The winner of the Summer competition is Mike Budd, 26 Cults Drive, with his lovely photograph of Apple Blossom, taken in his garden. Runner up was Malcolm Cross with his

Photo Competition

The Photo Competition for the Autumn issue is Seasonal Trees and Flora (Autumn). How you interpret that is up to you, but pictures must be taken in the Kirkmichael and Tomintoul area. The winning picture will appear on the front of the Autumn edition of the Touler, and the photographer will receive a £20 prize. Digital images, in the highest resolution possible, should be emailed to: thetouler@yahoo.com and traditional prints sent to:
The Touler, c/o 11 Cults Drive, Tomintoul, Ballindalloch, AB37 9HW.
Entries close on Monday 7th September, 2015
A family photograph taken in the garden at ‘Conglassview to celebrate Irene and Peter Duffus’ Golden Wedding Anniversary on Friday 5th June, 2015. Congratulations to Irene


“A brilliant time was had by all, thankyou for a wonderful day” from Mr and Mrs C. Maxwell.
Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association
“A’ leasachadh an dòigh-beatha airson a h-ule duine”
“Working together to improve community life for all”

Present
Pam Fletcher, Ron Hughes, Jenny Herschell, Tony Birchall, Fiona Murdoch, Charles Thomson, Chris Wallace, Marion Mcdonald, Vicky Hilton, Nigel Varey.

Apologies
Eleanor MacIntosh, Patricia Grant, Lindsay Robertson.

The minutes of the February meeting were passed as a true record. Proposed-Tony Birchall, Seconded Charlie Thomson.

Matters Arising
The resurfacing of Conglass Lane
Good quality surface is now completed. Need for speed bumps to be painted and for the road edges to be made safe. Mike Fletcher to contact Caroline Webster of Smiths Gore to resolve the road issues. Tony Birchall said that his wife had been upset because she had been accused of complaining by a member of the community.

Tony Birchall commented on the two areas of water forming and these could be a future problem. Mike Fletcher reported that £50 had been paid to LH to help with her music tuition.

Reports
Councillor Fiona Murdoch mentioned a coffee morning on 20th June based on transport issues, everyone welcome to come along to give their ideas, venue- Glenrinnes Hall.

Fiona also raised the issue of the future of the Crown Estate and asked for any views from those present. It was said by Mike Fletcher that at present it was difficult to give an opinion until more information is received. Ron Hughes felt that the general view from a number of people appeared to be to keep things as they are. The view was expressed that KATCA would like to impact strongly into the discussion in the future.

The Crown
Tony Birchall asked about Savilles taking over from Smiths Gore, Vicky Hilton replied that this had already taken place.

Vicky Hilton reported that the wig-wams have planning permission. Now waiting to hear back from the developer. He intends to install 6 to 12 pods [planning permission for 24].

Lecht Road to get new crash barriers.

Tony Birchall asked if Vicky had any information on the lead mine entrance. Vicky had not heard anything but commented on the number of pot holes. Tony commented that the surface area was dangerous.

TGDT [a written report was read out by Vicky Hilton].

Cycling Festival-Vicky offered flyers and posters for circulation. Expect 3-400 cyclists for MB race and 50 for the Sportive. Require local volunteers. All events are based in the centre of Tomintoul. There will be a range of events/skills practice etc. Attempting to get parking organised in order to save congestion in the village.

Museum-open and working well. Need more volunteer help for gardening, working on front desk etc. Ron Hughes said that he would help with the gardening.

Hostel- Kerry Greaves is back and managing the Smugglers. Need volunteers for gardening/maintenance. Really need a handy person to do a range of jobs. Tony B asked about the tenting area, no progress had been made with this.

Recruitment Interviewing for the Development Officer post during the week of 25th May.

Open Day-27th May, Glenlivet Hall, 4-8pm.

A new director has joined the Trust, Mike Terry. Jenny Herschell has been appointed to the training company board.

The Speyside Forum
The Fire brigade wish to know of vulnerable people in the area, so they can be identified in case of fire. They will also come to do fire checks if people request them.

Marion McDonald, Development Officer the Kirkmichael & Tomintoul Community Association
Landscape Project
Outlined what has happened so far, they are now planning in more detail and costing in order to action the funding. Project ideas had been previously identified - such as to upgrade the museum and the Speyside Way. Marion's main role is to keep everyone informed. She will be at the open day on 27th. At present based in the Estate Office, but will shortly move to the Bunkhouse. An important need is for people to put in their ideas, in order to help the project to progress. There will be a range of events running in the future associated with the Landscape Project. Overall budget approx. £3.6 million.

10K Run
48 entrants on-line. Several other events have been visited. Need for more volunteers on the day. Making the event as professional as possible. Sponsored by The Tomintoul Distillery. Tony Birchall showed the medals and runners vest sign. Mike Fletcher thanked Tony and in particular the hard work of all the members of the 10K team, Tony confirmed this.

Playground
Mike F explained what had happened so far. There had been a long delay with the Council doing the work, this is due to finally start on 18th May but it had not. Mike said it was not alright when undertakings were made and then broken. This to be followed up by KATCA. Local parents were unhappy that it had not been developed. We have done a lot of publicity and this could have been held back a bit, if we knew there would be a delay. All consultation had been carried out as planned, this had been wide ranging and had included posters, letters to all school parents, Touler articles/posters, minutes circulated/published.

Old Garage Site, Main Street.
Mike F explained about the mess, he had written to the owner in March 2014 and from this the fencing had been re-erected and some other work. Ron Hughes said that a local resident, Simon Greaves has written a very strong letter to the owner, pointing out the dangers /mess etc., the site is dangerous and is an eyesore. Comment was also made about 52 Main Street and the danger of the derelict and collapsing building to the public. KATCA to take action on this, Fiona Murdoch to follow this up. Vicky Hilton mentioned a site in Aviemore that had been demolished by the council due to neglect

Defibrillator/First Responder
Ron Hughes- Defibrillator in place at the Post Office and ready to use. Ron said that more information had yet to be placed on the box. Ron has been in touch with ambulance control and has given them the pin number. Mike F to have "business cards" produced on how to access the defibrillator, to be posted to all houses. First responder, Ron said there were 12 volunteers with a possible two more. Training yet to be arranged.

A O B
Mike F mentioned a number of complaints with regard to large amounts of grit/sand on the pavements. Fiona M said that the time had extended on this work being done due to budget cuts. Mike F mentioned complaints re the new blue sign at the Grantown end of the village, this is obscuring the view when turning right out of Stuart Place. Vicky Hilton to discuss this with the Gateway Project Co-ordinators.

Next KATCA Meeting: August 20th, 2015.
The Development Phase of our Landscape Partnership bid is all about testing out initial project ideas – and working those ideas up to detailed and costed project proposals. A lot of the work this year involves recording and measuring what we already have in terms of natural and cultural heritage – and working out how we can protect, improve and celebrate those great resources.

If you have a particular interest in natural history and local heritage we would love to hear from you. We need to be able to show support for our projects; we need volunteers to help take them forward – and we are also looking for other ideas to build in to our plans for next year.

Research in the spring of this year has included survey work on local farms by newly trained volunteers to measure bird populations. This is a fantastic area for waders like lapwings and curlew which are now rare in many other parts of the country. Our “Peesie” project will help improve habitats for these wonderful summer visitors and let more people see and appreciate them by creating a bird hide near Tomintoul.

This year we will also be carrying out surveys related to training needs for businesses and local residents, particularly young people, in order to develop practical opportunities in the local area. We will also survey visitors to the area to find out what makes the area special for tourists so we can build on that and encourage more people to stop and stay. We will also gather ideas and opinions from residents about the sort of events they would like to see developed for the area – to add to the growing list of annual activities already taking place which benefit local people, businesses and visitors.

We have to carry out some specialist survey and design work to make plans to improve some of our key local assets including an upgrade of the Speyside Way spur from Glenlivet to Tomintoul; as well as our ambitious proposals to stabilise Blairfindy Castle; to conserve the mill buildings at Scalan and to redevelop the Museum at Tomintoul.

These projects will then be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in May 2016 when we hope to be successful in attracting considerable funds to improve our local natural and cultural heritage.

For more information and to find out how you can get involved, please contact Marion McDonald on 07590 230161 or email marionmcdonald@cairngorms.co.uk
The Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association represents the local community and is operated by volunteers. Over recent times the Association has helped to provide a range of improvements, including; road resurfacing, a multi-sports court, a new bus service, new festive lights, donations to a range of clubs/groups, village planting and general maintenance and numerous small scale improvements.

