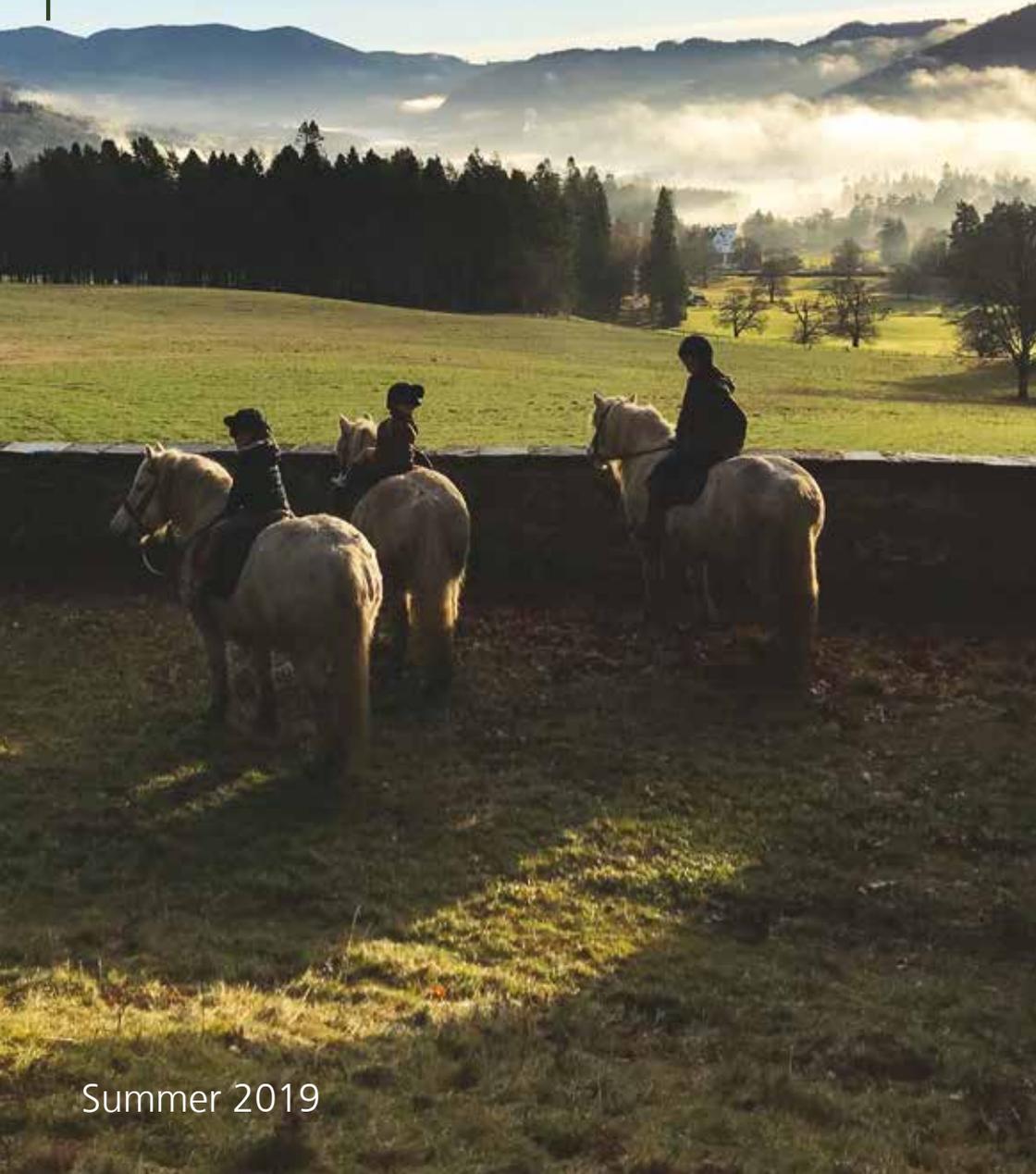


Atholl  
Estates  
Newsletter



Summer 2019

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# Welcome

Or perhaps I should say 'Happy Birthday', the castle is 750 years old this year. It was in 1269 that the Atholl Earl of the day returned from the Crusades to find that he had acquired a squatter on his land, one John Comyn. The squatter was sent packing, but his name was given to the tower he built, now the tallest part of the castle bearing the flag. Visitors are reminded of the castle's great age by a case in the Banvie Hall, next to the restaurant, packed with 750 objects – I counted them!

