



The Toulter

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY



Issue No. 57

Suggested Donation £1.00

SPRING 2013



Winner of the "Skies" photo competition is Sean Marshall with this shot taken from St Bridget.



Sean Marshall is also runner-up with this picture - "Daisy, the cumulonimbus, last home for milking AGAIN!"

Photo Competition

We're sticking with "Skies in and around Kirkmichael and Tomintoul" for our Summer Edition, due to be published in July 2013. Digital images should be sent in the highest resolution possible, please and don't forget to tell us when and where the picture was taken. The winning picture will appear on the front of the Summer edition of the Toulter, and the photographer will receive a £20 prize. Digital images should be emailed to: thetoulter@yahoo.com and traditional prints sent to:

**The Toulter, c/o 11 Cults Drive, Tomintoul,
Ballindalloch, AB37 9HW.**

Entries close on
Monday, 27 May 2013



John Sim, of Main Street, Tomintoul recently retired as an Operator at Tomintoul Distillery after 43 years loyal service.

Among the many gifts John received from the company and colleagues he is seen being presented with a copper pot still by Robert Fleming, Distilleries Director of Angus Dundee Distillers.

All at Angus Dundee Distillers wish John a long and healthy retirement..



Married in Tomintoul Church on Saturday, 9th March were Mhairi Fraser and Robert Wiseman. Mhairi is the daughter of Jim and Nancy Fraser of Auchnarrow Farm, The Knockandhu, Glenlivet.



Harry Lannagan, son of Billy and Allana was born in Aberdeen on 19th October 2012. Grandson of Jane and Bill Lannagan, Harry is William Henry Lannagan the 6th!



Mason Joe was born in Inverness on 4th February 2013. He will join his brother Conall and parents Joanne & Bill in Nairn. Mason is the 7th grandchild for Peter & Sandra Sawyer of Bracam House, Tomintoul, another cousin for Naomi Jane, and nephew for Peter and Ruth.

Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association

Minutes of meeting held on 20th February, 2013 in the Richmond Memorial Hall.

The meeting was very well attended.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as correct with no alterations. M. Fletcher proposed, and P. Grant seconded.

Matters Arising

Representatives from Tomintoul to the Council Budget Consultation Meeting were unable to attend due to bad weather conditions. No follow up information was received by KATCA.

Lindsay Robertson, (Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Officer) was introduced to everyone.

The installation of the Gas Pipeline was briefly mentioned, and noted that this affected Glenlivet more than Tomintoul.

Snow and ice clearance has been good this year, and residents have mostly complied with the request to park on one side of the road only.

Reports

Cathy Hooper (Crown Representative)

The architect drawing up plans for the 'Lecht Lay-by' project will be present at the TGDT meeting on 27th February to explain projected plans and gain feedback.

The Cycle Tracks are now completed but need several months to settle.

Plans for the 'Hub' have been submitted for the amended location.(see page 25)

Lindsay Robertson

The lay-by is a key area for consultation with the community. The Lecht and Tomnavoulin Lay-by sites are to be developed as 'Gateway Sites'.

TGDT is working with SYHA to develop Tomintoul Youth Hostel. Mike Fletcher, Sean Marshall and Steve Sacks are the directors working on this project. The Trust will take over the running of the hostel from 1st April. A business plan has been developed.

The Trust is working with Henry Paget regarding The Gordon Arms Hotel. Funding is available to carry out a feasibility study, for which tenders have been submitted. There will be community consultation.

Areas have been mapped out with the poorest broadband coverage. There will be technical consultants to plan out options, and where the cables will come through.

Lindsay invited anyone to give her comments/feedback/ideas to follow up. She is based at The Crown Estate Office.

Fiona Murdoch (Moray Council)

Transport. The buses to Keith on Tuesdays and to Elgin on Thursdays are to be cut. There will be transport, but it will be different to what we have been used to. £30,000,000 has to be cut from the budget which means a 'slimming down' in all areas.

The Council is currently looking at other ways to provide transport. Lindsay Robertson is to provide a questionnaire to people in the community. Fiona Murdoch stated that Tomintoul will not be left without transport, but she needs to know what is needed and when, in order to 'tailor it' to the needs of Tomintoul. Libraries. Tomintoul library is not to be cut. One library in each school area is to be maintained. It is intended that each one will be run by a 'trust', as this will allow better funding access. In July it will be decided which schools and libraries will be cut.

After the cuts this year, there will still be cuts of another £10,000,000 to be made.

Visitor Centre. The Council want the Tourist Information Centre to be run by a Trust. There will be consultation. The building is undergoing a survey at the moment.

Moray Council is involved with a new project where areas are looked at in turn, to look at resources available within the area.

Savings and wastage questions were brought up, and Fiona Murdoch stated that the council tries to ensure resources are not wasted.

Mike Drury commented that there was a need for a bus service, not just for local residents, but also for tourism, which may need to go to Grantown, Aviemore etc., and also that this may not be a free service, but something run by the community, which would need to be paid for.

Fiona Murdoch agreed that this is the area that the council is looking at, and funding is available for Community based projects, not run by Moray Council.

Discussions took place, with many anecdotal references regarding:

Bus times.

Inaccessibility of Dial-a-Bus.

Difficulty with connecting buses etc.

Some people stated that they were prepared to pay towards bus fares, while others were not. It was pointed out that other travellers were picked up along the way to Elgin, not just in Tomintoul and Glenlivet. There are just 4 Dial-a-Buses available for the whole of Speyside.

Students needing to go to College from the village.

How services work, and how they link to other services.

The £70,000 is available to mitigate losses of a bus service.

The fact that there are only 2 buses per week from Tomintoul.

Flexibility of the questionnaire.

Sally Reid stated that Councillors were voted for because people felt they would work for the voters, but time after time voters were being let down. We have to fight to get support for Tomintoul. We need to know that Councillors are fighting for the small rural areas.

If people feel strongly, they should object on their own behalf, as well as KATCA sending a letter on behalf of the whole community. Letters should be sent to Fiona Murdoch at Moray Council. The Elgin bus is a 'lifeline' for many, and should be kept at all costs.

If anyone wishes to raise an agenda item, please contact any member of the committee, who will be happy to bring it up for discussion.

The next meeting is on 15th May, 2013, at 7-30pm, followed by the A.G.M.

CLOSURE OF PUBLIC TOILETS

The Council, as part of its budget review for 2013/14 onwards, took the difficult decision to close a number of public toilets throughout Moray. These closures will assist the Council in meeting the required budget reduction of £30m over the next four years.

The public toilets which will permanently close on 31st March 2013 are as detailed below.

Should a community group or organisation wish to discuss taking ownership of any of the Public Toilets identified please telephone 01343 567122 or email CAT@moray.gov.uk

Should there be no interest from Community Groups, the buildings will be declared as surplus to requirements and offered for sale on the open market.

Buckie	Fishmarket Strathlene Beach Car Park Town House
Craigellachie	Fiddich Park
Cullen	Harbour West Beach
Findhorn	Middle Block
Hopeman	East Beach
Keith	Mid Street Regent Square St Rufus Park
Lossiemouth	Esplanade

Speyside Community Car Share Scheme

2012 ended on a very sad note for the Car Share Scheme when Dorothy, one of the main founder members and long standing co-ordinator passed away. She will be missed by everyone who knew her for her friendship, compassion and consideration.

It was due mainly to Dorothy's commitment, enthusiasm and hard work that the Car Share Scheme was able to help so many in our area for so long and we will all miss her very much. She set a fine example to everyone and we hope to continue for a long time to come in the spirit and the way that she showed us.

We have a couple of new members on the committee and a new telephonist but as always we are in need of some more volunteer drivers.

There is no full time commitment for our drivers because each journey is requested separately.

The system works like this:-

1. the member requests a journey,
2. the telephonist requests a driver,
3. the driver agrees or declines the request (subject to their own availability)

If you feel you would like to get involved with us and do something to help the less able bodied people in our community to access the services they require then please get in touch with Irene Shaw on 01340 832350 or irene.shaw1@googlemail.com for more information.

If you live in Rothes, Aberlour, Dufftown, Glenlivet, Tomintoul, or the surrounding areas and you have difficulty getting around because of age, disability or infirmity then we might be able to help.

Telephone 01340 831748 between 9.00am- 5.00pm (Mon.-Fri.) and speak to one of our volunteer telephonists who will give you all the information about eligibility for becoming a member.

Now just a couple of small requests to ALL our members please:-

When booking a journey it would help enormously if you could give as much detail as possible about your trip. For example- if you have an appointment at Dr Gray's and then you would also like to call in at ASDA or the library then please let it be known when you book. This will give our drivers a better idea of how much time they will need to volunteer. They can be very busy and sometimes they are requested to do more than one journey in a day.

Can you please make sure that your 'Blue Badge' is up to date when hoping that our drivers will be able use it for your journey?

If you would like to know more about any aspects of the Car Share Scheme then please telephone either of the above numbers.

Richard Lochhead, MSP



I have been following the progress of plans for Mountain Bike Trails near Tomintoul with great interest.

Without getting into the ins and outs of the most appropriate location, access provision and the myriad of other planning issues it is good to see ambitious plans in some of our more rural areas that could bring additional visitors and provide valuable support to the local economy both through direct employment and through spending in local shops, on accommodation and food and drink.

The success of Fort William, which has badged itself as the 'Outdoor Capital' has set an example that many other regions of Scotland, including, Moray can use to their advantage. Mountain biking as a sport has really taken off and is becoming more and more accessible every year with new trails being opened up and the country becoming a world-class destination for participants.

With bike uplift available at the nearby Lecht centre and trails at Fochabers and other nearby locations the new trails could really boost the sports tourism offer by providing a varied multi-day holiday option for people.

It is important that we continue to diversify the economy and, within that, to diversify the individual aspects of the economy, such as tourism, and tap into as many markets as possible.

On the completely separate but continuing issue of parcel delivery charges I recently had a meeting with industry representatives in my capacity as Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, along with my colleague Fergus Ewing MSP.

While regulation of the sector remains a UK Government issue their inaction on this should not mean that we don't at least try something different in Scotland. To that end a short-life working group has been established that will develop a code of conduct for retailers and couriers. It will encourage fair practice and innovative solutions to counterbalance the costs of delivery to rural, remote and island destinations.

