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EDITOR’S NOTE

Welcome to the latest issue of Strathnairn News – our community magazine. The Editorial team would like to wish all our readers, contributors and advertisers a very Merry Christmas and Best wishes for 2019!

If there is anything that you would like to write for us, or send in for inclusion, please contact me on the details below. If you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter electronically, please email me your postal address details, so that we can remove you from the mailing list, and your email address. The newsletter is also available online at www.strathnairn.org.uk

Please contact Caroline Tucker on 01808 521464 or email caz_mackenzie@hotmail.com

Next newsletter deadline – Friday 25th January 2019

Please note all dates and times published are correct at time of going to print, and please ensure all submissions are non-political and unlikely to offend.

Front Cover Photograph:
Fèis Farr - The Big Map

The Cameron’s Tea Room
& Farm Shop
Glenlia Farm, Foyers

Open all year round 7 days a week 9-5
Lovely Homemade Food
And Local Produce

For more information like us on Facebook, email Morag on alimoglenliafarm@aol.com or phone 01456 486572.
YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community has a website – www.strathnairn.org.uk where full details are available. There is also a closed group <Strathnairn> on Facebook where useful day to day information is posted. As a closed group access is restricted to locals and once you have visited the page you will need to ask to join. That way your Facebook page will enable you to be notified of any disruptions and late news.

Anyone wishing to raise any matter with the Community Council can contact one of our elected Councillors below.

James Murray, Chairperson 01808 521205 chair@strathnairncc.com
Peter Christie, Hon. Secretary 01808 521257 secretary@strathnairncc.com
Bea Wallace, Treasurer 01463 772378 treasurer@strathnairncc.com
Douglas Henderson 01808 521323 douglas@strathnairncc.com
Ian Hunt 01463 772094 ian@strathnairncc.com
Isobel McQueer 01808 521474 isobel@strathnairncc.com
Sally Moore 01463 772234 sally@strathnairncc.com
Gillian Haston, Minute Sec minutesecretary@strathnairncc.com

YOUR HIGHLAND COUNCILLORS

Strathnairn is part of Highland Council Wards 12 (Aird and Loch Ness) & Ward 19 (Inverness South). Addresses & telephone numbers are available at www.highland.gov.uk

WARD 12 AIRD AND LOCH NESS
Cllr Helen Carmichael helen.carmichael.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Margaret Davidson margaret.davidson.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr George Cruickshank george.cruickshank.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Emma Knox emma.knox.cllr@highland.gov.uk

WARD 19 INVERNESS SOUTH
Cllr Carolyn Caddick carolyn.caddick.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Ken Gowans ken.gowans.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Andrew Jarvie andrew.jarvie.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Duncan MacPherson duncan.macpherson.cllr@highland.gov.uk

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:
Community Police Officer, PC Cathy McGibbon 101
Daviot Primary School 01463 772226
Farr Primary School 01808 521246
Daviot Hall booking 01463 772228
Farr Hall booking 01808 521346
SCATA Bus booking 01808 521321
NHS 24 111
Police - Non-Emergency 101
SCBF 07858 688355 www.strathnairncbf.com cosec@strathnairncbf.com
Care in Strathnairn:
Kathy Collins (Chair) broncy53@gmail.com
Derek Rose (Community Contact Officer) 07800 796106 / 01463 772240

Strathnairn Community Website www.strathnairn.org.uk
Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund Website www.strathnairncbf.com
KING’S STRATHNAIRN CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER, 4-5PM AT DAVIOT HALL
followed by light refreshments.

DAVIOT & DUNLICHITY
THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER
Family Christmas Service, including children from Daviot & Farr Primary schools at Daviot Church, 6.30pm.

SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER
Christmas Service at Dunlichity Church, 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE
Watchnight Service at Daviot Church, 11.15pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
Service at Daviot Church, 12 noon

FIRST SUNDAY IN NEW YEAR
Combined service with Moy, Tomatin & Dalarossie at Strathdearn Hall, 11am

CAROLS IN THE CABIN
SAT 22ND DECEMBER
AT THE CABIN, SCHOOL WOODS, FARR 3-5PM
Strathnairn Singers would like to welcome you to an afternoon of carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

All funds raised will be divided between the Strathnairn Music Initiative and Strathnairn Community Woodlands.

ST PAUL’S, CROACHY
CHRISTMAS EVE
6:30pm: Carols and Readings for Christmas, followed by mulled wine/coffee and mince pies in the hall
8.00pm: First Communion of Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00am: Family Service to join in celebrating the first Christmas.

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER
11.00am: Communion Service

STRATHNAIRN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
The next meeting of the steering group will be on SUNDAY 26TH JAN, 10 AM, FARR HALL MEETING ROOM.

FARR CONVERSATIONS
JANUARY 17TH, 7PM FOR 7.30, DAVIOT HALL OR FARR HALL TBC
We welcome Lesley Riddoch to Farr again for the screening of 2 new film documentaries in her NATION series, comparing Scotland & Nordic Countries in all aspects of life and society from 1800 to present day, & a talk / Q&A with the writer/broadcaster.

Further details on Twitter / Facebook and posters locally.
STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING NO. 265

FARR COMMUNITY HALL • MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2018 at 7.30pm

DRAFT MINUTES

SCC MEMBERS PRESENT

James Murray (Chair) [JM], Peter Christie (Hon. Sec) [PC], Ian Hunt [IH], Isobel McQueer [IM] Sally Moore [SM], Bea Wallace [BW]

HIGHLAND COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Jarvie [AJ]

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

PC McGibbon + 1 member of the public

MINUTES

GH

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from D Henderson, Cllr Knox and Cllr Caddick.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTE 15 OCTOBER 2018

Proposed IH Seconded: IM

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

IH advised the CC that as Chair of the Community Benefit Fund he would not take part in discussions relating to the SCBF, unless he deemed it appropriate to do so.

4. COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT

PC McGibbon spoke to her report. Of note were 2 positive drug stops on the A9, a theft from one of the quarries and 1 incident of alleged online fraud which is being investigated. PC McGibbon was asked to establish if it was possible for data from mobile speed cameras to be provided, i.e. numbers caught speeding, and will report back.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTE

Items from previous matters:

Item 19 from Feb minute – ROCK vehicles -Cllr Jarvie has had no success in establishing where the company is registered and it was agreed that the best course of action is to
contact the police with a vehicle registration. **Action all**

Item 7c from the May minute – Inverarnie Long Term Forest Plan – IH has written to the planning department asking that a condition of planning consent should be the continuation of the toilets for public use and awaits a response.

