

Head settles in at new look Tomnacross School



Mrs 'Jojo' Offord., who comes to Tomnacross and Teanassie with a wealth of experience

Although Tomnacross School now shares its headteacher with Teanassie Primary, new Headteacher, Mrs Josephine (Jojo) Offord, firmly believes the schools can work together without losing their individual identities. She sees lots of similarities between Tomnacross and Teanassie and opportunities for joint initiatives and her vision is that they will work together in activities such as staff training and in some sport activities: Tomnacross and Teanassie children recently participated at a primary schools rugby tournament where Tomnacross won and Teanassie was awarded the fair play trophy. But there is no question of the schools becoming one unit and each will continue to have its own Parent Council.

Mrs Offord, originally from Irvine in Ayrshire, came to Tomnacross from Carrbridge where she was headteacher for 10 years. Before that she had worked in Argyll, at Dalavich for six years and at Barcaldine for five years. Although she has worked before as a headteacher, this is her first experience of a combined school arrangement.

Mrs Offord is enthusiastic about the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), currently being developed in Scottish schools, both primary and secondary. She believes it is adaptable to children's different needs and enables each child to fulfil his or her potential whether academic or in other kinds of learning. CfE is well underway in both Tomnacross

and Teanassie with the focus being on Literacy, Numeracy, and HWB (Health and Wellbeing). HWB is a wide curriculum area which includes sport, PE, personal development and life skills. Since it is now seven years since Tomnacross last had an HMI inspection Mrs Offord expects the school to be visited in the quite near future.

Tomnacross's main secondary school liaison continues to be with Charleston Academy in Inverness, with links to other secondaries if children are to go there. In fact, Tomnacross has had both Charleston and Glen Urquhart pupils on work experience placements.

Mrs Offord supports strong links between schools and believes it is now accepted that secondary schools can learn from the experience of primaries, and that the primary schools in turn can learn from the nursery sector. She feels Curriculum for Excellence has helped inter school co-operation and Tomnacross and Teanassie are members of the liaison group of Aird and West Inverness Schools (with Kinmylies, Muirtown, Kirkhill, Beauly and Dochgarroch).

Mrs Offord considers herself fortunate in having a strong and able staff in both schools and plans to contribute to the stability she feels the schools need. Both schools also have supportive and enthusiastic Parent Councils which liaise with each other (each sends a representative to the other's meetings) but are quite independent. The Parent Teacher Associations are also enthusiastic and have helped to fund the Highland Literacy Project. And the new head considers herself fortunate to have taken over at Tomnacross after its long awaited refurbishment has been completed.

Mrs Offord believes the curriculum

will always need to change and develop and that children are being taught now for a technological future very different from the present. She comments on the estimate that 80% of the jobs that will be available to today's Primary One pupils have not yet been invented! At a more immediate level, French is being taught in the school and there is a prospect that basic Gaelic can be introduced by a staff member keen to use her Gaelic, and Mrs Offord is a firm believer in using and developing the existing skills of staff.

The use of existing strengths and skills also applies to Tomnacross's traditional sport of shinty. While children ought to be introduced to a wide variety of sports, like rugby, football, badminton and so on, and both schools have the services of an active sports co-ordinator, Mrs Offord recognises the strength of shinty at Tomnacross and believes it should continue to be encouraged.

Mrs Offord's husband is an engineering director with Gaelforce (designing and building fish farm barges) and the couple, who have four grown up children, live at Easter Clunes.

(See also School Council/PTA report)



Above: inside the spacious new hall, gymnasium, complete with wall bars



Left: the state of the art school kitchen

Tomnacross Parent Council & Parent Teacher Association

David Garvie, Chairman of Tomnacross Parent Council, reports

A new school year, a new school hall, a new head teacher Tomnacross has seen a number of changes this year, all of which are settling down nicely.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs JoJo Offord to the school. She is profiled in a separate section of the newsletter so I will not detract further from that.

As anticipated, the new school hall is proving to be a brilliant asset for the school in so many ways. At lunchtimes it accommodates all the school at once, making for a smoother lunchtime transition. It provides a much larger space for indoor sports activities and has now been fully kitted out as a school gym hall with a modern set of wall-bars and more gym equipment. The main entrance to the school is now via the new building which also houses two offices for the head teacher and school secretary, Mrs Linda Bell. Part of this project also included a hard surface outdoor play area and this is a great extra addition to the playground, providing a much needed surface to play on when the weather is wet. This area also will provide a hard playground for the nursery to use ride-on toys.

There will be a formal opening of the new school hall early in the New Year – this will include entertainment provided by the children and some light refreshments. This event will be open to the whole community and we welcome anyone who would like to see the new hall to come along.

Paul Oparka, Principal Teacher, has temporarily left us to go on a secondment as Curriculum for Excellence Development Officer for the Highlands. We wish him every success in this. Whilst Paul is away Gavin Cormack has joined us as our Principal Teacher and P2/3/4 teacher. Gavin joins us from Teanassie and we welcome him to Tomnacross.

One of the activities that Mrs Kerrie Laird organised for her P5/6 class in November was a World War II Museum Day and drama production which was featured in the Inverness Courier. This allowed the children to acknowledge Remembrance Day and display their learning to their parents. Here's how one of the pupils described it:

“The children made six World War II displays and dressed up in 1940s clothes. The displays included Propaganda, the Blitz, Rationing, Anne Frank, Evacuation and the Singing Ship. Each showed information the children had researched, their art work, pictures and artefacts. Articles were borrowed from Inverness Museum including evacuee suitcases, clothes and toys. Mrs Bell, the school auxiliary, also provided photographs and information for the display on the Singing Ship. After parents and carers had looked round the displays, the class put on a drama play about Anne Frank. The money raised went to the Earl Haig Fund.”

The nursery is also working hard this session developing ways of giving parents even more information about their children's learning.

Finally, did you know that you could help Tomnacross School by doing your shopping online?! If you buy online at www.buy.at/tomnacrossprimary up to 12% of the price of your purchase goes to the school (at no extra cost to you). This website links to many of the major online retailers such as Amazon, M&S, HMV, Early Learning Centre, and over 150 more. All you have to do is access your favourite retailer's web site via this link and help the school by shopping!

As a reminder, PTA/Parent Council meetings are open to all parents and we are always keen for new faces! We meet roughly once a term and the next meeting is on Thursday 21 January in the school.

Craft Class

Held in village hall every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, from September through to the end of May.

Anyone interested come along and bring a cup for tea, and see what we get up to.

Nobody is expert, we all help each other, be it cross stitch, patchwork etc, You may learn something new.

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**Attention all Drivers
Twenty's plenty**

As you are driving through the village and particularly past the school, please can you check your speed regularly? It's very easy to drive fast along the country roads round the school while forgetting that there are small children using the same roads to walk to school. All children will be very grateful if you could respect the 20 mph limits that are in existence in the morning and afternoon when they are making their way to and from school.

Aigas Community Forest

Andrew Leaver
Secretary, Aigas Community Forest



Throughout the summer Aigas Community Forest Steering Committee worked to put together an application to the National Forest Land Scheme for approval to purchase Aigas Forest and put it into community ownership. A ballot of the local community was held in two parts in late-August and mid-October. There was a 65% turn-out with 93% voting in favour of community acquisition. With this clear mandate the Steering Committee submitted the NFLS application.

Since then the application has been available for public scrutiny on the NFLS website and the Committee have had a site visit from NFLS Panel member Diana Gilbert. This meeting took the form of a drive / walk through the forest allowing Diana to see for herself what she and fellow panel members will be discussing. There was some gentle quizzing around the same points that were in the NFLS application, i.e. community capacity, community support and social, environmental and economic benefits. Committee members took the chance to talk about all the potential benefits of community ownership both in terms of potential income generation and also, importantly, in terms of improved access, social use and environmental regeneration.

The next stage was the NFLS panel meeting on 10 December. After the panel decide, this has to be ratified by Forestry Commission management. We were optimistic we would hear before Christmas.

Flora Duncan 1916 - 2009

Mrs Flora Duncan, nee MacKenzie, who died on the 20, August, 2009, aged 93, was the eldest daughter of Charles MacKenzie, Tailor, Allarburn, Kiltarlity and his wife Margaret.

