

'Muir Matters'

Issue 9

March 2007

50 Pence

Snippets

In this issue we'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the last few months. Sales of our 'Cookery Book' have exceeded our expectations, as did the ticket sales and donations to our Christmas Hamper Prize Draw. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have such a supportive community behind us.

We're also delighted to hear that Muir of Ord's new 'Community Action Group' are in the process of adopting their constitution and we look forward to bringing you information and updates of their progress in future issues.

"Computer Clinic"



A date for your diary is Saturday 31st March when "Muir Matters", with Highland Council's Community Learning & Leisure, will be hosting a "Computer Clinic" for the community. Maybe you're having a problem with your PC or maybe you have questions about packages like Photoshop, Adobe, Microsoft Office etc. Then why not come along and speak to the specialists. Andrew MacLeman of Muir Micro Solutions is just one of the experts who will be there to help solve some of your problems! It's all free, so don't miss it..!!

Let's Hear it for The Rovers..!

Muir of Ord Rovers Football Club is now only a few steps away from achieving their ambition of building their new Changing Rooms. The Herculean effort involved and the accomplishments of this club have made all of us here in the Muir enormously proud. But don't be misled into thinking that work only



Our artistic impression..!

started a few months ago! The Rovers have been raising money and working toward this goal for almost ten years. Continuous fundraising such as the Flash of Tartan, raffles, dances and their bi-annual Pantomime, not only allowed them

to build their finances but also to 'give something back' to the community. Something, which they see as essential. Many months of work went into funding applications, leasing agreements, community consultation, drawings and planning applications etc. before any building could get underway and when it did, we could hardly believe our eyes.

Week after week, volunteers readily give their time and skills. For the Rovers a weekend off has become a thing of the past; weekends are spent on the building site..! All of this is being achieved over and above their normal sports activities with almost 200 hundred young people here in Muir of Ord.

So, on behalf of the community we would like to take this opportunity to offer a very public and heartfelt "Thank you" to each and every one who are contributing to this effort.

I think we can safely say "Move over Celtic and Rangers, Muir of Ord's got its own 'football stars'...!"



Changing Rooms

Councillor in the Spotlight

Councillor Chisholm has asked that we don't include his column in this issue. He says "*Muir Matters is very much a magazine*

created by the community for the community, and it would be wrong for anyone, including me, to use their work for something which could be viewed as electioneering".

Cllr. David Chisholm.



IT'S YOUR VOTE, SO USE IT!

As we are not featuring an article from Councillor Chisholm in this Issue of Muir Matters we decided instead to give some details of the new (and sometimes confusing) voting system.

A change to the voting system for Local Councils will be introduced in May 2007. The number of wards in Highland (currently 80) will be reduced to 22. Muir of Ord is now part of the **Seaforth and Dingwall** ward which also includes Conon Bridge and Maryburgh. Each of the new wards will have 3 or 4 Councillors (in our case 4) so there will be no change to the total number of 80 Councillors. The new voting system called "Single Transferable Vote" (STV) is also being introduced. Many people have voiced their concerns that with a large number of candidates standing in each ward, communities could lose their local representatives and face the possibility of having Councillors who don't live in the area and know little about the problems and the issues their communities have to deal with. But, as

far as we can see, as long as we actually use our votes then this shouldn't be a problem.

The key points of STV are:

- Voters can choose as **many**, or as **few** of the candidates as they wish.
- They will be able to do this by putting a **1** for their first choice, **2** for their second choice, **3** for their third choice, and so on.
- Each Council Ward will be represented by either 3 or 4 Councillors depending on its size.
- This means voters will be able to rank the candidates for election in their ward in any order they want.
- **An X should not be used in the Local Council elections.**

**The next Local Election is scheduled for
Thursday 3rd May 2007**

First Responder Team for the Muir?

We know our Scottish Ambulance Service performs extremely well in reaching their performance standards to most 999 calls, but in certain cases i.e. heart attack, choking and loss of consciousness, it is not always possible to arrive in our community to administer basic first aid within the critical first minutes. Leona Dunbar of Balvaird Terrace has recently contacted "Muir Matters" and raised the prospect of creating a First

Responder Team, trained and monitored by The Scottish Ambulance Service in Muir of Ord. "This is something I have been looking into and we would need around 6 people to set the scheme up. I believe this would be beneficial to the Muir as it can take up to 15 minutes for an Ambulance, possibly longer, if they are held up. This scheme could save lives. There would be around 6 people who will receive training on defibrillators and basic first aid. In the event of a person taking ill the First Responder would be called out to deliver the necessary First Aid for the first few vital minutes until the ambulance arrived."

There is little doubt that this would be of great benefit to our community, so if you would like more information contact Leona on 01463 870013.



Muir of Ord Golf Club

Members and Guests of Muir of Ord Golf Club celebrated the completion of their Clubhouse refurbishments by holding a Scramble competition and Junior fun day on Saturday 16th September 2006. The ribbon was cut by Mr. Willie Ingram, President, who had "project managed" the refurbishments. Everyone concerned had an

enjoyable day in the sun with the Juniors fiercely competing for



prizes which were kindly donated by "The Mortgage Shop", Beaulieu. Muir of Ord Golf Club would like to thank R.A.C.E. for their contribution towards the funding of the refurbishment and Awards for All who contributed to the work carried out on the new junior locker room and toilets. Now that the Lounge Bar has been upgraded, vacancies are available for Social members who can come along and enjoy a drink or meal in comfortable surroundings.

For an application form please contact Jennifer on 01463 870825 .

