A few of our readers have rightly commented on how much smarter the Village Hall looks after its paint makeover by the council. “Muir Matters” endorse these comments but would go further in stating that the Hall is the public face of our community and as such should warrant being kept in good repair. Unfortunately this isn’t always so. Broken windows and windows that won’t shut (letting out precious heat) are left un-repaired, for months now there have been no toilet roll holders in the loo’s. These and other mostly minor problems are a constant source of irritation to hall users.

After making such a splendid job of the exterior paintwork why ‘o’ why weren’t the wooden seats repaired and painted? Surely the price of a couple of planks and a can of paint wasn’t the cause! Many locals use the seat to the side of the hall especially in the summer months. Whilst on the way to and from the shops its an ideal spot to while away a few minutes just sitting in the sunshine.

Another cause of confusion relating to the Village Hall is, which is the main entrance door? Logic says it’s at the front on Seaforth Road, but no, it’s around the back! In winter its not a pleasant walk, especially if alone, as it’s dark, spooky and shadowy.

If the council wants us to use this back door then can the path be better lit more permanent and clearer notices be displayed.

We hope to have answers to the above questions in the March edition of “Muir Matters”.

---

**Russian Schoolchildren visit The Muir**

On Tues. 6th Dec members of Muir of Ord’s Communications Group, Highland Council and several residents of the village, played host to a party of 24 schoolchildren and their teachers from Perm in Russia. The children, aged between 12-15 years, have been studying the work of Sir Roderick Impey Murchison who was born on 19th February 1792 in Tarradale House.

After contacting the Communications Group through www.muirmatters.co.uk plans were set in motion to show them some traditional Highland hospitality. Their time in the Muir got off to a flying start with a visit to Tarradale House, where the present owners Dr. and Mrs Grant very kindly showed them around.

Moving on to the Village Hall the children and their teachers were given a warm welcome by Mr Bob Cameron of Highland Council and the Communications Group, along with several of our pupils from Dingwall Academy and Tarradale School.

The children, along with their English Teacher, Olga Yakovleva, presented our community with a memorial stone honouring the work of Sir Roderick Murchison which was accepted on behalf of the Community by the Communications Group. Highland Council and the Communications Group returned the gesture and presented our guests with a plaque to be displayed in their school. We were entertained by our visitors who gave us a beautiful rendition of “Auld Lang Syne”. Our local businesses Forbes, Spar and the Post Office generously supported this visit and along with Highland Council, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Moray Firth Radio and Ross County F.C. ensured that all of the visiting children left with a little goody bag brimming with small gifts and very happy memories of their visit to the Muir.
If you were ever one of the great sceptics in the Muir that believed nothing ever happens, then brace yourself, because you are going to have to change your views. Muir of Ord Communications Group are about to launch their “Living History” project which aims to record, on video, the stories of many of our older residents of Muir of Ord. We intend not only to document their memories of the area, but chronicle the tales and anecdotes of how they lived, worked and played. The first of the recorded interviews will soon be available to view on our website and after outlining our proposals to them, Glen Ord Distillery, who themselves play a major part in the history of the Muir have very kindly given us the funding which allows us to purchase all of the video equipment and software which we will need. These stories are our children’s heritage and we should take care to record them for future generations. So if you would like to take part, or know of someone else who would, then contact us at the usual address or just come along to our AGM on Dec 12th in Tarradale School and we’ll take it from there.,,,!

COUNCILLOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In late 2003 several residents and the Over 60’s Group raised the issue of the Public Toilets being closed over the Winter. To address this and to ensure that residents and visitors to Muir of Ord had a usable facility, I had talks with Highland Council and Muir Of Ord Community Council. The solution that was reached was. Over the Winter of 2004/05 the disabled portion of the public toilets should be open to everyone between the hours of 8.30am to 3.30pm on school days only on a trial basis. As it proved to be very successful all parties agreed to continue with the above opening times for this year. Although limited, it still offers use of the public toilets at a time when they would normally be closed to the community. To avoid further confusion I’ve asked the Communications group to affix notices to the Ladies and Gents toilets doors. These will direct users to the disabled toilet along with notification of the opening hours. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all in the Community a healthy and happy New Year. Cllr. David Chisholm.

D & E LYALL SPAR GROCERS, MUIR OF ORD.

Here is a small selection of our many festive drinks offers available throughout December until the 7th January 2006. Smirnoff Vodka 70CL Gordon’s Gin 70CL Whyte & MacKay 70CL Baileys 70CL All at £9.99 each Famous Grouse Whisky 70CL £10.49 (Subject to availability) Piat d’or, Paul Masson & Stowells wines (Any 3 for £10.00 – varieties as stocked) And much, much more to cheer you on your way.