She commenced Nurse training in 1937 at the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness, and by 1943 was a Queen's Nurse and Midwife, with her first posting an island in the Shetlands, with a population of 800 persons.

Following her marriage to William Duncan of Shetland she moved back to the Inverness area, and was appointed Matron of the Military Hospital at Fort George while her husband served in the Navy.

At the end of the war the couple set up home in Inverness.

Flora is survived by her daughter Rosemary, son Charles and brother Addie, and by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Kiltarlity accordionist takes the floor at BBC - twice

Highlight of a busy year for Kiltarlity semi-professional accordionist Matthew MacLennan was an invitation this summer to play on BBC Radio Scotland's *Take the Floor*. And just a week later Matthew was back in the BBC studios to record a broadcast with well known

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Jim MacKay's Scottish Dance Band, taking over at second box from long standing member Nicol MacKay who has retired.

Rehearsals meant numerous trips up and down the A9, part of life as a dance band musician, but St Andrew's weekend saw Matthew in London's York House with Harrisman Ian Angus Macleod's band. A mix up had the band travelling to Luton on a later train and having to fly to Edinburgh before getting a train back to Inverness.

The All Scotland Accordion and Fiddle Festival saw Matthew runner up in the All Scotland Senior Traditional Accordion Competition for the coveted Jimmy Shand Trophy, for the sixth time in a row. In the Senior Pipe Music on Accordion Competition he came third and in the Open Band Competition he played double bass in third placed Cameron Kellow band.

During December Matthew has taken part in the Lunchtime Concert series in Inverness, Town House, with Nicky McMichan, originally Dumfriesshire but now Muir of Ord based, and also in the Ironworks FEST AID Concert in aid of the Inverness Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre.

You can enjoy Scottish dance music at our two local Accordion and Fiddle Clubs: in Dingwall (National Hotel) on the first Wednesday of the month; and in Inverness (Waterside Hotel) on the third Monday, both at 7.30 pm.

**CONGRATULATIONS
to Alex and Heather Brockie, Kiltarlity, on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Rowan.**

News from Charleston Academy

by

Craig MacRitchie

Head Boy

(additional material from Amber Johnston)

Starquest Review At the end of last term we held a talent contest called Starquest. The final, held at the end of June was a great night, showcasing a host of talent within Charleston. Performers included Kiltarlity's very own cello player, David Buhl from Kinerras who put on a brilliant performance. The worthy winners were Drone Zone, a band with a Highland twist who comprise of pipers, drummers and synthesizer and who at the moment are preparing to record a CD.

The Sleeping Beauty Charleston Academy school play was to be performed on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th December in the school hall at 7.30 pm. .

Foreign Links

Botswana Trip In June 2010, 32 pupils (including Craig and fellow Kiltarlity pupils, Jenny Collings, Amber Johnston, and Serena MacRae) will be embarking on a school trip to Botswana. The global dimension part of the project began with two of our teachers, Mr Corrance and Ms Sutherland, travelling in the October holidays to visit the host school, Lotsane Senior Secondary, Botswana. In April 2010 a return visit will be made by two Lotsane teachers. The visits will be used to look at the global curriculum in each school and look at issues facing our respective pupils in global terms. The Art and Science departments in both schools are developing a global curriculum project. Fundraising is ongoing for this trip and in September we took part in the M.F.R. car boot sale, and in November held a hog roast ceilidh in the school.

Links with J.E. Malepe Secondary School, South Africa The South African Principal Teacher and Head of Geography recently spent a week in Charleston. Our Headmaster Mr MacSween, Head Girl Leanne Keil and I and the South African teachers were lucky enough to be invited to have a meal with the Provost in the Town House. Our visitors made a lasting impression on us all and they are very keen to establish a mutually beneficial exchange between our two schools.

German Visitors Four pupils from Augsburg, Germany, one of Inverness's twin towns, visited the school whilst on holiday near Beauville. They visited the German classes to provide some experi-

ence in using the German language.

Swedish Exchange In September a Swedish exchange group joined us for a week and stayed with host families throughout the area. They spent time exploring and comparing school life and enjoyed trips to Landmark, Edinburgh and Urquhart Castle.

Macmillan Cancer Support Day - 9/10/09 During the Macmillan Cancer Support Day we held a staff soup and sandwich lunch and juice and cakes for pupils. Additional money was also raised through donations and selling raffle tickets to staff and lucky squares to pupils for which we had fantastic prizes which were donated by local companies. Altogether the school raised £1769 for Macmillan Cancer Support. A great achievement.

Albert Roux In September 50 pupils from the Home Economics and French classes were given a talk on how to appreciate food by Chef Albert Roux and Glen Watson from Chez Roux at Rocpool Reserve, Inverness. They are following a theme which began on the previous visit in June of developing their culinary senses. Earlier in November a very successful gala dinner was prepared by 4th year pupils under the direction of Chef Roux and served up to 100 paying parents. The night was a great success and all proceeds are to be donated to the Play Therapists at Raigmore Hospitals Children's Ward.

Hockey Season This year Charleston had an excellent start to the Senior Hockey League. The senior team hosts three local girls, Laura MacLeod, Gemma Mainland and Ellie Watts. So far they have played four games: Kingussie 0 - Charleston 6, Charleston 3 - Millburn 0, Charleston 3 - Kingussie 0 and Culloden 0 - Charleston 0.

S3 Hockey team have also had a great start to the season. They beat Millburn 10 - 1 in their first game and Culloden 8 - 0 in their second. Laura Gallacher, who also stars in Lovat's under 14 shinty team, scored 17 of the 18 hockey goals scored. Laura has been also asked to represent the Highland Region at U16 level along with two other

Charleston girls.

S1 Hockey team: this team includes local girls Alex Farquharson and Pollyanna Grey. In their first league game they drew 4 - 4 against a very strong Kingussie team and they won their second game against Millburn at home. Unfortunately they lost the return match against Kingussie 4 - 3, but then in their fourth game had a great away win against Culloden of 10 - 1.

Clubs meeting in Kiltarlity Hall

**School Badminton (term time);
Beavers (term time);
Kempo (every week) ;
Mother & Toddlers (term time);
School Shinty (winter terms);
Fitness Class (term time) ;
Badminton Juniors (Oct- end March);
Badminton Seniors;
Shinty training;
WRI (1st Wed of each month);
Craft class;
Hall committee meeting (2nd Wed of each month);
Ready Steady Go (Term Time);
Cubs (Term Time);
Scouts (Term Time);
Indoor Football (Adults) (Winter Terms);
Indoor Football (Children) (Term Time);
First Shinty Club (Winter Terms);
Youth Club (Term Time);
Kirkhill Football Club (Winter Terms);
Model Aeroplane Club (Winter Terms);
Whist Drive (Last Sat of Month)**

**Club information may be incomplete or change; see also notice boards, or contact:
741 447**

Lovat Seniors triumph but Juniors' record also shines

John MacRitchie reports on the final games of an exciting and ultimately successful season

After a fine performance against one of our main rivals, Kilmallie, on 22nd August, resulting in a 3-2 win Lovat next welcomed Strathglass, also still in the running for the North Division One title, to Balgate.

Lovat started brightly and should have been in front but for some good goal keeping and poor finishing. This all changed in the 33rd minute when, against the run of play, Strathglass scored twice within a minute and were 2 - 0 up at half time. In the second half Lovat dug in and began to force the game and on the hour mark Fraser Gallacher rifled in a shot to halve the deficit. Lovat, now pushing forward, were rewarded when Greg Matheson levelled the scores to secure the point, vital to keep our title hopes alive.

Caberfeidh in early September were the next visitors to Balgate. The last time we had run out 4-1 winners, although the score did flatter. Caberfeidh, too, were still in the running for the league title with an excellent away record. Lovat started the game below par and Caberfeidh had long spells of possession, though without testing Stuart MacDonald in goal. As Lovat gradually got into the game they were now creating chances and only some good Caberfeidh goal keeping kept the scores level. But in the 30th minute the goalie was adjudged to have kicked the ball, and Greg Matheson stepped up and confidently scored. In the second half Lovat started to dominate and only some more excellent goal keeping kept the scoreline at 1-0. Although this was not our best performance it was a good result and eliminated Caberfeidh from the race for the title.