Recently new play equipment for young children was provided by Moray Council to replace the old apparatus in the play area. Over the last 2 years residents living around the play area have been subjected to anti-social behaviour late into the evening and on occasion well beyond the hours of light.

KaTCA consulted widely as it wanted to get the best provision for everyone. The priorities being quality play for our young children and a good quality of life for residents. The consultation included: three community association meetings [open to all members of the community], village posters, letters to all parents of Primary School children, an article and poster in the village magazine, "The Touler". All minutes were also published in “The Touler”. This represents a high level of consultation.

As the area is provided for young children it was put to everyone to close the play ground at 8pm. No adverse responses were received to any of the consultations with regard to 8pm closure. The community was also advised that the equipment was suitable for Primary age children and younger. This all appeared to be accepted as a reasonable solution. As was said by a community representative at one of the meetings, this appeared to be a reasonable compromise. A number of people have reacted via Facebook, verbally and by approaching KaTCA officers, since the playground opened last week. KatCA is not now closing the area at 8pm and will cease involvement with the project.

It is to be hoped that the area can function properly for all concerned.

It is to be hoped that our youngest citizens can enjoy the new play equipment, playing in complete safety, and that our residents can also have a good quality of life.

Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association
I would like to thank the community for their very kind donation towards the fees for my choir training for the NY COS (National Youth Choir of Scotland). I did an intense singing training course for a week in lorrêto school in Edinburgh with about 80 other girls training. We sang from 9am through till 9pm with breaks in between of course, for a week. At the end of the training we sang in a concert along with the girls choir in St Cuthberts Church in Edinburgh, I had a fanstastic time and learnt a lot from my singing teachers training, and really enjoyed the concert and I made a lot of new freinds. I am away to Falkirk in August this year to sing in another concert with the boys choir which I am looking forward to very much, Thank you again for your kindness.

Miss Leah Metcalfe.

We were glad we could help you Leah, it sounds as though you had a good time, though it must have been hard work too. We hope you enjoy your time in Falkirk, and good luck with your singing.....its lovely to hear about your experiences.....please let us know how you get on, and maybe a photo of you and the choir for the next Touler?

We were glad we could help you Leah, it sounds as though you had a good time, though it must have been hard work too. We hope you enjoy your time in Falkirk, and good luck with your singing.....its lovely to hear about your experiences.....please let us know how you get on, and maybe a photo of you and the choir for the next Touler?

Can you Help Us in the Hall?

We are looking to recruit a relief hall keeper for the Richmond memorial hall. The position would suit someone based in the village or with their own transport. Duties would initially include opening and closing the hall, recording electricity usage and setting up tables and chairs. You will need to be reliable and flexible towards working occasional evenings and weekends. If you think you could help us keep this community facility running smoothly email me on jennwfraser@hotmail.co.uk or speak to any committee member (Jennifer Fraser, Michele Birnie, Roy Hill).

An Apple 1 computer, if you happen to have one, could be worth over £100,000.
Become a Friend of Tomintoul Museum

The Museum and Visitor Information Centre was saved from closure by the Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust and is now being run by the community. The Development Trust are focussed on further developing the facility and the visitor experience on offer to ensure it is a great attraction for both visitors and locals, whilst also preserving the heritage of the local area for future generations.

By becoming a Friend and donating you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve, promote and maintain the local heritage of Tomintoul & Glenlivet, allowing us to continue resourcing local knowledge and ensure our history isn’t lost forever.

By signing up as a Friend your name will then be engraved in wood on our exclusive Friends Wall. This wall will remain part of Tomintoul Museum & VIC showcasing your kind support to other visitors and leaving you with a lasting memory of becoming a friend.

The cost of becoming a friend is a one off payment of £25 for an adult or £17.50 for a child, with family and business prices also available. As well as your name engraving other benefits include: free entry to any museum events & talks and quarterly newsletters providing up to date information on the Museum.

How to become a Friend
To become a friend of Tomintoul Museum please contact Tomintoul Museum by telephone on 01807 580285 or email museum@tgdt.org.uk to find out more or pick up a ‘Friends Leaflet’ at Tomintoul Museum, The Square, Tomintoul, AB37 9ET.

A big thank you as well to our new volunteers who have recently joined our Museum & VIC team, along with our Museum staff members. Your help and enthusiasm are invaluable and we really do appreciate your support to ensure the continued running of this vital facility.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved in volunteering please contact Eilidh Hamilton on 01807 580358 or e-mail eilidh@tgdt.org.uk. Thank you!

Tomintoul Museum

Grateful Thanks to all those who helped by baking and manning the stall to raise funds to support the Tomintoul Museum and VIC at the Rock & Road Cycling Festival on 13th & 14th of June.

Without the support of the community by volunteering or becoming a Friend of the Museum there is a real danger of it not being able to continue.

Thank you very much.
TOMINTOUL 10K RUN
Sponsored by Tomintoul Distillery

By An Observer.

A successful event depends on good organisation and the Touler 10k on 21st June had excellent organisation in abundance. Attention to fine detail was the basis of making the whole event an example of how to make an event run fluidly. Much of what was accomplished would make an ideal blueprint for others to use. Get the work behind the scenes correctly done and you almost guarantee success.

One greatly impressive aspect was the number of volunteers from Tomintoul and surrounds. This was a large contingent and everyone knew their role and carried it out with great efficiency. These people underpinned the success of the whole event, whether marshalling, catering [excellent locally provided home bakes and refreshments], recording, etc. Community spirit showed through and made sure that the athletes were well looked after. So many people came to help from a small community and this was a truly excellent performance. Residents had moved their cars from Main Street and this greatly helped the event.

The festival has its roots from an idea of Tony Birchall’s, he wanted to bring a quality running race to Tomintoul. He assembled a very able team to work on this over the last year. The group had a range of expertise and this was put to good use and the 10k race was designed and refined. Great credit must be given to all of the committee members for their first class planning and their massive work in the immediate build up to the event and on the day itself. Well done to Tony, Patrick Wraight, Meg Smith, Caroline MacIntosh,

ARGYLE GUEST HOUSE
Whatever your Activity Argyle Guest house will provide you with the prefect base.

Large Stylish en-suite Rooms including Family Rooms, Doubles and Twins
Fantastic Breakfasts, all at a GREAT price... The warm hospitality is FREE.

Contact Dianne on Tel: 01807 580766
Email: argyleguesthouse@yahoo.co.uk
www.argyletomintoul.co.uk

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.

Our number is 01807 580755
Ron Hughes, Simon Greaves, Jessica Greaves and Myrddin Irwen.  
The race itself was a good spectacle with 100 athletes registered. These ranged from the very proficient to people just out for pure fun. After a dry day, rain fell just after the start of the race, however, spirits were not dampened. At the front of the race field the athletes competed with great spirit and at the rear of the field people laughed their way through the downpour. It is said that the proof of a pudding is in its eating, the runners certainly enjoyed the fare served up to them. Many participants commented on the good organisation and customer satisfaction was obviously very high.  
The best publicity is often by word of mouth and this should certainly help to boost the number of runners if the event is repeated in 2016. In summary this was a very good first attempt at the 10k. To get 100 people entering was a success and to see the high level of community support was impressive. A second event in 2016 must take place and the Touler 10k will become a highly regarded fixture in the national event calendar.

The overall race winner was Peter Henry from Deeside Running Club in a time of 37.13 minutes.  

He is seen here receiving his prize from Robert........ from Tomintoul Distillery.

---

**The Glen Avon**

1st. Class Home Cooking  
Roast Sunday Lunches  
Accommodation  
Functions and Dinner Parties  
Fireside Homely Bar Atmosphere  
Real Ales - Local Malts
The weather in May of this year has been abysmal, cold and wet and it was interesting to find out from the television that we had snow at the beginning of June forty years ago.

At that time we were still in the hotel and I can remember that Mr. and Mrs. Leek, Leek Sterios, and his party were staying as he was fishing Inchrory. The weather was very cold and I remember someone saying “Weel we hid the Gab o May sine it’s the Gab o June noo”.

