll get a more detailed up-date nearer the time.

Next time you see George out training give him a wave and a cheer he deserves them. **CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE**

Strathdearn Community Council News

At their May meeting the Community Council agreed not to proceed with the project to light up the viaduct, preferring instead to look into the possibility of lighting up the Strathdearn Was Memorial as well as considering ways of making the approach to Tomatin leaving the A9 and passing the Little Chef, more attractive.

Councillor Matheson is looking into the delay in installing the new heating systems in the council houses – this will commence in the Autumn 2000.

£2,000 has been granted from Councillor Matheson's Discretionary Funds to re-do the tennis court at the Strathdearn Hall, and landscape round the hall.

We hope that a seat will soon be in place on the landscaped corner opposite the shop in Tomatin – we are in touch with Inverness Prison who apparently do a good trade in wooden seats.

The Highland Council is involved in a consultation programme about the future management of council housing across the Highlands and are looking at four options:

A: The council continuing as landlord – but without enough money to maintain and improve council homes.

B: The Council making a case to the Scottish Executive for more money to pay for council house improvements.

C: The council keeping a small number of homes, and transferring the rest to another housing organisation.

D: The transfer of all council homes to a housing organisation or Registered Social Landlords.

There will be a public meeting to discuss these options at which the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Council's Housing Committee will be present, at the Town House, Inverness, on 23rd May at 7.30p.m. It was not possible to get the Road Show Bus to Stop in Tomatin, but Councillor Matheson has managed to arrange for an additional meeting to be held in the Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin on Monday 5th June at 7.30p.m.

--ooOoo--

The Computers are Coming

The new computers are arriving very soon so we can start the computing class as soon as you decide when, ie Day & Time and how long you would like the class to last. The first session will be for beginners and will start as basic as we can.

Please get in touch with me to register your interest stating your preference for day and time.

A meeting will be arranged when everything is installed to finalize details.

Helen MacLennan, Invermoy Bungalow, Moy IV13 7YE

Tel. No. 01808 511303

Have you seen the N.Z.

Whilst driving North on the A9 past Moy have a look at Meall Mor. There directly in front of you are the letters NZ. What does it mean? When did it appear? How was it done and who put it there?
Can you solve the puzzle? If you have the answers write to:

Strathdearn Newsletter.

COMPETITION

Name the Newsletter:

So far we've had two suggestions
Strathdearn Herald and Strathdearn Echo.
Suggestions by 10th June to
Strathdearn Newsletter

Obituaries:

Mrs. Ross

An appreciation of the late Mrs. Mary Ross B.E.M. by one who knew her and eld her in high esteem both as friend nd Postmistress might not be out of lace, such was her devotion to the nterests of Strathdearn and beyond.

Born 92 years ago, her first marriage to Mr. MacKay was sadly terminated on is death, leaving a son, David, aged nly 3 years to whom she was (in his wn words) "Father and Mother to ne". In due course she remarried, to a Mr. Ross but again she was sadly 'widowed'.

However, she was Sub-Postmistress of Edderton during the war years and she moved to Tomatin P.O. in 1947 in place of another Mrs. Annie Ross – She ably filled this position for 40 years being awarded a thoroughly well deserved British Empire Medal for her work to the community. As Postmistress she was indeed firm but kindly, attending punctiliously to her duties – (woe betide any who infringed Post Office rules!!) yet she would go far beyond the calls of duty as this example shows;

Shortly after Mrs. Ross came to Tomatin a telegram came one November afternoon. "Willie the Post" was away home; the telegram bore good news for a family in the area who had a relative badly ill in Hospital. Mrs. Ross knew that they were extremely worried and would be glad to get the good news. So after work she locked up and then went up the road for 3 miles in the dark on the old (Post Office?) bike to deliver the telegram. The family were overjoyed with the news and that she would bother to set out so late with the telegram – and they never forgot.

Although life generally was tougher in those days, money scarce and transport restricted, yet Mrs. Ross on her half days off would go to Inverness to comfort the sick and suffering from Strathdearn, laden with gifts, she would visit the R.N.I. and Raigmore especially. On at least two occasions I was among the lucky ones – how she managed I do not know.

One of her many services to the community was being Hon. Sec. Of the W.R.I. I remember one past President refusing to take on another term of office UNLESS Mrs. Ross remained Hon. Sec. Perhaps her character stemmed from her Christian outlook – for she was a keen Member of the Free Kirk, yet she attended Inter-denominational Days of World Prayer, and Missionary Functions. On Remembrance Day she could be seen determinedly trudging up to the War Memorial. Like those whose names are inscribed there, "WE WILL INDEED REMEMBER HER".

By Capt. P.H. MacKintosh Grant

--ooOoo--

leta Scarlett, 1927 - 2000

leta Humphrey Scarlett was born in Kingussie, the only daughter of Duncan MacBean, ho was twice a provost of Kingussie, and Barbara MacBean. She was educated at ingussie Secondary School and Edinburgh University and after graduating with an MA n English Literature, taught in various schools before retiring in 1975. Soon after, she nd her husband, highly respected author, weaver and authority on tartan Jamie Scarlett, noved north and settled happily at Milton of Moy, becoming over time stalwart members f the Strathdearn community. Meta's book published in 1988 'In The Glens Where I Vas Young', concerning her early life in Badenoch and containing much historical and necdotal detail on the whole area, has become a minor classic. She was also an artist, oet and photographer of no little ability, and her small, limited edition book 'A Space Of lowers' is much treasured by all who own a copy. During her five-year period as local rganiser for Highland Hospice fund-raising in Strathdearn, her mince pie fairs were articularly successful and became a key winter date for the whole community. The nset of arthritis in recent years had begun to restrict her mobility more and more, and a nild stroke early in 2000 was a sad further setback to her state of health. She died eacefully and without pain on Good Friday and will be very much missed by Jamie and y friends and family and all who knew her.

Death Notice

Mrs. Marjory MacDonald

Mrs. MacDonald passed away peacefully on Friday night the 5th May at Castle Gardens Nursing Home, Invergordon.

Late of The Old Manse, Moy and Muir of Ord, she was in her 93rd year and was predeceased by her husband Hugh some years ago.

Funeral Service on Wednesday 10th May at 12.30p.m. in John Fraser & Sons, Funeral Parlor, Chapel Street, Inverness, thereafter to Moy Cemetery.
All Friends respectfully invited.

HELP

Articles, Intimations, Letters, Notices etc. would be greatly appreciated in order to make your Newsletter as varied and interesting as possible. If necessary anonymity will be respected for stories and poems should you feel the necessity.

Thank you in anticipation