In our penultimate away fixture we made the short journey to Cannich to play Strathglass and, with a fiercely fought draw only two weeks before, another tight game was expected. This was a game where only a win, for either side, would do. Lovat started well and were winning the midfield battle, but were failing to convert the pressure into goals. The game was very even and Lovat defence were dealing with any threats. Over the last few games the defence had been outstanding, borne out by the fact that Lovat had conceded the fewest goals in the league.

Half time arrived with the teams deadlocked, 0-0. However within 5 minutes of the restart Strathglass opened the scor-



The victorious Lovat squad

ing and Lovat could see their title challenge fade but showed great resilience and continued to pressure the Strathglass defence. On the 55th minute Fraser Gallacher saw his well struck shot saved but Greg Matheson was first to react and slot away the rebound, 1-1. In the 75th minute Lovat got the breakthrough from another Greg Matheson goal close in. In the final 15 minutes the Lovat defence held out and we secured another two vital points along and eliminating another title contender.

Lovat's final away fixture, in early October, was away to Skye who had led the league virtually from day one. It was a surprise to everyone that the game was not postponed as the weather on the day was the worst of the year with gale force winds & driving rain. The match started with both sets of players struggling to cope with the horrendous conditions. Lovat had the wind at their backs and put Skye under mounting pressure and only some outstanding goalkeeping and poor finishing prevented Lovat taking the lead. Skye began to push forward and scored twice before half time. At the start of the second half Skye scored again and with the elements now with them it was going to be difficult for Lovat to get back into the game. Lovat did pull a goal back through Fraser Gallacher but Skye responded with a fourth. Shortly after that Greg Matheson scored via the penalty spot to give a glimmer of hope, but the home team scored late on to seal their victory. This was only Lovat's second defeat of the season and although two points were dropped the

title race was still in our hands, if we won our last three home games the Division One Cup would be back at Kiltarlity.

Kinlochshiel were next to visit Balgate, dangerous opponents on an excellent run and looking to finish third in the league. Only a win would do and Lovat started well with a goal early on from Raymond Rennie. Kinlochshiel levelled soon after, but Lovat responded immediately via Greg Matheson. Nerves were eased when Fraser Gallacher scored twice to make the score 4-1, and though Kinlochshiel fought back, scoring twice to bring them right back into the game, Lovat soon stepped up the pace scoring the best goal of the game from James MacPherson and a good display was rounded off when Jimmy MacKenzie scored from the spot - final score 6-3.

In our penultimate home game we were paired against Inverness who had drawn with us 0-0 earlier in the season. Nerves were settled within the first four minutes with strikes from Fraser Gallacher and Greg Matheson. During that period we also had two goals disallowed! Lovat then seemed to take the foot off the pedal allowing Inverness into the game and we were punished early in the second half when Inverness scored. However, this only spurred Lovat on with goals from Raymond Rennie and Greg Matheson. Lovat were now totally dominant with superior fitness telling. Callum MacAulay rounded off an excellent performance with a well taken goal two minutes from the end, Lovat running out 5-1 winners.

In the last game of the season, on 7th November, Lovat hosted bottom club Lochcarron knowing a win would secure

the league title and promotion back to the Premier League. However, it was not as easy a task as it looked on paper as Lochcarron were a far better team than their league position would suggest. Lovat started the game nervously and were struggling to get into the match. It was no surprise when Lochcarron took the lead in the 20th minute, and the home support feared the worst. But this goal seemed to lift Lovat and within five minutes Raymond Rennie equalised from close in., was soon to be followed by another goal from Fraser Gallacher, 2-1 at half time.

Ten minutes after the restart Lochcarron levelled through Scotland international Allan MacKenzie. At this stage Lovat were under pressure and only a number of fine saves from Stuart MacDonald kept the home side in the game. On the hour mark Fraser Gallacher scored again to put Lovat ahead 3-2. Then James MacPherson replaced the injured Lorne MacKay and with virtually his first touch slammed the ball into the Lochcarron net. This settled both the team and the home support and Lovat were now starting to take control and it was no surprise when Greg Matheson completed the scoring, the final score 5-2. Celebrations could now start along with preparations for the Premier League next year.

A very successful year for the Club with excellent cup runs for both Senior and Junior teams would not have been possible without the work of Gordon Fraser, our trainer, the Club's committee who work tirelessly ensuring all the teams have the support they require both on and off the park and finally the support given to Lovat Shinty Club from the local community and beyond whose sponsorship and donations are integral to the clubs survival.

Lovat Juniors have also had a very creditable season. After their fine 8 – 2 win over Kilmallie in August they went on in September to record a 6 – 1 home victory over Kinlochshiel.

Things didn't go so well for them against Kingussie, where they went down 8 – 4 at the Dell, they drew their next game against Kinlochshiel and shared the points with old enemies Fort William in the final postponed fixture to finish in the upper half of Marine Harvest North Division 2, in 5th position with 20 points.

Lovat Juniors also reached the finals of both Sutherland and Strathdearn Cups. They lost both times to Fort William (3 – 1 and 3 – 2) but made a strong Fort William team fight every inch of the way.

Letters from Beaully

In the summer of 2008, a chance search through the attic of Melynda Jarratt's family's home in Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada, revealed nearly 300 war time letters written by and to her grandfather, Patrick "Pat" Hennessy while he was serving in Scotland, in the Beaully area, as a cook with the 15th Company, Canadian Forestry Corps.

Although Pat was 56, he had more experience as a cook in logging camps than anyone else and that's what the Canadian Army needed. So he began a five year odyssey in Scotland, and in Beaully Patrick established close friendships with the local people, especially the Frasers to whom he developed a special bond, as his wife was a Fraser by descent.

His family were astounded by the number of letters, fascinating because they explore an unknown part of Melynda's grandfather's life, (though they had heard stories of Scotland, and of his meeting and attending church at Beaufort Castle at the invitation of Lady Lovat, wife of Lord Lovat.)

Now Melynda is working on a book to tell the story, of the Canadian Forest Corps in Scotland - a compelling story that has never been told before in Canada or Britain - through the Hennessy letters, and she is trying to locate the descendants of the many Scottish people whom he befriended and named in his letters to family back home in Canada. She has visited Beaully and Kiltarlity and made contact with some local people who remember the Canadian lumberjacks and their camps.

If you have letters, photographs or

other documents about the Canadian Forestry Corps in the Highlands of Scotland during World War Two, or know people with a link to the CFC (Frasers, Munros and MacKays are some of the family names that appear frequently in her grandfather's letters), please contact Melynda Jarratt and Patsy Hennessy at info@LettersFromBeaully.com or Canadian Forestry Corps Project, c/o Maven New Media Inc., PO Box 482, Station A, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 4Z9)

Fuller details of the project and background are available on the website www.LettersFromBeaully.com

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A fine view of Beaufort Castle by Richard Fraser

An old story revisited

As a young girl at home in South Clunes, Kiltarlity, Mrs Mary Nairne, now in her 90s and living in Inverness, did a good turn for a neighbour. But her good turn and its unexpected and fascinating result were never correctly recorded and she has always been keen to set the record straight.

In March 1933, James Forbes of 6 South Clunes was so ill he had not been able to plant his potatoes, but teenager Mary Chisholm, as she was then, and the Chisholms' faithful horse, Star, came to the rescue. However, when Mary was ploughing part of a field on the Forbes's croft so that the potatoes could be planted, Star suddenly stopped. Nothing would induce him to move an inch further.

Mary called in her mother who was equipped for just such a situation with a 'piece and jam', not, as you might assume, for her daughter, but for Star, who immediately got moving again, when his jam sandwich was put on offer a short distance ahead of his nose.

While Star enjoyed his snack, the Chisholms were able to examine the spot where he had come to a halt, and discovered that the plough had come up against a large buried stone object. When they got the soil away from the surface they found a prehistoric stone chest, or 'cist', and inside it the remains of a skeleton and an earthenware urn.

Mary was sent down to Knockbain Schoolhouse to fetch headmaster and local history and archaeology expert John N MacLeod (writer of a regular column in the now defunct *Northern Chronicle*). He took one look and insisted that nothing must be touched or removed while he got expert advice. A few days later Aberdeen University sent Professor Low who examined the find and arranged to have the contents taken to Aberdeen. The skeleton was given to the Anatomy Museum in Aberdeen and the cist covered up and protected by a stone.

