



Kiltarlity News

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50p

Village housing plan approved

The Glebe housing development is to go ahead, but initially will be limited to 14 houses, although permission has been granted in principle for a total of 24 houses.

In the first phase, there must be at least three affordable houses - affordable housing must eventually comprise 25% of the total. And developers must ensure that there is proper drainage for surface water so that there will be no possibility of excess water escaping from the estate, giving hope that the chronic problem of water flooding into the Hall car park will be ended.

Highland Council planners have imposed a number of further conditions on the Glebe estate developers:

no phase of the development can start until the Council is satisfied that all archaeological finds in the area are preserved and recorded;

in order to provide an entrance to the estate, the School road must first be widened and improved;

a play area with at least five pieces of play equipment must be ready before the first residents move in ;

arrangements must be in place for the areas of open space, verges and play area to be maintained before work on the site can start. An ongoing maintenance scheme will become a legal responsibility of homeowners. Open space between the estate and the Hall is to be designated as a community area;

a one metre high stone dyke must be built right along the north boundary of the estate (facing the Hall).

Once work has started, working hours on the site are to be between 7 am and 8 pm on week days, between 8 am and 1 pm on Saturdays with no work to be carried out on Sundays or public holidays.

Readers who recall the muddy roads which resulted when the Post Office Brae houses were being built will be interested

to note that the Glebe developers must install temporary surface water drainage to prevent flooding and contamination during construction and ensure that there is no overspill of surface water onto the public roads.

And there is to be no question of a start to house building until it can be demonstrated that the development can be served by a water supply.

Further building can only be started with the permission of the Council.

Culnaskiach Falls rediscovered

Eighteen people turned out for two enjoyable early summer walks to view the Culnaskiach Falls in the depths of Boblainy Forest.

The evening walks were joined by folk of different ages who were blessed with reasonable weather on both evenings.

Such is the continuing level of interest that the Community Council plan to organise another walk to the falls next year. (See separate article on Boblainy Forest for plans to promote other forest walks and give encouragement to anyone wishing to start up a local walking group.)



PUBLIC MEETING

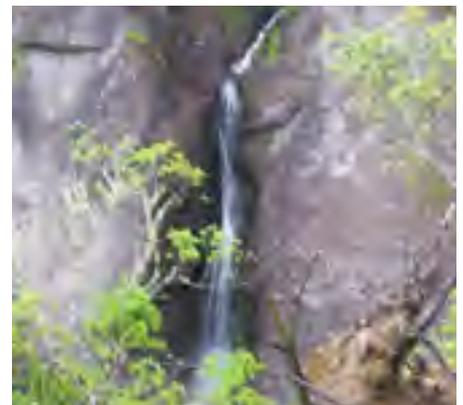
BOBLAINY
LET'S USE
OUR LOCAL FOREST

PUBLIC ACCESS; RECREATION; ARCHAEOLOGY

TUESDAY
15TH SEPTEMBER
7.00 pm
KILTARLITY HALL

SPEAKERS FROM FORESTRY COMMISSION, ABRIACHAN AND REELIG WOODLANDS

ALSO: 3.30 PM - 5.30 PM
EXHIBITION/
DROP-IN SESSION
STAFFED BY
FORESTRY COMMISSION AND
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Above Not Niagara but well worth seeing. Left Walkers at new bridge linking Culburnie and Ardendrain



No response on Kiltarlity signs but Highland Council alters bilingual stance

Kiltarlity Community Council is to seek a response from Highland Council officials on the paper recently submitted on the inadequacy of local road signs. Meanwhile Highland Council members have agreed minor changes to its approach to the erection of bilingual signs. This has required a change in the Council's Gaelic Language Plan which is to be forwarded to Bòrd na Gàidhlig (the Gaelic Board) for their consideration. The extent to which local people, either through the Community Council or otherwise, are to be consulted is not particularly clear.

The Council will note the advice of Ainmean Aite na h-Alba (Place Names of Scotland), the organisation set up to establish correct and consistent forms of Gaelic place names and will also establish a procedure for resolving disputes through a Gaelic Names Sub-Committee consisting of 10 members (cross-party, with 3 members from the Gaelic Committee).

Bi-lingual directional road signs will only be erected where there is a true Gaelic name – since a bilingual sign can only be meaningful where there is both a Gaelic and an anglicised name. (Most

Kiltarlity names are anglicised Gaelic but a few, such as Foxhole and Hugh-ton have no agreed Gaelic version, and Eskadale is Norse.)

The Council is prepared to allow local consultation on new and replacement street name signs while stressing that bi-lingual signs should be encouraged.

The responsibility for ensuring road signs conform to the Council's Gaelic Plan lies with the Area Roads and Community Works Manager but there is a commitment that these signs will be bilingual where an authentic Gaelic translation exists. Statutory highway signs e.g. *Give Way* will not be produced bilingually.

New street names are the responsibility of the Ward Manager who will be required to consult the local councillors and, *where appropriate* (our italics), with the relevant Community Council.

Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA), also known as Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland, has members drawn from the Highland local authorities, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comunn na Gàidhlig (the Gaelic Association), HIE, the Ordnance Survey, the Scottish Place-Name Society and the UHI Millennium Institute.

Boblainy Forest

Kiltarlity Community Council's plans for increasing the recreational use of Boblainy Forest and a related archaeology project are making progress.

On *Tuesday 15th September, at 7 pm* in Kiltarlity Hall there will be a public meeting to assess the level of local interest. The meeting will be addressed by speakers from the Forestry Commission and from other communities which have successfully increased the use of their local forests. Before the evening meeting there will be a small *display and drop-in session* in the Hall from *3.30 - 5.30 pm*.

It must be emphasised that Boblainy is still a working forest with felling and replanting programmes for well into the 2030s and beyond, so the current plans for increased use by the community do not include any proposal for a community buy-out of the forest, though this has been appropriate elsewhere - and is currently being proposed for Aigas woodland. (*See separate report*)

Should there be a good response to the public meeting, funding applications will then be made to carry out the first phase of improvements to public access at Culburnie, Tor of Boblainy and Ardendrain. These improvements will include car parking (beyond which access would be on foot or by bicycle), picnic benches, information boards and waymarking.

Forestry Commission staff along with KCC representatives and Cllr Margaret Davidson visited the forest in May to discuss on-site the planned access improvements, and also saw the new bridge which links tracks from Culburnie and Ardendrain and now enables all timber to be extracted via the A83 rather than using the narrow winding public roads around Culburnie. (Though there have been reports of timber lorries continuing to use the latter route; if this persists please contact the KCC Secretary - see KCC contact list on Page 19 - who will raise your concerns with the Forestry Commission..

Our early summer walks to the Culnaskiach Falls proved popular (see separate article) and we will be leading or promoting various walks in Boblainy Forest in future years. There are huge walking opportunities in the Kiltarlity area, both in and outwith our local forests. Anyone thinking of starting a local walking group can be assured of support and background information on local walking opportunities from KCC.

Iain Goodwill Trust

Mark Goodwill writes

As you may have seen in the press, we have had a breakthrough in the quest to prevent driveway accidents.

At a recent European Commission meeting where the issue of safety devices was discussed, representatives from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association and the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association agreed to the secondary safety device that Iain's Trust has been campaigning for. All new models with a push-button start (push-button starts are becoming standard) will be fitted with a device to prevent accidental starting, making a repeat of the accident that claimed our son's life impossible with these cars.

This is fantastic news but there are still many cars in use easily started by a young child. Car owners need to be made aware of this, particularly if they ever look after young children. Accidents on public roads are well-documented, but the appalling number of accidents and near misses involving cars on private property are not. In order to better understand these incidences Iain's Trust and RoSPA have produced a short, on-line survey. If you are a parent, grandparent or carer of a child less than seven years old we ask you to spare a few minutes to complete the survey please: www.rospace.com/childrenincars

Please also encourage your friends to take part.. The more responses we have, the more accurate the findings, allowing us to provide the best information possible to keep our driveways safer for young children.

Please help us make driveways safer places for children - don't let the death of Iain be in vain.

Mark G Goodwill, (Telephone 741854)

Power Line update

With Scottish Ministers and MSPs on holiday over July and much of August, the continuing campaign against the Beauldy Denny power line has been low-key.

However, our colourful objection post-cards are still available at the Kiltarlity Village Store and at Brockies Lodge Hotel, while the Pylon Pressure banner publicising the campaign website www.pylonpressure.com

[pylonpressure.com](http://www.pylonpressure.com) moves from one location to another every ten days at most - we've had no complaints from local landowners (fence owners to be more precise!) so thanks for that.

The Scottish Government has led us to expect a decision on the huge Public Inquiry Report this year. Late autumn seems the most likely time so campaigning will be stepped up from the end of this month. This will include a new poster, and a new post card featuring two quotations about the importance of unspoiled landscape to the human psyche.

Each of these quotations is among the twenty-five or so, dealing with many aspects of the human existence which are engraved into the stonework of one wall of the Scottish Parliament.

These messages, from prominent Scots of times past are surely intended to be for the guidance of the many Government Ministers and MSPs who pass by every day as they walk along the Canongate towards the main entrance to the Parliament building, guidance which should tell them that the industrialisation of our best landscapes and victimisation of our populated rural communities by mega pylons is not acceptable.

By refusing to properly discuss under-grounding, SSE forced a public inquiry and opted to incur huge costs which the consumer is now being forced, by OFGEM, to pay with increased bills. Meanwhile, despite the quasi legal procedure of the expensive public inquiry Holyrood committees and powerful pro-pylon interest groups seem entirely free to influence the outcome with premature and well publicised pronouncements.



DRAINAGE DOCTORS

SEPTIC TANKS AND SOAKAWAYS

REPAIRS AND INSTALLATION

TEL: ANDY BAWDEN

01463 741468

Or

ALI MATHESON

01349 877629

Busy summer for Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches

Wedding Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Minister Willis Jones' and wife Pat's daughter Heidi was married to Mr Tony Hercus on 18 July 2009. The wedding was held in a marquee in an Inverness garden and a good time was had by all despite the heavy rain. The father of the bride is reported to have been resplendent in his "Spirit of Scotland" tartan kilt. Daughter Heidi is Parish Assistant at Trinity Church, Inverness.