Mrs Murray, Mrs Leek’s friend, came down for breakfast and stated that we should have a fire lit in the lounge to warm the room and to make it feel more homely on such a cold day. Helen, our Housekeeper, said she would do it later but that was no good for Mrs. Murray. “Just get me the stuff for the fire and I will light it”. You really did not argue too much with Mrs Murray so kindlers, paper and coal were duly brought to the lounge and she proceeded to light the fire.

Reflections on a Cold Spring

Now it should be pointed out that the fire was well made and gave out considerable heat, helped by the fact that the walls on each side of the fire were rough granite and other stones. This meant that once they had warmed they radiated considerable heat. That being the case you did not have to have a huge fire going however that did not occur to Mrs Murray, who had never been staying during the cooler periods of the year. She had a good fire going but decided that there should be more coal on the fire so emptied the bucket that had been replenished after the initial fire was going. This meant that the fire almost filled the fireplace and it was soon burning quite fiercely. She and Mrs Leek had taken up the seats beside the fire but the heat soon proved too much for them to remain there and they graduated shifted their seats until they were sitting as far away from the fire as possible and beginning to say that the room was a “bit hot”.

In the meantime Mr. Leek and Mr. Hawkins had left to drive to the fishing, although my father did suggest that they wait until nearer lunch time as there may be snow on the road and a Rolls Royce does not always perform well in snowy conditions, especially if you do not have the correct tyres on the car. However they were determined and set off however they returned to the hotel within two hours complaining bitterly that they had been unable to access anything other that the lower pools and stating the obvious that the day was bitterly cold.

The party, having lit the fire and now being unable to fish, decided to go to Inverness for the day, shopping. The fire remained on for the next couple of days until the weather improved and luckily the chimney didn’t go on fire.

It’s strange the little things that you remember when an event arises
Cuckoos and Skylarks

This is the first time for a couple of years that I have heard a Cuckoo. Last year I never heard any and the year before that I only heard it sing once. This year however they started to call at the beginning of May and they are still calling and it is now well into June. The old rhyme goes “The Cuckoo comes in April; he sings his song in May; in June they lay their eggs and in July they fly away.” That is certainly not the case this year however they may have been put off their stride a little as the weather has not been goon and on several occasions the tops of the Cairngorms have been white, nit just dusty.

Cuckoos are quite secretive birds and it was interesting that Jane Lannagan had one sitting on a tree close to the house merrily singing its heart out. She was surprised at the size of them. They really are substantial birds and it seems strange that they seem to choose small birds in which to deposit their single egg; albeit that they can produce up to eight eggs over the period. Maybe it is because the chick when it hatches if better able to dispose if the eggs and/or chicks of smaller birds this having a better chance of survival. It is a comic sight to see parents the size of warblers feeding their chick which can be several time their size. You would think that they would notice the difference but maybe the cuckoo chick takes on the sent on the surrogate parents and they become oblivious to the difference.

It is also very pleasing to note that there are Skylarks nesting in the park along the Smiddy Lane. They have also been absent for a few years.

Hey Doc!

A motor mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a BMW M3 when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop. The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his car when the mechanic shouted across the garage, “Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?” The cardiologist, feeling a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the BMW.

The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I opened its heart, took the valves out, repaired or replaced anything damaged, and then put everything back in, and when I finished, it worked just like new. So how is that I make £40,000 a year and you make £1.7 million when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The cardiologist paused, leaned over, and then whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it with the engine running."
As you will all know by now, Rob and Barbara retired from the post office and store earlier this year. They have been looking after the community for 22 years and their service did not go unnoticed. There were a lot of good times with all the staff and customers over the years, but retirement was welcoming when it came.

They are catching up lost time this year and having some long holidays which they have looked forward to for a while. They will be taking with them £300 in euros, part of the £647 collection made on their behalf in the shop. This collection made more difficult because of their presence at most times.

They were also presented with a voucher for a meal at a hotel of their choice, and the rest was presented as cash for whatever they may need for their new home and garden, bearing in mind the fact that they were downsizing as well.

As well as being the centre piece of the village due to their location, they were also the driving force behind a lot of social events. One of the activities which will be sorely missed is the Strictly Come Dancing costumes that were made at the shop. How any other work was done at the same time is one of life’s mysteries. There were also Birthday cards of dubious origin and taste which prompted a flurry of work for the local solicitors!

One of the main targets of all of this was none other than Nan Robertson who has been the butt of many of Barbara’s schemes. Who can forget the resurrection of the tennis club and the recently employed tennis coaches who willingly missed their entries to Wimbledon that year to fulfil the needs of the community? John and Nan made a most alluring prospect and entries to the tennis came flooding in.

The most iconic memory of all will probably be the pictures of Nan and John on torch day 2012 sitting astride a bicycle made for two. Not all of the photos will have been seen, but their models have agreed that they should be published as a fitting memory to Barbara’s achievements. We do not have any pictures of the pole dancers to hand, but maybe the community is not quite ready for this!

These are just a few of the many ways in which Barbara and Rob have enhanced our community over the years. I am sure you will all have your own memories. They have certainly left their mark. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

John Ferguson
and Nan Robertson are willing for these photos to be published and we like to thank them.
The Tomintoul group of ladies has had another full and enjoyable year. The year started off with a visit to Knockando Mill, which was this year's annual trip. After visiting the mill it was then off to the Delnashaugh for something to eat which finished off a very enjoyable day.

The rest of the year included a murder/mystery night, the rural birthday celebrations, visits to other rurals and much, much more. We had a variety of competitions that included floral creations, baking and knitting to name a few. We try to have a variety of competitions that everyone can join in somewhere. If you really like the challenge then you can enter the various shows around like Grantown, Keith and Dufftown.

We are always looking for new members and at the moment we are on our summer break, but we will be starting our new year in September. In the year to come we are hoping to support the shoe box appeal, have a jewellery demonstration, countdown games night, competitions and our annual trip. If you would like to come along and join in then you can always contact the secretary Meg Smith on 01807 580253 for information.

The new year starts Wednesday 2nd September 2015.

Sandra Sawyer, Press secretary

Clippings from the Library

School may have stopped for the holidays but don’t forget the library is still operating a normal timetable Monday – Friday. What’s more, if you are primary school age don’t forget that every summer the library is filled with activities, games, treasure hunts and prizes. This year the Tesco Bank Summer Reading Challenge is themed ‘record breakers’ so come along and join us in the library to discover some weird and wonderful world records and set – and hopefully break - your own personal reading goal! The challenge takes the same format as previous years with readers being encouraged to visit the library six times over the summer, discovering new authors and gathering prizes along the way. All those who take part in challenge are presented with a certificate after the holidays.

Choosing books for the challenge should be easy as we have recently had a book exchange in the library covering both adults and children’s books as well as audio materials. So if you are a regular book worm or if you haven’t been to the library for a while we will have something new to offer you!

Storytime has stopped for the summer, but it has been great to see so many tiny book lovers joining us on a Wednesday morning for a chat, a crawl and a book. We will be starting again when the schools go back so if you have preschool children please pop in on a Wednesday. People sometimes tell me their toddlers are too young or noisy or destructive (!!!) for storytime but the sessions are very relaxed and anything goes – who knows you might even get a chance to pick up a book for yourself.

Finally, the public access computer in the library has been very busy recently with both regular users and tourist enquiries so if you need to use the internet it is worth booking in advance or giving me a call before you set out to check I have a machine free (01807 580 755).

Jennifer
Friday 25th September
**Harvest Show**
Tomintoul Primary School

Show opens at 6.15pm, entertainment starts at 7pm.

Programmes, entry forms and tickets available from Tomintoul Primary School office.

From Tomintoul Primary School office.

**EVERYONE is welcome to enter our Harvest Show.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary School Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary 5 - 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorated chocolate sponge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookies x 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any sewn/knitted/crocheted item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any drawing/painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary 3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorated sponge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biscuits x 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any sewn/knitted/crocheted item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any drawing/painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary 1 - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorated cup cakes x 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gingerbread men x 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any sewn/knitted/crocheted item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any drawing/painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorated cup cakes x 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gingerbread men x 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any sewn/knitted/crocheted item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any drawing/painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**High School Class**

| Preserves |
| Jam (any variety) |
| Marmalade (any variety) |
| Chutney (any variety) |

**Baking**

| Signature cake - your favourite recipe |
| Decorated sponge (no fresh cream) |
| Gingerbread |
| Fruit scones x 4 |
| No bake tray bake x 4 |
| Biscuits x 4 |

**Arts & Crafts**

| Knitted child’s garment |
| Any sewn item |
| Any crocheted item |

**Drawing/Painting**

| Photography - Local Views |
| Dad, Granda, Great Granda Class |
| Family Class |
| 3D Model |
| Poetry |

**Woodwork**

| Photography - At Work |
| Logo Design - design a ‘Harvest Show’ logo |

**3D Model**

| Drawing/Painting |
| Arts & Crafts |

It’s sew time! Do you have the ‘egg’ factor? Maybe you are an awesome artist... we can’t wait to see your creations at this year’s Harvest Show. Please see below all of the classes that you can enter.