*************

CHRISTMAS BOUQUETS AND HOLLY WREATHS AVAILABLE TO ORDER.

WE OFFER FREE DELIVERY WITHIN A 5 MILE RADIUS OF MUIR OF ORD

DAVID, EDNA & STAFF WISH ALL THEIR CUSTOMERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.
On Monday 28th November Highland Council paid tribute to some very special people around Ross & Cromarty. We are delighted to report that several people from the Muir were recognised in this award ceremony, including “Muir Matters” very own Muriel Mackay.

A Service to the Community Award was presented to Muriel, who was nominated by Cllr D. Chisholm in recognition of her many years working on behalf of the Muir. Serving on many committees and helping where she was needed, no job was too big or too trivial. Muriel would roll up her sleeves and get on with it! Muriel is a valuable member of our community, worthy of this recognition.

Receiving the award in the Good Neighbour Category was Mr Alexander Campbell, better known to us of course, as Acky Campbell. Acky was nominated for his kind and thoughtful actions to many in the village over the years. He is a popular figure in the Muir and well deserving of this award.

In the Achievement in Sport Award, young Joanna Shepherd was also recognised for her achievements in Scottish Orienteering. Joanna from Muir of Tarradale, is a very successful, determined and thoroughly pleasant young girl. A credit to her family and her community, we look forward to reporting on her future successes.

The evening ended with the presentation of Citizen of the Year Award which was presented to the well known and well loved figure of John Urquhart alias Johnny Bogan from Muir of Ord. Entertaining people in the Highlands for over 50 years, and making people laugh with his routines enjoyed by all ages, it was right and fitting that he should be honoured.

To quote Ross & Cromarty Area Chairman, Cllr. Carolyn Wilson “Often people work quietly behind the scenes without fuss and the awards are a perfect opportunity to show our appreciation for all the hard work that goes into ensuring the spirit of the community is strong. It is an honour for me to publicly thank the winners for their outstanding contribution to community life.”

Here at “Muir Matters” we would like to add our thanks and congratulations to our award winners. It’s a pleasure and an honour to know that you are part of our community.

Visit our Re-designed Website

To all our Readers and Web Surfers: As soon as you have read ‘Muir Matters’ from cover to cover start up your computers and visit our newly designed and improved website on www.muirmatters.co.uk. There are lots of new features to browse and information to glean. Take time to look through the Photo Gallery, visit the History, Youth & Club Pages. Search the Calendar for meeting dates and events in the village. If you register online you can join in the Craic!! You can also vote on a current issue. Before leaving the site don’t forget to sign the Visitors Book.

Do please keep visiting the site as it is still partially under construction and is therefore changing daily.
Muir of Ord Community Council continues to fulfil its functions despite a lack of support in recent months. A meeting was held on the 18th October at which it was hoped to propose the holding of an election, but unfortunately this item on the agenda had to be postponed due to poor attendance. Although the meeting was re-scheduled for the 8th November it was felt that this left too little time before the festive season to allow for notices etc. to be published. The Community Council now hopes to call an election in the first quarter of 2006. It is hoped that support from the community will be forthcoming at that time. On behalf of the Community Council I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a good Christmas and a happy New Year

Dan MacRae

There is always a lot to be thankful for, if you take the time to look. For example, think how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt!

News from the Muir of Ord Clubs

Muir of Ord Curling Club

The Muir of Ord Curling season is now well underway with four Muir Teams competing in the Ross Provence leagues. We have one team in the A league, two in the B league and another in the C league. Games are regularly played at the Inverness Ice Centre and new members are very welcome to attend our scheduled ‘Come and Try Nights’. For more information phone David Lyall at 01463 870298. On a chillier note the long term met forecast for December and January is hard frost and wintry weather. So much for Global Warming – however it’s not all bad news, Muir of Ord Outdoor Curling Rink is ready for such favourable curling weather and I look forward to seeing all my fellow curlers and friends on the ice.

A date for your Diary – February 17th 2006 Muir of Ord Curlers Quiz night at Muir of Ord Golf Club. Teams of 4 are invited to compete – Book early to avoid disappointment.

David Lyall

Community Council Update

Muir of Ord Community Council continues to fulfil its functions despite a lack of support in recent months. A meeting was held on the 18th October at which it was hoped to propose the holding of an election, but unfortunately this item on the agenda had to be postponed due to poor attendance. Although the meeting was re-scheduled for the 8th November it was felt that this left too little time before the festive season to allow for notices etc. to be published. The Community Council now hopes to call an election in the first quarter of 2006. It is hoped that support from the community will be forthcoming at that time. On behalf of the Community Council I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a good Christmas and a happy New Year

Dan MacRae

Youth Café ???