We will work closely with Consumer Focus Scotland, retailers, couriers and others to achieve positive changes and share good practice.

In the absence of legislative powers that sit with the UK Government we must, of course, keep a close eye on how this develops, as the proof of the pudding will be in the eating.

In the meantime I continue to encourage constituents across Moray to challenge unfair delivery charges and hopefully the need to do so will become much less in the near future.

Angus Robertson, MP



The subject of the UK Government's so-called Welfare Reform continues to dominate my mailbag with people right across Moray affected.

If it isn't appalling decisions being taken in Fitness to Work tests, with many people who are clearly unwell and even in serious pain being told they are 'fit to work', it is the impact of Housing Benefit changes as a result of the 'Bedroom Tax'.

It is this issue that is getting the most attention both in the House of Commons and in the wider media and rightly so in my view.

The changes being made have a really significant impact on some of the most hard-pressed households - households that are already struggling with energy and food prices and who have little option but to stay in the home they are in, whether or not it has extra bedrooms.

Fundamentally I believe it is wholly wrong to expect people to downsize from a home they may well have occupied for many years and potentially have to move to a different community, away from friends and family and community groups and activities that they may be heavily involved in.

The wider impact in communities will inevitably be less money being spent in shops, as housing benefit support reduces.

I think it is also important to emphasise that the vast majority of people who will be affected are people in employment but on a low wage. People who are working hard to do the best for their family.

It is a fact that with a parliamentary majority there is a limit to what I can do as an opposition MP, however, there have been concessions from the government as a result of sustained pressure - not just from MPs like myself who have been opposed to the proposals from the start but also from charities and support organisations such as Citizens Advice who have raised repeated concerns about the serious impacts of the plans.

Through my constituency office I can offer support to people in Moray affected by these changes by helping to ensure that individual family circumstances are properly considered and in Westminster I will continue to challenge the welfare reform changes.

There are of course many other organisations that can also offer excellent support to people struggling with these changes, such as Citizens Advice, The Moray Council's Welfare Benefits Team and many other specialist charities who can offer support on disability issues, energy advice and much, much more.

I would urge people to take advantage of the advice and support that is out there to help deal with the major changes that are happening.

SNP REPRESENTATIVES ON SPEYSIDE BUS CONCERNS

SNP elected representatives have been pressing the Council's Administration over the future of rural transport services that cover the Tomintoul area.

Speyside Glenlivet Councillor and SNP Group Leader Pearl Paul has been raising concerns with council officers.

Cllr Paul said: "The announcement in the Council Administration's budget that all bus subsidies were to be removed was completely unexpected. Since the budget I have sought assurances that the services will not end until there is an alternative arrangement proposals has been properly considered.

"I recognise that there is a plan to extend the dial-a-bus services, however I have heard from people who remain concerned at the removal of a fixed time service, which has benefits in allowing people to plan ahead better for things like appointments.

"While the SNP opposed the budget because we believe that other significant alternatives have not been properly considered - a point we will continue to make - we are, nonetheless, realistic that we must work to get the best possible future provision and we will consider very carefully the proposals that the Council's Administration put forward."

Fellow Speyside Glenlivet Councillor Mike McConachie said: "I have spoken out against these cuts but now they have been decided it is critical that the transport challenges facing people in and around Tomintoul are properly considered in any alternative that is proposed.

"People have to be able to get a service that will take them to where they need to go, whether that is a medical appointment, the supermarket or anything else. They also need a service that will give them an appropriate amount of time at the destination before having to return.

"These are the types of issues that need to be addressed and we will be pushing these points with the Council's Administration and

officers."

Richard Lochhead, MSP said: "I have heard from several constituents with concerns about the bus services and, indeed, many other budgetary concerns. It is important to be clear that, as an MSP, I do not have the power to tell the council what course they should take, however I am working closely with SNP councillor colleagues on a range of issues from the recent council budget, as well as raising concerns on behalf of constituents directly with senior council officials.

"The loss of rural transport services flies in the face supporting rural communities and people who are disadvantaged in terms of access to services or who can't afford to run a car due to the very high running costs that we currently have to endure.

"I will continue to raise these concerns and work with councillors in an effort to get the best possible outcome."

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January

103	John Ferguson	£30
73	Ronnie Smith	£15
11	Hilda Stewart	£15
167	George Mitchell	£15

February

177	Ben Duffus	£30
133	Allan Grant	£15
93	Evelyn Grant	£15
70	John Shearer	£15

March

The Hall committee wish to thank all members for their continued support. Funds raised go towards the upkeep of your hall. Thank you.



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Richmond Memorial Hall AGM

The hall AGM was held on the 18th February. After the reading of the chairman's report and treasurer's report all current office bearers were elected to continue in their roles. The committee therefore remains: Roy Hill (Chairman), Michele Birnie (Treasurer), Jennifer Fraser (Secretary) and Michael Robertson (Vice Chairman).

Over the course of the year we have installed a new lighting and sound system in the hall. We have received some great feedback on this and are now keen to recruit a few local people to learn to use the equipment, so if you are interested in sound/lighting production and technology and have a couple of hours to spare please get in touch.

Facilities in the kitchen have also been improved and so it was unfortunate to note that some damage had been done to the worktops, and at times, equipment had not been cleaned properly. We would like to remind all those who hire the hall to make an effort to look after our facilities and report any damages to the hall keeper, and that clearing up remains their responsibility.

The hall continues to be well supported by local people and clubs and so we were once again pleased to report we will not be increasing our rates or electricity charges this year.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the running of the hall, making a booking or obtaining full minutes of the meeting please email me at jennwfraser@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01807 580301.

Did I read that sign correctly?

On a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR

ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK

HARD ON THE DOOR - THE

BELL

DOESN'T WORK)



Julie Andrews on turning 79

To commemorate her birthday, actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was 'My Favourite Things' from the legendary movie 'Sound Of Music.' Miss Andrews received a 4 minute standing ovation when she finished her song!

Here are the lyrics she used:

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache, When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Queen Mother's Guild

So far, between members of The Crafty Lot and Tomintoul SWRI, we have been able to deliver our first consignment of finished articles. This included 7 Blankets, 12 Hats, 7 Jumpers, 2 Jumper's with hats, 3 Waistcoats and 2 Cardigans. In total 33 items.

We were able to collect more wool at the same time, so, if anyone else would like to add to our next consignment, please contact Sandra Sawyer or Pam Fletcher. The wool is donated, so there is no charge, as long as you return it as a finished garment, or blanket.



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A Tribute to Jenny Herschell

So Jenny has retired from the Tomintoul Medical Centre where she worked since the early 90s.

I remember asking her if she would come and work for the surgery. At that time, she ran the Argyle House hotel, the stables, the garage site opposite with camping, as well as being the sole parent of three boisterous young lads. She had been a ward nursing sister and was doing relief for the local district nurses. She obligingly accepted the position and was invaluable from that point on. She was like a centre of gravity/gravitas, she seemed to know everybody. So like a modern day satnav with a social dimension she could orientate one to not just where someone lived but that little bit more which in medicine can be so relevant.

'If you want something done, ask a busy person'. Jenny would appear whenever needed. When the snow was heavy and drifting in she would trot with a smile. I never remember her finding any reason not to turn up to the surgery if she was asked, even at extremely short notice. She would often stay late without ever grumbling.

Still all things change. She outlasted me and I wish her the very best for the future, but I somewhat doubt than she will be any less busy!

David Crowley

Waste Bin Collections or the Lack Of!

Now I know that Moray Council are trying to save costs and far be it from me to decry that, although I think some of the proposed cuts here and in the surrounding areas are draconian to say the least. However, as we pay the same rates of Council Tax as others in Moray I think that the least they can do is uplift the waste bins when they are put out.

This last week, which was a multi bin day, several households at the top of the village were not afforded the uplift of recycling waste. On contacting the Council to advise this was the case different suggestions were offered as to what to do. The most sensible was that, as Glenlivet have their waste uplifted on a Thursday then the cart would come to Tomintoul and lift the un-emptied bins. This seemed a feasible answer and the cart was up in this area anyway. Did this happen; well surprisingly no, although a refuse cart was spotted heading in the direction of Tomintoul. This poses what will happen with the bins which will be overflowing when the next collection is due. I have been advised that if it is a Council error then they are duty-bound to uplift any excess as long as it is not loose. I know that the gentlemen that man the cart are very obliging but I cannot understand why only a few properties were missed. Did the driver go into some sort of a dwaam?

I have just learned that there were others outside the village that did not get their recycling bins emptied. Surely if there had been a problem then we should have been advised. Hopefully this is just a one-off and we will not become a forgotten part of Tomintoul, never mind Moray.

LIBRARY TIMES

Monday	1.30pm to 3.30pm and 6pm to 7.30pm
Tuesday	1.30pm to 3.30pm
Wednesday	10am to 12 noon
Thursday	6pm to 7.30pm
Friday	1.30pm to 3.30pm

Don't forget you can always phone during these hours to renew your books, place a reservation on a book you fancy reading or to book time on the People's Network Internet computers.

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Sandy Robertson 1932 - 2013

Sandy was born at Braeside Deskford, the eldest of a family of eight. After leaving school he worked as a farmhand at Muirton, Buckie.

In December 1958 he married Margaret, a nurse at Seafeld Hospital in Buckie. Sandy's career in the whisky industry began the following year at Inchgower Distillery, Buckie. After six years at Inchgower came a move to Tomintoul with the job of brewer at Tomintoul Distillery. In 1971 Sandy was promoted to Manager which meant a move to Avonside. This was where he spent the rest of his working life.

On retiring in 1995, Sandy and Margaret moved only a short distance from the distillery to An Sgoran. Sandy was a keen gardener and took great pride in his garden, always having a beautiful display of flowers and a well stocked vegetable garden.

Sandy fought his illness bravely, never letting it get the better of him until the beginning of December



when his health deteriorated suddenly.

Sandy was a true family man and will be much missed by Margaret, Linda, Kevan and Elaine and his seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild, of whom he was extremely proud.

While caring for Sandy at home his daughter and daughter in law started knitting chickens which they filled with a creme egg and sold to raise funds for the Marie Curie Nurses. An amazing total of £480.00 was raised. A new project of snowmen for Christmas is now underway to raise more funds for

this very worthy cause.