As we go to print, the Atholl Highlanders are preparing for their annual parade, there are seven new recruits. On pages 8 & 9 their commanding officer has written an account of their tour last year to some of Belgium and France's battle fields.

Our guest writer this edition is Doug McAdam, a board member of the Cairngorm National Park, following the CNPA's board meeting at Blair Castle and Bruar hydro visit. (pages 4 & 5)

After a very active winter with projects and extra work going on in nearly all departments we are looking forward to a busy summer.

Sarah Troughton

## New Faces



Marion Chadwick  
- shop assistant  
manager



Samantha Ball  
- office secretary



Catherine Booth  
- castle receptionist



Stuart Blues  
- director of finance

We say farewell to...

Janette Cumming after many years as housekeeper at Marble Lodge and previously Forest Lodge; Rebecca Cantwell an assistant housekeeper; Karen Haggart, shop assistant manager having worked in the shop for over 20 years; Jamie Davies, gardener; Colin Chisholm, rural worker; Belinda Tindale, marketing assistant; and finally John Milligan, accountant who had worked here for 22 years and his wife Myra, the castle book keeper. (see news in brief)

## News in Brief

**Stuart Blues** joined the estate as Director of Finance on 1st May, taking over from John Milligan who retired at the end of February. Stuart, who resides in Blairgowrie and is married with a young daughter, was previously Head of Business Analysis at Gleneagles Hotels and prior to that, he was Audit Manager for Johnstone Carmichael LLP.

**John Milligan** retired as Estate Accountant on the 1st of March this year after exactly 22 years – precise as ever. Over the years he transformed the accounting systems and developed a loyal and skilled team. He is seen here with Myra, his wife, who retired on the 29th April this year, and Jamie and Sarah at his leaving party.



We welcomed **Nick Nairn & Dougie Vipond** to the Castle with the BBC Landward food truck in early April, they delved into our archives with Keren and discussed Queen Victoria's extensive catering entourage. The weather was with us with glorious sunshine as Nick cooked with venison and trout from the estate, visitors to the castle that day got to taste the fayre and certainly seemed to enjoy it. Look out for the episode on BBC Scotland coming soon.

**Many Congratulations to Gillie McNab**, who was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year's Honours List for services to the Vale of Atholl Pipe Band and to the community in Perthshire. Please join us in sending very best wishes to Gillie on her well-deserved award.



**Congratulations to Helen & Mark French** on the birth of their baby son, Oscar David Geoffrey French. He was 7.9 pounds at birth and born on Wed 3rd April. Sam is currently covering Helen's maternity leave, but retaining Helen's email. [helen@atholl-estates.co.uk](mailto:helen@atholl-estates.co.uk)



## News in Brief cont.



March is **Scotland's tourism month** and Friday the 15th was the constituency visiting day. We were delighted to welcome Pete Wishart MP for Perth and North Perthshire to Blair Castle, especially as we were in the process of preparing an exhibition on the 8th Duchess, Scotland's first female MP.



**Congratulations to Malcolm Whyte** for receiving the award: "Special Constable of the Year" at the Scottish Policing Excellence Awards, held on 1st February at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan. Malcolm is the estate's woodland operations manager.

### **Cairngorm National Park Authority board visit to Atholl Estates**

Blair Castle on Atholl Estates surely provides one of the most stunning entrances to a National Park anywhere in the world. Where better then for the Board of the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) to hold their early Spring Board Meeting than at Blair Castle in the amazing ballroom.