Please see entry forms and tickets available from the school office.
Tomintoul Highland Games

Public Park, Tomintoul
Saturday 18th July 2015
Events commence 11.00
Games Opening 1.00

A full programme of Heavy and Light Events
Novelty events for young and old alike

A Qualifying Event for Grampian Games
SHGA 16lb Light Stone Scottish Championship
Championships in Piping, Dancing, Heavy and Light Events and Tug-o-War

Ballater and District, Lonach and Bucksburn Pipe Bands

Children’s Fancy Dress 7.00p.m. on the Square
Games Dance  Memorial Hall 10.00 – 1.30
COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN
The village of Tomintoul celebrated its bicentenary in 1976 but now Mr G. A. Dickson of Grantown and Edinburgh has written to us pointing out that the celebration took place a year too soon.

Mr Dixon, who is well known his researches into local history, shows in this article that the actual bicentenary fell in April 1977. He spent some months in Register House disentangling of the late Dr Gaffney’s account of the origins of Tomintoul, and hopes eventually to publish a journal paper on the subject.

For a village that celebrated its bicentenary a year too soon, Tomintoul can, surprisingly, boast that its origins are among the most fully documented of any 18th-century planned town or village in Scotland. And the many relevant contemporary documents that survive prove beyond question that Tomintoul was founded in 1777, not in 1776.

The Upper Banffshire capital's spacious square and regularly planned streets and central building lots were in fact marked out on the ground and the first lots were given off to settlers during the five days 21-25 April, 1777. The construction of its first houses got under way in the months that followed that founding week.

In the sense that, as owner of the land on which it stood, Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon (1743-1827), gave his consent for its establishment. He was the founder of Tomintoul, but several other people had a strong claim to be regarded as the main initiator of the new village.

Of those, the first was William Gordon, grandson of Old Glenbucket of the Forty-Five. In the 1760s Gordon held the site of Tomintoul on lease and, inspired no doubt by such recent foundations as those of the other Banffshire new towns, New Keith (1751), Down, now MacDuff (1761), and Aberchirder (1764), he inserted a series of advertisements in the “Aberdeen Journal” in an attempt to attract settlers to Tomintoul.

In the first, published on March 10th, 1766, Glenbucket advertised for an innkeeper, a blacksmith “qualified for Country Work”, a shoemaker, a tailor and a carpenter. The second advertisement, on May 9th, 1768, was more ambitious: it proclaimed that “William Gordon of Glenbucket is to make a town or country village of the town called Tomintoul (i.e. the existing unplanned hamlet near the new military road) in Strathaven, in the head of the county of Banffshire, and to have a weekly market every Thursday”. Other attractions were to include a promised post office, and the provision of “new ground to labour in some years free” and “glens in the summer time for grassing their cattle”.

Two unsuccessful years later, on March 26, 1770, Glenbucket tried again to hook an innkeeper, a tailor, a weaver and a shoemaker; “a Smith I have got”. Both the Duke of Gordon and the Government, he assured readers though without any justification for doing so, would assess any suitable innkeeper that settled there. That claim the Duke immediately denied, but he was not altogether opposed to the concept of a new settlement in Upper Banffshire, and when the feckless William Gordon’s tangled finances obliged him to renounce his lease of the Tomintoul lands in May 1773, the Duke and his agents took over not just the site but also the idea of the still non-existent planned village.

A further two years passed, however, without any effective step been taken to bring a planned Tomintoul into existence. Then, at last, a suitable innkeeper came in sight, and this prompted the drawing up of the first feuing plan.

The innkeeper was the redoubtable Mrs Janet Mackenzie, nicknamed ‘the Countess’, who had been a Highland shepherdess at 14, and an innkeeper, New Grantown's first, at 34, with an intervening career which had taken her to the West Indies and North America as well as to several European countries.

By the spring of 1775, Mrs Mackenzie, then in her mid-forties, was once again in search of
pastures new. Hearing that the Duke, to whom she was distantly related, had been thinking about founding a village at Tomintoul, she travelled down from Grantown to Gordon Castle in May 1775, and offered to build an inn on the new site, provided the Duke would let her have the timber free, and would allow her in the meantime to live in the then vacant inn at Campdalmore, about a mile away.

The chance of such a substantial catch being too good to miss, the Duke and his principal man of business, James Ross, ordered one of the estate surveyors to draw up a plan of a village and mark it out on the ground at Tomintoul. Ross, a Kincardineshire miller's son, who had risen to rule several hundred square miles of Scotland on behalf of the North-East’s principal peer, wrote to Mrs Mackenzie on May 27, 1775, to tell her about the new plan and to advise her to go to the site in order to select a building plot, and then to Gordon Castle to discuss the terms on which she would settle and build there.

The lines of the new village were marked out, and a clean copy of the fueing plan was drawn out a few days later. McKenzie and her henpecked husband John, together with their family, moved to Campdalmore early in June. Then, again, nothing much happened for almost another two years. There were only two or three more applications for building lots, and nothing came of them.

‘The Countess’ herself, finding that business on the main military road through the Eastern Highlands was far from lucrative, was in no hurry to build a new inn nearby, on what was still a barren moor. Late in 1776 she tried to persuade the Duke of Gordon to build an inn for her, but he refused, having recently, because of the enormous cost of building Gordon Castle, had to abandon his intention of erecting an inn in New Fochabers, which was much nearer to his heart as well as his home than any Highland settlement in far Stratha’an.

It was not until the spring of 1777 that the eleven years of false starts to the new village came to an end. On March 31, 1777, Mrs Mackenzie at last agreed to settle and build on the new site. Within four weeks, present-day Tomintoul had taken its basic shape.

On April 19, 1777, James Ross wrote to tell the Duke's Stratha’an factor that the estate surveyor, Thomas Milne, had drawn out a new and significantly different fueing plan, and that he was to meet the factor on the site on the following Monday. Together they were to mark off the street, square and building lots, and reach binding agreements with Mrs Mackenzie and any other suitable settlers that turned up. Together, during the five days from April 21-25, 1777, they did so, with the aid of assistants for whom ‘the Countess’ provided two bottles of whisky at a shilling each.

Mrs Mackenzie picked one of the most prominent sites in the new village, the L-shaped lot in the southern angle between the Square and the main street, and on it she built during the summer of 1777 an inn that was functioning as such by early in the following spring, if not sooner.

Other buildings also began to appear in the new settlement, and slowly, very slowly, Tomintoul as we know it came into being. The new settlers were left very largely to their own devices: it was almost as though the protracted, if ultimately successful, attempt to launch the village had exhausted the estate management’s interest in it.

The local minister, writing some 17 years after the foundation, said of the inhabitants and their superior that “the Duke of Gordon leaves them at full liberty, each to pursue the occupation most agreeable to them. No monopolies are established here; no restraints upon the industry of the community”. That tactful reproach for the ducal neglect of the infant village is a reminder that the people of Tomintoul have, down the decades since 1777, received relatively little official assistance in their struggle to survive so high in the Highland heights of Banffshire. Few communities better deserve their present hard-won prosperity.
Strathavon is one of six priority areas in Scotland, identified by Scottish Wildcat Action for conservation work. A new team of four project officers will coordinate activities to help reduce threats to Scottish wildcats from hybridisation and disease from feral and domestic cats, accidental persecution, and impacts from development.

Jenny Bryce of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) said: “We are delighted to unveil the new team who are tasked with co-ordinating work to preserve Scottish wildcats. Our wildcats are important to Scotland’s people, despite being rarely seen, and they are under threat as a distinctive yet iconic species.”

Dr Roo Campbell is the new project manager based at Scottish Natural Heritage’s Great Glen House in Inverness. He brings with him significant experience of carrying out research on the behaviour and ecology of Scottish wildcats.