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Tomintoul SWRI



Vice president Irene Duffus opened the January meeting, and wished all members a Happy New Year. After business was discussed she handed over to Meg Smith who organised a Murder Mystery, this was acted by members who dressed for their parts and went on to entertain us with great fun and laughter, between acts we all enjoyed a lovely buffet with wine contributed by all members.

Sheila Dunbar correctly identified the suspect murderer.

Jenny Christie gave a vote of thanks, the raffle was drawn and the evening closed.

Due to wintry conditions, the speaker for February meeting had to cancel his talk on antiques and collectables, but he sent a quiz on the same subject. It was done as a team effort, and members discovered they were not as knowledgeable as they thought, but had fun in trying to guess what the articles were.

After tea, Isobel Irvine judged a truffles competition as follows:

- 1 Pam Fletcher,
- 2 Jean Birchall,
- 3 Kathleen Greig.

Winners of an article made from odds and ends of wool, judged by Cathy Walker were,

- 1 Jean Birchall,
- 2 Pam Fletcher,
- 3 Sandra Sawyer.

President Ann Wraight closed the meeting. March was our birthday party. We celebrated our 37th year with a buffet and drinks, all donated by members, so there was a lovely selection of both savouries and sweets to tempt our appetites.

Business was discussed as well as Keith and Grantown Shows.

After supper a lively evening continued with Pam Fletcher who supplied song titles to play "Charades", all members took part and there was great hilarity.

Jenny Cowley judged the competitions as follows:

Pot Plant:

1. Sheila Dunbar

Dried Flowers:

- 1 Pam Fletcher
- 2 Jean Birchall
- 3 Ann Wraight

To finish of our evening Sheila Dunbar had made a lovely chocolate cake, which was enjoyed by all.

President Ann Wraight thanked everyone for making our party a great success and closed the meeting.

On Saturday, 9th March Tony Birchall drove some members to the Town Hall in Elgin to see the musical matinee "Me and My Girl", which was performed by the "Elgin Musical Theatre Group".

The ladies and Tony thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon.

At the April Meeting Artist and Crafter, Sally Charlesworth, from Aberlour, is to demonstrate making a Corsage.

The May Meeting is our AGM followed by Cheese and Wine.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Day Care Centre at 7.30pm, so please come along and join us.

*Press secretary.
Irene Duffus*



A Nicht o' Burns



Tomintoul and Strathavon Burns Club held their Nicht o' Burns in Glenavon Hotel on Saturday, 26th January.

John Shewan acted very ably as Chairman for the night and welcomed the company to an evening of song and poetry.

The Haggis was piped in by Lauren Simpson followed by Patrick Wraight. They brought the Chieftain trough the company and presented it to Ian Wilson who then addressed The Haggis with due gusto. This having been done those present were treated to an excellent meal served by the Glenavon.

Once the meal was over then the serious side of the proceedings ensued. Dr. Sam Shaw, a partner in the Rinnes Medical Practise, was the main speaker delivering the Immortal Memory speech. His knowledge of the works of Burns was much to the fore in his spirited presentation. This was followed by Alick Grant singing the Star o' Robbie Burns.

Alick has been a stalwart of the Burns Club for many years and this year decided that he would relinquish the post of Secretary which he had held for several years.

Some time ago the Burns Club decided to trim down the supper to a Nicht o' Burns and as such the Immortal Memory is the only speech. We do however have songs and recitations and this year Mary Hogg provided high standard renditions of two of Burns' shorter works with her husband Jim providing the lyrical contribution to an equally high standard,

The formal section of the evening now over the company settled down to the less formal part with songs and recitations being provided by those attending. Some Burns songs, Scots songs, Bothy Ballads and poems; Bob Coutts and Jim Hogg providing the musical accompaniment all contributed to a very enjoyable evening.

The Burns Club wish to thank all those attending and hope you will all come back again and bring your friends. The Annual General Meeting is to be held early in October and will be publicised so if you fee you would like to join us please come along.

The Computer Swallowed Grandma!

The computer swallowed
Grandma,
Yes, honestly it's true!
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.



It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Mr. Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found online.

So, if inside your 'Inbox',
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy' 'Scan' and 'Paste' her,
And send her back to me.

Anon

TOMINTOUL
Parent, Baby and
Toddler Group

Every Monday (term
time)
9.15am - 11.15am
at
Richmond Memorial Hall

★PLAY ★
★SNACK
MUSIC & DANCE
★CRAFTS

And much more

£1.50

Parents dropping off at morning welcome for coffee, chat and
help keep this group going!

For more information contact: Aileen 01807 980343
Please note: Children must be under parents
supervision and care at all times.



The Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust



The directors have spent the last 6 months working with a number of agencies to progress key projects for the trust and also to recruit the Local Development Officer.

Lindsay Robertson has been appointed as the Local Development Officer and started in post on the 26th November 2012. Lindsay is based at the Glenlivet Estate Office in Tomintoul so please do contact her or speak to any of the directors if you wish to discuss any ideas or issues.

Broadband

Having been successful in our bid to be chosen as a pioneer community, broadband will obviously be a key focus for the trust over the next couple of months. It is a project that will benefit everyone who lives and works in the community and also those visiting the area.

A survey has been sent to every property within the AB37 9 postcode area either by mail or email. We still require additional responses to the survey so please do take the time to respond at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TGDTBroadband>

dumpling cheese biscuits cakes oatcakes

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Larder**

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Self catering "welcome" packs supplied & delivered

pickles chutney tea smoked meat

and fish pâtés olives charcuterie pizza pies puddings

honey oil black pudding haggis garlic jams marmalade

or return the hard copy that was posted to you.

The project will only go ahead if there is sufficient demand and this will be on a phased approach so the areas with the highest commitment are likely to benefit first.

Tomintoul Youth Hostel

We are working with the Scottish Youth Hostel Association to investigate the future options for the hostel to be operated as a community hostel, affiliated to the SYHA.

The key focus of this project is to ensure the hostel can remain open for a longer period in the main tourist season, potentially creating additional jobs locally and increasing the visitor spend in the area. The remainder of the season will focus on group bookings to ensure the facility is used to best effect.

Gateway Landscaping Project

The Trust is working in partnership with the Crown Estate and the CNPA on a landscaping project at the Lecht road end lay-by and the Tomnavoulin lay-by. The focus is on improving the visual appearance of the entrance gateways and also to encourage visitors to stay in the area longer. These are the initial sites and further sites will be developed in due course.

The design proposals will be available for the community to view towards the end of February, after which the final design will be developed further and implemented in the late Spring/early Summer.

Gordon Hotel & Secondary School

The Trust are committed to the Community's desire to regenerate these buildings. We have secured funding to undertake a feasibility study on the Gordon Hotel, this will include a phase of community consultation. A variety of options will be explored further in terms of both demand and commercial viability.

Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust.

Tel: 01807 580358

Email: emailtgd@gmail.com

Moray Council Cuts to Services

Bus Services to and from Tomintoul to Keith (Tuesday) and to Elgin (Thursday)

“I, as signed below, would like to express my deep felt opposition to the proposed withdrawal of the above services. This step will cause geographic isolation for a significant number of residents in Moray and is looked on by The Moray Council as an acceptable result of living in a remote and rural part of the country.

This is not partial removal of a facility; it is proposed that there will be no bus service at all.”

This is the text appearing at the top of a signing sheet. After two weeks of display in Tomintoul Post Office, 260 signatures were collected. Only one name was duplicated and all signees were from the AB37 Postcode. Many thanks to Barbara Abdy and her staff for their help.

This is a tremendous effort on behalf of Toulers.

In addition, a similar sheet has been displayed in a further 5 post offices in the affected area and has been taken on the buses on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Many thanks to Val Ireland and her helpers “down the road”.

When all sheets are in and names checked and counted, they will be sent in to each of our Councillors, the Convenor and the Press.

The shame of this entire episode is that not one elected representative has publicly suggested an alternative or a suggestion of how this could have been avoided. However there has been much gnashing of teeth with regret and explanations that this could not be avoided.

While all political parties and groups seem to be able to find ways of blaming predecessors and opponents for lack of planning, no one seems to be thinking to the future or about a group of people who are going to be isolated in the future. In fact, no one in authority seems to have been looking at existing services, analysing needs and even pretending to look for alternatives. There are many tourism-based initiatives in preparation for the area at the moment. Many thoughts seem to be about including visitors in our lives, but no thought seems to be being given to people who live here.

It is very difficult to know how to mobilise opinion on this subject. If we wanted to picket the Council Offices, **WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET THERE, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRANSPORT.**

WHAT COST INCLUSIVITY, DEMOCRACY AND DIVERSITY FOR EVERYONE?



Chris Townsend, Writer, Long Distance Walker, Joins the Walking Festival

Arrangements for the fifth Walking Festival from August 29th to September 2nd are progressing well. Three days of mountain biking have been added to the programme with Tomintoul’s Sean Marshall as the cycle leader. Sean hopes to use the new cycle trails as part of the cycling routes.

Chris Townsend, TGO Magazine contributor, the writer of fifteen books, including “The Backpacker’s Guide”, will be guiding at our event. Chris was the first person to complete the Munros and Tops in one round; he has also walked the complete Canadian Pacific Trail and many other long distance walks. Chris will lead our high mountain walks over the festival week-end.

We have an excellent range of walks from low level rambles to the challenge of the highest mountains. For more information please visit our website, www.tgwf.co.uk, telephone 01807 580262 or email info@tgwf.co.uk. We are forming a special link with the Youth Hostel to provide accommodation during the festival, our hostel will have reopened, operated by the local community and will offer exceptional service.

Mike Fletcher.



The Toulter Questionnaire

Sean Marshall

1. Which world or national event has left the greatest impression on you?

The sinking of The Titanic. Although I wasn't around at the time much myth and legend surrounds this event. One of my favourites is the belief that the following day's headlines in the Press and Journal read; "North East man lost at sea."



2. Name three dinner guests you would like to have, from any period of time.

Colonel Gadaffi, Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler. There would be vibrant if somewhat controversial discussion. Possible issues with dietary requirements.

