

Strathard News



The Voice Of Your Community

Issue 26, Xmas 2005. FREE (Donations Welcome)

www.strathardnews.com

Local Business Receives Awards For Excellence

Successful local Roofing & Plastering Contractor Ian MacDonald's business goes from strength to strength. Ian gave two local youngsters apprenticeships last year at his company, and this year both boys have started to repay his investment by scooping the 1st year awards at South Lanarkshire Building College.

Matthew Crowder of Aberfoyle won the GMC Trophy for Excellence in Roof, Slating, Tiling & Cement Work. Rory Hamilton of Gartmore won the Eternit UK Ltd Award for Roof Slating Excellence. Both sets of parents attended the presentation at South Lanarkshire Council Buildings and proudly witnessed the boy's receiving their trophies. Many Congratulations to all concerned.



Is Now The Time To Quit? Giving Up Smoking

Thursday 12th January at 7 p.m.
Aberfoyle Medical Centre.



An open session, with presentation packed with information and advice, on everything you need to know, or might want to know, on ceasing to smoke. Follow up sessions will be available for those who wish to proceed.

**If before you didn't succeed
Try, Try and Try again**

Further information from the Practice Nurses
01877 382421



A Christmas thought: STRESSED is just DESSERTS spelled backward.

How long does it take to burn a candle down? About a wick !

What comes at the end of Christmas Day? The letter "Y"!

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas? Thanks, I'll never part with it !

What did the big candle say to the little candle? I'm going out tonight !

What do Eskimos use to hold their homes together? Ig-"glue"!

What do monkeys sing at Christmas? Jungle Bells, Jungle bells.. !

What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree? A pineapple !

What do you give a train driver for Christmas? Platform shoes !

Whats happens to you at Christmas? Yule be happy !

Where do mistletoe go to become famous? "Holly" wood!

Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters? They both drop their needles !

Why do Mummies like Christmas so much? Because of all the wrapping!

boxwood

We are really looking forward to our first Christmas; we hope you will love our range of decorations and gifts as much as we do; from baubles to handmade displays, we are confident you'll find something to add that Christmas sparkle to your home. We also have a range of gifts for all the family; toiletries, scented candles, jewellery, handbags, toys.....& plenty of wrapping paper and cards too.



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♥ everything you need to make your home perfect for christmas ♥



Anne McGuire MP

Many of us will remember last Christmas, not just for the time we spent with family and friends, but also for those horrific pictures of the South East Asia Tsunami that were beamed into our homes on Boxing Day. The

overwhelming response by individuals to the disaster fund was a manifestation of the true spirit of Christmas - looking out for others in times of adversity. Last month, I witnessed the same generosity of spirit and giving when people from all walks of life came together from across the Stirling area to help raise much needed funds for the earthquake appeal in Pakistan.

In the midst of all the flurry of preparations for the Festive Season, I trust that we will all find just a little time for peace and reflection with family and friends - looking forward to next year and remembering the good times, and not so good, of the year just passing. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of the Strathard News.

As I write this message wintry weather is on its way, with forecasts of snow, so possibly a white Christmas! Christmas is always a time for families and friends with much thought about which presents to

buy and the preparations for the day itself. Although the preparations can be last minute – as I’m sure mine will be – Christmas Day itself is usually fairly relaxing. Always a touch of sadness though as Christmas is also a time to reflect on family members not now with us. One of the most enjoyable tasks both Anne McGuire MP and I have at this time of year is judging our Christmas Card Competition and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the local schools who took part. I wish all the readers of the *Strathard News* a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Sylvia Jackson MSP

IMPORTANT

Information for Advertisers

When you place an advert with the Strathard News we will continue to run it unless you tell us to stop or replace it.

Pay for 7 adverts and get the 8th advert free

To place/cancel an advert contact Ian Marshall on 01877 382211

To alter an advert contact Marion Back on 01301 702970

YOUTH

Emergency First Aid/Resuscitation Course

We are hoping to organise some emergency first aid training for younger members of the community. In the first instance this would be a short 2-3 hour course that might then be followed up with a longer course. This is being planned in response to several requests. Before proceeding with arrangements we need to have a clear idea of the number of people who would be interested in attending. Trainers will be professionals though the organisation will be by the Friends of Aberfoyle and Buchlyvie Medical Centres. The course is likely to be some time after Christmas - if you are between 12 and 18 and would like to participate in the course please e-mail us at friendsabmc@googlemail.com It would be helpful to know your name, age and the evenings that would suit you best. Alternatively you can ring Mary-Lou Kerr on **01877 382789**.

Letters to the Editor....

....have your say!

Get it off your chest with a letter to the Editor. Send to Editor, Schoolhouse, Inversnaid FK83TU or email editor@strathardnews.com

Dear Editor

I write to congratulate the residents of Aberfoyle and surrounding villages for the excellent spectacle that my wife and I enjoyed during your Mushroom Festival.

As regular visitors to Aberfoyle, where we stay with our very dear friend, Pamela Abraham, we were most impressed, yet not surprised, with the enthusiastic and positive support of the villages.

Our first “port of call” was the Memorial Hall, where we delighted in the imaginative, colourful collages produced by the children. Congratulations to you all and thank you for allowing us into your fantasy world of mushrooms, toadstools and fairies. Influenced by your work, my choice of soup just had to be of the mushroom variety – a really excellent choice and, perhaps, should be included in Jamie Oliver’s recipe book!

The other numerous activities carried out in the village were most enjoyable and educational and it was most heartening to see the effort both residents and shopkeepers had made to welcome your friends from Finland.

The contributions made to the Mushroom Festival by the Finns mirrored this enthusiasm and was a joy to experience.

The candlelit walk to the waterfall, buffet and live traditional Finnish music at the David Marshall Lodge proved to be a very pleasant evening as did the Sunday evening event at The Black Bull – the Scottish and Finnish musicians playing together at the end of the evening was truly superb.

Our journey of over 700 miles from Wales, through heavy rain, traffic etc. was certainly well worth it and so we say, “Thank you Aberfoyle,” for the warm welcome you extended to all your visitors.

Indeed it was a privilege to attend your festival.

Eric and Arvona Haycock

Macmillan Nurses Cancer Relief

The Coffee Morning, held in the Aberfoyle Medical Centre on 30th September in aid of the above charity, raised the magnificent sum of £625. The Medical Garden Committee would like to thank all those who so generously donated baking, gifts of money and raffle prizes and to all who came to support us on the day of the coffee morning despite the weather. Our special thanks go to the Surgery Ladies who sold the raffle tickets and it is due to their efforts that so much money was raised for this worthy cause.