In this edition of ‘Muir Matters’ you will find a questionnaire relating to the provision of a Youth Café.

Why bother filling it in?
Well, we want to hear your views and ideas. (There is a separate questionnaire for the young people which will be distributed through the schools). We want to provide a venue for the young people where they can meet with their mates, chill out and be safe. Who knows? Maybe we can persuade some funders to invest in the village.

Helen Martin
Community Youth Development

Congratulations to Ross MacGourlay.
Ross Aged 8, of Burns Avenue, Muir of Ord wins a copy of “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince”. He correctly named July 31st as Harry’s Birthday.

******

Read Ross’s letter to the editor on page 10.
Thirty one Muir residents have just completed a basic course in computing. These classes weren’t held in Dingwall or Inverness but right here in Muir of Ord! If they so desire these students now have the opportunity to further their computer studies.

The Council’s Community Learning Department, WEI and the Communications Group have worked closely together to enable these and other classes to be held in the Muir. The computer classes have proved so successful under the tutorage of Mrs Audrey McPhee that the current waiting list now stands at 24. Another three classes a week are planned to start February 2006.

The WEA Local History classes taken by Susan Kruse in the Church of Scotland Hall are drawing to a close but it is hoped that more will follow in the 2006.

Life Coaching tutor Janet MacDonald will start her sessions early in the New Year providing that suitable accommodation can be found. Janet works by drawing out the best in people, focusing on their strengths and encouraging them to do the same. She believes that everyone can achieve what they truly want and looks forward to helping change your life and create what you truly want.

If you would like to try your hand at any of the above courses or would like more information why not get in touch with us. Our address and telephone number can be found on page 13 of this issue.

For more details of the ‘Trace your Scottish Roots’ & the ‘Editing Digital Photography classes please refer to the article on page 13.

Name all of Santa’s nine Reindeer for a chance to

WIN YOUR CHRISTMAS TURKEY

Send your answers on a postcard along with your Name & Address to ‘Christmas Turkey Competition’
Muir Matters, Seaforth Road, Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA
First correct answer draw after the closing date of Friday 16th December will win the Turkey

Hectic Shopping
We seek them here, we seek them there, we seek those presents everywhere.
Up in the centre, down in the town, not to find them makes us frown.
Think of the one the present is for, they are doing the same for you I’m sure.
So why not get together and spend, a special day with that special friend.
Christmas then will mean much more, your purse not lighter and your feet not Sore!!
Minnie

A Favourite Recipe

TABLET
1 Large tin Condensed Milk (not light)
1 Small tin Carnation Evaporated Milk
3 lbs Sugar
6 ozs Butter
1 Teacup Full cream milk

Method
1) Place evaporated milk, sugar and full cream milk in a strong bottomed pan.
2) Melt slowly and bring to the boil.
3) Turn heat to fairly low and boil for 5 minutes.
4) Add condensed milk and stirring constantly allow to boil slowly for at least 30 minutes. It should then be a deep golden colour and set very firm when a tspn. is added to a cup of cold water.
5) Take aside and beat until thick.
6) Pour into 2 well buttered trays and leave until cold.
7) Mark and cut into squares.

Barbara Gordon
As a child I remember growing up in a number of strange houses. I remember vividly priests being called in to exorcise the houses where I lived on numerous occasions and everyone in the house in turn. It terrified me in all honesty. Apparently my two grown siblings and a meter reader man at the front door on one occasion, saw me at two years old ‘float’ down the stairs as I began to tumble. The electric man was apparently astonished saying “he wouldn’t be coming into the house”! I of course don’t remember that event but the story of it has given me a fascination in my adult life for ghosts and the paranormal.

I don’t live in a ‘haunted house’ nowadays and in all honesty I don’t think I could live or stay in a house where odd events occurred. I spent a childhood in terror of phantoms and ghoulies. This is what prompted me to study psychology and the human mind. I’m a sceptical rational person who believes having studied physics also that there are many odd forces in the universe which we do not yet understand. I do believe in telepathy. We humans seem to have an inbuilt intuitive side but just exactly what we are tapping into I’m not yet sure of.

My mission now is a personal one, to find out if there is life after death. Through my investigations I will endeavour to find out if there is indeed life after death and promise to give a full accurate account of the investigations to ‘Muir Matters’ so that people can read up on where my investigations within the local area take me. I can only promise to not be a wimp and be as brave as possible, my fear factor is the same as anyone else’s but having studied psychology, this helps to keep the hysterics at bay!

