

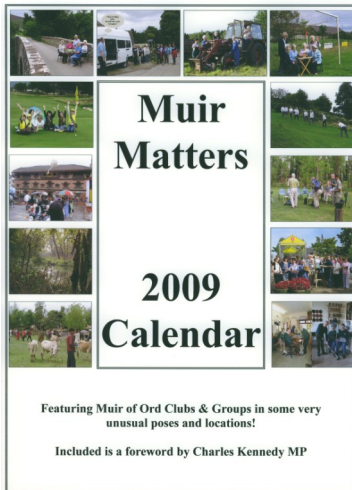
'Muir Matters'

Issue 16

December 2008

£1.00

**Have You Got
Your Copy?**



Muir Matters calendar is now in its final print run, so if you haven't yet bought yours then get your skates on or you might miss out.

We're happy to say that almost 100 people worked together to bring this project together and profits from this venture have been used to purchase the equipment which will allow 'Muir Matters' to print further calendars and brochures.

Don't miss your copy, it's on sale in Forbes' now.!

Due to the amount of articles submitted for publication in this issue of 'Muir Matters' the Editor has made the decision that for this edition only the 'Really, Really Useful pages' will be reduced.

We apologise for any Inconvenience.

Your Village Hall Needs You



In our last issue we reported the news that Highland Council are no longer prepared to manage or fund the Village Hall in Muir of Ord, but the question that now hangs over us is- who will? As residents, do we accept the Council's decision and take on the financial responsibility for this once first-rate but now sadly ailing facility, or do we protest their decision and show them why they should change their minds?

Taking ownership of the hall will involve a huge commitment to finding the tens of thousands of pounds necessary to upgrade the building to meet current safety legislation and again to cover the not insubstantial running costs. Do we have enough people who are prepared to take on this challenge?

There is also another issue of just how much work Highland Council has the right to expect volunteers to do. Using the members of Muir Matters as an example, between them, they are heavily involved in the running of 16 different community groups as well as holding down full and part-time jobs, running homes and/or bringing up families. If you look around other community groups in Muir of Ord you'll see exactly the same picture emerging. Volunteers struggling to cope with the demands made on them. More and more we are expected to use our time, our own money and resources to make good the Council's shortcomings.

With plans in place for millions of pounds to be spent on various projects such as refurbishing artificial pitches and upgrading sport and community facilities elsewhere in the Highlands we believe that the Council's plans for Muir of Ord is an example of poor leadership and a dangerous lack of accountability.

But it's time for you to make up our mind: Step up and run the hall or fight to reverse this decision.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

Vintage Tractor Rally



On September 27th thirty three vintage tractors took to the roads of the Black Isle and having travelled from Dingwall through to Culbokie, Rosemarkie, Avoch, Munloch and Beauly, finally congregated for afternoon tea at George & Val Sutherland's saw mill on the Great North Road in Muir-of-Ord. And a very colourful sight they made too!

The Rally was the brain child of Neil MacDonald of the Heights of Achterneed who for the third year running organised this inspirational event. This year the money raised through sponsorship was for the Ross-shire Branch of the MS Society and the quite staggering amount of £9500 was raised.

The presentation of a huge cheque will be made at the saw mill by Neil to members of the Ross-shire Branch on the afternoon of December 12th. The Branch would like to express enormous thanks to Neil and all the tractor drivers who made this event possible and to all those who went to strenuous efforts to raise this large amount of money. Thanks are also accorded to the MacLennan family of Strathpeffer who organised the very successful Dance in the Achterneed Hall on the evening of the Rally.

It is of great encouragement to the Branch to receive such support and encouragement for the work it does to try to raise the quality of life for all those who have to contend with the debilitating effects of multiple sclerosis and on their behalf, we wish to record our most sincere and heart felt appreciation.

Gill McWhirter, Secretary to the Branch



This female Harpy Eagle pictured below was seen by Muir resident Terry Wilson on a recent birding trip to the Pantanal in Brazil.

This amazing eagle grows to 3½ feet in height has a wingspan of 6ft 7in and can weigh up to 20lbs. Its talons are 5in long which is longer than a Grizzly bears claws.

Harpy Eagles feed mostly on tree dwellers such as monkeys, coatis and sloths as well as armadillos and deer.

Sadly this rare magnificent bird is under threat from logging and hunting.



Happy Birthday Jess

We know it has been reported elsewhere, but Muir Matters couldn't go to print without saying congratulations to the Muir's very own, Jess Campbell who recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Many folks will know her well kent face in Forbes' shop but Jess has always been a central part of community life in the Muir, from the 'Tarradale Players' amateur dramatics group in the 1950's to Village Hall caretaker- Jess played, and still plays her part.

Happy Birthday Jess and many more of them..!



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Muir Man's Tibetan Protest

Iain Thom from Muir of Ord hit the headlines in August with a daring pro-Tibet demonstration in Beijing just before the Olympic games. Here he recounts his experience for Muir Matters.



In August 2008 I travelled to Beijing to take part in the Tibetan Olympics Campaign, the largest the Tibetan Freedom Movement has seen in its 50-year history.

My involvement with Tibetan Olympics Campaign started with the Tibetan athletics team who wanted to be represented at the Olympics and were trying to get recognised as an official team. In Edinburgh a mass 'warm-up' event was organised with members of Team Tibet leading the stretches and ex-political prisoners lighting an alternative Tibetan Olympics Torch to publicise the campaign. With the Olympics approaching the world's eyes were on Beijing and a spectacular celebration was planned. We wanted to insert the story of Tibet into the spotlight to prevent China's government from whitewashing its human rights record.

Tibet is now considered by most countries to be a region of China but the Tibetan people don't see it that way. They have their own culture, language, religion, and traditions and until the Chinese invasion in 1949 were self-governed. I discovered more about the region at university where I made friends with some people who had spent time in Tibetan refugee or exile settlements in India.

Many Tibetans wanted to travel to Beijing to take part in demonstrations but the authorities were denying access to anyone with a Tibetan name. So it fell to those of us with passports and western names to take action at this crucial time for Tibet.

I was anxious, our plan was audacious. We planned to outwit one of the largest public security operations in the world to climb a 120ft floodlight pole outside of the 'Bird's Nest' stadium and hang a pro-Tibet banner. We didn't know how the police would react or how long we would be detained.

Months of planning led us to the day of the action, two days before the Opening Ceremony. We made our way to the poles, breaking into the bushes and across the barriers at the last possible moment. As we approached the base of the pole I attached myself securely to the ropes and started to climb with all my strength knowing I

had to get out of reach as soon as possible.

By the time I'd reached the top more and more police were gathering with sirens blaring. I secured the banner and pulled the cloth tight. It read 'One World, One Dream, Free Tibet'. Only then, when I knew that the cameras could get their pictures, did I relax a little. I phoned two journalists and spoke to them while hanging from up high.

The news went instantly round the globe as news channels broke the story in multiple countries. At

home in Muir of Ord my parents woke in the middle of the night to hear the news and by the morning the house was flooded with reporters desperate to speak to my family.

Back in China we were treated fairly by the police who interrogated us but also kept us fed and watered before deporting us back to Frankfurt after 19 hours. By the time we arrived in London the airport was packed with reporters, TV crews and supporters. I was so glad to be back and see my friends but giving those first face-to-face interviews was probably the most nerve wracking part!

So what did we achieve? If there was any time in the last 50 years that Tibet and human rights in China should be discussed it is now, particularly after the protests in March 2008 were quelled so brutally by the army and police with thousands of people disappearing and probably over one hundred killed in retaliations.