Margaret McKeand



Community Council Report

STRATHARD
Community Council

There was only ever going to be one topic for discussion at our last meeting in Kinlochard; Orange's proposal to install a mast in Kinlochard. Although Orange have stated that they fully comply with all current guidelines on the siting and appearance of such masts, research by residents has shown that recommendations are that masts should be considerably further away from residential areas than that suggested by Orange. Mobile phones and their equipment have not been in existence for long enough yet for any definitive conclusion on health risks in relation to masts sited close to housing, but all reports strongly recommend the use of caution, particularly near areas frequented by children. The Community Council has taken on board these valid concerns regarding the positioning of the mast and will be making the Planning department aware of them. I would urge all residents who wish to express a view on this issue to fill in the forms that were available at the meeting, and which are also at Kinlochard PO; the more letters and responses which are received by the authorities, the more they take account of residents' views. Since the Community Council meeting, Orange have held an 'information day' in Kinlochard to allow residents to ask questions and hear

some of the reasoning behind the company's methods. Setting aside for the moment the grave 'faux pas' which the company made by using video cameras to record proceedings without notifying those present, two main points seem to have come out of the day; a) the proposed mast will only give coverage across a half mile of the B829; b) Sites in the forest appear to have been ruled out for financial reasons and not technical ones. I'm sure our readers will have their own thoughts on these points. No application has been submitted to Planning as yet, so please continue to pass me comments and feedback so that I can fully represent all points of view.

We finished the meeting on a lighter note – planning the Christmas Dinner for Senior Citizens to be held at Forest Hills on 5th December. Always one of the most enjoyable events in our calendar, thanks to the many people who contribute to its success.

And finally – on behalf of all on the Community Council may I wish each and every one of you a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful, Christmas and New Year.

STRANGE BUT..... *"Tis Strange but true; For Truth is always stranger than Fiction" Byron-the Ither Wan*

As another summer season draws to a close, so another crop of anecdotes, both droll and humorous, concerning tourists who have visited central Scotland area, has come to our notice.

There was the Irish lady (no, not the same one as last time!) who arrived at one tourist office, looking for local accommodation. A bed & breakfast establishment was found for her and directions as to how to get there were given.

The final detail was found to be a little bit confusing. When describing how to recognize the establishment, the tourist officer said, quite confidently, *"It's easy to find. There are two horses' heads on pillars at the gateway."*

There was a pause and then the lady leaned forward conspiratorially and said, *'Are we talking the Mafia here?'*

The Hello Testing Testing award this summer must go to the gentleman, a Scotsman before you ask and possibly stressed out, who made the following 'phone call to a tourist office in the central Scotland area.

'Hello. Could you tell me the days that the Mail Boat runs?'

'Yes, every day except Sunday.'

'Oh. What happens on Sunday?'

Pause: *'Eh, it doesn't run.'*

With the plethora of technological hardware available to us today and which many, particularly the younger generation, have made themselves familiar with, it is with a touch of sadness that we relate a brief tale of one local, of middle years, to which the even the wondrous workings of the digital watch border on rocket science.

When the clocks went back this autumn he had perforce to take his watch (digital) into the fair city of Stirling to seek assistance in altering its setting. His regular watchmaker was closed. He had to go to another, strange shop to have it altered. He did attempt to watch(?) – *sorry!* – as the assistant altered the watch to the correct time which the latter did in seconds. As he handed the watch back he asked, *'There. You'll be able to do it next time yourself.'*

He then looked at his customer's puzzled look and sighed: *'See you in the Spring'* he added.

Ros

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Call Marie on: (01877) 382 568
or E-mail: BeautybyMarie@aol.com

Working On Your Dream Home?

Are you restoring or converting an existing building to be your new home? If so, you could take part in the next series of Channel 5's Build A New Life.

More and more people are restoring ruined houses or converting existing buildings such as steadings, chapels, schools and towers to create their dream home. Some people decide they want a complete lifestyle change and relocate, work from home or start their own business. Many simply want a healthier lifestyle in a healthier part of the world. If you are taking steps to change your life, you can even have your story documented for television. Each year over 100,000 of us are moving from urban to rural districts. These people agree that having easy access to nature and the countryside provides a good quality of life. Statistics back them up: rural people tend to live longer and have better health than urban dwellers. Also many people move to the country to set up a new business - the number of new rural

businesses is growing faster than urban businesses.

It's not always easy, but programmes like Channel Five's new series, Build A New Life have shown that if you really want to make it work, you can change your life completely and start again in a new dream house, in a new dream location.

If you've recently begun your life change or are getting ready to take the plunge Five would like to hear from you now. They're looking for people not just planning to exchange cramped city flats for idyllic country or coastal cottages but who want to create their own homes to their own designs by renovating or modernising buildings such as ruined barns or disused water towers. At the same time you must be adjusting to a new life in a new environment, perhaps starting a new job or setting up your own business.

If you do make it onto the show, you'll be guided every step of the way by architect

George Clarke, who provides seasoned advice and vital moral support as you work towards achieving your new lifestyle. Build a New Life is George's third series for Five. He's also brought his knowledge to both Property Dreams and A Dream Home Abroad. Time and time again, his expertise proves indispensable.

Each programme begins with George learning of the dreams and aspirations for the new home and life. Once the build gets going, the programme gets into full swing, following progress through to completion and documenting the ways people juggle the build with their new lifestyles and new jobs.

If you would be interesting in appearing on the programme, please contact the producers on 0871 210 8871 or email build@shinelimited.com

More information can be found on the Five website: www.five.tv/programmes/buildanewlife

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So come on in and have a look at what we've done and add us to your list of regular haunts. We will be very glad to welcome you.

Tel: 01877 382245 Fax: 01877 382262

Aberfoyle, Stirlingshire, FK8 3UX

Out Of The Frying Pan And Into The Fuel Tank

If you think you can smell a chip shop next time a Forestry Commission van passes, it might have nothing to do with a logger's lunch. Instead, it might be because the van is running on the cooking oil that fried your last meal of fish and chips.

That's because waste cooking oil is being used as motor fuel in the Forestry Commission's continuing drive to brew up more sustainable, environmentally friendly ways of caring for the nation's forests.

The Commission has 160 vehicles using "biodiesel", which is a diesel-like fuel that is refined from vegetable oil, including used cooking oil, and mixed with the usual mineral diesel.

And in the case of one forestry van being used in a trial in northern Scotland, ordinary diesel has indeed had its chips - it's sizzling along nicely on 100 per cent used cooking oil that hasn't even been refined into biodiesel first! And another one in Scotland is doing well in a trial using 100 per cent biodiesel.

As a government department, the Commission is committed to meeting the European Union's targets for use of carbon-neutral biological fuels, or "bio-fuels" - and it is already well ahead of the target. The target for the use of renewable road fuels derived from organic sources is 2% by the end of 2005, and 5.75% by the end of 2010. However, biodiesel already comprises about 15% of the total road fuel bought by the Commission in southern Scotland, 8% over the whole of Scotland, and 5% over the whole of Great Britain.

In fact, says Richard Earle, the sustainability development officer with the Commission's Business Units, which include its Mechanical Engineering Services, things have been ticking over "oil right" so far:

"So far, so good," Mr Earle reports. "All our biodiesel-powered vehicles are running well, with no sign of it doing any harm to our engines, and we're delighted to be making this contribution to the 'Greening Government' programme.