Following the formal board meeting, the Board and staff enjoyed an excellent lunch in the castle restaurant and were then welcomed by our hosts Sarah and Jamie Troughton. The second part of the day was spent learning more about the Atholl Estates operation and in particular the estate's role as an energy generator. Jamie took us through a very engaging briefing on the history of hydro development on and around Atholl Estates and the estate role as an energy generator and how this integrates into the local Scottish & Southern Energy networks.

Operations such as Atholl Estates are key enterprises in our local rural economy and communities. They are important providers of our tourism product, significant employers, drivers of species and habitat conservation, providers of affordable housing and deliverers of a range of other public goods. As such they are a very important part of our National Park community and so it was great for the CNPA Board to see and hear first hand more about the estate's opportunities and challenges.

Running such an operation is a costly affair. For anyone familiar with maintaining old buildings the costs involved in looking after such an important building as Blair Castle will not be a surprise. However consider also the costs embedded in looking after 153 miles of hill tracks, 97 bridges, numerous listed buildings and 260 houses let at affordable rents and one can quickly get a feel for the annual maintenance bill - a fact not lost on my Board colleagues.

To meet this sustainability challenge, Atholl Estates have embraced renewable energy as a key plank in their long-term strategic approach. What is notable is the significant and conscious estate decision to embrace hydro as opposed to wind generation. Perhaps an expensive

decision by the estate, but one they are very comfortable with and which fits well with CNPA policy.

So hydro generation was the theme of the afternoon and the Board were shown two of the 6 schemes on the estate. The first was the “new” Castle scheme. The original castle scheme was constructed in 1908 to bring light to the castle and local businesses, but this was overtaken and decommissioned in the 1950s when the national grid arrived. Then in 2014, utilising and repurposing the old infrastructure and buildings, along with a new 83KW Gilkes turbine, a new scheme was commissioned to address the sizeable energy cost of running the castle. The scheme has been a great success, not only meeting energy demand in the castle operation, but also generating income to support the castle’s upkeep.

We then loaded into a range of 4x4 vehicles to head for the upper reaches of the river Bruar for our next visit, the sizeable 1.9MW Bruar scheme. Upon our arrival at the top dam we were welcomed by the marvellous sight of a male hen harrier, who was gracefully hunting the slopes. Located in a very remote area, subject to harsh conditions, this hydro project was constructed between February 2014 and June 2015. Very importantly this project integrated with the already existing Bruar catchment scheme which, down stream of the Atholl Estate project, feeds the Scottish & Southern Energy power generating assets at Errochty, at Clunie and at Pitlochry. So in this part of the National Park, the Atholl water works hard to generate power for Scotland, with the Atholl Estate scheme alone generating enough power for around 1700 houses – about the whole of Pitlochry and Blair Atholl combined.

What was also notable for the Board was the effort made to reduce the environmental footprint of the Bruar scheme. Firstly, no new track had to be constructed as an estate hill track already existed. Secondly, significant quantities of materials, much left from the original SSE works of last century, were repurposed and used from on and around the construction site. 20,000 tonnes of crushed rock from on site were used as pipeline bedding – this is significant as it saved the necessity for over 1000 large truck movements on the A9 and through the surrounding community that would have been required to import the material to site, not to mention the obvious carbon savings. Finally, continuing the theme of promoting the best visual amenity in the local area, the estate decided to underground the power transmission cables which export the power to the national grid, a distance of 10km. This cost the estate £50,000 per km, roughly three times the cost of the above ground pylons and wires.

Altogether a thoroughly fascinating day for the CNPA Board on Atholl Estates and a great opportunity to learn more about how estates in the CNPA area contribute to our local park economy and communities. Thank you to Sarah and Jamie and the team at Atholl Estates for a great day.

With thanks to Doug McAdam, a CNPA board member for writing our guest article.



