



Atholl
Estates
Newsletter

Winter 2018/19

Welcome

As always there is a wealth of news from the estate covering a vast range of topics, but I would like to draw attention to the length of time many people work here. This was celebrated at a reception held in the castle ballroom in October (pages 8 & 9).

Immediately after the Parade weekend in May, the Atholl Highlanders left for a tour of some of the Belgium and French battle fields. A moving experience, especially 100 years after WW1. An article will appear in the spring/summer newsletter, published just before next year's parade and gathering weekend.

The castle has enjoyed three 'exhibitions' this year, Victoria which was covered in the last newsletter, 'The Witch's Dinner Party' a Hallowe'en treat and now the rooms look very festive with their winter decorations. On that note may I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Sarah Troughton

New faces



Julia Duncan
- the estate ranger



Derek Laubscher
- gardener and castle
relief caretaker



Hugh Chamberlain
- farm manager,
Balanloan

We also welcome:

Shona MacDonald - park receptionist, Rosilynne Thomson - the Convalloch house keeper, Lesley Meldrum, Sarah Carr, Hazel Bird and Kirsty Scott also join the lodges' housekeeping team.

Oliver Jones, Jamie Gunn, David Farquharson and Paul Boyle join the estate as seasonal keepers.

We say goodbye to...

Karen Haggart, assistant shop manager for 22 years, Polly Freeman who was ranger here for 19 years, Margo Haggart, shop manager for over 22 years, Anne Muirhead, caravan park receptionist since April 1997, Jackie Todhunter – Convalloch house keeper, Janette Cumming – Marble Lodge house keeper, Jamie Davies – gardener, Gavin Morrow – works dept, Darren Brown and Timothy Angier seasonal ghillies.

Front cover: Bruar Falls, guest article by Patrick Birkbeck page 10

News in brief



Alba, the hydro industry's Scottish association, held their annual away day viewing two of the Atholl Hydro schemes. Seen here at the Tulliemet intake, they then held a meeting at Blair Castle followed by a view of the castle scheme and the hill drain that feeds it.



Along with many other Scottish sites, Blair Castle was lit red to commemorate **100 years since the end of WW1**.



Max Edward Onions, born to Jules, the estate marketing manager, and her husband Sam in May.



V&A Dundee: Blair Castle were delighted to host an evening for the V&A Dundee, supported by Sodexo. Over 90 people listened to director Philip Long describe how the museum would house a fine Scottish collection, including a laburnum wood chair on loan from the castle, there is a state of the art exhibition space and the general description of 'a living room for Dundee' was a well-used phrase.



Tilt Monster Salmon Nicholas Munro Ferguson caught a 20lb salmon on the Tilt, when the river was nearly at full flood. He was fishing with a fly he calls the luttrell, on a 9.6ft 7# rod and it took him roughly 200 yards below where he hooked it, taking 20-30 minutes to land. A personal best fish for Nicholas, who returned the fish after weighing and photographing it.

Activities on Atholl

Errochty Smolt trapping



A few thousand migrating salmon smolts each spring (principally April / early May) out of a total population possibly in the region of 50,000, are implanted with a PIT tag, a bit like the chips they put in dogs for ID. These are inserted through a tiny incision in the body of the fish into the body cavity and "lives" in the fish for the rest of its life. This technique is now quite widely used in various places and doesn't seem to cause significant additional mortality above natural to the smolts. On their return to freshwater as adult salmon the "chipped" fish will then be detected by an automatic device to be installed in the fish pass at Pitlochry Dam. As such detectors have only a range of a foot or two, the fact that all Tummel fish have to go through the dam makes it one of the few places in Scotland of this size where such a project can be conducted. In effect it will be possible to work out the level of mortality year on year from smolts leaving and returning to the River Tummel.