3. What is your favourite TV programme and film?

T.V. programme; Simpsons.
Film; Bridge on the River Kwai (I've always wanted to blow up a bridge).

4. Your favourite drink?

I find a nice cup of tea hard to beat these days; however, I have been known to splash out on a bottle of Buckfast Tonic wine for special occasions.

5. Favourite music?

Anything spiritually uplifting really. I especially like Kate Bush.

6. Favourite food/meal?

That really depends on the moment. I once ate oysters in the pouring rain in a small boat on Loch Ailort because I was really hungry and had no other food, they were awful. The next day in front of a fire, with a pint of Guinness they were the best thing I'd ever tasted!

7. Favourite town or city?

I don't really do cities, but the "human zoo" that is Amsterdam has its interests.....

8. Locally favourite place/s?

On top of The Bochel, near Tomnavoulin. A place I am often to be found particularly when there is a light Northerly breeze with sunshine and broken cloud.

9. Your pets?

Three Springer spaniels. Hislop, Murren and Millie, we also have a cat called "Banger".


10. Most embarrassing moment?

There's so many to pick from. Many years ago I worked on a nearby estate with strong


Royal connections. I was driving a tractor "enthusiastically" down a twisty forest road when I came round a corner to be met with three pedestrians walking side by side up the middle of the road as if they owned the place, (well actually, they did own the place). It was their evasive action that saved me from spending the rest of my days in The Tower of London. That was a bit of a "socially awkward moment".

11. Favourite holiday place?

The lesser visited North West corner of Lanzarote, Famorra Beach with its huge cliffs and stunning scenery is a world class paragliding site.



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Pick up from school, college or work,
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email adi@speyside-driving-instructor.co.uk

12. Somewhere you would love to visit?

The Moon. Lacking in atmosphere I'm told, but if it really is made of cheese then who cares?

13. Desert island, name three things you would take?

On the off chance I didn't like it; a speed boat, helicopter and plenty fuel (in case I changed my mind and wanted to go back).

14. The last book you read and your favourite book?

Last book I read was "Under the Ivy" Kate Bush biography.

Favourite book; "A gift of wings" By Richard Bach. A collection of short stories relating to flight by the same man who wrote "Jonathon Livingston Seagull". This book helped me face some difficult decisions following a paragliding accident.

15. Your hobby?

If that isn't already obvious; paragliding, it is the best thing I've ever done with my life. I love the sense of freedom while sitting at cloud base looking down on the world below, supported only by rising air, fabric and string.

Unfortunately, a very weather dependant sport so I've got plenty other hobbies too!

16. If you could have lived in another time, when would it be and why?

Last week wasn't too bad. I have often quite fancied being a caveman, inventing fire, the wheel and then of course the fire engine would have been such a steep learning curve!

17. When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

This one's easy. I remember It caused my grandparents much concern at the time but I was most determined I was going to be a polar bear. At the time of writing this it still doesn't seem to be such a bad idea. Global warming might be an issue though.

18. What are your pet hates?

Might need some extra paper for this one.....Know what I mean? Going to the toilet to find you've forgotten to replace the toilet roll.

19. What do you hate spending money on?

Toilet roll

20. Happiness is.....

Flying my paraglider in smooth evening air when it just keeps going up and up.....

HIRE THE HEIGHT

This truck-mount with a 20 metre working height and 9 metre outreach, is ideal for jobs requiring an access platform. It is capable of being driven quickly onto site and away from busy working environments.

Mini digger with operator also for hire!



This machine comes with a trained operator who works well with all trades and is NPTC trained in the use of chain saws.

I also hold LGV and PCV licence and may be available for local work.

I also hold NPORS for 180 and 360 excavators.

Examples of work undertaken with this machine:
 Signage installations - Street lighting - Telecommunications
 Roof Maintenance Servicing & repair replacement of rain water goods
 Chimney flue and cowl installation, servicing and replacement
 Pointing and masonry work - Facia & soffits replacement
 Tree surgery - CCTV installation and service
 Surveying work on buildings and events - Security and filming
the list goes on!

Derek Gall, Riverstone Cottage, Aberlour AB38 7QP

Email: derekgall60@hotmail.co.uk
 Mobile: 07799484356 Home: 01340 810264

Thank you.

I would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to everyone that contributed to my retirement gifts when I left the Surgery at the end of December, from both the Surgery staff and the Community.

I received a very nice watch and garden vouchers. It was extremely kind of everyone and quite unexpected.

I've lost track of how many years I worked in the Surgery and in Community nursing off and on both here and in Speyside. I enjoyed it and met a lot of people I probably wouldn't have met otherwise.

Best wishes to everyone.

Jenny Herschell

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank you for producing such a good magazine. We are enjoying the Toulter more and more. It is good to have regular repeat contributions. The Crabbit Aul' Wifie is a favourite. We like to read about "Hidden Talent" and all the happenings in our local area. Dr McSpurtle makes us laugh, it's like reading a farce. We realise that so much work goes into the Toulter and it is a credit to all who contribute to its production.

Anon.

Dear Editor,

I write regarding the dog mess in the Playing field at the top of the village. I regularly walk in there with my dog, but it is increasingly hard to walk far without avoiding dog mess. As a responsible dog owner, I carry dog bags in my pocket, and clear up after my dog, whether in the immediate environs of the village or beyond. This field is a multi-purpose field, used for The Highland Games, and available for camping, and for children to play if they wish to.

It is a sad state if people think this field is purely for exercising their dog, and allowing it's excrement to be left for others to tread in!

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG.....be responsible. Dog bags are free to collect from The Post Office.....use them!

Name Supplied

Dear Sir/Madam,

You may be aware that there has been an increasing amount of domestic oil theft from our area and surrounding areas. This has begun to become a serious problem. Already I know of 4 of my friends have had hundreds of pounds of oil stolen, and that's just within a few miles.

One person had their tank emptied and did not want to replace it, as sure enough the thieves came back for more at the start of winter. He sits in a cold house with just the fire. Another had to get a relative to buy in more oil as she couldn't afford it. Another has had between £500 and £800 of oil stolen. Each time it has been reported to the police and they just say there is nothing they can do. Each friend of mine was not aware of the other having had oil stolen. I am asking if we could start an awareness campaign with the help of the police. I listened to a radio programme recently about water theft in then drought ridden areas of Suffolk. When an awareness campaign was started, and everyone was on the lookout, the crime stoppe presumably as the thieves were worried they would get caught. I don't understand why the police are not warning everyone. Perhaps we could get them along at the next communtiy council meetings. Please could you pass this to Tomintoul community council as I don't have an email for them. Also to other local councils.

*Many thanks ,
Sue Kenneth*



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These can be obtained by telephoning **01807 580381**

Touler Book Review

The Living Mountain by Nan Shepherd

"The Living Mountain" is a very personal account of one woman's relationship with the Cairngorm Mountains, its people and wildlife.

The author, Nan Shepherd, was born in 1893 and although she travelled extensively lived all her adult life in West Cults on North Deeside and was an avid local hill walker.

Her passion and enthusiasm for the mountains and her appreciation of the natural world is conveyed in this intimate diary of her relationship with the Cairngorms, not quite cradle to grave but from bare foot youngster to mature and experienced navigator.

Her prose was composed during World War II with no immediate expectation of publication and it remained dormant for thirty years, only being rediscovered by the author as she was clearing out her desk in later life. Fortunately her meditations found a publisher.

It has been expertly prefaced by Robert Macfarlane who has local connections. He records;

"My grandparents lived in a converted forestry cottage on a rare limestone upsurge on the north eastern slope of the massif and the field of the rough pasture which they owned ran down to the River Avon".

His grandparents were the Pecks who lived above Kynadrochit.

Nan Shepherd walked in the mountains, not to bag summits, but as she describes it *"as one visits a friend"*. Sometimes bare foot she stops to drink the freezing water filtered through granite and on a summer day swims in the lochs. Hers is an unhurried observation. She stops to listen to stags baying, she grubs in the earth and appreciates the smell of the natural world; the honeyed heather, the wet birch *"fruity like brandy"*, the broken twig of juniper and *"the good smell of earth, one of the best smells in the world."* But it is the people, deep rooted in the landscape for generations that have characters as endearing and as challenging as the mountain who are also a significant feature in her writing. She describes them as *"gritty, tough,--- intelligent, full of prejudice---and a salted sense of humour."* She clearly loved and admired them.

She introduces the reader to the two women, both over eighty, who drag home dead roots to use as kindling building the splinters into a pyramid *"with their brown hand"*. The Rothiemurchus "mighty" gamekeeper and his wife Big Mary, *"there was no malice in her. But she was salt and salt can be harsh"*. The author describes arriving in Aviemore on the day of her funeral and noting thankfully that someone had *made a wreath for her "from heather and rowan berries, oats and barley and juniper"*. It was a poignant link between man and nature.

This book takes the reader high on to the plateau and into the kitchens of the likes of Big Mary. There is no doubt of her admiration for the people who are *"the bone of the mountain"* but her real passion was the mountain and the effect it had upon her.

This is a slim volume but has been described as *"The finest book ever written on nature and landscape in Britain."*
Ann Sharp

Clippings from the Library



In the last issue of the Touler I introduced the library's new eBook service, available at:

<http://moray.libraryebooks.co.uk>, and have since received a lot of good feedback relating to the choice, availability and

convenience of the service. It certainly seems to be benefiting readers who can't rely on getting to the library during opening hours and those for whom, however many physical books we can stock, the choice can never be enough!

I am pleased therefore to let you know that free downloadable audiobooks are now available for loan through the library. As well as being great for those who struggle to access printed materials audiobooks, or spoken word recordings, are great for listening to in the car, on an MP3 player while you are out for a walk or just around the house – one borrower tells me they are a great distraction while doing the ironing!

To access the service go to

<http://moray.oneclickdigital.eu>

and create an account by entering MC followed by your borrower number. If you are not a member of the library or have lost your borrower number (the long number printed on the back of your library card underneath the barcode) please contact the library on 01807 580 755.

The website is easy to use and contains a vast range of material, from sagas to crime to classic fiction and content is searchable and can be classified by genre, running time or target group – with titles for children and young adults also available. Each item is catalogued with a cover, a short synopsis and a reader rating which can really help in making your choice. The website also features a comprehensive help and frequently asked question page and, as always, if you have any problems you can contact staff at any Moray library for help.

