Local Musicians Hit The Right Notes
...’More news...’More news...’More news...

VILLAGERS HELP OUT FOR HOLIDAYS

On behalf of the Business Association and the Community Council, Nigel Nicol would like to acknowledge the superb assistance from local volunteers who contributed to the successes of the village’s special winter events and activities.

“Newtonmore looked magical, festooned with lights, the big tree is amazing. The winter lights take many hours of re-stringing and checking, including the regular maintenance team of Colin and Arthur, also the team of volunteers involved with the dressing of the tree at Mains House.

“The village Xmas Tree celebration was a boon for Highland Hospice. Thanks to Mary, Grant, Alison and Colin for organizing, and Chris, Donald and Davy, and the minister, also the refreshments.”

“Santa and his reindeer are supported with contributions from the hotels. The pipe band played outside the Glen Hotel, who generously provided tasty treats for the kids, and seasonal adult refreshments, while Santa on his sleigh spread Xmas cheer. Judith and Fran dispensed torches and glowsticks. Newtonmore’s famous Hogmanay was a magnificent event, involving many locals’ time and help. Big thanks to Laurie, Colin, Jean, Rob and Yvonne, and the Winter Lights Committee, Colin and the Fire Brigade team for the fantastic fireworks; the pipers; the teams and shops selling torches; Golf Club for allowing location to be used. The Shinty Club played their part with tents, lighting and marquees, sound and staging, and of course cleaning up the next day! It’s great that Newtonmore has a growing reputation for one of the best Hogmanay Nights in Scotland: Thank you all!”

SHINTY NEWS

Current Scottish Hydro Premier Division champions Newtonmore begin the season this month in hot pursuit of more trophies, with early season fixtures at the Eilan starting in March, with the visit of Kilmallie on Mar 19th taking on the First Team, and the prospect of an early visit by rivals Kingussie April 9th.

NQ would like to congratulate last season’s players of the year: Young Player: Martin Ivil; 2nd Team Player: Blair Mackintosh; Player Of the Year: Rory Kennedy.

Both of our teams are on a mission for cups. Home fixtures inside back page NQ.

further info:

shinty.com and newtonmoreshinty.com

NEWTONMORE RIDING CENTRE

FAMILY FUN OPEN DAY: Easter Sat. Apr. 23, 2-5pm
EASTER EGG HUNT: 10am & EASTER PARADE 2pm Sun 24
Saddle Club & Pony Club: Saturdays
Horse & Sleigh & Carriage Rides

BIAULLD FARM, FT. WILLIAM ROAD, NEWTONMORE (01540) 670000 or 07920 556 756
www.newtonmoreridingcentre.com
Hairy Highlanders Raise Charity Funds

Congratulations to these gents at Russwood who raised over £1000 as part of the Movember Charity Fund. The organization generates funds for men’s cancer research by encouraging men to grow a moustache for the entire month. (Spot the one who needed a bit of old carpet to improve his pathetic attempt.)

from left-right: PJ, John, Davy, Alaister, James

May’s walk May 29

The 3rd Annual MAY’S WALK takes place on Sunday May 29, and organizer Sandra Cheyne is hoping for another great turnout for the sponsored trek around the 7-mile Wildcat Trail, in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Last year, NQ reported that 140 walkers raised around £7000 for the cause, and it seemed a lot of people enjoyed the experience, and not just the civilized refreshments dropped off along the way.

Registration is £5 from 10am at the hall, and the walk ends at the golf clubhouse. Kids are especially encouraged to join in, and all that’s needed is some reasonable footwear and a few spare Sunday hours.

Details: Wildcat Centre, ph. 673 131

WILDCAT WATCH

Belated congratulations to the LESLIE family of Newtonmore, who were the first to spot all 78 cat models of the Wildcat Experience last year. Janet and the gang at the Wildcat Centre have promised some colourful additions to the collection for the Spring and Summer hunt, including Cater-Waul, Cool Cat, Bagpuss, and even a cat on water skis.

For further info: Wildcat Centre, Main St, (01540) 673131

www.google.sites/sites.newtonmorewildcats/

Message from R. Ormiston re: A9

“Transport Scotland are building a new section of Dual Carriageway at Etteridge that will have a closed barrier central reservation that will stop people using the 300-year-old Wade’s Road from Kingussie to Fort Augustus which crosses the A9 here. This is a popular route with locals, visitors and those doing across Scotland East to West journeys. All we want is a safe method of crossing the road preferably a simple livestock underpass. Please sign the petition to support this and to make the road makers rethink - otherwise serious accidents are inevitable.”

http://www.gopetition.com/petition/42892.html

Newtonmore Business Association has been the recipient of a grant of over £750 from the Scottish Community Foundation which will purchase new flower barrels for the village and help in the provision of this year’s flower display. The NBA are delighted with this further support from the foundation to the village. In 2010 the SCF purchased a sit-on mover for the shinty club’s ground, and the year before they helped towards the cost of the creation of disabled access at the Eilan Clubhouse. Shinty Club Secretary Ian Gibson is encouraging other community groups to contact them on www.scottishcf.org and see if they have a viable project which might be appropriate for support.