He said “This project is the best chance for survival the Scottish wildcat has ever seen. It is one of the biggest partner-led conservation projects for any native species in Scotland, with more than 20 key organisations involved, and I am delighted to lead such a highly skilled team to take this project forward.”

The project officers include Emma Rawling who is responsible for the Strathbogie and Strathavon areas. Based with the Forestry Commission Scotland at Newton, Elgin, she has previously co-ordinated community-based projects involving monitoring and trapping of squirrels for the Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrel’s project. Other project officers include Matt Wilson (Morvern), Hebe Carus (Northern Strathspey and the Angus Glens), and Keri Langridge (Strathpeffer).

Scottish Wildcat Action is a five-year project which will focus on the wildcat priority areas outlined in the national action plan and is supported by Heritage Lottery Funding. The six wildcat priority areas comprise more than 500,000 acres of wildcat habitat.

The team were in Inverness this month, tackling training on wildcat surveying using trail cameras and recording sightings. They also learned about the new support for wildcat conservation available to land managers through the Scottish Rural Development Programme and they will be contacting land managers in the priority areas. If they are interested in getting involved, the team will seek to establish a network of trail cameras (motion-sensitive cameras) to be run by volunteers across these areas to discover more about cats living wild in their area.

The team will also be making contact with local vets and Cat’s Protection branches to co-ordinate a programme of trapping, neutering, vaccinating and releasing feral cats to ensure they do not cross-breed with wildcats. Volunteer involvement in trapping will also be crucial for the success of this aspect of the programme.

Roo Campbell added: “We have five years to stop wildcats from disappearing but we need to improve the fortunes for Scottish wildcats in the long term. That means leaving a legacy by reducing the risks from hybridisation and disease, and the chances of accidental harm from predator control activities. Success depends on working with local people to make a difference for the wildcats in their area. Together, we can ensure that the Scottish wildcat survives not just over the next five years but into the future.”

The partners are delighted at the response from local people so far and hope to be able to build on this now the team are in place.

The team would be delighted to hear from people interested in getting involved with the project or with reporting any sightings of
wild-living cats in the priority areas, whether feral domestic cats, hybrids or wildcats. For further information, you can also visit www.scottishwildcataction.org

Media inquiries: Fergus Macneill, SNH Public relations: 01463 725021
fergus.macneill@snh.gov.uk
To get in touch with the team please contact roo.campbell@snh.gov.uk

The Scottish Wildcat Conservation Action Plan (SWCAP) aims to implement conservation action to halt the decline of the Scottish wildcat. The SWCAP has more than 20 organisations signed up to its delivery. The Steering Group comprises Scottish Natural Heritage, Cairngorms National Park Authority, The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, National Museums Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Gamekeepers Association, Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal (Dick) Veterinary School at Edinburgh University. The action plan has broad backing from government agencies, land managers, researchers and conservation organisations.


Wildcat Action is a five-year project set up under the national action plan that is supported by Heritage Lottery Funding. It is a partnership project led by SNH, and focuses on reducing the risk to wildcat populations in six priority areas: the Angus Glens; northern Strathspey; Morvern in Lochaber; Strathavon; Strathbogie (around Huntly) and Strathpeffer.
A breeding for release programme is also being developed under the SWCAP and is being led by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. The work of the two projects is complementary and is co-ordinated by the Steering Group.
The Highland Tiger website will shortly be revamped to reflect the range of work that is progressing under the Scottish Wildcat conservation Action Plan.

The new website will be www.scottishwildcataction.org and is due to go live at the end of June this year.
We also have a twitter account @SaveOurWildcats
Tea IN THE PARK 2015

12TH YEAR!

Saturday 1st to Sunday August 30th at
Glenlivet Public Hall.
Open every day 11.30 am to 4 pm

MORNING COFFEE, LIGHT LUNCHES,
AFTERNOON TEA.

NEW STALLS AND OLD FAVOURITES!

Glenlivet Hall is situated on the B9008 and the Speyside Way

Would you like to help? Phone Tricia Lawson on 01807 500225 to volunteer assistance.
Ballindalloch Heating Oil Club

Ballindalloch Heating Oil Club

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 2015</th>
<th>February 2015</th>
<th>December 2014</th>
<th>September 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume</td>
<td>28,300</td>
<td>30,350 litres</td>
<td>19,400 litres</td>
<td>16,000 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price + 5% VAT</td>
<td>37p</td>
<td>35p</td>
<td>43.5p</td>
<td>49.83p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A 10% reduction in your heating oil bill
That is what we have achieved with our orders over the past two quarters based on the price quoted for the delivery of 1,000 litres in our area just prior to collating members orders.

Membership is free for deliveries to properties in the AB37 9 postcode, with orders collated quarterly.
For details of how the club operates please see www.glenlivet.org.uk or telephone 01807 590458

STOP PRESS: As of April 1, 2015 all requests at Moray Council Libraries are FREE (previously 70p per item).
THANK YOU!
First things first. A huge thank you to everyone who once again gave me their support to continue representing Moray as a Member of the Westminster Parliament. It is a great privilege to be an elected representative and my principal aim over the coming parliamentary term is to continue working as hard as I can for Moray and the people who live here.

The issues are certainly not hard to find, indeed even on election day my office were in contact with Post Office Ltd to understand what was happening with the unexpected and unplanned closure of Dufftown Post Office.

I have been in regular contact since on what is a bit of a thorny issue. Post Office Ltd have made clear their commitment to a service in Dufftown. However the issue at the present time is finding someone willing to take on a Post Office franchise in Dufftown. Hopefully the efforts by Post Office Ltd will identify someone soon and get this critical service for the Dufftown community and the many others further afield in Upper Banffshire who use it.

This issue has been compounded by the closure announcement by the Royal Bank of Scotland of its branch in Dufftown, which I am very concerned about and, at the time of writing, I have written in strong terms to RBS urging them to reconsider and I am awaiting their response.

A mobile banking service is simply not an adequate replacement for a bricks and mortar branch.

This continuous erosion of services is of deep concern for rural communities and I share that concern.

We need to supporting business and activity in our rural communities and service closures like this are not helpful in encouraging people to live and work in communities like those in Speyside, that deserve more support and not constantly running to keep up with urban centres.

In Westminster since the election it has been a wide and varied range of policies that have been under the spotlight from Chancellors almost immediate cuts to budgets and, by extension, more cuts to the welfare system and the most vulnerable, to the plight of immigrants desperate for a better life being packed into boats and left adrift in the Mediterranean by callous people smugglers.

These and many others are the issues that are raised with me on a day-to-day basis by people right across Moray.

Broadband and mobile phone network access for rural communities is also a continuing feature from the last parliamentary term into this one and one that I have made fresh contact with the mobile phone operators in particular to try and get some further progress. Previously they have acknowledged and acting upon various issues of blackspots and so-called ‘not spots’ but we are all aware of areas where we feel there should be service but there isn’t. I am urging the mobile network operators to set out their investment plans for Moray so that communities know where they stand and so that we can all know where we can target our efforts to get better service availability.

As always, plenty to get my teeth into and I continue to be contactable through my constituency office at 9 Wards Road, Elgin, IV30 1NL, by email: angus.robertson.mp@parliament.uk. You can also keep up to date with my parliamentary activity via my website at www.angusrobertson.org and by searching for me on Facebook and Twitter.

Tell Us All About It

Have you got a story to tell? A comment to make? Are you doing something you’d like to tell everyone about?

Well.......get your pen and paper out, or your computer......and tell us all about it.

This is your community magazine, and we want to hear from you and include your articles and pictures.
Richard Lochhead MSP

Summer has come upon us rather quickly this year and my office are busy making plans for me to get out and about in the constituency during parliamentary recess. The summer break is one of my favourite times of the year as it gives me a great opportunity to spend a lot more time than usual in communities across Moray.

I will be using the summer break to dust down the caravan to embark upon a surgery tour, reaching every corner of the constituency, including communities in Speyside. Being available to constituents is something that is always a top priority and I’m looking forward to meeting lots of folk over the course of the summer and doing all I can to help them.

We’re really very lucky in Moray to have a first class programme of summer events, many of which are in Speyside. I’m well aware of how much effort is put in by volunteers to make our Highland Shows and summer events a success and they should be commended for the work they do and the positive role they play in their communities.

I know that my family and I will be hoping to get along to as many events as possible, including the Tomintoul Games, Dufftown Games, Aberlour games, Tea in the Park, and the Glenlivet Walking Festival.