My demonstration reached thousands but was a small part of the campaign for freedom and self-determination that Tibetans will continue until Tibet is free.

To support or find out more visit: www.sftuk.org or email iain@sftuk.org



Iain pictured at Edinburgh Station being met by his sister Aileen



Around the World with Phileas Fogg (well, Craig Robb really!)

On Sunday (7th December) James Blake, Dave Lawson, Calum Barnett and myself set off to try to circumnavigate the globe. Unlike Phileas Fogg we have given ourselves the best part of a year to complete our adventure.

The first stop is India, with our first destination being Mumbai. This has been made all the more interesting (?) with last week's events, but after a brief consultation we decided that we would still travel.

To make the initial stages of our trip even more interesting we also have to have a brief stay in Bangkok en-route to Australia. It seems that everywhere we intend to go has some sort of problem. Hopefully the airports will be back to normal before that leg of our journey.

In Australia, Melbourne is our proposed destination where, with a bit of luck we will be able to pick up some work – maybe a starring role down Ramsay Street..! The plan is to work here until we have enough money to carry on with our trip.

From Australia its on to New Zealand then South America, where we hope to spend at least 3 months

travelling around as many countries as we can fit it. Finally it's on to the USA and Canada. From Canada all that will be left is to earn the money to pay for our flight home..!

With a bit of luck all the recent political issues will be resolved quickly and we'll keep everyone up to date on how we are getting on.



Craig, son of Keith & Rosie Robb pictured with one of his golfing awards.

Recycle At Mulbuie School and Make a Lasting Change Partnership with Blythswood

Mulbuie Primary School have joined forces with Blythswood, in running a project which will enable them to assist in the operation of a 'Recycling Point' service for clothes, shoes, books and bric-a-brac. This will not only be good for the environment, it will also benefit children in need in Africa as

well as enhancing Mulbuie pupils learning experience and Eco Schools work.

Turn your old unwanted items into meals for needy children! How?

By recycling your unwanted goods in this project you can help Blythswood raise money which will be used by their projects in Mozambique and Malawi to provide a daily meal for children who would otherwise go hungry.

Ian Matheson

Thousands of filled shoeboxes have been received and are being prepared to send abroad.

If you can help us by donating towards the cost of transporting them please go to www.blythswood.org/shooboxappeal



Whilst every care is taken to ensure accuracy, the editors of 'Muir Matters' take no responsibility for errors in articles submitted.

*Whilst we welcome and look forward to receiving letters and articles for publication in 'Muir Matters' we reserve the right to alter or amend them as we deem necessary.
All correspondence must be accompanied by your name, address and telephone number.*

Given the recent messages of doom and gloom about the credit crunch and taking into consideration the latest news from the Council that they can no longer afford to repair or run our village hall, here at Muir Matters we wondered what Christmas would be like if Highland Council were in charge...!!!

Memo to Heads of Departments - Subject-Christmas Budget Savings:

Today's global challenges require the Council to continue to look for better, more competitive ways of working. Effective immediately, the following measures will take place within Highland Council's "Twelve Days of Christmas" division:



On the first day of Christmas- The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree didn't turn out to be the success we anticipated. It will be replaced by a plastic plant providing considerable savings in maintenance. Although another repository for all the er.. 'manure' we produce will have to be identified.

On the second day of Christmas- The two turtle doves represent over-staffing which is simply not cost-effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be overlooked. The positions are therefore eliminated and they will be offered a suitable membership to an online dating service for old birds.



On the third day of Christmas- The French hens will remain intact. The prospect of industrial action by the French is not to be sniffed at..!

On the fourth day of Christmas- The four calling birds will be replaced by a new call centre to be built in Caithness. Users may have difficulty understanding the accent and no-one will have any idea on who should deal with your call. This will mean huge savings for the council as we will no longer have to deal with those annoying problems like the decrepit bridge in Muir of Ord.



On the fifth day of Christmas- The five golden rings have been melted down and fashioned into a nice medallion for the Chief Executive. This will serve to make the Council look very shiny and important at official functions.

On the sixth day of Christmas- The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day is an example of poor yield. Three geese will be deleted and Councillors are looking forward to a tasty Christmas Lunch this year.



On the seventh day of Christmas- The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. The function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are in order. Eighteen new posts will be created to handle the possible mechanical breakdown of the new swans and a new Swan Repair Facility will be built in Ullapool because that's where we put all the good stuff.

On the eighth day of Christmas-As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under scrutiny by the Equal Opportunity Commission. A male/female balance in the workforce has been examined and an extra eight posts of lads-a-milking will be created. Seven village halls will be closed in order to pay for this.

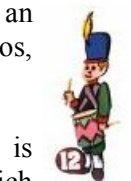


On the ninth day of Christmas- Nine ladies dancing has also undergone examination at the hands of the Equalities Commission. In future we will have NINE persons engaged in rhythmic self-expression followed by a drumming workshop.

On the tenth day of Christmas- Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords plus the expense of maintaining their lifestyle prompted our Budget Working Group to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work politicians. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant because we fully expect a plentiful supply of unemployed Councillors and MSPs at the next election.



On the eleventh & twelfth days of Christmas- Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is an example of reckless spending. These musical functions are to be replaced by 2 personal stereos, four AA batteries and a CD from Woolworths.



Furthermore, though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. We are currently working towards delivering a "One Day of Christmas Event" which would represent significant savings to the Council allowing us to spend more of your money on expensive consultants and big shiny brochures which make us look and sound brilliant. With these prudent measures we know that residents of the Highlands will continue to enjoy a happy and joyful Christmas..!!

Just kiddin' folks.....!!

Wishing you all a Happy & Peaceful Christmas (including everyone in the Council.!)

From the Muir Matters Team.

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Spotlight on Muir Stalwart



Local man, Dan MacRae was born in 1930 on the Isle of Lewis. His mother, originally from Stornaway, was a district nurse and his father a policeman. A transfer brought the family to Muir of Ord in 1937.

The middle of three boys, growing up in the Muir provides fond memories for Dan who attended Tarradale Primary School. The arrival of the army in 1939 stands out in his memory. Up to 2000 soldiers were housed in huts in the village. He says the Lovat Scouts received a lot of support from the local people. There were at one time, Indian as well as Polish soldiers too. 'I remember we were allowed to polish the soldiers' saddles or stirrups for a penny, which of course we took straight to the shops for sweets.'

As a teenager he recalls the dance that would be held every week in the public hall. His father, the only policeman in the village, would patrol the village with a Sergeant from Conon Bridge to keep an eye on proceedings. 'A story went around that my father had supposedly sorted out a number of visiting Norwegians who had gotten into a fight with some soldiers staying in the Muir after a dance one night'. But laughs Dan, 'I'm sure it wasn't true.'

Aberdeen University and a BSc in Agriculture followed on from Dingwall Academy. On qualifying in 1951, Dan applied through the university for two jobs abroad. At the time British farms abroad used the universities to recruit staff. 'I applied for two jobs, one in Africa and one in Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka). I had fancied the West Indies but the first to reply was the job in Ceylon so that was the one I got.'

And so it was on Boxing Day 1951, he sailed from Liverpool, arriving 3 weeks later in Ceylon. The company, Scottish Tea & Land, had a large estate that produced tea and it was there that he enjoyed a very successful career. His final position being General Manager.

The company allowed him to travel home to Scotland for 3 months every 18 months and it was on one of these trips that he met his wife Ann. They married in 1965 and had two children. 'I would have retired in Ceylon if the

company had not been nationalised as we had a very good life there.' He did, however, return after 22 years abroad.