...let toncam do the dirty work

carpets – curtains
upholstery – mattresses
solid surfaces

£10 off any job over £40 with this advert

NEWTONMORE GOLF CLUB

open all week from April 2nd
for Members and Visitors
(01540) 673 878

check our website for updates and competitions
www.newtonmoregolf.com

Glen Tonkin & Scott Campbell
office: 01540 673 933
mobile: 07900 913 115
www.toncamcleaning.com
email: cleanme@toncamcleaning.com

£10 off any job over £40 with this advert

Community Foundation Helps Flower Display

Newtonmore Business Association has been the recipient of a grant of over £750 from the Scottish Community Foundation which will purchase new flower barrels for the village and help in the provision of this year’s flower display. The NBA are delighted with this further support from the foundation to the village. In 2010 the SCF purchased a sit-on mover for the shinty club’s ground, and the year before they helped towards the cost of the creation of disabled access at the Eilan Clubhouse. Shinty Club Secretary Ian Gibson is encouraging other community groups to contact them on www.scottishcf.org and see if they have a viable project which might be appropriate for support.
NEWTONMORE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

torchlight parade Hogmanay night

the sound of silence...

winter fun and games

born for the stage, Stuart & Keri

Ski-Joring fun at Riding Centre

no golf today...

photos welcome: contact nqmag@aol.com (Dave)
10-MILE ROAD RACE & FUN RUN in MARCH

The Newtonmore 10-mile road race takes place on Saturday March 19th, and will be third annual event organized mainly by Geoff and Ali at Creag Meagaidh B&B. Formerly a fixture on the spring calendar, the resurrected event provides fun and competition for participants from all levels of fitness and all over Scotland. It comprises an out-and-back, ten-mile route from the Glen Rd out through Kingussie to Lynchat and back. The race is run mostly on the cycle track and affords fantastic views of the Cairngorms and surrounding area. For the first two years there’s been around 100 runners, and organizers try to encourage competitors and families to make a weekend of it by coming on Friday night, staying for the Ceilidh in the Hall on Sat., finishing off with the “Hangover Mile” on Sun. morning.

This event also features a two-mile Fun Run on Saturday for the kids (and less fit!), so there’s something for all the family. There’s a great spread of sandwiches and cakes with teas and coffees served by our local Brownies. There’s also a fantastic “spot prize” list, thanks to generous donations from local accommodation providers, activity centres and other businesses. TIMES: 10-mile race: 11am, FUN RUN 11.15, Hangover Mile Sun 9am.

Last year’s winners were: 1st Male: TONY JACKSON, (Perth Road Runners); time: 55.27, 1st Female, ALI HUGHES (Metro Aberdeen Running Club) time: 68.24. Ali had this to say to NQ about the race: “Without a shadow of a doubt it is the most friendly race I have ever taken part in! Everything from the registration, the bagpipers, the post-race feast, the spot-prizes, the Ceilidh, it’s just a great day out. The course itself has the potential to be very fast, given that it is primarily flat. You need a calm day (a headwind in one direction isn’t pleasant). I have every confidence it will be attracting more and more quality runners each year once the word spreads about how good it is, and how Newtonmore puts on a “great show”. If I’m in the country Mar. 19 I will definitely come to Newtonmore!”

Info: creag-meagaidh@live.co.uk (Geoff)

THE 2011 SEASONS STARTS AT NEWTOMORE GOLF CLUB

The 2011 seasons starts at Newtonmore Golf Club with the traditional Opening Ceremony on Sat. April 2, 1pm, followed by the opening competition on Sunday.

Pictured are Outgoing Captains, Incoming Captains, and Club Secretary: Ian Girvan, Charlie Bisset, Roy Alexander, Dorothy MacAdam, and Caro Munro.

www.newtonmoregolf.com (01540) 673878

PJ’s Pool Potting Prowess Provides Prize

While the semi-final with brother Glen was typically tense and tactical, local legend Paul John Mackintosh won the inaugural Xmas pool competition in the Balavil Shinty Bar. Pictured: PJ with organizer Judith Houghton
Veteran Newtonmore Musicians
Ali Menzies and Bert Cooper

Two veterans of Newtonmore Ceilidh music have united to help keep traditional Scottish music alive in the village. NQ tracked down the pair to share with our readers a bit of their history and stories.