Another Season Approaches

With the lengthening days the thoughts of the members of Muir of Ord Bowling Club are now turning to the new season which is due to start on Saturday 21st April at 2 p.m. At their recent Annual General Meeting, attended by a good turnout of members, the new office-bearers for the 2007 season were appointed thus - President, Ken Howie; vice-president, Willie Stewart; treasurer, Stewart Torrie; secretary, Maureen Howie, match secretary, Heather Stewart; committee, Dot Chalmers, Chris Robertson, Moira Torrie, Barbara Gordon, Bill Petrie, John Black and Ernie Smart. League skips for the season will be Willie Stewart, Geoff Reid and Ian Mackay. Fund raising has been on going over the winter with a number of Whist Drives



being organised, the last two of which have been held in the Muir of Ord Golf Club. The Bowling Club is very grateful to the Golf Club for allowing them to use their very comfortable accommodation. The whist drive will be next held on Wednesday 28th March in the Pavilion.

It is hoped that the banks of the Green will be renewed before the start of the new season. This project is entirely dependent upon the Club's grant application being successful. New members of the Club are always most welcome and anyone, of any age, wanting to have a try will

get coaching and the use of bowls.

Club nights (or Spoon Nights) are held every Wednesday and Saturday throughout the season, starting at 7 p.m.

Ken Howie (President)

Win 'The Scottish Quest board Game' in our "Who am I" Competition



Major-General. I saw service in Afghanistan, Mujaba, Omdurman

I was born on the 13th April 1853 at Muir of Allangrange. My first job was as an apprentice draper in Dingwall. I enlisted in the 92nd Gordon Highlanders and rose through the ranks to

as well as serving in Egypt and the Sudan. In 1902 I was awarded the KCB. My life came to a tragic end in a Paris Hotel on the 25th March 1903. My nickname was 'Fighting Mac'. Two monuments were erected to my memory. One is only approximately 2 ½ miles from the centre of Muir of Ord.

Who am I?

For a chance to win the board game (RRP £29.00) send your answer on a postcard along with your name, address and telephone number to:-

"Who am I" Competition
Village Hall
Seaforth Road
Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA
by Friday April 27th 2006.

Baden–Powell in the Muir ?



This year is the Centenary of the Scout Movement, founded by Baden Powell, known as the Hero of Mafeking, to his contemporaries and “BP” today. With over 26,000,000 Scouts, the Movement is now the largest organisation, excepting religions in the world, and it all

started in 1907.

The seeds were sown some seven or eight years previously in the Boer War.

Colonel Baden –Powell commanded the British Army at Mafeking, a town in South Africa that was under siege by the Boers, who, fighting in their own

and other tasks that lightened the load of the troops and adults. Indeed after retiring from the Army it was the memory of these boys that inspired him to start what we today know as Scouts.

When eventually the siege was raised in May 1900 the whole of Britain suffered from national hysteria such

as we should witness today if England or Scotland were to win the World Cup!!!

The outcome was that in the following year over 6,100 British children, mainly boys, were christened Baden and another 1000 Powell.

So you ask, what has this to do with the Muir???

A trip to Urray Churchyard will show a gravestone bearing the name “Baden Powell Thompson” who died in 1979, aged 79yrs; no doubt he is remembered today by his friends and family.

To the casual visitor his tomb is a permanent reminder that Baden Powell is remembered world wide for founding Scouting, but cemeteries in Britain have many tombstones bearing the Christian name Baden and more with Powell, but how many are there like ours bearing both??

Young Baden Powell Thompson would have been



Muir of Ord Ross-shire Scouts outside the Village Hall Circa 1910/11

territory were out manoeuvring the defenders of the town, indeed were trying to starve them into submission. The outlook was grim.

Baden Powell used every strategy at his disposal to buy time until reinforcements could arrive. He was especially impressed by the contribution made by the boys of the town, who were able to run messages

11yrs old when the Muir of Ord Scouts were started. Did he join them or maybe he is only buried here and grew up elsewhere. Perhaps someone could tell us?

Brenda McGregor

(See Page 8 for more details of the Scout group)

Sunflower Competition



'Muir Matters' Competition to find the biggest and best Sunflower is about to get underway.

For the junior competition the giant Sunflower seeds will be distributed to Tarradale & Mulbuie schools and the Play-group towards the end of March. Each participant will receive 3 seeds. These can either be sown indoors in a pot in late March or early April or direct into the

garden in late April or early May.

For those wishing to enter the 'open class' please send a stamped address envelope to our usual address (see page 12) or contact a member of the group. A garden voucher will be awarded to the winner of both classes.

We would like to thank Mr Colin Munro of Munro's Nurseries for his generosity in donating the seeds for this competition.



MUNRO'S NURSERIES

Colin Munro

Bogallan, North Kessock, Inverness, IV1 3XE
Telephone : 01463 731210 Fax : 01463 731890

MUIR OF ORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

There is a vacancy in the Community Council for a Secretary with effect from 1st April 2007. This post carries a small remuneration. Applicants need not be a member of the Community Council and should contact the Chairman on or before 31st March 2007 for further information:

Applications and further enquiries to:

The Chairman

Muir of Ord Community Council

Plaiderie, Balvaird Road

Muir of Ord. IV6 7TP

Muir Matters Christmas 2006 Hamper Winners

Pictured on the right is Mrs Susan Davis, this years winner of our Christmas Raffle.



Mrs Jean Ashcroft, pictured on the left was the second prize winner.

Congratulations to both Susan & Jean.



'Minnie' at the Butcher's Corner

"Well Minnie, the meeting went well"

"Aye Mattie all systems go" they tell.

"That's grand, we'll get a new hall,
for the village folk it's the **last call**"

So pull our socks up and roll up or sleeves,
we know this job will be a breeze.

To get this new hall will give us all heart,
Setting us up for a bright new start.

"I hope Minnie, it'll have a corner to meet,
For standing here is gey cold in the feet".

New Free Church Minister

Rev Gordon Martin, formerly minister of Helmsdale Free Church will be inducted as the new Minister for Urray & Strathconon in April. Gordon & Eileen have three of a family and we look forward to welcoming them to Muir of Ord.

HOMESTAKE

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE HOUSE TO BUY?