I will investigate any location from the tiniest abode to the biggest. I’m armed with my EMF meter, laser temperature thermometer, camera, camcorder, and EVP recorder, and I’m waiting for the people in and around the Muir to get in touch. Check out my website for more details about investigations.

Hope to hear from you all soon

Jo

Ghosts?.......pfft? Bring it on!

Visit www.highlandghosts.co.uk or Email soreraaa@hotmail.com

Meet Jo, Muir of Ords’ very own Ghost Hunter

MoOEG is in the process of restructuring, we are therefore currently seeking new members and volunteers to help strengthen the group. Our activities are varied, interesting and help improve the environment of our village.

At the last meeting of the group, Martin Hind, Easter Ross Countryside Ranger gave a talk on indigenous species of bats. This was followed by a visit to Ord Lochans to observe bat life in that locality. It was an interesting evening with favourable weather for such nocturnal activity.

As part of the Highland Access Project our Paths Sub-Group has been involved in the improvement, signposting and maintenance of paths. Interest has been expressed in hard surfacing a section of the Railway Walk (Muir of Ord to Blairdhu) as part of the improvement of the cycle route between the Muir and Inverness. The Railway Walk is now in regular use and was looking particularly fine in its autumnal garb. As the Highland Council prepares to draw up a path plan as required by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 members of the Group attended a meeting on Core Path Planning, arranged by the Dingwall Access Officer.

The next issue of ‘Muir Matters’ will be on sale from Monday 6th March 2006, priced 30 pence.

Any articles for inclusion must be submitted by our deadline of Monday 20th February 2006
### Diary Dates & Weekly Activities in the Muir

#### December 2005
- 5th: S.W.R.I. Floral Art with Florrie McGruer
- 10th: Scout Christmas Post. Village Hall 9.30/11.30am (Cost 10p per card)
- 12th: Muir of Ord Communication Group AGM, 7.30pm Tarradale School GP Room.

#### January 2006
- 9th: S.W.R.I. Massage Therapy with Eleanor Fisher.

#### February 2006
- 6th: S.W.R.I. Fun Night
- 17th: Muir of Ord Curlers. Quiz Night in the Muir of Ord Golf Club, Teams of 4 (Booking necessary)
- 27th: Church of Scotland Guild. Mrs Muriel Mackay, Project Night & Bring and Buy Sale.

#### March 2006
- 3rd: Church of Scotland Guild. World Day of Prayer in the East Church, Seaforth Road.
- 6th: S.W.R.I. A visit from Debenhams Personal Shoppers.

### Muir of Ord Communications Group

**AGM**
- 12th December 2005 @ 7.30pm
- GP Room, Tarradale School

Our highly successful group is seeking new members of all abilities, and ages from within the community. After the formal business of the evening those attending are invited to stay behind for Cheese and Wine.

### Church of Scotland Christmas Services

**Sunday 18th December**
- Family service, East Church @ 11am.
- Evening service, East Church @ 6pm, followed by mince pies and carols in the Church Hall

**Saturday 24th December**
- Christmas Eve service, East Church@11.30pm.

**Sunday 25th December**
- Morning Worship, East Church @ 10.30am

### School Calendar Session 2005/2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Close</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Village Hall</td>
<td>22nd December 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodybalance @ 10am to 11am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Country Dance Group 7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Free Church Hall, West Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother &amp; Toddler Afternoon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Church Hall, Seaforth Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrabble Club meets @ 2.00pm.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meet in the Square</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Club, contact 01463 870332</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday’s</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Free Church, West Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother &amp; Toddler morning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Old School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Group @ 7pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday’s</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Village Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babyzone from 9.30 to 11.00am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(for more details see below)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch Club @ 12 noon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meet in the Square</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthways Step-it-up Walking Group @ 2pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday’s</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Village Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egyptian Belly Dancing @ 10am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthways Social Dance Class @ 2.30 to 4pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Tarradale School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Club @ 7pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday’s</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Village Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun Fitness @ 10.30am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Gym from 11.30am to 2.15pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Church Hall, Seaforth Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challengers for academy age @ 7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday’s</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Old School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Group 10am to 12 noon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Village Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Bowling @ 7pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Babyzone

- Drop in Baby Clinic and Parent & Toddler group (pre-playgroup age)
- **Every other** Wednesday 9.30 to 11.00am in the Village Hall. Phone Health Visitor for information (783403)
Local Services