Item 12 from May minute – Red Squirrel Kill on Balnafoich Road – Following the article in the Press and Journal, SSE had taken an interest in the issue and offered the services of their local ecologist. It had been established that Transport Scotland need to approve the use of road signs and the countryside ranger has advised on two sites for these to be placed. Landowners will now be approached. A query was raised regarding insurance for the rope bridges. It was agreed that Strathdearn CC, where rope bridges are already in operation, could advise in this. **Action PC/JM**

Item 7c from the August minute – Red John – PC received a set of Documents on Sat. 17 Nov. from AECOM Infrastructure and Environment UK ltd acting on behalf of Intelligent Land Investments (ILI) Highlands PSH) Ltd. Although the development is outwith the SNCC area, all the traffic to/from the work site must travel along the B851. It was agreed to delay a decision on a possible presentation until all CC members have had time to digest the reports, but that it is likely to take place in January or February. It was agreed to establish what the closing date is for the consultation. **Action: PC**

After the CC meeting it was discovered that the closing date is 27th December. The CC to ask for an extension. **Action IH**

It was agreed that Cllr Jarvie should ask Highland Council to pursue a contribution from Intelligent Land Investments towards roads improvements. **Action: AJ**

Item 13b from the August minute – restrictions on travel times for logging lorries – IH had pursued this and advised that there are no restrictions on the lorries. **Action: IH**

Item 14 from the August minute – collection of keys for the Nairnside noticeboard – SM has collected the keys and given them to JM who will update the noticeboard.

Item 7a from the September minute – Dunlichity Graveyard – Photos had been taken of the graveyard and sent to the Head of Community Services at Highland council asking what resources are available for the upkeep of the graveyard, but no response had been received. Cllr Jarvie has now escalated to the Director of Community Services and will report back once a response is received. **Action: AJ**

Item 12b from the September minute – Glen Kyllachy Wind Farm Construction Liaison Group Meeting – the next liaison meeting is planned for spring 2019.

Item 6 from the October minute – Ray Collier memorial fund – PC met with Mrs Collier who expressed the wish that the remaining monies are donated to RSPB, which is supported by SNCC. JM is awaiting a date from RPSB regarding the official opening which is expected to be in Spring 2019. **Action BW**

Item 12c) from the October minute – Scottish Resilience Communities Conference – IM attended and reported that she felt it had more relevance for central belt communities.

Item 16, paragraph 1 – fallen trees next to B861 1.4 km north of Balnafoich cross roads – it was reported that Highland Council may not be responsible for the trees and this point will need to be checked urgently. **Action: PC**
6. FINANCIAL REPORT
BW reported that current funds are £3555.25.

The separate Ray Collier memorial fund stands at £140 and as agreed this remaining sum will be donated to RSPB. Action: BW

7. PLANNING APPLICATION AND UPDATES
Report from IH on applications
IH spoke to his report, listing 4 new planning applications (erection of extension and balcony to house and erection of garage at Ben View House, Daviot; part garage conversion, erection of carport, log store and relocation of shared driveway at Pinewoods, Inverarnie; demolition of ruined cottage, erection of 1.5 storey house on land south of Achvraid, Flichity; and erection of 2 semidetached houses (one building) at Dalvourn Farm, Farr. There were no comments on these.

There were also 4 updates relating to the demolition of a ruined cottage and erection of a 1.5 storey dwelling house on land south of Achvraid, Flichity; and erection of a holiday home on land east of Achlaschoille House, Farr, both of which had been withdrawn; and use of annexe as a separate residential unit at Molehill, Farr; and removal of condition 1 of planning permission, also at Molehill, both of which had been agreed.

Highland Council have asked for Community Councils to provide an email address to which all future planning notifications should be sent. {see 11(c)} It was agreed that Sylvina Tilbury should be asked to set up the email address “planning@strathnairncc.com”. IH agreed to continue in his roll of dealing with planning matters so the mail sent to planning@strathnairncc.com will be automatically forwarded to IH for action. Action PC/ST

8. KNOCKNAGAEL TO TOMATIN LIAISON GROUP
The next liaison meeting is due to take place on 4th December 2018.

9. FUTURE POLLING STATION FOR ELECTIONS
SNCC has responded to the consultation stating its preference for the Community Hall to be used as the polling station. http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections/ Action: PC

10. SSE – HAVE YOUR SAY ON TRANSMISSION ASSET DEVELOPMENT
It was agreed that SNCC would share the consultation link with the community so that residents can make their views known. PC advised he would also take the opportunity to raise an issue regarding the recent consultation on the overhead transmission line, where views had been taken but subsequently a Section 37 agreement had been secured which resulted in a completely new line and a detrimental impact on residents. Action: PC
11. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED  
(VIA EMAIL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE.)

a) Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks’ (SSEN) Transmission business has launched a public consultation seeking stakeholder views and suggestions on the way it engages with communities during the development of its projects. This is part of preparations for the next price control period, RIIO-T2, Link https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/news-views/articles/2018/9/have-your-say-on-transmission-asset-development/ Discussed under item 10.

b) Inverness Community Council Forum- the next meeting will be at the Town House Chamber on Wednesday 07 November 2018 at 6.30pm for 7pm. No one from SNCC was able to attend.

c) Community Council contact details for issuing planning consultations to ensure HC continually hold the most up to date information. This was dealt with under item 7.

d) Scottish Gov. inviting views on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and partial Business, Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) of their preferred policy position, that the Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland.

SNCC’s view is that the Scottish Government needs to develop a policy and land use strategy to allow a more informed view to be taken. **Action PC**

e) The WEA Women in the Highlands Project aspires to create at least four women’s groups across the Highlands.

If you would like to help establish local women’s groups and support grass roots activity for change. Are you interested in being involved?

If so, we’d like to hear from you. For more information please contact:

Andrea Johnson, Project Organiser, WEA Highland Office, Email: a.johnson@wea.org.uk / Tel: 01463 710577

PC will publicise this initiative via the SNCC website and Facebook page. **Action: PC**

f) Community Council Workshop – A workshop is planned for Saturday 24 November from 11 to 3pm. as an opportunity for all Community Councils to come together and discuss the emerging Scheme for Community Councils.

PC and SM will attend this on behalf of SNCC. **Action: PC/SM**

g) Public Consultation for Carn na Leirg Forest plan – scoping. PC will share the email with SNCC. **Action: PC**

12. LIST OF EVENTS, MEETINGS AND DATES FOR ATTENDANCE AND INTEREST

a) Closure of the U1096 (Dunlichity – Essich) for road improvements extended until 16 November. IM reported a concern raised by a resident that the works had left a huge pothole in the road which has been poorly dealt with. Cllr Jarvie will investigate.

The Community Council shared the local residents dissatisfaction at the poor level of communication between the works contractor and the affected parties. **Action: AJ**
b) Saturday 24 November from 11 to 3pm. As an opportunity for all Community Councils to come together and discuss the emerging proposals.

13. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

There were no questions from the public.