These properties will be sold under the Homestake scheme. This is a shared equity scheme, aimed at lower income households, including first time buyers, Housing Association tenants and Council tenants, enabling them to purchase between 60% and 80% of a property.

Logan Way, Muir of Ord

4 Person, 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached House

60% for £75,000

80% for £100,000



There are 14 of these properties available, due for completion in November 2007

To enquire about your eligibility for these properties, please contact

HOMESTAKE on 01349 855 991.

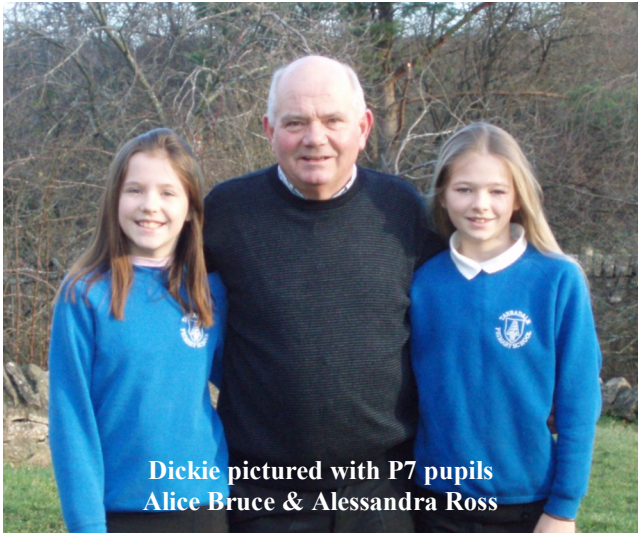
Logan Way, Muir of Ord



Homestake



A fond farewell to Dickie



Dickie pictured with P7 pupils
Alice Bruce & Alessandra Ross

If you look back on your school days, whom do you remember most? A favourite teacher perhaps? A best friend? Well, how about the school janitor?

After inviting children at Tarradale Primary School to comment on the recent departure of their janitor, Dickie Lumby, it's easy to see why he would be top of their list.

From class P1 upwards, Mr Lumby was described as 'lovely; cool, very nice; kind and helpful; fantastic; super-hero and the best janitor in the world.'

Mr Lumby retired from his role as janitor after five years at the school when he reached his 65th birthday in February.

A fixture in the school from early morning, when he opened-up, to patrolling the grounds at lunchtime right up until the last child got on the school bus in the afternoon; he was an integral part of the school team and had an excellent rapport with the children and staff.

Head Teacher, Christine Reid, had nothing but praise for him. 'He has been a tremendous asset to the school and was always willing to help everyone.

Nothing was ever too much trouble for him. To illustrate his importance, in the eyes of some of the younger children, they thought he was the Head Teacher.'

It sounds, however, like he will miss the children as much as they will miss him. 'The kids were the best thing about the job. They told me all their news and gossip', said Mr Lumby. 'I was probably the first to know most things. 'Janny' gets told everything!'

The clubs and groups who used Tarradale School after-hours will no doubt also miss Mr Lumby.

After his day at the school and returning to his home to Dingwall, he would pop back at night to make sure all was well and then lock-up for the night. 'I

got to know most of the folk who come to the Over-60's, Bridge and bee-keeping and will miss seeing them a lot', he says. Even so, he does admit to looking forward to having his evenings to himself again.

The job at Tarradale School would appear to be the perfect end to an enjoyable career that spanned fifty-one years in total. He began his working life aged 14 as a mission boy in Liptons, Dingwall. The main part of his career, however, was at the Hydro Board where he spent thirty-five happy years.

Although he is looking forward to a nice break and a holiday with his wife, it's hard to keep a good man down as Mr Lumby says he wouldn't mind a little part-time job to keep him going. He laughs, adding that his wife who also retired two years ago, might be enjoying having the house to herself too much so he might have to take his beloved dog for lots of nice long walks!

Tarradale School would again like to thank Mr Lumby for his hard work over the years and wish him the very best of luck and good health in his retirement.

Hazel Chisholm

More news from Tarradale School can be found on page 19 of this issue.

Alex & Catherine Gaston, of **Gaston School of Dance**, are holding Thursday afternoon

dance classes in the village hall at 2.00pm

Last year the couple held classes in conjunction with 'Healthways', but are now trying to start a class on their own. This was requested by the few people who attended the class regularly. If there is enough support they will continue the classes, but if not enough people attend, this class will have to be discontinued.



This is a chance for you to get involved in enjoyable exercise with good music, good company and lots of fun.

If required Alex & Catherine can arrange private lessons.

For more information

Telephone
01349 853519

Weekly Activities

Monday

In the Village Hall

Bodybalance @ 10am to 11am

Scottish Country Dance Group 7.30pm
(1st Monday in the month - Church Hall)

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 871200, 870315 or 871731

Tuesday

In the Free Church Hall, West Road

Mother & Toddler morning

In the Old School

Art Group @ 7pm

Wednesday

In the Village Hall

Babyzone from 9.30 to 11.00am

(for more details see below)

Lunch Club @ 12 noon (870065 for further details)

Scout Group @ 5.15 to 9.30pm

(For further details telephone 01463 870810)

Meet in the Square

Beginners Jogging @ 1.30pm to 2.30pm plus
7.00pm to 8.00pm (Age no barrier) *Further info. from Joan
Munro 870237, Hazel Keiro 01997 414376 &
Ian Dempster 07724 199 880*

Healthways Step-it-up Walking Group @ 2pm

Thursday

In the Village Hall

Egyptian Belly Dancing @ 10am

Social Dance Class @ 2.30 to 4pm

In Tarradale School

Bridge Club @ 7pm

Meet in the Square

Jogging 7.00pm (from 19th April)

Friday

In the Village Hall

Legs, Bums & Tums @ 10.00 - 11.00am

In the Free Church Hall, West Road

Jam Club @ 4.30 to 5.30 (contact Deirdre 871257)

Friday Zone @ 6.30 (contact Nicki 870250)

Youth Club @ 7.30 (contact Chisholm Urquhart 871257)

In the Church Hall, Seaforth Road

Challengers for academy age @ 7.30pm
(contact Alistair 870259)

Saturday

In the Village Hall

Indoor Bowling @ 7.00pm

In the Old School

Art Group 10am to 12 noon

Monthly Activities

Monday

In the Village Hall

W.R.I.