Muir Micro Solutions Ltd

Andrew Macleman
Computer Building
Repairs / Upgrades
Networks / Consultation

Tel / Fax No: 01439 866000 / 866111
E-mail: corrie@ecosse.net

CHIQUE BOUTIQUE
HAIR & TANNING
SALON

FORBES BUILDINGS
MUIR OF ORD
Tel: 01463 870 054

Reflexology Therapy
Treatment of the whole body through reflex
areas in the feet and hands
GIFT VOUCHERS
available for Christmas
Susan Bennett, MIIR (Regd)
West Lodge, Highfield, Muir of Ord
01463-871900

John M Munro
Ltd.
Butchers
Muir Of Ord
01463 870238

We wish all our customers a
Happy Christmas & Prosperous New Year

Muir of Ord Post Office

For all your Postal Services
* Toys • Cards o Confectionery *
Telephone 01463 870250

We would like to thank all our customers for their loyal
support throughout the year

4, 6, & 8 SEATERS
Early Morning Service Available
CORRIE HIRE

PRIVATE HIRE TAXI
Muir of Ord 01463 870568
16 Corrie Gardens Proprietor C MacLeod

Culture Cuts
Professional Ladies & Gents
Hair Salon
Logan Buildings
Muir of Ord
01463 870205

Seasons greetings to all our customers

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUBLICISE
YOUR SERVICES IN
'MUIR MATTERS' NEWSLETTER?
For further details contact
Maureen Thomson
01463 870365

Is Santa bringing you a new Computer this Christmas?

If yes, are you wondering how to dispose of your old one? Muir Matters could well have the answer!
Although our group cannot take ownership of any unwanted computers we hope to bring individuals together. For example, an elderly Muir resident wants to keep in touch with their grandchildren by email, but has no computer. You have a computer which will either gather dust in a cupboard or even worse, end up in the bin. We can help by bringing both these individuals together.

If you can help or would like to know a little more about our scheme please get in touch.
See page 13 for our contact details.
The playgroup are delighted to have spent the first session of the year in such a now wonderfully renovated building. The staff and children appreciate the time and effort, which has gone into the refurbishments of the hall and we would like to send our gratitude to all who have been involved, the hall looks and feels like a totally new building. The playgroup are now open for morning and afternoon sessions and this has enabled us to cater for all the children who requested places with us. 20 children access the morning session and 15 for the afternoon.

Another thanks goes out for the use of the enclosed outside play area, the children have enjoyed the space so much and the playgroup fundraising group have been hard at work raising money to provide equipment for this area and it will be purchased as soon as possible. This has greatly helped us to fulfil our pre-school agreement with the Local Authority to provide the children with the opportunity to access outside play every day, and to develop and improve a wide range of basic physical skills, as well as general knowledge and understanding of the world. The whole experience has been wonderful for the children and we look forward to continuing to provide the best possible care and provision that we can.

Angela Hewitt, Playgroup Manager.

Enquiries - 01463 871 930

---

**Here’s another competition for the ‘Young ‘uns’.
This time we have two prizes up for grabs.
A signed Celtic Football & a HMV £10.00 Voucher**

For a chance of winning one of the prizes tell us how many wrapped Christmas presents like the two below you can find in this Issue of Muir Matters. Send your answer on a postcard with your name, age and address to: Present Competition, Muir Matters, Seaforth Road, Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA Entries by Friday 27th January 2006.

---

**Another Success for Muir of Ord**

Muir of Ord Rovers under 12s team notched up another victory recently, when they were announced as the winners of the “Zeroes 2 Heroes” competition which was run by the North Star. Their prize consisted of a great new set of strips, four training sessions with the Ross County coaches and a bag brimming with training equipment such as pitch-markers, balls and portable goals.

President of the Rovers Mrs Frances MacGruer said “The competition gave the boys a great opportunity to improve their skills and we are always in need of equipment. The training sessions went really well, the lads thoroughly enjoyed them and had a great time.” In order to win the prize the team had to submit 50 words or less on why they deserved to win the prize.

Here at Muir Matters we don’t need 50 words, just a few will do, we think they’re brilliant, great, stupendous, fan dabby dozy,

Editor to Martha : For Goodness sake stop now, we're running out of space!!!!
Dear Editor

It was of interest to note a letter in your last edition of ‘Muir Matters’ regarding trees and the planning application for SGL Technic Ltd.

The correspondent was perfectly correct that the planning application did mention some screening of both shrubs and trees. By the time the next article appears some trees and shrubs will have been planted along the areas in front of the SGL factories at Unit 1 and Unit 11 on the Industrial Estate. Local Planning have also been consulted.