Bert Cooper (81) started learning the accordion at the age of seven, “...and I’m still learning! It wasn’t until I was 14 when I used to cycle to Laggan with my box on straps, to play with Willie Cuthbert. I was 16 when Corrie Bain had the Newtonmore Dance Band and asked if I fancied playing with them. That was in 1945: my first time playing in the hall. We used to play for the Shinty dances, and I really enjoyed it, I got up to scratch with all the music and there was an ad in the old Badenoch Record: *We Play The Top Tunes of Today, Yesterday, & Tomorrow.*”

Ali (70), came to music through a passing visitor. “I was still in the Laggan school, and I remember this lorry driver came to take the sheep away and stayed the night with us. He had this old basic, single-rowed, 2-spoon box, and I was watching him doing this thing, and he left the box with us! That put the idea in my head then. Later, I used to take my box on the back of my wee motorbike up to Strathmashie house to get a tune with Alan MacIntosh. In later years it was Jimmy MacDonald and myself and others, we used to play the CraigMhor and the Mains for tourists, and toured around places like the National Hotel in Dingwall. This was in the mid-60s, when I was in my twenties.”

Get older accordion players on the subject of their boxes and you could be there all day: Ali’s “first good one was 65 quid, and I was getting £28 a month.” Ten years older than youngster Ali, Bert remembers: “My first cost £16, and I was making a pound a week for my apprenticeship. It was crackin’, a *Meinel & Herold*, I’ve never seen one since!”

Asked to recall their best memories of playing music in Newtonmore, Ali laughs, not having to think too hard. “As you know, years ago in the 60s, everything started off in the Balavil on the weekend. You’d have Willie Cuthbert, Eric Ross, John Calder, Tarzan, Togie Logue, Hector, and we would all march and play down the street in Newtonmore, have a carry on and then back to the Balavil. The best craic was when The Lodge used to be the in-thing: every Thursday night was bedlam. After it finished for the night, we’d go down to the first tee at the golf course and have a few reels until the early hours of the morning.”

Bert has even earlier memories of music entertainment Newtonmore-style. “The band I was in used to play the Shinty dances when they won the cup. The full cup always used to come up on to the stage first. I remember once, a couple from England complaining to Gaby that the band was drinking onstage. He said, ‘there’s the door if you don’t like it. This is what we do in Scotland.’”

Needless to say, Ali and Bert’s current performances, as part of Bert’s CLANSMEN quartet or on their own, at Tea Dances or their weekly sessions for the folks in the Mains House, are calmer by some margin. Ali credits Bert with getting him back into music again after a long hiatus. Since Bert has had some recent health problems, having Ali there to share the load has been a boon to both men. Bert says, “I’ve known Ali since the 50s, and it’s only now we’ve been playing together.” Meanwhile, Ali claims he’ll keep playing “until the fingers don’t work,” and Bert agrees he’ll do the same, “probably until I fall off the stool.”

NQ salutes these two musical rocks.
SPOTLIGHT On Music

Ian Grover’s G-FORCE DISCO
Hanging Up The Headphones

A big part of the recent history of Newtonmore’s social scene ended with a bang earlier this year, as Ian Grover called time on his popular and G-Force discos after an incredible 31 years of entertaining the village. “After roughly 1,000 gigs and 64,000 songs, I decided I was just getting too old for it. It’s not as much fun packing up all the equipment at 2am as it was twenty years ago. Also, I get some bookings months in advance, and then there are village social events that crop up in the meantime that I can’t go to. Plus, I’ve done my bit” That “bit” is actually quite a lot: a big proportion of Ian’s discos have been in aid of various fundraisers and charities, including the “Final Fling,” which generated £1000 toward new equipment for our primary school, and a further sum of £1,500 towards the Village Hall Renovation project.

“The Hall has been a central part of my discos for a long time. I’ve taken G-Force all over northern Scotland, and you can’t beat a Newtonmore crowd, full stop. What I really enjoy is when the youngsters go down to all the nightclubs in the cities, and they come back up here wanting to hear the old hits that I play, the music they’ve been brought up with.” Ever since he was a young lad, Stuart MacDonald showed an interest in what was involved with Ian’s discos, and as time went on has helped out on numerous occasions, allowing Ian breaks to share his own carefully honed dance moves with wife Cathy. After learning the techniques and changing technology for himself, Stuart has hosted several successful disco nights of his own in the village.