The Murray Cup



This rainbow in lower Glen Tilt was photographed from the 500 yard firing point at the end of West Atholl Rifle Club's championship shoot for the Murray Cup, first donated by Mrs Angela Murray, mother of Sarah Troughton. The cup was first shot for in 1946, but the present one dates only from 1955 for the following reasons. In those days it was the custom that if someone won a trophy three years running, they kept it. This happened within a few years and Mrs Murray was asked to provide a second, which she generously did. In 1954 another member became entitled to keep it for the same reason. Mrs Murray was asked to provide a third, and understandably suggested that it was time for the club to seek a replacement from another source. The present cup was donated by "G I Murray Esq" who became the 10th Duke in 1957. It is engraved as the "Perpetual Challenge Trophy", a clear indication that no replacement would be provided! It is shot for annually toward the end of the shooting season, maintaining the club's link with the Murray family. This photograph incidentally shows a common feature on our range. The wind flags, which tell us by how much and which way to adjust our sights, are pointing in different directions: one reason why our range is known as the most difficult in the UK on which to shoot well.

New Clubhouse For Tullymet Curlers

For centuries, Scots have taken to frozen ponds and lochs in winter to play the sport of curling and when conditions allow it is a sight that can still be seen and heard in Highland Perthshire.

In Tullymet, curling has been played since the mid 1800s following the establishment of Tullymet Curling Club in 1840. Its members had previously played as a division of Dunkeld Curling Club whose patron was the Duke of Atholl.

Tullymet Curling Club originally played matches on a small lochan in the hills above Tullymet, before moving to a pond at Convalloch in 1889. In the mid 1950s work began on a new purpose-built pond on land provided by Atholl Estates, with the first game being played on the pond in January 1958.

Sixty years on, 2018 saw the club erect a new clubhouse overlooking the pond. Its construction was made possible following fundraising by club members, a £600 donation from the Atholl Ice Fund and over £6,500 of grant funding from the SSE Griffin and Calliachar Community Fund. Manufactured by Errol-based Gillies and MacKay, the new timber building was officially opened by the club's longest serving member, Willie Cameron, who joined the club nearly 70 years ago. The club's current honorary president is Sarah Troughton, and its membership comprises three honorary non-playing members and 14 playing members who curl in Dewars Centre in Perth. Keen to showcase the new building, the club recently held a walking treasure hunt round part of Tullymet, which started and finished at the curling pond. The well attended event proved popular and the club is looking to hold another treasure hunt in 2019.

In the meantime, as the first signs of winter begin to appear, the club is hoping for a prolonged cold spell in which to make full use of the new clubhouse and enjoy an outdoor bonspiel or two.



Tullymet Curling Club pond and new clubhouse
Official opening – (L to R) Graham Huggins, SSE Griffin and Calliachar Community Fund panel member, with Tullymet Curling Club member Willie Cameron cutting the ribbon and president Ian McLaren



Beretta Photo Shoot

Six members of Atholl Estates staff became fashion models for a short time in June. Italian firearms company Beretta came to shoot their Autumn Winter 2018 catalogue and social media campaigns on the estate. Richard Fraser, Ryan Cumming, Nicky Townshend, Dominic Morrogh-Bernard, Benjamin Rhodes and Tim Angier all lent their modelling skills. The results can be seen at www.instagram.com/berettaofficial

Land Rover Blair Castle International Horse Trials 2018

The weather was fine for this year's Land Rover Blair Castle International Horse Trials, up until Sunday morning. Driving rain was the order of the day on Sunday, resulting in challenging conditions for the final show jumping phase of the three-day eventing classes.

CCI3*

New Zealand's Tim Price with Pats Jester took the top spot in the CCI3*. They show jumped clear to move up from third after dressage and take the win on 28.5.

"He was good, wasn't he?" asked Tim after his win. "He's a horse who has always been a bit under the radar but he's very consistent in his work. He's a really classic jumper, super fit and he just popped round the cross-country yesterday – I'm very proud of him."

CCI2*

The top three in the CCI2* remained unchanged after cross-country. Piggy French was the dominant force, finishing first and third with Cooley Monsoon and Castletown Clover respectively after both horses jumped clear show jumping rounds.

