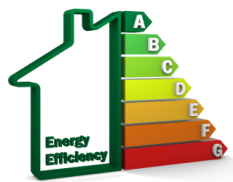




Aird & Loch Ness

ENERGY ADVICE ROAD SHOW

Information for householders about a range of energy efficiency best practice to help save energy and money at home



2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday 17th November Community Hall, FARR

Exhibitors

Local primary schools
SSE
Money Advice team
Community Energy Scotland
Energy Saving Scotland advice team

w w w . h i g h l a n d . g o v . u k

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FROM THE EDITOR

I am keen to accept entries on a wide range of club news, special events and letters of interest to the community. So get in touch! Submissions can be accommodated up to one page in length (740 words), please note that any article/letter submitted may be edited/shortened or split over editions at the discretion of the Editor; all submissions must also be accompanied by the author's name/address. Contact me on info@kpdphoto.co.uk/call 0793-673-8930; deadline for the January edition is the 20/12/11

Community Council Elections

find out more on page 6+7

NOTE OF GENERAL MEETING NO. 190

MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2011

All were welcomed by the Chair

1. Minutes of 25 July 2011

The apologies of Drew Hendry were noted. The notes were proposed by Fiona Proctor and seconded by Tina Smith.

2. Matters arising:

- **Newsletter - (Editorial Decision Making)** There was a discussion over how the Community Council's views would be represented in a different approach to the Newsletter as discussed at the previous meeting. It was determined by 5 Community Councillors that the nature of the newsletter would change as previously discussed. It was proposed and agreed that Sally Moore and Jenny Stewart (community member Elrig) would act as an Editorial Group. Work would be undertaken to detail Guideline for the Newsletter and in the meantime, the Chair and Vice Chair would advise the Editor over the content. (*Letters Page*) It was agreed that this would be part of the remit of the Editorial Group - Action: sub-group to meet and detail guidance for the Community Newsletter.
- **Notice Board (Inverarnie Stores)** - Issues remain over the height of the Notice Board regarding the height and the weight of the door. It was noted that the board had not been built to the given specification but that the likelihood of redressing this was limited. It was agreed that the contractor should be encouraged to redress some of the concerns. In the meantime the door would be secured to avoid injury as the hinges have dropped and made the door unsafe. The gravel/chips would be leveled out to reduce the risk of an accident. Action: Jimmy MacPherson to ring the contractor and seek a solution to the concerns. If this was not successful the secretary would write detailing the concerns over the work not being undertaken to specification and requesting a meeting with members of the Community Council.

3. Financial Report

The balance stands at £1838.90. The accounts remain with the Auditor. Awaiting an invoice regarding Daviot Church and to clarify a detail over the allocation of the grant from Highland Council.

4. Community Policing Report

Deferred

5. Roads update

Transerve have written to Cllr Hendry to advise that they will undertake some work to improve B951 junction heading south and consider related work at the Daviot village turn off heading south also. In addition, they would undertake white lining at the junction and cut back vegetation. These actions were welcomed.

Concerns were again noted over the Leys road: lack of passing places signage, pot holes along the road edges and the increasing volume of traffic and speed of drivers.

Action: Secretary to write to Highland Council TEC services again raising these concerns

It was noted that approval has been given to extending the 40 mph zone from Farr to Inverarnie.

It was noted that drivers' road testing cars were using the Daviot junction for undertaking a u bend and that this was not safe as it added additional traffic to the junction where there are already concerns. Cllr Hendry offered to write to the car dealerships in requesting that they advise drivers to use the Milton of Leys junctions to turn around as this was considered to be safer. This offer was welcomed.

6. Daviot Wind Farm update

Community Cllrs were aware that planning was likely to be sought at the end of September. Simon Green had requested a meeting with the Planning Director of West Coast Energy with a representative of the Community Council in Daviot on 15 September at Tomatin Hall. SM was to approach West Coast Energy to see if a meeting in Strathnairn would be possible.

Once the date of the planning submission was confirmed then the post card survey would be rerun using the phrasing advised by William Gilfinnan.

Action: Sally Amor to approach West Coast Energy over a meeting.

7. Kyllachy Wind Farm update

No further information at this point in time.

8. Moy Wind Farm update

The Community Council had been advised that further work was required on the visual montages and as such there would be a further period of consultation on the revised images. SM agreed to develop a response for the Community Council and to involve members of the community affected. PD and JMacL were to consider whether the new images would influence the allocation of Community Benefit between Strathnairn and Strathdearn.

Action: Sally Moore to consult over revised images. Paul Davies and John MacLeod to review images re allocation of Community Benefit

9. Dunmaglass Wind Farm update

A formal offer of Community Benefit has been made to the Community Council via the Chair. This involved £2,000/mega watt with an annual uplift of 21/2% for inflation. The first payment would be made in the first year of electrical generation, anticipated to be 2015/16.

An additional upfront payment of £1,237,500 to be split equally between Strathnairn, Strathdearn and Stratherrick Community Councils to be paid on the commissioning of Dunmaglass Wind Farm. This is based on a total installed capacity of 82.5MW but would increase or decrease pro-rata if more or less than 82.5MW is installed".