These events are all part of what puts Speyside on the map, attracting visitors from across the world. Over the years there has been a lot of discussion and talk about how we capitalise on Speyside being a unique and outstanding region, ensuring its full potential is realised as a tourist destination.

Clearly, there’s a lot of good work already happening to promote Speyside and the Moray Speyside promotion is already reaping rewards. But I think everyone would agree that we should always work harder and look for new opportunities to promote this unique place to the world.

Myself and Angus recently met with The Moray Council to discuss this issue and I was pleased that out of that meeting there was an agreement that the Council would open discussions with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and Moray Chamber of Commerce to look at how we can all work together to better promote Speyside as an outstanding place to visit, to live and to work.

And with 2015 being Scotland’s Year of Food and Drink, I’m absolutely certain that Speyside is in for another fantastic tourist season, with people coming from across the globe to get a taste of our incredible local larder.

I look forward to seeing many of you out and about in Speyside over the course of the summer!

---

**MASS TIMES FOR CATHOLIC CHURCHES**

Tomintoul, Tombae and Chapeltown every third Sunday in turns at 9.30am
Dufftown and Aberlour at 5pm Saturday
Parish Priest: Rev. C.M. Stewart
Times of morning Masses during the week vary.
These can be obtained by telephoning 01807 580381
News from
Tomintoul Primary School

Term 4 in schools always seems to be very busy and this has been no exception.

In Nursery Mitch, Dawn and the children have been engaging families and friends in their children’s learning through regular ‘Family Fun Fridays’. Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed being involved in all the activities and the amount of learning the children (and mums and dads) have gained from them has been very impressive.

Primary 1-4 have been learning about energy sources and as part of this have had great learning opportunities within class and outdoors. Some highlights have been their visit to see the wind turbine at the Lecht Ski Centre and the Biomass boiler at the Crown Estate Office.

Primary 5-7 have been doing a science topic about Light and Sound and have incorporated their knowledge and skills into creating a puppet show for our end of year assembly. By the time you are reading this many of you may have seen the show and will be able to judge how well they have done. I am sure it will be brilliant. Many thanks to Barry Horning for teaching the children about the light and sound systems in the Richmond Hall and for helping with the show.

Right at the beginning of this term the Pupil Council ran the annual Talent Show and I think it was the best one ever. What a talented bunch we have. Amara Nairn with her ‘Amazing Amara Magic Show’ was the winner. Second equal were Leah McGillivray (Highland Dancing) and Molly Stuart and Eilidh Simmons (singing Echt Show). A very well deserved third place went to Tamzin Bothwell, Adele Irvine, Molly Stuart, Aimee Campbell and Eilidh Ward (singing - ‘Rolling In the Deep’). It is to the credit of the Pupil Council that this was such an enjoyable and successful event. £38.66 was raised for in aid of Clic Sargent.

Primary 7 pupils have enjoyed lots of transition events this year in preparation for going to the High School. The final Small Schools induction event was a mini Highland Games at Knockando Primary and we are very grateful to the Tomintoul and Strathavon Highland Games Association who donated money to the school to pay for transport to this event. All the children had great fun, learnt a bit more about Highland Games events and continued to make friends from the other schools.

Dawn Davison has continued to do a great job with our art studio, Room13. It is a real favourite with the children and there are always more children wanting to go than we have space for. The children particularly enjoyed it when local artist, Aileen Asher, came into school to teach them how to engrave on glass. Room13 then used their newly acquired engraving skills to create a beautiful trophy for the school. We have decided to use this as a trophy to be awarded each year to the most creative pupil. This will be creativity in its widest sense – music, art, drama, problem solving, creative writing etc.

Mrs Mitchell has been running an after school film club this year for the older pupils. Again, this has been popular with the children enjoying the experience and becoming quite skilled film makers. To access films made by Tomintoul School pupils please visit https://vimeo.com/112121242

All of the children have recently enjoyed a summer trip to MacDuff Aquarium. Although it was quite a long journey they did find the sea creatures and plants quite fascinating. We were very fortunate to receive a donation of £250 from an anonymous school community member. She must remain anonymous but she knows who she is and we thank her very much for her generosity.

So, as you can tell, Tomintoul School is a great community where all staff, parents, pupils and the wider community work together to create a successful learning environment and we look forward to continuing this in the new academic session.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Nancy Fraser, Head Teacher
BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION AT SPEYSIDE
All S1-S3 parents (including current P7 parents) were invited to come along to Speyside High School on Thursday 28 May between 4.30-6.30pm to learn more about the "Broad General Education" at Speyside. There was time to look around school (inside and out) and displays of learning for the first hour and from 5.40pm onwards parents listened to presentations by the Senior Leadership Team and S1-S3 pupils. There was also an opportunity to watch a Fashion Show which was created and modelled by our art pupils.

ATHLETICS NEWS
Congratulations to Jack Mitchell who threw very well at the North District Championships to win the U20 Hammer Competition with a new PB of 49.09m; an improvement of nearly 5m. Jack finished in silver for the hammer with 46.80m at the recent Scottish Schools Championships.

UNICEF
We are pleased to tell you that Speyside High School has been awarded the Recognition of Commitment from UNICEF for the Rights Respecting School Award. This is the first milestone on our Rights Respecting journey. Our group will meet again next week to plan our way forward and look to develop our new school charter for use in the new session. Pupils from across the school will be involved in various activities over the next school year as we work towards the level 1 award.

PRIMARY 7 TRANSITION
Thanks to all those involved in making the outdoor/adventurous activities P7 transition event on Thursday 11 June, “Stepping Out At Speyside”, such as success. During the day, P7 pupils took part in a range of activities including Team Building, Orienteering, Shelter Building, Outdoor Skills, Biking and Climbing.

S2 PARIS TRIP
A huge thank you to all staff and 47 pupils (and parents) for making this trip such a brilliant experience for all involved. The fantastic preparation and organisation from Miss Dormand and Mrs Adamson really paid off! We all enjoyed ourselves and the staff were proud to have such a genuinely lovely group of young people representing Speyside High School.

S6 INDUCTION
On Monday all our new S6 pupils enjoyed a varied day of activities as an introduction to their Senior year in Speyside. Topics covered were anti bullying, mentoring, peer support, transition and group building. It was an enjoyable day for all and a pleasure to spend the day together for both pupils and staff.

TECHFEST
On Thursday 4 June, Aimee Jackson, Lee Ferguson, Dimitris Paganopoulos and Mia Ingram took part in Techfest’s ‘Maths In The Pipeline’ day at Elgin Academy. The event is a full day of mathematical workshops and challenges based on the applications of mathematics in the oil and gas industry. The workshops are based on real data and the Captain Field in the Moray Firth is used as an example. A business challenge is set and Mia Ingram gained a medal for being a member of the winning team.

CURRICULUM CONSULTATION
Parents and friends of Speyside High are invited to take part in a consultation regarding our school curriculum. If you would like to be involved in being part of a focus group where we will discuss what we offer our young people and how we do it, then please contact Mr Picksley at school with times that you would be available to come into school for an hour long discussion.

HENDRY HYDRAULICS OPEN DAY
As part of National Apprenticeship Week Hendry Hydraulics are holding an Open Day on Wednesday 20 June from 3.00pm to 6.00pm. This will involve a full factory tour and opportunities to speak to experienced engineers and representatives from Inverness College. To attend you must pre book by phoning 01343 545207.

SCOTTISH SURVEY OF LITERACY AND NUMERACY
Every year pupils from every school in Scotland are invited to take part in a survey which will give the Government a picture of what school pupils know. This year a group of S2 students will be assessed on Numeracy though a smaller group will be assessed on Literacy. Testing this year will take place on Monday 18 May (Literacy only) and Tuesday 19 May. Students have been issued with information letters. If parents wish to find out more please contact Mr Picksley.
Property
Since the last edition we have encountered some further repair issues regarding an interior wall at Inveravon Church. These works are being carried out as I write this report. This work has not been straightforward and we were forced to cancel Sunday Worship for two weeks. Joint services were held in Tomintoul but we appreciate that some members of the congregation find it difficult to travel to Tomintoul. Alternatives are being looked at just in case for the next couple of Sundays. There are still some internal improvements to be carried out at Inveravon besides these repairs. Meantime, when the walls are dried out in Tomintoul Church we will be carrying out internal painting, which has not been upgraded for many years. We are looking at options and tenders for this work. We also look forward to considering what improvements and repairs are needed to the Church Hall in Tomintoul. Our buildings are all old and need continual maintenance.

