

Issue 124, February 2023 - www.strathnairn.org.uk



SMI NEWS

A real buzz around Farr hall with lots of great music and smiling faces.

STRATHNAIRN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The SHA trustees update residents of progress.

EVENTS, CRAFTS, FUNDRAISING, ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY ISSUES AND HELP

KAMPALA KIDS CLUB

SUZIE DOBSON, HAS BEEN RAISING FUNDS FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN UGANDA

Ballyraid Hennels

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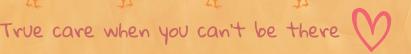
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COVER: Contributer



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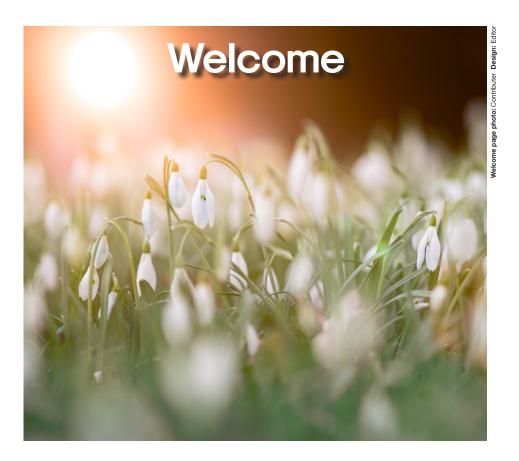


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Condolences

Our thoughts are with Jane Davey's family during this difficult time.

Local lady, Jane, was injured in a crash whilst cycling along the Mains of Bunachton on Monday 30th January 2023. Sadly, she passed away from her injuries in hospital a day later.

Such an incident is quite shocking and devastating news and we send our sympathies to everyone who was lucky enough to know her.

The next newsletter deadline-Wednesday 26th April 2023

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.

Editor, David Reid,

We are here to help, so please do not hesitate to contact our Editor, David Reid, and he will try and help. If he is not able, he will try and assist by finding a more suitable contact. Keep safe!



Get in touch: ☐ strathnairnnewsletter@gmail.com ○ 07580 299165





Community Burns Supper

On Friday 27th January, up to 80 people took part in a Community Burns Supper at Farr Hall.

Everyone ate leek and potato soup and their choice of either Haggis or Sausages along with neeps and tatties. People as well as the Haggis were pipped in by lan Campbell which was very enjoyable.

We had the great opportunity to be able to listen to the SMI violinists as well as a Burns song Now Westlin'

Winds sung by Bob Kass, a poem by Fiona Catto which she wrote herself called Fair Ye O'Haggis,

Isla MacDonald recited A Red, Red Rose and Magnus Tucker read Tae' A Mouse.

We finished off the evening by dancing Strip the Willow





and everyone joined in with Auld Lang Syne.

There were many nice comments made about the evening, including "are you doing it again next year?" and "this should be a regular event"

So save the date 26th January 2024!!!!



By Fiona Catto:-Fair Ye O' Haggis You went on yonder hill It's nae cald enough, ye say It's like the Bahamas Next, we'll be eatin' bananas

Ye tramp roun' & roun' In a sweaty mess Cursin' man for his greediness

But who's to say you don't Do a jig & hae a pairty still Singin' wi the Capercaille & dancin' till yer near ill

Singin' Oli lee hoo, Oli lee hoo & callin' oot across the glen

To a fair maiden Her name is Flora She died a while back But while she lived

She helped a warrior oot She comes, gives alms To the hills and ye Old Haggis, run to her behest

Your sentiments only with the best She strokes your fluffy head & comments on your mismatched legs & whispers warm dew into yer ear

You'll know for as long as she lives Yer heart remains true To the Scotland in you Fair hill & burn To the heather & urn

Ours is a history long sad But let that be past noo & enjoy the roots that have grown Through Love O the Land

Our lochs and peaks Sunny now where oft was cold But let us, Fair Haggis, pay our dues To the land on which you wander

Let us daunder & nae forget Its our duty and right to protect The land that gave birth to us Taking flight like a human nimbus

Holdin' the hands o' us Just like we'd do to her O' Great Mother Earth Let's bow our heads in deep respect & honour thee, our bounty & bring back the ghosts

Who wandered there Lived in communion with the land, our forbear Aye, she deserves such I'll give her much

And sidle up to you Dear Haggis Whose name we'll nae forget For as long as the hills are nae bereft

O' their sna, white hare & grouse Come play by me Nae fear't as a mouse But clawin' like a great green monster

A' the brain cells o' man Who forget the La O' The Land That he who gives will receive On no uncertain terms

So let it be, ye Forever give and dinna hold back From showin' yer love o' her The hills and Bonnie lands O' Scotland

And some day maybe she'll be free to play And give light to the day For where love and wholeness abides A Bonnie lass presides Who plays dancin' and free And a happy land we'll be!!!!

Your Community Councillors

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 latest news.