Of course for technophobes and those who prefer a 'real' book don't forget you can still visit the library in Tomintoul five days a week and choose from our expansive stock, which also includes audio books on CD and audiocassette.





News from Tomintoul Primary School



This term our Enterprise Club has been focusing on jobs the children are interested in and jobs in our community. This culminated in a jobs fair with local experts coming into school to provide workshops for the children. Thank you to Kim (hairdresser), Mike (photographer), Jane (vet), Rosie (stables), Kelly (graphic designer), Elaine (actor) and Michele and Keith (paramedics) - each and every one of you provided inspiring talks and activities for the boys and girls and we all really enjoyed the event.

The Enterprise theme of The World of Work was also evident in the Nursery where the children identified their career ambitions and then explored them through role play in the Nursery. Over a number of weeks they set up a shop, a hair dressing salon, a dressmakers and, after visiting the local surgery, a doctor's surgery. We would like to thank all the professionals in our local community who encouraged the children. In particular we are grateful to Mrs Cook who brought her dressmaking skills into Nursery. Towards the end of their topic the Nursery children held a tremendous fashion show where they modelled outfits they had designed and made. (Please see the Nursery report for more details)

Primary 4-7 have been studying life cycles this term and as part of this they have worked with the Spey Fisheries Board to discover more about the Spey and the life it supports. A highlight for the class was to be able to look after salmon eggs, raise them until they became alvin and then release them into the River Avon at Fordmouth.

The P1-4 class enjoyed a very successful visit to the Satosphere Science Exhibition in Aberdeen. Despite a long and slightly snowy journey the children enjoyed learning more about their 5 senses. The trip confirmed some of the things they had already learned and introduced them to new concepts in a very hands on and experiential way.

Our parent Council held the annual Bunny Drive and it was extremely well attended with everyone having a very sociable time. The winners were Lesley and Kirsty Simmons.

Like everyone in the area we have been contending with the wintry weather but, unlike most members of the community, Tomintoul School children have been having a (snow)ball

in the snow. They have thoroughly enjoyed making a variety of snow sculptures, sliding, sledging and, yes, even snowballing! Indeed the snow has provided excellent exercise and almost all of their activities have been carried out in very good humour. However, with what is allegedly the summer term approaching, we hope all the snow disappears and leaves us free to take part in all the outdoor active education we have planned. A major feature of this will be each of the Primary classes taking part in 'Forest Schools' and P4-7 being part of a media project sponsored by the Cairngorm National Park. The theme of this work will be to improve the children's media skills through the context of Natural Landscapes and the Cairngorm National Park.

Our next Rag Bag collection will be on Monday 27th
Thank you for your continued support of our school.

*Nancy Fraser,
Head Teacher*

Tomintoul Nursery

This term we have been finding out about the world of work and when Amber decided she wanted to be a dress maker we thought it would be great to make some good costumes!

First we decided where we wanted to go and in which season i.e. the beach in winter or a wedding in summer. Then a friend designed a perfect outfit for us. Mrs Cooke and Dawn worked really hard to help us find the right kind of material and decorations to stick or sew onto our fashions.

We looked on Youtube and watched models - they don't smile and walk like horses! We also found out that catwalks are for people and not for cats! Ian the janitor helped us build our own catwalk and we asked our family to come to our Fashion Show.

Kim & Zara did our beautiful hairstyles and Kelly came and did a photo shoot with us (She thought we were very professional!).

We all took turns to walk on the catwalk and show off our great fashions, the Mums and Dads clapped a lot and enjoy the show. We got lots of good comments like "Wow! What talents we have," and "Fantastic costumes, models were amazing."

We had a good time and loved looking at the video of ourselves the next day - we were beautiful and handsome and had tried our best. We are very proud of ourselves.

The boys and girls at Tomintoul Nursery



Speyside High School

T: 01340 871522

CONGRATULATIONS

Matthew Anderson, (S4) has been accepted to the National Youth Orchestra. This is a great achievement considering the competition.

ASSOCIATED BOARD OF ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC EXAMS

Violin Grade 1 Pass:	Leah Metcalfe and Emma Foster
Violin Grade 1 Merit:	Pia-Reis Sargeant
Violin Grade 2 Merit:	Mia Ingram
Violin Grade 3 Distinction:	Zoey Gordon
Violin Grade 3 Merit:	Molly Melville
Piano Grade 6 Merit:	Sally Easton

MODERN APPRENTICESHIP – EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONERS

(Aberlour Early Years Service) Initially working 25 hours with the potential to develop to 37.5 hours as the service continues to grow. Modern apprenticeships give anyone over the age of 16 the opportunity to work in a paid job while undertaking workplace training, to gain new and enhanced skills and recognised qualifications. Paid at National Minimum Wage relevant for their age: Under 18, £3.68 per hr, 18–19, £4.98 per hr. Fixed term 2 year apprenticeship. Applications to be returned by noon on Mon 25 Feb. For information pack and application form go to www.aberlour.org.uk.

GLENLIVET NIGHTS

As Spring approaches; Glenlivet Music Nights start up again and are held in the Glenlivet Hall on the first Friday of the month until November. Young musicians are invited to perform at these musical gatherings. If you are interested in performing, please could you let Mrs Main or Mr Mckay know that you would like to perform.

REPORT AVAILABLE

The Education and Social Care - Public Performance Report 2010/11 is now available on the internet. This report contains education statistics which the department is required to publish including:

- Numbers of pupils/teachers and average class size;
- SQA examination results;
- Staying on rates;
- Leaver destinations;
- Attendance rates;

Budgeted running costs;
School meals.

The report can be accessed at -

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file84814.pdf>

PLEASE SUPPORT SPEYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

When doing your shopping online, please support Speyside High School, by doing it via the Easy Fundraising website. It doesn't cost you anything – just shop online using our partner retailers including: Amazon, John Lewis, M&S and over 2000 others. When you make purchases, they will donate money to the Speyside High School 'School Fund'.

ACCLAIMED SOPRANO

The acclaimed Russian Opera singer Oxana Lesnitchaya gave a concert in the auditorium. Our Ceilidh band performed and Caitlin Grant gave a solo performance on the fiddle. Isla van der Heiden and Lauren Thomson sang, Helen Taylor accompanied and Aileen Campbell and Zoey Gordon performed a duet on guitar and fiddle.

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

The strength in depth of musical talent at Speyside high School was on display at the Young Musician of the Year competition. The Rotary Club of Speyside kindly sponsored the event and a judging panel of the Reverend Shuna Dicks, Ashley Brown and Mr Bob Garrity were left with some difficult decisions to make after listening to the fifteen competition pieces. The winner of the Junior Section was Fleur Jackson while Dominic Calzetti was the Senior Section. The overall winner and Speyside High School Young Musician of the Year 2013 is Dominic Calzetti.

VISIT TO COUNCIL HQ

A small group of 5 pupils representing a social enterprise group at Speyside High visited the Moray Council Offices on 5th March. They were invited by Ann Davidson, from Moray Fair Trade Forum; to speak to members of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee about the work they do selling fair-trade goods. Cara Dent, Molly Melville, Jodie Smith, Fleur Jackson and Ben Angus were accompanied by their teacher Catherine Irving and they welcomed the opportunity to talk to the councillors, display their fair-trade products and show pictures of their achievements as part of Fairtrade Fortnight.

A Dirty Beggar



There are some people living in the village who may be aware that there have been a few very successful musicians that have gone from Tomintoul to make their mark in the music world. Two of the

latter ones were Jim Hastings, one of the best session saxophonists in Britain and his brother Pye, a member of Caravan. However, there is another fiddle player who is making his mark on the Folk Scene in Glasgow and elsewhere.

Pedro (Peter) Cameron is a member of The Dirty Beggars, a band which plays mainly Blue Grass Music but in their own style which is influenced by Scottish Folk Music.

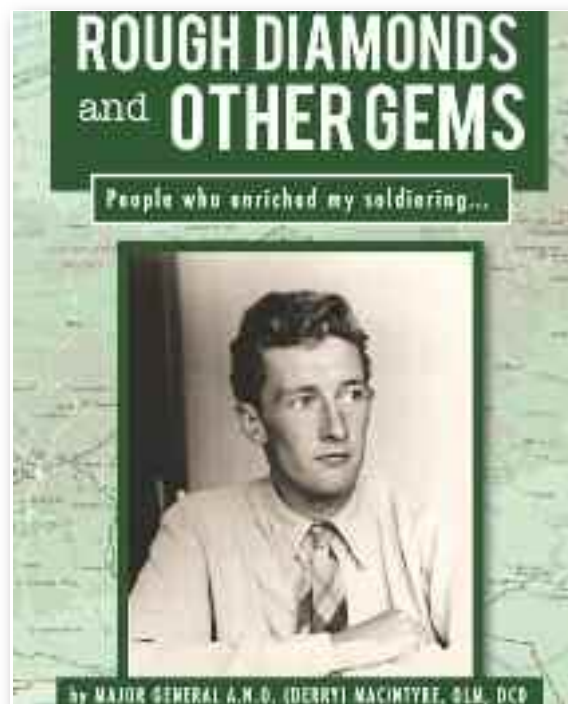
It all come about because his parents had tickets for an Old Crow Medicine Show gig in Glasgow but their car got broken into by having a window smashed. They had the dog with them so went home and Peter went to the show where he met up with the other boys that now form the band and the rest, as they say, is history.

Peter has always been very interested in music and from a young age used to sing along with his family, especially his Grandma, as she played the piano. When his parents moved from Tomintoul down to Perthshire he continued his love of music and was, for a short time, part of the Scottish Junior Orchestra. The family again moved to Fife where he attended Wade Academy in Anstruther where he continued to keep up his music and was described as being a gifted fiddle player. After leaving school he drifted a little before settling in Glasgow where he now stays.

The Dirty Beggars are a group incorporating a double bass, two acoustic guitars, banjo and fiddle. The members are brothers Peter and Finn Begbie and their cousin Kieran Begbie who all come from Peebles; Stuart Printie from Dunblane and Peter. They play bluegrass style music heavily influenced by their country of origin. They have played many venues in the south of Scotland and been on tour in America where they went down very well. They have been involved in Celtic Connections in 2012 and 2013 and are soon to be on the same billing as Van Morrison.