November is an ideal time of the year for tree planting; therefore this work has been planned for then. So hopefully in a couple of years there should be a nice array of foliage and colour from the roadside.

Jim Johnston
Projects. SGL Technic Ltd.

---

As you can see by the above letter from SGL, tree planting at the entrance to the village has been started. This matter was pointed out to us by several readers so when “Muir Matters” contacted the relevant people, action was taken immediately. Well done to Highland Council and to SGL for their prompt action.

---

Please put this in the paper.

Dear muir matter's

i am very grateful to the book (Half blood prince) my nanny actually phoned me up and asked for the answer. So we looked and found it then rang her back up and told her. Please can i say thank you to her.

Love from ross xxx.

---

Letters to the Editor

In 1995 one of my wife’s closest friends informed us that she and her husband planned to up sticks and move to Muir of Ord. To say that we were flabbergasted was an understatement. Although happy and pleased for them we wondered how after spending their childhood and working lives in and around West Yorkshire they would settle in Muir of Ord. Once settled we were invited to stay with them and so, in 1997, having ensured that our passports were in order and cleared our visit with the relevant authorities (Home Office, Foreign Office, Scottish Office, Customs and Excise and Immigration) we made our plans for our first Highland adventure.

Being somewhat unsure of the weather and attractions of the area we decided on a short initial visit. Needless to say on succeeding trips we stayed for a full week.

The first everlasting memory of the journey is the view one gets on the A9 prior to dropping down into Inverness with the Kessock Bridge and the Moray Firth in full view. On each and every subsequent visit the days have flown by with our hosts ensuring that we enjoyed every minute with them to the full. We quickly came to understand why our friends had become so enamoured with Muir of Ord and its surrounding area of natural beauty, ever present wildlife and the community spirit which exists in the village, allied to the gentler pace of life and lower crime rate.

Our last visit was in 2002 but hopefully, to miss-quote General Douglas MacArthur “We shall return”.

I have many memories and photographs of our visits to the Highlands such as playing scrabble at the Muir of Ord Scrabble Club, watching Nimrods at RAF Kinloss, travelling on the Fort William/ Mallaig railway, shopping in Dingwall, being entertained on fine evenings at Beauly by a Pipe band, visiting the Black Isle Show, travelling the Cairngorms Funicular Railway, the list is endless.

However I have one disappointment; being a true Yorkshire-man, (exceedingly careful with money) I would exhort the local eating hostelries to embrace more fully the fashion of ‘Early Bird’ menus, as provided in my own neck of the woods.

I now feel that I should reveal the identity of our hosts; but then, perhaps not!

KD Hartley,
Bradford, West Yorkshire

---

The need to use a toilet is the most basic of human needs. Can I therefore ask the Council why oh why are the public toilets in Muir of Ord locked in the winter months? The elderly, of which I am one find the need to ‘go’ more urgent on cold wintry days.

I found the following quote on the Council website!

“How long a minute is the identity of our hosts; but then, perhaps not! the need to use a toilet is the

---

 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.

Please send any correspondence along with your name, address and telephone number to the address on page 13.
Train Times to and from The Muir

**Muir of Ord to Inverness**

*Monday to Saturday*

- 0754, 0936, 1017, 1116, 1342, 1408, 1553, 1628, 1848, 1944, 2010 & 2235
- **Sunday**
  - 1544, 1724

**Inverness to Muir of Ord**

*Monday to Saturday*

- 0714, 0853, 0915, 1039, 1052, 1144, 1433, 1703, 1747, 1800 & 2037
- **Sunday**
  - 1115, 1800

**Muir of Ord to Dingwall**

*Monday to Saturday*

- 0734, 0914, 0935, 1103, 11.16, 1205, 1455, 1726, 1810, 1827 & 2058
- **Sunday**
  - 1138, 1823

**Dingwall to Muir of Ord**

*Monday to Saturday*

- 0744, 0925, 1007, 1052, 1332, 1400, 1544, 1619, 1715, 1839 1934, 2000 & 2225
- **Sunday**
  - 1535, 1715

From December 11th 2005

Library Opening Hours

**Monday**

- 10 am – 12.30 pm
- 2 - 5 pm and 6 - 8 pm

**Thursday**

- 10 am - 12.30 pm
- and
- 6 - 8 pm

**Friday**

- 2 - 5 pm

Telephone/Fax 01463 870196

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

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.