	,	, ,
Phil Mackintosh Chair	07787 155390	phil.mackintosh@strathnairncc.com
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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 Crawford helen.crawford.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Chris Ballance chris.ballance.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Emma Knox emma.knox.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr David Fraser david.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Ward 19 Inverness South

Cllr Colin Aitken colin.aitken.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Ken Gowans ken.gowans.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Andrew Sinclair andrew.sinclair.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Cllr Duncan MacPherson duncan.macpherson.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Local Strathnairn Police officers

PCN0162 Laura Kerr, PCN0953 Jo Barclay, PCN0348 Katie Johnstone

They can all be contacted on:-

HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Other useful numbers:

Daviot Primary School 01463 772226 Daviot Hall booking 01463 772228

SCATA Bus 01808 521321 Police - Non-Emergency 101

Farr Primary School 01808 521246 Farr Hall booking 01808 521346

NHS 24 111

SCBF - www.strathnairncbf.com, cosec@strathnairncbf.com, 07858 688355

Care in Strathnairn: TBC 07800 796106 / 01463 772240











Suzie's adventures to support Kids Club Kampala

Local lady, Suzie Dobson, has been doing her bit for vulnerable children in Uganda by raising funds

Suzie has been a teacher for over 20 years and currently teaches children with Additional Support needs in Drummond School, Inverness.

On January 27th she headed out to Kampala in Uganda for a 5 week stay as a volunteer, living and teaching in the slums. Whilst there she will be working with children and hopefully doing some teacher training with local Ugandan teachers.

Suzie has been working tirelessly the past few months fundraising

to subsidise the direct costs of the trip and to help her to buy supplies locally for the children whilst there.

She held a Ceilidh at Farr Hall and has been doing all different ways to raise the funds.

The charity, Kids Club Kampala, support vulnerable kids in Uganda by providing for both their immediate needs and strengthening their futures through educating, feeding, protecting, and skilling. Their vision is to see children's lives transformed, communities

empowered and poverty reduced throughout Uganda. Over the past 13 years Kids Club Kampala have provided 45 million meals to kids and their families, supported over 1,000 children with free education, provided vital income generation vocational skills training to 850 individuals and supported 3,000 vulnerable young people with counselling.

Kids Club Kampala was set up in 2009 by 2 British girls. They were so moved by the horrendous conditions they saw in the slums





that, along with local man Samuel Wambayo (who now heads up the work), they started the charity.

In Uganda children have to pay to go to school, so these children living in appalling poverty have no access to education. Kids Club Kampala are setting up free informal schools within the slums where children can come and safely learn basic numeracy and literacy skills and are given a free hot meal (often the only meal they have). Suzie hope's to be able to provide some basic supplies such as pencils, books and simple toys. She would love to be able to set up a whole classroom with donations – spreading love from Scotland to Uganda!

Keep track of Suzie's adventures on her blog: *suziedobson. wordpress.com*

More information about the charity can be found: www. KidsClubKampala.org

Even though Suzie is on her journey you can still donate and help her further with buying essentials for the vulnerable children locally at: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/suzie-kck-2023



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THE FOUR SEASONS

Four beautiful wall hangings depicting the four seasons and entitled Faith, Love, Peace and Hope and made by textile artist, the late Janette Sutherland, hang on the South Wall of the church.



STRATHNAIRN & STRATHDEARN CHURCHES

Cawdor, Croy & Dalcross, Daviot & Dunlichity, Moy, Dalarossie & Tomatin

s we face a new year, we face a year of big changes. The church is facing so many challenges all over the Presbytery. However, we at Daviot feel we have an exciting future ahead of us with the forming of the new union. We look forward to this new chapter with optimism.

In the first place, we will have a full-time minister again. We will become part of a new union with Moy, Dalarossie & Tomatin, Croy & Dalcross and Cawdor. We will also have a new name – yet to be decided. Our minister will be Rev Robert Brookes who has been our Interim Moderator since January 2018 so we all know him well and look forward very much to having him as our minister.

Patterns of worship will also change. Instead of worship every Sunday at Daviot, it will now be either at Tomatin in the community centre, or at Croy Church. Times will be either 10am or 12 noon, alternating monthly.

Daviot Church will continue to be used during the week, for various purposes, including possibly mid-week services, prayer meetings, Bible classes, etc, as well as the very much enjoyed Coffee, Craft & Fellowship morning every Friday, which is now proving to be very popular. It is on from 10.30am and finishes around 12nd. We have a variety of crafts going on and if anyone needs some tuition there is usually someone willing to help. Our doors are open even if you just fancy popping in for a coffee!

The last Friday before Christmas some of our Friday group enjoyed an outing to Dalmore Farm for Christmas shopping and a lovely lunch. We hope to have more outings like this in the future maybe House of Bruar or Brodie Countryfare.

Our Guild meets monthly, alternating with Tomatin and Daviot. Unfortunately, our planned Christmas party at Tomatin had to be cancelled due to bad weather, which was very disappointing, so we have decided to have a belated Christmas party at the Tomatin hall on 8th February!

We have welcomed new members recently and continue to grow in numbers. Guests are always welcome!

Rev. Brookes continues with his regular book club at present via Zoom and details can be seen on our "dates for your diary" on Daviot Church Facebook

The minister also leads a post advent Bible study on "promises", via Zoom. On 21st Feb, he will begin a Lent course on Bible study, held in Daviot Church each week at 7pm. This is a time of sharing, learning, discussing and making new friends. A very informal time where people can come together and chat or simply listen. It is fun.

Messy Church is also held monthly alternating with Daviot and Tomatin. For more details, again check our Facebook page for Daviot Church.

We are very determined to make the most of our Church and continue to be there for our community and would welcome any enquiries or suggestions of how we can reach out to everyone and encourage mission and growth for the future. This is your church so please share any thoughts or ideas with us.

. Daviot Church looked beautiful at Christmas time, where we had a very poignant Christmas day service.