In addition, £500,000 would be given to Strathnairn and Stratherrick, with an 80:20% split for the inconvenience to communities with the work that would be undertaken on the roads. There was a query as to why Stratherrick were going to be in receipt of benefit as there would be no apparent road disruption for those roads. There was a discussion as to whether the allocation to Strathnairn alone was documented anywhere. In discussion it was noted that this was less / mega watt than had originally discussed at the negotiating meetings. In addition, the figure was not index linked to a government linked statutory base line such as the retail price index, as had also been requested. However, it was noted also that the company was under no obligation to offer benefit and that negotiations over the offer should be undertaken with care.

Action: Paul Davies and John MacLeod to discuss these matters further as part of the negotiation.

10. Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund

The Benefit Fund have developed a flyer that was given out at the Farr Gala and is proposed will be used at the Vintage Rally in September.

11. Community Planning

A flyer detailing the project has been developed. A range of options are being considered as to how to develop the plan and involve community members. It seems likely that some external support will be required but this will be kept to a minimum. An approach could be made to the Benefit Fund and the Common Good Fund. Those involved were keen to turn the ideas that would be generated into reality. It was likely that the process would take a year and result in a series of projects for the community. This to inform the spend of Community Benefit from the various wind farms in the Strath. A formal proposal would be developed for the September meeting: this to include setting up a sub group to develop the project.

Action: A proposal to come to the next Community Council meeting for discussion.

12. Planning

Deferred to the next meeting

13. AOCB

- 1.Highland Council Officers had advised that the Treasurer and Secretary should have been re elected at the AGM – given that there would be a new Community Council elected in November this was not pursued.
- 2.Cllr advised the meeting that the Highland Council have agreed to reinstate the wall outside the school. This was welcomed.
- 3.PD advised that he did not have capacity to take on the development of a website for the Community Council. It was suggested that the Newsletter could invite someone to take on this task, perhaps a student.
- 4.Highland Council have given notice that there will be Community Council elections in November 2011. These to be advertised in the next Newsletter to encourage community members to stand for election. The deadline for the nominations is 4pm on Tuesday 4 October with the deadline for voting, 5pm on Wednesday 16 November.
- 5.It had come to the attention of the Treasurer that the system for ensuring paper in the photo copier was not working. There was a discussion as to whether the charge should be waived because of this.

NOTE OF GENERAL MEETING NO. 191

MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2011

All were welcomed by the Chair

1. Minutes of 26 August 2011

A number of amendments/additions were proposed and accepted. With these, the notes were proposed by Ian MacQueen and seconded by Christina Smith.

2. Matters arising:

- **Newsletter** - It was noted that a request for feedback on noise from the Farr Wind Farm had not been discussed with the Chair. This was requested for future pieces in the Newsletter from a Community Councillor. It was noted that the phrasing used in the Newsletter re the Community Council Elections was potentially misleading as it could give the impression that Elections were being held just because of the revised code of conduct whereas they are held every 4 years.
- **Guidance for Newsletter** - No guidance had been found to distinguish between of a Community Council v a community newsletter. The current Newsletter was the first in the new format with the Community Council having a dedicated page. As such, it was

recognised to be work in progress. A disclaimer was still required for what the Community Council was responsible for. An editorial sub group was being established. This would support decision making in future Newsletters.

- Notice Board (Inverarnie Stores) - The Chair had spoken to the contractor and a commitment to meet within 2 weeks had been made to discuss the necessary changes to the Board. After discussion it was proposed that the Secretary draft a letter to be used to follow up if the meeting does not take place. **Action:** Letter to be drafted.

3. Financial Report

The balance stands at £1,790.53. The accounts remain with the auditor as per the reasons noted at the last meeting: an outstanding invoice from Daviot Church and queries over the grant allocated from Highland Council.

4. Community Policing Report

It was noted that PC Ally Munroe has now left the police service. Appreciation for his assistance and work in the community over the years was noted. Concern was expressed that the community may lose a community policing officer although a replacement, PC Matthew McCann will take on the role. Contact details were required.

5. Community Council Elections 2011

The timeline for nominations was noted, as was the need to get the forms on line. Nominations were required to with the Ward Manager for 4pm, Tuesday 4 October 2011. If an election is required, where nominations exceed the membership of the Community Council, 9, for Strathnairn, postal voting will take place , Wednesday 16 November with counting over the next 2 days.

6. Roads Update

A letter from Cllr Hendry to care dealerships over test driving and undertaking U turns on the A9 at Daviot was noted with thanks.

A letter has been submitted to Highland TEC services following discussion at the last meeting. A response was awaited.

Disappointment was expressed due to the lack of progress on the junctions on the A9.

Concern was expressed over the pot holes at the Daviot Quarry and over damaged road edges at Castleton. A further letter to TEC services was requested.

Action: Letter to TEC services

7. Daviot Wind Farm update

Meeting West Coast Energy Planning Director - In the event, the meeting was about community benefit and so Sally Moore did not attend.