"Vegetable oils are a sustainable fuel because they can continually be replaced by growing more of the plants that we get them from, such as oilseed rape. We can't do that with fossil fuels such as mineral oil.

"And for the same reason, they are 'carbon-neutral'. In other words, they don't increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. That's because this year's crop of oil-producing plants reabsorbs the same amount of carbon from the atmosphere as last year's crop released, in a perpetual, carbon-neutral cycle - just as our forests do when we replant them after harvesting.

"They are also more environmentally friendly, because they release fewer particulates (minute particles of soot), unburned hydrocarbons, oxides of sulphur and carbon monoxide into the air. And by using waste oil as a fuel we solve the problem of



Kay Bisset and John Spittal from Forestry Commission Scotland's Tay district office in Inver, Perthshire, fuel up with biodiesel refined from vegetable oil.

disposing of it after it's been used for cooking."

The vegetable oil used in biodiesel comes from both "virgin" (fresh-from-the-plant) sources and used cooking oil. The used cooking oil is supplied to bulk distributors by restaurants, chip shops and large industrial cooking establishments, such as those that make microwave-ready chips. The bulk distributors refine it into bio-diesel and sell it on to customers such as the Forestry Commission. Most of the Commission's biodiesel-powered vehicles run on a blend of 95% of the usual ultra-low-sulphur mineral diesel and 5% biodiesel. However, car-maker Citroen, which supplies many of the Commission's small vehicles, recently turned up the heat on mineral fuels when it agreed to honour its warranties on Commission vehicles if blends containing up to 30% biodiesel are used, and the Commission is now trialling 23 vehicles in Perthshire on a 25% biodiesel blend, with no problems being experienced.

Looking ahead, the Forestry Commission is considering trying biodiesel blends in other applications, such as in tractors at its tree nurseries, in heating fuel at buildings that use gas oil, and in its forestry machines, such as harvesters and forwarders.



Forestry Commission sustainability development officer Richard Earle prepares to fuel his van with biodiesel.

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Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Parish Church

We are now well into the winter activities, and full of energy. Sunday 20th to Sunday 27th November is Guild week and ladies from Aberfoyle and the Port will be sharing the service on **27th November** at 11.15am.

Sunday 4th December is the last opportunity this year to participate in Communion at Aberfoyle.

Sunday 18th December is Family Carol Service in both Churches. This is also the closing date for our Shoe Box Appeal for the Earthquake Victims.

There is also a "Six Together" Candlelight Service at 7p.m in the Port of Menteith.

On Christmas Eve, the Watch Night Service begins at the Port Kirk at 7.30p.m. There is a new Organ at the Port. Come and join us.

The Aberfoyle Kirk Watch Night Service begins at 11.30 p.m. The access for the less able has now been completed; you do not have an excuse for not coming to church. Our thanks to Eric Dykes for plans and drawings, Iron Horse Studios for the iron work and Campbell MacKenzie for the building work assisted by other volunteers. The reason for the Season is not the gifts or the tinsel; we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. That is our belief and faith; you may have other beliefs or refuse to have any particular attitude to life. The strength of our Community is that a faith can continue to be followed without offending or abusing anyone else or restricting their freedom to live as they choose; love and compassion can flourish without having rules and political correctness.

Weddings: it is always a sign of hope for the future

On Saturday 26th November at 2p.m. Port of Menteith, Karen Eagling & James Kennedy.

On Saturday 5th December at 2.30p.m. Aberfoyle Kirk, Lisa MacDonald and Richard Donald.

Festive Services.

Our Christmas Day and New Year's Day Services will take place at the normal times 10a.m. Port of Menteith and 11.15.a.m Aberfoyle.

The Port of Menteith Kirk is holding a Burns Supper in the Port Hall on Saturday 28th January 2006. Tickets from Donnie Cameron or other board members.

Wishing every one a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

With every blessing
Reverend Danny Gibb



St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church
In The Trossachs and Strathendrick

**Christmas Services
at St Mary's Episcopal Church
Main Street, Aberfoyle**
*The Anglican church serving
Strathendrick and the Trossachs*
All welcome for festive celebrations

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 18th December, 3.30pm
Followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Midnight Communion
Saturday 24th December, 11.30pm

Christmas Communion
Sunday 25 December, 11.15am

From Monday 24th October, Waste Services will be operating an office furniture and re-use service. This is available to all Council Services and Community groups. All surplus office furniture and equipment can be delivered to unit 7B Bandeath Industrial Estate.

Requests for goods and details regarding delivery can be made to; Alasdair Tollemache on 07717 545 251(mob) or by e-mail to tollemachea@stirling.gov.uk Further information will be available soon on the Source.

*Alasdair Tollemache
Resource Recovery Officer
Tel: 07717545251*

Lunch Reception for The Queen's 80th Birthday

On Wednesday, 19th April 2006, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will host a reception and lunch at Buckingham Palace for some of those people who will be celebrating their 80th birthday on 21st April 2006.

All those who were born on **21st April 1926** and living in the Falkirk/Stirling area should contact their local Lieutenancy as follows:

Jean Houston
Assistant Clerk to the Lord Lieutenant
C/o Stirling Council
Viewforth
Stirling FK8 2ET
Tel: 01786 443380 or by email to houstonj2@stirling.gov.uk

All applications to attend this lunch must be returned to the Lieutenancy office by **Monday, 16th January 2006** and should include a copy of the applicant's birth certificate, so that eligibility can be verified. Invitations will be distributed on a pro rata basis between Lord-Lieutenants' offices and ballots will be held locally to achieve the fairest possible spread throughout the country.



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Council Housing Stock Transfer

Stirling Council is proposing to transfer all its houses to a new local organisation called Housing Stirling. Here Owen McKee, Chair of the Board of Housing Stirling, explains about housing transfer and what it means for you if you're a Council tenant.

Why is Stirling Council proposing housing transfer?

Stirling Council believes that housing transfer is, without doubt, the best way forward for current tenants and future generations of tenants. If transfer goes ahead, the Scottish Executive will "write off" the Council's housing debt, ensuring that the rent paid by tenants is spent on providing good housing services and improving homes.

There will be more investment in improving homes – more quickly – than if homes stay with the Council. If you are a Council tenant you will have the same rights as you do now including the right to buy; your tenancy agreement will be the same and you won't have to move. Also, housing transfer will not affect any housing benefit that tenants receive.

Why can't the Council deliver the same investment without raising rents?

The Scottish Executive will only write off the Council's housing debt if housing transfer proceeds. So unless housing transfer goes ahead, 25p in every £1 of your rent is spent on servicing the Council's housing debt.

Who decides if Stirling Council homes transfer?

Tenants will decide. All Council tenants, including joint tenants, will have the chance to vote in a ballot in Spring 2006. If the majority

of tenants voting vote "yes" to transfer, then homes will transfer to Housing Stirling about 6 or 8 months after the ballot.