The "Inverness Courier" (see next page) carried the story of the South Clunes find, but Mary explains that they wrongly attributed finding the kist to old James Forbes. He was seriously ill and, in fact, died not long afterwards, and it would have been impossible for him to have made the discovery. Somehow, this mistake got established in the official record of the find and Mary has always



Above: Mary revisits the field where she made her discovery. **Below:** Extract from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) website. **Next page (clockwise from bottom left):** the story as originally reported by the **Inverness Courier** (the **Courier**, like others, was unclear on district boundaries); the house at 6 Clunes; the **Courier** recalls the story in 2008; Mary's old home, now altered somewhat.

South Clunes

Alternative Names Kiltarlity

Site type CIST, BEAKER

Canmore ID 12711

Site Number NH54SE 15

NGR NH 5560 4151

Council HIGHLAND

Parish KILTARLITY AND CON-VINTH

Former Region HIGHLAND

Former District INVERNESS

Former County INVERNESS-SHIRE

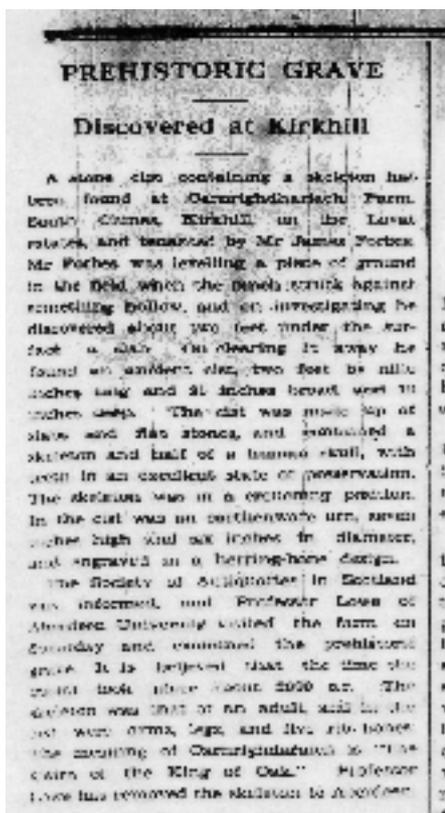
Archaeological Notes

NH54SE 15 5560 4151.

NH 5560 4151. In March, 1933, a short cist containing a

contracted burial and beaker, was found on the croft by James Forbes, South Clunes (No 6 South Clunes, Kirkhill, Kiltarlity, Inverness). The site was in a gravelly ridge. The cist was formed of six slabs set on edge and covered with 5 irregular flat stones all of probably local micaceous schist. The beaker was intact, but the bones (presented to the Anatomy Museum, Aberdeen) were fragmentary.

Visited by OS field surveyor 1 November 1967. A Low 1934. This cist survives in good order. Oriented ENE-WSW, it measures 0.9m x 0.5m x 0.3m deep. It has been covered with a stone for protection.



The 'urn' or beaker found with the skeleton in the stone coffin or cist, is now in Aberdeen University's Marischal Museum, where it is described as follows: "**Beaker** Although this beaker was found at Kiltarlity near Inverness, it shares features with pots from throughout Western Europe at the turn of the 2nd millennium BC. The fingernail impressions on this pot and its burial in a grave emphasise the individuality of even the distant past."

The contents of the grave at South Clunes were about four thousand years old.

Picture and quoted text by courtesy of Marischal Museum, University of Aberdeen.



Glenconvinth School

The last class

Mr and Mrs Peter Macaskill with the last of the pupils at Glenconvinth School in Kiltarlity. Mr Macaskill had been Headmaster and Mrs Macaskill also taught in the school. She continued to teach after her husband's retirement and was, in fact, the last teacher.

L to R from back: Mr Macaskill, Sheila MacDonald, Billy Zuckert, Mrs Macaskill, Malcolm Urquhart, Elizabeth Macmillan, Margaret Maclean, Linda Zuckert, Roderick Smith, Irene Zuckert, Kathleen Macrae, Tommy Maclean (?), Hilda MacCaulay.

We're not entirely sure of everybody. Let us know of any corrections.

Glenconvinth School closed in 1963 when Mrs Macaskill retired.

Kiltarlity Hall Association

Veronica Tervet
Chairman

We have seen the summer come and go and we are now back into the dark nights. However, this is a busy time for the Hall with all the clubs in full swing, along with birthday parties, Christmas parties and the rest.

Over the October holidays we held the same activities, more or less, as we had over the summer period, but due to a break down in communication and advertising they were not attended as well.

In November our annual Craft Fair was very well supported considering the weather conditions. It was nice to see some new faces attending, but it would be great to see even more.

Last month saw us purchase new curtains and tracks for the hall - what a difference these have made to the appearance inside! We are having the fire doors replaced in the near future along with repair to a damaged front door.

It's an ongoing battle to try and keep the maintenance up but with your continued support we are managing. Our thanks go to everyone who has helped in any way at all and from everyone on the Hall Committee I would like to wish you all a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Kiltarlity SWRI

Catherine MacRitchie
Secretary

Our monthly meetings continue to be, as always, very enjoyable.

In September Ian Marr was our guest telling us the fun side of being an antique dealer. He took along one of his prize items, Highland Dress accessories presented to the Chief of Clan Cameron by Queen Victoria.

In October Ron Lyon, gave an insight to the wonderful Work of C.H.A.S. and in November Catriona Ross showed us slides of her and her friend's holiday in South America. Catriona made us feel like "wish we were there", but you would have to be very brave for that holiday! Our thanks to Catriona.

December is the month for a night out at Brockies Lodge for a meal and a chat. At this time of the year also we donate Annuals to Social Services for children in their care.

Murder in Loanvichiem

Loaneckheim, Lonvichkime – a difficult place to spell, for van drivers to find, and even, especially for strangers from places like Hughton and Culburnie, to disentangle from Camaultmuir. But if at least it seems quite a safe place to live in – it was not always so. Shona Selkirk came across this story in records held at the National Archive of Scotland and Highland Council Archive.

Ewen (or Evan) Cameron of Loanvichiem, son of John Cameron and Mary MacLean, was cited to stand trial by the Circuit Court in Inverness on 8 September, 1798, indicted and accused of the murder of his wife Hannah Fraser, daughter of John Fraser of Teanacroft, near Belladrum, who had died by poisoning.

Donald Fraser, writer Prov Fiscal of the Sheriff Court, petitioned on 6 March, 1798, for Ewen Cameron to be apprehended and imprisoned as various facts and circumstances which had come to his knowledge, "unnecessary to be here condescended on" gave strong reasons to believe that Ewen Cameron was the person who had administered the poison.

On the morning of Thursday 15 Feb, 1798, Hannah had made breakfast of potatoes and kale after which she became violently ill and died later that day. Ewen denied that he had administered arsenic or any other kind of poison to his deceased wife nor had he at any time struck or beat his wife or threatened by any means whatever to take away her life.

According to his declaration, interpreted from the "Galic Language" by Donald Fraser, writer in Inverness, Ewen Cameron declared that he had been married to Hannah Fraser for about twelve years and that they had had six children, four of whom were still alive. He said that he had lived in "perfect good harmony" with his wife till the beginning of the previous summer when a report was circulated by John and Barbara Fraser, his deceased wife's brother and sister, that Ann Ross, daughter of Robert Ross at Teanakyle (Teanacoil), had an attachment for and was in love with the declarant and the declarant likewise an attachment for this girl". He denied that Ann Ross was "with his child or that he had any carnal knowledge or connection with her".

Ewen declared that he had not been in Inverness for about three weeks or a

month before his wife's death except on one occasion he went to Clachnaharry to purchase herring and then to Inverness where he bought a napkin, a pair of garters, an almanac and two sheets of paper, but he denied buying arsenic from the shop of Dr. William Kennedy, surgeon in Inverness, under pretence of destroying foxes with the same.

When a message arrived on Saturday 19th February from Colonel Fraser of Belladrum stating that Hannah should not be interred until the body was examined by a doctor, Ewen was much affected as he thought it conveyed a suspicion against him. The body of "the defunct" was opened for examination by Dr. James Robertson of Inverness. Also present were Mr. John Fraser the Parish Minister, Donald Fraser the Schoolmaster, Mr. James McLachlan Chaplain to the Fraser Fencible Regiment of Infantry, Primrose McLean and another midwife, Betty Morrison.