## Highland Ponies – their future post trekking.

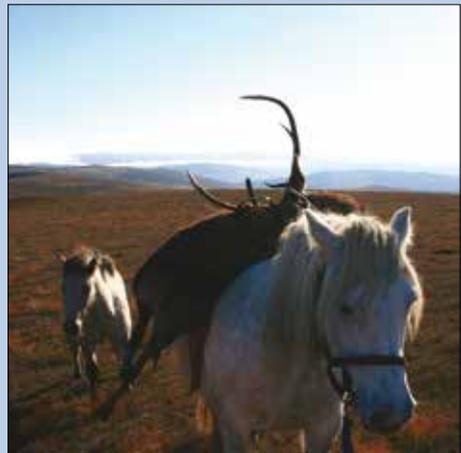
In early 2019 the trekking centre at Blair closed for the last time to paying customers bringing to an end over 65 years of trekking. Increased regulations meant the decision was made to close the enterprise, but despite this the Highland ponies will continue to be used on the estate. Debbie McLaughlan who ran the trekking for the last eight years has decided to move onto other opportunities, so there will be no dedicated pony person on the estate anymore.

A smaller herd of ponies will be retained by the estate, and these will move out onto the deer stalking beats and keepers will become responsible for their health and well-being. They are all relishing the opportunity. The move of the ponies away from the trekking to the hill beats is all but complete. They will stay on the beats all year round, so they may not be as visible to the estate's visitors.

There will continue to be a breeding policy of ponies, but numbers bred will be reduced, so that we are only breeding our own replacements. No stallion will be kept on the estate, but the close eye on breeding will continue with input and supervision being undertaken by Susan Laing. Susan will be known to many as she used to run the trekking centre, and her knowledge and expertise is welcomed by all involved.

Training of the younger ponies now falls onto the keepers and focus will be on bringing through some of the younger stock to replace an aging pony herd. The oldest working pony still in use is over 20 years old! Susan will be taking an overview role on the training as well.

In a period of change within the agricultural industry, one constant remains the herd of Atholl Highland Ponies, key to the stalking experience on the estate.



## Mortlake Tapestry – a new life for an old friend

Over the winter our 4th Mortlake tapestry which has been stored in the attic for a number of years will be hung in the Tapestry dressing room. Here it will join the other 3 tapestries bought by the Earl of Tullibardine in 1696.

The tapestries were originally made by Flemish weavers for King Charles I, but sold by Cromwell after the king was executed. The tapestry was sent to Belgium for speciality cleaning, and to do this it travelled safely in style in a brand new drain pipe. Thanks to some inventive thinking from the Estates team!

Our tapestry was laid flat on a suction table. The suction applied to the fabric is constant and uninterrupted and keeps the tapestry in this position to be cleaned and dried without causing damage, until the process is complete. A cloud of steam, to which a very small amount of detergent has been added, is produced above the entire fabric and is sucked very gently through the tapestry cleaning it. The result is amazing, colours are so much brighter than before and it is now hanging in the castle for everyone to enjoy!



## The Atholl Highlander's Memorial Tour

As reported to Bruce Murray, the 12th Duke of Atholl. (abridged)

I have the honour to report on the Memorial Tour of the Atholl Highlanders to Belgium and Northern France that took place between May 28 - June 8th 2018. The Memorial Tour was to allow the Atholl Highlanders to pay tribute to comrades and related units, to those that fought and especially to those that fell. While the concentration was on the First World War and the Waterloo Campaign, the May/ June battles of 1940 Second World War also formed a part.



### 29th May

43 Highlanders, made up of 7 officers, 21 NCOs & Highlanders, 11 members of the Pipe Band and 3 retired Highlanders, landed in Belgium on 29th May by coach. The party was joined by Mr Gary Ashley, an experienced battlefield guide who was to be with us for the Memorial Tour.

### 30th May

The Menin Gate.

The Highlanders dressed at about 5.30pm in the grounds of St Martin's Cathedral. Considerable numbers of people came to watch as the pipe band tuned up. The RSM Jack tuned up the Highlanders in a short and snappy drill practise. The Parade Commander

was Maj Stewart Wilson, the Half Companies were commanded by Cpt Tullibardine and Maj Drummond, and the Colour Party was provided by Lts Gordon and Stewart.