Who are Housing Stirling and can we trust them?

Housing Stirling will be a new, not-for-profit, housing organisation that will manage the housing services if tenants vote "yes" to transfer. Its income will be used to provide high quality housing services and improve tenants' homes. An unpaid Board of 16, comprising 6 tenant members, 5 council nominees and 5 independent people, is now setting up Housing Stirling. They have all volunteered to help because they are committed to making things better for tenants.

But will rents go up if homes transfer?

Housing Stirling's fully costed business plan will show tenants how it can pay for all the improvements and repairs to tenants' homes for 30 years while keeping rents affordable. Housing Stirling will consult tenants before setting rents in the future but is committed to guaranteeing a maximum rent increase based on inflation (the cost of living) plus 1% for the first five years of the transfer. Thereafter, Housing Stirling aims to keep the rents at the same level for the remaining 25 years of its business plan.

How do we know we'll get what's promised?

Housing Stirling will enter into a contract with the Council to make sure it delivers on its promises to tenants, including the promises on rents and investment. It will be regulated by the government's housing watchdog, Communities Scotland. Most importantly, tenants will have the opportunity to become

a member of Housing Stirling and therefore help influence Housing Stirling's policies.

Who will manage the housing services after transfer?

Housing Stirling will take over ownership of all the Council's housing and will deliver the housing and repairs services. It is likely that some employees who currently work delivering services to tenants will transfer across to Housing Stirling.

How will we get repairs done after transfer?

There will be no change. Some of Building Services trades people will transfer to Housing Stirling and they'll carry out your repairs as now. However, Housing Stirling will also contract with reputable contractors to ensure that it delivers on its promises to tenants.

How does the tenants' ballot work?

A ballot paper will be sent direct to every tenant, including joint tenants, in the spring of 2006 by the Electoral Reform Society, an independent organisation. It will be in charge of the ballot and therefore will guarantee confidentiality and impartiality. Before then you'll get a lot more information about Housing Stirling and its plans to improve and modernise homes, while keeping rents affordable.

Where can I get more information?

You can contact the independent tenants' advisor at TPAS on free phone 0800 269 645 or at enquiries@tpasscotland.org.uk or contact the Council's Community Ownership Project Team on free phone 0800 027 0431 or email them at communityownership@stirling.gov.uk

Braeval Antiques Aberfoyle



Tel. 01877 382400
Mobile 0781 4405975
Ask for Andrew

Braeval Old Mill, Braeval,
Nr Aberfoyle, Stirling. FK8 3UY

I have been involved in the antiques business on a part-time basis for the past forty years and am passionate about my work. Since retiring from the hospitality business I am now involved on a full-time basis and would, therefore, be delighted to help, to the best of my ability and knowledge, in the following areas:

1. Free valuations for insurance (without prejudice)
2. Valuations for probate (without prejudice) cost 2.5 % of valuation
3. To help and advise on a) antiques repairs b) antiques restoration c) antiques maintenance
4. Help and advice on selling your antiques by auction
5. The location and purchase of that rare item you have always promised yourself
6. I purchase individual items
7. I purchase complete estate or house contents

Every contact is made with total discretion, confidentiality and courtesy, at a time to suit the client. Properties cleared will be left secure, swept and tidy.

Ranger's Ramblings

A View from the Lodge!



Contributions welcome: Contact David Wilkie on 01877 382258 or email david.wilkie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Mushroom Festival.....

Walking On Air

Nordic Walking came to The Lodge for the first time during the Mushroom Festival and attracted a great deal of interest. Although relatively new in this country, the sport has been evident in Finland for more than seven decades, and is hugely popular throughout Scandinavia. It was invented by cross-country skiers who wanted to stay in shape for their winter sport during the summer months. Using poles, the difference from regular walking is that the upper body and arms are utilised in such a way as to create a feeling of being propelled forward. The movement causes less stress on the joints and can even relieve neck and shoulder pain, as well as burning up to 40% more calories. Those who took part in the guided walks given by the very enthusiastic Iain Davidson also claimed it enhanced their mood. In other words, it was a lot of fun! The Lodge is hoping to invite Iain back in the spring. In the meantime, more information can be found at www.nordicwalkingscotland.com



Fungi For Fun

Even with the addition of two extra dates, all six guided mushroom walks were fully booked as the delectable Liz Holden held court at The Lodge. Had we chosen to arrange a walk for four o'clock on Sunday morning, I am convinced places would have been snapped up just the same. Notwithstanding her growing reputation, Liz's great strength lies not only with her vast knowledge, but with her unique interpretation, delivered in laid-back style, and an ability

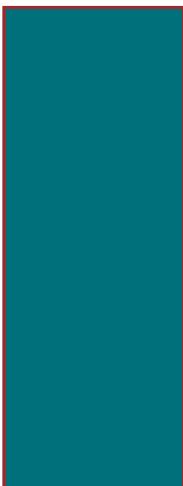


to turn an already fascinating subject into something vibrant. At Festival time, Liz is the jewel in the crown, and

Candlelit Walk Evening

It was disappointing to note the absence of some regular visitors who would normally have attended the Saturday evening event. I can only assume this was down to the change of format from previous years, whereby the ceilidh was sacrificed to make way for a special presentation slide show, given by David Anderson, conservation manager for Cowal and Trossachs forest district. Although the attendant numbers were short of capacity, the feedback was extremely encouraging, and this was down in no short measure to the high standard

of the buffet laid on by Liz McGregors coffee shop and the addition of two excellent sessions of music rendered by the two Finnish bands, Lafo and Havilla. A guided walk along the candlelit trail, in the company of Katy Freeman, to the floodlit Waterfall of the Little Fawn, provided the opening for what turned out to be an excellent evenings entertainment



Halloween

Despite the threat of bad weather, an amazing assortment of scary, ugly creatures gathered at The Lodge for a night of pure theatre. And that was just the staff! An incredible turn-out of nearly seven hundred visitors followed on to join the party. (The population of Aberfoyle is currently rated at around six hundred).For the recreation team, this is the culmination of six months planning and three weeks of preparation, and we get a great deal of satisfaction from watching everything come together and to see everyone enjoying themselves so much. Thanks to all those who came along and contributed to a fantastic night. Thanks also to all the office staff and RSPB volunteers who gave up their own time to help out. It would appear that Halloween at The Lodge has now got a reputation for itself and we are already looking forward to improving on our own high standards next year !



Old Man of the Forest



Who was that Masked Man?



Rogues Gallery



David More – An Apology
Apologies are due to the More family for the error in last months Thornaby Brough article. Someone in the typing pool had recorded David More, the first warden of The Lodge, as Bill More, confusing David with Bill Ross, who was the third warden. Thanks to the eagle-eyed Kathy Bond and John Clow, amongst others, for pointing this out. The person concerned has been fired.