Ewen petitioned for banishment: "the petitioner begs leave to declare his innocence of this crime in the most positive and direct manner; but satisfied that being charged with so unnatural a crime has already injured his former good character that he cannot live with comfort in this part of the country and being desirous to enlist in His Majesty's Service he is therefore willing that your Lordship will banish him forth of Scotland"

This was consented to and if he was found in Scotland after 1 Oct, 1798, not in His Majesty's Service, he was to be taken out on the next market day and whipped through the streets of Inverness before being banished again.

On 24 September, 1798 Lieut. Peter Nicolson petitioned for Ewen Cameron to be detained in the Tolbooth, Inverness till he could send him to Chatham as, having enlisted and attested with the 45 Regiment of Foot, "he thought proper afterward to enlist and attest in another Regiment". Having already attempted to desert, Lieut. Nicolson considered that if Cameron was allowed out of jail he would immediately go away and never be heard of again, by which means Lieut. Nicolson would be deprived of the Bounty and pay as would the public of the service of the man.

Note: As banishment was consented to the case did not go to full trial and the witnesses were not called.

Kay celebrates her 70th

Kay Munro was born Kay Smart and was chosen by Mary Nairne to be one of her family. She celebrated her 70th birthday this year and a summer garden party was held at Diriebought House in Inverness on a fine sunny May afternoon. All the extended Nairne family were there and Kay enjoyed meeting up with family members, some of whom she had not seen for some time.

Kay was born in Inverness and went to stay with the Chisholm family at Clunes but when ill health befell Mrs Chisholm her daughter Mary Nairne took Kay to stay at Culburnie. Mrs Chisholm was not able to ever care for Kay again and Kay remained at Culburnie. She went to school there and then Tomnacross. When she left school she had several jobs and whilst working at the old Caley Hotel in Inverness she met her husband George Munro and they still live on Dochfour Estate. Kay was also well known as she worked in the first Eastgate centre. She retired from that job several years ago. Her main hobby is her garden which gives her great pleasure.

The birthday party was a surprise and all the Nairne family enjoyed sharing a special and memorable day with their sister Kay.



Kay, next to Mary, the rest of the Nairne family and cousin Rose

Kiltarlity News

We are anxious to have material for the Spring issue of the *Kiltarlity News* and will print as many local news items, club, school news, sports obituaries, letters, articles etc, as possible. Please send material by **31 March 2010**. We may be able, but cannot guarantee, to print later contributions. Material may be sent to R. MacLean, 'Berisay', Culburnie, (741323), e-mailed to rdmaclean5@berisay.co.uk, or given to any Community Council member.

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ORDER LINE 01456 486 639

Advertising in the Kiltarlity News

We can offer space in the Service Directory where we will print a maximum of 30 words for a cost per issue of £5.

Also, display/box advertisements which would have up to 150 words and would be approximately either 5 column centimetres (5 cm X 5 cm approx) or 10 column centimetres (ie twice as high or twice as broad, though not both). Cost per issue for a 5 cm box is £15 and for a 10 cm box £25. Other sizes and designs can be arranged.

For the next issue please send your requirements and text by **31 March 2010** to: rdmaclean5@berisay.co.uk, or post to R D MacLean, 'Berisay', Culburnie, Kiltarlity IV4 7JJ (01463 741323).

Traditional Music success

The Caledonian Canal Ceilidh trail, organised by Highland Council Traditional Music Coordinator, Kiltarlity's Margo MacLennan, was nominated recently under the "Community Project of the Year" and won a coveted Scottish Traditional Music Award. The Ceilidh Trail results from the combined efforts and contributions of British Waterways Scotland (Highland Canals Section), TMC Folk through the Highland Cultural Programme, Highland Council Education Culture & Sport Service and various generous funders.

The Ceilidh Trail features an extremely talented group of young musicians from throughout Scotland. The group has a rolling membership with a proportion of new younger members being recruited each year as older members move on to fresh musical challenges elsewhere.

The Traditional Music Awards were decided by internet vote and Margo and the Ceilidh Trailers would like to thank everyone who voted for the group.

Congratulations to Margo and the Ceilidh Trailers. They perform throughout the summer season at various venues in the Great Glen. If you didn't get over to hear them this year, be sure to do so in 2010!

Margo writes:

TMC Folk go from strength to strength. The group practises regularly under the guidance of their new musical director Cameron Kellow. The group welcomes musicians who play at intermediate level and if you know of anyone in the Inverness area who would be interested in joining them contact us.

TMC Classes 2010 will get underway on Monday 11 January and run until the 25th March. With a break for the February mid term weekend from Tuesday 11 to Thursday 16th. The Bodhran class is ready to start with tutor Selwyn Roberts for which we are looking for at least 6 students of all levels of ability to join. Plus there are places in the keyboard and accordion classes.

The monthly tutor led Informal Session will re-start on Saturday 9 January followed by another session on the 20 February to be held in Millburn Academy, Inverness from 2-4pm. The sessions are suitable for slower players and students who are keen to increase their knowledge of session tunes. Also on the 20 February will be an hour long Song Workshop - from 2-3 pm - with Fiona J MacKenzie.



Ceilidh Trail young musicians
Front - lead musician Cameron Kellow, accordion, student musician Alasdair Taylor, guitar. **Back** - trainee lead musician, Rachel Campbell, fiddle, student musicians Rachael MacDonald, Gaelic song, whistle and pipes and Euan Smillie, fiddle.
Left: Margo celebrates the award

For more information contact Margo MacLennan, Traditional Music Coordinator, ECS Area office, 13 Ardross street, Inverness, IV3 5NS on 01463 663817 or by email to margo.maclennan2@highland.gov.uk

Community Council Review

At their December meeting Kiltarlity Community Council agreed that the current area and composition of the Community Council were appropriate and that no changes to either boundary or composition were necessary or desirable.

**YES - TO RENEWABLES
 NO - TO GIANT PYLONS**

THE BEAULY TO DENNY HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINE MUST BE UNDERGROUND IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

**WWW.
 PYLONPRESSURE.
 COM**

THE PUBLIC INQUIRY REPORT IS NOW WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT FOR A DECISION

PICK UP OBJECTION POST CARDS AT KILTARLITY POST OFFICE AND BROCKRIES LODGE HOTEL



Councillors' Corner Christmas 2009

from
Councillor Helen Carmichael

As the Festive Season approaches the days are short and dark so it is heartening to see the new low voltage lights which have been installed in the

cherry trees in Beaully adding a welcome highlight to the Square.

Beaully Square update The initial outcome of the consultation has shown there is a strong local desire to see parking retained, both for convenience and in support of the local businesses. There is a considerable amount of feeling that the Square should be prioritised for short term parking with a number of locations, both existing and potential, being suggested for long term parking. There is also a clear need to resolve the question of parking for residents in the Square and some legal matters that require further investigation. Congestion caused by deliveries is also a major concern and we will be speaking with both TECS and the business community in the search for solutions that are workable for all parties. We are very grateful for the amount of time and effort that people put into their responses; the vast majority gave us far more than just the tick box answers and many people had offered innovative solutions helping us to conclude that some of the solutions to problems within the Square may be solved by works outside the Square. Two dates are being arranged for early February: the first meeting is for the Business Association and the second one is for the community and will be held in the Phipps Hall.

In addition to the funding from Highland Council we are hoping to attract further funding through the LEADER project.

Ward Discretionary Budget Kiltarlity has benefited from the Ward Discretionary Budget this year and below is a summary of the organisations and amounts.

Kiltarlity Hall Association	£820
Kiltarlity Community Council- Archaeology Project	£2000
Kiltarlity 2000	£3000
Kiltarlity CC- promotional material	£200

Cycle Path Work is ongoing on the proposal for a cycle path to Inverness and a grant application is in the process of being prepared. There are issues to be addressed and my colleague Councillor Wood is leading on this by working closely with the community and keeping us updated at the Ward Business Meeting which is held every two weeks.

Unwanted Mail. Over a third of direct mail is discarded unopened. By signing up to the Mailing Preference Service householders can significantly reduce the amount of unwanted mail that is put through your letter box each day.