The parade was formed up at about 6.30 outside the Cloth Hall in the Market Square and the Colours were marched on. A considerable crowd watched this.

At about 7.15 the parade marched towards the Menin Gate to the pipes. A highly effective forward screen was provided by the retired Highlanders to clear (with charm) pedestrians away from the route of march. RSM (ret) Brailsford accordingly became known as Moses.

The Highlanders marched into the Menin Gate at about 7.45. It was a faultless arrival. The P/Maj joined the last post buglers and the ceremony began. Following the Memorial Salute the RSM stepped forward to give the Ode of Remembrance in the absolute silence of the 1500 or so present. Later, and during the "Flowers of the Forest" from the P/Maj, Cpt Tullibardine joined the OC with the wreath layers for the evening. They went forward together as first wreath layers. It would be hard to praise too highly the very high standard of this parade.

### 31st May

The Highlanders moved to Frieres-Failouel. In 1918, in this Aisne sector battlefield, the front line went straight through the village. The British units which fought in a 3-day battle and suffered 37% casualties, with nearly 3100 dead.

The Parade Commander was Maj Stewart Wilson. The Half Companies were commanded by Maj Drummond and Lt Stewart and the Colour Party was provided by Cpt Tullibardine and Lt Gordon.

The local dignitaries who participated

included the Prefet of the Aine Department, a member of the French senat, a member of the French Assemble Nationale, the President of the Departmental Council and the Mayor. More than 50 French flags from all over the Aine were gathered to be part of the commemoration with bearers provided by the local veteran associations.

In the evening the town laid on a magnificent open air barbeque picnic on the local football pitch. Proceedings were greatly helped by the Highlanders piping and some giving dance displays.

### **2nd June**

The Highlanders arrived at Waterloo shortly before midday for the parade at Hougement at 2pm.

### **4th June**

The Highlanders left Brussels and travelled to Delville Wood, the South African War Memorial.

The recce party went forward and were all struck by the beauty, dignity and scale of the memorial.

Later and while Highlanders were visiting the cemetery Piper Taylor played "Lament for the Children" from the back of the cemetery.

All were seen to stop to listen to this which seemed to act as a lens for all the emotions felt in the previous 45 minutes.

The Highlanders then moved on to Thiepval for a Last Post Parade.

The wreath was laid by Lt Stewart, yr of Ardvorlich, whose great uncle is on the monument, also a Lt Stewart, yr of Ardvorlich. He was escorted up to the Table of Sacrifice by Captain Tullibardine and Maj Drummond. The sight of the 3 officers ascending into the sunset was most moving.

After the parade short ceremonies were then

held for the men of Atholl who appear on the Monument and wooden crosses placed.



### **6th June**

The Highlanders rose early to go to St Valery-en-Caux

The first parade was at the War Grave Cemetery just above the town. A number of French veterans were there and 8 French flags borne by veterans association members. It was a very tight parade space and Piper Wotherspoon spent most of the parade with his head in a cypress tree. He shook this handicap off admirably. The Deputy Mayor laid a wreath together with the OC at the 51st Highland Division Memorial. It was another very smart parade.

After the parade a civic reception was held for the Highlanders in the Hotel de Ville in their main council chamber which is called La Salle des Ecoses. This was most agreeable and speeches were made.

### **Tour Planning**

Cpt Bruce Wooton and RQMS Todhunter gave invaluable support in the preparations for the Tour.

Kinnoull

Lt Col Commanding

## The Horse Trials 30th Anniversary

2019 is an exciting year for the Horse Trials. We first ran as an international competition all the way back in 1989, so this is our 30th anniversary.

We are very proud to say that many of the people who were involved in the event in 1989 and the early 90s are still part of the team now! We also have second and even third generation volunteers and supporters coming to Blair each year.

As the event moves forward, Land Rover will be our title sponsor again in 2019. There will be opportunities at the event to test drive their cars and talk to their team. As an added bonus for Land Rover owners, present your key fob at the Land Rover stand for free refreshments throughout the event!