Cooley Monsoon's owner, comedienne Jennifer Saunders, was understandably over the moon with the result: "It's just amazing – Piggy is an absolute genius," she said at the prize giving. "Watching your horse at an event



Richard Duncan of Land Rover presenting Piggy French and Jennifer Saunders with 1st prize.

is exhausting though – I've barely been able to breath I've been so nervous!"

She was equally enthusiastic about Blair Castle: "It's my first time here and it's glorious, I think I might be slightly in love with this event. There's so much to see and do – hopefully we'll be back again next year as I'd love to bring the family."

CCI1*

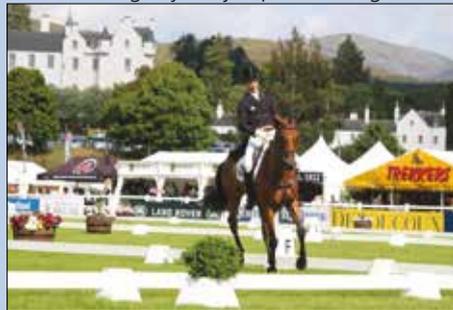
Berkshire-based Kiwi James Avery and Lizzie Edwards' Seaflower also retained the lead they established after dressage and won the CCI1* on a combined score of 25.2.

Second went to Nicola Wilson with JL Dublin on 28.6: Nicola said "He's only seven and he has matured so much this year. We came here to get our qualification for the seven-year-old Championship at Le Lion so it's just a case of fingers crossed that we get selected now."

It was also a case of 'mission accomplished' for third-placed Paul Sims and another seven-year-old, G Star Van De Klinkenberg, who also secured their Le Lion qualification.

Event Riders Master

This year Blair hosted the final leg of the ERM series with Christopher Burton and Graf Liberty winning at Blair as well as the overall series. The only pair to make the optimum time across country in dire weather conditions. Chris admitted afterwards: "I was very nervous before I set out, worried that I would do something silly like jump the wrong fence."



I'm stoked the horse ran so well and it's great to have won not just the leg, but the series." Oliver Townend was second but perhaps the most surprised rider on the podium was third placed Emily Philp whose ride Camembert added just 2.4 cross country time penalties to their first phase score. "I was daring myself not to take a pull [around the cross-country course]," she said. "He gave me an amazing ride, this hasn't sunk in yet."



Alec Lochore's Next Olympic Role

The horse trial's Event Director, Alec Lochore, is a well-respected figure within the eventing world.

Between 2010 and 2012 Alec held the position of Eventing Manager at the London 2012 Olympic Games where he was part of the team responsible for the venue design and integration with sport, as well as managing the organisation and delivery of the Eventing competition for the London 2012 Olympic Games. For the Rio 2016 Olympics, he took on the role of Technical Delegate for Eventing. Alec has recently been appointed the Eventing Manager for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, continuing his involvement at the highest level in the sport. He will remain Blair Castle's Event Director and Course Designer, with Assistant Director, Nicky Townshend, holding the fort in his absence.



Red Deer Rut 2018

If you believe what science has to say, then this year's rut should have been the same as last year's, and the year before that, and the year before that. The reason is simple – the rut is controlled by photoperiod (amount of daylight). Several scientific studies have been published showing that the rut (peak breeding dates) occurs at the same time every year. However deer movement during the rut can change dramatically from season to season, which is why some years the rut seems hot and heavy with a frenzy of activity, and other years it seems slow and drawn out. The main factors that can dictate movement include weather conditions, stag to hind ratio, moon phase or position and hunting pressure to name a few.

However, the 2018 Red Rut has not been the same as previous years with little logic to the timing, when it actually kicked off, with some beats having an early rut and adequate numbers of stags, to neighbouring beats having very few stags and no sign of the rut until early November. One of the reasons for the late rut may be down to the health and condition of the hinds, possibly caused by the long-wet winter of 2017/18 that they have had to endure. We are wondering if the 2019 cohort of calves will be born later than normal.

An Evening to Celebrate Long Service on Atholl

A tremendous evening, with a great deal to celebrate.