14. AOCB

a) IM reported that the remembrance event in town had been very moving and well attended. The service at Daviot had also been well attended and Farr Primary School had laid a wreath at Daviot War memorial.

b) Highland Council is seeking engagement on its budget through Your Voice, Your Council, Your future, which individuals as well as Community councils can respond to. This will be highlighted through the website and the Facebook page. **Action: PC**

There are different ways views can be provided:

- An online survey: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YourvoiceYourCouncil](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YourvoiceYourCouncil)
- A series of public engagement events – for details see [www.highland.gov.uk/yourvoice](http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourvoice)
- By completing the Council’s budget challenge, an online tool providing an opportunity to consider where the budget should be spent and how it should balance - [www.highland.gov.uk/yourvoice](http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourvoice)
- A series of facebook conversations on specific topics – [www.highland.gov.uk/yourvoice](http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourvoice)

c) There is a meeting on 28 November entitled Democracy Matters at the Spectrum Centre: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/democracy-matters-regional-deliberation-event-inverness-tickets-51872360627](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/democracy-matters-regional-deliberation-event-inverness-tickets-51872360627)

d) Cllr Jarvie advised that following concerns raised at the Strathdearn CC meeting he is pursuing the feasibility of a 50 mile an hour speed restriction on the B9154. SNCC is still awaiting feedback on the B9154.

e) A concern was raised regarding a large pothole in the car park near the school in Daviot. Contact will be made with the quarry with a view to having the hole filled. **Action: BW**

15. DATE OF THE NEXT CC MEETING [266]

Monday 21st January 2019

The Community Council is required to issue the agenda 7 days before it’s meeting. To be certain that an item can be included please make sure that it is submitted ten days before our meeting is due to take place.

Copies of this agenda and the minutes of Community Council meetings are circulated by email. If you would like to receive a copy your email address can be added to the circulation list by application to secretary@strathnairncc.com.
MOBILE LIBRARY
Moray Firth Mobile library comes every 3 weeks and carries a range of adult fiction and non-fiction in standard and large print, children’s books, talking books and DVDs.

Full Information about the mobile routes can be found on the High Life Highland Moray Firth Mobile webpage: http://highlifehighland.com/libraries/moray-firth-mobile-library.

Dates for 2019 will be published in the next issue of Strathnairn News.

Mondays (Route 9): Farr Primary School - Daviot East - Moy - Brookfield - Sunnyside - Balloch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.30 – 10.50</td>
<td>Farr Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.20 – 11.50</td>
<td>Meallmore Nursing Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.50 – 12.05</td>
<td>Daviot East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.20 – 12.40</td>
<td>Moy Forestry Cottages</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.40 – 12.55</td>
<td>Moy Housebound</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.20 – 15.00</td>
<td>Culloden Brookfield</td>
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<td>15.05 – 15.30</td>
<td>Culloden Sunnyside</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.45 – 16.30</td>
<td>Balloch Braeside Park</td>
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Thursdays (Route 12): Daviot Primary School - Gorthleck - Stratherrick Primary School - Whitebridge - Errogie - Farr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.25 – 10.05</td>
<td>Daviot Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.35 – 11.25</td>
<td>Invernarnie, Farr Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 – 12.15</td>
<td>Gorthleck Public Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.15 – 13.55</td>
<td>Stratherrick Primary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 – 14.25</td>
<td>Whitebridge Old Post Office</td>
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<td>15.00 – 15.35</td>
<td>Errogie Bridge before “Ark”</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00 – 16.20</td>
<td>Farr Croft Croy</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.25 – 16.50</td>
<td>Farr Community Hall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT DAVIOT HALL

Monday and Thursday evenings (October to May) – Badminton
Tuesday and Friday evenings, 7.30pm – Strathnairn Indoor Bowling Club

If you would like to book Daviot Hall please contact Christine MacPherson on 01463 772228.
STRATHNAIRN’S LITTLE SILVER BUS

Scottish Charity SCO45251

Making travel arrangements can be difficult for the residents of Strathnairn, especially more so for those who don’t have access to transport, to get out and about. The ‘bus provides transport for Lunch Club, Friendship Group, Shopping trips, Medical appointments, visiting family etc. The service continues to be much appreciated by the regular core group of users, but it’s only possible with the continued dedication shown by the drivers, who have turned out in all weathers.

If you are entitled to a free travel pass, you will not be charged for your journey on the SCATA ‘bus. Please remember that anyone else can benefit from using the bus at a cost of only 50p a mile. Could be useful for those Xmas party nights out!

To extend our service, we are always on the lookout to welcome additional drivers, so if anyone has any spare time to help – even only now and again – Phone Donna on 01808 521321 to discuss.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT FARR HALL

Throughout the year and during school term-time there are regular weekly activities taking place in the Hall as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Monday of the month</td>
<td>Strathnairn Community Woodlands committee meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Monday of the month</td>
<td>Strathnairn Community Council meeting 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday evenings from 6pm</td>
<td>Highland Budokan Judo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday evenings from 7pm</td>
<td>Boleskine Shinty Club training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday mornings</td>
<td>Farr Baby and Toddlers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday afternoons 2pm – 4pm</td>
<td>Post Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday evenings from 6pm to 7pm</td>
<td>Community Keep Fit runs October to May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Friday of the month</td>
<td>S55+ Lunch Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Sunday morning of the month</td>
<td>King’s Strathnairn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you wish to book the football pitch, a room, or the whole Hall please call Maggie on 01808 521346
PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY SERVICE

Important Changes to ordering repeat prescriptions from 1st January 2019 at Loch Ness & East Strathnairn Medical Practice at Foyers.

From 1st January 2019 we will no longer be able to accept requests for repeat prescriptions by telephone. Please help the Practice by registering ASAP and ordering your repeat prescriptions by our preferred option, online via our website www.foyersmedicalcentre.co.uk or by handing in or posting your repeat prescription slip to the surgery. These are the only ways we will be taking any orders for medication after the 1st January 2019. If you are having problems registering with the online service, please contact the surgery and we can offer you a time and date to pop in, and one of the Practice team can talk you through the straightforward process.

The prescription delivery service from Foyers Medical Centre to the Shop at Inverarnie is available to all local residents registered with Loch Ness & East Strathnairn Medical Practice at Foyers.

Prescriptions ordered online by Monday are available for collections at Inverarnie Shop on Friday morning.

Last date for repeat prescription orders for Christmas and New Year holiday period is Friday 14 December.

CARE IN STRATHNAIRN

HANDYMAN SERVICES

Now that winter is here you may be struggling with some routine household chores. If you live in the Strathnairn Community Council area and are disadvantaged by age, illness, disability or social circumstances then you are eligible to use our Handyman Services.

Derek Rose is happy to discuss with you anything that you feel might need doing. The kind of small jobs you used to tackle yourself but now need a little help with. As a former policeman he can also advise on home security and safety issues that might be worrying you. All works carried out by Derek are free of charge, you only have to pay for any materials. If the job is outside Derek’s expertise he will be happy to help you find a local tradesman to help. Give Derek a ring to make sure you stay on top of those little jobs. Derek Rose (07800) 796106 or (01463) 772240

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Friendship Group are looking forward to enjoying their regular outings in and around the Inverness area for good conversation over a bite to eat at lunchtime. The Group meets every other Wednesday, dates below, 11am at Farr Hall or Derek, our driver will pick you up at home. Please remember that all outings are weather permitting over the winter. Derek will make the call and let you know if he needs to cancel.