Garden Party Avril and Iain Marr, Eilanreach House, Newtonhill, invited members of Kirkhill and Kiltarlity congregations to an open Garden Tea Party on Sunday afternoon, August 2nd. There was no charge, but donations to Kirkhill Church Development Fund were welcomed.

Website The Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Churches website (www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk) has reached a total of over 7,500 visits in the last twelve months. Average daily visits to the site during July were a record 28. Thanks go to David Garvie for maintaining and improving this website each month.

Holiday Club Kirkhill and Kiltarlity Churches invited all primary school age children to Beaufort Castle, through the generosity of Anne Gloag, for an inaugural five day Summer Holiday Club at the Castle between 10th and 14th August. The Holiday Club had a cowboy and cowgirl theme.

Wedding Bride and groom with the bride's parents

Getting away from Westminster

from Danny Alexander MP

It is always a great pleasure to be back working full-time here in the Highlands over the summer recess, but perhaps especially this year.

The justified anger of the public over the expenses scandal has taken its toll on Parliament, at a time when the Government itself seems largely to have run out of steam. One of the strongest arguments for a General Election to be held sooner rather than later is that little serious legislative work will be done between now and next May, when an election has to be held anyway.

The expenses issue showed just how badly broken our politics is. But neither the Government nor the Conservative opposition are interested in serious reform. Transparency over MPs' expenses is long overdue, but the Westminster establishment has no intention of rocking the boat any further than strictly neces-

sary to appease the Daily Telegraph. A General Election will be a chance for the public to have their say – and to vote either for more of the same, or to take back power for themselves by reforming the system from top to bottom.

As the recess approached, my colleague Charles Kennedy told me that “MPs are like manure”. According to Charles, “Piled up in London we only create a bad smell, but spread out across the country we may be able to do some good!”

Perhaps it is a sign of the times that some people will feel that colourful metaphor is, on the whole, a little bit generous!

In seriousness, though, the long recess is not a holiday for MPs, as some members of the press might have you believe – although I concede that it is a welcome break from the constant commute between the Highlands and Westminster.

A longer period of uninterrupted time at home is a very valuable chance to do what MPs should do – get out and about, and speak to the people who they represent.

I try to make myself as easy to contact as possible throughout the year – by post, by email, by telephone, and through my website. Even so, there is nothing quite like speaking to people on their own terms in their own community. Very often a different range of issues can be raised, because people feel more able to talk about opinions and experiences which may not be problems with immediate solutions, but reflect in an important way on the work Parliament should be doing in the future.

I count myself very fortunate to represent an area which not only contains some of the finest and most famous landscapes in the UK – from the Cairngorms, to Dava Moor, Loch Ness and the Beaully Firth – but a huge number of diverse and strong communities too.

I have used this time every year since I was first elected to make sure that I visit as many communities as possible – both to hold a short advice surgery and to speak to constituents on a less formal basis too. Invariably, this throws up a lot of work which may otherwise be neglected, but it also helps a lot to get a balanced sense of the issues

which local families and businesses are facing – and that has rarely been more important than in the course of the continuing economic storm we are facing.

Later this summer, I'm hoping – as much as the timetabling of meetings allows – to visit community councils and other local organisations which meet on weekday evenings when I would normally need to be in London. If you are involved in an organisation and would like to bend my ear about something, or just to let me see and understand what you are doing, I will do my best to come along. Just let me know of any meeting dates you have planned for August and September by emailing danny@highlandlibdems.org.uk or calling 01463 711280.

More generally, if you do miss me when I am in Kiltarlity, don't hesitate to use those details to get in touch about other issues – or to write or call in at my office at 45 Huntly Street, Inverness, IV3 5HR. Helping you solve problems or raise concerns is what MPs are here for – and I will always do my best for you.

*Note: Danny Alexander is the Westminster MP for the **Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey** Constituency, which contains most of Kiltarlity. The last change in Westminster constituencies split Kiltarlity along the boundary between the now defunct wards of **Kirkhill** and **Beaully and Strathglass**, so western parts of Kiltarlity are in **Ross, Skye and Lochaber** and represented in London by Mr Alexander's colleague Charles Kennedy. See also Page 7*

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How does a beehive work and what do summer bees do?

Kiltarlity beekeeper John Cartilidge, continues his series on bees

Towards the end of January or beginning of February the queen bee begins to lay the eggs which will become the "summer bees". March and April herald the arrival of spring and the winter bees which have lived throughout the winter and ensured the survival of the colony, begin to die. This is all part of the life cycle of the honey bee. Winter bees live for approximately six months, summer bees for thirty days!

A queen bee, who is one year old and in her prime, will lay up to 2,000 eggs per day. She must build up the colony size to ensure there are sufficient bees for the major job of collecting food stores for feeding the young brood and to see the colony through the following winter.

The beekeeper provides a hive consisting of a *floor* on to which is placed a *brood box*. The bees fly in and out through the slot between the brood box and the floor. Inside the brood box are 12 wooden frames, each carrying a sheet of wired wax foundation embossed with the "honey comb" print. The worker bees produce wax through a wax gland and draw out individual wax cells to form the honey comb. The queen lays an egg in each cell building up around the centre to form a large ball across the frames in the middle of the brood box. The eggs laid in this way will become "worker bees", all of which are female. The egg of a worker bee takes 21 days to develop. The life cycle of the worker bee is, first, as a "nurse bee" to feed the emerging baby bees, then "house bee", to keep the hive tidy and polish cells in which the queen will lay. She will then become a "guard bee" to guard the entrance against any unwelcome visitors or robbers, and finally, a "flying bee" to collect pollen and nectar. Pollen is protein to feed the baby bees and nectar is the raw material to make honey, their food stores.

The male bees, known as "drones" take 24 days to emerge and are not required until the swarming season, usually May-June. The colony is usually up to full strength by this time, ie 60,000 to 80,000 bees according to how good the weather is and the age of the queen - reflecting her ability to lay. It has been calculated that the queen's laying capacity falls off by approximately 20% each year of her life.

It is the worker bees who decide if the



colony should swarm or not, usually on the basis of: (a) Is there sufficient food in the area? (b) Are the site conditions still good or have they been interfered with? (c) Is there sufficient room to continue to expand in the hive? (d) Is the queen laying enough eggs (and producing enough bees)?

If the colony decides to swarm the bees will make a queen cell to provide a new young queen. The old queen will leave the hive (swarm) with some of the bees (known as a *caste*) leaving the young queen to emerge and take over her duties. First the young queen must fly up to the "drone" level and be mated. This event happens only once, but with several male drones, after which she returns to the hive and eventually after maturing begins to lay the next generation of bees.

Honey bees play the huge and very important role of pollinator for commercial crops such as apples, pears, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries/brambles, oil seed rape, to mention a few just for example. In fact they are responsible for pollinating 25 to 30% of the food we eat and pollinate 90 crops world wide. Add to this the huge pollination of all our wild and garden flowers, plants and trees and you can see how central they are to our very existence and indeed how the planet looks!

You can help bees to survive by planting "bee friendly" plants, bushes and trees in your garden. Our own local garden centre, Highland Liliums, strongly supports honey bees and is

specifically stocking bee friendly plants. For those who are interested, ask for Susan Mullins, a bee friendly person, at the garden centre; she will be happy to advise you on which plants provide nectar and/or pollen.

HONEY RECIPE

Honey and Almond Flapjacks

3oz (75g)	Set honey
4oz (125g)	Butter, cut in pieces (unsalted butter if possible)
2oz (50g)	Soft light brown sugar
7oz (200g)	Jumbo rolled oats
1½ oz (40g)	Blanched almonds, cut in slivers
2 tablespoons (30ml)	Sesame seeds
½ teaspoon (2.5ml)	Mixed spice

Preheat Oven - 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4.
Grease and line a shallow square tin
7 inch (18 cm).

Place honey and butter in saucepan
over a low heat until melted.

Stir in sugar to dissolve.

Remove from heat.

Add the oats, almonds, half the sesame seeds and mixed spice and stir until evenly coated. Turn into the prepared tin and level the surface. Sprinkle over the remaining sesame seeds.

Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden. Leave to cool for 5 minutes.

Cut into squares. Leave until firm then transfer to wire rack to finish cooling.

Store in an airtight container.
(Makes 9 flapjacks.)

Good old days on the croft recalled

At two showings in June of a unique rural roadshow Kiltarlity schoolchildren and older folk were reminded of crofting life in past times by Isabel Campbell MBE. Isabel, though nowadays based in Lochaber, grew up as Isabel MacLean at Boblainy, Kiltarlity.

The audiences were taken on a trip through the crofthouse kitchen of her childhood with its massive open fire and cast iron pots and pans, pre-electric irons and Tilley lamps. Highlight of the evening was fresh butter, churned and finished on the spot by daughter Linda, and sampled by children and adults alike.

Also on show were outdoor implements from an unusual Lochaber cowbell to the corn 'sowing box' for broadcasting seed, once a familiar sight on local crofts in springtime.

Isabel Campbell's determination that the rural past should not be forgotten has led to the establishment of the Lochaber Rural Education Trust based in "An Clachan" in the Lochaber Rural Complex at Torlundy on the outskirts of Fort William.

June's events were organised by the Trust in co-operation with Kiltarlity Hall Association and Tomnacross Primary School. Isabel is keen to take her entertaining roadshow more often beyond Lochaber and particularly into the rural communities at the north end of the Great Glen.

She can be contacted on 01397 708642/703819 and at info.lret@btinternet.com



Clockwise from top left: Linda shows how to make butter; some things no crofthouse could do without; some outdoor equipment here (including a sowing 'box'); more useful items; a man (or woman) sized butter churn; some of the audience who enjoyed their trip into the past.