About a year ago the supervisor group made the suggestion that long service should be recognised a little earlier than after 20 year's service, the traditional length of time for a Scottish Land and Estates' long service certificate. A lively debate followed in the subsequent managers' meetings resulting in the estate now recognising long service at 10, 15 and 20 years. Atholl Estates has always valued the length of time many employees remain on the estate, but in today's climate, with easy travel, training making people more adaptable and possibilities viewed on a national, if not global spectrum, to remain with the same employer for 10 years is commendable and greatly appreciated by the estate.

The evening was set up, with a reception in the ballroom and a presentation of awards, starting with Jane Anderson, who was praised by Sarah for the 34 year's work she had done for the archives, estate and exhibition. Recently retired, she is now completing the next volume of Atholl Chronicles 1957 – 2000.



Robert giving a short introductory talk

Andrew then said a few words to thank those who had worked for longer than 20 years:

Alasdair Cameron started July 1974 –the estate's lead forester, after 43 years, Alastair maintains there is no other job he would prefer to do and after all that time.

Gordon Learmonth September 1984 -stockman now grieve on Balanloan farm.

George Scott June 1987 - shepherd at Balanloan Glen Tilt

Keith Todhunter April 1994 - South End cartaker, lodge maintenance and gardening are among some of his duties.

George Farron June 1995 - main castle caretaker

Karen Haggart March 1996 - castle shop deputy manager

John Milligan March 1997 - estate accountant

Dominic Morrogh-Bernard March 1997 - keeper at Clachglass, and now at Glen Bruar.

George Campbell April 1998 - farm manager at Balachallan

Jim Hodge May 1998 - gardener

Myra Milligan June 1998 - the castle office accounts

Colin Scrimgeour July 1998 - junior accountant

Ella McLauchlan August 1998 - the estate office receptionist



15 & 10 year awards went to:

Back row from left: Angus MacDonald – 13 years, Jurgen & Teddy von Hallewag – seasonal guides for 20 years, Andrew Bruce Wootton – 18 years, Claire Scott – 18 years, Robbie Dow – 17 years, Ronnie Hepburn – 18 years, Douglas Bell – 16 years, Richard Fraser – 18 years

Front row from left: Sarah Troughton, Susan Learmonth – 14 years, Gill Morrogh Bernard – 15 years, Lillian Lamond – 12 years, Deborah Smeaton – 14 years, Elspeth Cameron – 19 years.

Also given awards but not in photograph: Graeme Cumming – 19 years, Malcolm Whyte – 17 years, Diane Scrimgeour – 12 years, Mo Tracey, seasonal guide - 12 years.



People with 20+ year's service on Atholl Estates holding their certificates

Back row from left: George Scott, George Farron, George Campbell, Gordon Learmonth, John Milligan, Keith Todhunter, Colin Scrimgeour, Dominic Morrogh Bernard, Bertie Troughton

Front row from left: Alisdair Cameron, Andrew Bruce Wootton, Sarah Troughton, Jane Anderson, Jamie Troughton, Ella McLauchlan, Myra Milligan, Karen Haggart

The Perfect Storm

As anyone in business will tell you, success lies in forward planning. The key to this for us at The House of Bruar has been diversification, providing a variety of experiences and ranges. When one sector of the business is experiencing difficulties, other areas can take up the slack to ensure that forward progress is always being made.

There are some things, however, which no amount of planning can foresee. This year, for example, we've seen a combination of circumstances which has had a devastating effect on businesses throughout Scotland.

The "Beast from the East" at the start of the year brought bitter cold and crippling snowfalls to large parts of Scotland. Then summer came hot on the heels of this savage cold spell, with week after week of blazing sunshine. Diversification slightly softened the blow through the heatwave - while we didn't sell many cashmere coats, sales of ice cream and fish and chips went through the roof!

However, large areas of the Scottish economy did not fare so well. Fish stocks took a massive hit as water levels dropped, and, most importantly, the weather had a disastrous impact on the grouse population.