We were also delighted when the children and teachers from Daviot school came along to the church for a special Carol service which was enjoyed by all. The children sang so well and there was a wonderful atmosphere with all the families and friends joining in.

Each month we have a bring and share afternoon tea, where we visit one of the four churches which will be part of the Union. A wonderful time is had, making new friends and forming friendships as we become one church family. Robert would love to meet you, discuss the church and get to know what you may like from the church. He will be our minister so please give him a call, 01667404686, or email him on RBrookes@churchofscotland.org.uk He is very approachable and he loves chatting making new friends.

We look forward to more events as we head into our new year and new chapter of the church, it is always lovely to welcome people of all ages into our church family.

We send our very best wishes to the community for 2023 from all at Daviot Church.





Sale

Sat 1st Apr - 1pm-3pm Farr Hall and Car Park

£5 Per table/boot

Tea, Coffee and Cake available

To book a table/boot, and make payment please contact

judymcinnes@yahoo.co.uk

WhatsApp or message Judy on:- 07710229245



Here you can give information about the defect, pinpoint it on a map and even upload a photo.

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Quiz Page

Crossword puzzles are a good exercise for the brain and puts your vocabulary to the test.

Sudoku

5								
	2		7	5	3			1
8	1	4	6	9				3
				8				
7			3	1		4	5	
				7				
1	9	8	4	3				5
	4		8	6	1			9
6								

NATURE QUIZ

SOME QUESTIONS TO GET THE GREY CELLS WORKING TRY NOT TO CHEAT WITH THE INTERNET.

- 1. What is the collective name for a group of crows?
- 2. How many wings does a bee
- 3. In which continent would you find Uluru (Aver's Rock)?

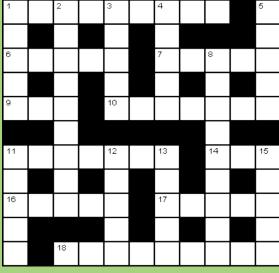
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- 4. Lemurs are only native to which
- **5.** What type of creature is a barracuda?

This Animals themed

word wheel is Α D made from a 9 М letter Animals 0 themed word. Try and find that word, then make as many words of any length as you can from these letters. You can only use each letter once, and each word must include the letter O

Quick Crossword



Across

- . Perspicacious (9)
- . Egg-shaped object (5)
- . Vačuous (5)
- 9. The night before (3)
- 10. Display of bad temper (7) 11. Get (7)
- 14. Large antelope (3)
- 16. Musical drama (5)
- 17. Melodies (5)
- 18. Rife (9)

Down

- 1. Range (5)
- 2. Monstrous (9)
- 3. Trainee (5)
- 4. Vegetable (5)
- 5. Cherished desire (5)
- 8. Hubris (9)
- 11. Fragrance (5)
- 12. Picture (5)
- 13. Minor actor in a crowd
- scene (5)
- 15. Distressed (5)



Wordwheel Fruitcake

1 3	1	3	9	8	6	5	7	2	
	2	7	8	3	4	9	5	1	
	9	4	1	2	3	7	6	8	
	6	2	5	4	1	8	3	7	
	7	8	3	5	9	6	1	4	
	5	1	4	6	8	3	2	9	ľ
	8	9	2	7	5	1	4	6	
	3	6	7	9	2	4	8	5	

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE.



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Strathnairn Music Initiative News

THERE'S BEEN A REAL BUZZ AROUND FARR HALL ON A WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, WITH LOTS OF GREAT MUSIC AND SMILING FACES.

Seasonal Ensemble Showcase

In December 2022 we held our Seasonal Ensemble. The idea behind this is to get our music students together in a group to play for each other. We held 3 sessions during the evening and in each session students played both individually and in small groups. Our students chose their favourite tunes to learn in the weeks leading up to the ensemble and then performed them. Some even had a story to tell about why they picked their tune. It was so interesting to listen to and great to see how everyone is getting along with their music tuition.

Strathnairn Performance Group

A group of SMI musicians played at the Community Burns Night in Farr Hall on 27 January and again at Dores Burns Supper the following evening. It was a new experience for some of our students and although they found it scary to start with by the end they were really enjoying themselves!

Another of our performers said afterwards "I don't feel as nervous about performing in front of a crowd as I used to and can just play along with my friends, it's nice to have them there to back me up and not just perform by myself. I enjoyed the songs and hearing how nice they sounded, it was good to experience something new and I really liked it"

We are really thrilled about how far our students have progressed since SMI started. So we are very excited to announce that



we are starting the Strathnairn Performance Group. It will run on a Tuesday from 7pm to 8pm at Farr Community Hall where musicians of different instruments will learn to play together in a group. Please contact SMI if you would like more information about taking part.





Music Café

SMI held their first Music Café on 20 January in Farr Community Hall. It was a great success creating a space for people to come along, have a chat, a cuppa and a cake and just listen or take part in playing music or singing. You certainly don't have to be a student of

SMI or even play an instrument to come along. It's a wonderful place to take music as it comes and to relax and enjoy yourself. It was a great success and it was lovely to

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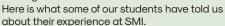


meet, chat and listen to folk who aren't usually a part of SMI. We are planning our next Music Café soon – if you have any ideas for this then please do let us know on the usual email.

Exam Success

Many congratulations to Isla Tucker who has passed her Grade 1 violin exam. Well done Isla, we are all very proud of you.