The Enchanted Pupils of Aberfoyle Primary

Learning Teaching Scotland has been filming at Aberfoyle Primary School. LTS had approached the school to see if it were possible to produce an online resource for teachers about using the Storyline approach. This system was developed by the former Head Teacher of Aberfoyle, Carol Omand and Steve Bell, who still regularly brings visitors (mainly from Scandinavian countries) to the school to see Storyline being practiced.

Lynda Bancroft a teacher at Aberfoyle has been using a storyline approach with her primary 1 classes for a couple of years. This term's topic she called 'The Enchanted Forest'. Through using an Elf puppet named Bramble Berry and various invented characters, the children of Mrs. Bancroft's class have been exploring forest ecosystems.

From becoming familiar with the different animals and trees that can be found in their local area, to being inventive and creative within the magical and fanciful world of fairies, Primary One have been very enthusiastic about their new topic. So much so that LTS, recognizing just how engaged and enthusiastic the children were to learn, and also the power of Storyline to stimulate imagination and thereby facilitate learning, revised their original plans and decided that they should also produce a DVD of Mrs. Bancroft's class. The online information will be in the early literacy section of the LTS website. LTS hope to have produced the DVD in the new year.

For more information on Storyline visit www.storyline-scotland.com

Books For The Blind

During national book week in October, Primary Seven pupils of Aberfoyle Primary School worked with their teacher Janette Bond, in developing a series of 'Talking Books' for the partially sighted. Miss Bond contacted Christine Stone of SLANT, Morag Meldrum of The Royal Blind School in Edinburgh and Fiona Wyllie of Southpark Special School in Ayr, who were all enthusiastic about the idea. The pupils, working in groups, developed their stories and began the drafting process. Eventually they recorded the stories to tape, with each pupil taking a character part or that of narrator. The tapes were then sent to all of the above who shared them with their pupils.

This was a very positive and meaningful project that covered many aspects of the curriculum for the pupils involved. It was creative and inventive, allowed for collaborative group work and addressed important aspects of citizenship. Perhaps most importantly, it was real and provided a real and appreciative audience, while forging positive links with others.

Aberfoyle Toddlers would like to extend their thanks to Sandra Jardine for her generous donation to Toddler funds. Not only did she work hard organising her table-top sale, she is also appreciated for bringing an extra cheery smile to Toddler sessions.

Thanks Sandra!

Jackie Bell and all involved with Aberfoyle Toddlers

Autumn at Inversnaid School

Autumn has been busy at school with trips out and projects in school. We enjoyed working on our entry for the 'Mushroom and Fairies' Exhibition. We had great fun making the mushrooms out of shredded paper! Thank you to the organisers for giving such a good project to work towards. On October 27th we had a day out in Stirling as part of our project on the Wars of Independence. We visited the Wallace Monument and climbed all 246 steps to the top. The view was tremendous as the weather was so clear that day. Then we went to Stirling Castle and took part in the Knight School there. We made special helmets, had a look at medieval armour and learned how to joust.

Duncan Cameron, RSPB, worked with us in November to make special bug boxes. These will provide the ideal environment for small bugs and creepy crawlies. When we saw the resources we thought we were making bird boxes but then we discovered that the inside was going to be very different. Hopefully our local bugs and creepy crawlies will have a great time making new homes in our boxes.

We are very busy at the moment on a photographic project, which will lead to us producing our own calendars. We have been out and about throughout the year taking photographs of the area and have also been creating images on the computer for our calendar. These will be on sale locally. Please phone our school for up-to-date information on where you can buy a calendar.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mathew, Ross, Eilidh, Jamie and Mrs Carter
Inversnaid Primary School (01877 386218)
inversps@stirling.gov.uk

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For Sale

Strathard Calendars

Created by the pupils of Inversnaid Primary School as part of our ICT and Environmental Studies projects, these calendars show scenes of the local area and also include examples of the children's work. The calendars are available from the School and other local outlets.

Please phone school on

01877 386218

for details of your nearest stockist.
Also for sale: Loggies and Briquettes made from waste paper, remade envelopes and Christmas Cards created by the children

The Guiding programme offers opportunities for girls to spend time at camps and holidays. Here are reports, written by the Guides, about two of their recent trips.

NETHERURD in July

During the beginning of the summer holidays, a group of 10 of the Gartmore Guides went to Netherurd, our Scottish Guide training centre near Peebles. We stayed in large canvas tents, except the young leaders and Guiders who slept in light weight tents!

The weather was brilliant as it was really sunny and quite hot so we got to sunbathe. There were quite a lot of horrible midges that decided to munch on our flesh, but with the aid of insect repellent we weren't too badly bitten.

We did get to try out some interesting activities including archery, canoeing, raft building, nature trail, zipline and a rather soapy water slide. The zip line was pretty brilliant because there was a really long wire and someone was attached to it with a harness. As you flew along the line, some people decided to completely soak you with water guns. This turned into a rather large water fight, which was ace!

To our amazement, there were working showers and flushing loos, but also very large queues. These showers ended up being covered from top to bottom in grass, mud and goodness knows!

Towards the end of our camp, we also had the pleasure of meeting some Guides from Ghana. I'm sure they thought we were strange plummeting down a soapy slide and getting covered in grass!

We all thought the camp was great and we would really like to thank Mary, Anne Jackson and our two Guiders from Logie, Linda and Anne Sharp. The Logie Guides who came with us were really fun and we hope they enjoyed it as much as we did.

LOCHGOILHEAD in September

Once again we joined up with the Guides from Logie to spend the weekend at the Lochgoilhead National Activity Centre. We stayed in a chalet with seven rooms and two toilets and two showers. The Guiders had an en suite!

During the day we went on activities including Jacob's Ladder, Sailing, Burn Run, Bell Boating and Kayaking. The burn run was very well received, causing great excitement as we struggled into our wetsuits, lifejackets and helmets to scramble over rocks and through deep water along the gorge. Every one of the activities was thoroughly enjoyed by all, despite the cold water and mud that caused major queues for the showers!

Exhibition Success

An excellent high standard of school children's work made judging very difficult at the recent "Savour the Soups" day in the Aberfoyle Memorial Hall on Saturday 22nd October 2005 as part of the Medical Centre's Low Allergy Garden fund raising event.

Local Schools were invited to take part in a "Mushroom and Fairies" theme during the Mushroom Festival weekend. They could present their work in poster, drawing or collage media.

A hanging hand-crafted collage from Aberfoyle School, described as an "ambitious and most interesting piece of work", was singled out as one of the two special FIRST prizes standing out in the exhibition. The judge also commented that the *Mystical Fairies* project, also from Aberfoyle was outstanding and the children should be proud of what they had achieved. Below is a summary of the awards to the schools:

Aberfoyle Primary: 3 x 1st prizes and 1 x 3rd prize

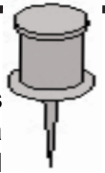
Gartmore Primary: 1 x 2nd prize, 1 x 3rd prize and 1 x Highly Commended

Inversnaid Primary: 1 x EQUAL 2nd prize

Port of Menteith Primary: 1 x EQUAL 2nd prize

Well done to all the children!!