- December 19th
- January 2019 16th and 30th
- There is no Friendship Group outing on the 2nd January 2019
- February 13th and 27th
- March 13th and 27th

Ring Derek on (07800) 796106 or (01463) 772240 if you would like to join us for a friendly outing.
STRATHNAIRN 55+ LUNCH CLUB

It’s hard to believe that we have had our last lunch for 2018! The Strathnairn 55+Lunch Club has gone from strength to strength this year and our Christmas Lunch on 23rd November, in spite of being on the early side, was a memorable and fantastic get together. We were sorry though that due to lack of space at Farr House we were unable to invite everyone as usual and do hope that those concerned will understand. We were also unable to have our usual Carols from Farr School which we missed a great deal but let’s hope for 2019 in the newly refurbished Farr Hall!

I have numerous thank you’s to make, the most important being to Lucy Ogilvie who very kindly allowed us to use the dining room at Farr House for our Christmas Lunch. Having found ourselves without a venue for our Christmas celebration due to Farr Hall being closed for renovation, it was a marvellous solution when Lucy agreed to help us and we are so grateful.

The next thank you’s are to Derek Rose and James Murray for transporting all the tables and chairs from Farr Hall up to Farr House garage earlier in the month and for taking them to and from Farr House with Hans van Kessel on the day. Roger Sutton was so kind ferrying our members in the SCATA Bus to and from Farr Hall making transport a breeze and we couldn’t have done without Wendy Murray familiarising us all with the Farr House kitchen and helping throughout the lunch.

It was certainly a day for a party as Sadie Chisholm, one of our longest serving members, celebrated her 93rd Birthday on 23rd November too so we happily partied on! Finally, this is a great opportunity for us ‘Kitchen Ladies’ to thank everyone for our lovely presents – we were very spoilt and are very grateful. We love cooking for you all each month and as we always say without you there wouldn’t be a Lunch Club at all!

See you all on Friday 11th January 2019 at the Hall at St. Paul’s Church Croachy.

Happy Christmas and A Very Happy New Year!

Christina, Karen, Moira, Ria, Fiona and Liz
SSEN UPDATE

Construction works in and around your area – Safety is our number one value at Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN).

We ask that you please remain vigilant of signage or direction around the construction works and do not enter our working areas.

Forestry - Tree clearance works are now completed.

Overhead Line – Thirty four towers have been completed. We have also now started pulling conductors on Farr Hill. Foundation works including piled foundations are progressing at various locations along the route with over 90% completed. Access roads along the route are complete for the construction of both the 275kV OHL and diverted 132kV diversion into Tomatin substation.

Road Improvements – The road improvements required to deliver the project as agreed with The Highland Council (THC) on the B851, U116 and Essich Road are now complete.

The design of the proposed footpath in Farr village has been completed by THC. It has been agreed with THC that they will manage the delivery of the new section of footpath. The works are currently programmed to start in spring 2019. We will keep you informed of start dates once the contract has been awarded.

BE THE DIFFERENCE DAY – STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY WOODLANDS & DAVIOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Strathnairn Community Woodlands

Following a successful day helping Strathnairn Community Woodlands back in March we were pleased to be invited back by Davy Thomson to provide a helping hand with the removal of plastic tree guards from young saplings in Milton Wood.

Colleagues from our Perth and Inverness offices joined forces with Davy for a very productive day and we look forward to returning next year and helping with the pulling up of unwanted seedlings to prevent damage to other trees.

Daviot Primary School

6 DIY enthusiasts from our Perth and Inverness offices were also happy to have the opportunity in using their ‘Be the Difference Day’ to help Daviot Primary School with some tidying up of their play area and walk ways and also bringing some life to their fence ahead of the children returning after the October holidays.

Jacqui Flett, Lead Project Co-ordinator said, “My team and I had a really great day helping Daviot Primary School improve their play area for the children.”
Due to Daviot Woods being behind the school the playground gets covered in leaves, which makes it hard for the children to play and due to the volume hard for the school to keep on top of clearing.

We collected over 35 bags of leaves and painted their fence bright colours which cheered up the playground, most of the playground is concrete so this made a real difference.

It was also a fun day for my team to spend some time together.”

KEY CONTACTS
If you have any concerns or queries regarding the works in your area, please do not hesitate to contact;

Overhead Line Project Manager
joanne.seath@sse.com

Local representatives from the Community Liaison Group;

Mr James Murray 01808 521205
chair@strathnairncc.com

Mr Peter Christie 01808 521257
secretary@strathnairncc.com

Janis Tapley
janisandiantapley@gmail.com

COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP
The last CLG was on the 4th of December 2018. The CLG comprises of representatives from the local community, representatives from Strathnairn Community Council, Councillors of Inverness South and project representatives from Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc and the Principle Contractor MSVE. Meetings will take place at regular intervals to discuss any matters relating to the Knocknagael – Tomatin project during the construction period.

The project has a dedicated website at - www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/knocknagael-tomatin

GLEN KYLLACHY WIND FARM UPDATE
To date, Innogy has carried out some minor civil works and Site Investigations (SIs). The information from the SIs will inform the full civil design which Innogy is undertaking currently. Work will commence on site during 2019.

ST PAUL’S CHURCH
We missed meeting folk at the Community Christmas Fair but look forward to being able to use the updated hall next year.

As I write plans for decoration of the church and our Christmas services are in place. We do hope that you will come and celebrate Christmas with us and friends in the strath. Service times are as follows:

CHRISTMAS EVE
6:30pm: Carols and Readings for Christmas, followed by mulled wine/
coffee and mince pies in the hall

8.00pm: First Communion of Christmas – a short communion service for those who wish to stay after refreshments.

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00am: Family Service – for all, young and old, to join in celebrating the first Christmas.

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER
11.00am: Communion Service

A very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from everyone at St Paul’s Church.
FARR BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We have been very busy over the last month. We had a fun Halloween party at Daisy Ravens house. All the children looked brilliant in their Halloween costumes. We made some spooky spiders out of playdough and looked for some creepy crawlies in some slime. Another Thursday we went for a lovely walk about Farr wood and had snack in the cabin.

Messy-ness came out to visit us at Daviot hall for a morning. The children had great fun playing with all the activities set up for them such as Paint, straw, coloured rice, water and mud. Great fun!!

One day we went to Daisy Ravens house and took a walk to visit Boris the pig. The children enjoyed watching Boris eat his yummy food!

We have lots more exciting Thursdays coming up so please have a look on our facebook page or get in contact.

There are a range of toys from baby to toddler stage to play with.

Also If you have recently had a baby, Julia the local Health Visitor visits us regularly for advice and checks if you require it.