The Rev. Chris Wallace
Chris is gradually making his way around the congregation, sometimes with an Elder, sometimes on his own. He is already becoming well known locally and we look forward to many happy years with him as our Minister. He has had to get used to driving on snowy roads, this has been quite an issue for him as the climate in Kirkcudbright was somewhat mellow by comparison.

Fundraising
There was a soup and sweet event in Tomintoul on 19th April, our thanks go to all who contributed soup and desserts for this event and to those who came and dined with us that day. Our next big event will be the flower festival and auction at the end of June and the tea stall at the Highland Games then barbecue and bottle race in August. These events are all very popular and will be advertised nearer the time so look out for posters.

Messy Church
Messy Church continues to be very popular and is held in each area in turn. Information about times and places will be sent home via the school children and by posters.

The Moray Food Bank
The organisers of the food bank are very grateful for our continuing support. There are boxes in each Church for contributions. Our church contact is Ebeth Coutts. She is happy to accept donations of food which must be either dried or tinned, for this very worthy cause.

If anyone requires the services of a Minister please contact either of the following:- Rev. Chris Wallace, Minister on 01807 580254 Margo Stuart, Session Clerk on 01807 580239 Ann Wraight, Treasurer on 01807 580712

Burnett Shivas
Sadly Burnett passed away in Dr. Gray's Hospital, Elgin on 26th December, 2014 after a short illness. His funeral was held in Tomintoul Parish Church and burial in Kirkmichael Cemetery. As both sons now live in America his house, Collargreen has now been sold.
Congratulations!

to Lee Bruce on winning his first boxing bout.

and

to Steven Martin on passing his driving test on first try.

from proud grandparents
Bob and Ebeth Coutts
The Crown Estate Update

The nice weather over the Easter holidays drew a lot of cyclists to the mountain bike centre. We have a new promotional leaflet out for the bike centre (anyone who would like copies can pick them up from the Estate Office). We are also delighted to have just received a grant from HIE Digital programme to make some short films promoting the bike centre, to be used on websites, social media and visitor centres etc.

We will be welcoming a mountain bike race to the bike centre and wider estate on June 13th – 14th, this is one of six Scottish Enduro Series events, and will coincide with the Rock&Road cycle festival. We are expecting around 350 riders to take part, and the race will start & finish in Tomintoul. There will be numerous other activities also going on including coaching sessions, family treasure hunt, kids bike races etc. More details can be found on the Rock&Road website.

We have been very busy this Spring with school groups and events. We were once again delighted to work with Speyside High on the Junior Ranger programme, which saw a new group of 14 pupils graduating as Junior Rangers, who now have the opportunity now to continue to take part in activities and volunteer over the summer. We also had a very successful Cairngorms Nature Festival event in the Tomintoul Museum & Information Centre, in May, which saw several organisations offering walks and activities and was well attended.

Wigwam Holidays has been successful in receiving full planning permission to create a site of 24 wooden camping cabins beyond the Estate Office in Tomintoul. The application was approved at the April Cairngorms National Park planning meeting. A habitat mitigation area was agreed, behind the adventure playground, which will see the removal of non-native species and re-planting with native broadleaf trees. This is to compensate for the area of trees that will have to be cleared for the camping cabins.

The moorland restoration project has been completed at Glenmullie. In total over the 213 ha site, 8.8km of drains have been blocked, 9.3km of peat hags & gullies (caused by peat cutting/water erosion) have been re-profiled, 4.75ha of bare peat (from historic peat cutting) has been spread with a brash/moss mix to re-seed and an amount of tree regeneration removed. The site will now be used as a demonstration site (one conference has already been held in Tomintoul) and also undergo scientific monitoring (of water levels and vegetation changes). The work was done as part of a wider Cairngorms Peatland Restoration Project with the financial support from the SNH.

As you may be aware, the management of Crown Estate assets in Scotland (including Glenlivet Estate) are to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament. The direct implications are not yet clear but we will keep you informed of the progress of these proposals.

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us on any matters, call into the estate office in Tomintoul or phone us on 01479 870070 or email info@glenlivetestate.co.uk or follow us on Facebook.

Vicky Hilton (Countryside Manager) & Mike Libera (Forest Manager)

Deadline for Articles

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

7th September, 2015.

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. Thank you.
On Saturday 13th June the weather took an unfortunate dip during a period of calm and warmth. The wind was from the North-East, moving round to North-West during the afternoon. There was a gentle drizzle all day that caused no great bother to the considerable crowd that attended the event. However, the temperature of around 7-8 degrees was quite noticeable. I was told that some of the cyclists were not equipped for the conditions and found the race rather unpleasant. The next day the weather returned to the general pattern of the period, mild and dry.

One quarter of the Square was used for some wooden obstacles to cycle over, with the main area using the space outside the Information Office. The various displays surrounded the familiar wooden cycle track so popular with the youngsters. A rather tasteful selection of pop music came from one of the display tents. Three of the displays particularly drew my attention.

One was Bike Revolution. They are part of Outfit Moray, which provides 'exciting adventure activities for families, adults and young people'. The Bike Revolution receives donations of bicycles and bike parts in any condition and has the expertise to maximise the revenue generated for Outfit Moray.

The Estate Office Landscape Project had a very popular piece of equipment. A circular 'cake tin' was connected by bike chains to a bicycle which caused it to rotate. A piece of A4 paper was put in the container and paints dribbled onto the paper. The colourful results ranged from Cern-type particle explosions to artistic spirals.

Particularly impressive was the session in the Richmond Hall by six-times Pro BMX Freestyle champion Keelan Phillips. He used a special bike for his displays, with footrests on the front axle and special tyres pumped up to very high pressure. As well as giving his amazing display, he also gave workshops for the enthusiastic youngsters. One of their bikes made a sound from the tyres that reminded me of go-faster stripes on cars.
DOWN MEMORY LANE

My guess is the cheeky young faces on page 28 of the last Touler are Stewart, Nigel and Peter Grant. Photo taken in front of the Gordon Arms. Mrs Falconer’s house in the background.

Johnny MacIntyre, Wisconsin USA.

p.s. Am planning to attend the Tomintoul Games this year, my last Games were in 2007.

I have just read the Spring Edition of The Touler, and refer to the three young boys in the "Down Memory Lane" picture.

The boy in the middle could be the son of a Coop Manager (MR McCulloch) that was in Tomintoul around 1954/55---1957/58 before moving to the Coop in Aviemore. The boys name could have been Kenneth! Not sure who the other boys are but would be interested to know if you find out!!

Richmond Memorial Hall

200 Club Monthly Draw

MARCH 2015
119 Hilda Stewart £30
138 Mary Crowley £15
5 Dennis Bulmer £15
18 Ros Tansley £15

APRIL
62 Elma Turner £30
104 Felicity McIntosh £15
92 Mike Budd £15
16 Marjorie McGillivary £15

MAY
148 Jackie Horning £30
83 Finn McFall £15
201 Steven Martin £15
190 Ann Wraight £15

The Hall Committee wish to thank all members for their continued support.

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.
Queen’s View

I have recently visited one of my favourite local sites, namely Queen’s View. The gorse was in full flower and the smell of coconut superb. What a shame to find that the seat, the safety handrail and the signs were all in an appalling state. What must visitors think, and we are trying to encourage them to come here, when they see such appalling neglect! I am not sure who is responsible for these items, but if anybody slips as a result of the handrail etc, and a compensation claim follows, it would far outweigh the cost of repair. If we are to encourage people here, a little maintenance would make all the difference.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Touler,

My cousin Billy MacIntyre delighted readers of the Touler with The 'Billy Mac' Column. He had us talking and remembering the Toulers of the 40's and 50's as he revisited every house from the bottom to the top of the village. But Billy is also a bit of a poet. As it's near Games time I thought I would share with you this poem which he penned for my 60th birthday.
meldrum@quine.scot

ODE TO A TOULER

Maureen Meldrum is fae the Toul
She bade at 52
Right next door was Bessie and Jock
And their motley crew
But off tae Glasgow she hed to go
Hoping to find fame
She found a man called Daniel Duff
And never ever came hame
In 81 whilst at the Games
She thought I've got the pace
So up she went and doon again
In the Games Hill Race
She wisna first but wisna last
You should have seen her speed
She even flew past Sebastian Coe
And then knocked doon Jock Sheed
So here's to the quine who's 60 today
We wish her a’ the best
Good luck
Happy Birthday
Happiness
From your cousins and a’ the rest
Billy MacIntyre

Maureen Meldrum
meldrum@quine.scot
**Tomintoul and Glenlivet Outdoor Bowling Club**

The bowling club opened its season officially on the 18th April this year, and what a successful opening it was. In a year when it is still unseasonably cold in early June, the day was a scorcher. We were lucky to have 40 bowlers at the opening, and since the maximum with 6 rinks is 48, you can see that it was a very well attended affair. Most of these bowlers were from other clubs, as far away as Forres and Rothes etc. there were 12 from Aberlour alone. In the last couple of seasons, Tomintoul seems to be the place people want to come and bowl. Long may it continue. The traditional opening of bowling the first jack was performed by June Ferguson who will be well known to many of the village members as a member of the club in her past. Catering was organised by Caroline in her usual excellent style, a matter that was appreciated by all and commented on by many of the visiting bowlers. The credit goes, of course, to her army of helpers. Our reputation for the way we do things is spreading. Thank you one and all.