We are always very grateful to our students, tutors, parents and carers for all the hard work in teaching, learning and practicing and the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund for the funding we receive.



"SMI is fun and is a learning space to get new musical skills."

"I feel like SMI is a great programme because people who live in Strathnairn would have to drive a long way or have lessons on a device. It's good having a local place people can come to and learn music. I feel like I have progressed over the years and I feel like I wouldn't be as good at the instruments I play if SMI hadn't been there" If this inspires you and you are interested in music lessons, the Sing and Feel Good singing group or joining the Strathnairn Performance Group then please get in touch to find out more at strathnairnmusicinitiative@gmail.com

All the best to everyone for a happy and healthy 2023 from SMI and we look forward to seeing you at the next Music Café!

strathnairnmusicinitiative@gmail.com

Strathnairns Little Silver Bus

The recent snow days made things a lot more 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 is continuing again to provide transport for Friendship Group, shopping trips, Medical appointments, visiting family etc, with hopefully only a few weather induced hiccoughs. 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 anyone would like to become a driver for SCATA and help out in their community – *give Donna a call on 01808 521321 to discuss what the driving entails.*



Strathnairn Community Woodlands

Woodlands Annual General Meeting on Monday 13th February 7:30pm at Farr Hall. All members welcome.

Farr Primary

Primary 7 have made a busy start to term 3 and are looking forward to their residential trip in March.

We were very fortunate to have a visit to the UHI campus to extend our human body knowledge and had great fun extracting DNA from strawberries and handling lamb hearts. Both pupils and staff had a brilliant time and learned lots! Our topic this term is Environmental Tourism and we have been comparing some places to visit in Scotland with Norway (at the children's request!). We enjoyed listening to the story of Freya the walrus who became a tourist sensation in Norway in 2019 and wrote newspaper reports to share her story. We then enjoyed taking part in a class debate about what should be done to ensure both Freya's and visitors' safety.



The Red Room had a super visit to The Newton Room in the UHI campus. Our project this term is about how technology has changed our lives. We have discovered that we are in a Robot Revolution a bit like the Industrial Revolution long ago.

On this trip we began by thinking a robot was something we played with. However by the end of our trip we thought robots could be programmed to do jobs we, as humans, find dangerous or unsafe. We discovered that sequencing of programmes help robots

drive buses. Right here in Inverness from the UHI to Tesco. We discovered that robots like Curiosity travel to Mars to find out information to help our Planet.

Local Highland business are using Robots; to help Mountain Rescue, a forestry company uses robots to cut timber to exact textures and sizes and lastly we saw how robots work with dangerous chemicals.

We made our own robots and programmed them to follow a sequence Wow we enjoyed our visit so much!!



Blue Room -

This term we are studying WWII: The Homefront. We have enjoyed learning about the reasons for war and evacuation. To accompany our topic, we are also reading 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and we are thoroughly enjoying exploring the characters and their

relationships. In March we will be visiting Cultybraggan Camp to learn more about PoWs. We have also had an opportunity to handle WWII artefacts and look forward to collecting a WWII resource box from Inverness Museum at the end of the month.



Yellow Room -

The Yellow Room have enjoyed their new topic. Ancient Egypt. They have learnt all about the pyramids. Egyptian houses and the River Nile. They have enjoyed learning fractions in maths, finding fractions of numbers as well as shapes. They discovered that we talk about fractions a lot in real life. The Yellow Room thoroughly enjoyed going on a class trip to MFR where they were able to see how a radio station works and have a go at recording things themselves.

STAY SAFE ON OUR COUNTRY ROADS

Driving on rural roads can be a joy. You're surrounded by beautiful all to yourself. However no matter how quiet and tranquil rural lanes Motorists are nearly 11 times more likely to die in an accident on a

WHAT IS A COUNTRY ROAD?

A country or rural road is often defined by an area away from a town or city, where the road often lacks any markings, is often tighter, and is found in the countryside.

SLOW DOWN

Though the speed limit may be 60mph on a country road, the likelihood of coming across a hazard, combined with poor road surfaces - such as potholes and faded road markings - and the twisting nature of rural lanes means it's often not safe to travel at that speed.



In fact, one study of country single-carriageway roads estimated that a 10% increase in average speed results in a 30% increase in fatal and serious crashes.

PASSING PLACES

You'll find these on single-track roads. If you meet another vehicle, either move into a passing place on your left, or wait opposite a passing place on your right, allowing the other vehicle to pass you.





SLOW MOVING VEHICLES

If you get stuck behind a slowermoving vehicle like a tractor, it can be incredibly frustrating.

However, attempting to overtake can be very dangerous. as long, straight stretches of road are hard to come by in the countryside. Also, oncoming vehicles can be hidden by dips in the road and bends. If you're tempted to try overtaking, bear in mind that if two vehicles headed towards each other are both travelling at 60mph, the gap between them decreases by about 60 metres every second. Also, people tend to overestimate the time they save by overtaking someone and drive faster as a result.

If you're stuck behind a tractor, remember that they don't tend to travel very far on main roads before turning off onto a farm

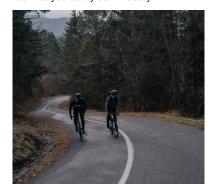
HORSE RIDERS

Horse riders are another common site on country roads. People who drive on rural roads regularly will know to slow right down and give horse riders as much space as possible.