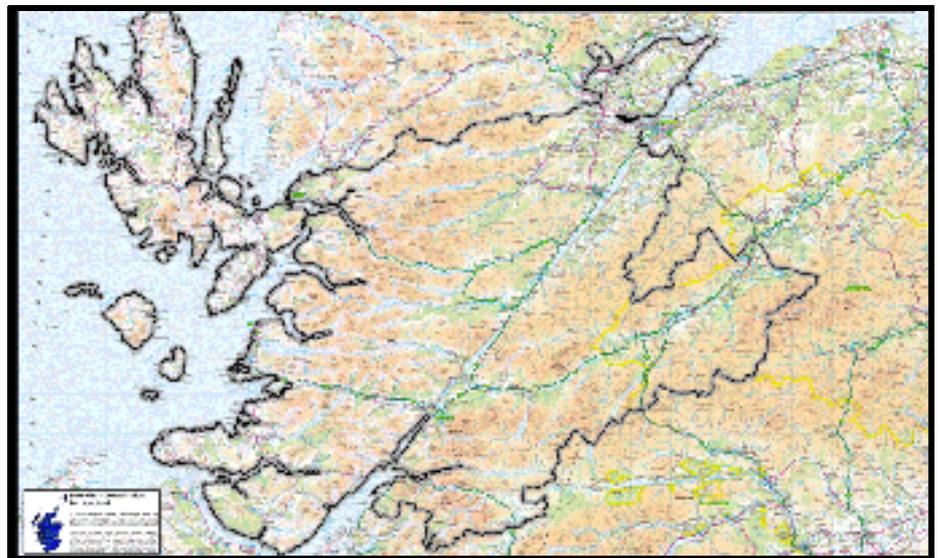


Kiltarlity and neighbours written out of new constituency

Revised proposals for new Holyrood boundaries avoid splitting Kiltarlity between two constituencies – as was proposed in a Highland Council alternative. Astonishingly, however, our new constituency is to be called *Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch*, despite the fact that Aird and Loch Ness ward, together with neighbouring Ross-shire wards, Dingwall and Seaforth, and the Black Isle, contain almost half of all the voters – and far more than any of the areas mentioned in the title.

Kiltarlity Community Council was represented at the Inverness Public Inquiry into the new boundaries in November 2008 by CC member Ronald MacLean, who has submitted a further representation suggesting the name be changed to *Mid and West Highland* (the first name proposed by the Commission was West Highland) so that all areas can be fairly included.

The Community Council agreed at its August meeting to support Mr MacLean's representation and to seek the support of other Community Councils, local MSPs and councillors. Although the Boundary Com-



“Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch”

mission itself will now accept no further representations, the Community Council agreed to inform of their support for Mr MacLean. The Commission will not present its final recommendations to the Secretary of State for Scotland until June 2010.

Highland Council had favoured the creation of four Highland constituencies, but councillors have agreed to accept the three constituency arrangement recommended in the Boundary Commission's revised proposals, which avoid splitting Inverness City between constituencies. But Highland Council are now objecting to the Commission's proposal to include Dumbarton Constituency in the wider Highlands and Islands Region, to be represented by the Scottish Parliament Highlands and Islands list MPs. Extending the south-western boundary of the Region to include Helensburgh and Dumbarton, the Highland Council says, would be to add an area which has nothing in common with the Highlands and Islands and should not be done merely to balance numbers of voters.

Voters are likely to be even more confused by these proposals. There are already different voting systems

and boundaries in Scotland for each of the four main levels of government (and a fifth voting system for community councils) and these changes complicate matters further.

While Kiltarlity is not to be divided for Holyrood elections, the area was recently divided for Westminster elections and is currently represented by Danny Alexander, MP for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (which contains most of Kiltarlity - previously within Kirkhill Ward), and Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber. Ross, Skye and Lochaber contains the Culburnie, Fanellan, Kinerras and Eskdale area - on the basis that it used to be within Beaully and Strathglass Ward.

It may be that the low turnout in the recent European elections was due to our incredibly confusing arrangements. For Holyrood, it is difficult to see how being in a constituency named as consisting of entirely separate communities will help matters.

One improvement in the system is that Kiltarlity voters in the western area who used to have to vote in the Phipps Hall are now able to vote in Kiltarlity Hall - a change which took effect at least for the recent European elections.

The proposed new Highland (Holyrood) constituencies

Inverness and Nairn CC 61,600
 Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch CC 56,470
 Caithness, Sutherland and Ross CC 55,690

How the wards make up our new constituency

Part of Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh - about 2,500 within *Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch*
 Dingwall & Seaforth 9,067
 Black Isle 8,015
 Eilean a' Cheo (Skye) 8,076
 Caol & Mallaig 6,683
 Aird & Loch Ness 8,495
 Part of Badenoch & Strathspey - 5,360 within *Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch*
 Fort William & Ardnamurchan 8,677

Obituaries *We are happy to print all obituaries submitted to us..*

Gloria Braithwaite

September 1931 -
April 2009

Born in Leeds Yorkshire, Gloria Braithwaite's first job on leaving school was as shorthand typist, quickly followed by general secretary and then personal secretary to the manager of the Leeds Electricity Board.

In her late teens she joined a firm of solicitors as a legal secretary until 1955, when after a long distance courtship she married Ben. After the birth of their second son she returned to college as a mature student to train as a teacher, teaching shorthand and typing at first before moving on to economics. She always took an interest in her students, particularly the problem ones, sometimes for years after they had left school. In the mid 60s she joined the examination board preparing exams for office practice while still teaching.

Even with this busy working life she still found time to drive her MG sports car in competitive motoring events, including rallying, winning the ladies' trophy three years consecutively; she also played cricket for the Yorkshire ladies' team.

As the boys grew up, a hobby had to be found that they could enjoy, so boating was taken up, first motor cruising then sailing. As usual Gloria didn't do things by half, quickly taking her Board of Trade coastal and ocean navigator's ticket, then teaching navigation to the York yacht club members. Most weekends and holidays were spent on the coastal waters of the north sea, both U K and Europe. She had trips as purser on both the *Winston Churchill* and the *Malcolm Miller* sail training ships.

Around 1985, after a serious illness, she took early retirement, and had to curtail sailing and any physical hobbies, so she took up gardening and helped Ben with the family business, the Clifton Green Hotel. In 1988 it was decided to retire to Scotland to be near eldest son James, and family. Pettyvaich provided an ideal place for the family and this gave Gloria an opportunity to indulge in her interest in trees, and many of the trees she planted are now large mature specimens.

For the last few years she was an active member of the British Legion Garden Club, and the Inverness and District Fuchsia Society.

Gloria will be missed by friends and family for the enthusiasm she put into everything she did. She is survived by husband Ben, sons James and Antony, daughter-in-law Anne, and grandsons Michael and Alexander.



Gloria and Ben Braithwaite

John Munro

20 September 1939 -
6 May 2009

John Munro was born in Glasgow but came to live at Culburnie in 1941 when just a year and a half old. He grew up in Culburnie and attended the primary school (now closed) before going on to Tomnacross Secondary School.

After leaving school, where he was Dux, in 1954, he joined the Bank of Scotland at Dingwall, later transferring to Inverness. During this period he was 'called up' and spent some time in the RAF, though this was cut short for compassionate family reasons.

In 1964 he took up a manager post with a subsidiary company of the Bank of Scotland in Renfield Street, Glasgow, and worked and lived in Glasgow until he moved back to Inverness in 1973 to become a bookkeeper and wages clerk in the construction industry.

In 1976 he took up a similar post with Howard Doris at Kishorn, one of the largest oil industry platform construction companies and also spent some time offshore on the North Sea. In 1986 John joined the Hospital Board in Inverness and worked at Raigmore until, in 1991, he again had a change of career when he returned to Kiltarlity to join the then new Lovat Mineral Water Company at Fanellan. He held a senior

clerical position until 1998 when ill health forced his early retirement.

From his early years John had grown up playing shinty and played both in Culburnie and Tomnacross Schools. During his time in Glasgow he played for Glasgow Inverness-shire and was their Club Secretary for a number of years, also serving as Secretary of the Southern Shinty League and as a Director of the Glasgow Celtic Society. On his return to the North he played with Lovat Juniors and after hanging up his boots was a successful and very popular Second Team Manager, which was recognised by a personal trophy from the players. Another notch was added to his shinty cannon when he was elected a member of the Camanachd Association's Executive Committee and served for a year as Vice-President.

But perhaps he will be best remembered as a highly efficient Secretary, for no fewer than nine years in total, of his beloved Lovat Shinty Club. After relinquishing that post, shinty continued to be a major part of John's life and he was a valued member of the Lovat Shinty Club Committee right up to the time of his death.

A modest and unassuming man, John was a popular and extremely well known member of the Kiltarlity community. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of people and places and an inexhaustible fund of stories about them, stories which often focussed memorably on the ironies and eccentricities of local life.

A large gathering, including old shinty colleagues from Newtonmore, Skye, Glasgow and elsewhere, as well as a wide circle of friends from Kiltarlity and the local area, attended his funeral service in Kiltarlity Church of Scotland and his burial in Tomnacross Churchyard.

He will be greatly missed by all in the shinty world, and most of all by the community of Kiltarlity.



John and faithful friend Frank

Iain Macdonald

March 1923 –
April 2009

Iain Macdonald, of Grunwald, Bel-ladrum, was born in Oban and attended primary and secondary school there. On leaving school he had various jobs before, in 1941, being called up at age 18 for war service. He spent four years on active service and then two further years in the Intelligence Service and Control Commission, which included being in charge of a displaced persons' camp.

After his military service Iain Macdonald studied at Edinburgh University and qualified as a teacher, teaching in the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, in Tain, and in Tarradale, Tore and Kiltarn Primary Schools. He retired in 1983. One of his main interests both in and outside school was the study of other languages.

Throughout his married life Iain attended Balblair Free Presbyterian Church, from where his funeral took place.

He is survived by his wife, Rena, his two sons, John and Allan and his two daughters, Marie and Shona.

William Carlin

June 1940 –
May 2009



Billy Carlin was born in Glasgow but came to live at 15 Culburnie when he was three years old. He attended primary school at Culburnie and Tomnacross Secondary School.