The extended cold period meant that many birds delayed breeding, which in turn led to their chicks being born during the peak of the heatwave, when there wasn't even dew on the morning heather and hence no insects to feed the young grouse. They perished in droves, leaving vastly depleted stocks which led to shoots being cancelled across the country.

While the number of people involved in grouse shooting in Scotland may not be huge, the spend of each shooter is significant, and the collapse of the season has had a highly damaging knock-on effect affecting not just the estates themselves but also hotels, restaurants, retailers and many others. My next door neighbour will have worked her dogs fifty days during the 2017 grouse season, which earns a good income. This year – not a single day.

While we cannot control the weather, we also cannot allow the perfect storm of a single year to affect the long-term sustainability of one of Scotland's major revenue providers. Perhaps the lessons learnt from this grouse season, or rather lack of it, will entice the politicians to review their policy of targeting landowners and sporting estates. Surely we should be encouraging country sports and the revenue that it brings from outside our borders?

Guest article by
Patrick Birkbeck, House of Bruar.



Shooting over dogs at Glen Bruar

News from the ranger, Julia Duncan.

As I write this, I am exactly three months into my post – and what an exciting three months it has been. I started towards the end of July and was fortunate enough to experience the buzz of a busy summer and to get a feel for what my role entails. Becoming familiar with the estate has been a priority, although with an area of this scale I am only beginning to scratch the surface. I have spent as much time as possible roaming the paths and getting to grips with the important day to day tasks – and trying to remember a lot of new faces and names!

I have delivered five family events which were great fun and a good way to get to know the area better too. I'm looking forward to trying out some new ideas next year and hopefully encouraging lots of our visitors to come and join me.

I have also been involved with Pitlochry High School's Junior Ranger programme, run in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland and Perth and Kinross Council rangers. It is so rewarding and the young people have been enthusiastic and good-humoured workers.

I've also run a session for the Care for the Cairngorms volunteer group, the Perthshire group's Autumn/Winter programme kicked off at the beginning of October with the group undertaking practical conservation tasks round the Balvenie Pillar. We cut back rhododendron and box which were encroaching on the path, cleared leaves from the stone steps and generally gave the area a tidy.

The group, run in partnership with Perth and Kinross council and NTS rangers, is part of a three year project run by the Cairngorms National Park to encourage people to participate in a variety of tasks. While there will be some fairly physical work for some sessions, I am keen to have some more gentle tasks planned too – so there really is something for everyone. It's a great way to keep active, meet new people and really make a difference to our stunning surroundings. For more information you can contact me directly julia@atholl-estates.co.uk or visit <http://cairngorms.co.uk/caring-future/volunteers/>



Finally, the estate is somewhat quieter now and the winter will be spent planning next year's events, looking at our education offering and more volunteer sessions. I am keen to keep momentum going and aspire to engage with our visitors in innovative and imaginative ways. I'm already feeling at home here and, as with my exploration of the estate, I've only scratched the surface.

Update on the estate

Atholl Estates Forward Plan 2019 – 2022 was recently completed, after discussions with the senior managers and a presentation to the community council. It aims to enhance the understanding and knowledge of the estate for all who live and work here. It explains the estate policy and direction, how we aim to set about the work in hand and the principles that guide our decision making. It can be found on the website: <https://atholl-estates.co.uk/portal/about-the-estate/estate-forward-plan/>

Home Farm: Hugh Chamberlain started at Balanloan in November as Working Farm Manager. Hugh joins the estate from Cathpair Estate near Stow, which is a livestock farm. Hugh is living at Kincairnie Farmhouse with his wife Katie who is training to become a Home Economics teacher at Glasgow University. Hugh is looking forward to the challenge involved in moving the farm forward.

Grouse have had a mixed season, Forest Lodge numbers were down on previous years, and no grouse were shot on the Bein a'ghloe beat this year. West Hand numbers were back slightly as shown in the summer counts. Bruar, Clunes and Dalnamein grouse numbers were in very short supply for the season, although there seem to be a good number of young stock going into the winter, which looks encouraging for next season.