For more information, visit stop-the-drop.org.uk/

Furniture Re-use. As Highland Council now charge for uplift of bulky items from households, please be aware there are several organisations based in our Ward that accept furniture and household goods which are suitable for reuse. Some offer a collection service for free.

The two organisations that operate in our area are Blythswood - 0845 4569460 and New Start Highland - 01463 715615.

The Family Ceilidh will be held again in the Phipps Hall on the 1st January. Tickets, which sold out very quickly last year, are available from The Tweedhouse or myself. Would the Kiltarlity family who came along last year with their wonderful young piper please get in touch - we would like the piper to perform again!

Festive Greetings As another year draws to a close it is time to remember those members of our community who sadly are no longer with us and to rejoice in the new babies who have arrived to complete the circle of life. My sincere good wishes go out to all our residents, for making our area a good place in which to live, work, and raise our families.

May I wish you all A Very Merry Christmas and Good Health in 2010

Feel free to contact me on:

01463 782555 or email helen.carmichael.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Helen Carmichael, Hawthorn, 25 Ferry Road, Beaully, IV4 7EA

Kiltarlity Community Council

Norman Grant, Chairman
(741532)

Hector Douglas, Secretary
(741881)

Dorothy Ward, Treasurer
(741253)

Karen Ferguson (831251)
Floris Greenlaw (741342)

Lesley MacColl (741430)
Ronald MacLean (741323)

Hamish MacLennan
(741312)

Eunice Ramsden (741447)
John Al MacAuley

Community Council meetings are completely open to the public who, with the Chairman's agreement, can contribute to the discussion, though not vote.

The Council can discuss extremely confidential issues and take decisions in private session but this almost never arises.

Community Council members will welcome approaches for advice or assistance from any local resident whether on an individual or community basis. For example, the Community Council may be able to provide some finance for local projects either from its annual grant of around £750 or by applying for additional funds to Highland Council or other funding bodies. Individual members may be able to help with matters such as official letters, forms and documents, or put people in touch with an appropriate source of assistance. Any personal approach to a Council member will be treated with total confidentiality and will only be discussed in Council meetings with the clear agreement of the person who has made contact.

Community Council Website:
www.kiltarlity.info

Christmas party 2009



This year's Christmas Party arranged by Kiltarlity Community Council was attended by about 80 guests, a record number for recent years. And due to the generosity of Robbie Sheriffs of Brockies Lodge Hotel they were served with a splendid Christmas dinner with turkey and all the trimmings. High quality entertainment was then provided by Torridon and their fellow artistes followed by a visit from Santa Claus. Some were even lucky enough to receive one of the special paper bricks for the home fire, made by local children.

The very warm thanks of Community Council and guests go to Council Treasurer Dorothy Ward and her band of tireless organisers (and waiters), Robbie of Brockies Lodge and his staff, Graham Bell, who again recruited and presented a team of accomplished performers, including talented youngsters, and the generous donors who helped fund what must have been one of the most successful parties to date.



Kiltarlity Church of Scotland

Advent and Christmas events

On Friday, **11th December** the entire church family at Kiltarlity gathered for the "**Greening of the Church.**" Young and old, men and women, boys and girls, everyone was invited to come to the church at 6:30 p.m. for a family meal, and to decorate the Christmas tree, the gallery and the columns with greenery for the Christmas season. Christmas Carols were sung to accompany the work, special crafts for the children were provided, and the elders provided the wassail for the occasion.

Sunday, 13 December 2009: New members received in both Kirkhill and Kiltarlity Churches.

Sunday 20 December: Kiltarlity Sunday School and TCC nativity pageant at the 12 noon worship service. "**Candles and Carols**" service (for both congregations) t 6.30 pm at Kirkhill Church.

Wednesday 23 December: Tomnacross Primary School Christmas Service at Kiltarlity Church starting at 1:30 p.m.

Thursday 24 December: The Eve of Christmas service conducted by the Elders at Kiltarlity Church at 11:30 p.m.

Sunday School sponsors Lanoi Batinga

Kiltarlity Sunday School is sponsoring a nine year old, Lanoi Batinga, who stays at the Kenyan Children's Home, Nairobi, Kenya. Her mother died, and her father had difficulty supporting their very large family. Lanoi enjoys dancing, swimming and running. The Sunday School's sponsorship of Lanoi costs £35 a month (£420 annually) which covers all aspects of her well being from food, clothing, shelter, education, medical and dental expenses. Sponsorship encourages communication between Lanoi and the Sunday School. The Sunday School has already received a letter from Lanoi and they are currently preparing a letter and Christmas card for her.

Quinquennial Presbytery Visit

Kiltarlity and Kirkhill were visited in September. Areas reviewed with Elders were worship, office bearers, congregational life, Christian education, mission and ministry support. Finance and the church fabric were reviewed with the Deacons present.

The committee were encouraged that attendances at both churches were increasing. The monthly newsletter and the joint ventures between the churches (Summer Holiday Club, Burns Night, Celestial Choir, and Christmas Carol play) all received favourable comment.

Hospital visits

A reminder from Willis: *I urge you to let me, or an Elder, know when you, or someone known to you, are admitted to the hospital. I want to be there with you at such a time. I thank those of you who have let me know, but keep the information flowing. I would not want someone in our churches to think that the minister didn't care about them. It is hard to care when you do not know!*

Celestial Choir

The Celestial Choir, under the guidance of Mary Robb, continues to grow and continues to rehearse each Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. at the Kirkhill Church. with between 18 and 21 members ready to take part in the Candles and Carols Service. But there is room for new members.

CONTACTS: Locum Minister: Rev. Willis Jones (Tel. 01463 831662). Session Clerk: Mrs Marie Harvey (Tel. 01463 741328). Website: www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk . Newsletter "The Parishioner": contact: Mrs Rosemary Mortimer, 7 Priory Place, Beaully (Tel. 01463 782648).

The Energy Assistance Package

Colder weather can often mean higher fuel bills and tighter family budgets, but this year could be different. **The Energy Assistance Package** could help you save money and stay warm. **The Energy Assistance Package** TV advert is now running and you can see it on ITV, Channel 4 and Five.

If you find it hard to keep your home warm and cosy, here's some good news.

You could save money on energy, or maybe even get insulation for your home or a whole new heating system. Call your local advisor on **0800 512 012** now, for personalised advice. 0800 numbers are not charged to a customer (except where charges are notified to callers at the start of the call, e.g. made from a mobile).

What happens if I phone?

You have a local advisor who knows what's on offer and can tell you more about:

- how to save energy in your home - the advice can save you up to £300 a year
- lower cost energy rates without switching supplier - that can save up to £150 a year
- finding out about money available from benefits and tax credits
- free loft and cavity wall insulation grants for energy saving measures like central heating, to make your home warmer.

What you could get depends on your circumstances

Who can call?

Everyone can phone us, and we are especially keen to hear from you if you or someone living with you is either:

- 60 or over

- currently receiving benefits
- pregnant
- has a child under 5
- has a disabled child under 16.

The Scottish Government wants to make sure that everyone in Scotland who needs help with their energy costs saves money and keeps cosy. If you sometimes struggle when the fuel bills need paid, you're exactly the kind of person this scheme is for.

Remember:

- you'll be calling a local advisor
- everyone is different, so our advice is personal - especially for you and your home
- your advisor will guide you through every step of the way.

This is a real chance to make yourself better off - so don't miss out. Pick up the phone now, and if you know anyone else who could do with a hand - pass it on.

Boblainy Forest Group makes good progress

Good progress is being made with Kiltarlity Community Council's plans for increasing the recreational and educational access and use of Boblainy Forest.

The public meeting in September, chaired at Kiltarlity Community Council's request by Councillor Margaret Davidson who has long been closely associated with the Abriachan Forest Trust, was deemed a success, showing both Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and the Community Council that there was community support for the general concept and most of the planned improvements.

Nearly seventy people attended the afternoon display/drop-in session and/or the public meeting. The main speakers in the evening were representatives from the renowned Abriachan Forest Trust, from the Woodland Group of Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust who have done so much at Reelig Glen, and from FCS, who all emphasised the benefits to the local community. Floris Greenlaw and Ron MacLean from the Community Council also spoke.