After school Billy returned to Glasgow, working with Singers in Clydebank before becoming a lorry driver. This job involved trips to the Highlands and it was in Oban that he met his wife, Mary, originally from South Uist.

Billy also worked in the building trade but finally became a taxi driver, a job from which he retired three years ago.

Billy never forgot his Kiltarilty up-

bringing, keeping in touch with the Macdonald family, with other children who had lived with them, and with old school friends and neighbours. He returned on holiday and had done so several times in recent years.

He had acquired the shinty habit in Culburnie and Tomnacross and played shinty in Glasgow for Glasgow Mid Argyll and Glasgow Inverness-shire.

Billy died on 21st May and was laid to rest in Glasgow after funeral Mass in St Peter's, Hyndland, near to his home. He is survived by his wife Mary and a son and daughter.

*Hedge plants for
the new hedge. A
huge thank you to
all the parents
who helped*



The Parent Council (PC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) would like to congratulate JoJo Offord in her new appointment as Cluster Headteacher of Tomnacross and Teanassie.

Although Mrs Offord lives locally, she joins us from Carrbridge Primary School where she was also headteacher. Mr Alan Danson, Acting Headteacher, put a tremendous amount of hard work into the school last term for which we are all very grateful. We send him our very best wishes as he returns to North Kessock Primary.

Tomnacross had a busy Summer term with many activities, including the Eco-Schools project now well and truly underway. Eco-Schools (www.eco-schools.org.uk/) is an international initiative designed to guide schools towards sustainability and help embed these principles into school life. Under the expert guidance of Miss Roxanne MacKay (Teacher P6/P7) the children have planted a new hedge to increase biodiversity; made paper bricks as part of a recycling project; picked up litter and taken part in the "Walk to School Week". Mr Graham Bell has also donated a new cover for the polytunnel and it is hoped that the children will be able to start growing flowers and vegetables next year.

Tomnacross School- projects and changes

*Report from
Mark G. Goodwill - Chairman,
Tomnacross Parent Council*

A huge thank you to everybody who helped make the Gala such a success and supported the PTA. The money raised will help buy new reading books for the school as the pupils benefit from joining the Highland Literacy Project next term. This is a fantastic initiative aimed at improving literacy right across the school which, in turn encourages the children to become independent learners. Further information can be found at www.hvlc.org.uk/hlp/.

Nobody can have failed to have noticed the fantastic new school hall which is now complete and should be ready for full use after the summer. The hall is designed to be multifunctional and will accommodate the children for lunches, indoor sports and concerts etc. By the same token, the removal of the old "Nissan" huts is just as welcome, both smartening the school grounds and providing the necessary space for a hard surface outdoor play area – so we have been promised!

The PTA / Parent Council meetings' are open to all parents and we would actively encourage more to attend! The meetings tend to be run as one and we try and meet roughly twice per term. The next meeting is 7.30 pm, Wednesday 16th September at the School.

Kiltarlity Hall Association

*Veronica Tervet
Chairman*

Summer is passing and we will all **stoo soon be into the dark nights once again. Over the past few months we have tried a varied selection of events at the hall. Some successful others not, but, all proceeds raised are used for the daily maintenance and upkeep of the hall.**

The much needed outside painting of the hall is now complete at a cost of nearly £3,000, but what a difference it has made.

Isobel Campbell (Isie MacLean, Boblainy) gave a talk on 10 June on "Crofting Life In Kiltarlity" which was enjoyed by the school children of Tomnacross in the afternoon and was followed by an evening show. About thirty people attended and joined in the butter making which was followed by cheese and wine and butter tasting. **(See report page 6)**

The July activities events appear to have gone very well with up to 23 attending the sports events. The Ceramic and Art classes have equally been well attended, and we hope this will continue. We hope that August's events will be as well attended.

We participated at the Belladrum 'Tartan Heart Festival' once again this year and our thanks must go to Joe Gibbs for this opportunity. We are also doing teas and home baking at Inverness Flower show on the 29th and 30th of August. Once again any donations of home baking are very much appreciated. These events should mean a profitable sum to allow us to paint the inside of the hall and replace the curtains and tracks. Any donations can be given to any member of the hall committee or contact Eunice on 741447.

Our one disappointment was the show we held for the children called *The Weatherman*. Although Jennifer Kennedy put a lot of time and effort into trying to make it a success with advertising and promotion of the event, very few attended, though the lack of audience didn't spoil the enjoyment of the show by those who were there.

A large financial loss will have to be borne by the Hall Association, and we wonder if this was because it was a Sunday show. We would be grateful

for some feedback on this so that we can try to avoid a repeat in the future.

Our monthly Whist Drives which are held on the last Saturday of the month at 7.30 pm. have been a constant profit throughout the whole year but new faces are always welcome.

In September we are holding a Harvest Coffee morning, and in October we will have our annual Craft Fair. At the start of the new year we will be holding a Quiz Night in which all groups and clubs will be asked to put forward a team of six. So, come the dark nights get listening to quiz programmes and get the brains into gear. Watch for posters nearer the time for these events.

Once again thank you to all who help in any way. The Hall would not be there if it wasn't for your attendance at events, donations and other contributions.

See also Report on Page 13

Kiltarlity Kempo

There's a Martial Arts school at the Kiltarlity Village Hall which has been running for 7 years. The Martial Art is called **Yoshin Kempo**.

Yoshin Kempo is the martial art taught within the Scottish Kempo Academy and is recognised by the Government of Japan. Yoshin being the style and Kempo the art, this is a Japanese term meaning Willow Heart Fist Law. The Yoshin Kempo Self-Defence system incorporates elements of JuJitsu and was created by the SKA Founder: Kyoshi Neil Hourston, 7th Dan Black Belt, who lives in Tain and

is a Master of both arts with lineage to ancient Kempo and JuJitsu Ryu (schools). Yoshin Kempo is a modern life-protection art based on proven battlefield skills used by the ancient warriors of Japan, the legendary Samurai.

Yoshin Kempo is a non-competition martial art. Our extensive and practical syllabus includes: strikes, kicks, punches, throws, joint locks, bone breaking, chokes, strangles, nerve points, board breaking, bag and pad work. Certain techniques are adjusted for, or excluded from, children. The syllabus prepares Kempo (Kempo practitioners) for a no-nonsense approach to combat. High kicks are rarely employed as kicks are generally directed at mid-to-low-level target areas whilst multiple strikes and punches are mainly executed to upper body target areas. Practical throws are performed which are designed to inflict maximum damage to an opponent upon impact with the ground whilst ensuring that the defendant does not cause undue physical exertion to oneself. Kempo techniques are studied in a safe, structured and friendly environment with a matted area for throwing techniques and the system is suitable for 8 year old children, teens and adults.

Kempo classes are held on Monday evenings (from 17th August) at the Kiltarlity Village Hall from 7.15 pm - 8.15 pm for children aged 8 yrs +, and from 7.15 pm - 8.45 pm for teens and adults. The class instructor is Sensei David Munro, 2nd Dan Black Belt. Come along for a FREE trial lesson. If you enjoy the trial lesson the first month of tuition is FREE of charge!!! If you require further information please telephone **0845 838 5156** or visit **www.kempo.co.uk**
SEE YOU AT KEMPO!



Pictured is local Kiltarlity girl: Gemma Mainland (right) with Kyoshi Neil Hourston and Lucie MacKintosh (Strathpeffer). The girls recently passed their 1st Dan Black Belt exams and we are very proud of them!

Kiltarlity Beavers

Beavers have had a good term with quite a number of evenings spent outside around the village hall when the weather was fine.

We managed a village walk with all sorts of things to find out: Do you know what a 20 minute phone call costs? How many steps up to the War Memorial? What kind of tree is the huge one on the village green? **Ask a Beaver!**

Inside the hall, we played games, did crafts and made things to sell at our very successful Craft and White Elephant stall at the Village Gala. Thanks to all who contributed and bought things!

Beavers finished up after the summer term with a picnic and treasure hunt at Odakota's garden, which was much enjoyed by all. The weather was great and the children raced round following photo clues to find the treasure. Keema provided a superb 'healthy eating' picnic - with a few naughty extras! The Beavers handed over a wedding present to Keema and a thank you one to Jenny Collings who has been helping us as part of her Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

We said goodbye to quite a number of our children who are now too old, and we now have plenty of spaces for any 6 year olds wishing to join. **We meet on Mondays at 6 pm in the Village Hall** during term time (not in-service days or holidays), and will start again when the school goes back in. Do come along. For information, please phone Odakota (Sheila Moir) 741618 or Keema (Moira Macrae) 741229.

Kiltarlity WRI

*Catherine MacRitchie
Secretary*

The WRI had a wonderful end to the session. At the Federation Arts and Crafts Show in Kyleakin we came home with the Cup, being over all winners and having the most points. And one of our ladies won a Cup for the best exhibit for the over 70s.

We came home on a high and to celebrate had a meal at the Loch Ness Inn at Lewiston.

Three members, Sheila Moir, Ruth Saunders and Cath MacRitchie, were guests at our twinning Institute at Harburn, at their Gala Day. A lovely weekend was enjoyed by all.

Our new session starts on the 3rd Sep-

tember and all old and new members will be most welcome.

French Class

We continue our armchair travel through France during the primary French lessons in Kiltarlity Hall.

This year the older class transformed the room into an aeroplane for their end-of-term play and flew their audience from French-speaking Canada to Paris. We had been learning about all the other countries which have French as a national language - 28 in all! The P1—P3 class also felt confident enough to perform a short play in French for their parents. This was based on the insects we had been learning about over the term.

Classes are a mixture of songs, stories, games and drama-related activities. All of which are designed to introduce children to the fun part of learning a language.

Classes run at a variety of times. Please call Anneliese if you are interested in joining on 741038 or email: anneliese@garviefamily.com.

Kiltarlity Youth Club

Kathryn Aspinall reports

Hi everyone hope you all had a good summer.