If you see manure on the road, be prepared to reduce your speed, as it's a clear sign horses may be near.

CYCLISTS

Cyclists on their own or often in groups at weekends are a common site on country roads. Give them as much room as vou safely can - ideally



countryside and often have long stretches of the road might seem, they can be exceptionally dangerous. country road than on a motorway.

more than you would a car. As with all overtaking manoeuvres make sure to only attempt when it's safe to do so and clearly indicate your intentions.

LOOK OUT FOR HAZARDS

The hazards and obstacles you might encounter on rural roads range from wild animals, livestock and fallen branches, to walkers, farm vehicles and horse riders.

It's particularly important to stay alert, control your speed and read the road ahead to anticipate potential hazards. If you're driving at night, there may not be any streetlights, so put your headlights on full beam, but be ready to dip them immediately if you see another





ANIMALS ON THE ROAD

One of the most common hazards on country roads are wandering animals, both wild and livestock.

Drivers should pay particular attention to the risks of colliding with wild animals in areas that are wooded or where there are road signs warning of animals.

WATCH THOSE CORNERS

Part of the joy of driving on country roads is the variety: the twists and turns, and uphills and downhills, but that also means reduced visibility for drivers - a tractor, an animal or another hazard may very well be just around the bend.

You need to be particularly cautious when approaching a corner, and brake before you start turning. This is especially true on narrow roads.

A useful tip is to use landmarks like telegraph poles



and hedges to help work out where the road ahead is going.

FLOODED ROADS

Rural roads are prone to flooding. so plan ahead in wet conditions. If you come across a section of road that appears to be flooded, but you can't tell how deep the water is, then it's wiser to find an alternative route.



It's easy to lose control of your vehicle, or 'aquaplane', if you drive through puddles or floodwater. If this happens to you, take your foot off the accelerator and don't brake until you've regained control.

It's also worth remembering that mud on the roads can be slippery when wet.

SAFELY DOES IT

On single-lane country roads overtaking can be challenging and dangerous.

It is illegal to overtake if there are signs or road markings clearly prohibiting it, or if it's done in an unsafe, reckless, or uncontrolled way. Examples of this include when you don't have clear visibility of the road ahead or difficult weather conditions - both common challenges on these types of roads.

Further information and guidance can be found here:

- ◆ The Highway Code: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code
- ◆ Safe driving for life: https://www.safedrivingforlife.info/advice/car-driving/develop-practical-driving-skills/

Thank you to local Driving Instructor. Fiona McIntyre for her guidance when writing this article. Website: www.fionamcintyredriving.com - Mobile: 07747 010620

Strathnairn Heritage Association

The Strathnairn Heritage Association(SHA) trustees would like to update residents of progress to date.

We held our AGM in November 2022 and a new set of twelve trustees was elected.

Our main focus over the last year has been the acquisition of Dunlichity Church which is being sold by the Church of Scotland. The Church's HQ is keen to sell it to an organisation such as SHA, to allow us to turn it into a heritage centre, as it fits in with their policy of sales to purchasers that will treat such buildings with the sensitivity and respect they deserve. Our intention is to bring together all the rich history of this glen that SHA has been able to collect since 1999, and to display it in a format that will be accessible to this, and, future Strathnairn residents and others. We, also, plan to stage talks and lectures about the history and heritage of this glen.

The church is the oldest building in Strathnairn and is in very good condition. It dates from 1759 and there has been a church on that site since AD 575. Apart from the unique opportunity to have such a heritage centre in our glen, it is vital that this community owns the building that stands in the middle of a graveyard in which our forebears have been buried for many hundreds of years.

On our Facebook page, we have included regular stories about Strathnairn from our distant, and recent



past. These have had a great response and our follower numbers have grown rapidly. Our website gets much attention too. We, also, invited residents to become members of SHA and the response has been enormous. At the present time our members are numbering close to 200. That is far beyond the support we could ever have imagined to gain and indicates the level of local enthusiasm for this project.

On 16th January, Strathnairn Community Council kindly invited SHA to attend its meeting and to explain our plans so that they are fully informed. The community council unanimously endorsed it and have written a letter in support of funding being given to it. The Church's HQ gave us six months to raise the money to acquire funds to buy Dunlichity Church and that window of opportunity expires on 20th March 2023. For the sake of our intended heritage centre and for the retention by our community of this, our oldest and most historic building, we hope that it can be achieved.

If you are not already a member of SHA and wish to join, either submit your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, with a request to join, via our Facebook site or e-mail directly to our secretary on evelyn.danson@ntlworld.com

Alasdair Forbes (Chairman-Strathnairn Heritage Association)



Microwave Chocolate Brownies

Perfect quick-fix craving buster

Serves 12 brownies

Baking a sweet treat in the microwave will use less electricity and time. These Brownies are a perfect quick-fix when you're craving something a bit indulgent. Makes a tray which can divided into 12 servings.

Ingredients

150g Lightly salted butter 200g Caster sugar 1 tsp Vanilla extract 65g Cocoa powder 2 Eggs 50g Plain flour 75g Chocolate chips (dark, white or milk)



Instructions

Step 1 - Dice the butter and put in a 22cm microwavable dish; a square silicon or Pyrex/ceramic. Cook on full power for 30-45 seconds, stirring half way, until melted.

Step 2 - Tip melted butter into a mixing bowl. Grease the dish that the butter was in, you'll use this for the brownies. Add the sugar, vanilla and cocoa to the melted butter and mix until combined.