The Dirty Beggars play music that is easy to listen to and is innovative. Why not listen to them on Youtube? If you like what you hear you can download tracks. That is a bit beyond me; I like CDs or discs.

Hopefully they will continue to go from strength to strength and stay together as a group for years to come. The boy done good!!!



From the bitterly cold Scottish cadet camps, this Highland son from Tomintoul could not possibly have imagined that he would one day become Chief of Staff of a rebel army in Africa.

His intelligence, drive and ambition however always determined that he would excel in his chosen career. Major General Derry MacIntyre's distinguished 30 year military career included service in the British Parachute Battalion, 2 KAR, the two Rhodesian and Zimbabwean Armies.

His keen observations, wry humour and ear for accents made him a master raconteur, and these stories recall and honour some of the characters with whom he served.

**Did I read that
sign correctly?**

In an office:

**WOULD THE PERSON WHO
TOOK THE STEP LADDER
YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING
IT BACK OR FURTHER
STEPS WILL BE TAKEN**

Youth Provision Meeting

First of all let me thank the people who came to the above meeting, the turn out was a bit disappointing but we managed to cover a lot.

The poor turn out told us that there was no support for a youth club to continue in Tomintoul in its present form. The equipment will be kept for any person who wishes to restart the youth club in the future. It was agreed that the big items will be on loan to the Youth Hostel in Tomintoul for the use of the guests, but will always belong to the youth club. The smaller boxes will be stored in the area, Mike Fletcher is to ask the Crown Estate for space. This will free up space much needed for the hall.

There was a good discussion on providing a Youth Drop-In that Craig Asher would like take forward with help from the group. This will provide a safe, warm place for young people to go, to have a cup of tea or coffee and chat with friends. They could get help with homework, information on form filling, and anything else the young people wish help with. We would also hope to provide internet access. We have the support of the Regeneration Committee and outside agencies will provide their help also. This is an exciting new project run by young people for young people, and we hope you can give it your support in the run up to the start date (we hope) of September 2013.

It was agreed that the money in the youth club account will help towards the funding of this new project.

If you wish to find out more, wish to help or support any of the above please contact me, Raymond Asher raymond.asher@sky.com



TOMINTOUL
SPEYSIDE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

the gentle dram

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Christmas Party Fun

The Tomintoul and Glenlivet Pensioners enjoyed yet another Christmas party in the Richmond Memorial Hall on 20th December 2012. Dru and Irene from the Clockhouse provided an excellent meal and Derek and



Lorraine McBain once again highly entertained us with their variety of music, dance and games. I thank everyone who attended for helping make it such a successful evening.

The Committee is undertaking a sponsored walk from Braeval Distillery to The Glenlivet Distillery on Sunday 9th June 2013. We will, therefore, be looking for sponsors to raise funds for this year's Christmas party. I will let you know how much we raise after the event.

Caroline Mitchell
Chairperson

Frank S. McLean & Son



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Mike's Music Maestro.

A bit of nostalgia from Children's Favourites. Identify the title of the song for one point and the artist performing for another point. Clues are provided.

*This edition score:
13-16 you are a music maestro,
10-12 you have a good knowledge,
7-9 not bad/average,
4-6 a bit of a struggle,
1-5 do you listen to music?*

1. "Now here's a little story, to tell it is a must, about an unsung hero that moves away the dust.....he wears cor blimey trousers and he lives in a Council flat.....next time you see a ----- looking pale and sad, don't kick him in the dustbin, it might be my old dad".
Clues- Comedy song about a well known job by a famous skiffle player.

2. "Who put salt in the sugar bowl, who put fireworks in the coal, who put a real life toad in the hole? -----
-----".
Clues - Sibling rivalry by comedy actor, famous for ---- and June.

3. "I've just come down from the Isle of Skye.....let the wind blow high, let the wind blow low. Through the streets in my kilt I go. All the lassies say hello-----
-----".
Clues -Missing clothing? By Scots crooner.

4. "In the bad dark days of Australia, many years ago.....I waved the thing all over the place, I practised til' I was black in the face, I'm a big disgrace to the aborigine race, -----".
Clues - Weapon will not return, although it should. By slapstick comedy entertainer with a piercing voice.

5. "I am a little bird my name is Tweetie pie...there's a cat that's after me and won't leave me alone. CAT- I'd like to eat that Tweetie pie when he leaves his cage, every time I nearly catch him, this is what I hear -----
-----". A creeping up on me"
Clues -Little bird avoids cat. By American voice expert.

6. "-----, you may come home in the yard. Mother's just planted petunias, the weeding and seeding was hard. If you must end it all, dad why don't you give us a break. Just take a walk to

the park, dad, There you can jump in the lake."
Clues- Suicide by a parent?
Well known comic/magician.

7. "I'm still rolling along, them Cherokees are after me. I'm singing a "higgity, haggaty hoggity, high, them pioneers will never say die. A mile up the road there's a hidden cave and I can watch them Cherokees go galloping by."
Clues - In trouble losing wheels.
By The N—C----- strolling players [three words].

8. "Don't dig here dig it down there, you're digging it round and it ought to be square. There was I digging this ---, --- --- -----, kind of big and kind of round."
Clues- Roadworkers having problems. By comic/storyteller.

(answers on page30)

The Touler Quick Quiz.

Who rode the following horses?

1. Copenhagen, 1808-1836.
2. Bucephalus, 355-326 BC.
3. Devon Loch, 1946-1963.
4. Trigger, 1932-1965.
5. Burmese, 1962-1990.

answers on page 28

Name the Mystery Celebrity

1. She was born in 1943
2. Born in Liverpool.
3. Cloakroom attendant at Liverpool's Cavern Club.
4. Helped by the Beatles.
5. Had 11 top ten hits between 1964 and 1971.
6. TV presenter 1980's and 1990's.
7. Has 3 sons.
8. Best selling female artist in the 1960's.
9. Catch phrase, "lorra lorra laughs".
10. Two very successful TV shows, one helping people to find a partner.

answer on page 28

Can any reader help?



Can any reader shed any light on what this stone commemorates? It's on a track leading to the Lyne and Altnaha from the Silver Bridge on A'side.

Someone did suggest it may mark the height of the river after the Muckle Spate of 1829. There is no writing on it, nor any marks that I can see.

If you know its history please contact The Touler in the usual way.

Room 101

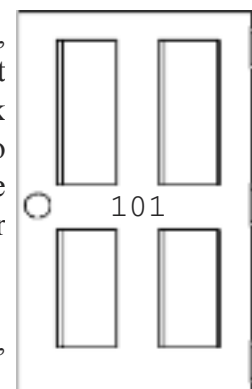
Thinking of things I'd like to put into Room 101 was quite easy really. Narrowing it down to 3 was the difficulty. But here goes.

1. As I walk round our lovely village, I am appalled by the number of cans, wrappers and plastic or glass drink bottles I see in the grass verges, and along our pavements. In the way of things, we may not have as many of these eyesores, as the big towns and cities, but for a small community there are way too many. Why is it that people cannot keep hold of their rubbish until they get to a bin, and pop it in? It's not rocket science!

Instead.....we have to have a Village Clean Up every year because folk can't be bothered to clean up after themselves. Shame on them! They can be put into Room 101 for definite. (Along with the folk who leave their dog poo in other people's gardens and on the pavements.)

2. Have you ever driven along the road towards Grantown or Glenlivet, and been scared to death by a 'thundering great wood lorry' careering towards you, not slowing down, and nearly knocking you off the road? Every one of those drivers and their lorries can be put into Room 101!

3. Saying please and thank you cost nothing, and count for so much when asking for / about things. How many times do you hear people ask for things in a shop, or are served and there are no please or thank you used. It just makes life more pleasant to be polite. Straight into Room 101 for all those folk!



I could have added 'jargon'. Latest ones are....hub, gateway, physicality, etc. But I won't. Lol!

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TOMINTOUL, GLENLIVET & INVERAVON CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CHARITY NUMBER SCOO1802

Sunday Worship:

Inveravon - 9.30.am Tomintoul-11.15 am.

All welcome.

Property

The Property Committee is now gathering in tenders from various contractors for the work needed at Tomintoul Church. The work is expected to commence very soon.

The Vacancy

There has been a slow start in finding a new Minister. The post is advertised on The Church of Scotland website and in The Ministers' Forum, which is a publication distributed to all Ministers. We are disappointed that there has not been a huge response to our adverts but we continue to be hopeful that we will have better news soon.

However, we have been fortunate to obtain the services of a locum Minister. She officially joined us on March 8th.

Her name is Pamela Gordon and she has been working in the Presbytery of Lochaber recently. We are very happy to welcome Pamela to the area and hope she enjoys her time with us. We are pleased to have leadership in the Church, something which we feel has been missing, since Sven retired.

We would, however, like to thank all the retired Ministers, Readers and members of the Congregation, who have given us wonderful continuity for worship. Pamela is living in the Manse in Tomintoul and it is nice to see it occupied again.

Fund Raising

We hope to start the Good as New Sales very soon, no dates yet but hopefully before Easter.

World Day of Prayer

We had a very nice afternoon with our friends at St Michaels Roman Catholic Church, where we met in fellowship, to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. Ten people, from both churches, took part in the Service. We were all, then, entertained to a very enjoyable afternoon tea. Our thanks go to Jean and her helpers and to Father Colin for their warm welcome.

Organ players

We are still looking for anyone who might be

interested in joining a rota of players of this wonderful instrument. We are happy to let anyone have the opportunity to play the organ at any time. This can be arranged by contacting any of the Church Officers.

Interim Moderator

Our Interim Moderator during the vacancy is Mr. Bill Steele. If you feel the need to contact Bill, his number can be obtained from Alec Grant on 580268. Bill will continue as Interim Moderator for as long as the vacancy persists.

Meantime, if anyone requires the services of a Minister and cannot contact Pamela, feel free to contact either of the following:-

Alec Grant, Session Clerk on 01807 580268

Margo Stuart, Treasurer on 01807 580239

The telephone number at the Manse is 580254 and you can contact Pamela on that number.

We continue to have regular Sunday worship at the times stated above, to which, all are welcome.