This quickly led to the setting up of the Boblainy Forest Group (BFG) with some fifteen interested local people getting involved. These include Malcolm Harvey of Loaneckheim, well known as an ornithologist, who has taken on responsibility for progressing liaison with FCS, Lee Craigie of Kirkhill, a Scottish Champion mountain biker, and Eddie Freeman of Foxhole (Dularich) who has taken on the newsletter. The Christmas edition is just out - contact Eddie on foxhole4BB@aol.com or tel. 741433 if you wish to be put on the mailing list.

Community Council members have agreed that Boblainy Forest Group become a distinct sub-group of the Council in accordance with the Constitution, enabling the Group to appoint separate office-bearers and open a separate bank account. The Community Council is also applying to become a member of the Community Woodlands Association where it will be represented by the Forest Group. The Group now has a treasurer, a volunteer as chairperson has come forward with this appointment likely to be ratified at the next meeting, and the secretarial side of things is being covered



Boblainy's hidden landscape

meantime. **However, the posts of secretary and minute secretary urgently require to be filled: volunteers please!**

Good progress has been made in the forest too, with path surveys almost complete, and routes for signposting assessed. It is likely that some paths will need work to clear them, or to make circular routes. At the recent meeting with Brian Duff of FCS assurances were given that waymarking of the main route between Culburnie and Ardendrain would be given priority, and that felling contractors would be asked to remove redundant "No Access" and equivalent signs, and to minimise their use where forestry operations are underway: use common sense when coming across these signs e.g. ignore any still in place on a Sunday as no felling will be underway.

FCS are also working up costs for planned improvements at the Culburnie and Ardendrain accesses with a view to funding applications being made shortly. To ensure continued community support for whatever proposals are to go forward, a follow-up display/evening meeting will be held in Kiltarlity Hall around the end of March. Look out in due course for details of this meeting and of planned spring to autumn events and activities in the forest.

All are welcome at the next meeting of the Boblainy Forest Group in Kiltarlity Hall on Wednesday 20th January at 7.30 pm.

(See also next item)

Forest Archaeology Project

Recovering a hidden landscape

Kiltarlity Community Council's Boblainy Forest Community Archaeology Project - *Recovering a hidden landscape*, planned to start in late winter or early spring of 2010, is linked to but not part of the Boblainy access project. (See previous article)

The project will have three main stages, all facilitated by a locally based professional archaeologist. Sessions will be offered according to people's interest and will take account of their other commitments. There will be no charge for any of the sessions and no costs beyond things like taking pack lunches during field trips and getting to local indoor sessions or outdoor sites.

It must be emphasised that people do not need to take part in all three stages. It may be that some will prefer to limit themselves to indoor sessions while others are primarily interested in outdoor fieldwork.

Stage One will be indoor, desk-based, with research and assessment of sites and features. This will take place in Kiltarlity Village Hall but will involve one trip to Edinburgh to visit either the Royal Commission for Ancient or Historical Monuments in Scotland or the National Library of Scotland. **Stage Two** will

Continued on next page

also involve fieldwork sessions in Boblainy Forest, and findings will be submitted and shared with various archaeological databases and bodies. **Stage Three** will involve participants mounting an exhibition of their findings in Kiltarlity Hall and elsewhere in the local area where appropriate.

The project has already been awarded some of its necessary funding but a LEADER (European funding) application is being made for the remainder, which will be required for the project to take place. This is more likely to succeed if there is strong support for the project, including where possible, financial support, and also a strong local interest in taking part in the project.

Strong interest in the archaeological project was registered by an encouraging number of those who attended the Boblainy Forest public meeting and a subsequent mailing has identified further intending members of the project. There have also been expressions of support and some extremely generous financial contributions. This interest and support will be invaluable in strengthening the bid for essential funding still required.

It is still possible to register an interest - **simply contact 741323 or email to rdmaclean5@berisay.co.uk**. It must be stressed that anyone who does so will not be committing themselves to every stage of the project.

There will be an information meeting in late January or early February of all those who have said they would like to take part in the Boblainy Forest Archaeology Project - *Recovering a hidden landscape*.

Decision and indecision

Still no powerline announcement

For months Scottish Ministers have been confirming there would be a decision on the Beaully to Denny power line "before the end of the year".

However, indecision seems a better word to describe what's been happening, with a newspaper leak in October that permission for the line would be granted, and subsequent, less public, media hints of a pending announcement. In the latest bizarre turn of events, Jim Mather the Minister for Enterprise Energy and Tourism has confirmed he has indeed taken a decision "before the end of the year", but

won't be telling the Scottish people until next year.

So, expect the Minister to make an announcement at the first session of the Scottish parliament after the Christmas recess.....or there again, maybe not!

One thing we can now be fairly sure of at the end of five years of campaigning, is that this monstrous intrusion into our fine Highland landscapes and communities is likely to be given the go-ahead. We can only hope if this is indeed what is announced, that there will be partial undergrounding, and at this end of the line the route will be underground from the Balblair sub-station for the first nine kilometres or so, thus ensuring all of Kiltarlity including Eskadale and Kinerras will be free of mega-pylons and the health concerns and loss of amenity which come with them.

It's important to note that any decision to grant permission to Scottish and Southern would not mean an early start to construction. Even if a contract is not held up by legal challenges, there would be various outstanding matters including planning permission for a depot for workers, vehicles and equipment, and compulsory purchase orders which might be resisted for a while. There is also the issue of the outstanding public local inquiry for the latest re-incarnation of the Balblair sub-station extension.

Construction, whether overhead or underground, would lead to considerable disturbance for at least a couple of years, to those close to the route - noise, dust, dirt on the roads, heavy loads on roads not designed for them, long working hours and the rest. This sorry saga is far from over.

No, it's not too late to send off more of our campaign postcards. They are available from the Kiltarlity and Beaully post offices or Brockies Lodge Hotel, with each card accompanied by an explanatory leaflet. This is just one of several similar post card actions down the route of the power line, with cards arriving daily in the offices of Jim Mather and his boss, John Swinney, and also being sent on by supportive MSPs. Sent post cards already? Well, take one or two for friends and neighbours. Two minutes and a stamp is all it takes to support the hundred or so local households close to the line and sub-station, and help ensure the line is underground if it goes ahead.

Kiltarlity Free Church welcomes new pastor

Recently arrived Free Church pastor Joe Barnard is a native of Texas. Joe, wife Anna (from Oklahoma) and children Dan and Caleb now live in Camault Muir.

Before graduating from Baylor University in Texas in 2005 Joe completed a Certificate in Theology at the Highland Theological College in Dingwall. He is now studying for a PhD in Theology at St Andrews University.

Joe and Anna love living in Kiltarlity and now regard it as their Scottish home. Joe is keen to get to know the community and is trying to understand the intricacies of shinty! He hopes the Church's December Community Programme will have enabled him to meet folks from the community and would be delighted to welcome all to Sunday service.

A well attended Talk & Discussion with Joe titled "Michael Jackson, Lady Gaga and the Problem of figuring out who I am" was held in Kiltarlity Community Hall on Thursday 10th December.

Kiltarlity Free Church held a Christmas Carol Service (with mince pies and coffee) on Sunday 20th December. And local children were invited to a showing of the film Prince Caspian, scheduled for Tuesday 29th December in Kiltarlity Community Hall.

Traditional Music Classes

TMC Classes re-start on Monday 11 January to Thursday 25 March 2010

Places in Accordion, Bodhran, Ceilidh Dance, Chanter, Fiddle, Guitar, Keyboards, Mandolin, Scottish Song and Whistle

Margo MacIannan
Traditional Music
Co-ordinator

Highland Council ECS Area Office
13 Ardross Street,
Inverness IV3 5NS

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisure&tourism/what-to-see/arts/music.htm>

Winners of the Scottish Traditional Music Award

with
Caledonian Canal Ceilidh Trail 2009

Tartan Heart August 2009

Musical highlights on Friday were Orkestra del Sol in the Hothouse tent with their inimitable mix of superb music and theatricality; lovely Lau's Bella debut on the Grassroots stage, the smooth, mellow tones of the Bevv Sisters in the Venus Flytrap Palais; a simply dazzling display in the Sideburns tent by Bruce Macgregor, Andy Thorburn and Marc Clement (Blazin' Fiddle, in other words), following on Hamish Macdonald's terrific take on 'Tam O'Shanter'; and of course, the perennially magical Peatbog Faeries.