We would like to invite anyone with a Baby or Toddler to come and join us on a Thursday morning from 930 - 1130 in Farr Hall. Its a great excuse to come and meet people and have a cuppa and a chat.

If you would like more information, we have a Farr Baby and Toddler Facebook page or if you would like to contact myself directly by messenger or mobile. My contact details are Jennifer Brown 07870 404427.

THE BEST CHRISTMAS TREE BY FARR

John Junor, of Farr North Christmas Trees, is celebrating the biggest accolade in the industry, having won the prestigious Christmas Tree of the Year award.

This is an Annual competition held by British Christmas Tree Association, and each year it is held in a different location, this year’s competition was Somerset.

Competitors arrange to take their trees down to the venue – it’s quite a journey from Farr to Somerset! There were a total of 50 trees from all over the country in this category, and John’s was judged the best, receiving most votes from his fellow competitors.

To celebrate this honour, a 22ft tree
grown by John will be displayed outside no. 10 Downing Street, and he and his family were invited down to meet the Prime Minister, and see inside the famous property.

John has been growing Christmas trees at Dell Farm in Strathnairn for 20 years, and currently grows around 200,000 trees, but this is the first time he has won the award. Previously he has won ‘Best Fir Nordman’, and last year he was Champion Grower.

It takes around 9-10 years to reach optimum height required for sale, which is 1.8m. He harvests around 15,000 trees a year for selling, and around 15-20,000 trees are planted annually. The trees are supplied to the wholesale market across the whole of the UK – Orkney in the North to Dover in the South. He has a sizeable market in Scotland, including Inverness, Oban and Pitlochry, as well as customers in the North of England, particularly Leeds and Manchester.

Well done John, what a fantastic achievement!

Caroline Tucker

STRATHNAIRN.NET
BROADBAND – WORK BEGINS!

We are delighted to confirm that the build of the new super-fast broadband network serving Strathnairn has now begun. Following the approval of the funding back in September, all of the legal and financial components of the project have now been completed, meaning we can now move into the construction
phase. A network of 16 low profile poles will be erected throughout Strathnairn, creating a network of wireless broadband infrastructure which is expected to reach at least 99% of homes and businesses in the community council area. Local contractor W MacQueen & Sons has been appointed to undertake the civils work, so expect to see Ali and his colleagues working around the area over the next couple of months. We have also now submitted our planning application for the installation of the equipment. The live date for the network is dependent on planning, weather and SSE connecting the power, but all going well we expect the first data to start flowing in late January.

If you’re interested in connecting to the network, we’ve received the following advice from Scotnet:

1) If you are nearing the end of your existing broadband contract, don’t renew it - otherwise you will be locked in for 12 months or more. Most providers will offer a rolling contract, and it might cost you a few pounds per month more, but you’ll then be free to connect with us, without penalties.

2) If your provider won’t offer a rolling contract, Scotnet will offer a short term deal to avoid getting tied-in.

If your provider won’t offer a rolling contract, Scotnet will offer a short term deal to avoid getting tied-in.

Scotnet have also asked us to pass on their sincere thanks to all of the landowners who have supported the project, together with the members of the community and Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund who’ve worked really hard to make this project happen.

Keep an eye on https://www.strathnairn.net over the next few weeks for further updates. You’ll find contact information on there too.

DAVIOT & DUNLICHITY CHURCH

As we approach the end of 2018, we can look back on a year of ups and downs. At the beginning of the year we discovered that Dunlichity Church was to close, (by order of the Inverness Presbytery) in spite of our best efforts. Nevertheless, at the beginning of June we celebrated 400 years of union with Daviot Church, there at Dunlichity Church, with a wonderful service with participants from throughout the strath, as well as from outwith the strath, followed by a picnic in the sun outside, or chatting inside. Each first Sunday throughout the summer there was an evening service at Dunlichity. We had a different preacher to lead us each time, and had evenings of very special blessedness and fellowship each time. Our final one was the first Sunday of October, when we had an Agape, a modified Communion service, led by the Moderator of Presbytery, our own Mrs Joyce Mitchell, from Balnafoich.

We have not yet had a closure date, but we do expect it. We would really like to see the old building continue to be used,
as a community asset, with the help of a Community Development Officer. In the meantime, we intend to hold a Christmas service there on the Sunday before Christmas, 23 December, at 6.30 pm, followed of course, with mince pies, good cheer, and good fellowship, as usual.

At Daviot church, we continue our weekly services. We have a different preacher each week, giving us a varied insight into the word of the Lord, and inspiration for future outreach. We had our usual Harvest Service in October, with huge donations of tinned and dried foods that we donated to Blythswood, as well as a beautiful display of home grown fruit and vegetables which we passed on to members of the congregation.

In November, the Act of Remembrance, and Service of Remembrance, were joint occasions with members from St Paul’s, Croachy, and others. Rev Cannon Kathy Collins led the Act of Remembrance at the memorial, with four wreaths being laid – the fourth one having been made by the children of Farr PS, and laid by one of the pupils. The Service of Remembrance was conducted in the church at Daviot, by Mr Hendry Robertson, Inverness. Rev Kathy Collins read a particularly poignant poem – a Prayer from Flanders. At 12.30 pm, the bell at the Church was rung, in concert with church bells all over the country, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1. The whole thing was an extremely moving tribute to those who had given their lives, and had fought to preserve our freedom and way of life during all the major conflicts between the first world war and now. God bless them all.

As we approach Christmas, we look again to the future – the children. Pupils from both Farr and Daviot Primary Schools will participate in a Christmas service at Daviot church on Thursday 13 December at 6.30 pm. This is a community service – everybody is very welcome – so put the date in your diaries!! All the singings will be chosen by the children of the two schools and the evening led by Russell Lees. It promises to be a wonderful evening. Don’t miss it!!!

On Christmas Eve at 11.15 pm, we will have a Watchnight Service. Then, on 30 December, Mrs Vivian Roden will lead our usual Service of Worship at 12.00 noon. For the first Sunday in the New Year, our Interim Moderator, Rev Robert Brookes, will lead a joint service at 11.00 am in the Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin. We’ve been having these joint services for the last couple of years – last year was at Daviot, so this year it will be the turn of Moy, Dalarossie & Tomatin to host the service.

And finally, it is good to be able to report that we have a new website – it is still at www.strathsnairnanddearn.co.uk, but it is a new and updated version. Click on it for all the news. And so we look forward to 2019 – a new year, new challenges, and with God’s blessing, a new future.

We wish everyone in Strathnairn every good blessing at Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year, 2019.

Please Park Sensibly

The residents of Craggan House, Inverarnie Cottage and Farnack House have become increasingly concerned and frustrated by those parking at the bridge at the bottom of the steps opposite the school and also at Farr play park.

The area at the bottom of the steps is a turning point/passing place, NOT a parking area.
The area at the park is required for access, NOT parking.

Signs have been in place for some time now politely reminding drivers of this and that designated parking is provided in School Woods. Sadly, these signs continue to be ignored and access is either restricted or, on occasions, has been completely blocked. This therefore renders accessing or exiting dangerous or impossible for residents and emergency vehicles.