2nd April - AGM

7th May - Visit to Beaulieu Museum

26th May - Annual trip (see page 14)

Church Hall Seaforth Road

Urray & Kilchrist Church of Scotland Guild
26th March @ 7.30pm; 'Woman of the Bible'
By Pat Jones

23rd April @ 7.30pm; 'A Matter of Opinion'
Questions to a Local Panel

Wednesday

Tarradale School - GP Room

Over 60's Group

14th March - The Highland Archive,
Public records - Speaker, Susan Beckley

11th April - Scottish Natural Heritage

Speaker, Sue Scroggins

9th May - To be arranged

Turn to page 14 for more dates for your diary

Church of God, Muir of Ord.

Evening Services

Every Sunday @ 6.30pm


Village Hall

Local believers organise fellowship meetings.

Sunday evenings. Everyone Welcome.

Pastor W G McLaughlan B.A.Hons.PGCE

School Calendar Session 2006/2007

Open	Close
	Friday 30th March 07
Tuesday 16th April 07 (Staff only)	Friday 28th June 07

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)

Brownies, Scouts, Beavers and Cubs (for further
Details) contact editor@muirmatters.co.uk
or Telephone 01463 870822

Muir Jogscotland Group

Never run before? Not fit? Used to be fit? Fit now, but want to get fitter? Have difficulty motivating yourself to go running on your own? Recently had children and want to get in trim again? Want to make new friends?

Why don't you join the Muir Jogscotland group? Whether you are in your 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s or 60s, whether you are male or female, you will be warmly welcomed.

Every Wednesday you can join us at either 1.30 pm or at 7 pm. As from Thursday 19th April there will be an additional session from 7 pm. We always meet outside the library entrance, opposite the Spar shop.

Although the group includes people with a range of abilities, we are particularly keen to encourage and support beginners.

Please phone any one of the following if you want further information, particularly if you are a beginner and don't know what to expect. Alternatively, just turn up at the meeting place for one of the 3 sessions.
Contacts: Joan Munro 01463 870237: Ian Dempster 0772 419 9880: Hazel Keiro 01997 414376 (all Jogscotland trained leaders)



From the left, Hazel Keiro, Trev Johnson, Joan Munro & Ian Dempster

New Shiatsu Classes in the Muir

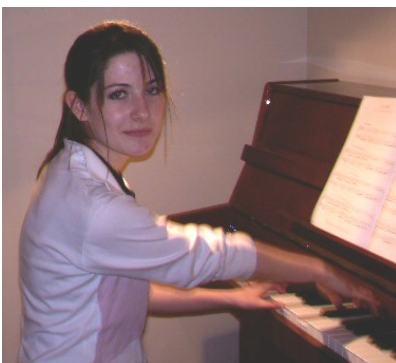
"Shiats who?"

I can almost feel the collective eyebrows rise....! Well, let me explain. Shiatsu is an ancient Oriental healing art, literally translated as 'finger pressure', originating from the same roots as Acupuncture. It works by promoting the circulations of energy along pathways in the body, called meridians. This is done through the use of techniques such as rocking, stretching and the steady application of pressure. Shiatsu helps to restore our natural balance. Recipients report renewed vitality, relief from pain and stress and deep feelings of wellness and relaxation. Common conditions that have been helped by Shiatsu include back pain, headaches, reduced mobility, insomnia, digestive problems, asthma and depression. A Shiatsu class can be a fun and a very rewarding experience. As well as developing a new skill you will be receiving treatments as part of your learning. Shiatsu takes place fully clothed on mats on the floor and although we will make the environment as comfortable as possible some dexterity is required; ie being able to be on your knees and getting up and down without assistance. Janet

MacDonald is the class instructor and has been practising and teaching Shiatsu for nearly 20 years. Janet is happy to share her skills and knowledge in Muir of Ord by running a 2-hour weekly class for beginners beginning on Friday 9th March at 10am in the Ord Arms Hotel. If you are interested, please contact Janet on 01520 744 223 or janet@follow-your-star.co.uk Adult Education Rates apply.



Music Festival 2007



Carrie Mackay, aged 14 from Muir of Ord achieved a Merit in the Piano Solo category in the Inverness Music Festival.

Carrie's piano tutor is Khalilah Lee, also from the Muir, congratulations go to them both.

A big well done to all the other children from our community who took part in the Music Festival

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 12.

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

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@omn.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)

Contact the Elderly

Contact the elderly operates throughout the Highlands offering Sunday outings, Friendship Groups and a visiting service for elderly people.

If you are interested in being part of the service either as a member or a volunteer please contact the Development Officer on 01463 798998 for further details.

Council Services

Councillor Chisholm

01463 871681

david.chisholm.ellr@highland.gov.uk

Highland Council - 01463 702000

Helen Martin : Youth Worker

01349 869916

Council: Refuse Collection

01349 863381

Dingwall Leisure Centre

01349 864226

M.O.O. Service Point - 01463 870201

Schools

Dingwall Academy - 01349 863071

Mulbuie - 01349 861289

Tarradale - 01463 870484

Police

Muir of Ord - 01463 870222

Crime Stoppers - 0800 555 111

Post Office - 01463 870250

'Handy Person Service'

01349 884774

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 or email :adviser@DingwallCAB.casonline.org.uk

Office Hours; 10.00 to 2.00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

We are always looking for new volunteers.