Three months after returning he got a job with The Mackay Group running Ross-shire Oil in Dingwall. He worked there until he retired in 1997, aged 67.

Always active in the community, Dan has been a member of the Community Council for 25 years. He enjoys gardening and holidays in the sun. He still lives in the house he built on the Balvaird Road after returning home. The house is named after the first bungalow he lived in Ceylon – 'Plaiderie' – the Indian name for 'field of stones', which quite suits Muir of Ord!

Pictured below is Dan judging the 'Muir Matters' Sunflower Competition in 2007.



Fight the freeze

Dress appropriately;

Wear thin layers of clothes rather than one thick layer.
Choose clothes made with wool, cotton, or fleecy synthetic materials.

Stay active & eat well;

Don't stay sitting still for long periods.
Get a flu jab.
Eat at least one hot meal a day.
Sip hot drinks regularly throughout the day and before bedtime.

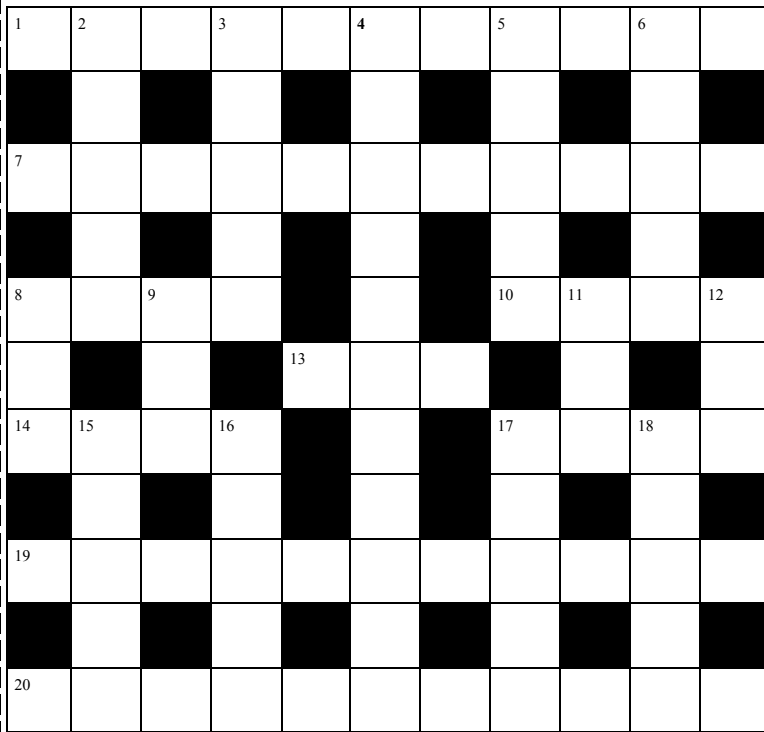
Prepare your home;

Stock up on provisions in case it is too cold to go to the shops.
Seal gaps around windows and doors.

Age Concern Information line:

0800 00 99 66 Free phone
7 days a week from 8am to 7pm.

AGE
Concern



Name.....

Address.....

P/Code.....Tel/No.....

Signed.....

For a chance of winning a £10.00 Book Token, fill in the above form and send the completed grid in a **sealed envelope** (photocopies not accepted) to **'Muir Matters' Prize Crossword No 16, Village Hall, Seaforth Road, Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA**. Entries must be received by **Friday 30th January 2009**.

The first correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize. Answers and winners name will be published in our next Issue.

Across

- 1) West End Musical (2,3,2,4)
- 7) English Composer (6&5)
- 8) God of Love (4)
- 10) Childs Toy (4)
- 13) Self-importance (3)
- 14) Recedes (4)
- 17) Plant support (4)
- 19) Witches transport (11)
- 20) Another Musical (3,4,3,1)

Down

- 2) Church official (5)
- 3) Closes (5)
- 4) Norway, Land of the? (8,3)
- 5) A gutter or drain (5)
- 6) Prepared (5)
- 8) Mother of Cain & Abel (3)
- 9) A spherical object (3)
- 11) Eggs (3)
- 12) A Lyrical poem (3)
- 15) A Scottish Borough (5)
- 16) A ghost or Spy (5)
- 17) Tableware (5)
- 18) Bare (5)

Congratulations to Mairi MacIver, Corry Road, on winning our prize crossword No. 15.

The Prize is a £10 book token. Issue 15 Solutions

Across

- 1) Camouflaged 7) Lotto 8) Incas
- 10) Infatuation 13) Abracadabra
- 16) India 18) Prang 19) Garden Gnome

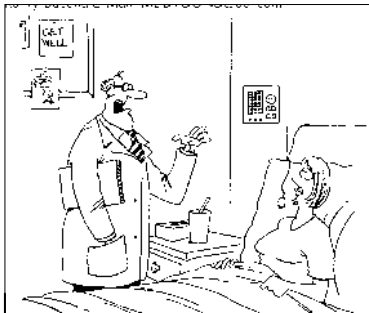
Down

- 1) Cultivating 2) Motif 3) UFO 4) Lei
- 5) Gucci 6) Disentangle 9) Dumas
- 11) Aga 12) Tea 14) Rider 15) Beano
- 17) Ape 18) Pug

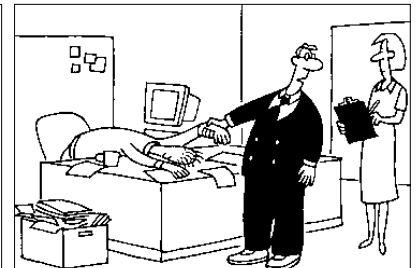
The winner of the Issue 15, 'Spot the Difference' Competition is Niamh Clark, aged 7 years of Tomich, Beauly.

Well done to Niamh who wins £10.00

Congratulations to Danny McPake, Rose Croft, the winner of our Farm shop Competition. Danny wins a family ticket to the 'Children's Farmyard', Tomich Farm Shop, Beauly. Well done Danny



"You can go home now. The virus was in the diagnostic computer."



"There's still some work left in this one. Get him another pot of coffee."

Jotter Space

A - Z of The Muir Clubs/Associations

Art Group

Tues @ 7.00pm & Sat 10.00am / 12 noon
The old School
Contact Annie MacLean on 870274
Meet all year round.



Football Club (The Rovers)

Football for all ages.
Further details can be obtained from Team
Coach Billy MacGruer on 870093
Anyone wishing to join the Committee will be welcome.



Bowling Indoor

Saturday evening @ 7pm
Village Hall, Seaforth Road
Contact Ann Bell 01463 870170
Meet October to April



Jogging for Beginners

Age no barrier-all levels
Mondays @ 7pm, Wednesday 1.30pm & 7pm
Contact: Joan Munro 870237, Hazel Keiro 01997
414376 or Ian Dempster 07724 199 880



Bowling Outdoor

Meet April to September
Club nights Wednesday & Saturday & 7pm.
Contact details ;
Maureen Howie 870282



Lunch Club

Wednesday @12 noon
Village Hall, Seaforth Road
Contact details 01463 870065



Bridge Club

Thursday evenings 7.00pm - 9.30pm
GP Room, Tarradale School
Contact Dot Chalmers on 870045
Meet September to April



Over 60s Club

2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7.00pm
Tarradale School
Contact details Ken Howie 01463 870282
Meet October to May



Community Association

Meeting are held Bi-monthly in the Pavilion .
Next Meeting 7th October 2008@ 7.30pm
Contact details; 870033

Scrabble Club

Monday afternoon 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Church Hall, Seaforth Road.
Contact Muriel Mackay on 01463 870917
Meet all year round



Community Council

All meetings are open to the public.
They are normally held in Tarradale School and are
advertised locally.