On Wednesday 21st November, a lorry struck and damaged the bridge as it was unable to swing round due to a car being parked at the bottom of the stairs.

Furthermore, we ask that people be mindful of the fact that the track IS NOT maintained by the council but by the residents of the 3 above-named houses. Therefore those driving on the track, especially in wet weather and in winter conditions, add to the costs and physical labour of maintaining the track to a safe standard.

We thank you very much for being mindful of where you park in future.

UPATED BUS TIMETABLE

Please find enclosed the most up to date bus timetable (at time of going to print) for all services serving Strathnairn. For full timetables, please visit D&C Coaches – www.decoaches.co.uk or Stagecoach – www.stagecoach.co.uk, or collect a timetable from Inverness Bus Station.

ALANNAH AND BEN ON THEIR TRAVELS AGAIN!

After winning both the 1m and 1.10m classes in Showjumping at The Black Isle Show, I was selected by British Showjumping to represent Scotland at the National Championships which were being held at Stoneleigh Park, near Coventry, England. I had to travel a long way with my horse with all his feed and equipment which he’d need for the time we were away. My mum and I travelled 5 hours to Lockerbie where we were generously invited to spend the night with another team member. A hole had developed in the Horse Lorry exhaust, so we weren’t sure if we could continue with our journey, but we were given the okay to keep going, only making for a noisy entrance on our arrival! The following day we loaded up again and travelled the remaining 6 hours to Stoneleigh. When we arrived, people were competing from other Nations and it was great to watch them Live. It was very exciting and educational too as I learned from watching others at top level events. Although everyone was very busy and focussed, moving about, they were all kind and supportive towards us all, helping us settle ourselves and our horses, in.

On the first competition day, I won 1st place in my Individual class against nearly 40 other riders and their horses, helping my team through to the final rounds on a high score for the next day. On day 2,
my team gained 3rd place overall, putting them in Bronze Medal position. As well as rosettes, I received a Bronze medal and a glass Trophy, to take home.

I was really happy with these results, especially as Ben, my horse and I had only started our intense training late into the season, as I was studying hard for my first exams at Inverness Royal Academy.

I am a Type 1 diabetic and can struggle to control my condition sometimes as lots of different things can affect my blood sugar levels. It can be an added obstacle and setback at times, but I am keen for others to know that although it can be difficult sometimes, results can be achieved. This is for any Sport, no matter what level you are competing in, but all areas of life in general.

Lucy Moss, British Showjumping Scottish Development Officer accompanied all selected team members to Stoneleigh and said “we are absolutely delighted for Alannah and we know they have travelled a huge distance and she has done fantastically well in helping her team scoop the Bronze prize. We are overwhelmed with how talented our Scottish riders are.”

Alannah Haldane (16)

Thanks to all of our youngsters who have written for us as part of 2018’s Year of Young People! We have certainly enjoyed reading your contributions. We are always looking for new contributors, so if you have been inspired by what you have read, we would love to hear about it!

FÈIS FARR

PRÒISEACT SAMHRAIDH / SUMMER PROJECT
AM MAPA MÒR / THE BIG MAP

Fèis Farr ran a project this year in the log cabin. We made a giant charcoal map using the stories from Strathnairn.

The sunny afternoons were a lovely mixture of stories in Gaelic and English, charcoal art techniques and some music. The map shows many things; the warring king brothers, An Rìgh Dubh and An Rìgh Bàn who live in the hills either side of Strathnairn, Celtic superhero Fionn MacCumhail fighting the Vikings at Loch Ashie, a waterhorse in Loch Ruthven, fairies in the hill in school woods, a hidden crannog, ‘Piobairean Srath Èireann’ / The Strathdearn pipers blowing their tunes
over the hills as well as the children’s houses, school and park and other places they know well as well as drawings of local wildlife.

The stories were told by Raghnaid Sandilands. The art was lead by artist and teacher Catriona Meighan. The music was provided by Alec Sutherland, Errogie.

**Here are a few comments from the children who took part:**

‘I liked sitting on the hill best. You could eat blueberries and draw!‘

‘It was easy working with the charcoal. I was so proud when we finished it.’

‘I learnt that if you make a map you have to fill in all of the information and make a key of anything. You can’t leave any of it white.’

‘Chluich Alec fonn breagh is bha sinn ag ëisteachd fhad ’s a chluich. Bha e nas fhasa a bhith a’ dèanamh dealbh dhen ghaoth ’s sinn ag ëisteachd ris. / Alec played a nice tune and we listened. It was easier to draw the wind blowing when he played.’

‘I liked seeing what other people imagined the characters from the stories looked like.’

‘Chòrd e rium a bhith a’ deanamh rudegin mòr còmhla rim charaidaen./ I liked creating something big with my friends.’

‘I like knowing which hills the kings live on. One is just above the school. I hadn’t heard these stories before.’

‘I’d like to find the door to the fairy hill and get some gold maybe, if I ask nicely!’

The children displayed the map and did a great job of explaining it to the audience and retelling the stories before the Blas festival gig in Farr hall at the end of September. They sold postcards and story pamphlets to raise some funds for the fèis, now running for more than 25 years.

There is hopefully a summer home for the map in the church at Croachy who are keen to display the map through the summer for anyone who wants to see it.

The Fèis will also present a mounted copy for the school along with a booklet to explain the map and project.

We were asked to present our work at the Fèisean nan Gàidheal AGM in Glasgow recently and at the Sheiling project’s outdoor educators day conference with the hope that it inspires other similar projects to celebrate cultural transmission and creative map making.

Well done to the young creative artists who took to this work so naturally and happily and made something unique together. More of this kind of thing!
STRATHNAIRN FARMERS VINTAGE RALLY 2018

The twelfth Agricultural Working Vintage Rally and display organised by members of Strathnairn Farmers Association was held on Saturday 29th September at Daviot Estate. Although cold, the day was bright and dry, and with excellent conditions underfoot this helped make the event a success. It was officially opened by Pete Small, well known Agricultural journalist and Historian, who then gave a detailed commentary throughout the day.

The harvest area, with standing crop and stack was, as always very busy and a major and popular attraction for young and old. Two binders, a combine harvester and a Field Marshall powered threshing mill gave continuous demonstrations. The David Brown tractor and binder combination with Ali MacQueen at the helm, caught the judge’s eye, then awarded owner Andrew Smith with the star attraction prize.

Elsewhere many drivers put their tractors to good use, showing ploughing, drilling cultivating and other activities. For some this may be the only opportunity to do so and are keen to participate.

Across the field a fine line up of static tractors and stationary engines, with several models of Fordson on display, was much admired by enthusiasts. The midday parade of tractors around the ring proved very popular with drivers and spectators alike.

Last year heavy horses made a welcome return to the event, and so it was again this year, with several, some in show harness, making a magnificent sight.