The Youth Club has been running on a Friday night 8:15 to 9:45 for children attending Primary 7 and secondary schools. The dates are those of school term-time and all young people of these age groups are very welcome. This year's session is to start on Friday 28th August.

Last year's session was very well attended for most of the year until the bright nights came, but remember - we are open for business even when the sun shines.

We have available on any given night use of the Wii, the karaoke machine, nihock, football, badminton etc.

Also popular were the hair and nail demonstrations done by Serena, Leanne and friends - allowing us to learn from the experts. Baking also proved to be a favourite with the girls, so come on boys show us what you can do. Anyone with other suggestions? We are open to ideas, - let us know!

We would like to say a big Thank You to Lorraine MacRae who has played a big part in raising funds and organising events for the club. Also to John-Al and Kathryn who have enabled the youth club to continue running.

We started undertaking a parent rota just as numbers decreased this year but hope you will all participate as this new year starts. Thanks to those parents who undertook this duty and I am pleased to say they all enjoyed the experience, as did the young people (So they say!)

We hope to undertake a few sponsorship activities to help with the funds so if you have any ideas please let us know. We would also like to hear from anyone with a skill or hobby willing to pass on their expertise for the enjoyment of our youth.

This year we are looking for other enthusiastic helpers to assist in the running of Friday nights. Anyone interested please contact Jackie - 741701 - for details.

Clubs meeting in Kiltarlity Hall

School Badminton (term time); Beavers (term time); Kempo (every week); Mother & Toddlers (term time); French for p1-p2 (term time); School Shinty (winter terms); Fitness Class (term time); Badminton Juniors (Oct- end March); Badminton Seniors; French for P3s; Shinty training; WRI (1st Wed of each month); Craft class; Hall committee meeting (2nd Wed of each month); Community Council Meeting (3rd Wed - can vary); Ready Steady Go (Term Time); Cubs (Term Time); Scouts (Term Time); Indoor Football (Adults) (Winter Terms); French Class (Term Time); Indoor Football (Children) (Term Time); First Shinty Club (Winter Terms); Youth Club (Term Time); Kirkhill Football Club (Winter Terms); Model Aeroplane Club (Winter Terms); Whist Drive (Last Sat of Month)

Club information, if not given here or on notice boards:

741 447

But what about the victim?

David Stewart, Highlands and Islands Labour MSP, writes about his proposal for a Victims' Commissioner for Scotland

My proposal for a Member's Bill to create a Victims' Commissioner in Scotland has just completed a consultation exercise, with valuable contributions from the Scottish Police Federation, UNISON and Victim Support Scotland. When Parliament resumes in September I will be looking again at the proposals and publishing an analysis of the consultation. I am aiming to secure the support of at least 18 MSPs from half of the political parties represented in Holyrood to enable me to introduce a Bill.

This is the start of the legislative process – but what would a Victims' Commissioner do? One million people are victims of crime in Scotland each year. They can experience shock, fear, anger and low self-esteem and this leaves them vulnerable during the criminal process.

I believe that it should be the responsibility of the criminal justice system and supporting organisations to help protect, compensate and guide victims through the maze of the system.

Victims are often in distress and may not know who to turn to or who can give them a voice. Is it not ironic that we have a Commissioner for convicted prisoners but not for victims? My Bill would create a Victims' Commissioner for Scotland who can advocate, advance and assert the rights of victims and witnesses to crime, and who can play a part in addressing issues and developing a comprehensive and effective strategy for victims.

I see a Commissioner being a focal point for signposting victims to appropriate support organisations; a Commissioner could also highlight the views of injustice that victims suffer as a group, such as in the handling of cases involving rape. The Commissioner could review the effectiveness and long term practices relating to victims in areas such as

health, education and social services, and could also work closely with services that are provided for victims of crime, providing advice for Scottish Ministers on such matters.

The work of those who already support people affected by crime should not be underestimated. The Police perform invaluable tasks and Victim Support Scotland provides free emotional and practical support for victims of crime. Indeed, the charity made one of the original proposals for a Victims' Commissioner in their "Manifesto for Change" published in 2007.

I believe there is a strong case for a Scottish Victims' Commissioner, a case that would make Scotland fully compliant with European instruments such as the Framework Decision on the Standing of Victims in Criminal Proceedings. I believe that, with cross party support, this proposed Bill could bring the voice of victims and witnesses to the heart of government in Scotland.

LETTERS

4 August 2009

As some of you may know, our mother Lena Kuzmicki has left Kiltarlity and is now settled in Cameron House, Culduthel Road, Inverness.

During the years Mam has lived in Allarburn Drive she made many friends through her sewing, church and social events in the area. Special mention must go to her wonderful caring neighbours – people like you are the family we chose ourselves. Thank you to everyone who looked out for her and therefore helped her stay at home for so long; many of whom we don't know personally but please accept our heartfelt gratitude.

It is said that it takes a village to bring up a child; it took a village to protect Mam.

Mam is a lot less aware than she was but still laughs and smiles and would

love to share a pot of tea if you fancy popping in. She would love to see you.

The Kuzmicki Family

23rd July 2009

My memories of Kiltarlity are of happiness in nature. Shyness and timidity were damaging to me but I have a very lovely memory of my father, in the pulpit, singing with the congregation "When I survey the wondrous cross." It rescued me in later life from a prosperous place in my life where my soul was tired and hungry and wanting 'home', but that is not of place, and I knew hunger as in Psalm 107 although I wasn't familiar with that psalm then. If I had been it could have saved me some time. I looked around and what I wanted wasn't there any more, and what I had was the opposite of what my upbringing would have asked in a soul place.

My turning to Jesus was unpopular with my husband but nevertheless he, a good man, gave in and found a new life himself – but not with me in spirit. What I know now and didn't know then is that all the things that were poured on us as children were of wisdom, truth and timelessness and I am privileged to have had that Kiltarlity upbringing that I cherish immensely in my deep places. Never again will I compromise Christ's place for mammon.

Isobel Davie

We would like to have letters from readers, on any topic, local or general. Please write soon.

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

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

PICK UP OBJECTION POSTCARDS AT KILTARLITY POST OFFICE AND BROCKIES LODGE HOTEL

Good summer for Hall Association

Summer activities Report 2009

from

Eunice Ramsden, Secretary

The Hall Association held a series of Summer Fun Activities mainly for children of primary school age. The activities included:

Sport Week by John-Al MacAulay, Tomnacross, proved exceedingly popular and enjoyable.

Ceramics Week by Keira Brown, Beauly, was fully subscribed.

Guitar Class sponsored by Highland Council Traditional Music was well attended.

'Highland Games' Collage organised by Mieka White – many children took part completing a large permanent feature to be displayed in the community hall.

Drama Group – this one-day event had a limited appeal but was fairly well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by those who took part.

Aigas Group had a number attending and was enjoyed by all. The theme was the red squirrel.

The Hall Association would like to thank everyone for their support, especially the Councillors who approved the award of grant aid.

Also, on 7th & 8th August members of the Hall Association provided 'Cream Teas and Home Baking' at the Belladrum Festival. The event raised over £1,000.00 for the hall funds. Sincere thanks to all those local bakers who freely gave their time and produce to the stall.

We hope to run another Activity Week in October 2009, so look out for posters.

Major Consultation for Community Council Review

Following a national review of community councils by the Scottish Government, to which Kiltarlity Community Council, along with others throughout Scotland, contributed, Highland Council are now undertaking a major review of community councils within Highland

The Council has agreed to replace the existing eight district schemes with one Highland-wide scheme, based on the model scheme produced by the Scottish Government review, but adapted to local circumstances. Highland Council's review will consider the size and composition of Community Councils, including boundaries; election procedures, financial support and the code of conduct and associated dispute resolution. The review will include three periods of public consultation.

Stage one of the consultation process will begin in September, when the Council will announce its intention to revoke the current eight schemes and invite suggestions on the area and composition of Community Councils. This will last for 12 weeks.

The second 12-week period of public consultation will follow in April 2010, after the publication of a new Highland-wide draft scheme. This will include discussion at Ward Forums. A third period of consultation will follow in October, next year, when the public is invited to comment on amendments to the draft scheme.

The new scheme should be presented to the Council for adoption in December, next year.

The Scottish Government's model scheme has been approved by the community councils' national body, the Association of Scottish Community Councils.

New UHI Principal



James Fraser, of the Old Manse, Camaultmuir, who is presently Deputy Principal and Secretary at UHI Millennium Institute is to take over as Principal when Professor Bob Cormack retires later this year.

Brought up in Inverinate, near Kyle of Lochalsh, James was educated at Plockton High School and subsequently gained a first class honours degree in mental philosophy from Edinburgh University and later a master of education degree from Stirling University. He began his career as a lecturer in English and Liberal studies at the former Inverness Technical College before spending 23 years in senior management roles with Stirling University, the former Queen Margaret College — now Queen Margaret University — in Edinburgh, the University of Paisley, now the Uni-

versity of the West of Scotland, and UHI.

Of UHI he says, "Although it's been great that young people from the region have had the opportunity to go away and study, we would like youngsters to have the choice of staying here. A university is necessary for developing new economic activity — and that's where UHI can play a part."

James Fraser and his family came to live in Kiltarlity in 2002 when he joined UHI, having previously been secretary at the University of Paisley. His wife Sheila, originally from Dingwall, is a lawyer in Inverness, and is a former member of Kiltarlity Community Council. They have three children.

As one might guess from his name, James's family on his father's side were from not too far away - in fact, from just over the hill in Glenurquhart.

James is also Session Clerk of Kiltarlity Free Church.

Charleston School

David Buhl, Kinerras, has been named Highland Young Musician of the Year (*see separate item*).

The senior squad football team (featuring Kiltarlity's Martin and Craig Mainland and Neal Hemmingway) added the North of Scotland Cup to their victory in the Highland Schools League).

Secondary school correspondents with good inside information required for the new session - phone 741323 or e-mail rdmaclea5@berisay.co.uk (can be anonymous if desired).