 ${\bf Step~3}-{\bf Add~the~eggs}, one~by~one, beating~after~each~addition.~Fold~in~the~flour~and~the~chocolate~chips.~Pour~into~the~microwavable~greased~dish.$

Step 4 - Cook on full power for 4-5 minutes, depending on the strength of your microwave. Stand for at least 15 minutes before cutting as the brownies will firm up as they cool. For firmer brownies leave until the next day to cut. Cut into 12 squares.

Freezing and defrosting

Bake according to the recipe. Allow to cool completely. Wrap well in clingfilm and tin foil (to prevent freezer burn) and freeze for up to 3 months. Loosen the tin foil and clingfilm but leave to defrost in packaging at room temperature for several hours before serving.

FARR COMMUNITY HALL

FARR COMMUNITY HALL

HOT-DESKING

Between 9.30-12 noon every Wednesday



Hot-desking is a workspace system in which tables/desks are used by different people at different times on an ad hoc basis.

Your community workspace offers a place outside the home, giving a place to stop, get a coffee and use the facilities without having to head into town. The boardroom at Farr Hall offers a large work table, wifi, and electric points for devices.

If you have any questions, please contact: Beth Rose (01808 521 370), e-mail bethscheleen@yahoo.co.uk or Lorna Mcconachie a lornamcconachie@btinternet.com

FARR COMMUNITY HALL

DROP-IN CAFÉ

EVERY MONDAY 10AM – 12 NOON FROM 5TH DECEMBER (EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS)

COME ALONG FOR TEA/COFFEE AND BISCUIT, AND A BLETHER,

OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE H **INTERNET** ACCESS.

FREE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF STRATHNAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA.



IF YOU REQUIRE TRANSPORT TO, OR FROM THE HALL THE SCATA BUS IS AVAILABLE BY PRE-BOOKING WITH DONNA ON 01808 521321.

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:

Monday mornings Second Monday of the month

Third Monday of the month Wednesday morning

Wednesday afternoon/evening Thursday mornings -

Friday mornings Friday afternoons Sunday afternoons Drop-in Cafe, 10am - 12 noon.

Strathnairn Woodland Project meeting. Strathnairn Community Council meeting.

Hot Desk, 9:30 - 12 noon + Post Office van, 10:45 - 11:15.

Strathnairn Music Initiative. Farr Baby and Toddlers

Thursday evenings from 6pm-7 pm - Community Keep Fit (from late September through to May)

Yoga class, contact Ali Cartwright.

Strathnairn Music Initiative.

Sunday School.



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Strathnairn Development Company (SDC) News

We have been busy over recent months agaring up for recruiting a Community Development Officer (CDO) to help implement the Community Action Plan (CAP) while also starting a number of initiatives that the people of Strathnairn identified as priorities for the comina months and years. We are very pleased to have attracted some strong candidates for the post of CDO and all on the short list have experience and aualifications in community development, live and work within 20 miles of Strathnairn and we look forward to appointing in the near future. We are pleased to have received the funding from the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund to make this happen. Once the preferred candidate has accepted, we will introduce them to you all with announcements here. on the various community Facebook pages and directly in community events.

As well as conserving and protecting the environment and community of Strathnairn. the community survey highlighted that affordable housing was the biggest priority for the people here. Outwith the main settlements in the Highlands, there are no estimates of demand for

housing - whether private. rented or other tenures so we need to assess what are the needs of local folk for accommodation in Strathnairn. The recommendations of the community in the CAP were that there should be suitable accommodation for those who work locally and want to live here, for those who live here and are retirina or need sheltered housing. and those who are leaving the family home locally and want to stay in the area. We have made the initial steps to getting funding for an analysis of demand for social housing and that should lead to an options appraisal for what are the needs, possibilities and requirements to meet the aspirations of the community for a balanced and sustainable Strathnairn. We have spoken to Development Planning in Highland Council and they consider a small development (2-3 one-bedroom houses) near the Farr Hall would be an ideal site for Strathnairn: this would not compete with any other proposals identified in the options appraisal and of course any proposals would be scrutinised by the Community Council.

Another priority is the preservation of public buildings and facilities, of which there are very few in this area. As well as the two community halls at Farr and

Daviot, there are churches and their respective halls and lands. As the Church of Scotland is reorganising its congregations and their buildings, so both their local churches are scheduled for sale. The Development Company has recognised the importance of keeping these few premises open and available for community use and enjoyment, and so has been giving advice and support to the efforts of Strathnairn Heritage Association to purchase Dunlichity church. This has long been an iconic building in the community, is just the sort of asset that will complement the other key community facilities in Strathnairn with plans for an archive and small event space, and has the potential to offer small scale employment and income for local people and businesses. In other words, it is exactly the sort of project that the CAP recommended and that neiahbourina communities have already established. Strathnairn Community Council recently endorsed the proposal to the Benefit Fund for Dunlichity church to be bought for the community by

strathnairndevelopmentcompany@gmail.com or apply directly on https://strathnairndevelopment. scot/become-a-member/ and see our pages on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/ strathnairndevelopmentcompany) and on Instagram (sn. d. c).

SHA, and at a very much lower cost than our neighbours have had to meet for similar facilities.