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 Page.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

Why not register *your* mobile phone free of charge on the National Mobile Phone Register by visiting www.immobilise.com. The information given can help the Police to return lost or stolen phones to their rightful owners. It also enables a bar to be placed on the phone's SIM card which prevents unauthorised use whilst out of your hands. *Phones can only be registered through the website.* Before you go on-line, you need a note of your phone's serial number. You can obtain this by keying ***#06#** into the handset, the 15-digit number immediately appears. If you aren't on-line at home, the library will provide help and Internet access.



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

The Really Really Useful Page 2

Train Times to and from The Muir

Muir of Ord to Inverness

Monday to Saturday

0754, 0936, 1017, 1116, 1156, 1343, 1408, 1559, 1628,
1857, 1946, 2013 & 2235

Sunday

1548, 1724



Inverness to Muir of Ord

Monday to Saturday

0714, 0853, 0915, 1039, 1052, 1217, 1433,
1703, 1753, 1815 & 2039

Sunday

1118, 1800

Muir of Ord to Dingwall

Monday to Saturday

0734, 0914, 0938, 1103, 1116, 1238, 1455,
1726, 1814, 1837 & 2059

Sunday

1138, 1823

Dingwall to Muir of Ord

Monday to Saturday

0744, 0925, 1007, 1052, 1146, 1331, 1400, 1550, 1619
1849, 1936, 2004 & 2225

Sunday

1539, 1715

From December 10th 2006 to 19th May 2007

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

0640, 0715, 0805, 0905, 1005, 1105, 1205, 1305, 1405, 1505, 1605, 1705, 1805, 1917, 2017, 2217 plus 0803, 1105 & 1435 via Kessock & 1803 to Longman bus depot.

Saturday

0640, 0715, 0811, 0905, 1005, 1105, 1205, 1305, 1405, 1505, 1605, 1705, 1810, 1917, 2017, 2217 plus 0803 & 1435 via Kessock

Sunday

1139, 1339, 1539, 1739, & 1959

Inverness to Muir of Ord

Monday to Friday

0615*, 0650*, 0745, 0845, 0940, 0945, 1045, 1145, 1245, 1310, 1345, 1445, 1600, 1610, 1700, 1710, 1800, 1900, 2100, & 2320

Saturday

0615*, 0800, 0845, 0940, 0945, 1045, 1145, 1245, 1310, 1345, 1445, 1600, 1705, 1710, 1800, 1900, 2100, & 2320

Sunday

0945, 1145, 1345, 1545 & 1830



Muir of Ord to Dingwall

Monday to Friday

0823, 0923, 1013, 1023, 1123, 1223, 1323, 1343, 1423, 1523, 1638, 1643, 1738, 1844, 1944, 2144 & 0004

Saturday

0838, 0923, 1013, 1023, 1123, 1223, 1323, 1343, 1423, 1523, 1638, 1743, 1844, 1944, 2144 & 0004

Sunday

1032, 1232, 1432, 1632, & 1917

Dingwall to Muir of Ord

All times from the Royal Hotel

Monday to Friday

0750, 0850, 0950, 1045, 1050, 1150, 1250, 1350, 1415, 1450, 1550, 1650, 1750, 1905, 2005, 2205

Saturday

0756, 0850, 0950, 1045, 1050, 1150, 1250, 1350, 1415, 1450, 1550, 1650, 1755, 1905, 2005 & 2205

Sunday

1128, 1328, 1528, 1728, & 1948

***Leaves from Longman bus depot**

From January 2007

The Really Really Useful Page 3

Household Waste Recycling Centre, Dingwall

Opening Hours

Mon - Tues - Thurs - Fri - 10.15am - 5.00pm

Wed - 10.15am - 6.30pm

Sat - Sun - 9.30am - 5.00pm

*Please note that the Centre closes for lunch
2pm - 2.30pm daily*

Please help recycling by separating the material before going to the site.

Using the correct containers for each of the materials listed below.

Cans - Car batteries - Cardboard - Electrical
Appliances - Engine oil - Garden Waste - Gas
cylinders - Glass bottles - Paper - Rubble & soil - Scrap metal -
Textiles - Tyres - White goods
& Wood

For more information call 01349 868440



Want to contact us?
Here we are



The Rape and Abuse Line (RAL)

The Rape and Abuse line offers a freephone confidential helpline to persons who have survived rape or abuse no matter how long ago their experiences were. We also offer support to the family or partner of the person who has been affected. We can, where possible, arrange for face to face counselling.

Our helplines are:

08 08 800 123 answered by female support workers.

08 08 800 122 answered by male support workers.

Both lines are manned most evenings between 7pm & 10pm.

(RAL is a registered charity; SC 007515)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUBLICISE YOUR SERVICES IN

'MUIR MATTERS' NEWSLETTER?

For further details & cost contact

Maureen Thomson on 01463 870365

'Muir Matters'
Village Hall
Seaforth 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

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.

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 £4.80, and overseas rates of: Europe £6.60, World Zones 1 and 2 £8.60. Price includes, 'Muir Matters', postage & packing plus 10p handling charge. For more information or if you are housebound please write, email, telephone or just pop in and see us, we will be happy to discuss your requirements.

To order a copy of 'Muir Matters' please contact us using the details as given above.

Back copies of 'Muir Matters' are also available on request.

The next issue of 'Muir Matters' will be on sale from Early June 2007. Any articles for inclusion ***must*** be submitted by our deadline of ***Friday 18th May 2007***

Local Services

**Reflexology
Vertical Reflex Therapy**

*GIVE YOUR MUM A RELAXING TREAT
FOR MOTHER'S DAY -*

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Red Kites and their success in Easter Ross

March 14th - Avern Centre - 7.30pm

An illustrated talk on the re-introduction and success of the Red Kites on the Black Isle by Brian Etheridge, Project Officer for the RSPB. Come along



and learn about these beautiful birds that you can see daily flying overhead as you drive along and why they are an important part of the ecosystem.