Birthday celebrations at Culburnie



Not an emergency - the helicopter coming in to land in a Culburnie field was just part of 70th birthday celebrations for Tommy Mackenzie of 19 Culburnie.

Tommy's family, John, Linda and David organised this surprise trip by helicopter to Plockton, Skye, Lochaber and back. It was followed by a birthday garden party with family, friends and neighbours featuring the Torridon Band, of which son-in-law Kenny and granddaughter Amy are members.

Tommy has spent most of his 70 years at 19 Culburnie, apart from a fairly brief spell of early married life with wife Anne, from Skye, in the urban setting of Pine Road, Allarburn.

Tommy has turned his hand very successfully to a variety of jobs. On retirement he drove the Kiltarlity bus for several years but retired from that to spend more time crofting.



Top The helicopter lands. Above One we took earlier



Congratulations to David Buhl, Knocklea, Kinerras, winner in June of Highland Young Musician of the Year 2009. David is studying for his Highers at Charleston Academy.

David is the grandson of Caroline and Wolfgang Bergius who have returned to Knocklea after musical careers in Germany. Caroline is the daughter of Marion and Richard Butcher who came to live at Knocklea in the sixties.

Caroline and Wolfgang also have a holiday home on the Island of Berneray, between Uist and Harris, where they run an annual Summer Music School.

Highland Young Musician of the Year David Buhl

Beaully Square Public Consultation

The Highland Council Planning and Development Service, Regeneration Section, are holding a Public Consultation in Beaully Square on Wednesday the 2nd September from 1 pm to 7 pm.

Around £62,000 is available from the Capital Programme for Environmental Improvements within the Square and the Service would like to hear the views of residents, businesses and visitors on the Square as it stands and what changes they might like to see.

Council Officers will be manning a mobile exhibition unit in the Square with plans, questionnaires and time to talk. There will be lots of opportunity to make your views and priorities known and to talk to staff and Councillors.

Although there will be a plan showing what might be possible, this is for discussion, and to indicate what might be possible with the available cash. This is only the start of the process and there will be further consultation once views from the event in the Square have been gathered.

The Planning and Development Service would be delighted to see Kiltarlity residents at the event. If you wish further information beforehand you should contact Anne Cowling, Landscape Officer on 01463 702509 or by e-mail: Anne.Cowling@highland.gov.uk

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Aigas Community Forest

This year the Forestry Commission declared Aigas Forest surplus to requirements and the community were given the opportunity to acquire it through the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS).

At a public meeting in March the Aigas Community Forest Steering Committee was established to try to acquire the forest. With funds from the HIE Community Land Unit, The Highland Council and Strathglass Community Woodland the Committee hired Bell Ingram to undertake a community consultation and investigate the feasibility of community ownership and management. They found significant advantages under the headings of Environment, Enjoyment, Energy, Economy and Education.

They concluded that community ownership and management was viable and that the timber alone would produce an income for the long term management of the forest and saw other opportunities for income to reinvest in community aims.

The Steering Committee therefore agreed to hold the required ballot of the whole community on August 27th. Over half the eligible voters needed to vote with half of them saying 'Yes'.

The community boundary was drawn to include as many as possible close to the forest or who had the forest as a major part of their view. It therefore includes both sides of the River Beaully and much of the Eskdale Kinerras, Culburnie and Lonbuie area, within Kiltarlity.

An Aigas Forest Open Day was held on Sunday 23rd August. Full information on website www.aigasforest.org.uk

Volunteering in Thailand

Kiltarlity girl Cheryl Ferguson recently visited Thailand as a volunteer with the charity Pakanyor

On the 17th of June, I landed in Chiang Mai airport with 18 other students. We were to work on a project with the charity 'Pakanyor' which has done hundreds of projects all around northern Thailand, some of which we visited. The humidity was intense and took some getting used to. We got into four small old pick-ups which took us four hours and 1500 feet up in the hills of Mai Cheng to our destination, a small but scenic village full of small wooden houses, all raised up on stilts.

We were welcomed very quickly by the headman of the village, an old man named Don Ka, who spoke very little English but was very happy to see us. He showed us where we were sleeping which was to be on the floor in the houses of the villagers - the girls were given one house and the boys were in another.

We then got straight to work. First we needed to carry long pipes and bags of cement three kilometres up the mountain to the water source where we built a small reservoir to collect the water and send it down our 3 km long piping chain which we buried about one foot in the ground all the way down.

The work was hard and strenuous but it was all worth it. The villagers were all very keen and were also working - we would be walking up with two or three pipes and you would see an old lady with about ten.

When we had completed that part of the project we had an R+R (rest and recreation) weekend to recover and then got straight back into it; we next had to build two 1500 litre water tanks, which was kind of like putting a jigsaw together. They consisted of four layers of concrete cylinders that we made, and rendered them all together. Fortunately we managed to get the work done early which was a surprise to the charity leader Jim.

Having finished our project a day early we got to spend time with the villagers. We all learned a small bit of the Thai and Karen languages and we visited and helped to teach in a small school for young kids, which was one of my highlights. We got to help make and then had to drink the local whisky - 'rice whisky'.

Before I knew it our time was up and we had to be leaving, but on our last night, at a huge bonfire, the villagers sacrificed a cow in our honour. A cow is the equivalent of four months work for them, so when we saw this happen we were all very touched, even if was a bit unsettling. The ladies of the village made all 18 of us their traditional Karen tops, which we all wore proudly.

These three weeks were a once in a lifetime experience, which I would do again and again if possible. The feeling remained of knowing that these villagers will never forget the 18 young people who helped them. We also managed to raise a little more money than needed so we were able to pay for the supplies needed to mend their roads. In the rainy season it is a struggle for the villagers to make it to the town and back home for essentials when the road is like a landslide of red mud.



Cheryl and the other volunteers working on a reservoir; and wearing their Karen tops

Macraes win the Battle of Balgate



Clan warfare returned to Kiltarlity when Macrae and Fraser clansmen slugged it out on a wet Balgate on 21st August. But this was really to celebrate the fact that the Macraes and Frasers have been firm friends for centuries. One thinks of all those Macraes being allowed to live in Kiltarlity without a hint of bother from their Fraser neighbours.

In any case this was a shinty match, (not quite the real thing) organised by Lord Lovat to mark the Highland Year of Homecoming. It must be impartially reported that the Macraes, many of whom had travelled from Kintail with temporary visas, won by a narrow 3 - 0, possibly putting a little strain on this particular Old Alliance.

As part of a Fraser Gathering which attracted clansmen from USA, Australia and South Africa back to Fraser country, it was preceded earlier in the day by a children's Highland Games and followed by a clan ceilidh in the Phipps Hall.

Clockwise from top left: the teams are piped onto the field of battle; a goalmouth skirmish; Lord Lovat ready with some refreshing liquid for the winning Macrae captain



Local archaeology: horse drawn binder at Auchvaich; Tom Fraser (Gow) in the driving seat, next right his father; third man not known

Highland Archaeology Festival

The Festival will run this year from 3rd to 18th October. Highland Archaeology Festival provides an opportunity to present the results of recent field projects and research, raise awareness of local archaeology, history and heritage, and encourage new people to discover the Highlands' wealth of archaeology and history. This year's event will culminate with the "What's New in Highland Archaeology" conference taking place on the final weekend.

Festival organisers aim to feature a wide variety of activities, from guided walks, talks, exhibitions and displays, to special museum/visitor centre openings, 2-for-1 discounts, experimental archaeology, practical demonstrations, music and children's activities. When the opportunity arises, there will be links with the Year of Homecoming Scotland, and with issues such as Highland emigration, clearance, ancestry studies or the Scottish Diaspora.

A Grand Design for all that

Mairi Ross, a former editor of "Kiltarlity News", describes her eco-friendly Belladrum home



Everyone who visits our house 'Roshven' at Belladrum for the first time usually says something along the lines of "Why did you not get on Grand Designs?" My response is usually that it would have been really boring TV as there was too much harmony when the house was being built!

It was constructed three years ago with David Somerville from Abriachan ([www: somervilledesign.co.uk](http://www.somervilledesign.co.uk)) as the architect and Davey Fraser, Kilmorack, the builder. Both of them had worked together many times over the years and perfected the technique. David was way ahead of his time designing timber clad houses and energy efficient designs before it became trendy.

We first met on a frosty morning and it was hard to envisage how to develop the site with the huge Silver Fir Tree that dominated. It had to go and that was the one point of contention with the Council whilst it went through the planning process. If it had been a native Oak or Scots Pine, it would have been a different matter and we would have had to work round it.

David came up with an incredible design, different to all he had done before and pretty bold in terms of the amount of glass in it. The house also has a ground source heat pump, taking heat from the ground and using under floor heating as well as solar panels. A lot of the components such as doors, windows and external paint are Scandinavian and designed to perform in colder climates than we have. The house is very open and airy and having so many doors and windows that open straight out to the front, the light is fantastic. As the house faces west and there are trees in front - the sunlight in the evening filters through rather than glaring and that is a bonus we had not anticipated.

The most innovative features are the amount of glass and the heating source and since the house was designed there is much more being done in terms of such design. I imagine that some folk will think it is not traditional enough in design for Kiltarlity but my personal view is that we have to move on from repeating the same designs from a certain era. It fits really well into the landscape, is energy efficient and is wonderful to live in. The planners who dealt with the application had been to Norway and seen the timber clad designs that are there, some of which are very old and can be seen in Scotland too in areas like Badenoch and Strathspey. The timber in the house is Scottish Larch for external cladding, and oak flooring. Larch cladding does not have to be coated, but I confess to not liking the way it weathers grey and black in Scotland.

The hardest selection to make was on detail such as lighting which is really important but difficult to picture. David made suggestions and I tended to go along with those. There is absolutely nothing I would change about the house design or components and I have no desire to build another one. 'Roshven' was built as a home rather than an investment. One of the joiners working on the house who came from Lochcarron used to shake his head at what he thought were "queer ideas", but my mother's baking kept him working hard!