Forestry: After Andy Wiseman took early retirement from Scot Heating and emigrated to Malta, we appointed Jim Colchester as our Forestry Advisor who is assisting in the finalisation of our Long Term Forest Plan. Jim currently oversees the Buccleuch Woodlands, from Dumfriesshire he brings with him a wealth of experience in forestry matters including Phytophthora.

Phytophthora Ramorum has been prevalent again this summer, a further 8 confirmed cases at the time of writing. The spread of the disease is from Dalnamein down to Dunkeld, so it can be assumed that there will be further cases as the season progresses. A particularly challenging site is the Falls of Bruar, with a 2nd case confirmed at the Lower Falls.



Tree surgery work in Diana's Grove



Cut wood near the Bruar Falls

Deer ranger: Douglas Bell moved from Balanloan Home Farm to Tulliemet where he has become a deer ranger for the estate. With a passion for deer stalking, he was thrown in at the deep end with a number of guest outings around Tulliemet / Dunkeld.

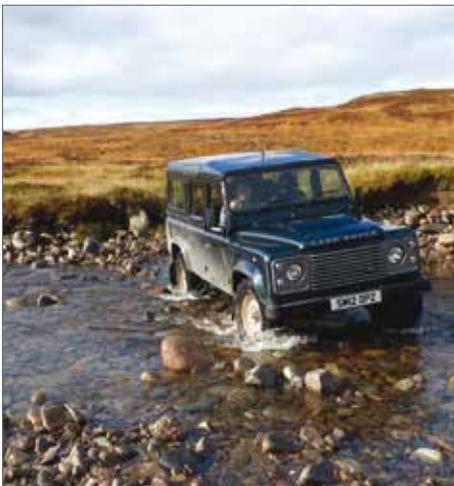


Douglas Bell



Housing Development at Ballinluig:

The estate has sold land behind Bual Bhain, Ballinluig to Alexander & Co to build 14 houses for sale. The development will be the second phase of building on this site. The first was a collaboration between the estate and Perthshire Housing Association when 18 houses were built, some for split ownership and some for social rent. Alexander & Co are hoping to start the development during spring 2019.



Land Rover Safaris

It has been a mixed year for our Land Rover Safaris, numbers indicate our visitors prefer the private experience, with these tours 20% up. For certain, one of the reasons for this popularity is due to our expert guide, Sandy Reid. Sandy has been running the tours since his retirement as Head Gamekeeper in 2007 and over the years has developed a loyal customer base, with many visitors returning each year to head out into the hills, specifically requesting Sandy as their guide. With private bookings still coming in for November, usually a quiet period, let's hope this success continues into 2019.

The Castle

The castle enjoyed another good year with visitor numbers being up by over 4000. An increase in international visitors was helped by cheaper European flights and better connections from other continents. Kerry Wilson, who worked this summer as Castle Operation's Manager to cover Deborah's maternity leave has agreed to remain in post, allowing Deborah to return to a part time role as shop manager.

This season we launched our Victoria Exhibition which was a blend of the story of the ITV drama that was filmed in 2017 and our story of the Queen's visits to the estate. We had costumes that were used by the production company teamed with our own artefacts from the Queen's visits. It proved so popular the initial six week exhibition was extended to early September.

Looking forward to the winter months ahead the castle is set to welcome our Christmas tours, with a new addition of Christmas Gin Afternoon Tea in the ballroom having teamed up with Persie Gin, a local distillery. January will see our deep clean from the attics to the cellars start by our hard working housekeeping team and blue team with various areas painted including the former WW1 room in preparation for the Duchess Katharine exhibition.



Kitty, as she is affectionately known, was an inspiring, formidable spats wearing lady. 2019 will bring a new exhibition dedicated to showing her life at the Castle, as the first Scottish woman MP and as a campaigner.

The Caravan Park

The caravan park has had a fantastic season helped by the amazing summer weather. Touring has increased by 23% over the season, customers using the Amsterdam/Newcastle ferry crossing has raised our profile to the European market and we have certainly seen an increase in foreign number plates. We started 2018 with two additional pods and by the end of May phase 2 of our Woodland Lodge development was delivered, which included 1 bedroom lodges along with 2 and 3 bedroom ones bringing the total to 11 lodges in all. They are already proving very popular and offer our wedding parties at the castle a lot of bedroom options.