The latest discussion regarding Community Benefit for Strathnairn involve the option of the income from one of the wind turbines – the risk would be borne by the West Coast Energy. A letter detailing this offer is to be expected. JMCL as negotiator was of the view that such a proposal meant it was difficult for the negotiations to continue given the opposition to the development of the wind farm. The risks of withdrawing from the negotiations were noted – with an approach to seek to keep the door open the preferred approach of the Community Council. There were also concerns that the energy company might be moving to offer community benefit to communities further a field than Strathnairn as the development predated a more recent view of Highland Council that benefit from wind farms could be distributed more widely across the Highlands. The presumption was that benefit would therefore come to Strathnairn and Strathdearn.

The planning application has yet to be submitted. It was noted that a further post card survey would be undertaken using the wording of William Gilfinnan once planning is submitted. An additional Community Council meeting would be called if this happened before the next scheduled meeting. It was also noted that individual letters of opposition would also have an effect that might be greater than a collective one.

It was noted that the proposed Kiltarlity wind farm had not been approved – and that the Daviot development did not accord with Highland Council's A9 corridor policy.

8. Kyllachy Wind Farm update

A meeting to discuss community benefit was scheduled for 27 September.

9. Moy Wind Farm update

9.1 Review of planning submission - Revised photo montages have been sent to the Community Council. Sally Moore to take further views from neighbour of these. The folders are to be left in Daviot Hall for viewing.

9.2 Review of Community Benefit allocation - No formal offer has yet been made.

10. Dunmaglass Wind Farm update

No further developments to date.

11. Strathnairn Community Development Plan

A formal proposal has yet to be submitted for the Community Council to endorse as a working group. A group is meeting to develop the thinking and proposal involving both community members and Community Councillors.

12. Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund

Nil of note to discuss

13. Planning

Applications from xx to xx were considered. The proposed changes to the Littlemill Bridge were noted Will the new bridge be permanent? Shall we still be able to see the old bridge? Further queries to be sent to the Chair and Secretary.

Action: RA to look this up on E planning to see what is involved for the Listed Bridge.

14. AOCB

- ▶ There has been a request to have (offset pedestrian) barriers erected at the shop to prevent children running onto the road. There is a related issue of children awaiting the school bus near the busy shop and narrow road (with large puddles) too. It is felt there is a risk of an accident to a child.
- ▶ 40 mph speed signs have been requested for Croachy with consideration to be given to traffic calming measures with the anticipated improvements to the road re Dunmaglass.
- ▶ The bike race of 17th Sept, 'Coast to coast': caused major inconvenience/disruption to local vehicular traffic, and a road safety problem for the cycles (cycling abreast filling the road width. They also caused a litter problem with drinks bottles etc. Action: Letter to be sent to organisers and Northern Constabulary expressing concerns
- ▶ The Tender Notice for snow-clearing services for Council roads was noted.
- ▶ The CC was advised that the directors of Strathnairn Community Woodlands have been having discussions with a local gun club who have been asking for permission to drive game birds from the riparian area of Milton Wood towards fields belonging to A Forbes where the guns would be standing. Shooting in the wood would not be allowed with a maximum of one drive per year. The CC recommended that a notice be placed in the Community Newsletter.

15. Date of next meeting

Monday 7th November, 7.30 Farr Hall or immediately if/when Daviot Wind Farm is submitted to Planning)

•

Contact Your Councillor

Community Councillors:

Christina Smith

t. 01808 521220

Sally Amor (Secretary)

t. 01808 521434

e. scc.secretary@btinternet.com

Sandy Webster (Treasurer)

t. 01463 772057

Robert Arthur

Tel: 01808 521245

e. sheila.arthur123@btinternet.com

James MacPherson (Chairperson)

t. 01463 772228

e. jimmyandchris@btinternet.com

Andrew MacQueen

Tel: 01808 521350

Sally Moore

Tel: 01463 772234

e. sea.moore@zetnet.co.uk

Fiona Proctor

Tel: 01808 521384

e. fionamproctor@hotmail.co.uk

William MacQueen

Tel: 01463 772271

Paul Davies

t. 0793 6738930

e. info@kpdphoto.co.uk

John Macleod (Associate Member)

t. 01463 772241

e. johnmacleod339@btinternet.com

Highland Councillors:

Cllr. James Crawford

Tel: 01463 794941

jim.crawford@highland.gov.uk

Cllr. Margaret Davidson

Tel: 01463 861424

margaret.davidson@highland.gov.uk

Cllr. Drew Hendry

Tel: 01463 811480

e. drew.hendry@highland.gov.uk

Cllr. Helen Carmichael

Tel: 01463 782555 / 07771 370962

e. helen.carmichael@highland.gov.uk

Charles Stephen (Ward Manager)

Tel: 01463 724246

e. charles.stephen@highland.gov.uk

Community Council Elections

Frances Matheson

I have lived in Strathnairn for 10-years. I live with my husband, who is a local farmer, and we have two young children. My husband's family have been farming in Strathnairn for three generations and I am passionate about the local community not just for the short-term but for its future.

If elected I feel I would bring a fresh perspective to the community council. I have been involved in other committee groups in my work and my out-of-work interests and I feel as part of the community council team I would take a positive, efficient and reliable approach whilst representing the local people well.

Dave Rennie

I moved to Strathnairn nearly six years ago and found that this is indeed a very pleasant and at some times vibrant place to live. Although my main job is as a self-employed printer I also keep Aberdeen Angus cattle and have been involved with the Community Newsletter.