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Glenlivet Estate Mountain Bike Project Cairn Daimh Revised hub location details

The Crown Estate is currently in the process of reconsidering the location of the proposed car park and forest 'hub' which was originally given planning approval as part of this project. This is as a result of several factors which have emerged during the trail construction phase, including advice received from the consultants involved in the project.

We are keen to ensure that the hub is situated in a location which provides the best possible experience for customers as well as opportunities for the successful development of a 'hub' business.

The proposed new location will better fit the character of the trails due to some amendments to its original design and will offer an elevated location for bikers to begin their journeys from.

We feel that the revised location will provide better customer satisfaction and assist with attracting more visitors to the trails, providing further economic benefit to the local area in terms of increased visitor numbers.

The proposed new site is located in a secluded location within a former quarry on the East side of Carn Meilich (please see attached map). Access to the hub will follow the same route southwards along the Croughly Road from Tomaclaggan as approved in the initial application, although visitors will enter the forest track prior to the junction to Glenconglass.

The Crown Estate would welcome feedback from members of the local community regarding the proposed amendment to the location of the forest hub. Detailed draft plans of the proposals are available on the Glenlivet

Estate website www.glenlivetestate.co.uk or at the Estate office and Information Centre in Tomintoul.

Please submit any written comments by email to info@glenlivetestate.co.uk or by letter to The Crown Estate Office, Main Street Tomintoul AB37 9EX. Alternatively please phone contact Cathy Hooper by Telephone on 01479 870070 during office hours.



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Dr. John Herbert 1936-2013

Dr. John 'Phil' Herbert's was born in Wales on June 26th, 1936. He moved to Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, where he excelled in secondary education and sport, playing semi-professionally for St. Alban's City F.C.

Dr. Herbert went on to study medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, London, and graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degree. He became registered with The Royal College of General Practitioners in 1976.

His love of children and babies was to be a hallmark of his career – from the jar of sweets on his desk to the motivation to pursue a degree in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Dr Herbert carried out the early part of his career in the Army, working for many years in Germany, Cyprus and Yemen. He gained a certificate in the medicine of aviation and retired from the Army with the rank of major.

During his years in the forces, he developed a 'firm but fair' professional demeanour for which he is still fondly remembered by former patients.

He was very traditional and straightforward and if he had bad news to deliver, he did it in person.

Dr. Herbert met his wife Carolyn in 1993 at Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, where he was a GP and

she was a matron at a nursing home. Mrs Herbert says it was love at first sight. In 1997, the couple eloped to Gretna Green, and set their sights on a new life in Scotland.

While touring the country, they stopped at the Allargue Arms Hotel near Corgarff, fell in love with the area and so handed their notices in and took a 21 year lease on a run-down cottage and rebuilt it into a family home.

Dr Herbert was latterly the associate GP at Tomintoul Medical Centre. He was an active member of the community – even up to the last few weeks of his life- and was embraced in return.

15 years ago, the first signs of Dr Herbert's dementia began to show. He made it clear at the beginning, he did not want medical treatment, and Mrs Herbert worked tirelessly to help him.

Before his death, he was part of a pioneering programme in which dementia patients receive care within their own environments. This approach is to be researched at Stirling University.

Dr Herbert passed away peacefully at home on February 11th, aged 76.

Despite the latter stages of their 25 year marriage being complicated by Dr Herbert's degenerative condition, Mrs Herbert said: "It was worth every second. He was my love, husband and best friend."

TOMINTOUL MEDICAL CENTRE 01340 820888

Consulting Hours

Mon:	9.00–10.30am 4.30–6pm & 6.00-6-15
Tues:	9.00–10.30am 2–4pm
Wed:	9.00–10.30am 2–4pm
Thur:	9.00–10.30am Surgery closed pm
Fri:	9.00–10.30am . 5-6pm

In addition to consulting hours, Reception is open between 8am and noon Mon - Fri for the ordering of repeat prescriptions, booking appointments, etc. Please allow 2 working days when ordering repeat prescriptions as not all medications are kept in stock at all times.

There is a GP on call 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

Tomintoul Highland Games

As this is the edition of the Toulter prior to Games Day I would like to advise that there are regular Games Meetings held in Tomintoul. These Meetings are advertised and if you feel that you would like to assist in any way why not come along to a meeting; or if you do not want to attend the meeting but feel that you could be of assistance please contact any member of the Games Committee and I am sure that we will be able to give you a job. Tomintoul Highland Games committee are all volunteers interested in perpetuating this event and the history and culture of our area. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th April in Richmond Arms Hotel at 8pm



*Patricia Grant
Secretary*

Helen Murray MacFarlane (Nurse)

Helen was born at Delgarvan, Blacksboat, Ballindalloch, on the banks of the Spey. She was the ninth of ten children born to William and Mary Macdonald.

Her schooling was undertaken at Inveraan School and she then went on to train as a nurse. She was at Dr. Gray's in Elgin from 1938 till 1941. From there she did some private nursing in Aberdeen before undertaking Midwifery training at Castlehill, Aberdeen 1942-1943. Her wartime nursing was at several places, Ian Charles Hospital in Grantown-on-Spey, St. Johns Hospital in Chelmsford, and Montrose Royal Infirmary.

After the war she did some home nursing at Leonchoil in Forres from 1948 – 1949.

At that time she decided to become a District Nurse and the training for this was done at Edinburgh and then Elgin. Once qualified she did Relief District Nursing in Dunkeld and Blair Atholl in Perthshire. Whilst at Blair Atholl she met Andrew MacFarlane and they married in Inveraven Church in March 1953.

Helen became District Nurse at Tomintoul in 1955, a post she held until ill health caused her to retire in 1977. During her 22 years of duty to Tomintoul, A'anside, The Braes and Glenlivet she brought many bouncing babies into the world. She attended to the nursing care of young and old in her district working closely with Doctors Paul and Carnachan initially, followed by Low and Anderson.

Together with Andy (Andy Pandy to his family), and his First Aid training gained through work on railways, Helen attended many incidents including road accidents in the area, many involving a journey to hospital in either Elgin or Aberdeen in the emergency ambulance car driven by Peter Grant of the Gordon Arms Hotel. Again with Andy's help and many volunteers she organised the Tomintoul Blood Donation Sessions for many years. Andy was very good at gathering many 'first timers' from the beaters on Estates around Tomintoul as well as local donors who have carried on the Good Work travelling many miles to give their "PINTA" since there is no longer a session in the village.

Known ALWAYS as Nurse MacFarlane, Nurse or Nursie, Helen attended her patients above and beyond her normal duties and was well

respected by the Communities she served.

Having moved from Tomintoul to Ballindalloch following her retirement, for a period of two years, she and Andy returned 'Home' to Tomintoul in 1982 where sadly Andy died later that year.

Helen was always active after her retirement, walking Jo-Jo, Church flower arranging, charity collections, family and friends to look after; always the kindly nurse. She took long walks, accompanied by Jo-Jo, up A'anside, The Speyside Way, Loch Callater and I'm sure many more than you can remember. Family was important to her, the roots of the Macdonalds' and the families of her sisters and brothers and of course grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Andy's were always welcome. Her brother Patty was for many years the tenant of Inverchor; at one point taking leave of absence from the farm to cycle round Australia, no mean feat.

In 2003 she entered the Speyside Home. Initially physically fit, she became a familiar figure walking in Aberlour but sadly she became confused and was content to let others care for her.

She was also a talented amateur artist and several houses in Tomintoul display her art works on their walls.

Helen was a dedicated caring nurse in the true sense of the word and she will be sadly missed by all her family and many friends in the community of Tomintoul and its surrounding area.

Contributed.

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The Orra Loon

Fit a time o caul wither.

A wis wintin tae dee a bit about anither tipic bit Patricia didna wint tae dee at so A thocht a wid spik about e wither.

It hisna bin guid is last month bit fir wye wid it nae be as Canlemas wis a richt guid day. Sunny and waarm. Mine e rhyme goes ‘If Canlemas Day be dark an fool half the winter be ower by Yule – If Canlemas Day be fine an fair half the winter tae come an mair.’ Weel A eye tak a lot of heed o these auld sayins. The auld fowk hind a ie new fankelt computer things tae help em ey jist hid tae rely on whit hid gone on afore.

It his bin a lang time since we hae hane sic a lang time o caul frosty wither in Merch. It is jist as weel at er is some snaw onna e grun. Hit kinna acts lik a

blanket especially in e gairdens what fowk hae bulbs an e like.

A feel kinna sorry for e wallopies, sea piots an whaups at hae cam tae nest an raise young anes. Ey cam fa ei wither wis better in February.

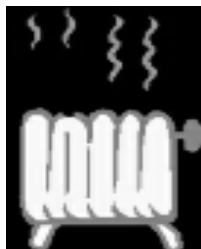


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Cilla Black

Answer

Mystery Celebrity

1. The Duke of Wellington.
2. Alexander the Great.
3. Dick Francis.
4. Roy Rogers.
5. The Queen.

Quick Quiz Answers

The Godfather

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Moray Licensing Board

LICENSING POLICY CONSULTATION

The Moray Licensing Board (the Board) is consulting on producing a new statement of policy explaining how it will exercise its functions under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 to licence the sale of alcohol in Moray.

The Licensing Board would like to ascertain your views and comments on a wide range of questions relating to licensing.

The questionnaire will take approximately 20 minutes to complete and your answers will provide valuable input into how local Licensing Policies are developed.

The questionnaire can be accessed by clicking on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LicensingPolicy> this link is available until 31st May 2013.

Moray Licensing Board will feedback the results of this consultation and how it will shape future Licensing Policy during November 2013.

The Moray Licensing Board would like to thank you for giving up your time in helping to shape the future of licensing in Moray.

MOOC

Yes, another of those awful acronyms we all hate so much! MOOC stands for Massive Open Online Course – and is exactly that; a type of online learning open to anyone, anywhere who has an interest in the subject.

I became aware of their existence when several friends mentioned a free course being run by Edinburgh University on Equine Nutrition – a subject that, in winter especially, takes up a lot of my time! So I visited the website recommended and signed up. I thoroughly enjoyed putting my grey matter to use, the course consolidated a lot of what I'd learnt in school as well as teaching lots of up to date thinking on the subject and I found it very useful. There's no formal qualification – all tests were multiple choice and “open book” - but for an adult who wishes to expand their knowledge of a subject it is really a very effective way to learn.