Notice Board



The David Marshall Lodge slips into Christmas mood, after a relatively quite November, for a month filled with fun, music, crafts, activities, and more fun.

Traditional Xmas trees will be on sale from 1st of December and a major new attraction comes in the shape of a dry sledging slope, which will be in use at weekends only. Children's activities, including a treasure hunt, will be available throughout the month.

SAT 3 / SUN 4 DECEMBER

Craft stalls on show for both days.

SAT 10 DECEMBER

RSPB and Forestry Commission Winter Birds Day
Chainsaw carving demonstration.

SUN 11 DECEMBER

Lomond Mountain Rescue Fun Day- Tombola, mulled wine and all the trimmings.

Book Signing. A major event sees Bob Sharp and Judy Whiteside signing copies of their brand new book entitled MOUNTAIN RESCUE.

Puppet Workshop. Spend a day in the company of the very talented Donna Owens. For the young and old.. There will be a charge for the workshop.

SAT 17 / SUN 18 DECEMBER

Lomond Craft Association. The Lodge will be bursting at the seams for this craft weekend.

Adult Carol Singing.

SUN 18 DECEMBER

Carol Singing:

Aberfoyle Primary 12.00 p.m.

Port of Menteith Primary 1.00 p.m.

Gartmore Primary 2.00 p.m.

Rangers Corner



I remember, remember the fifth of November
As the one thing I had to explode was my temper
For each and every firework that is bought
Money up in smoke is the first lesson to be taught
For the obvious dangers there appears little thought
And for forest wildlife no quarter is sought
Pretty patterns under a sky so bright
For those none the wiser makes a colorful sight
Though for me, it always brings a sleepless night
Comforting my dog, who is racked with fright
And there are always the few who take things too far
Such as throwing a banger underneath a car
A prank utterly devoid of charm
The purpose being to set off the alarm
Everyone and their cousin knows who these people are
For my part, I would happily introduce
them to some feathers and tar

RSPB Inversnaid



In the 19 years since our reserve opened there have been 117 bird species recorded. Of these 51 have bred and

the rest have been visitors at various times of the year. This bird tally has been static for some time but in October, we have had a very exciting addition – Inversnaid's first recorded red kite. It was a bright sunny day and it flew in from the east along Loch Arklet, circled a few times and slowly returned in the direction it had come. All central Scotland's red kites have individual wing tags fitted (identifying their natal area and year of birth) but the view I got of this rare visitor was mostly silhouetted against the skyline on Stob an Fhainne meant it was impossible to read at this distance. Hopefully, as central Scotland's red kite population grows (red kites were wiped out in Scotland, like many other raptors, during the Victorian era) we will get more sightings that are regular on the reserve. This would be very appropriate as one of the last places in Scotland that red kites bred was in Kenmore Woods on the west side of Loch Lomond opposite Inversnaid in 1876. In the meantime, anyone wanting guaranteed and very spectacular views of red kites should head for Argaty Red Kite Project, near Doune. (www.argatyredekites.co.uk)

After the excitement of the red kite, other sightings were what could be expected at this time of year, a silhouetted hen harrier in the same area. Redwing arrived on the reserve on the 6th October, just 12 of them being the vanguard; over the month, fieldfares and redwing are now being observed in large numbers, sometimes up to 500 of each species. Twelve whooper swans made a spectacular sight as they

flew down the reserve coming in low over Castle Rock before continuing south down Loch Lomond. Twite (8), goldfinch (11) and redpoll (30) have all been observed in the Garrison car park area. A single blackcock (male black grouse) was at the lek and a greyhen (female black grouse) was flushed later in the day along with a snipe whilst walking out past the sheep fank. The woodpigeon are busy searching the oak woodlands for food and 100 flew past the Inversnaid Hotel car park. Other bird observations have been stonechat, reed bunting, meadow pipit, house sparrow, dunnock, bullfinch, kestrel, siskin, robin, buzzard, mallard, cormorant, dipper, teal and Canada goose.

Badgers have also been active and their scrapings have been noted next to the Garrison car park and along the West Highland Way at Eagle Beach. A red fox was also sitting high on Stob an Fhainne cleaning itself in the autumn sunlight; it then proceeded to watch over the reserve for a few minutes before moving further up the hillside.

The leaves are almost off all the woodland now, the alder always hanging on to its leaves last. Spectacular colours have replaced the green leaves of woodland into one of red, gold, brown and yellow, as always produced by the colder weather of autumn. Despite the rowan not producing as many berries this year, in contrast the hazel appears to have done well with lots of hazel nuts on the ground. On a few warm days, midges are still appearing and biting! Now that is a pleasant thought, no midges to bother us for a few months, but it will not be long (mid May) until they are back!

Duncan Cameron
Conservation Assistant

RSPB & Forestry Commission Winter Birds Day

Saturday 10th December 11-4

We would like to invite you to join us on Saturday 10th December (11-4pm) at David Marshall Lodge for our Winter Birds Day. Come and get to know your garden birds once and for all. Feeding birds can be expensive so find out how to feed your birds from everyday scraps. Get advice on what bird food and bird feeders are best. Come and learn how to make your own birdfeeders. Find out which migratory birds visit Scotland in the winter and where you can see them for yourself. Find out what you can do for our birds in preparation for the Spring!

Children's games and activities all day.
For more information contact Joanna on 01877 382258 See you there!

Winter is here, time to battle the cold

Time to worry for the health of the frail and the old

But there are millions of others trying hard to survive

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But the trees stand bare, the frost covers the ground
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WILDLIFE VOLUNTEER GROUP CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

Volunteers make a big difference to birds in Central Scotland

A group of wildlife enthusiasts from Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire celebrated 10 years as a RSPB Local Group on Wednesday night at a special event in Stirling attended by Sylvia Jackson MSP. The Forth Valley RSPB group was set-up in 1995, a decade after the RSPB's first nature reserve was purchased in the area at Inversnaid on Loch Lomond, and the group's many members have since been involved in a huge variety of activities across the region helping everything from ospreys to the humble tree sparrow.

Led in recent years by enthusiastic group leader David Redwood of Dunblane, the Forth Valley group have climbed hills and trekked through valleys in the National Park to plant trees for rare black grouse, cleared rhododendrons to improve habitats for capercaillie, and waded through fields and farmyards in search of tree sparrows. They have also provided feeding stations for these rare feathered residents who have declined by 90% since the 1970's.

One of 14 similar groups across Scotland, many of Forth Valley's members provide invaluable help to several RSPB projects such as ospreys in the Trossachs, where they are involved in monitoring these spectacular summer visitors via CCTV cameras and speaking to the public.

Similarly, at Argaty Red Kites Project near Doune, the volunteers help to show the rare raptors to visitors and monitor the many small farmland birds that nest on the wildlife-friendly Lerrocks Farm.