In my opinion for Community Councils to function and achieve their goals and be affective to the residents members of the Council need to be personally detached from the issues that arise and certainly not have any hidden agenda while making decisions for the benefit of the area. To be effective I believe that the members of the council should change on a regular basis as after all it is not about the area being controlled by the few but being controlled by the many.

Darren Read

Darren has lived in Strathnairn for 5 years with his young family. He has a strong sense of community and is a volunteer with Care in Strathnairn. He recently joined the Community Plan sub group, whose aim is to listen to the hopes and ideas of the community and establish opportunities that could be developed. If elected, he would like to ensure that better broadband and mobile phone reception coverage options are investigated. He looks forward to representing the views and concerns of all residents of Strathnairn and making a positive impact.

Ewen Hardie

Ewen was born and brought up in the Highlands and has been resident in Inverarnie for more than 10 years, his two young children attend Farr Primary & Nursery school.

Through his volunteer work with Care in Strathnairn and having a young family gives him an understanding of the

issues and needs affecting both the young & elderly within a Highland community.

He would look forward to becoming a councillor and playing an active role within the Community Council, welcoming members of the community contacting him with any issues that should be brought forward for the attention and discussion of the Community Council.

Paul Davies

Paul has lived in Strathnairn for 11 years, with his young family who attend Farr School. He has been involved in a number of groups active in the community and is the Co-ordinator of Care in Strathnairn. He became a member of the Community Council earlier this year; and is editor of the newsletter.

If elected, he would continue with his current work on developing the Community Plan; and community benefit discussions with wind-farm developers.

James MacPherson

I have lived and worked in Strathnairn all my life. I have always tried to do my best for the good of Strathnairn and have been actively involved in the Community Council, the Hall and the Farmers Society for over 40 years. I know a lot of the people who live in the area and I am easily accessible for people to contact. I have always tried to follow up concerns to the best of my ability.

Jenny Stewart

My name is Jenny Stewart. I spent my working life in computing, firstly as a programmer and systems analyst, then latterly as a team leader on a help desk, supporting computer systems vital to day-to-day banking operations. After retiring, I moved to Strathnairn in 2005. I have since become a volunteer for, and latterly secretary of Care in Strathnairn. I also drive the "Little Red Bus".

Ian Hunt

Since moving to Daviot I have attended most of the Community Council meetings and been actively involved in discussions over both the Moy & Daviot Wind Farms. I am opposed to the Daviot Wind Farm and support the development of better means of communication between the Community Council & the people it represents. I believe it is important that any Wind Farm benefits are used both for the community as a whole and those most adversely affected by the turbines. I have worked in Local Government for 25 years & commercial companies for 14 and have been a school governor.

John Murray

I was born and brought up in Stratherrick and have lived and worked for most of my life in the Highlands. I retired several years ago from my post as custody officer with Northern Constabulary. I have lived in Croachy for the past seventeen years and have served as a director on the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund.

I take a great interest in what happens in the community and am concerned in particular about the increasing number of wind farms in the area and also the lack of maintenance to the roads in the Strath.

Sally Moore

I stay at Craggiemore, Daviot, where my family all grew up but they have mostly left home now. I lived first at Tomatin, then Daviot, since 1979, and helped with the usual groups, Playschool, school board, cubs, Leader Agent (Rural Community development), Heritage Association, Benefit Fund, etc. I work in the food industry training and auditing across Scotland. I think SNCC achieved some good work in the last session, but we need to continue to try to be open and transparent, and to reflect residents' needs and opinions. I'm keen on community planning coming soon and involving the whole community.

Community Benefit

A meeting of the Board of Directors took place on the 12th October and was attended by the following directors: Rachel Hutcheson (Chair), Sally Moore, Robert Peel, Tony Kell, Sally Amor, Doug Meiklejohn, Willie MacQueen and Company Secretary Carol Davies

Thank you to everybody who came to talk to us at the Farr Gala and the Strathnairn Vintage Rally. We really appreciate your feedback and interest.

If you are interested in becoming a Director for 2012 please contact our Company Secretary, Carol Davies for further information and for an application form.

The table shows the grants that have been approved in the last 2 months. Grants are available in the following categories:

- ➔ General Grants
- ➔ Sports Grants
- ➔ Venture Grants
- ➔ Further Education and Training Grants
- ➔ Donations
- ➔ Supplementary Home Heating Grants
- ➔ Learning/Development Grant

For further information or an application please contact Carol Davies (Company Secretary) on 01808 521371 or by email at caroldavies1969@btinternet.com. Documents can be posted to Drummond House, Farr, IV2 6XG

The Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm in Farr Hall, and all are welcome to attend.