Amateur Swimming Club

Monday
Children must be Age 7 plus
Meet in the Square
For an application form contact Helen on 01463 871428



Country Dancing

Monday evenings
October / April
Village Hall 7.30 - 9.30pm
Contact Ellan Cromb 870860



S.W.R.I.

1st Monday of the month @ 7.30pm
Village Hall, Seaforth Road
Contact Mrs W Stephen 01463 870065
Meet September to May

Curling Club

Monday evenings, 7.30pm & 9.30pm
Inverness Ice Rink, Bught Park.
Contact ; Tom Inglis on 01463 870693
or Email tommyinglis@aol.com



Walking Group (Step-it-up)

If you would like to get involved in the group,
receive a pedometer progress card, a Great
Glen Way Challenge Map, please contact
Step it up Highland 01463 729997



Are you a member of a local club or group which is not mentioned above? To advertise your club or group free on this page contact 'Muir Matters', our contact details can be found on page 9.

Weekly Activities

Monday

In the Free Church Hall, West Road
Mother & Toddler Afternoon (contact Deirdre 871257)

In the Church Hall, Seaforth Road
Scrabble Club meets @ 2.00pm.

Meet in the Square
Swimming Club, contact Helen, 01463 871428
Jogscotland @ 7pm contact Joan 870237 or
Ian 07724 199 880

Tuesday

In the Free Church Hall, West Road
Noah's Ark Tots 9.30am - 11.00am

Youth Group 7.00pm - 9.00pm (Fortnightly)

In the Village Hall
Ready, Steady Go (Children's Sports) 3pm-6pm
In the Old School
Art Group @ 7pm - 9pm

Wednesday

In the Village Hall

Babyzone from 9.30 to 11.30am
(for more details phone Health Visitor 783403)
Lunch Club @ 12 noon (870065 for further details)
Scout Group @ 5.15 to 9.30pm
(For further details telephone 01349 862287)

Meet in the Square
Jogscotland @ 1.30pm Contact Joan 870237,
Hazel 01997 414376 or Ian 07724 199 880
Jogscotland @ 7pm Contact Joan or Ian
Healthways Step-it-up Walking Group @ 2pm

Thursday

In the Village Hall
Line Dancing 6pm-11pm

Friday

In the Free Church Hall, West Road
Jam Club @ 4 to 5pm (contact Deirdre 871257)
Friday Zone @ 6.30 to 7.30pm (contact Gordon 871223)

In the Church Hall, Seaforth Road
Challengers academy age @ 7.30pm

In the Village Hall
Legs, Bums & Tums @ 10.00 - 11.00am
Step & Step Dance @ 6.15 - 8.30pm

Saturday

In the Village Hall
Indoor Bowling @ 7.00pm
In the Old School
Art Group 10am to 12 noon

School Calendar Session 2007/2008

Open	Close
	Friday 19th December
Monday 5th January	Friday 27th March
Tuesday 14th April	Thursday 2nd July

Muir of Ord Scout Group **Wednesdays in the Village Hall**

Scouts (10 - 14 years) 8pm to 9.30pm
Alf McGregor 01349 862287

Cubs (8 - 10 years) 6.30pm to 7.45pm
Gordon Simpson 01463 782043

Beavers (6—8 years) 5.15pm to 6.15pm
Brenda McGregor 01349 862287

2nd Muir of Ord Guides

Meet in the Church Hall, Seaforth Road
Wednesdays 7.15pm to 9pm
10 to 14 year old girls
All welcome
For more information contact
Janice at Forbes (01463 870240)

1st Muir of Ord Brownies

Ages 7 - 10
Meet Wednesdays 6.45 - 8.00pm
Tarradale School
Contact Frances MacGruer
01463 870093

2nd Muir of Ord Brownies

Ages 7 - 10½

1st Muir of Ord Rainbows

P1 - P3

Both groups meet Wednesdays 5.45 - 7.00pm
in the Church Hall, Seaforth Road
For more information contact
Margaret Anderson 01997 433231

**The next issue of 'Muir Matters' will be on sale
from Early March 2009.**

**Any articles for inclusion *must* be submitted by our
deadline of Friday February 20th 2009**

The Really Really Useful Page

Telephone Numbers

Doctor's Surgeries

Strathlene, Muir of Ord 01463 870843
Croyard Rd, Beauly 01463 782794
Dingwall Med. Group 01349 863030
Aird Practice, Beauly 01463 782214

Chemist

Muir of Ord Pharmacy - 01463 870806

Hospitals

Raigmore - 01463 704000
Ross Memorial - 01349 863313
'NHS 24' - 08454 24 24 24

Samaritans

0845 7909090
Inverness - 01463 713456

Alcohol DrinkLine

Freefone - 0800 917 8282

Childline

Freefone - 0800 1111

National Drugs Helpline

Freefone 0800 77 66 00

Council Services

Highland Council - 01463 702000

Council: Refuse Collection
01349 863381

Dingwall Leisure Centre
01349 864226

M.O.O. Service Point - 01463 870201

Dog Warden - 01463 702000

Schools

Dingwall Academy - 01349 863071
Mulbuie - 01349 861289
Tarradale - 01463 870484

Police

Muir of Ord - 01463 870222
Crime Stoppers - 0800 555 111

Library Opening Hours



Monday: 10am/12..30pm, 2/5 pm & 6/8 pm
Thursday: 10am/12.30 pm & 6/ 8 pm **Friday;** 2.00 / 5.00pm



Talking books for adults and children are available and a selection of magazines can be read on the premises.

Telephone/Fax 01463 870196

Among the many other services supplied by the Library are; photocopying, internet access and Fax facilities. Various telephone directories are kept on site and a notice board in the corridor advertises local services and events.
Please note we are open Monday 29th December 2008 10.00am - 12.30pm & 2.00pm - 5.00pm
The Library will be closed on Thursday 25th & Friday 26th December, also Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd January 2009

Want to contact us?

Email: muir.communicationsgroup@virgin.net



Write or visit us at
"Muir Matters"
Village Hall, Seaforth Road,
Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA
Telephone: 01463 870822



Have you relatives and friends staying away from the Muir who would be interested in receiving a copy of 'Muir Matters'? We could mail them a copy on your behalf. To order a copy or for more information please contact us using the details as given above.
Back copies of 'Muir Matters' are also available on request.

Do you know something we don't?



Muir Matters is constantly growing and evolving, so if you're aware of any new material, information or stories that you think we could include then please get in touch. Please write, email or give us a call.

The Communications Group are looking for old photographs of Muir of Ord as part of our Living History Project. If any of our readers are in possession of old snaps of the village and surrounding area we would love to hear from you. We promise to take great care of your photographs and return them to you as soon as possible. Please contact us using the details as shown above.