We are also delighted to welcome new sponsors for the 2019 event. Long term trade stand exhibitor, Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers have agreed to sponsor the last jump on the cross-country course, the kilt themed and appropriately named "Final Fling". The new sponsor that has perhaps sparked the most excitement in the team though is the announcement that Persie Gins will become the Official Drink of the event. We will be working with them in the coming months to promote this young Perthshire brand and allow our visitors to have a taste.

The competition is also changing a little this year. There is no ERM class, but the up and coming riders in the Scottish Grassroots Eventing Festival will have the opportunity to compete alongside the international competitors in the main arena and on the cross-country course, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



## A Day in the Life of a Blair Castle Caravan Park Warden

Throughout the year there are two full time wardens, Phil Mainka, who is the Maintenance and Warden Supervisor and Gordon McRitchie his assistant. Both Phil and Gordon live on the park all year round and between them one is always on call, as our eleven Woodland Lodges are open all year. From February until November there are also two seasonal wardens, Ray Johnstone and Jan Tomasik.

The duty warden's day starts with opening up the reception building at 7.30am, bagging up fresh rolls, collecting the daily newspapers, ensuring all equipment is switched on and issuing supplies to the housekeeping team for woodland lodges and our fleet static caravan arrivals.

From there, the warden opens the park shop for customers and remains available for any early customer queries prior to reception opening at 9am

Then it's off to inspect the children's play park equipment followed by a thorough litter pick and checks to all toilet blocks for defects. We attempt to repair any defect but occasions require a tradesman call out to arrange and host.

One of the main roles of the warden team is the safety and security of guests and staff alike but inevitably another important role is to deal with the occasional complaint. During busy times, there can be as many as 1000 customers on the park so keeping the peace and spotting problems early by routine patrols is essential. On a less stressful note, guests quite often need assistance pitching tents, siting touring caravans or explaining the electrical hook up, so much of the duty warden's day is taken up by simply being there to help, while taking every opportunity to remind dog owners to keep their pets on a lead.

During the working week, the warden can expect to do at least two late duties where he is on call and patrols the park to ensure that all is quiet by 11pm. If there is any excessive noise after that time, the warden will discretely intervene and advise those concerned of our rules.

Routine park maintenance is another warden responsibility, be it deliveries of bottled gas, emptying dog waste bins, rectifying games room equipment defects, cleaning gutters on our eleven lodges and outbuildings, pitch and ground repairs, cleaning out bin recesses, weekly temperature checks in shower blocks (legionnaires prevention), painting, clearing blocked drains and fire checks to name a few.

During the winter months, apart from catching up with holiday allowance, numerous static caravans are removed or delivered to the park and the wardens de-site and site them (22 moves last winter). Other routine winter works include upgrading pitches and the internal painting of our 5 shower blocks, reception area, games room and laundry, all before the spring rolls around and the season starts again.

Hard work for a great team – there's never a dull moment.



Phil and Gordon



Phil and the ongoing maintenance

## The Supervisor Group

Supervisors from all departments across the estate meet monthly and provide a point of liaison between staff and senior managers. The group continues to develop and some members of the group have undertaken to participate in training from the Institute of Leadership and Management. This has been supported by four monthly training sessions starting in January this year, facilitated by John Armstrong from On Track Training and Coaching. The sessions have explored topics pertinent to leadership and management and have also enabled the group to work closely and build strong working relationships which will be of great benefit to the estate and the departments within it. The group have enjoyed

the highs and lows of producing assignments to deadlines (for many for the first time since school or university!) but have ultimately found the experience engaging and extremely worthwhile. You can see Robbie Dow, Malcolm Whyte and Jackie Stones puzzling over a task with lego!