There are a good number of community groups active locally but several are struggling to recruit board members and volunteers. As they give so much to the health of the community and to living here, it is vital that we all support their activities and efforts. In late April. we will be organising a one-day event where all local aroups will be able to showcase what they do and promote the opportunity to join them, and for the community to learn about these aroups and how to volunteer with them. Further details to follow.

One local initiative which is already showing success is the hot-desking, drop-in. coffee and blether sessions organised on Wednesday mornings in Farr Hall by 'Strathnairn Connections'. The opportunity for a chat, to network, to use the free wifi facilities is proving popular and has sparked off several ideas for more events, connections. activities. Beth Rose is leading on this and SDC is supporting this very worthwhile initiative.

Proposals for a community Hub continue to be worked on, and SDC continues to learn from other communities through national organisations including DTAS (Development Trust Association Scotland). Community Land Scotland. SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) and HTSI (Highland Third Sector Interface) to try and make sure we follow best practice in sustainable development and aovernance for the good of the

Further details on all these ventures will follow in future Strathnairn Newsletters. membership of SDC is free so please ioin us please request a form from:-



HAPPY NEW YEAR - A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED US IN 2022.

e are adding a new layer to The Neil Mackenzie Trust, this vear. Some of you will already know our plans. We are forming a "membership" group, and we hope to start with as diverse a group as possible, including both supporters and recipients. We want to bring people together – in person or online - to have fun, bring ideas, and ultimately help to move the benefits of Trust forward. We are particularly looking for local people with an interest and knowledge of all things outdoors!

We hope to have our first summer event, this summer, probably a get together at Brin, which might include, for example a meal, BBQ or picnic, a multi-generational walk, a short presentation from recent recipients, and time to discuss anything outdoors - not just the Trust! We also expect to have a bi-annual newsletter which will include trip reports and more details of how we operate. We think that this is a good way to increase interaction with the Trust. Please drop us an email if you are interested. theneilmackenzietrust@ dr.com If you would like to join

please rest assured that at this stage nothing will require a large commitment in time or money, but just an interest in what the Trust is all about. More details about the Trust can be found at www.theneilmackenzietrust. com All we will be asking, if you join us, is a small donation anything from £1 upwards - and a contribution of food towards the get together if you come.

For the Record:

Since The Neil Mackenzie Trust was set up just over seven years ago, we have raised nearly £40,000, with the help of friends, family and supporters. As well as being able to build some reserves, we have assisted 50 expeditions and outdoor skills training courses with grants ranging from £75 to £3,000. Destinations for expeditions have included North America. Greenland, Iceland, Europe and Africa, as well as here in Scotland. Training courses have included Winter and Summer Mountain Leader. Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing and RYA Day Skipper courses. Visit the website to see reports from recipients and how they have benefited from our assistance.

www.theneilmackenzietrust.com



Strathnairn Community Council 2022

Meetings - 16th January 2023 Draft Minutes

Present:

SNCC Members: Phil MacKintosh (PM, Chair), Neil Spence (NS, Hon Sec), Ian MacLean (IM, Treasurer), Ian Hunt (IH), James Murray (JM), Jonny Porteous (JP), Lorna McConachie (LM, Minutes)

HC Members: Cllr Chris Ballance (CB), **Associate Member:** Allan Martin (AM)

Members of the Public: Rob Atkinson (RA), Mark Bessell (MB), Mike Danson (MD)

Alasdair Forbes, Euan Hardie, (mentioned in the minutes), 3 others.

1. Apologies

Tim Rose (TR), Cllr David Fraser (DF), Cllr Ken Gowans.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 21st November 2022: Proposed (IH), Seconded (JP).

3. Declaration of Interest

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

4. Matters Arising from minutes: Nil

5. Community Policing Report and local issues

Officers continue to carry out regular patrols within the rural communities and carry out speed checks in areas that have been highlighted. Officers attended Farr Primary recently where they talked to pupils about road safety and walking safely to and from school during the darker winter mornings and evenings. They were all given reflectors to put on their school bags. Action: NS to forward EH copy of Police newsletter.

6. Financial Report

The current balance sits at £5274.79. Outgoing expenditure included minutes of £130 and events of £2851(senior lunch, Christmas Santa, presents and refreshments).

7. Planning Application and updates

- a) New
- i. Plot 2 Land 200m SE of West Aultlugie, Daviot, Inverness
- ii. Plot 1 Land 200m SE of West Aultlugie, Daviot, Inverness
- iii. Erection of house, workshop and garage. Land at Flichity, Inverness. IV2 6XD
- iv. Erection of house. Land 30m SW of South Gatehouse, Farr. Note: There are two objections to this application.

b) Updated

- Erection of house. Land 250M South of Stallion Field, Daviot, Inverness.
 Withdrawn.
- ii. Alterations and extension. Crask, Farr, Inverness. IV2 6XF. Agreed.
- Conversion of garage attic to form annex/holiday letting unit, Woodlands, Farr, Inverness. IV2 6XG. Agreed.
- iv. Erection of house. Land 175 SW of Craggie House, Daviot Inverness. Agreed.
- v. Erection of two houses. The Deerstalker, Daviot, Inverness. IV2 5XQ. Agreed.
- vi. Construction of the tracks to access the Knocknagael-Tomatin 275kw overhead line (in retrospect). Land 1185m West of Knotty Wood Cottage Farr. This application was in dispute due to the adverse effect to a private water supply to three properties. The application went to the HC South Planning Committee in November and was deferred for further reports, it then went to the December meeting where it was agreed with conditions placed upon SSE. These conditions are still not available via the internet and will be reported in due course. Action: Cllr CB to review webcast for clarification and NS to forward IH email address to Cllr CB.