The rare tree sparrow is just one of many farmland birds that the group is involved in surveying as part of the RSPB Volunteer



Group members after tree planting day at Inversnaid RSPB nature reserve.

& Farmland Alliance scheme – a national scheme in which Forth Valley group members have surveyed nearly 30 farms in Central Scotland since 2002.

RSPB Scottish Committee member and Stirling MSP Sylvia Jackson said:

"The RSPB is at the forefront of many ecological issues and the Scottish conservation lobby, and I would like to congratulate the Forth Valley Local Group on 10 years of supporting bird and wildlife projects across Central Scotland from

Stirling to Loch Lomond – and I hope to be here enjoying another piece of birthday cake on the 20th anniversary!"

'Our members see themselves as the local presence of the RSPB in this area' added David Redwood. 'We are pleased to be involved in the growing number of RSPB projects in Forth Valley and we gain as much as we give from volunteering. We also have an attractive programme of monthly indoor meetings held in Stirling, and regular trips to some of the great bird watching sites across Scotland. All those who share our interest in birds are welcome to join us in any of our activities.'

Tom Marshall from the RSPB's Regional Office said:

The contribution of the local group volunteers to our work is invaluable, with an amazing 15,000 hours of time given by volunteers to RSPB projects and nature reserves in the South & West Scotland region last year

alone. The Forth Valley group members are a key part of so much of our work in Central Scotland - from planting 2,000 trees at Inversnaid to helping tree sparrows - that many projects would simply struggle without their contribution. We hope they will be here for many more decades to come!

To find out more about the Forth Valley RSPB Local Group contact group secretary Etta Payne on 01324 711610 or visit www.forthrspb.p5.org.uk or www.rspb.org.uk

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Strathard Community Trust

The last meeting of the Trust was held on 24 October. The Trust has 3 projects ongoing at the moment: the Youth Group, The Amenity Site and Paths & Trails. A 'Newsletter' is to be sent out to all Trust Members to keep you informed on the projects and their progress.

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed, so please watch out for a notice on notice boards giving information of the next meeting.

Get Out More

..and discover what's on your own doorstep!

Now the summer has gone and we are moving swiftly towards winter (no midges), it is more important we get out and get some exercise. Daylight hours limit the time when we can get out and into the forest but by even doing part of the new way-marked routes you will achieve the recommended 30 minutes per day at least 5 times per week. This can be broken into 3, 10 minute sessions during weekdays with a much longer walk at the weekend. By getting started over the winter months you will have the advantage of having a quieter forest to enjoy, you will feel fitter come the summer months and even have lost some of that weight you will gain at Christmas. Getting out into the woods is good for the mind as well as the body. Did you know that by increasing your physical activity you could reduce the risk of heart disease and diabetes. Start off gently and slowly build up your stamina. If you suffer from any illness it is recommended you consult your GP prior to starting a programme of exercise. Over the next few months we will give details on 25 trails around the Strathard area. Tick them off as you walk them. (see back page for this month's recommendation)

We would like to set up a walking group for the Strathard area. If this is something you would be interested in please give us a shout at the Aberfoyle office. Suggestions to improve the trails will be gratefully received. Contact us at 01877 382383.

Forest Hills Watersports Centre offers a multitude of activities to groups and individuals. Taster sessions for beginners are available all week, while those with more experience can benefit from further training or simply hire one of our boats. All activities are under the supervision of qualified staff, and all necessary equipment can be provided for a safe and enjoyable day, weekend or week away.



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Phone 01877 387 775 Email foresthills@goforth.co.uk



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Hogmanay Gala Dinner & entertainment £45

New Years Day Brunch 11am-2pm £15

New Years Day Dinner 7-8.30pm £25

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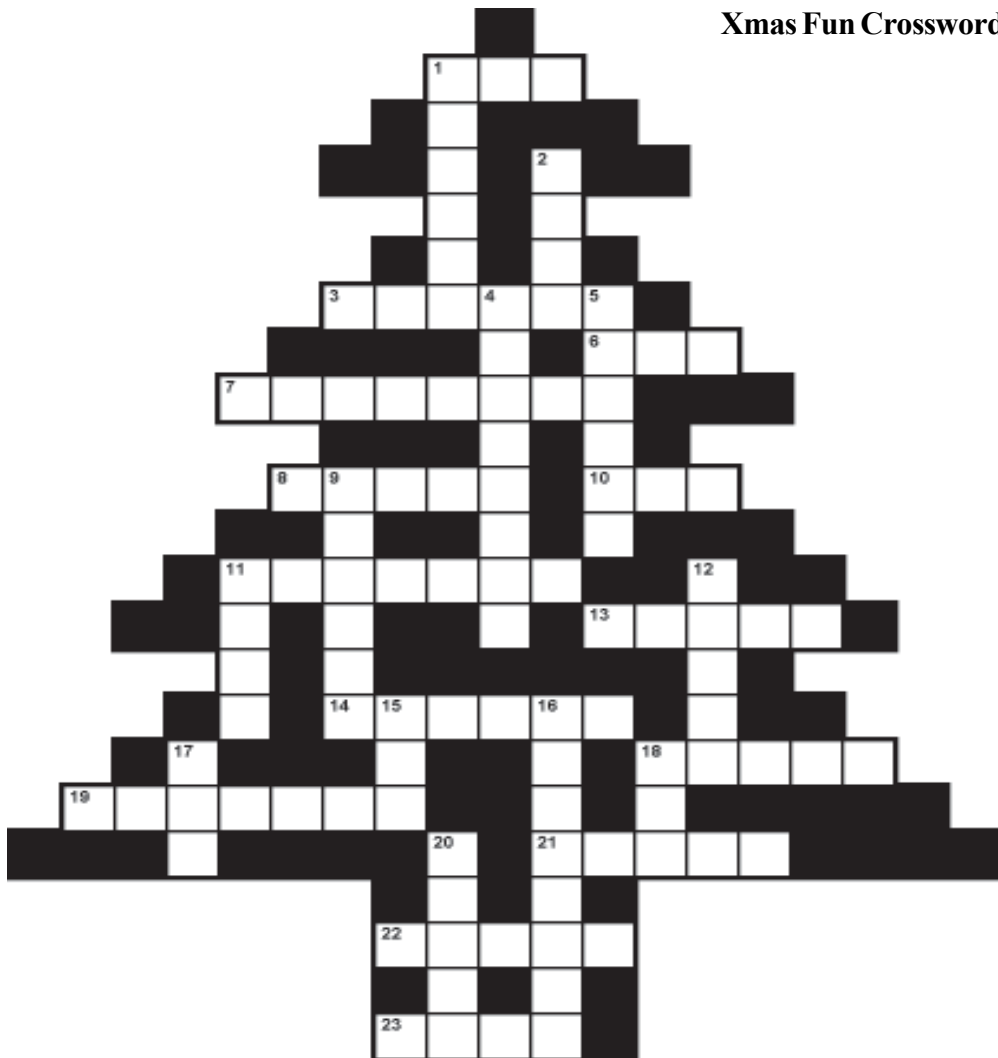
Hello children,

Did you have fun at Hallowe'en? Sunday night at the David Marshall Lodge was great fun. I really liked walking through the forest, darkness all around, the paths lit by flaming torches. The flickering shadows were very, very spooky! The Old Man of the Forest was there somewhere, with his long black cloak and long white hair. The big green elf was there, too. All night long he was sharpening his great big knives, looking for someone to eat! Luckily he made do with half a dozen burgers supplied by Liz Macgregor and covered in tomato ketchup instead of blood! We all had a wonderful time, dooking for apples, watching the juggler playing with fire – don't do that at home – and listening to scary stories. Then, of course, the heavens opened and it poured with rain.