For more information, contact Martin Hind on 01349 868563 or martin.hind@highland.gov.uk

**MUIR OR ORD ROVERS QUIZ
SHEETS ARE NOW ON SALE IN THE
LOCAL SHOPS.**
Entries £1 - Loads of Prizes



More Dates for your Diary

Outdoor Bowling Club

Whist Drive; Wednesday March 28th & 7.30pm
in the Pavilion
Admission £2.00 (includes refreshments)

Outdoor Bowling Season Commences; Saturday 21st April
(First jack will be thrown at 2.00pm)

Plant & Produce Sale, plus Bottle Stall;
Saturday 19th May in the Village Square @ 10.00am.

WRI

Annual trip to Glamis Castle; Saturday 26th May
Look out for posters nearer the time.
(Non-members can contact Phyllis for seat availability)



The Tarradale School Board would like to give thanks to SGL who have donated 12 computers to the school. They come complete with student packages, not to mention - literally - a pallet of paper. They have also offered to maintain the computers for the first 12 months.

The company has been very generous in their support for Tarradale Primary.

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& Easter Gifts

**WELL WORTH A RUN TO BEAULY
MON-SAT 10-5 SUN 12-4**



*They say everyone has
a book in them, well
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writing for us!*
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from pieces of writing
to poetry and letters.*

Email: editor@muirmatters.co.uk
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MY FAVOURITE CORONATION CHICKEN RECIPE

Ingredients

1 Onion
 2 Tablespoons curry powder
 1 cup red wine
 2 bay leaves
 a good squirt of lemon juice
 a good squirt of tomato puree
 1 tablespoon sugar
 2 tablespoons of apricot jam
 1lb Chopped cooked chicken
 Mayonnaise

Soften the onions in a little oil.
 Add the rest of ingredients.

Simmer until mixture thickens and Annabel Sutherland



leave to go cold.
 Put some mayonnaise in a bowl
 and add enough mixture to your
 own desired taste.
 Add chopped cooked chicken.

Muir matters would like to apologise to Annabel and the first 20 purchasers of our 'Recipe Book' which in the first print run omitted tomato puree from the recipe.

We also apologise to the person who contributed the Lemon Poppy Seed Loaf recipe. As soon as the error was discovered we replaced the wrongly named contributor with "Muir of Ord".

If whoever sent us the recipe would get in touch we will rectify the error and apologise in person

ED.

Muir of Ord soldier Davie Campbell was 'Chaired Out' by his fellow Highlanders on Thursday 15 February 2007 after 22 years of loyal and dedicated service to The Highlanders and its antecedent Regiments.

He enlisted in Inverness on the 3rd of August 1983. He joined his local battalion, then The Queen's Own Highlanders. After basic training at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion he joined the 1st Battalion in Northern Ireland.

Having completed the many career courses, postings as an instructor and moving up the promotion ladder he was latterly employed as Company Sergeant Major, Headquarter Company, The Highlanders – probably one of the most demanding Sergeant Major posts within the Battalion. During his Sergeant Major appointment the Battalion deployed on Operation TELIC to Iraq in 2006.

He has served in Great Britain, Germany, Belize, USA, Canada, Kenya, Gulf War 1 and Iraq. Of particular note have been his five operational

tours of Northern Ireland. For his service he has been awarded the General Service Medal with Northern Ireland Clasp, Accumulated Campaign Service Medal, Gulf medal with clasp, Iraq medal and the Queens Golden Jubilee Medal 2002.



Splitting up the 'Muir of Ord Mafia' within Headquarter Company, (Major Brian Ross is the Officer Commanding) Davie departs to civie street to start a new career having completed his army service. Married to Katherine they have two children, Rhuridh aged 13 and Rhianna aged 7. Davie and his family are to settle in West Lothian.



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We would like to thank all our customers for their loyal and continued support.



Golden Broom tartan a big hit with First Minister

The First Minister Jack McConnell's recent visit to Mulbuie Primary School to kick off the Highland Year of Culture caused much excitement among staff and pupils alike. The Golden Broom tartan designed by pupils at the school was the star attraction.

'Muir Matters' asked some pupils at the school to write about the experience.

I was sitting at my desk like any ordinary Monday morning waiting for my head teacher (Mrs

MacKinnon) to enter the room and tell us to get our mental maths out. When she came in she had a huge smile across her face and told us, 'Jack McConnell is coming to our school this Friday!' My mouth dropped open in shock and everyone started talking about it. **Lisa Dickson P.6**

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we were getting prepared for the big visit! Finishing our gorgeous tartan display, cleaning, tidying and making the school look as best as it could.

By Friday the whole school looked so smart. The teachers were so nervous in case something went wrong! **Zoe McNeil P.6**

It was quarter to ten, so we were told to sit down and wait. We heard the door buzzer go; we knew it was Mr McConnell. Aahh! We could hear him as he walked down the corridor and into our classroom. I was so excited! A P.4 pupil called Logan showed him around and introduced us to him. He said hello and shook each of our hands and started talking about our schoolwork. My friends and I asked if we could interview him for a film that we are making for our big tartan event. We asked him if he liked the tartan. He said it was a great tartan and he liked the way that the children were involved a lot with the processing of it. **Fiona Paul P.7**

The school gave Jack McConnell a tartan tie and a warm scarf for his wife. The pupil who took him round the school asked him to put on his new tie so he took off his pink one and put on the Golden Broom one! **Zoe McNeil P.6**

While Logan took Jack McConnell around the school, Shannon and I took Mr Robertson and Mr Anderson (one of the bosses of Highland Council). When we got to the P1 and 2 classroom, we had to wait because Jack McConnell was having an interview with Reporting Scotland. His interview finished and Logan took him around the rest of the school. Shannon and I followed closely with Mr Robertson and Mr Anderson. We eventually got to the staff room and said goodbye to them both.

Jack McConnell stayed in the school forty minutes longer than he should have. We went out for break and that was the end of all that excitement. It would feel strange on Monday because we wouldn't be preparing for a big event but we would still have our tartan launch to look forward to! **Ruth Foster P.5**

What a day for Mulbuie Primary School!!! Just to have him at our school is such an honour. **Lisa Dickson P.6**



Following on from the article above, on Feb. 16th Mulbuie School officially launched the Golden Broom tartan at an event held in the Strathpeffer Pavilion. Parents and invited guests were treated to an evening of music and dance with a film presentation telling the story of their ambitious enterprise. On sale was the full range of tartan merchandise, ranging from a kilt, scarf and tie to a tea-cosy and tablecloth. An appearance by dancer Rea Dunlop wearing a costume created by Scottish designer Sandra Murray, this means that their Golden Broom Tartan may yet make an appearance on the New York stage. *(All the tartan products are available for sale from the School)*



Letters to the Editor

I would like to thank everyone that contributed to the magnificent gifts I received on my retirement from Tarradale School.

Thank you for your friendship over the years.

D Lumby

Dear Muir Matters

Niall Gordon has a bit of a nerve naming Forbes Café and The Tarradale. I don't visit the hotel but it looks in keeping with the rest of the area to me.

As for the café, well it is a working café and people come from miles not only for the excellent pies from Forbes and all the usual things like to have a crack with the most excellent staff.

Perhaps Niall deserves the OBE (Order of the Bovine E.....)!

Name & Address supplied

Dear Editor,

We had intended writing to your readers last year to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of all who supported the Hospice at the Alexander twins 40th birthday party in the Ord Arms Hotel. Our collection from the night raised an amazing £1326.18 and inspired us to continue fund raising.

Friends and family donated cash instead of gifts for Craig and Kevin. By the end of August we

were able to hand over £12,000 to the Highland Hospice.

The offer still remains for anyone wishing to celebrate a similar event. Contact us on either McDnld1@aol.com or 07917385181.

Thank you once again. Nini and Trish

Dear Muir Matters

Does anyone need, free, used jiffy envelopes? We have 100+ of various sizes and hate to just throw them out.

If you are interested please contact Lizbeth on 01463 870865

Dear Muir Matters

I so enjoy reading your newsletter, to let you understand I work with Florrie Macgruer and she was telling me about how the whole community got together and built a new hall for the Rovers Etc. Etc. I said what a fantastic community to get together like that, she then said would I like to read the newsletter, so I took it home and read it from beginning to end and then proceeded to read it again I enjoyed it so much, especially the 'Reflections of Christmas & Hogmanay's Past'. I totally agree that our traditional hogmanay's have been slowly disappearing due very much to television.

This year my husband and I went

to a hogmany dance that was being held in the community hall at Kinncraig just outside Kingussie, our friends the Jim Mackay Scottish dance band were playing. Jim his brother Nicol, and grandson Greame all on accordions. Greame was playing Will Starr's button accordion, the other grandson was playing fiddle with son Tom on drums. It started at 9pm and by 9.30 the hall was packed and the amount of young that were there was amazing. Asked why they were not at home watching TV with all the pop stars, they said "what, watch that rubbish when we can be here having a great time", and a great time they did have. Bang on midnight down came the balloons from the ceiling and the youngsters had a ball bursting them. Everyone going round wishing everyone a happy new year, old and young alike, it was so friendly and reminded me of the hogmanay's we used to have in years gone bye. No one was the worse of ware of drink because the floor was never empty of dancers.

I have asked Florrie if she would order me copies of your newsletter from now on as it makes such good reading.

Well done to you all

Mrs Helen Fraser

Culloden



Life Coaching

Q. What does Muir of Ord have in common with superstar Madonna and the multinational company IBM.

A. Life Coaching....!

At some time or another we've all felt that we wanted to change something in our lives? It could be something simple, like being able to make the time to get around to those wee jobs that we never seem to manage or maybe we're looking for bigger changes, say, in our career.

Like everyone else, here in Muir of Ord we say we are too busy in the work/sleep/volunteer/get the kids to school/tumble dryer mode.

But what if *we* had a Life Coach? We've all heard of them but always believed that things like that were for other people. Well, not this time...!!

Life Coaching begins on **Friday 9th March** in the Village hall 1.30pm-3.30pm and it's for YOU..!

Janet MacDonald, a fully qualified and experienced life coach will be leading these sessions, so, if you want to find a way to make the changes you would like to see in your life, then get yourself down to the Village Hall on Friday.



Who'd live in a house like this?



Well, you'd be forgiven for thinking it would be an enthusiastic and devoted Celtic fan, but you'd be wrong..!

Davie Paul of Tarradale Terrace, a lifelong Ranger supporter and a well known prankster, came home after a weekend break with his wife to

discover that a couple of his friends had decided to 'decorate' his garden as part of a 40th birthday surprise. No points for guessing which team his friends

support...! A few rows of white emulsion on the front lawn to give the effect of those well know green

and white hoops and even more white paint in the back garden to create the beautifully drawn Celtic badge...! Whilst Davie remains philosophical about the 'decoration' we suggest that the guilty culprits don't leave home for any length of time in the near future or they may just come home to more than they bargained for. We hear that Davie is already plotting his revenge...!!



Muir Shops Circa 1930's

Today's residents may be surprised to learn that back in the 1930's shops in the Muir were not only more diverse but were also spread across both sides of the railway line.

To the west of the line the road leading from the bridge continued straight along into the West Road. Mac's the drapers was a small wooden building near the Station Hotel (now the Station Flats) which sold drapery and working clothes. In the middle of the West Road were small wooden shops containing a saddlers, Mrs Forsyth's grocery shop which in wartime years was also a café, Sandy MacEwan's Barbers Shop. Noble's Garage, shop & Coal Merchants were on the site of the now Noble's



Court. At Noble's you could have bought a radio, had your wireless battery charged or buy a bike. Around the corner along the North Road was Johnny Macrae's draper shop, now a residential bungalow.