Rob Abdy, our chairman opened proceedings and led June Ferguson through the opening procedure and she can be seen from the following photographs getting the game started. She was later presented with a bunch of flowers from the club. A great day’s bowling followed which was enjoyed by all and the following photographs will give an indication of the numbers who attended.

A lot of the success and reputation of the bowling club is founded on the friendliness and the facilities and playing surface of the green itself which is down to the ground staff, and it seems a great shame that the green is not used by more villagers.

Please come along and give it a try, you may enjoy it, and we don’t bite.

Well, not too often. Mike Budd. Secretary. Call me on 580459.

---

**The Old Fire Station Tea Room**

**OPEN**

9am to 5pm **EVERYDAY**

(except 25th & 26th December)

For: Coffee, Tea, Pancakes, Bacon rolls, Home-baked Cakes & Scones and much more!

The Old Fire Station Tea Room, 37 Main Street, Tomintoul

---

**SNIPPETS**

There has been a 25% increase in small independent food shops in 3 years.
West Country Apple Cake

**Ingredients**
4oz (110g) Butter  
6oz (175g) Dark Soft Brown Sugar  
2 Eggs beaten  
8oz (225g) Plain Wholemeal Flour  
1 tsp Mixed Spice  
1 tsp Cinnamon  
2 tsp Baking Powder  
1lb (450g) Cooking Apples peeled, cored and chopped  
3-4 tbsp Unsweetened Apple Juice  
Light Demerara Sugar

**Method**
Preheat your oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3 and grease and line a 7” (18cm) round cake tin.  
Cream the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy. Add the beaten eggs a little at a time beating well as you go. Add the flour, spice and baking powder and mix well. Fold in the apples and enough apple juice to make a soft dropping consistency. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin. Sprinkle with demerara sugar. Bake for 1¼ - 1½ hours until cake is well risen and firm to the touch. Turn out onto a wire rack to cool.

This cake will freeze but if you want to freeze it do not sprinkle demerara sugar on top. Allow the cake to cool then wrap it in cling film to freeze. Once thawed you can sprinkle it with Demerara sugar. If you want to use up eating apples they work but do not freeze the cake as the eating apples are much softer than cooking apples. You can also use strong white flour.

Gooseberry Yogurt Sorbet

**Ingredients**
1½ lb (680g) Gooseberries either fresh or frozen topped and tailed  
4oz (110g) Granulated Sugar  
1 sachet Gelatine  
10oz (275g) Natural Yogurt  
2 Egg Whites

**Method**
Put the gooseberries and sugar in a saucepan with 4 tbsp of water. Cover the pan and cook gently for approx 10 mins until the fruit is soft. Puree the fruit the push through a nylon sieve. Leave to cool for 10 mins. Sprinkle the gelatine in 3 tbsp cold water in a small bowl and leave to soak for 3 – 4 minutes. Place the bowl in a saucepan of simmering water and stir until the gelatine dissolves. Leave until lukewarm then stir into the gooseberry puree. Add the yogurt and stir. Whisk the egg whites until stiff but not dry and fold into the puree. Pour the mixture into a rigid freezer container and freeze for about three hours or until almost frozen. Remove from the freezer and whisk well or blend in a food processor. Return to the freezer and freeze for at least 4 hours until firm. Before serving transfer to the fridge for at least 30 minutes to soften.

This is a refreshing summer desert.

Goulash in a Hurry

**Ingredients**
½ tbsp Olive Oil

**Method**
Preheat your oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3 and grease and line a 7” (18cm) round cake tin. Cream the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy. Add the beaten eggs a little at a time beating well as you go. Add the flour, spice and baking powder and mix well. Fold in the apples and enough apple juice to make a soft dropping consistency. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin. Sprinkle with demerara sugar. Bake for 1¼ - 1½ hours until cake is well risen and firm to the touch. Turn out onto a wire rack to cool.

This cake will freeze but if you want to freeze it do not sprinkle demerara sugar on top. Allow the cake to cool then wrap it in cling film to freeze. Once thawed you can sprinkle it with Demerara sugar. If you want to use up eating apples they work but do not freeze the cake as the eating apples are much softer than cooking apples. You can also use strong white flour.

---

**Findouran Garage**  
Stuart Place, Tomintoul  
01807 580361

**Car Servicing and Repair**  
MOT Preparation and Arrangement  
Tyres and Exhausts  
Quad and ATV Servicing and Repair  
Calor Gas
Goulash in a Hurry

Ingredients
- ½ tbsp Olive Oil
- 1 Onion finely sliced
- 1lb 2oz (500g) Lean Pork Steaks cut into finger-sized strips
- 2fl oz (50ml) Dry Vermouth (optional)
- 1 tbsp Paprika
- 1 tbsp Plain Flour
- 2 tbsp Tomato Puree
- 2 X 400g time Copped Tomatoes
- 2 Red Peppers deseeded and cut into strips
- Small handful of fresh coriander chopped
- Low-fat Greek Yogurt to dollop

Method
Heat the oil in a large pan and fry the onion for 10 minutes until lightly coloured
Add the pork strips and fry for 5 minutes
Carefully pour in the vermouth, if using
Stir in the paprika, flour and tomato puree and cook for 1 minute
Add the tomatoes, peppers and a splash of water
Season the dish to taste and simmer, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes
Check the seasoning and garnish with coriander and a dollop of yogurt
Serve with rice.

This is quick and easy. If you make traditional goulash in can take house of slow cooking and with us having busy lives this is a nice alternative and by using lean pork you will cut the calorie count.
You can use dried chopped coriander if fresh is not available.

One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest!

I was lucky enough to catch this photo, while trying to photograph some swifts over Glenmulliach.

by Graeme Taylor
Glenmulliach House

Advertising Rates for the Touler
The following charges will be payable for advertisements in the Touler

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.

Mobile Unisex Hairdresser
Kim Irvine
Tel. TOMINTOUL: 077354 22739

Styling
Cutting
Perms
Blow-Drys
Colouring
Setting
How to contact ‘The Touler’

by EMAIL: thetouler@yahoo.com
or by POST: The Touler, c/o Corrievaich, Cults Drive, Tomintoul AB37 9HA
OR In person to any of the editorial team, who are: Pam Fletcher, Mike Fletcher, Patricia Grant, Jenny Herschell, Meg Smith, Sheila Thomson, and Nigel Varey.

THE TOULER AUTUMN EDITION will be published in October 2015.
DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS is 7th September 2015.

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 Touler Editorial Team who reserve the right to refuse publication and also to edit letters and articles received.

Back issues of The Touler can be seen online: http://oldtouler.weebly.com/

SPONSORSHIP OF THE TOULER
If you or your business would be willing to sponsor an edition of ‘The Touler’, 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 or Email: thetouler@yahoo.com

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? Let us know!

Please come along to our ‘IDEAS’ meeting on the 3rd August 2015 at 8pm in the Glenavon Hotel.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Childline: 0800 1111
Grampian Police:
  Tomintoul Police Station: 01807 580222
  Service Centre: 101 (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)
  0845 600 8855 (emergency information)
Veterinary Surgeries
  Aberlour Veterinary Centre: 01340 871385
  Strathspey Veterinary Centre: 01479 872252

EMERGENCIES 999