Applicant	Activity	Grant Awarded
Farr Nursery	<i>Non Statutory activities</i>	£940
SCATA	<i>Contribution towards new Minibus</i>	£5000
Various	<i>Home Heating Grants</i>	£4200
Ross Campbell	<i>British Judo Championships</i>	£250
Paula McNulty	<i>Further education grant - Open University</i>	£250
Thomas Gibson	<i>Further education grant - MEng Electrical & Mechanical Engineering</i>	£250
Neil Dawson	<i>Further education grant - PhD International Development - University of East Anglia</i>	£250
Kenneth MacLean	<i>Further education grant - MEng Chemical Engineering - Aberdeen University</i>	£250

The review of our Forest Plan (FP) is progressing. We are waiting on a few further responses as part of the FP consultation exercise. The reviewed plan documents how the woods will be managed over the next 10 years with a longer term 20 year overview. The FP, once approved, will give (a) continuity to the future management of the woods, (b) permission for the necessary (low impact) felling operations and (c) access to grant support funding. The main objectives are to enhance the amenity and conservation value of both School and Milton Woods, achieved broadly through long term retention of stable Scot's pine, thinning operations to encourage long term natural regeneration, and phased replacing of unstable non-native conifer timber species with native Scot's pine and broadleaved trees. .

We have been in discussion with the shooting group who use the land around Milton Wood for pheasant shooting. We were unaware this group has been driving pheasants out of Milton Wood onto neighbouring land for shooting - this has been taking place once or twice a year for nearly ten years. Since we have now become aware of this activity, it made sense for us to discuss the issues with the shooting group, bearing in mind this activity has been taking place for quite a while without anyone realising. As a

result we have agreed to let the group hold one drive per year, on condition that as per previous shoots, no guns are to be located within or within range of the woodland, only pheasants are being driven, the group are to inform us when the drive is taking place and appropriate signage advising the public is to be used on the day. There will be no artificial feeding stations placed within the wood. Apart from omitting to ask our permission, we were satisfied the shooting group had carried out their activities responsibly to date, and there is reassurance that this activity would continue to take place (a) safely and (b) without adverse disturbance to native birds.

Our AGM is being held on Monday 12 December, 7:30pm Farr Hall. All our 320 current members will receive an invitation and agenda, mandatory company business will be addressed, and this meeting is open to the public.

SCW meetings of the trustees to manage the woodlands are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm in Farr Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

Please contact me for information on the woods or on any of the above.

Donald Longden 01808 521308
donlongden@btinternet.com

Community Transport

Strathnairn's Little Red Bus

The bus is continuing the regular runs – Tesco shopping trip, Lunch club, Friendship Group outings most weeks, as well as all the important appointments to be kept at hospital / GP / Opticians / Clinics etc. We have many regular users who could not do without the service provided by the volunteer drivers in our community for others in our community. Do you have any use for the bus? – Remember anyone, who lives in the Strathnairn area, can

use it – at a cost of only 50p a mile. Plan ahead for those Christmas nights out!

Thanks for the dedication of all the volunteer drivers to ensure that our community continues to benefit from this service – a service which some cannot do without.

I am on the lookout for additional drivers, so if anyone has any spare time to help – even only once a month – give me a call on 01808 521321 to discuss what the driving entails.

Community Church

Autumn is upon us! It is amazing to see the colours change around us.

It seems a great opportunity to introduce Nelson to you; Nelson and his wife Natalie live in Farr. This year, Nelson is completing DNA, a year out programme which looks to develop the trainees in their relationship with God, whilst they serve the local church and community.

Nelson will be volunteering with seniors lunch, care in strathnairn, Monday club, SCATA as well as projects with the church here and at Kings Fellowship in Culloden.

We are delighted to have Nelson working with us as a church- we hope you get to meet him over the course of the year as he is out and about, or by coming along to join us on the last Sunday of each month at Farr Community Hall at 10:30 finishing with lunch together.

Rebecca Raynes

Strathnairn Mountain Bike Group

By the time you are reading this our season of early Saturday morning bike rides will have drawn to a close with the onset of darker mornings. The group had some great local rides through various woodland tracks from Daviot to Duntelchaig. Numbers varied from one to half dozen on any Saturday depending on other life commitments, however we pushed the boat out in late September, and taking advantage of fitness built up over the previous 4 months, 4 of us set off to the Highland Wildcat MTB trails at Golspie. We wound our way to the top of Ben Bhraggie on blue, red and black trails and then, after taking in the view, plunged back down to sea level on a 7km long de-

scent with some challenging and technical riding. After 1 puncture and 1 tumble we arrived back at the car in glorious sunshine and all agreed it had been a great day out and well worth repeating some time in the future.

Next spring I hope we can resume our early Saturday morning bike rides, so if you'd like join in next year keep an eye out for any notices.

In the meantime if you would like to get some extra exercise during the dark winter evenings community led keep fit in Farr Hall is held on Thursday evenings from 6 - 7pm.

Doug Meiklejohn

Lunch Club

We have had some marvelous lunches in September and October. Ann Humphries from Brin very kindly came and showed us her beautiful craft work which she makes out of Harris Tweed, bringing also easy to follow samples for people to try their hand at. It was so good of Ann to go to so much trouble on our behalf. Ann lives at Brin and her telephone number is 01808 521701 if anyone wishes to contact her, and she is selling her beautiful handiwork at the Drumossie Fair for Children 1st 1/2 November. 'The Timebeings', Helen and Dave Bremner from Farr, came in October and played wonderful music for us while we eat. The good news is that they are coming back to play at our Christmas Lunch 9th December. We are extremely grateful to them for their generosity in coming and giving up a good deal of their time. If anyone would like to book 'The Timebeings' for an occasion their telephone number is 01808 521271.