The Really Really Useful Page 2

Train Times to and from The Muir

Muir of Ord to Inverness

Monday to Saturday

0728, 0752, 0829, 1013, 1155, 1305, 1415,
1609, 1630, 1646, 1925, 1950, 2024 & 2249

Sunday

1154, 1446, 1542, 1647, 1729, 2249



Inverness to Muir of Ord

Monday to Saturday

0706, 0900, 1038, 1103, 1216, 1331, 1356, 1439
1715, 1752, 2053 & (2320 Friday & Saturday only)

Sunday

1000, 1111, 1249, 1521, 1804, 2053

Muir of Ord to Dingwall

Monday to Saturday

0729, 0920, 1058, 1120, 1236, 1351, 1419, 1459
1735, 1812, 2113 & (2340 Friday & Saturday only)

Sunday

1020, 1131, 1309, 1543, 1824, 2113

Dingwall to Muir of Ord

Monday to Saturday

0716, 0742, 0816, 1004, 1145, 1254, 1403, 1557,
1619, 1637, 1913, 1941, 2015 & 2238

Sunday

1143, 1435, 1530, 1636, 1718, 2238

From 14th December 2008 to 16th May 2009

DIAL-A-BUS SERVICE Operated by C & E Taxis

Mondays and Saturdays 0700 to 0810 & 1730 to 1900

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 0700 to 0810,
0900 to 1300 & 1600 to 1900

Booking arrangements and for more information
Telephone 01349 866007

Shopmobility Highland

Inverness, Falcon Gallery, Car Park Level 2, Eastgate
Centre, Inverness, IV2 3PR. Tel; 01463 717624 or email
shopmo@omn.net Mon to Sat 9.30am - 5.00pm.

Dingwall; Nicol's Court, Dingwall, IV15 9SW; email
shopmobility.dingwall@ecosse.net Tel; 01349 866040
Mon to Fri 10.00am - 4.00pm

This service can provide you with an escort. If
you require assistance with your shopping, and
are travelling by public transport chairs can be
arranged to meet you on your arrival.



Bus Times to and from The Muir

Muir of Ord to Inverness

Monday to Friday

0640, 0715, 0805, 0905, 1005, 1105, 1205, 1305, 1405,
1505, 1605, 1705, 1805, 1917, 2017, 2217.

Saturday

0640, 0811, 0905, 1005, 1105, 1205, 1305, 1405, 1505,
1605, 1705, 1810, 1917, 2017, 2217.

Sunday

1139, 1339, 1539, 1739, 1959.

Inverness to Muir of Ord

Monday to Friday

0615*, 0650*, 0745, 0845, 0945, 1045, 1145, 1245, 1345,
1445, 1600, 1700, 1800, 1900, 2100, 2320

Saturday

0755, 0850, 0945, 1045, 1145, 1245, 1345, 1445,
1600, 1705, 1800, 1900, 2100, 2320.

Sunday

0945, 1145, 1345, 1545 & 1830

*Burnett Rd. Bus Station via Tore (Monday to Friday only)



Muir of Ord to Dingwall

Monday to Friday

0823, 0923, 1023, 1123, 1223, 1323, 1423, 1523, 1638,
1738, 1844, 1944, 2144 & 0004

Saturday

0833, 0928, 1023, 1123, 1223, 1323, 1423, 1523, 1638,
1743, 1844, 1944, 2144 & 0004

Sunday

1032, 1232, 1432, 1632, & 1917

Muir of Ord Square to Dingwall Tesco

1019 (Mondays and Wednesdays only)

Return 1225 (Mondays and Wednesdays only)

Dingwall to Muir of Ord

All times from the Royal Hotel

Monday to Friday

0750, 0850, 0950, 1050, 1150, 1250, 1350, 1450, 1550,
1650, 1750, 1905, 2005, 2205

Saturday

0756, 0850, 0950, 1050, 1150, 1250, 1350, 1450, 1550,
1650, 1755, 1905, 2005 & 2205

Sunday

1128, 1328, 1528, 1728, & 1948

From 27th October 2008

Diary Dates

S.W.R.I

Village Hall, Seaforth Road @ 7.30pm

5th January - Cookery Demonstration
(Winter Warming Soups)

2nd February - Corners Night
Various Crafts

2nd March - Safety & Security
Mr Alan Bell

Over 60's Club

17th December - Xmas Party
(Village Hall @ 7.30pm)

14th January - 'Muir Matters' Production
Martha Chisholm & Susan Wilson

11th February - To be notified

11th March - To be notified

Conon Bridge, Maryburgh & District Gardening Club

Church Hall, Conon Bridge @ 7.30pm

Monday 23rd February—Roses
Mr John Jappy

Monday 30th March—Highland Liliums
Ms Sue Mullins

Muir of Ord Community Assoc.

Community Pavilion

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 11th December @ 7.30pm

All Welcome

Muir of Ord Community Council

The date & venue of the next meeting will be displayed in the usual places around the village

The following were recently appointed to the Community Council;

Tom Davis, Chairman, Frances MacGruer, Margaret Henson, Donald MacRae, Edward Chisholm, Willie MacKenzie, Wilma MacKenzie, Victor Clouston Jeffrey Bell, Duncan Cromb

Thanks are due to Betty Urquhart, Margaret Macleod, Margaret Smart & Paul Moody who stood down from the council at the recent election for their many combined years of service.

Two Recipes from the 'Traditional Scottish Recipe Book' (1976)

The book was kindly donated to 'Muir Matters' by Mrs C Moon, Shipley, West Yorkshire.

Rizzered Haddies

(Fresh haddocks - butter - salt)



You will need medium sized freshly caught fish.

Gut, wipe, salt and leave overnight.

Thread a wire through the eye sockets and hang up for two or three days in the open air, but not in the sun.

Now skin and bone them, and broil lightly brown on a gridiron.

Serve hot with melted butter.

Potted Hough

(3lb hough joint - salt and pepper)



Put the joint in a pot, cover with water and simmer 3 - 4 hours.

Strain, and then mince the meat, fine or rough as you prefer.

Add to the stock, season, and boil for a further 10 minutes.

Leave to set in moulds.

Use cold.

Hi Mattie how are you,
are you another feeling blue?
DO not worry about the crunch,
come on I'll buy you lunch.



But Minnie you should save your money,
being broke will not be funny.
Now Mattie you listen to me, neither a lender
nor borrower be, has stood me in good
stead you see.

We could show the government how to do it,
but I think they have already blew it.
So we have still got money in our purse,
we'll spend it before it gets worse.



SO let us go and have a steak, then plans for a
good Christmas we will make"

Minnie



Church Chimes



Church Services Christmas /New Year

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 21 December, 2008

11.00 am Family Service in the East Church,
Seaforth Road

6.00 pm Carol Service, with mince pies and
refreshments in the Hall

Wednesday 24 December, 2008

11.30 pm Watchnight Service in the East Church,
Seaforth Road

Thursday 25 December, Christmas Day

10.30 am Short Family Service in the East Church,
Seaforth Road



MUIR COMMUNITY CHURCH

A very warm welcome to all at our Annual Carol
Service on **Sunday 21st December @ 6.30pm**. In
the Village Hall.



FREE CHURCH, West Road

New Year's Day Service

11.00am - All welcome

Free Church Youth Fellowship

7.45 - 9pm Fortnightly (contact Gordon 871223)

Church of Scotland Guild

January 26th 2009

Memories (Guild Members)

February 23rd 2009

Project Night Bring & Buy (Mrs Ivy Garriock)

March 6th 2009

World Day of Prayer "In Christ there are many
members but one body" by Christian Women of
Papua New Guinea.

Church of Scotland

Service times:

1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at the
West Church Urray , 11.00am.

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays at the East Church,
Seaforth Road, 11.00am

Evening Services at 6.30pm in the East Church.

Morning crèche available

Free Church

West Road, Muir of Ord

Service Times :

Sunday 12 noon and 6.30pm

Crèche Available

Muir Community Church

Every Sunday @ 10.30am & 6.30pm

Village Hall, Seaforth Road

Local believers organise fellowship meetings.