## Ranger News

The Ranger Service is gearing up for a busy year and Julia is particularly looking forward to delivering the year's ranger events. It is vital to keep up to date with what our young visitors in particular want to explore and this year we'll be having a go at building some survival shelters and getting to grips with some environmental art. We will also be hosting two events as part of the Cairngorms Nature Big Weekend 10-12th May. This will be part of a celebration of the fantastic nature the national park has to offer and with over 80 events across the weekend there is something for everybody. Volunteers are a huge asset to the ranger service and we are excited to welcome new volunteer rangers. The volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and are united by a wish to give something back to the areas they care about. Having gone through a process of application and training from the Cairngorms National Park, the volunteers will be engaging in

tasks from path repair to butterfly monitoring to assisting with guided walks and events. Our Junior Ranger programme, run in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland and Perth and Kinross Council, also continues into early summer and the students from Pitlochry High School will be carrying out practical conservation tasks around the estate. As well as being a great way to get some tougher tasks done, the students earn a John Muir Award – a recognised environmental award – which, as well as looking good on university and job applications, is a great way to engage with the outdoors.



## Update on Estate Activities

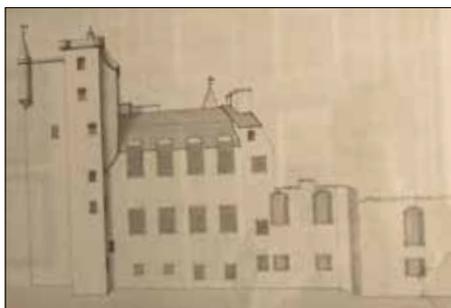
**The Ranger** - the annual village litter pick took place on Wednesday 13th March and was well supported by both estate staff and Blair Atholl Primary School. The litter pickers covered from the A9 slip road right through the village to the House of Bruar and the visual and environmental impact was immediately apparent. The teams picked almost fifty bags of rubbish as well as a car bumper and a courgette. Many thanks to all who supported it, you can see their haul.



**The Castle** - the winter is a time to get all sorts of jobs done, fitted in around bus tours and some open weekends, the castle continues to be a busy place, whilst celebrating its 750th birthday.

Documents in the archives show Comyn's Tower to be 750 years old, originally built by a squatter, John Comyn of Badenoch, when the Earl of Atholl was off fighting in the crusades. The Earl initially complained about the tower however he quickly realised the strategic importance of the tower's position as a gateway to the Highlands. Little has changed in the structure of the tower, crenulations have been removed and added, the walls over 3 feet thick here making the temperature inside distinctly colder and extremely sturdy.

Our new Exhibition room opens this season celebrating the 8th Duchess of Atholl, Katharine Ramsay Murray. The Duchess, or Kitty as she was affectionately known, was a tiny powerhouse of a lady. She was the first Scottish woman MP, an ardent campaigner for women and children's healthcare and one of the few people who foresaw the devastation Hitler would cause. The exhibition expands on all of this with interesting information boards and objects belonging to the Duchess. On the right is one of the images from the exhibition, it shows Duchess Kitty in the centre with other female MPs in 1935 at the Houses of Parliament.



The Castle collections have several items out on loan at the moment. One of which is this wonderful laburnum chair on loan to the V&A in Dundee, well worth a visit. You can see our chair in the free Scottish Design Galleries exhibition.



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## Update on Estate Activities cont.

An exciting new exhibition opens in Edinburgh at the Museum of Scotland this summer, called 'Wild and Majestic: Romantic Visions of Scotland.' The exhibition shows how a romanticised ideal of Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries was not purely invention, as cultural traditions were preserved, idealised and reshaped to suit contemporary tastes covering all areas of politics to social change. For this the museum has borrowed several items from our collections. These include the helmet and wild man from the suit of armour normally housed in the front entrance, a gauntlet and a leather glove that belonged to Duchess Anne. These items all tell the story of the Eglinton Tournament a re-enactment of a joust where the 6th Duke and Duchess met.



Deborah returned to the castle team and is now managing the shop, having spent the early months of this year installing an EPOS system. Marion Chadwick joins her as assistant manager.