If you're interested have a look at www.coursera.org. Many courses are quite short, lasting only a few weeks and an enormous range of subjects is covered.



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Picture from the Past



**Tomintoul School, taken in 1973.
There are lots of familiar faces in this one!**



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1. My Old Man's a Dustman - Lonnie Donegan.
2. My Brother - Terry Scott.
3. I've Just Come Down From The Isle of Skye - Andy Stewart.
4. My Boomerang Won't Come Back - Charlie Drake.
5. I Thought I Saw A Putty Cat - Mel Blanc.
6. Don't Jump Off The Roof Dad - Tommy Cooper.
7. Three Wheels On My Wagon - The New Christie Minstrels.
8. Hole In The Ground - Bernard Cribbins.

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More from The Crown Estate



Forestry Update

The long term forest plan continues to be developed and the final draft is now in the hands of Forestry Commission Scotland for Statutory Consultation. There is a hard copy on display in the Glenlivet Office if anyone would like to view it.

Planned tree felling work is currently taking place in the Auchnarrow area, and it is hoped that this work can be combined with the required felling works adjacent to power lines in the Auchnarrow and Clashnoir areas. This work is required to prevent further trees falling across power lines and disrupting supplies. We are waiting for confirmation of timing from SSE. It is likely that traffic controls will have to be put in place to facilitate the felling of roadside trees.

Ranger Update

The mountain bike trails are nearing completion and work will be recommencing as soon as weather conditions permit. The trails

will then require a period of time to settle in before being suitable for use. Until that time the trails remain a construction site and should be treated as such. The application regarding the amendment in hub location has now been submitted and we will be circulating details regarding the application number as soon as we have further details. We are grateful for the feedback we have received in relation to this application.

Updates regarding the proposed launch date and other news regarding the mountain biking development can be followed on the facebook pages for 'Glenlivet Estate' and 'Glenlivet Mountain bike trail centre'.

A mountain biking Business Workshop is planned for April 30th (tbc) with more details to follow.

With 2013 being the Year of Natural Scotland and the 10th anniversary of the CNPA, a series of events are planned for the summer which will be viewable on the website soon.

Deadline for Articles

Please note that the deadline for the Summer Edition of The Touler is

May 27th, 2013.

It is important that any articles meet this deadline in order for the editors to compile the magazine in time.

We are very grateful for all those who contribute any piece for The Touler, and welcome any and all contributions, but late arrivals mean we have to re-arrange many pages already completed.

The sooner we have your articles the better. Thankyou.

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Recipe Corner

Roast Pork Loin with Apples

Ingredients

2lb (1kg) Loin of Pork, boned and rolled
 2 Cooking Apples sliced 1oz (25g) Butter
 1 Onion chopped ½ pt (300ml) Water
 1tbsp (15ml) Flour 1tsp (5ml) Mustard
 ¼ pt (150ml) Sour Cream Salt and Pepper

Method

Make 10 – 12 slits on both sides of the pork and insert half of the apple slices into the slits

Rub the pork with salt and pepper.

Melt the butter in a deep flameproof dish

Add the pork, onion and remaining apple slices and fry for 8 – 10 minutes until the meat is evenly browned

Add the water and bring to the boil

Simmer for about 1½ hours or until meat is cooked through

Transfer meat to a warmed serving dish and keep hot.

Stir the flour and mustard into the cooking juice and cook stirring constantly until the liquid thickens.

Stir in the cream heat gently and serve with the pork as gravy.

I cooked this in the oven rather than a pot, it took about the same time

I also used Granny Smith Apples as that was what I had at home it worked well just needed 4 instead of two cookers

Remember to remove the apple cores.

Serve with potatoes and green vegetables. Carrots and neeps do not work well.

If you get a piece of Pork Loin that isn't rolled just put apples in the top and put rest into the sauce.

French Tomato Casserole

Ingredients

1¼ - 1½lbs (½ - ¾kg) Ripe tomatoes
 1 Aubergine, small 2 Courgettes, small
 2-3 Onions depending on size and preference
 2oz (50g) Bacon cut like lardons
 1-2 Garlic cloves 10 Olives
 4fl oz (100ml) dry Red Wine
 Salt, Pepper, Paprika, Parsley, Thyme, Marjoram, Basil

Method

Wash vegetables and cut into slices or strips.

Scald and peel tomatoes before slicing them

Sprinkle coarse salt in sliced aubergines and courgettes and leave in a cool place for about 30 minutes. Then pat dry

Sauté sliced onions and bacon in small cubes on moderate heat. Add crushed garlic, dried aubergine and courgettes, tomatoes, olives and red wine.

Simmer for 10 minutes Add finely chopped herbs and simmer for a further 5–10 minutes.

Season with salt pepper and paprika.

This can be used as an accompanying dish or on its own

I do not care for olives so substituted button mushrooms and a green pepper.

Dried herbs can be used if fresh are not available.

There should be enough fat comes from the bacon but use a little Olive Oil if required.

If using as a main dish increase amount of bacon.

Tinned tomatoes can be used to save time.

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Some of the local children have been very busy raising money for Comic Relief.



One day me and my friend Kirsty (Simmons) decided to do a Sponsored Walk with the money going to Comic Relief.

We decided to walk around The Tomintoul Country Walk, so we set off on Saturday 9th of March in the afternoon with Kirsty's Mum, Lesley. I think she enjoyed us singing all the way round!!

We managed to raise over £200; so we would like to thank everybody who sponsored us.

Also Kirsty's little sister Eilidh baked some delicious cakes and biscuits and she raised about £40.

THANK YOU

Mhairi Ward



Eilidh Simmons raised £38 by baking and selling the results to neighbours, friends and family.



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Tomintoul Multi Court

It is with a sad note we start of the update on the tennis court, as in the last few weeks there has been a spate of vandalism. First, the corner fence post was ripped down and recently the shed and the money box were broken into. The police have been informed, but without vandalism being witnessed there is little they can do but it has been logged, along with the other spates of vandalism in the area over the last few months. So we will have to pay for the repairs out of the funds. I would ask everyone to keep an eye out for future bad behaviour in the village and report it to the police so at least they can log it.

On a happier note the Club has received a donation of £3,000 towards a new fence by the Community Association, and we would like to thank them for this. It is proving difficult getting quotes for a new fence, as when you mention Tomintoul, its like you are referring to putting up a fence on the moon, aye, and on the dark side to make it harder, but we will carry on looking.

The tennis nets will be set up in April this year and we hope to have other equipment in the shed for use, but please return for others to use.

We agreed last year to have a family membership for the club of £10, and this will apply for this year again if you can support the club, even if you don't play yourself, you may have visiting family who wish to use the court. Please support us by taking out a membership from any of the committee, this will pay towards the running costs and let us build on the court.

Thank you.

*The multi court committee
Raymond Asher,
Charlie Thomson,
Keith Fernie*

Tomintoul Gardening Club

Tomintoul Gardening club has now reconvened follow the winter break. The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 28th March and the office bearers remain the same.

Our Christmas outing was held on Thursday 28th February when we went to The Garth Hotel in Grantown-on-Spey for lunch. Six members attended and as is the custom each person took a small gift so that everyone attending got a present. The outing was much enjoyed by those attending.

The Gardening Club meets on the last Thursday of each month from March to October. It is a chance to exchange ideas and discuss problems that arise. We try to have at least two trips to a garden or gardening centre which usually takes in a tour and always tea before journeying back home.

If you this you would like to join our merry band come along. We are non-competitive and the meetings are usually quite short and the subjects very varied.

*Patricia Grant
Chairman*



Advertising Rates for the Toulter

The following charges will be payable for advertisements in the Toulter

1/6th. page (60mm x 120mm)
: £5 per insertion.

1/4. page (120mm x 90mm)
: £10 per insertion.

Clubs : Free of Charge.

Please send all articles as doc. files, and all adverts as jpg files.



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How to contact **'The Toulér'**

by EMAIL: thetouler@yahoo.com

or by POST: **The Toulér, c/o Corrievaich,
Cults Drive, Tomintoul AB37 9HA**

OR In person to any of the editorial team, who are:

*Maggie Boyd, Pam Fletcher, Mike Fletcher,
Patricia Grant, Jenny Herschell,
Sally Reid, Jane Riley,
Sheila Thomson, and Nigel Varey.*

THE TOULER SUMMER EDITION

will be published in July 2013.

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

is 27 May 2013.

Please submit contributions via email to:

thetouler@yahoo.com

or by hand to one of the editorial committee.

Views and comments expressed in letters and articles are not necessarily the views of The Toulér Editorial Team who reserve the right to refuse publication and also to edit letters and articles received

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If you or your business would be willing to sponsor an edition of 'The Toulér', then we would like to hear from you. Sponsorship ensures at least front page acknowledgment, an advertisement and editorial (if supplied), plus unlimited satisfaction in knowing that you are providing continuing support to a premier local newsletter.

Please Contact: Jenny Herschell
on **01807 580 287**

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**To all our readers we welcome
your input. Become part of your
local community paper. It is so
important that you make
contributions.**

*Comment or Complaint?
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Please come along to our **'IDEAS'**
meeting on the 6 May at 8pm
in the Glenavon Hotel.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Childline: 0800 1111

Grampian Police:

Tomintoul Police Station: 01807 580222
Service Centre: 0845 600 5 700
(non-emergency calls)

Hospitals

Dr Gray's, Elgin: 08454566000
Raigmore, Inverness: 01463 704000
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary: 08454 566000

Medical Centres

Tomintoul: 01340 820888
Glenlivet: 01807 590273

Moray Council: 08457 565656

(emergency out of hours contact)

Moray Women's Aid: 01343 548549

NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24

Road Gritting Info:

Tomintoul Depot: 01807 580231
A939 Lecht: 01975 651440
(Corgarff-Tomintoul)

The Samaritans: 08457 90 90 90

Tomintoul Primary School:

01807 580271 - Head Teacher: Mrs N Fraser

Scottish Hydro-Electric: 0800 300 999

Scottish Water:

0845 600 601 (customer services)
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