Everyone Welcome.

Pastor W G McLaughlan B.A.Hons.PGCE

Contact Church Secretary 01463 870564

Pastoral Care Group

In the Church of Scotland we have a pastoral care group
that visits the house-bound, sick, elderly and others in
need. If anyone who presently does not receive a visit

feels they would like one,

Please contact Ivy on 01463-870308.

Church of Scotland The Challengers Youth Club

Takes place on Friday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.15
pm in the Church of Scotland Hall,
Seaforth Road, Muir of Ord.

We offer indoor activities to boys and girls of
secondary school age. This includes indoor football,
table tennis, pool and occasional visits to Rollerbowl.

Part of the evening will include a short Bible-based talk,
given by one of the Leaders. Each evening is adequately
staffed by Church volunteer members.

Entry is free but there is a small charge for
drinks and snacks.

You are most welcome.

Come on in and check it out!

If you need any further information please contact
Raymond on 01997-43339

We couldn't publish this issue without a mention of the recent sad loss of our friend and secretary to our group Judy Chin.

Judy had been an active part of the Muir Matters team for three years and was liked and admired by everyone. Always ready to muck in and lend a hand in whatever project or task we set ourselves, without fuss or protest and always with a smile.

She will be greatly missed by all of us.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

In all the doom and gloom we have had in the media etc., I wonder how many people have been cheered up by the free gifts in Autumn?

- 1) Trees in wonderful colours. Late flowering roses and autumn berries.
- 2) When the leaves fall we have carpets of leaves, and when we are walking and come across a pile of leaves who can resist "scooshing" through them?
- 3) Free exercise when the time comes to gather them up.

A nature lover. (Name & Address supplied)

FUNDRAISING TEA PARTY HELD AT TARRADALE HOUSE ON 11 SEPT. 2008

This year's fundraising event held at Tarradale House was the fourth and most successful event I have organised since moving to Tarradale House in 2004. In addition to serving teas with home baking and a bring and buy sale I held a raffle. One thousand tickets were printed and sold. The generosity of local businesses was such that the prizes included three luxury food and wine hampers, two smaller hampers plus a further four prizes.

A total of £1858.50 was raised. The success of this event is due to the tremendous support provided by family, friends, local businesses and all who attended the tea party, bought raffle tickets and those who were not able to come but gave generous donations. My sincere thanks to you all.

With an ever increasing elderly population the number of those with Alzheimer's Disease is growing resulting in a higher demand for specialist

services. The money raised this year will go towards the running of Alzheimer Scotland's services in the Highlands.

I look forward to holding another event in 2009 by which time I will be able to report how the money has been spent. For the helpers who provided such sterling work in the kitchen you will be pleased to know that I now have an electric tea urn !

Judith Grant
Tarradale House
Muir of Ord

Dear Editor

Am I the last to discover "Angela Stewart Flowers" in the village?

I called in to enquire about having flowers sent to a friend. It was no problem and there was no delivery charge as it was in the village.

The range of containers she has for hire or sale on an order basis left me speechless (no mean feat).

When so many business are closing in the area we are very lucky to have one of this calibre.

R.G.

Thank you Andrew

Some of you will already be aware that 'Muir Matters' has been strongly supported over the years by Andrew Macleman of Muir Micro Solutions.

A little while ago Andrew informed us that he has now semi-retired and will therefore no longer be undertaking Home Computer repairs.

We just wanted to say a very public & heartfelt thank you to Andrew. He spent many, many hours patiently guiding us through a maze of computer and IT problems, most of them of our own making..! It is only thanks to his skill (not to mention unlimited patience..!) and good nature that we are able to produce Muir Matters as it is today.

Critics are like eunuchs in a harem; they know how it's done, they've seen it done every day, but they're unable to do it themselves.

Brendan Behan

ORDKIDZ

The village's creative play group for young children, ORDKIDZ, has been busy these last weeks.



Beginners' ballet classes in the Church of Scotland Hall have been well attended and many many thanks must go to Cecilia and her two glamorous assistants, Hazel and

Lina. These classes will continue in January and there will be some new spaces, so watch out for posters in the usual places.

Babyzone gets busier all the time, with sometimes as many as 20 children



there. New storage has been bought which has made life much easier for the volunteer helpers, and the new toys are a big success, especially the playhouse. Thanks again to the Community Council for their support. Soon our lovely new child-size tables and chairs will arrive thanks to financial help from The Highland Council, which will be fantastic for snack time and for drawing, puzzles etc. Currently the Health Visitor holds a drop-in clinic on the last

Wednesday of the month. A warm welcome awaits all parents and carers with children 3 years old and under. **Babyzone meets in the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 9.30 to 11 am.**



We'd love to find someone to come along and help with preparing the snacks each week, so if you're free on a Wednesday morning then do drop in and have a chat with Hazel or Karen.

We're still hoping to get funding to run "Drumfun" classes in the New Year and plans are well in hand for Muir-of-Ord's own "Springwatch" sessions after Easter.



Anyone who has a little spare time, please do get in touch as there's always loads to do! The committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Lizbeth on 870865.

Village Square Tryst

It seemed like a good idea – but it did not happen as the organisers hoped that it might! That was the general opinion of those involved in the "Tryst" in the Village Square in mid-October.

Eight stall holders were in attendance with a wide variety of goods on sale ranging from fresh, locally grown vegetables and plants, baking, second-hand books, herbal remedies, bottle stall, raffle tickets etc. However, there was a very poor turnout of people to buy the goods, in spite of the event being widely advertised locally.

Ah well there's always next year!



Muir Amateur Swimming Club

We are a small community club run by parents, helping our children to enjoy the benefits of swimming. All abilities welcome (children must be Age7+) the bus leaves from the square on Mondays @ 7.15pm and returns 9.15 approx.

Parents will be required to do 1-2 duties per term.

For an application form contact Helen on 01463 871428

Do you have a useful telephone number that you could share with us?

Please get in touch and we will add it to our Really Really Useful Pages.

LEGS, BUMS, TUMS

**EVERY FRIDAY, VILLAGE HALL
MUIR OF ORD**

FROM 10.00 - 11.00AM

MULBUIE HALL

(NEXT TO MULBUIE SCHOOL)

EVERY TUESDAY

FROM 7.00 - 8.00PM

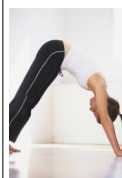
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PERSONAL TRAINING

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Vitesse Sunbed

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Opening hours now include Mondays 9.00am/5.30pm
& Thursdays until 8.00pm
Tele; 01463 870054 for an appointment

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Kitchens fitted, doors hung, floors laid.

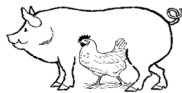
Professional service with over 20 years experience. References and photos of completed work available. Locally based.

David Tilbury

dp.tilbury@btinternet.com
Tele; 01463 871373 & 07828 084 061



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TAX MATTERS

Accountancy Services

Alan C. Macdonald

22, Seafield Road, Inverness
Tele; 01463 711112

Email; tax.matters@yahoo.com

The 'Muir Matters' team and all our advertisers would like to thank our readers for their continued support and to wish everyone a **Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.**

Muir of Ord Bowling Club - Trophy Winners



Following the final Bowling session of the 2008 season trophies were presented to the following winners.

Club Champion – John Gourlay; runner-up Heather Stewart.

Seniors – Willie Stewart; runner-up Ernie Smart

Gents Singles – Willie Stewart; runner-up Brian Forsyth.

Ladies Singles – Heather Stewart; runner-up Liz Whittet.