We have some really marvelous helpers for the Seniors Lunch Club and they work so hard to make each lunch a great success. We have some added help as from October when Nelson Jeremias joined our team for a year. Fantastic to have him with us and he is already a great support to us. Sadly Tricia MacRiner who has been part

of our team for many years is leaving to go and live in Australia in November. We will miss her a great deal for her help, her great stories in the kitchen to keep us all going and her impromptu graces when called upon! We envy you all that sunshine Tricia and hope you have a fabulous time. A cause for celebration is that Karen Cowan, who does so much for the lunch club, is marrying Mike Fitzgerald at the beginning of November – that will certainly combat the winter blues and we wish them just all the happiness in the world.

Our next lunch is on Friday 11th November, Remembrance Day, and apart from a delicious sounding menu for everyone, Sarah Shaw from 'Stay Safe' will be coming to talk to us.

Do please come and join us on 2nd Friday of the month at Farr Community Hall at 12.30 p.m. and why not bring a friend! We always have a great time. There is no need to let us know in advance if you are coming, but if you would like transport please telephone SCATA on 521321 in plenty of time to book your seat.

Christina Murray and all the Lunch Club Helpers

Church News

New Organ for Daviot Church

The Kirk Session, Congregational Board and the members of Daviot Church are very grateful to the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund for their generous donation towards the purchase of our new organ. The Organ is a Wylvorn Cantata 1 two manual and full pedal board digital organ. It is now installed in the church and (will be/ was) dedicated on Sunday 6th Nov. at our 12 noon Service of Holy Communion.

It is planned to organise an Organ recital in the near future and plans are in hand for the visit of a Russian Choir in May next year. Details of these events will be published when finalised. A '2012 Daviot and Dunlichity Calendar' has also been produced to raise funds for the purchase of the organ. Copies of this are on sale in the shop at Inverarnie or, at the church.

Rev. R. Campbell

Farr School & Nursery Parent Council

The New School Year commenced Tuesday 16th August.

August was a busy month and several events were held and participated in by the children.

The Gala was held 20th August . The Children helped on various stalls and FANS raised £100.50 which will benefit our school children. Children entered Both the Farr Garden clubs competitions and the Inverness Flower festival. The school entered the hanging baskets made during their blooming basket cases project as well as other categories. At the Farr Garden club Kirsteen Mieklejohn won medals and a cup for best in children's section. Megan sell won medals for best school entry and best in class. Heather Mcinnes won a certificate and prize as best in her class, Calum won a medal for his drawing. Mackenzie Hallyburton won a medal and prize for best in his class. Our potatoes were third in class. In the Inverness competition the hanging baskets were judged best junior exhibition. Congratulations to those winners and all those who entered.

Next March the School is being visited by our European partners some of whom have children. The School is looking for host families. Please contact the school if you feel you could help. In April next year children aged 12 will have an opportunity to visit Belgium with other P6' and P7's maybe visiting France in summer term.

In October the school ran a stall at the vintage rally, although bad weather did hamper attendance.

P7's Received first aid training a most interesting and beneficial lesson and enjoyed by the children.

Information is available regarding the recent National parent's forum of Scotland and the national parent's forum. Please contact the school if you are interested.

The School was awarded £10,505 from the wind farm benefit fund. Many thanks for this tremendous boost to school funds. The money will need to be spent wisely. Unfortunately due to cuts to resources the school will not attend the pantomime at Eden court. Last year despite buying tickets the school couldn't attend due to bad weather. In addition many parents were not comfortable with their children traveling in bad weather to the event.

The family Ceilidh was held in September and was extremely well attended and was a great success. Big thanks to FANS for all their efforts.

The Parents of the new P1's were invited to attend school to review their child's progress , but please note that appointments with teachers to discuss their child's progress are welcome at any time of year. The P1's have also been carrying out a series of Nursery visits.

From this term the Nursery snack is to be paid for by funds provided by the community benefit and no longer subsidised by the parents.

The Nursery is currently enjoying a woodwork project exploring the use of tools and wood. A big thank you to Mr & Mrs Peel for their wood donations.

The P3's – P5's are currently working on a famous artist project, their classroom currently looks like an art gallery.

The P7's have been working on a mapping project which will culminate in providing information for the viewpoint at the far side of the school funded for by a bequest from the late Joan Myall.

The P7's have also been undergoing a leadership training course with Sarah Leibnitz sports coordinator. They plan activities and try out with the younger children under Sarah's supervision.

The P6's and P7's have resumed their swimming lessons at the aquadome. These take place on Friday afternoon.

The Farr after School fun club is now running on a Tuesday, Wednesday and a Thursday. We need to have sufficient numbers to continue this service. Please contact the school if you want any further information.

Wed like to acknowledge and congratulate the following children on their achievements:

- ▶ Alannah Haldane who won first in "First ridden" and second in "starter working hunter"
- ▶ Susie Ross who won first in her lead run class and former pupil Rachel Cross who won supreme champion. All took place at Leoanch Horse show.
- ▶ Emma and Michael Hunter who own best groomed lamb at the lochaber show.
- ▶ Kian George who won 2 weeks running a medal for best of night at his judo class.
- ▶ Jude miller who won a medal at the Mini monster challenge.
- ▶ Isaac sell who won a signed caley shirt for doing so well at the highland hot shots.
- ▶ Connor who won the trophy for roller skiing champion of 2011.