8. Windfarms

Aberarder: At a recent meeting with SSE Renewables PM and MB discussed with John Greenwood a work schedule, timelines and community benefits. Further details will be available in due course.

9. Red John Hydro Scheme

No further news. Action: JP to email for an update.

10. Strathnairn Development Company (MD)

- a) Social Housing was highlighted as a high priority within the CAP and an application to the Scottish Government Land Fund for a feasibility study is underway. The aim of the survey would also investigate demand for rural housing.
- b) The advert for the Community Development Officer (CDO) has been extended to the end of January. An interview panel has been established.
- A proposal to hold a fayre showcasing all community groups at the end of February/early March has been discussed. This would allow groups to promote their activities and recruit new members.
- d) It was discussed that communication to the community should be improved and, in the future, the CDO would ensure this was a key pillar of the SDC.

11. Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund (MB)

- a) The Home Energy grant (£500) has been updated to reflect the new Scottish Government guidelines. This will be communicated in due course.
- b) The Energy Efficiency Improvement grant has been updated and will now include home insulation. This will be communicated in due course.
- c) Farr Windfarm monies from Ventium (£124, 479.00) have been received.
- d) SDC grants approved for the CDO and running costs for the year.
- e) Outstanding payment from Dumnaglass Windfarm due.
- f) MB and IM to review balance top up funds for 2023.

12. Community Halls

- a) Strathnairn Hall (Daviot): Action: IH to follow up with Richard Crawford re "What's On" and update IM.
- b) Farr Community Hall: Phase three work is out for tender which includes keycode access, connecting the hall and changing rooms, extending windows and insulating the games room.

13. Strathnairn Newsletter

The newsletter is struggling for funds and the editor has forgone two salary payments to ensure publication. It was agreed that this situation is untenable. Action: PM and LM to discuss with Editor.

14. Strathnairn Heritage Association (SHA)

AF gave a very interesting and informative presentation of the history of Dunlichity Church. He provided a comprehensive summary of the process and work required to purchase and subsequently own the building. The support from the local community was acknowledged with the Facebook page showing 168 members of which 142 are residents (and the total number is increasing). A list of juniors has also been created. The deadline to secure the church is March. It was unanimously agreed that the Community Council would support the application of SHA to purchase Dunlichity Church. Action: NS to compose letter of support.

15. Roads

- a) Farr village improvements
- i. Due to inclement weather all works have ceased. Updates will be provided when available.
- ii. Temporary layby installed at Tomfat, a meeting to review has been postponed.
- iii. Feedback from Highland Council re Beacham Bridge stated that they were happy with the quality of work completed on the bridge.
- b) Winter snow clearing and gritting
- i. Cathy's View and Inverarnie park have been adopted by Highland Council, these roads will only be gritted if all other major roads are cleared.
- ii. PM has contacted a local farmer to clear the community areas. (Hall and surroundings, and payements). Quote for clearing to be reviewed.
- iii. A request for Grit bins at the Balnafoich crossroad, Clava/Leanach hill, Daviot Hall. Action: NS to email Highland Council.
- iv. Potholes should be reported to Highland Council. Information on how to report to be included into the newsletter. Action: PM and LM to inform Editor.
- v. A request to have information on driving safely on single track roads, allowing other users to overtake to be included into newsletter. Action: PM and LM to inform Editor.
- c) Daltullich Bridge will be closed until 27th January for essential work to be completed.

16. Knocknagael to Tomatin 275kV Overhead power line and Private Water Supply.

Refers to Item 7bvi, above. The residents (five houses/three different properties) have requested the support of the Community Council. After a discussion, it was agreed that mistakes had been made and contact with SSE should be made requesting a plan to resolve the issue satisfactorily between SSE and the residents. A vote was undertaken, and it was

unanimously agreed to support the residents. Action: NS to draft a supporting letter. Action: NS to write to Highland Council to ensure conditions are enforced and a protocol agreed with the residents. Action: IH to contact planning department of HC re status of application. Cllr CB and Cllr KG to be copied in on communications.

17. Correspondence received. (via email unless indicated otherwise.)

- i. SCBF Minutes of recent board meetings.
- ii. Highland Council Community Resilience Briefings.
- iii. Scottish Community Councils December Newsletter.
- iv. Chris Lawford Beauly to Blackhillock 400kV overhead powerline.
- v. Norma Duncan Provision of road grit at Leanach and Claya.

18. List of Events, Meetings and dates for attendance and interest. Nil.

19. Questions from members of the Public. Nil.

20. AOCB

- a) Quotes have been received to create a "one stop" community website which would include all groups and activities within the Strath. Action: PM to establish a working group.
- b) The Inverarnie shop will not continue after 2023.
- IH put forward a proposal to change speed limit to 40mph on B1954 Meall Mor to A9 road.
- d) It is proposed to co-opt LM onto the community council.

21. Next Meeting - Monday 20th February 2023.

The Community Council is required to issue the agenda 7 days before the 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.

PM thanked all for their contribution, and the meeting closed at 21.30 hrs

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Recycling Bins Notice

Should people find the bins to be full, please don't leave bottles etc on the around. An amount of broken glass had to be swept up before the area was safe for the youngsters to play tennis in the Hall car park last Friday. Thank you.

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