Ladies Handicap – Heather Stewart; runner-up Eleanor Innes.

Elizabeth Jack Rinks – Angela Boag, Christine Hammond, Jennifer Mackay; runners-up Maureen Howie, Ken Howie, Brian Forsyth.

Willie Bell Rinks – Sonya Diss Evans, Barbara Gordon, Chris Robertson, Ken Howie; runners-up Wilma Fraser, Moira Torrie, Pauline Barber, Willie Stewart.

Two Bowl Pairs – Chris Robertson, Ian Hammond; runner-up Stewart Torrie, Ken Howie.

Club Triples – Eleanor Innes, Ian Bremner, John Gourlay; runners-up Maureen Howie, Wilma Fraser, John Hay.

Two Bowl Singles – John Gourlay, runner-up Jennifer Mackay.

Gibson Cup – Jennifer MacLennan, John Black, Stewart Torrie, Ian Hammond; runners-up Gerald MacLennan, Liz Whittet, Willie Stewart.

Club Pairs – Gerald MacLennan, Ian Hammond; runners-up Ken Howie, Liz Whittet.

Fraser Floodlit Competition – Liz Bremner, John Hay; runners-up Sylvia Diss, Pauline Barber, Willie Stewart.

Clark Pairs – Ian Bremner, John Gourlay; runners-up Liz Whittet, Geoff Reid.

Spoon Trophy – Allan Forsyth.

The trophies were handed over by Mrs Maureen Howie, and following the presentation the President thanked Mrs Heather Stewart, match secretary, for all her work in organising all of the competitions, both Club and Open. Thanks were also expressed to Mr Willie Stewart, green-keeper, for his work in producing such a fine playing surface over the entire season.

ART GROUP'S GIFT TO TARRADALE SCHOOL

Three large murals, each one measuring eight feet by four feet, depicting Scottish fauna and flora, have been gifted to Tarradale School by the Muir of Ord Art Group.

They were painted by Annie Maclean (Group tutor), Elizabeth Rogers, Lesley Philip, Neil Mackay, Andrea Goddard and Judith Blackburn. They have now been mounted on the walls of the central courtyard of the School. (See photograph page 22)

many highly complimentary comments made with regard to the very fine quality of the paintings on display and this was further indicated by the sale of seventy six of the works.

Donations from the proceeds of the Exhibition were made to the following charities – Muir of Ord Church of Scotland Youth Group £200; Muir of Ord Free Church Youth Group £200; Royal British Legion, Dingwall Branch £50; Multiple Sclerosis Society, Fort William £50.

Mrs Annie Maclean, tutor and adviser to the Group, has asked that it be pointed out that there is now a waiting list for new members to the Club which meets on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and on Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9.m.

The Art Group wishes to thank everyone who supported their Exhibition.



ART EXHIBITION



Members of the Muir of Ord Art Group are highly delighted over the huge success of their recent Art Exhibition in the Old School. On all three days of the Exhibition there was a large turnout of the public to view the two hundred and sixteen paintings on display. All of the paintings were the works of the forty one members of the Group. There were very

Win, Win with the Young'uns Competitions

In this Issue we have 2 competitions & 2 prizes to be given away to our younger readers.

For a chance of winning £10.00 tell us how many Snowmen you can find



hidden in this issue of 'Muir Matters'.

Send your answer on a postcard along with your name, age, phone number and address to; 'Find the Snowmen' Comp. 'Muir Matters', Seaforth Road, Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA

Entries to reach us by Friday 30th Jan 09 please.



Win £10.00 in our 'Spot the Difference Competition' Find and circle the 6 differences between the two pictures.

Send in the top picture with the differences circled, along with your name, age, telephone number and address to;

'Spot the Difference' Comp. 'Muir Matters', Seaforth Road, Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA.

Entries by Jan 30th Please.

Spot the Football? Competition, one for all the Family



Win a box of Luxury Chocolates

In our 'Spot the Football' Competition. Using your skill & judgement mark with a X where you think the centre of the missing football should be. Nearest the centre of the ball wins the prize.

Send in your entry along with your name, address and phone number to;

'Find the Football Competition' 'Muir Matters'

Seaforth Road

Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA

Entries by 30th January please.

Teddies by the Dozen

Another little snippet that we picked up on our rounds is the toy making project in which Peggy Rogers (pictured right) has been involved. Around March 2007 Peggy got the knitting needles out and began knitting teddies which were then sent on to children's wards in Malawi hospitals.

When the children are admitted to hospital they find their little teddy

waiting in the bed for them and if or when they were able to leave they take their teddy home with them. For children who have nothing, their teddy is a treasure.

To date, Peggy has knitted over 100 teddies. This is all part of the contribution made by Church of Scotland members in Muir of Ord to the charity called The Raven Trust. Based in Argyll it provides practical and direct support to communities in Malawi, East Africa.

If you would like to know more

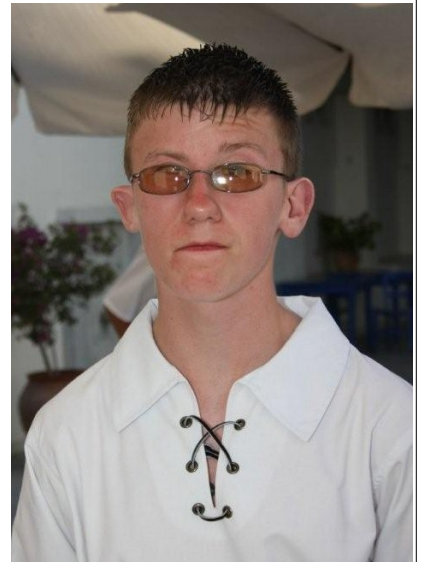
details of work done through The Raven Trust then log onto www.theraventrust.org





Sporting Success!!

It's not just the Muir Rovers that are doing us proud in the football stakes. We've recently heard about a young lad from Muir of Ord who has just won a place in the 2009 Special Olympics in Leicester next July as part of a 15 man football squad. Christopher Cameron aged 15, is a football fanatic, a die-hard supporter of Ross County and Rangers and he's delighted! Christopher has been playing with Inverness Disability Sports Groups and attended trials in the summer. In total, there a 65 athletes flying from Inverness for Tulloch Team Highland. Christopher has had to sign a pledge that he will attend all training sessions for the next 6 months and follow the Olympic Code of Conduct. These games, along with the Olympics and Para Olympics are the only national/international games which are allowed to use the Olympic title. Well done Chris, you're doing us proud.!



If you would like to know more about the games then log on to www.sol2009.com

Wanted Shinty Sticks



The local Shinty club is delighted to see an increase in numbers attending training sessions. As a result the club would appreciate any sticks no longer being used. If you have outgrown yours would you please return or donate to us. So please check your sheds, cupboards, under the bed!! and hand them into Forbes shop. Any queries contact 871841.



Four of our Muir of Ord jogscotland group taken last year at the Inverness Santa run. Many of us will be taking part again this year - quite a laugh and lots of fun! Joan Munro



Elvet Ballet School

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Sybil Stewart ARAD Adv. Teaching Dip.

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www.elvetballetschool.co.uk

All Mixed Up? Just for Fun
Unscramble the words to find 8 Cartoon characters.
For answers see Issue 17

YIKEMC SUMOE (6 & 5)
DREF LEFTONTINS (4 & 10)
EYOPEP (6)
DOYOW KEEPCROWDO (5 & 10)

BRAT MOPSINS (4 & 7)
GUSB BYNUN (4 & 5)
LADDON CUKD (6 & 4)
SIXRATE (7)





A Special Visit

On Tuesday 9th September 2008 in our P5 classroom at Tarradale Primary school, our local councillor Angela MacLean and our MP Charles Kennedy came to talk to us about their jobs. They came as part of our topic on Our British Community.