Also please note that both the front and back gates are to be locked during school hours. So that parents should use the new front door if they need to get into school.

The next parents council meeting to be held on the 3rd November.

Rebecca Read

There had been rumors of mink in the River Nairn around Farr and in particular a few years ago when one was reported by someone. It was never confirmed and whilst I have often seen otter tracks along the river bank there has not been any mink tracks. Then in July this year there was, unfortunately, a reliable record. I was looking at the pond below my study window, as usual not getting on with writing, when the mallard and mandarins started calling loudly. After a while some birds were even diving under the water and then started swimming round and round the island and very agitated. There was obviously something on the island and I thought stoat but then the culprit swam across open water, completely ignoring the frantic sounding ducks, a black mink. I put out two mink traps duly baited with tinned cat food that night but for the next few days the traps were untouched and the ducks did not play up again. Hopefully the mink has moved on out of the strath. I then contacted the Scottish Mink Initiative which is a partnership between over 20 organisations and their aim is to lead to all areas free of breeding mink in Northern Scotland. The area has been recently extended to include the Moray area including this strath. I made contact with Cat Robinson who is the Mink Control Officer for the Cairngorm and Moray Firth area and she came over a few days later with a mink raft. This is a comparatively new innovation but has been ex-

tensive used in many areas. The raft is made up of plywood and polystyrene and is 2 to 3 inches thick and 2 feet by 4 feet. In the centre is an oblong gap and in it sits a plastic container filled with floral Oasis. The Oasis is covered with a thin layer of clay/sand mix and this is kept moist by water soaking up from the bottom of the raft.

This is covered by a square wooden tunnel that sits firmly on the raft and over the plastic container. The raft floats on the water, generally in a river, and is firmly anchored to the side by a stake or tree. The idea is that any mink will pass through the tunnel and leave tracks in the mud mix.

The raft is checked every two weeks and if there are positive signs then the mink trap itself is put out. These are live traps in case anything else ventures into them although the only animal likely is a small young otter. The mink trap itself has to be checked each day although I check mine twice a day. If a mink is caught it is then humanely put down. So far there has been no more signs of a mink which Cat told me is normal at this time of the year as mink are on the move. If you think you have mink in your area then it is worth while getting in touch with Cat Robinson at email cat@rafts.org.uk. Or tel 07825 185178.

Ray Collier.

Community Care

Requests for assistance continue to be received for a range of works throughout the community; including help with gardens, clearing gutters, electrical works, and a wide range of household repairs.

The Friendship group have been enjoying trips out to Tomintoul Museum, the Strathspey Railway, and Simpsons Garden Centre. The Group meet every Wednesday and the trips out are provided free of charge. Further details are posted on community notice boards at Inverarnie Stores and Daviot Hall.

As the winter months approach, we are working with older people in the community, helping them to draughtproof their homes, make sure they have fuel and food supplies and promote the various sources of grants to help with the increasing costs of heating and lighting their homes. We can also help people who wish to apply for a new boiler or energy saving measures from the Scottish Government - If you know of someone who could benefit, then let us know.

As our work continues to grow WE URGENTLY NEED VOLUNTEERS - so if you have a few hours a month to spare, please let us know. Our volunteers bring a huge

range of skills and experience and you can get involved in the full range of our work. From helping to run the Friendship Group trips, to helping someone go shopping, help with bills, letters, changing light bulbs, gardening, and moving household items. All volunteers are provided with training and on-going support. So if you want to get more involved in your community and help out - please let us know.

Since the last newsletter, we welcome: Christine MacPherson and Nelson Jeremias as new Volunteers. Their help and enthusiasm is very welcome and will help us meet the growing numbers of requests for help that we receive.

If you need to contact us, then please call Paul on t. 0793-6738930, e. info@careinstrathnairn.org.uk, or visit our website at www.careinstrathnairn.org.uk

Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund

Are you interested in serving your Community as a Director for the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund?

The Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund was set up in 2004 with funds from the erection of the Farr Wind Farm. The Strathnairn Community Council (SCC) is the sole member of the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund Ltd (SCBF). This is the equivalent to it being the majority shareholder in a public company and as such is to all extents and purposes, the owner of the company. The Benefit Fund is managed by a group of Directors.

Director Duties and responsibilities include:

- ▶ Attendance every 2 months at Board Meetings
- ▶ Ensure correct management and investment of monies within the Fund
- ▶ Review of grant applications to ensure compliance to Articles and Memorandum of Association (a copy of which is available on request)
- ▶ Review of operational procedures as appropriate
- ▶ Directors serve a term of 3 years with a possibility of an additional year

If you are over 18 and interested in becoming a Director please contact our Company Secretary, Carol Davies (details are below) for further information or an application form.