David Somerville won an award for the house in 2008 " Best Inverness Area Design " and the team all enjoyed a star studded celebration at Eden Court . The house was exposed to a bit of publicity at that time but there are more designs using the same ideas coming through in the Highlands now which is a reward in itself.

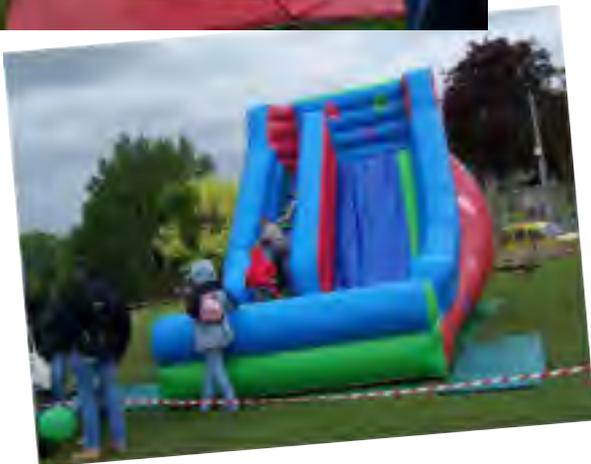
Advertising in the Kiltarlity News

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

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

For the next issue please send your requirements and text by **31 October 2009** to: rdmaclean5@berisay.co.uk, or post to R D MacLean, 'Berisay', Culburnie, Kiltarlity IV4 7JJ (01463 741323).

Kiltarlity Community Gala 25th May 2009



It had everything. *Clockwise from bottom left: fun for the kids; the Sumo Challenge for the more aggressive; wood sculpture while you wait; a chance to try your luck; or just spend money; and (last three) Beaulieu Fire and Rescue Service prove they can get you out of your crashed car even if it isn't meant to be a convertible.*

National Planning Framework 2

by
Floris Greenlaw

The last issue of *Kiltarlity News* explained some worries about the National Planning Framework (NPF), the new Scotland-wide document which came into being with the 2006 Planning Act. After 18 months of inadequate consultation, redrafting, and debate in the Scottish Parliament, the final document was published in late June but remains unsatisfactory.

This latest attempt at a national planning document, to be known as *NPF 2*, includes 14 **National Developments** in different parts of the country. The one of real concern to us, Electricity Grid Reinforcements, confirms that no fewer than *five* new, upgraded or reinforced high voltage lines will lead directly or indirectly into Balblair Sub-station. Also included in this National Development are upgraded Scotland - England interconnectors to increase export capacity to England and help meet emission targets in the Scottish Parliament's Climate Change Bill. In theory, the document accepts that the decision on the Beaully to Denny line has not yet been taken. But, in practice, most of the other power line proposals cannot happen without the new Beaully to Denny line. By approving NPF 2, the Scottish Government seem to be approving Beaully to Denny *before* the conclusions of the hugely expensive Public Inquiry have been announced. So much for the public inquiry system and local democracy!

Another topic in NPF2 that is worrying for Kiltarlity Community Council and Kiltarlity residents is the proposed "A96 Corridor" between Nairn and Inverness, set to become the main focus of future population growth in the Highlands, though this is not (as yet?!) a National Development. The intention to spend huge amounts of money and resources in this area to the east of Inverness must reduce the hope that the Beaully - Muir of Ord area might develop to become a counterweight to Inverness expansion. More generally, the needs of other parts of the Highlands and the centre of Inverness itself seem to have been forgotten in the enthusiasm for a new town at Tornagrain, and for other proposals, which have already been granted outline planning permission, such as the upmarket marina and residential development at Whiteness, and proposals such as the westward expansion of Nairn and along the A96 corridor where companies have identified opportunities for big scale developments.

Their enthusiasm, first made clear in the first draft of NPF2, about 18 months ago, does not appear to have been reduced at all by the recession which has developed since then and the problems that may cause in the long term.

Kiltarlity Community Council

**Norman Grant, Chairman
(741532)**

**Hector Douglas, Secretary
(741881)**

**Dorothy Ward, Treasurer
(741253)**

Karen Ferguson (831251)

Floris Greenlaw (741342)

Lesley MacColl (741430)

Ronald MacLean (741323)

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Eunice Ramsden (741447)

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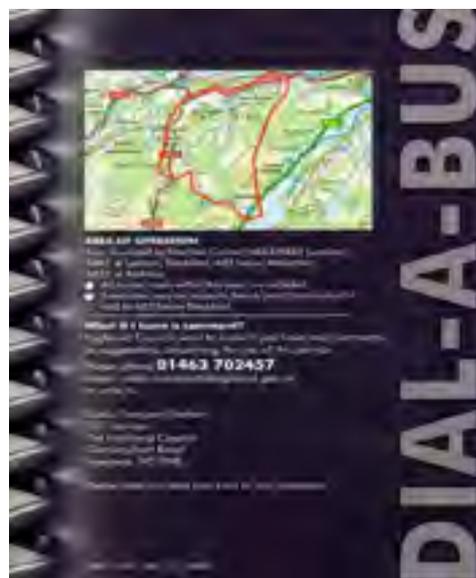
Community Council meetings are completely open to the public who, with the Chairman's agreement, can contribute to the discussion, though not vote.

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

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

**Community Council Website:
www.kiltarlity.info**

Don't forget Kiltarlity's Dial - A - Bus service



Painted Ladies and Peacocks

by
Malcolm Harvey



Painted Lady



Peacock

Although black and white can't do justice to these butterflies, perhaps enough detail will survive to help readers to spot them in their gardens.

In recent years much has been made of the rapidly diminishing numbers of some species of butterflies in Britain. However 2009 has been a very good year for two species, the Painted Lady and the Peacock, both of which are very evident in our gardens at the moment, especially if there are flowering shrubs such as Buddleia present.

Both are large butterflies and are easily recognisable. The wings of the Painted Lady are of an orange base colour and the wingtips are black with white spots and there are also some black spots elsewhere on the wings. The Painted Lady has a global distribution and in Europe they are migrants from North Africa. They reach Britain every year in varying numbers but occasionally in some years, as is the case this year, they arrive in vast numbers when they can be seen virtually everywhere, even on remote northern islands.

The reason for the large numbers this year is apparently heavy rains in January in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. These conditions were very favourable to the food plants of its caterpillars which hatched and survived to become butterflies in enormous numbers there before setting off on their northern migration.

A few of these Painted Ladies reached

Britain in early Spring, but most bred in France, Spain and Portugal, their progeny also migrating north to Britain in millions. This second generation then bred and as the metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly is short (one month) we are now seeing the third generation, all still travelling north.

Unlike its relative, the Red Admiral, where some are known to return south, our immigrant Painted Ladies apparently do not return south and are unable to survive the northern winters.

The Peacock is also a spectacular butterfly and easily identified, the wings being a deep chestnut/maroon colour, with four glossy blue/black 'peacock eyes' and scalloped edges to the wings. Anyone who has spent any time in England and southern Scotland may well be familiar with it where it is a common resident with numbers supplemented by visitors from the continent.

In recent years they have moved into the Highlands and are now becoming very common here. It is only five years ago that I saw my first Peacock in the Highlands, and the following year the first one was seen in my garden. Last year I saw a record nine together on our Buddleia, but last week there were no fewer than 32 together and I saw many more along woodland rides in Boblainy.

The reason for their increase is thought to be partly due to an influx into the Highlands some years ago. However, it is also the result of longer, milder autumns, ensuring a prolonged, good food supply which enables them to be in better condition to survive our winters, which are less severe nowadays.

The Peacock has the distinction of being one of our longest living butterflies. Whereas many species live for only a few weeks in butterfly form, some Peacocks which hatch in July will survive through the following winter well into June the following year.

Kiltarlity News

We are anxious to have material for the Winter issue of the *Kiltarlity News* and will print as many local news items, club, school news, sports obituaries, letters, articles etc, as possible. Please send material by **31 October 2009**. We may be able, but cannot guarantee, to print later contributions. Material may be sent to R. MacLean, 'Berisay', Culburnie, (741323), e-mailed to rdmaclean5@berisay.co.uk, or given to any Community Council member.

A Tale of Two Belladrum

Dave Selkirk recounts Part I of a tale of changing times

Belladrum residents want sea defence breach repaired.

This isn't an imaginary headline from some future *Kiltarlity News* when global warming has reached the point that sea defences are needed to protect Belladrum in Inverness-shire. It's a real headline from the *Stabroek News*, a newspaper published in the South American country of Guyana which carried a report on 25th July this year about the problems local residents were facing in an area called Belladrum on the Atlantic coastline of the Guyanese province of Berbice.

But there is more of a connection between the two Belladrum than just the name, for the sea defences which are now in need of repair were first built over two hundred years ago when Belladrum in Berbice was owned by Colonel James Fraser of Belladrum, Inverness-shire. This was the first step in a process which enabled Colonel James to reclaim land from the sea and establish a cotton plantation to take advantage of the opportunity being created by the huge and ever increasing demand for cotton in the cotton mills of Scotland and Britain at the time of the industrial revolution.

Apart from owning Plantation Belladrum, Colonel James owned several other plantations in Berbice and its neighbouring province of Demerara which were managed by his three sons, James, Simon and Evan. And judging by the remark made in 1801 that James Fraser had made £40,000 'from his last trip', which is worth something like £2,287,570 in to-day's money, it is clear that the Belladrum Frasers' plantation enterprises

were providing exceptionally good financial returns.

But it is clear from place names in Guyana today that the Frasers of Belladrum were not the only landowning family from our area who were trying to make 'rapid and very splendid fortunes' in Guyana around that time for, apart from Belladrum, there are other familiar sounding names such as the Foulis and Brahan which are mentioned in the *Stabroek News* report or the Alness, Dochfour, Novar, Cromarty, Tain and Inverness which are listed in a modern gazetteer of Berbice for example. And like Belladrum all of these places were once plantations and they were named by members of a tight-knit group of families from this part of the Highlands who operated together to promote their mutual interests at home and abroad.