Half a woodland lodge as it arrives

Gayle Forster has been promoted to be our Park Reception Supervisor. She has been in post a month or so and is really making the role her own.

Barite mine. After over twenty five years since first proposing it, Mi SWACO are about to start opening a new barite mine to the west of Pitlochry, extracting the mineral to

a transfer site above Logierait, via a new hill road, part of which goes through the estate's Killiechangie Wood. Work to establish the new road will start in December and haulage of barite is expected to commence during mid 2019. The mineral is important in the manufacture of paper and rubber and it is used in radiology. However its main use is in mining. When crushed, it is added to mud to form barium mud, which is poured into oil wells during drilling.

Land registration. Secure title in land is fundamental for investment confidence, whether for farming, forestry or development. Until recently, Scotland has relied on a very old system; the Sasines Register, which was created by act of parliament in 1617. The register was robust but complicated and difficult for anyone outside the legal profession to use. Therefore, in 1981 a map based land register was created with titles moving over to the land register when sold or mortgaged and since then, the register has been digitized and made publicly available, on-line. The Scottish Government has also set a target for all land to be registered by 2024. The estate has taken a pro-active position on this and has decided to voluntarily register

all its land with completion due by the end of 2019. Access to the land register is via the weblink www.ros.gov.uk/services/scottis

Electric car charging: polls suggest a third of drivers would consider buying a fully electric vehicle while half would consider buying a hybrid (petrol/electric) and the number of electric vehicles on UK roads has jumped from 10,000 in 2014 to 178,000 in 2018. Combine this with a national target to outlaw the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles before 2040 and you can understand why our politicians are waking up to the need to develop the infrastructure for this revolution. Fuel supply for internal combustion engines require good vehicular access while fuel for electric vehicles requires a strong national grid.

The Scottish Government has announced that it intends the A9 to become the country's first electric motorway and they are working on plans to develop grid capacity at strategic intervals between Stirling and Inverness. The estate is supporting this work with some exciting proposals that would integrate our hydro electricity production with charge points on the A9 corridor. We are also developing plans to provide charge points at Blair Castle and Blair Castle Caravan Park from 2019.



Hopie, one of Atholl Estate's highland ponies is being shod for the hill and for trekking. The hill shoes have a heel on them, the shoe is shaped and bent downwards to make the heel. This gives the ponies grip going up and down the hills to prevent them from slipping.

The ponies need to be re-shod between 6-8 weeks, the hoof grows like our finger nails and needs to be trimmed or they will keep growing. They do not feel it when the farrier hammers in the nails to secure the shoes. The foot is the most important part of the horse - the old saying goes 'no foot, no horse'.

Future Events

Santa's Grotto

9th and 16th December

Christmas Lunches in the Ballroom

9th and 16th December

Afternoon Tea in the Ballroom

9th and 16th December

Castle Reopening

30th March

Music in Blair Atholl

11th and 12th May

Atholl Highlanders Talk

25th May at 11am

Atholl Highlanders Parade

25th May at 2.30pm

Atholl Gathering and Highland Games

26th May at 10am

Congratulations

To Robbie Dow who obtained an HNC in Construction Management.

To Malcolm Whyte who has been shortlisted for a Scottish Policing Excellence Award, Special Constable of the Year. The ceremony is scheduled to be held at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan on Friday the 1st February 2019, which will be attended by the Chief Constable, members of the Force Executive, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and the Chair of the SPA.

Deaths

26th June 2018, Ann McIntosh wife of the late George McIntosh one of the caretaker's at the Castle

Willie MacGregor on 12 October 2018, fishing ghillie and keeper

Births

To Julia and Sam Onions a son Max in May 2018

To Gillian Farron and David Croal a son Robert George in September 2018

To George and Louise Cameron a son Duncan in September 2018

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Blair_Castle



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