Bus Times to and from The Muir

**Muir of Ord to Inverness**

*Monday to Friday*

- 6.40, 7.15 & hourly from 8.05 to 17.05, 18.13, 19.17, 20.17, 22.17, 23.45 plus 10.35 via Tore & the Retail Park

*Saturday*

- 6.40, 8.16 then as Mon/Fri until 17.05 but excluding 10.35 plus 18.18, 19.22, 20.17, 22.17 & 23.45

*Sunday*


**Inverness to Muir of Ord**

*Monday to Friday*

- Hourly from 7.45 to 14.45 then 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.30, 21.00 and 23.00 plus 12.15, 14.35(Sch only)

*Saturday*

- 8.00, Hourly from 8.45 to 14.45 then 16.00, 17.05, 18.05, 19.30, 21.00 & 23.00

*Sunday*

- 10.00, 12.00, 14.00, 16.00 & 18.20

**Muir of Ord to Dingwall**

*Monday to Friday*

- Hourly from 8.23 to 15.23 then 16.35, 17.40, 18.44, & 21.44 plus 12.50 and 15.10

*Saturday*

- 8.38, Hourly from 9.23 to 15.23 plus 16.38,17.45, 18.49 & 21.44

*Sunday*

- 10.35, 12.35, 14.35, 16.35 & 18.55

**Dingwall to Muir of Ord**

*All times from the Royal Hotel*

*Monday to Friday*

- 8.50, 9.45, 10.15, 10.50, 11.50, 12.45, 13.50, 14.50, 15.50, 16.50, 17.58, 19.05 & 22.05

*Saturday*

- 7.56, 8.50, 9.45, 10.50, 11.50, 12.45, 13.50, 14.50, 15.50, 16.50, 18.03, 19.10 & 22.05

*Sunday*

- 11.31, 13.31, 15.31, 17.31 & 19.31

Hidden Cost of Telephone ‘Help’ Lines!

Did you know that calls to 0870 or 0845 may be costing you up to 7.5p per minute (of which the company gets 2-3p)?

To look up alternative numbers and avoid excessive charges go to www.Saynoto0870.com
### The Really Really Useful Page 2

#### Telephone Numbers

- **Doctor’s Surgeries**
  - Strathlene, Muir of Ord 01463 870843
  - Croyd Rd, Beauty 01463 782794
  - Dingwall Med. Group 01349 863030
  - Aird Practice, Beauty 01463 782214

- **Chemist**
  - Muir of Ord Pharmacy - 01463 870806
  - Raigmore - 01463 704000
  - Ross Memorial - 01349 863313
  - ‘NHS 24’ - 08454 24 24 24

- **Hospitals**
  - Samaritans
    - 0845 7909090
  - Inverness - 01463 713456
  - Alcohol DrinkLine
  - Freefone - 0800 917 8282

- **Childline**
  - Freefone - 0800 1111

- **National Drugs Helpline**
  - Freefone 0800 77 66 00

#### Shopmobility Highland

Shopmobility is a service providing, electric scooters, powered and manual chairs, that give you freedom to get about the town easily. This helps people who have limited mobility, long or short term, or visual/hearing impairments access to shops and to use other facilities in Inverness and Dingwall.

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

For further information please contact either;
- Falcon Gallery, Car Park Level 2, Eastgate Centre, Inverness, IV2 3PR on Telephone 01463 717624 or email shopmo@ecosse.net or
- Nicol’s Court, Dingwall, IV15 9SW; Telephone 01349 866040 or email shopmobility.dingwall@ecosse.net

Opening Times; Inverness Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.00pm.

Dingwall; Monday to Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm

#### Ross-shire Women’s Aid

We provide refuge, support and information to women children and young people who have experienced Domestic Abuse. To speak to someone confidentially please telephone 01349 863568 Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm (24 hour answering service)

#### Telephone Preference Service (TPS)

Are you are fed up with unwanted and unsolicited telephone calls?

You can register free of charge for this service when you do not want to receive direct marketing calls.

Call 0845 07 007 07: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This is an automated service.

#### The Handy Person Service

This service is available to pensioners over 60 and those with a disability, who find it difficult or impossible to undertake small jobs around their homes.

Some examples of tasks undertaken are fitting and hanging curtains, moving furniture around the house, replacing washers, unblocking drains, cleaning gutters (single storey) and much more. For more information phone 01349 884774.

#### Citizens Advice Bureau

Dingwall Office - Visit or write to us at 4 Church Street, Dingwall, IV15 9SB

Phone: 01349 864850 Fax: 01349 862898 email: adviser@DingwallCAB.casonline.org.uk

Office Hours; 10.00 to 2.00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

We are always looking for new volunteers.