Within the ring a trailer reversing competition organised by Heather MacLennan of H.L.M. Trailer Training, provided a bit of fun. With the introduction of new laws regarding the towing of trailers, Heather is able is assist drivers needing to hone their skills. So, if this applies to you, contact her!!

As usual, exhibitions and displays in the
marquee proved very popular, with several country crafts being demonstrated. A fruit and vegetable stall and a bakery stand, both offering excellent produce for sale, did good business. Several pupils and their teachers from Daviot Primary School also had a stand and by all accounts they thoroughly enjoyed a rewarding experience. They have already intimated their intention to return next year.

The large photographic display previously shown by Hilda Hesling is now the property of the Strathnairn Farmers Association. A small selection from it was exhibited, providing an interesting and informative insight to life and work within the Straths and elsewhere in bygone times. Also, on display as a memoriam to him, were several photographs of the late John MacLeod in action at previous rallies and events. Alistair Cameron did sterling work arranging tables, chairs and stands and generally making everyone feel welcome. He also found time to take photographs around the field, some of which feature with this article.

Highland Dancers, Pipers and other musicians performed to an appreciative audience, providing relaxation from the sound of tractors.

After lunch, presentations were made to Mr & Mrs MacKenzie, and to Watson Munro who received the William MacQueen memorial Quaich in recognition of his work for the rally.

Following on, auctioneer David Merchant stood upon a colourful horse drawn cart serving as his rostrum, from where he successfully and entertainingly sought bids for a large selection of items kindly donated by many local businesses and individuals. The proceeds from the auction are to be donated equally to M.F.R. Cash for Kids, and the Archie Foundation.

The rally committee would like to thank Mr & Mrs MacKenzie, for the use of their fields, also all visitors, participants, helpers and sponsors including Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund, Strathdearn Community Charitable Trust, and Highland Council. Without their support the event would not take place.

So, once again, good folks of Strathnairn,
Strathdearn and beyond, let’s see you all at next year’s event, where you are sure to enjoy yourself.

The date to mark in your diary is **Saturday 28th September 2019**.

-Ray Smith, Vintage Rally Chairman

**DAVIOT SCHOOL AT SFA VINTAGE RALLY**

Daviot Primary ran a stall at the Vintage Farming Rally on Saturday 29th August. All the parents and children contributed and worked together to make candle holders, Daviot Primary canvas bags and home baking to sell on the day. It was a fantastic day and the school raised in excess of £500 for school funds. Class 2 organised the teddy raffle and lucky dips for the stall whilst Class 1 designed the fantastic tractor themed canvas bags.
2019 has been a very successful year for the Neil Mackenzie Trust. January saw a ceilidh in Edinburgh which raised £1,800 - thanks to everyone who supported us then, and in other ways throughout the year.

We have supported several skills training courses in the Highlands this year, including mountain leader courses and a junior skills training grant for winter climbing. We helped three young people from the Highlands to go on expeditions, as it happens, all of them to Madagascar! One of the highlights of the year was a showing of a film “Blood Moon”, in November, at the Brit Rock film tour at Eden Court, which featured two of the young climbers we sponsored. It was such an adventure for the two climbers – amazing climbs and such a totally different environment for them to experience. It really brought home the value of what the Trust is able to do, even with a small budget. We were lucky enough to have stage time after the showing and space to promote the Trust to a captive climbing audience.

If you would like to support us in a small way, without any cost to yourself, consider doing your amazon shopping through Amazon Smile www.smile.amazon.co.uk and choose to support The Neil Mackenzie Trust, alternatively visit www.theneilmackenzietrust.com to donate directly and find out more about what we are doing and how we might be able to help you or someone you know.
KING’S STRATHNAIRN

We warmly welcome you to our Christingle Service at Daviot Hall for an all age celebration of Christmas. We hope you are able to join us, and bring the family!

Sunday 16th December, 4-5pm at Daviot Hall, followed by light refreshments.

POTHOLES

Many of us have fallen victim to the increasing numbers of potholes on our roads, causing damage to our vehicles, and in some cases injury to the drivers and/or passengers. Did you know that you can report potholes to the Highland Council?

Please visit the Highland Council for more information - https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/road_faults

HIGHLAND COUNTRY DIARIES

Our Editor has recently come into possession of a copy of Ray’s book ‘Highland Country Diaries’, and we are pleased to have received permission to serialise it in the newsletter.

This excerpt is reproduced with kind permission of the publishers, Colin Baxter Photography, and Ray Collier’s family.

INVERNESS-SHIRE
21 NOVEMBER 1992

Some days in the Highlands can be barren as far as wildlife is concerned but occasionally everything goes just right, and such was the case in mid-October when I went to a strath just south of Inverness. The first highlight was the sight of two golden eagles flying along a high ridge and the juvenile bird suddenly turned upside down and for a few seconds it touched the adult’s talons with its own. Then further along the strath I sat in front of a steep hillside where there was a mosaic scree and short juniper bushes between which a sparrow-hawk was hunting by dashing round the bushes in the hope of finding an unwary small bird. Above this, at around the 1000ft (300m) contour, the snow began and further up it formed a blanket of white. On the snow line there was a red deer stag holding a harem of hinds and their calves and occasionally his head would go
back, antlers lying along his back, and the ensuing roar echoed along the hillside where at opposite ends two stags roared back.

I could hear a buzzard ‘mewing’ behind me whilst I watched 5 ravens playing in the updraft of wind next to a cliff that supported a few aspens. The ravens’ acrobatics included a sudden vertical dive with wings as if trying to imitate a peregrine. Two mountain hares were scampering along the lower slope with one of them still in the autumn coat and the other rapidly changing into the winter one. But my attention was drawn to three wild goats amidst some rocks and junipers. The silvery kid was quietly grazing but the nanny was busy trying to refuse the attentions of the young billy. The nanny had wisely half backed into a crevice and the billy was so annoyed it kept stamping its feet and making a wickering call. The nanny won the contest and the billy went off to graze and the kid went to the nanny and nuzzled up as if after milk. I sat in the sunshine which was making the bronze and yellow birch leaves glow where the coal tits were seeking food.

Ray Collier
LOCAL WALKS

DECEMBER’S FEATURED WALK IS THE DALVOURN NATURE TRAILS

Grid Reference: (NH685335)

There are 5 trails available, varying in length and terrain.

- Park at the School Woods in Farr, and cross the road to the playpark. All walks can be started from here, and are signposted accordingly.

- Please be aware that in winter, parts of these routes could be icy – please take care when out and about.

OS Landranger 26 (Inverness and Loch Ness)

Each walk we feature is suitable for all abilities and can be used for cycling, running and horseriding as well as walking.

Please remember to follow the Outdoor Access Code when enjoying our countryside – further details can be found at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com. If you have a particular favourite route that you would like to see included, please contact The Editor.

Images and map courtesy of Dalvourn Holidays.
FEATURED RECIPES

This month’s recipe was sent in by the pupils of Daviot Primary School.