But there can be no escaping the fact that the cotton plantation at Belladrum and all of the other plantations in Guyana at that time, whether they produced cotton or coffee or the sugar with which Demerara is synonymous, were slave plantations and that 'very rapid and splendid fortunes' were being made by exploiting Africans who had been transported across the Atlantic against their will to be bought and sold like cattle and subjected to the harsh regime and ferocious punishment that was common practice on New World slave plantations like Belladrum.

And while there is evidence of support in the Highlands from its earliest days for the campaign to abolish the

slave trade, it has to be acknowledged that those with an interest in the plantation business were in principle and in practice firmly in favour of the continuation of a trade that supplied them with the slave labour they used to maintain and develop their operations on slave plantations like Belladrum.

They argued that the slave trade made an essential contribution to the wealth and prosperity of the country and that its abolition would result in ruin. And when the British Parliament in 1807 finally passed the Act to abolish the slave trade plantation owners fought on for the right to maintain it, in opposition to those who sought to put an end to slavery and to secure the freedom of slaves throughout the British Empire.

This story of Highland involvement in the slavery business is one which has only recently been coming to light and this account is largely based on the excellent work which has been undertaken by two highland historians, Dr. David Alston and Dr. Douglas Hamilton. A lot of good information about Scotland and slavery is available on the internet, not least in the superb website on Slaves and Highlanders that Dr. Alston is developing, which can be accessed at www.spanglefish.com/SlavesandHighlanders.

In Part Two of this Tale of Two Belladrum I will attempt to show how the two Belladrum were connected in the changing fortunes of the Belladrum Frasers and how involvement abroad contributed to the passing of a traditional way of life and to the making of a landscape we know so well. I will also attempt to shed some light on an aspect of Highland heritage which so far has been largely forgotten during this Year of Homecoming.



Belladrum's sea defences under attack

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Mid season finds Lovat's teams in fine form

by
John MacRitchie

Lovat's league campaign has taken a back seat over the past few months as we have had one of our best cup runs in recent years. After progressing to the semi-final of the MacTavish cup we were paired against Kingussie. Lovat probably put in one of their best performances of the season pushing their more fancied opponents all the way. After holding Kingussie for the majority of the first half Lovat lost two quick goals, but we battled back to level at 2-2 by half time. The second half begun with Kingussie scoring another two quick goals and it looked as if they would go on to win comfortably, but once again Lovat battled hard and levelled at 4-4. Kingussie's experience told in the end as they went on to score another 3 to make the final score 4-7. The game was notable as Ronald Ross scored his 1000th senior goal.

Kingussie were Lovat's opponents again in the quarter-final of the Camanachd cup but this time there was no repeat of the previous game with Kingussie comfortable winners at 10-1.

For the third time this season Lovat met Strathglass and having eliminated them from the MacTavish & Camanachd cups were confident when they met at Cannich in the semi final of the Balliemore, on one of the hottest days the year. Lovat settled quickly and dominated long periods. After 30 minutes Callum MacAulay scored, but 10 minutes later Strathglass scored after Stuart MacDonald misjudged a long range effort. Then, on the stroke of half-time, Strathglass were awarded a hotly disputed penalty which was duly converted.

Within the first minute of the second half Strathglass scored again and this was soon followed by a further 2 goals. Lovat did rally in the final 15 minutes, forcing the Strathglass keeper to make a string of fine saves. Raymond Rennie scored late on to make the final score a disappointing 5-2. Strathglass did went on to comfortably win the final 5-1 against Kinlochshiel.

With the cup runs over for the season Lovat returned to league action with an away game against a strong Caberfeidh team. In a tight first half Lovat opened



Lovat on the attack during the MacTavish semi-final against Kingussie

the scoring through Martin Bell, but Caberfeidh equalised and the teams turned round at 1-1. In the second half Lovat began to take control of the game and soon Raymond Rennie put Lovat ahead, to be quickly followed by a clever goal from Greg Matheson. Lovat were now in command and completed the scoring through a Raymond Rennie well taken volley.

Our next game was once again away, this time to Kinlochshiel. This was another excellent result for Lovat with two goals from Raymond Rennie and one from James MacPherson securing a 3-1 win.

After a break of five weeks without a game Lovat played their local rivals, Beauly in a mid week fixture, and with Beauly having performed well in their last two games a stern test was expected. With the wind at their backs Beauly dominated the majority of the first half, but without really testing Stuart MacDonald in goals. Lovat were also a touch ring rusty after the long lay-off, but competed well and at half-time the teams turned around at 0-0. Within 10 seconds of the restart Ryan Ferguson scored a fine goal with a long shot which deceived the Beauly goalkeeper. By the hour mark Lovat had another well worked goal from Callum MacAulay. We were now winning the midfield battle and with Beauly pinned back for long periods it was no surprise when Raymond Rennie completed the scoring in the 75th minute.

Lovat went on to another away fixture, this time a potential trick game against bottom team, Lochcarron. Playing conditions were difficult due to the wet park and strong winds and Lovat went into this game with a number of players missing. As a result we had to draft in Fraser Gallacher who had been

sidelined for the majority of the season with a knee injury. Fraser slotted in at full-forward & was instrumental in an impressive win, setting up Greg Matheson for two goals and Raymond Rennie for one. With a 3-0 half-time advantage Lovat eased off with Fraser capping a fine performance with a fourth goal. Lochcarron did score a consolation goal late on to make the final score 4-1.

Lovat are well placed in North Division One and with only two more away games to play, leaving six home games, we should be challenging at the top end of the league come the end of the season.

Lovat's Junior team have continued to have a good season with excellent cup runs. In the Sutherland Cup Lovat had a resounding quarter-final win over Kinraig, leading 7-1 at half-time and finishing with a 9-1 victory. This set up a semi-final tie with Kyles Athletic and this game turned out to be their best performance of the season, winning it 2-0 with Martin Anderson scoring both goals and John Paul Fraser turning in a man of the match performance in the middle of the park.

On August 1st Lovat met Fort William in the Sutherland Cup final, which was to be televised live for the first time. This was only the second time the club have reached this final, the first being in 2000 when a famous victory was gained over their more fancied opponents, Lochside Rovers. This time the team had an even harder task as they were to play a team which had reached the last five finals and contained a number of Camanachd Cup winning players and it was one of them that proved the difference, former Scotland captain, Victor Smith.

As Lovat headed for the Bught, most

people gave them little chance. Fort William took advantage of the strong wind blowing down the park and put Lovat under long periods of pressure. The defence was outstanding, marshalled by Jimmy MacKenzie who put in a man of the match display. Lovat conceded a goal on the half hour mark, a wind assisted effort which gave Christopher MacCallum no chance, so Lovat reached half time a goal down but with the advantage of the wind for the second half, in which the game was finally balanced with excellent play from both teams. Fort William scored through Victor Smith who pounced on a slip from the goalkeeper to make it 2-0. However Lovat dug deep and deservedly scored through Steven Cameron from the edge of the box. As Lovat searched for the equaliser they forced a number of saves from the Fort-William goalkeeper. In the final 5 minutes Victor Smith scored with an outstanding volley after a miss-hit from our full back. The final score was 3-1, but Lovat earned deserved praise for their effort with many neutrals commenting on the standard of play.

. On the way to the Strathdearn Cup semi-final Lovat recorded fine wins - 6-1 at home against Kilmallie and 6-1 away against Kinlochshiel. And on Saturday 15th August Lovat Juniors continued their excellent season with a hard fought win over Newtonmore in the Strathdearn semi-final. In an even game Lovat turned round 2-0 down at half time but with a fine second half performance where Steven Cameron scored twice and Charlie Mainland once Lovat ensured that they reached their second final of the season - once again against Fort William.

In the league (North Division 2) Lovat sit comfortably at 4th position. Recent successes have been 5-4 over Skye and 6-4 over Caberfeidh. Games against Glengarry and Glenurquhart were lost 5-0 and 4-1.

With the season near its mid point there was no doubt that both Lovat teams have been performing well. And August 22nd's fixtures saw the senior team defeat Kilmallie 4-3 in North Division One to strengthen hope of promotion back to the premier League, while the Juniors consolidated their Division Two position with a fine 8-2 victory over Kilmallie's juniors.

Particular congratulations must go to Stuart MacDonald, Daniel Grieve and James MacPherson who have been selected for the under 21 squad for October's shinty-hurling internationals at the Bught.



A reminder that that wind farms are not an entirely new idea. The late Tom Fraser at Auchvaich with his one man wind farm, all his own work. The houses of Allarburn can be seen in the distance behind him.



Yes, this is a pylon garden, but in Switzerland, not Scotland. The purpose of SSE's giant pylons is definitely not to create rural allotments.

Kiltarlity's Tartan Heart as sound as ever



Belladrum Tartan Heart 2009 was sold out before it started. With all the fun of the fair, as well as the music, lots of folk decided not to go home until it was over.

Brand new industry for Fanellan

Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead has (20 August) officially opened The Essentially Scottish Botanicals steam distillation unit based in the former Fanellan bottling plant. The unit will be used to extract oil from *myrica gale* an indigenous Scottish plant more commonly known as bog myrtle.

Boots has agreed a long-term contract with the company to supply them with the oil for use in cosmetic and health care products and prospects for local employment would appear to be good. The business anticipates employing around 22 full-time staff, including harvesters and distilling workers with a further 10 jobs likely to be created in Scotland's wider economy.

It is hoped the venture will provide landowners and crofters around the Highlands and Islands with opportunities to diversify by supplying plant material. The company is currently awaiting the results of its first farmed fields of the deciduous plant.

Extracts from bog myrtle have traditionally been used for flavouring food and beer and as an insect repellent. The plant, also known as sweet gale, is found growing in peaty soils in the Highlands.

The former Lovat Water bottling plant now to be used for bog myrtle distilling



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

Closed for Lunch 12.00pm-1.00pm Monday to Friday

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Wednesday	7.30am - 5.30pm
Thursday	7.30am - 5.30pm
Friday	7.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday	7.30am - 3.00pm
Sunday	8.30am - 12.30pm

Coffee Shop Opening Hours

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

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