Applications must be received by 30 November and Directors will be appointed at the AGM on Wednesday 14th December

Carol Davies – Company Secretary
 Drummond House, Farr, IV2 6XG
 Phone: 01808 521371

Email: caroldavies1969@btinternet.com



Aird & Loch Ness Ward

Energy Advice Road Show

- Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre
- Community Energy Scotland
- SSE
- Money Advice Team
- Eddie Boyd, Principal Engineer, Highland Council

The Councillors for Aird & Loch Ness Ward have arranged an **Energy Advice Road Show** that will provide information for householders about a wide range of energy efficiency best practice advice to help them save energy and money at home or at work.

This will be free, impartial information and advice on how to save energy, reduce fuel bills and make their homes warmer and healthier. Also how their energy consumption affects the environment and what they can do to limit this.

The **Energy Advice Road Show** will visit:

- Farr (Community Hall)
 Thursday 17th November, 2-6pm

Each event will comprise stalls providing information leaflets and examples of energy efficiency aids as well as staff to provide expert advice.

Low energy light bulbs and automatic power downs are just some of the free items that will be available as well as a free draw for a wireless energy monitor.

The Objective is to directly reach as many householders in the Ward as possible to raise awareness of energy efficiency best practice.

For more information, contact Charles Stephen (Ward Manager) at Inverness Town House on 01463 724246.

Macmillan Coffee Day

We would like to thank all who came along to Cowlis on September 30th to support our fund raising day. I am delighted to say that we raised £980 for Macmillan plus £115 for the Raigmore Archie's appeal. We enjoyed our day and hope you all did too. Special thanks to Mary Squires for her great work behind the urn!

Christine and Jimmy MacPherson

Kerbside Recycling Calendar

Daviot	Dunlichity	Croachy, Farr, Inverarnie, Balnafoich-Daviot Road, Nairnside, Clava
Tuesday		Thursday
1/29 Nov 27 Dec 24 Jan	15 Nov 13 Dec 10 Jan	24 Nov 22 Dec 19 Jan
To find out more information, call the Service Centre on t. 01349-886603 or visit www.highland.gov.uk/recycle for information.		

Farr Hall - Monthly Draw

Results from the last three draws are shown below. Congratulations to those who won - the money raised annually goes some way towards meeting the ever increasing heating/lighting bills, we are always looking for new members for the Draw. - call Doug on 521346 to find out more.

- ➔ July - J. Tyler, C. Nairn, L. Matheson
- ➔ August - B. Douglas-Jones, D. Fraser, P. Joyce
- ➔ September - G. Gibson, L. Robertson, J. Jones

Farr Hall Keys Amnesty

There are a number of Hall keys out in the community that may no longer be needed -If you find yourself in this position please contact Maggie on 521346 to return them or leave them at Inverarnie stores, Hall keys look like the "Ingersol" type. Further, if you hold a key and still have a need for it please also contact Maggie so that we can build up a register of key holders.

Whats on!

Date	Event	Contact
Thursday 3rd November	Farr Parent Council, Farr School - 7:30pm	Tim Raynes on 01808 521755
Monday 7th November	Strathnairn Community Council Meeting, Farr Community Hall - 7:30pm	Sally Amor on 01808 521434
Thursday 10th November	Parent Forum (Farr School) - 6:30pm	Tim Raynes on 01808 521755
Monday 14th November	Strathnairn Community Woodlands - general meeting (all welcome), 7.30pm at Farr Hall	Don Longden on 01808 521308
Wednesday 16th November	Election Day - Community Council	see page 6+7 to find out more
Thursday 17th November	Energy Advice Road Show, Farr Community Hall, 2-6pm	Charles Stephen (Ward Manager) on 01463-724246
Monday 12th December	Strathnairn Community Woodlands - Annual General Meeting & general meeting, 7.30pm at Farr Hall	Don Longden on 01808 521308
Wednesday 14th December	Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund - AGM	Carol Davies on 01808-521371
Monday 9th January 2012	Strathnairn Community Woodlands - general meeting (all welcome), 7.30pm at Farr Hall	Don Longden on 01808 521308

WHATS ON AT FARR HALL

Judo - Tuesday evenings
Indoor Shinty - Wednesday evenings, contact Boleskine Shinty Club
Farr baby & toddlers - Thursday mornings, contact Carol on 01808 521371
Pilates - Thursday afternoons, contact Karen on 01463-221302
Keep Fit - Thursday early evenings, call Doug on 01808-521346
Fies Farr - Fridays once a month till April, call Alisdair on 01808-521333
 A schedule of Whats On, is posted in the hall. The hall, football pitch and changing block can also be hired; call Maggie on 01808-521346

WHATS ON AT DAVIOT HALL

Badminton - bookings available
Indoor Bowling - Tuesday evenings
 The hall and meeting rooms are available for hire.
 To find out more call Jimmy & Christine MacPherson on 01463-772228

Business Directory

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Alan Coutts, t. 01463-772009

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Cardon Home Improvements, t. 01808-521389

SUPPLIES

Wild Bird Country Store, t. 01456-486639

WINDOW/GUTTERING CLEANING

Myles Evans, t. 01808-521486

PAINTER/DECORATORS

D. Henderson, t. 01808-521323

CHIROPODIST

Lynn Huggett, t. 01463-791395

FENCING/TREE WORK

DJ Drummond, t. 01456-486657/0788-1456627

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