Grandpa Otter says that, where-ever you find two Scots together, five things are bound to happen in a calendar year. They will start with Hogmanay, then it will be Burns' Night, a Highland Games, Saint Andrew's Day and, finally, a fight; and they may have more than one of those! Saint Andrew is very important to the people of Scotland. The sacred bones of Andrew, known as relics, were brought to safety from Greece away back in the fourth century. Four hundred years later, a large army invaded the south-east of Scotland and came face to face with a much smaller force of Picts and Scots. As the battle was about to begin, two long thin white wisps of cloud formed the diagonal cross of St. Andrew in the clear blue sky. After winning the battle, the Scots adopted the sign of St. Andrew as their national flag. Soon St. Andrew became the Patron Saint of Scotland and we celebrate his memory on the last day of November.

Christmas seems a long way off, but it is coming! The twins have already written to Santa, posting their letters up the chimney. Braeval has given her wish-list to Hamish at Kilmahog. He will be helping Santa by pulling the sleigh on the Highland run as he does every Christmas. I had better write my letter before it is too late!

Bye for now,
Milton



Across

1. Participate in a winter sport (3)
3. Christmas tree decoration (6)
6. 'No room at the —' (3)
7. Family gathering around the piano (8)
8. See 17 down (5)
10. — turtle doves, given by my true love on the second day of Christmas (3)
11. Essential part of Christmas dinner, served with brandy butter or cream (7)
13. See 12 down (5)
14. 'Three ——— 23 across', brought by my true love on the third day of Christmas (6)
18. Traditionally sits atop the tree (5)
19. The best way to serve turkey (7)
21. Hymn sung at Christmas time (5)
22. One of these sang 'Hark' in the 21 across (5)
23. See 14 across (4)

Down

1. The Festive ———, Christmas time (6)
2. Served at tea time on Christmas day, covered with marzipan and icing (4)
4. What 12 down will fill with presents, if you've been good! (8)
5. Bright decorations for the tree (6)
9. One of the deer pulling 12 down's sleigh (6)
11. 20 down ———, a Christmas treat (4)
12. and 13 across - brings children (and hopefully adults!) presents (5)
15. The colour of 9 down's nose (3)
16. Pulled during Christmas dinner (8)
17. —, 8 across, and be merry! (3)
18. Popular choice for the Christmas tree (3)
20. See 11 down

(see back page for solution)



Issue 25 £5 prize winner: Catherine Love, Gardener's Cottage, The Glassert, Lochard Road FK8 3TJ (Next £5 prize crossword will be in Issue 27)

Issue 25 Solution:

Across 9. reverberation 10. toy 11. neither 12. peel 13. kill 15. input 17. deserts 19. hasnt 21. tax 23. pores 24. african 25. prawn 27. toad 28. plum 30. sloshed 32. dot 33. impracticable
Down 1. trumped up 2. evade 3. wren 4. feminist 5. wash up 6. pier 7. intrinsic 8. loyal 14. crisp 16. third 18. sarcastic 20. tent maker 22. xanthate 26. anorak 27. tidal 29. lobby 30. sips 31. duck

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Sat 3rd Dec Christmas Karaoke in the Bar
Sun 11th Dec Christmas Quiz in the Bar
15th - 22nd Jan Italian Food Week



The Forth Inn will be open as usual over the Festive period except for
Christmas day (12 - 3 Bar Only) and New Years Day (Closed !)

The Forth Inn, Main Street, Aberfoyle 01877 382 372

for more info; www.ForthInn.com

Rangers Recommendation for this month is..... Milton.

Milton area of Loch Ard Forest has it all: good parking, great views of lochs, hills, rivers and peace and quiet to enjoy it all.

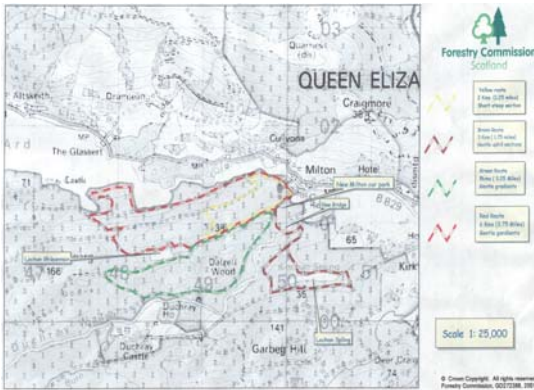
The Lochan Spring walk leads you down to the Duchray River where the new bridge takes you over to Lochan Spring. This is a short walk, which is a good starter as the gradients are fairly steady all the way. When you feel ready, try the additional loop up to the viewpoint.

The Dalzell walk is again a walk with gentle inclines but is that wee bit longer as it takes you up the Duchray River and swings around the back of Lochan Ghleannain.

The Ghleannain Loch route is the longest with some longer uphill to get the legs going. This walk takes you along the banks of Loch Ard, around by Rob Roy's cave and back up the hill to Lochan Ghleannain.

Aberfoyle viewpoint walk is the shortest of them all but has the steepest incline. This will definitely get the heart pumping. Once at the top the views down over Aberfoyle and Craigmore make the effort all worth while.

Why not get out and try one of these walks and think about setting yourself some goals. Time yourself each time and see how much quicker you get over a set period of time. Go technical and buy a pedometer (10,000 steps per day is the recommendation) to see how many steps you take on each walk. All but the Aberfoyle viewpoint walk is suitable to cycle, so "get on your bike".



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Cards, presents, paper, packing
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Crossword Solution:

Across 1.ski 3.tinsel 6.inn 7.sing song
8.drink 10.two 11.pudding 13.claus
14.french 18.fairy 19.roasted 21.carol
22.angel 23.hens
Down 1.season 2.cake 4.stocking 5.lights
9.rudolf 11.pies 12. santa 15.red 16.crack-
ers 17.eat 18.fir 20.mince

Annual Valentine Dance
In The Memorial Hall
Saturday 11th February
Ceilidh Band; Raffle; Buffet
Proceeds to the Reading Room
Tickets available from the Post Office
Or Rory Steele, 1 Queens Crescent