#### Pets & Animals

Cat Protection League: 01463 225138

Highland Reptile Rescue: 01862 842637

SSPCA: 01463 230206

5minutesaway.co.uk is a directory of facilities available for motorists within 5 minutes of each motorway junction. It provides information on pubs, hotels, restaurants, garages and petrol stations plus places of interest. All within 3 miles of a junction.

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 for a yearly subscription of: UK 1st class £3.20, and overseas rates of: Europe £5.25, World Zones 1 and 2 £7.50. Price includes, ‘Muir Matters’, postage & packing plus 10p handling charge.

Would you like to pay an annual sum of £3.20 to have your copy reserved for you and delivered by your Postie?

For more information about the above or if you are housebound please write, telephone or just pop in and see us, we will be happy to discuss your requirements. **A coupon to order a copy of ‘Muir Matters’ can be found on page 13.**
**Gardening Tips**

**December:**
- Treat lawns against leather-jackets.
- Clean and overhaul mowers and equipment.
- Protect valuable trees and shrubs against wind & frost.

**January:**
- Move container to a sheltered position or provide other protection.
- Study seed catalogues and place orders.
- Keep houseplants free from draughts, away from direct heat and in the light.

**February:**
- Force spring bulbs for early colour.
- Reshape conifers after snow and frost damage.
- Plan planting programme.

**T.V. & Radio Reception**

Further to my note on the problems of T.V. and Radio reception in the Muir which was published in the 1st Edition of the "Muir Matters", I can now tell you that useable Digital Radio has now arrived in the area. I have purchased (on a sale or return basis) a “British” DAB Radio from a well known company in Dingwall.

It works perfectly and I can now tune into all the BBC Radio Programmes - Classic FM, BBC 7, One Word etc. and the set I have with 10 pre-set stations is full, leaving at least 6 more stations which are available by manual tuning.

One final caveat however, as the set is portable and uses a Telescopic Aerial care has to be taken to site it for the best signal which can be judged by using a Signal Strength Meter built into the Radios information system.

**Digital TV is due in this area in 2009/2010**

Robert Grant

---

**ARE YOUR PREMISES SECURE?**

The long dark nights are here, the time when burglaries rise in number. When you leave your premises ensure all windows and doors are secured. Do not leave windows on the vent catch, close them tightly and use the locking key. Do not leave a key on a string behind the letter plate or hidden outside. It is a good idea to get a safety chain and a peep hole fitted. If you are planning a Winter holiday alert the neighbours and give the local Police the dates you are going to be away.

Compliments of the season – be safe.

HK

---

**Postponed Courses !!!**

Due to unforeseen circumstances the tutors of the ‘Trace your Scottish Roots’ and the Editing Digital Photographs’ classes cannot give a start date for their classes. Both Martha Chisholm and Susan Wilson apologise to all the prospective students on their waiting lists for any inconvenience caused. They would also like to assure them that the classes will go ahead as soon as possible, hopefully early in the New Year.

---

**Want to contact us?**

Please send a copy of ‘Muir Matters’ to:

Name……………………..Address……………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………
Postcode……………………Tel. No……………………………………

Full Name and address to which you would like the copy sent if different from above. (Please print clearly)

Name……………………..Address……………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………
I enclose the sum of £………..

Signed………………………………………………….  

---

‘Muir Matters’
Village Hall
Seafirth Road
Muir of Ord
IV6 7TA
Telephone 01463 870822
Email; editor@muirmatters.co.uk
letters@muirmatters.co.uk
Visit our Website on www.muirmatters.co.uk

Logo Design
by Carrie MacKay
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 4, Village Hall, Seaforth Road, Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA.

Entries must be received by Friday January 27th. 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) Santa’s shooting star (5)
4) Seasonal songbird (5)
7) Post holders (6 & 5)
9) Regret (3)
10) A quadruped (4)
11) Responsibility (4)
12) Yuletide burner (3)
13) Bill of fare (4)
14) A hit with the Village folk! (1,1,1,1)
16) Suitable (3)
18) Carbisdale Castle? (5 & 6)
19) Thesis (5)
20) Form of address out East (5)

Down
1) One of 8 down’s team (5)
2) 1,000’s of years (11)
3) Nicholas was one (4)
4) Formal attire (4)
5) A fight on the 26th ?(6 & 5)
6) Hooters! (5)
8) Santa’s team leader (7)
13) Perhaps (5)
15) Off the cuff speech (2 & 3)
16) A salty call (4)
17) Trifles? (4)

Published and Printed by Muir of Ord Communications Group, Village Hall, Seaforth Road, Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA