

Atholl Estates Newsletter



Summer 2011

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Welcome

I am sure regular readers of this newsletter will be aware that the castle suffered a fire in the Clock Tower on the 10th March. A week later as I write this welcome, I am still thanking our lucky stars for the containment of the damage and am eternally grateful for the magnificent work done by our response team, who turned up in force, remained calm and generally got on with the business. This newsletter's centre page tells the story in full and also outlines the future restoration and some positive developments that will be incorporated into that work.

Another exceptionally cold winter tested everyone, but some of the lessons learnt from last year's extreme weather had been put into practice, most notably, the trace heating installed in the gutters of the castle proved a good investment (see the picture on page 11). I hope everyone now can enjoy some summer sun and Jamie and I also have our second daughter, Claire's, wedding to look forward to. She is marrying Dominic Spencer-Churchill and hopes to hold the reception in Hercules Garden.

In June we celebrate 75 years of the castle being open to visitors, a great achievement for the teams here over the years and also many thanks to everyone who has visited the castle, what would we do without you!

News in Brief

Atholl embraces the social media revolution



Atholl Estates has embraced the social media revolution and now has a presence on Facebook, Twitter and Blogger.com. The estate Facebook page came into its own recently when fire struck at Blair Castle. Marketing staff were able to use the page to provide a moment by moment update. Our horse trials Facebook page now has over 4000 friends.



We are also on Twitter and currently have 30 followers (not quite Stephen Fry's following, but growing daily) and we have two blogs created by Gill Morrogh Bernard at Bruar and the estate ranger service. To access either blog, please click on the red blogger icon on the footer of our website www.atholl-estates.co.uk.

And finally, if you visit www.youtube.com you can watch video footage of the 2010 Atholl Highlanders Parade. We hope to add more video footage of estate events in the coming weeks.

Cairngorms Partnership

During October 2010 the national park boundary was extended south to include Blair Atholl and Glen Tilt and large areas of the estate became part of the Cairngorms National Park for the first time. This positive development is already leading to new alliances and business initiatives. On 13 April, representatives from the Cairngorms Business Partnership and the National Park Authority visited Atholl Estates for a familiarisation visit.

Blair Castle Trekking Centre has joined other trekking centres in the park in a marketing initiative to produce a joint leaflet and trekking holiday packages. You may also have noticed the Cairngorms National Park logo appearing on Atholl Estates print and a substantial estate presence on the Cairngorms website www.visitcairngorms.com.

Tenant farmers shoot

Farmers from the middle district joined Jamie and Sarah for a shoot at Tulliemet, reviving an old tradition from the 10th Duke's day. Andrew Bruce Wootton and David Greer joined the party and David Stewart, the keeper, put together an enthusiastic group of beaters.



Welcome to some new staff



Helen Graham

We have three new recruits to our team this spring. Helen Graham is covering as Lodges Sales Administrator and PA while Lesley Greer is on maternity leave. Helen has recently moved to Aberfeldy from Cornwall with her partner who works as an adventure sports instructor.

Fiona Robertson joined the caravan park as office administrator following Rosalind's departure. Fiona has worked for most of her career as a senior accounts assistant with an accountancy firm in Dunfermline. She now lives outside Pitlochry.



Fiona Robertson



Claire Troup

Claire Troup is our main seasonal ranger for 2011. Claire is from Perth and has worked as a ranger for two years on various estates and parks, one of which was the visitor centre at Loch of the Lowes.

Blaircroisk Farmhouse and Steading sale



Digital graphic image of the proposed development

Blaircroisk is a small redundant farmhouse and steading complex overlooking the Tummel Valley, just to the north of Ballinluig. With stunning views and quiet privacy, the site was ideal as a basis for the design of a very exceptional residence and planning permission has now been obtained for a potential development which is depicted on the adjacent photo montage. The site and consents have been placed on the open market for sale through Ristol Estates, the agency wing of Studio Ristol.

Farewell to Rosalind Gray

Rosalind has worked on the caravan park for over 26 years, starting immediately after leaving school. Over that time she has been a leading part of the team who made it into one of the country's leading holiday destinations, a haven for happy memories for many people in Scotland and further afield. Rosalind became park deputy manager in the 1990s and then park manager in 2000 until she had children in 2005 when family commitments meant a return to a more focused responsibility for administration (apart from occasionally standing in between park managers which was hugely appreciated). We wish Rosalind every success in her new career direction.

Estate Forward Plan 2011-14

Sarah Troughton and the management team have been working with staff over the last few months to present a plan for what we intend to achieve over the next three years. The document is available to download on our website or copies are available from the estate office.



Twin red deer foetus

A pregnant yeld hind was shot on the Bruar Face of Clunes by student stalker, Benjamin Rhodes on the last day of the 2010/11 season. She weighed 107 lbs, 7 years old and to the stalker's surprise, was pregnant with twins. Both the foetuses were female. Although not unheard of, it is very rare to find twins in wild red deer. Ronnie Hepburn, senior stalker on the west beats said, 'I have never seen it in 33 years stalking' and apparently nor have any of the other Atholl stalkers.

Highland tigers

Gamekeepers Graeme Cumming and Richard Fraser have been participating in an initiative by the Cairngorms National Park Authority to conserve the Scottish wildcat (*Felis silvestris*). The aims of the project are to identify existing populations of wildcats across the Park area and to conserve the species which is at threat from hybridisation with domestic cats.



Wildcats are a frustratingly elusive species and part of the project involved a number of movement-activated hidden cameras installed at likely locations at the woodland/moorland fringe on the West Hand and Forest Lodge sport beats. The cameras picked up all the usual suspects including pine martens, badgers, and a fox but also managed to record a few fine examples of wildcats.

Caravan Park review plan

Blair Castle Caravan Park is one of Scotland's best loved parks and we are very proud that so many people decide to stay here each year.

The park has been in existence for well over 40 years and has regularly undergone change during that period, with the new reception building, built in 2002, the most recent large scale improvement.

Ten years on from the new reception building, we now find ourselves facing another large scale project as we need to upgrade the park's water infrastructure. Although in recent years we have been upgrading some parts of the electrical system, it has become obvious from increased leaks that investment in the water infrastructure is now unavoidable. With that in mind, we have been going through a process of establishing the best way to upgrade the infrastructure with Scottish Water and at the same time using this as an opportunity to review the park layout to project where we see the park developing over the next 10 years or so.

We are still finalising details of the changes but expect to be improving services while simplifying options for touring and camping pitches. We will aim to provide a consistent size and presentation for each pitch while upgrading all pitches to being fully serviced (electric, water, grey water waste). In order to operate on an effective basis year on year, we will have to phase the work over a number of winters so we cause as little disruption as possible to all of our customers.

We have been basing our plans on feedback from customers about what they would like from the park and also looking at recent trends in the industry. We intend to produce a plan which we can share with our customers in due course, but we look forward to putting the first phase of the work into action over the coming winter, so we can all start to benefit from the changes in 2012.

75th Anniversary for Blair Castle



In 2011, Blair Castle celebrates a very special anniversary, 75 years of public opening. It was on 1 June 1936, that the castle's first visitors viewed its remarkable interiors and its many treasures for the first time (a privilege previously extended by invitation only to such illustrious guests such as Bonnie Prince Charlie and Queen Victoria). This momentous occasion attracted 286 people and tours to the top of the tower could be enjoyed for just one penny!

In honour of this anniversary, Blair Castle will be staging a number of special events in 2011, as well as improving and enhancing the experience of visitors to the castle. Highlights include a 75th anniversary light projection on to the exterior wall of the castle, visible as far away as the A9 and the creation of an exhibition providing visitors with an introduction to the family and estate. There will be a special celebration on the actual anniversary day itself (1 June) when the 286th individual visitor will be photographed with a member of the Atholl Highlanders and presented with a bottle of Atholl Highlander whisky! The castle gift shop will also be selling a selection of 75th anniversary items including cookies, tea towels and mugs.

All Change in our tourism team

Scott and Rebecca McCauley joined us in 2008, initially with Scott taking on the newly established role as Head of Visitor Services followed by Becky in September as Marketing Manager. Although a husband and wife team in their spare time, Scott and Becky soon became an effective working duo at the leading edge of our tourism operations, managing to deliver growth during a very tricky economic period.



Mike Dukes

In January of this year they announced plans to return to Australia where Scott's family live and where they had been living before they joined us. Their departure in June will be a sad event for the estate and the village, where they and their two boys, Samson and Gabriel have been active (sometimes too active!)

During the last three years we have seen a new range of activities and tours at the castle, growth in the caravan park with woodland lodges and additional holiday homes, a new website, a new customer feedback system, on line sales and the introduction of integrated booking and ticketing, linking all the estate offices into one software system.

But as we say a fond farewell to the McCauleys, we welcome Mike Dukes who will be taking over from Scott from 14th June. Mike is married to Fiona and they have a daughter, Ella. The Dukes family move here from Alnwick in Northumberland where Mike led the management team that looked after the famous Alnwick Castle and Gardens.

A new direction for our ponies

At the end of 2010 a decision was made to simplify the running of our pony trekking enterprise. Vicki Bogan was regrettably made redundant as a result of the operational review and has now moved on with a new career but retains her passion for Highland Ponies. Hamish Cruickshank returned to his first love of game keeping and is now employed as a stalker on the neighbouring estate of Gaick. Both leave Atholl with the best wishes of colleagues and guests.



The Atholl ponies are known for their multi-purpose role – moving between providing a trekking experience to castle and park visitors in the summer and working with the game department assisting the stalkers with management of red deer in autumn and winter. The role demanded an equally multi-skilled person who

could move between departments with the ponies while they were working and assist with general livestock duties when the ponies join the cattle and sheep at Home Farm during their rest season. That person was Debbie McLauchlan and in the new role of Senior Pony Ghillie she will divide her time during the year between trekking, stalking and the Home Farm

Debbie is well-known to Atholl; her mother Ella is receptionist at the estate office; and her father Willie was born at Forest Lodge where his father was the head stalker. Debbie spent school holidays helping out with the ponies under the tutelage of Susan Laing and worked as trekking assistant for four years after leaving school, initially with Susan and latterly with Vicki. She then decided to broaden her horizons and moved to Balmoral Estate where she worked with the newly established Highland Pony Stud.

Debbie's arrival coincides with a review of how trekking is booked and sold. The range of treks has been simplified and guests may now book by phone or email at the estate office, the castle and the caravan park. The trekking centre is participating in the new DOVE customer feedback system and this will be utilised continuously to inform and refine the trekking offering and booking system.

Fire at Blair Castle



8.56pm

the fire, one from the north forecourt hydrant and the other from the South End garden hydrant.

The police were next on site followed closely by the Pitlochry fire engine at 8.55pm. By this stage the roof was completely alight, throwing embers around like sea spray as the wind blew in from the north east. With the roof structure substantially combusted, the remaining timbers lost their fight with gravity and plummeted down, crashing into two stage platforms and finally impacting on the ground floor, on and around the wood chip boiler.

Although this alleviated the immediate risk of fire spread at roof level, the threat now transferred to ground level, either into the caretaker's flat or into the south wing. Thankfully, solid fire doors had been fitted to the Clock Tower boiler room entrances only a few years before, a decision which may have saved the day.

Before 9.15pm, seven fire engines had arrived from various parts of Highland Perthshire along with an emergency control unit and all efforts were being directed to the tower's ground floor where strong and imposing flames remained. However, access to that area from the forecourt is limited and effective fire fighting was clearly being constrained.

By this stage, a crowd of almost 50 people had gathered, mainly staff and villagers from Blair Atholl, eager to help in any way possible. Within this crowd was the estate 'grab' team,

volunteers who periodically train with the fire brigade to carefully extract the more unique or valuable artefacts from safe areas of the castle. Sadly, due to a break-down in communication between the brigade and police, the grab team were denied access to carry out their role.

The threat of fire spread swung in the castle's favour by the arrival of a craned tender from Perth which arrived at 9.30pm. After getting into position and being connected to a pumped water supply from the Banvie, this graceful appliance reached up and applied a powerful jet onto the tower from above, killing the combustion within a few minutes.



10.13pm

The brigade stayed on site, undertaking checks of the peripheral buildings and ensuring there was no re-ignition, however by 11pm all risks had been written off and after a formal debrief, all but a handful went back to base. Estate keepers set up a security cover around the castle and everyone else went home, exhausted but hugely relieved.

Everyone who took part in the battle that night performed to the best of their ability but the quick and effective action of our first response staff, who set up hose attacks within ten minutes of the alarm and thereafter kept the peripheral roofs hosed down, was significant to the fire not spreading. We, the fire brigade and the local police have learned so much from the experience, knowledge which will inform improvements to the water supply systems and future joint training both of which will increase our chances of effectively fighting a significant fire.



The morning after

And what caused it? A degraded section of insulated twin wall flu which was allowing chimney heat to transfer into the roof timbers; a defect impossible to survey.

Already, plans are developed to convert the reinstated clock tower to house the estate archives which are currently stored and managed from a small room at the castle's north end. A very happy and progressive ending to what could have been a disaster.

Hydro power site starts

After almost three years of design and planning it is particularly reassuring to see that investment start to become a reality as the Broom and Dowally projects start up on site.

After a comprehensive tendering process, the build contract for both sites has been given to a Lancaster based firm called Askam who have extensive experience south of the border but who are eager to expand into Scotland.

Askam intend to sub contract much of the work to regional firms such as Robbie Laird who will be responsible for most of the plant hire.

The main office area will be at Dowally and the site manager, Paul Smith, holds weekly drop in opportunities for anyone interested to ask questions on Thursday evenings at 5pm for an hour.

The contract period is May to November with work starting from the powerhouse ends of the pipe route, working up to the intake weirs. The polyethylene pipe is 600mm in diameter and delivered in 12 metre lengths. These are heat welded together in the main compound on each site to form 100m sections which are then dragged, along the pipe route working corridor, to where the excavator has established the pipe trench. The contractor expects to lay about 400m of pipe on each site, each week.



Paul Smith, site manager

The intake weirs will be built between June and September when in-river works will cause least disturbance to the water course. As this will require concrete deliveries, each weir needs to have an access track established and this work will also be part of the first few weeks of programme.

Finally the powerhouses will be erected to be ready for our project partners, Gilkes Energy, to deliver the turbines during early December. The powerhouses are the size of a large garage and will have larch clad walls externally and grey tin profile roofs. The roofs are designed to be removable so the turbine can be lifted into the building by crane.

Our grid connection date is mid-November and after a period of testing and configuration, we expect to be producing power into the national grid by early in 2012.

The big freeze – again

After the heavy snow falls of winter 2009/10, we could all have been forgiven to assume the worst was over for quite a few years and that we would be returning to the normal rain, more rain and yet more rain which had become the standard Scottish winter.



Marble Lodge

So when the mercury dipped to almost -20C at the beginning of December and virtually didn't climb above freezing until the beginning of February, there were some worried and rather tired people working around many parts of the estate.

For prolonged periods of days the temperature refused to rise beyond -10C and combined with strong winds driving the wind chill factor, frost went deep down into the ground, hitting water pipes and drains with over three feet of cover.

The arctic temperatures did limit the amount of snow that hit us during the period but never the less, deer and hill sheep didn't see a blade of grass for over eight weeks and their condition was becoming alarmingly poor as the perishing cold drained any exposed, living creature of strength, simply to stay warm. Farm staff worked tirelessly to keep livestock fed and water flowing.



Heat trace wire on castle roof

Forestry operations came to a grinding halt as access was impossible, but regardless, the sawmills all had to close due to the timber being too frozen to cut.

Our works department became the fourth emergency service, working in shifts all through the week and over the festive season, thawing water supplies, installing temporary supplies, thawing oil supplies and repairing frozen pipes. Oil and gas tanks around the estate started to run out as the supply companies ran out of stock due to unprecedented demand so our works team quickly used their initiative and hired and filled large fuel bowser trailers which became a life line to many staff and tenants alike.

However, a success story emerged quite early in our second Baltic winter. Heat trace wires fitted to the castle roof gulleys during summer 2010 worked perfectly and prevented a repeat of the flooding we experienced during the previous winter when ice blocked gutter outlets causing snow melt to run into the building.

Donald McMillan

Jane Anderson interviews our Balachallan Farm shepherd on the eve of his 65th birthday.

Were you brought up in a farming family? I was one of 9 and brought up on Mull where my father, who was a shepherd, went in 1948 as tenant of a farm near Tobermory. At 12 I was milking about 15 cows before school. We had our own dairy then my mother took the milk into Tobermory with the little grey Fergie tractor. The tractor and implements cost £600 and the rent was £86. When I left school I worked on the farm.

So why did you not stay on the family farm? My father got a job as grieve at Glengorm estate, so I went to work for the Hydro board. Then I went to Islay Estates and then got a job at the distillery. I had married at 20 on Mull.

How did you get over here? In 1975 Col Stewart Wilson advertised for a tractor/cattleman and I got the job. When he came out the army his mother was still at Balnakeilly so he rented Tulliemet estate. There were 90 cows and 1100 ewes, all blackies. I was going to stay for a year and move on when Donnie Seton was retiring so I stayed as shepherd. There was Derek Sinclair and his brother Archie and Billy McIntosh. We would work with Kinnaird on Balnakeilly and gather together with Rotmell, Pitgur and Dalcapon. I moved into Balnafouran and Mrs Campbell Preston came round to check I kept the house tidy, she even looked under the bed!



Donald with one of his sheepdogs, Spot

What changes have there been? In 1980 the estate took over the farm and it was run with Balachallan, which was managed by Bobbie Baird. He let me get on with the sheep so I started to cross them as that is more profitable. So now we have 1100 cross ewes and 500 blackies on the hill.

The farm is organic, what difference does that make? The main thing is the grass is later coming in the spring so maybe we should lamb later, I am moving that way. The other scheme is to burn more heather to improve the habitat for Merlin and Hen Harrier, which has also made it better for the sheep.

Would you change anything in your life? No it is a great job, getting paid for doing what I would want to be doing.

Wildlife Estates Scotland

Atholl Estates joins the Allargue Estate on Donside and the RSPB-owned Abernethy Estate to be the first three pilot estates to take forward the Wildlife Estates Initiative in Scotland.



David Greer (Atholl Estates, Head of Rural) 2nd from left

Wildlife Estates Scotland is an initiative which has been developed by the Scottish Rural Property & Business Association and the Scottish Estates Business Group over the past year with advice from Scottish Natural Heritage, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

It is a national version of the EU Wildlife Estates (WE) label which is endorsed by the European Commission's Director General Environment, whose objective is to protect, preserve and improve the environment for present and future generations.

Wildlife Estates Scotland will be a two stage process that goes beyond the basic European WE label. The first stage is to sign up to ten good practice commitments. Level two of the scheme introduces the quality accreditation aspect and on Atholl it will sit alongside those already being met on the estate such as Scottish Quality Beef & Lamb, Scottish Organic Producers Association, Scottish Quality Wild Venison, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme, Visit Scotland Visitor Attractions and Green Tourism.

The aim of the pilot schemes is to trial the application and assessment process with the objective of creating a final scheme that is robust, transparent and credible whilst being equally attainable by a small farm shoot to the largest sporting estate.

The Scheme assesses land management in its widest sense, examining the physical indicators of biodiversity and sustainability of prey and non-prey species, habitats; socio economic indicators such as direct employment.

Being guinea pigs for the pilot project will undoubtedly present challenges but ultimately the success of a national scheme will result in a clearer understanding of the positive impacts that good land management can have on Scotland's environment and rural communities.



All roads lead to Blair Castle...

Maybe not an entirely factually correct statement at the present time, but it is increasingly the case for a growing number of equestrian competitors in Scotland and internationally.



The lure of the main international eventing competitions is of course huge for anyone competing on the horse trials circuit. The sport has great support in Scotland and having an international competition on the doorstep has led to a boom in the number of young riders taking up eventing in Perthshire and beyond. A new trophy was awarded to the Best Perthshire Rider in the CC11* class back in 2009, in memory of one of the event's best loved helpers, Brian Smith. That year there were only two riders in the running for it – this year there could be eight or nine. The development of Pony Club eventing classes means that riders are getting into the sport in a more serious way at a younger age, and there is no doubt that having Blair in their sights inspires those in the Highlands to aim high.

In 2011, the nation's best 18-21 year old riders will be aiming for a place on the British team and the opportunity to wear the coveted Union Flag badge

on their riding jacket, as Blair hosts the FEI European Young Rider Eventing Championships. As host nation, Britain can field an additional 6 competitors over and above the usual 6 allowed from the other competing nations, giving more British riders the chance to represent their country. Entries do not open until much nearer the event, but early indications show that Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Sweden and Italy all intend to send competitors. When Blair last hosted these Championships, in 2007, France, Spain, Denmark, Finland, Russia and Belarus all sent riders too and the sport is growing in popularity across Eastern Europe, with Lithuania and Romania all starting to compete so they may also be seen. Britain has an enviable record in the Championships, with most of the current London 2012 Olympic contenders having come up through the Young Rider scheme. In 2007, Britain took the team gold and the individual silver and bronze medals, so here's hoping Blair proves a lucky hunting ground again this year,

Hosting these Championships has brought the event forward a week, into the Scottish school holidays. It is too early to tell the effect of the date on visitor numbers of course, but there has been a good response from trade exhibitors. Several high-profile new stands are making the trip north for the first time this year because the event will not clash with a show-jumping festival in the midlands.

Suffice to say it is a busy time in the horse trials office in the build up to what will be the biggest

and busiest week in the event's 22 year history - we hope to see you there! In the meantime, keep up to speed with the latest developments on the event website and on our rapidly-growing Facebook page.

Atholl Highlander News

Following on from the Colonel's decision last year, to hand over his active service duties to his eldest son, 2011 will see some 'one off' breaks with tradition.

The Atholl Highlanders will parade as usual on Saturday 28th May, but on this occasion the Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, Brigadier Melville Jameson CBE, has accepted the Duke's invitation to inspect his regiment and to take the salute at the march past. The Brigadier is well known to have a keen eye for good turnout and drill and a practised ear for fine pipe music.

Last year the President and Members of The Braemar Royal Highland Gathering invited His Grace to bring his Atholl Highlanders over the hill to Braemar to attend their annual Gathering on 3 September 2011: The Duke was pleased to accept, but intimated that his son, Bruce Marquess of Tullibardine, would lead the regiment into the arena on his behalf, to order the "royal salute present arms" to Her Majesty The Queen. This will be a very special occasion: Lord Tullibardine together with many members of his father's Atholl Highlanders will be both proud and honoured to play their individual parts in it.

One can surely be confident that Iain, 10th Duke, who, together with a few loyal and enthusiastic highlanders, revived the regiment in 1966, would have been pleased to know that today's Atholl Highlanders are able to undertake these important public engagements in 2011, under the command of his heirs and successors who have encouraged and looked after the regiment so well since his death.

We have come a long way: It is not surprising that our force, at today's strength of over 100, originally raised in 1839 by Lord Glenlyon as his bodyguard of Atholl men, now proudly titled The Atholl Highlanders, is often affectionately known in the wider world as "The Duke of Atholl's Private Army".

Blair Stewart-Wilson,
Retiring Commanding Officer.



From left to right those pictured are The Duke of Atholl with his grandson Michael, Earl of Strathray and Strathardle and his son Bruce, Marquess of Tullibardine

Forthcoming Events

Atholl Highlanders Talk & Parade. 28 May

Atholl Gathering & Highland Games. 29 May

Afternoon Tea in the Ballroom

30 May – 5 June (except 3 June).

75 Years of Public Opening Anniversary Day.

1 June

Charity Day – in aid of **Scotland's Garden Scheme & Tay Valley Mountain Rescue** 25 June

Animal Antics – Fur and Feathers with the Atholl Estates Ranger Service. 15 & 29 July

Celtic Night – Music & Highland Dancing.

20 & 27 July

Animal Antics – Fur and Feathers with the Atholl Estates Ranger Service. 12 August

Blair Castle International Horse Trials & Country Fair. 18 – 21 August

Half-term Fun – Childrens Activities.

Throughout October

Tractor Spooktacular. 13 & 27 October

Glenfiddich Piping Championships.

29 October

Glenfiddich Fiddling Championships.

30 October

Dougie MacLean in concert. 31 October

Births

Daughter to Lesley and David Greer, Joni, on 12 February 2011.

Marriages

Fiona Stephen and Kevin Brown on 9 April 2011.

Lesley Brown and Scott Mayberry on 7 May 2011.

Deaths

Tony Yates, castle reception team, 10 February 2011.

Staff News

Rhiann Macleod, castle shop, was a member of the Scottish junior ladies curling team that won the 2011 Scottish and world championships. She was also a member of the senior ladies team that won the 2011 Scottish ladies championship.

Malcolm Whyte, forestry ranger has received the Tayside Police Force Excellence Award for Special Constable of the Year 2010.

Welcome back to **Stephen McLean,** seasonal ranger.

Welcome to **Sarah Butler** who joined the horse trials team on secondment from Smiths Gore for the summer, her main responsibilities being trade stands, box office and the programme.

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