After that, even the smooth indie rock of the headlining Editors with the even smoother, bell-like tones of Tom Smith didn't quite fit the bill.

On Saturday on the Garden Stage a common thread ran through Treacherous Orchestra, Noah & the Whale and the Saw Doctors to pave the way for Ocean Colour Scene's finale. Newcomers Treacherous Orchestra look to become the quintessential festival band.

The pace slowed, mercifully, with Noah & the Whale. The Saw Doctors took things back to folk/rock basics, while OCS rolled out the Moseley Shoals hits.

Other musical highlights on Saturday were the DJ set by Edinburgh's Dolphin Boy; The Lost Brothers, impossible to resist, followed by the sweetness of Aberfeldy before the exuberant folk/world/rock of Seth Lakeman, all in the Grassroots tent; and a glimpse of the equally exuberant De Votchka in the Hothouse tent. British Sea Power, however, failed to impress.

It is evident every year that Joe Gibbs



and his Tartan Heart team do not rest on their laurels. Structural rearrangement of the Seedlings and Hothouse tent area, including the removal of several trees, had created an open, more easily navigable central space.

New stages, including the Homecoming Scotland Sideburns tent and the Dance DJ set-up in the newly (half) built Mother's Ruin, meant that this year it was even harder than formerly to see even half of the treats on offer. The only low point was the loos – but that's festivals for you.

Threaded throughout the weekend were the many joyful flourishes that add so much enchantment to Belladrum. The living room hanging from a tree, the whisky tasting in the Verb Garden, Rimski's Bicycle and stilt-walking giant Big Rory & his anatomically correct dog Ochie.

Saturday's fancy dress theme was Beach 'n' Sea, so there were shiploads of sailors, shoals of octopi, and obliga-



tory mermaids. Two drag Amy Winehouses stuck to their beehives. Burlesque, clowning, circus, football, fireworks, poetry, oratory, debate, excellent food and drink, and so much more – it would have been possible to have missed seeing any music at all, and still have had the best weekend of the summer.

What global warming?

Some scenes from December 2009



Left: unofficial car parking
Above: no gritter or snowplough yet. **Right:** local residents adjust to climate change.



Looking back— and forward

by
Mary Scanlon MSP

As quick as it arrived, it's gone. Yes 1 year, 12 months or 365 days no matter how you say it 2009 has just about finished and I don't know about you, but for me it has gone in a flash.

It wasn't the best year to be a politician by any means but even in the season of goodwill I'm not expecting an outpouring of sympathy from readers. Opinions of all politicians have been harmed by the actions of several and I think we'd all be wise to wish for a less controversial 12 months next year as we break the wish-bone from the turkey on Christmas day! More focus on getting out of the recession than filling out lavish expense claims would be a start.

The Parliament celebrated its tenth anniversary this year and it was a proud moment to be in the chamber to hear the Queen deliver her address, albeit with an extremely strained voice as she was suffering from a cold. I was in the chamber ten years earlier when the Queen addressed Members of a Scottish Parliament for the first time in 300 years, another memorable and historic occasion. Critics are quick to point out where the Parliament has under achieved but there is undoubtedly a will and a commitment across all parties to make the Scottish Parliament work better to improve the lives of people in Scotland.

Politicians from across the globe have descended on Copenhagen recently in an attempt to thrash out a deal on climate change. We are constantly being reminded about the importance of monitoring and reducing our carbon footprint, but of course in Kiltarlity energy issues often centre around the decision on Beaully Denny. The announcement is imminent, or depending when you read this, already made. We can only hope that local concerns regarding under grounding and the number of pylons in the area have been listened to.

As we reflect on 2009 and look forward to 2010 I continue to feel a sense of pride in my role as an MSP for the Highlands and Islands representing all the communities from Shetland in the North, to Argyll in the South and from Moray across to the Western Isles. I am happy to hear from people across the region and can be contacted at my office



in Inverness at 14a Ardross Street, on the phone – 01463 241004 or by e-mail at mary.scanlon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk.

In January I have arranged some surgeries in Kiltarlity and Beaully where you can come and meet me in person and I'd be happy to try and assist with any issues I can. On Friday the 29th January I'll be at the Lovat Arms hotel in Beaully from 12 noon to 1.00 pm; then from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm I will be at the Hall in Allarburn.

There's money in those windfarms

Fairburn windfarm is near completion. Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE - the pylon line people) report that all 20 turbines for the 40 megawatt (MW) wind farm have now been delivered and erected, with the first power set to be generated from early next year.

In spite of early discussions on community benefit which included all community councils within a 15 km radius (including Kiltarlity), SSE have set out the amounts to be distributed and decided on the community council areas which are to receive benefit.

In marked contrast to a modern transmission line with its giant pylons and cabling, such as the Beaully Denny line

planned to go through our district, turbines attract substantial financial benefit for the communities in or near where they are situated. And whereas the pylons are likely (as in our case) to run through populated areas, wind farms are typically situated on neighbouring upland and well clear of housing.

Fairburn windfarm is on 'elevated moorland' on the western slopes of a hill which lies west of Marybank. The windfarm is (approximately) 3.3 miles from Marybank, 4.7 miles from Contin, 1.9 from Comrie and 2.5 from Little Scatwell, both in Strathconon. There are three houses around Fairburn within about 1.5 miles. It is interesting to note that the giant Beaully Denny pylons will have many hundreds of houses within these distances from the line.

There are to be initial payments to compensate for construction and transport disturbance for two years, which will be shared by a larger number of areas affected. Thereafter, annual payments will be made for a further 22 years; these will be limited to Marybank and Strathconon, Contin and Muir of Ord. The figures are as follows:

For the first two years:

Marybank	35.94%	£57,500
Muir of Ord	23.44%	£37,500
Conon	15.63%	£25,000
Contin	6.25%	£10,000
Ferintosh	6.25%	£10,000
Killearnan	6.25%	£10,000
Maryburgh	6.25%	£10,000

For years 3 to 25:

Marybank	55%	£44,000
Muir of Ord	17.50%	£14,000
Contin	27.50%	£22,000

Since, according to the Highland Council guidelines originally discussed, Kiltarlity was eligible for a share (probably and justifiably small) of potential community benefit from Fairburn Windfarm., we had sent representatives to various meetings. However, it appears that SSE since took control of the arrangements, although Kiltarlity CC was never officially informed of this.



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- Council Tax/Rent Payment
- Electric/Gas Key charging
- NS & I and Post Office financial products
- Post Office Home Phone & Broadband
- Mobile Phone e-Top up

All Post office products and NS&I Financial products can be accepted at our Post Office.

Please visit www.postoffice.co.uk to see the full range of services offered by the Post Office.

Village Store

- Wide selection of Grocery items
- Frozen foods
- Greetings Cards
- Cuisine de France bakery
- Chilled goods
- Newspapers & Magazines
- Confectionery & Snacks
- Tobacco
- Mobile Phone e-Top up

We currently offer a newspaper/magazine delivery service, which will be delivered by Royal Mail and we can also organise home shopping deliveries if required.

Coffee Shop

- Hot and cold drinks
- Delicious cakes and traybakes
- Freshly made sandwiches
(Mon-Fri 11.30am – 3.30pm)
- Hot filled rolls
(Mon-Fri 11.30am – 3.30pm)
- Eat in or takeaway

Monday	9.00am – 5.30pm
Tuesday	9.00am – 5.30pm
Wednesday	9.00am – 5.30pm
Thursday	9.00am – 5.30pm
Friday	9.00am – 5.30pm
Saturday	9.00am – 12.30pm
Sunday	CLOSED

Closed for Lunch 12.00pm-1.00pm
Monday to Friday

Village Store Opening Hours

Monday	7.30am – 5.30pm
Tuesday	7.30am – 5.30pm
Wednesday	7.30am – 5.30pm
Thursday	7.30am – 5.30pm
Friday	7.30am – 5.30pm
Saturday	7.30am – 3.00pm
Sunday	8.30am – 12.30pm

Coffee Shop Opening Hours

Monday	10.00am – 5.00pm
Tuesday	10.00am – 5.00pm
Wednesday	10.00am – 5.00pm
Thursday	10.00am – 5.00pm
Friday	10.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday	10.00am – 2.30pm
Sunday	CLOSED

The Coffee Shop

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