Going across the bridge you came to William Forbes general grocers, the Commercial Bank and William & Roddy's butchers shop on the corner. At the other end of the block was a small chemist with a doctors surgery at the back. Further along you came to a milliners and a wool shop.

Across the road were the Post Office and Duncan Cameron's grocery, shoe and clothes shop. Also in this area was a Taxi firm.

Along Seaforth road where the Service Point is now were three shops which unfortunately were later burnt to the ground. Opposite the Chip Shop was the Bank of Scotland.

Bunty Morrison

'Muir Matters' would love to hear from anyone with memories to tell & photos to share of the old Muir.



Young Voices

Tarradale's Tribute to Robert Burns



Earlier this year p4 - p7 of Tarradale School performed, produced and directed their "Burns Concert" as part of the Enterprise in Education programme, and what a stunning success it was! A DVD presentation giving the outline of Robert Burns' life story, followed by fabulous performances of music, dance and poetry. Who could ever forget Alasdair Richie's performance of "Bacon Roll"? I haven't even looked at one never mind eaten one since...! We were treated to pipers,

fiddlers, actors and singers and it was clear to the audience that every child had their part to play. As well as the performances, other parts of the production were also dealt with by the children. Media, Advertising, Finance, Decoration and Production Groups were set up and all worked together to produce this event. Filming their work as they went along they created a 'Behind the Scenes' DVD which was shown at the end of the concert and it was obvious how much they had enjoyed and learned from this experience. Although

watching the DVD I would have to say that Miss Hunter of P7 needs a little work on her Highland Fling..!! Unfortunately we can't list and thank each individual who took part but we certainly would like to offer our congratulations to all on a fine performance and an excellent afternoon's entertainment. Surely the only thing left for us to say is Well done Tarradale, **ENCORE.....!!**



YOUTH COUNCIL CLEAN-UP

We are delighted to see that Muir of Ord Youth Council have made a start on their plans for a clean-up of the park area between Tarradale School and Balvaird Road. They explained "Lots of young people in our village are concerned about the condition of this spot and we think it is overlooked as a proper park". Over the last few years it has been seen as something of a problem as



several youths have been using it as a drinking den, out of reach and out of sight of the authorities, so the Youth Council decided they wanted to change this. On Saturday 26th May, a group of youngsters (and not so youngsters...!) will be out there taking some positive action and helping to clear the rubbish. They are also hoping they will be successful in their application for funding to Scottish Natural Heritage which will allow them to do some re-planting in the park in the near future helping to make it once again "a proper little park" for the Muir. If you would like to take part, or feel that you could help in some way then you can contact Ashley or Dawn c/o Muir Matters 01463 870822



An invitation to tea from the Brownies was something that our retiring School Janitor Mr Lumby and his wife didn't want to miss. Pictured here with some of the Brownies Mr Lumby said "I'm really going to miss the children when I retire." But we suspect that we'll miss him a great deal more..!



1		2		3		4		5
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		12						
		13			14		15	
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			18					
19							20	
		21						

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 9, Village Hall, Seaforth Road, Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA.**

Entries must be received by **Friday April 27th 07**

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

- 2) A confused mess (7)
- 6) A convenience perhaps! (3)
- 7) A newt (3)
- 8) Curtsey (3)
- 9) Large shady trees (4)
- 11) A covered walk or oats maybe? (4)
- 12) A superficial wound (7)
- 13) Original (7)
- 16) A drainpipe (4)
- 17) Factory or workshop (4)
- 18) Self! (3)
- 19) Large flightless bird (3)
- 20) Coal scuttle (3)
- 21) A stirrer perhaps (7)

Down

- 1) Lincolnshire resort (11)
- 2) Floating barriers (5)
- 3) Spanish wine (5)
- 4) Moorland (5)
- 5) Central belt area (11)
- 10) Perthshire village (5)
- 11) Go away, shoo (5)
- 13) Middle ear bone (5)
- 14) Large cat (5)
- 15) Supple (5)

Congratulations to Mrs M MacGourlay, Burns Avenue, Muir of Ord on winning our prize Crossword No 8. Maureen wins a £10.00 book token.

Solution

Across:

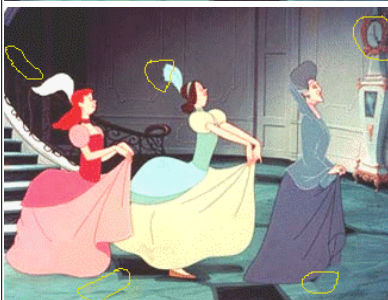
- 1) Jokes 4) Santa 7) Mew 8) Noise 9) Audio 10) Win 11) Luke 13) Sett 14) Valet 15) Bike 17) Yoyo 19) Opt 21) Loach 22) Awash 23) Mil 24) Sikhs 25) Claus

Down:

- 1) Jingle Bells 2) Knick 3) Smew 4) Swan 5) Nudge 6) Apostrophes 12) Eve 13) Sty 16) Knack 18) Osaka 19) Ohms 20) Talc



The winner of the Young’uns December 06 ‘Spot the Difference Competition’ is:-



**Master Ross MacGourlay
10 Coopers Lane
Bramley
Hants, RG26 5BY**

Well done to Ross who wins £10.00

Want to win £10 in our Young’uns Competition ?

For a chance of winning £10.00, tell us how many sunflower heads you can find hidden in this issue of ‘Muir Matters’



Send your answer on a postcard along with your name, age, address and telephone number to:-

‘Find the Sunflowers Competition’
‘Muir Matters’, Seaforth Road,
Muir of Ord, IV6 7TA

Entries by Friday April 27th 2007 please.