First Angela told us about her job and told us some very interesting things. Then she gave us a pack of jelly beans to use as money. We all had different things to think about and she came round and looked at what we had done. Then we had an election where four candidates stood up and told us what they would do. She gave around leaflets and said that's what her ten main things were when she was elected.

Next, Charles Kennedy came in. He told us about his job and he said that he has so many weeks off. The rest of the time he travels up and down to London.

We were so happy that they chose our school to come to. It was really fun that day.

By Matthew Jack P5



The Day we had a Special Visit



On Tuesday 9th September 2008 at our classroom (P5) in Tarradale Primary School, Charles Kennedy our MP and one of our local councillors, Angela MacLean came to tell us about their jobs as part of our topic on our British Community.

First of all Angela told us about her job. Then she handed out some leaflets that told us about the other councillors in this ward, Dingwall and Seaforth. She also handed out some other leaflets about what she would do to improve the ward. Then we picked 4 candidates and we had an election and Jill won.

Next, Charles Kennedy came in and he told us about his job and he said that in the House of Commons there is a bell that rings and when it rings the MPs have seven minutes to get to the other room to vote.

Finally it was time for them to go and they signed an autograph for us.

By Daniel MacLean P5

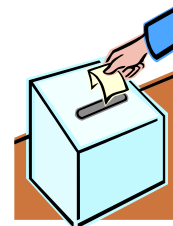
The Visit

On Tuesday 9th September 2008 at Tarradale Primary School (P5), our Councillor Angela MacLean and our MP Charles Kennedy came to our class as part of our topic on Great Britain.

First Angela MacLean came in and told us about her job. Then she gave us booklets that had pictures of other Councillors in them. Then she gave us jelly beans as money. We also had an election and the yellow team won but it was still very fun. Finally, our MP Charles Kennedy came to our class and told us about his job.

Then they had to go. I really liked their visit I would like them to come back to our class

Chris McPake P5



The Visit from our MP and Councillor

On Tuesday 9th September 2008 we had an interesting day. Angela MacLean one of our councillors and Mr Kennedy our MP came to visit us. Angela gave us some books and she was telling us about her job. Mr Kennedy was telling us how many emails he got a day.

He goes to the House of Commons in London every 6 weeks. Angela gave us jelly beans and we pretended they were money.

We had an election. The people who got chosen stood up in front of the class and they read out what they would do for you.

The yellow party won but I enjoyed it.

By Cailin Reid P5



Tarradale Outdoor Classroom



On behalf of the children and staff in the Infant Department, we would like to say a huge thank you to Annie and her Art Class for the fantastic mural that they painted for us. The children are thrilled and love looking for their favourite animal. We appreciate all the time and effort that everyone put in to produce this beautiful mural which will be admired for many years to come. Many thanks to you all, Tarradale Primary School.

MULBUIE HIGHLIGHTS

Tattie Lifting At Garguston Farm

Children from Mulbuie Primary School recently enjoyed an afternoon on Garguston Farm as they helped lift tatties for the Martin family.



As part of their Super Spud Competition the children had watched the planting process during the spring and thoroughly enjoyed the "hands on experience" of lifting and bagging the crop this autumn. The final part to this enterprising venture is to sell the potatoes they lifted and donate their takings to enhance a family venture in Africa.



Children In Need Mulbuie Primary



This year we held a Talent show and crazy hair day for Children in Need. The talent show was called 'Mulbuie's Got Talent'. We had the auditions the day before, and the finalists performed at the show. The crazy hair was a great success, everyone had fun. Calum Adams won and he went home with a prize. Overall, we raised £117.

By the Mulbuie Kids Council

Emma Reid, Euan Bain, Kirstin Dille, Ryan Murray, Hollie Reid, Niamh Clark Ross Bremner, Niamh Chisholm and Kirstie Tilbury.

Mulbuie Take to the Cat Walk



At a recent fashion show held in M & Co., Dingwall, Mulbuie children, parents and relations took to the catwalk to fashion a full range of clothes from snug pyjamas to elegant evening wear.

This was a most enjoyable evening which raised £583 for school funds.

Blythswood Bin at Mulbuie

The local community can now recycle lots of items at the Blythswood bin at our school. All money raised from these items will go towards helping children in Malawi and make their lives better and more valuable.

Clothes; Jumpers, shirts etc.



Shoes paired; trainers etc.

Books; all books & catalogues



Bags; handbags, belts etc.



Soft furnishings; all types



Bric-a-brac; non breakables



Small toys; soft toys etc.



Mobile phones; all types



Ink cartridges; in plastic bags



By Ella Downie P.4

Our second Eco flag at Mulbuie Primary School

At the end of the summer term the children of Mulbuie School were delighted that they had earned their **second eco flag**. We even had an Eco inspector in to look at all our hard work. We made musical instruments and did an eco Song with them. We did an I.T display showing all the work.

We also have an alphabet trail for children, designed and painted by the infants.

P6/7 had investigated wind power and purchased a small model wind turbine. P3.4.5 had entered a Super Spud competition and were growing potatoes in tubs. They visited Garguston farm to see the potatoes being planted. We would like to thank **farmer Johnny** for the visit. These are some of the many activities undergone recently.

The green trackers are now on track for eco flag 3 & Mulbuie have now got a solar panel to generate electricity for the nursery. We also now have our own Blythswood bin.

Well that's pretty much all that's happening in our eco campaign.

By Sarah Jane Martin P5



Scout Group News



All three sections have many new members, with nine Cub Scouts moving up to the Scouts, seven of the nine being girls. All the new Scouts camped for the last weekend in September, along with seven of our older boys who have now moved onto the Eilean Dubh Explorer Scouts who meet in Maryburgh on a Thursday night.

The Scouts held an exciting "Bothy Camp" in the summer, which involved them doing all the cooking, cleaning but most of all having fun and accomplishing the ascent of Ben Goblach on their final day.

A Wednesday night visit to Inverness College Building Department was a first for most, as they were learning bricklaying and other skills which may come in handy for all the DIY dads! but it also formed part of the Creative Challenge Badge, for which they also have been blowing eggs, and team problem solving.

The Cubs visited Inverness Airport seeing behind the scenes, at those places usually hidden from the public gaze.

The Beavers have been "Busy Beavers" making fruit salads, snacks and sandwiches as part of their "Healthy Eating Badge", dressing up in horrendous costumes for their Halloween Party, playing games, singing and shouting and learning through fun.



The Cub Scout Leader Gordon Simpson was presented with his 5 year certificate, the Group Scout Leader, Mac McGregor his 25yr, and Asst. Scout Leader Sheena Mackenzie her Leader's Warrant. We also welcome Mel McGuinness as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader.

All members of the Scout Group would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and wish them a Happy Xmas.

(The photo top left shows some of the Scouts during their summer ascent of Ben Goblach)

MUIR OF ORD GOLF CLUB

Some 100 junior members, parents and grandparents gathered at the Clubhouse on Saturday 8th Nov. for the junior annual prize giving, and our photo shows a selection of our winners along with Club and Vice Captain and some helpers. A great night was had by all and grateful thanks go to all in attendance and those that made it such a special night for our junior members at Muir of Ord.

We look forward to seeing you all at the beginning of the 2009 season.

Ian Cameron
(Junior Convener)