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## The Rural Department

After 18 months of hard work by Malcolm, the new Long-Term Forest Plan has been completed. The new plan is very much an upgrade of the previous version and will see an increase in felling and shortening of crop rotations throughout the plan's twenty-year lifespan. Much of the work has been to produce a GIS database and mapping system, which will enable up to date information to be utilised when planning work.

Six months into the role and Douglas Bell has culled 300 deer within the estate's woodland. This is a tremendous achievement, and with the increased restocking being undertaken the next twelve months will prove as busy for him. Douglas has been concentrating on the Baluain / Tulliemet and Killiechangie areas, as well as some work around Dunkeld Golf Course.

An extremely challenging hind season for the game department saw them achieve a hind cull of nearly 700. A good result given the mild and open weather that was present

throughout the season, meaning hinds were in the far-flung areas of the estate. Special mention for his effort during the hind cull should go to Graeme who achieved 150 hinds almost singlehandedly with no ghillie for most of the season.

Once the hind cull was achieved, the game department were straight into some training on grouse worm counting, which will inform the use of medicated grit in the following season. It was refresher training for some, whilst for others it was a new experience dissecting the intestine of grouse.

Planning for the future takes up most of the time on both home farms. With the uncertainty of Brexit and agricultural support looming they are both looking at ways to reduce costs and increase outputs.

Work has been ongoing by Perth and Kinross Access Trust on improving the Dunkeld to Jubilee Bridge cycle path which is an upgrade to the running surface. Work on this is expected to be complete in October 2019.

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## The Works Department

We continue to improve drinking water supplies on the estate and this winter, connections to properties at Castle Mains. Castle Stables Flats, Blair Atholl Industrial Estate and the estate office were converted from 'The Banvie' supply to mains water. The Banvie supply is an old, open river supply which is put through filtration and chlorinated, but the degree of natural, organic contamination from the hill makes it impossible to maintain reliably compliant with current strict regulations.

The works team and electricians, Mark and Lee Shanto, have been busy installing a spaghetti junction of wiring for the castle's new outside lighting, being completed by the design company Starlight as this newsletter goes to print.



Photo of trench for the supply outside the estate office



Shower block 4 in the caravan park was completely refurbished

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## Developments

Plans are progressing to start the development of eight new houses this September at the Watermill Field, Blair Atholl. Final detail design is being signed off and submitted to the local authority so that tender packs can be issued this summer. In advance of the main site start, we will install a new lade bridge next to the existing one during June and this bridge will be capable of taking refuse lorries and fire engines. The existing bridge will then be removed.

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## Future Events

### Atholl Highlander Parade

25<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm

### Atholl Gathering and Highland Games

26<sup>th</sup> May 10am

### Charity Day, Blair Castle

29<sup>th</sup> June

### Land Rover Blair Castle International Horse Trials 2019

22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> August

### Glenfiddich Piping Championships

26<sup>th</sup> October

### Castle Summer Season Ends

30<sup>th</sup> October

### Exclusively Highlands Craft Fair

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> November

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## Deaths

24<sup>th</sup> November 2018 - Janet Cameron  
and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 - John Cameron  
Monzie and Blair Atholl Museum

25<sup>th</sup> December 2018 - Eva Bowman  
(husband Charlie The Duke's caretaker and driver)

12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - Janet McFarlane  
(ex Kinraigie and Lauchope)

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## Births

27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 - To Katy Scott and Martin  
Houston twins Iona and Harris

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 - Helen and Mark French baby boy  
Oscar

## Newsletter Team & Contributors

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Lodges: 01796 481355

Ranger Service: 01796 481355

Blair Castle Horse Trials 01796 481543

## Websites

[www.atholl-estates.co.uk](http://www.atholl-estates.co.uk)

[www.blairhorsetrials.co.uk](http://www.blairhorsetrials.co.uk)

[www.blair-castle.co.uk](http://www.blair-castle.co.uk)

[www.blaircastlecaravanpark.co.uk](http://www.blaircastlecaravanpark.co.uk)

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Blair\_Castle



blaircastle



Blair\_Castle