Class 2 took a trip around the world during our 40 days of Term 1. They travelled to Scotland, New Zealand, Brazil, Spain and many more places across the world. During the adventure they looked at Capital cities, Foods and Culture relating to the countries. For homework the children had the opportunity to bake or cook a dish from a different country and build models of famous landmarks. During our SDS (Skills Development Scotland) visit we even created 3D models of some landmarks.

The topic was rounded off by attending Oakwood Cook School in Elgin. The children were given the opportunity to cook an Indian Curry followed by an American Oreo Cheesecake. We would like to thank Oakwood Cook School again for this amazing opportunity. They even do adult cooking classes too.

www.oakwoodcookeryschool.co.uk

OREO CHEESECAKE By Archie Bone (Daviot Primary School)

For the base:  
270g of crushed Oreos  
125g of melted butter

For the topping:  
250g of mascarpone cheese  
250g of cream cheese  
284ml of double cream  
100g of icing sugar  
6 chopped Oreos

METHOD

Base
1. First crush the oreos in a sealed bag with your hand or a rolling pin.
2. Now that you’ve crushed the oreos, pour the melted butter into the bag and mix.
3. Pour the mixture into a tray and spread out evenly.

Topping
1. Pour the cream into a bowl and mix until whipped.
2. Put the cream cheese, mascarpone & icing sugar in the bowl and mix into the cream.
3. Break the six Oreos up over the bowl of the mixture
4. Scoop the mixture on top of the base and spread it out so there are no air pockets.
5. Put the cheesecake in the fridge until set.

Enjoy your cheesecake!
DALAROSSIE CHURCH

Everyone has a special place they visit in their mind. It might be a place they knew as a child, or where something special happened to them. Mine is in Strathdearn and it is called Dalarossie.

There is a little church there, which is in a loop of the river Findhorn close to a deep rock pool, a site which, in my opinion, it would be difficult to find anywhere better in the world. To get to the church you have to walk across a field. In the spring and early summer the field is a mass of little flowers. The last time I visited it was a still day and all you could hear were curlews calling and there were a pair of oyster catchers house hunting. There is no though road in Strathdearn so there is very little traffic and you can feel the peace which the world has forgotten.

The churchyard is beautifully kept with a wall round it and a gate held together with a chain. The steps on the left of the gate were used when people coming to church arrived by carriage and wanted to avoid the mud at the gate. The present church was built in 1790. It was repaired and altered in 1856 and altered again in 1904 to its present form. In about 1820 a small building was attached at the west gable. This was to serve as a watch-tower for a guard to prevent body snatchers from Edinburgh from carrying out their grisly tasks. This a sacred site and thought to have been used for pagan worship. The church was built on the site of an 8th century church which was dedicated to St. Fergus who was a follower of St. Columba. He had built a simple cell for himself there and he converted the inhabitants of the Strath. It is said that Druids cleared the stones to make the churchyard. Originally the name was ‘Dail Fhearguis’ which is the gaelic for ‘The Field of Fergus’, overlooking the church which was called Fergus’ henge.

If you are lucky enough to go into the church you will find it has been built of stone and lime with walls 450 mm rising to 2 metres thick. There are two of the most unusual objects to be found there. One is the font which is made out of two massive stones, one on top of the other. The stone which is of grey/brown banded schist forms the bowl and grey/white micro/granite the pedestal. These stones were taken out of the river and the bowl was hollowed out by centuries of swirling water, though some say they were found in the glebe. I don’t expect anyone really knows but the former seems the more likely because of the formation of the inside of the bowl. The other interesting object is called a ‘bargain stone’. It appears to have been part of a stone circle, and may have come from the barrow on the opposite side of the river. It is very rare there being only about 20 ever found in the UK. It was used to seal a bargain between farmers for land or beasts and also for a betrothed couple. The couple clasped their right hands through the hole in the stone and agreed to a trial period of one year before tying the knot.

Dalarossie is a simple church but one which is very special, situated in its unique setting.

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STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY – OCTOBER 2018
The October 2018 Board Meeting was held on 29th October in Farr Community Hall. There were three apologies from Board Members.

GRANT ACTIVITY
The table below shows the grants that were approved at these Board meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Type of Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strathnairn Seniors Lunch Club</td>
<td>£2,500.00</td>
<td>General – towards 12 months’ running costs for the lunch club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathnairn Hall Management Committee</td>
<td>£15,000.00</td>
<td>General – towards upgrading heating and lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Smith</td>
<td>£500.00</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency Improvement Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Craig</td>
<td>£500.00</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency Improvement Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 applicant*</td>
<td>£150.00</td>
<td>Hardship/Respite Grant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*the applicant(s) name has been withheld as part of a Board’s decision to protect vulnerable groups

OTHER BUSINESS
- In total, 14 Energy Grants have been approved in the 18/19 Financial Year to date.
- The final amount of the award to Farr Community Hall was confirmed as £279,634.76
- 63 membership applications were approved.
- The likely VAT position of the Strathnairn.NET project was discussed, and the implications of this for funding requirements. It was agreed that SCBF should not include VAT which is likely to be recoverable when making an award.
- Draft financial statements for the year 2017/18 were considered.
- The timetable for the election of Directors was considered. It was agreed that a decision be taken on the possible extension of the application deadline as soon as it was known how many applications had been received.

The agenda for the AGM was agreed.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2018
The September 2018 Board Meeting was held on 24 September in Farr Community Hall. There were three apologies from Board Members.
GRANT ACTIVITY
The table below shows the grants that were approved at these Board meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Type of Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Mackenzie</td>
<td>£500.00</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency Improvement Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R Raynes</td>
<td>£500.00</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency Improvement Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 applicant*</td>
<td>£350.00</td>
<td>Supplementary Home Heating Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 applicants*</td>
<td>£971.80</td>
<td>Hardship/Respite Grant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*the applicant(s) name has been withheld as part of a Board’s decision to protect vulnerable groups

OTHER BUSINESS
- In total, 361 Energy Grants were approved in the 2017/18 financial year.
- The Board signed off the 6-monthly Developer report to SSE.
- The 2018/19 Forestry Commission community benefit payment of £2,786 for the Farr Hydro scheme was received in August.
- It was noted there was an underspend of £5,360 on an award made in November 2016 to Farr Community Hall Association which was reallocated back into the Fund.
- A Board Member is liaising with a VAT expert on behalf of the Board.
- Two Board Members are liaising with those involved in the strathnairn.net project on the details of the project.
- Two articles for the October Strathnairn News were planned.

For more information on Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund and the Grants that are available, our contact details are as follows:

Website: www.strathnairncbf.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/strathnairncbf
E-mail address: cosec@strathnairncbf.com
Tel: 07858 688355
Freepost address: RTTJ-HBSK-RRUU, SCBF, Po Box 5783, Inverness, IV1 9EW.

Remember: Please use SCBF’s Freepost address and not Farr Hall for all correspondence, saving you postage and ensuring a faster response.

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