“It was always from his Newtonmore primary school discos that I started getting into it. Instead of dancing about or whatever, I’d always be standing with Ian, and my interest just built from there. I ended up getting my own equipment and he would pass gigs on to me if he couldn’t do them. Ian got me into DJ-ing; he’s definitely an inspiration.”

The “funk fitness” dance exercise dance classes on Wed. Evenings in the village hall have proven very popular, and now the participants, with the help of Jo McCullough are ready to tackle the new fitness craze of Zumba. This uses a variety of dance styles and moves in an hour-long class, Wednesdays 6.30 or Fridays 6pm. Contact Jo for any further info at minimischief@hotmail.com

Are You Ready To ZUMBA?

The acclaimed young PIATTI STRING QUARTET are playing a rare and special concert at the church this Spring, as part of the Tunnell Trust Scottish concerts. One of the leading young quartets in the classical music world, they’ve played at the Royal Festival Hall, The National Gallery, and other prestigious venues.

7:30, Thurs. March 17, St.Brides, £7 (£5 cons.)
Information at www.piattiquartet.com
GUEST ARTICLE: Sir Tommy’s Book

I got to know Sir Tommy MacPherson back in 1991 when my wife was inducted as parish minister of Newtonmore and Laggan. Sir Tommy impressed me from the start by his quiet courtesy and gentle good manners. I got to know him better during the next ten years, but never had the occasion to alter my judgement that Sir Tommy was a gentleman. However, I feel I did not begin to get to know him during the years of our acquaintanceship! I know a great deal more about him now as a result of reading his new autobiography, *Behind Enemy Lines*.

The first part of the book deals with his almost unbelievable military career, and it’s understandable if to some extent the latter part of *Behind Enemy Lines* may seem an anticlimax. What could compare to events which had seen the young man win three Military Crosses, three Croix De Guerre, a Legion d’honneur, and a papal knighthood; contrive the surrender of the 23,000 SS soldiers of the Das Reich, and stem the communist takeover of a large part of N. Italy? The rest of the book amply demonstrates how little I really knew about the quiet old gentleman of Newtonmore, for he turns out to be as outstanding in civilian life as he was in uniform.

I found he was a friend to many distinguished people, from royalty who considered him as suitable tutor to their children, to the likes of General Montgomery, who actually gave Tommy a written guarantee that World War Three would not happen until he and Lady Jean had time to raise a family in peace. As somebody who knows a little about timber, I was impressed by the fact that he travelled all over the world buying shiploads of the best quality hardwood on his own valuation and assessment. He has the valued ability to make friends and keep them; time and time again he mentions how acquaintanceships made during the war had cropped up in later life, to help whatever enterprise he was then involved with. Of course, the book is of particular interest to the people of Badenoch, and I’m sure they will enjoy his mention of many local themes; they will be fascinated by his Tommy’s account of his campaign to make Balavil House wind and water-tight.

* Former Newtonmore resident DUNCAN GILLESPIE has been a soldier in some of the same regions as our own local hero Sir Tommy MacPherson. What better person to give us a brief review of the book and the man. *BEHIND ENEMY LINES* is £17.99 on Mainstream.

www.mainstreampublishing.com
The development of the Russwood company of Newtonmore has been one of the most remarkable success stories of the region. The village-based company off Station Road is now a major supplier of quality flooring, cladding, and decking, among other timber products. As in any community-based operation, it’s the people behind the scenes who play a vital role in the smooth operation of the business.

Former RAF man Willie Ritchie has been at the company just about as long as anyone. His job entails grading oak and pine flooring timber, but he says, “this was just a coal yard when I started here in 1982. I remember that my first job was actually, breaking rocks of coal with a sledgehammer and sticking them into a coal bags. The company was called J.S. MacPherson at the time; John Russell’s father Sandy ran the coal business then. When I started, young John eventually began building the business up into cutting wood, getting the sawmill going. I only took the job on temporarily! I’m 63 now, so

I guess I’ll retire at some point, if John lets me, but then we still have George Ralph pottering about here, doing jobs, and he’s well into his eighties.”

John MacRae has not been at Russwood for quite as long as Willie, but he has certainly put in the miles: “150,000 in this machine so far.” Big MacRae, as he is accurately known to staff and customers, started here 14 years ago delivering coal and gas canisters, but now has the task of transporting the huge loads of cladding and flooring and the like, across all corners of the country. As his son Scott told NQ, there’s not a road in Scotland that his dad doesn’t know, and John admits, “I’ve seen a few right enough... I’m going near Campbeltown tomorrow. Ach, I do enjoy the driving, I meet a lot of folk, and see some nice houses! I see a lot of the country, Skye and the West coast, that’s what I like, it’s beautiful. Just me and the sat-nav woman!”

Both John and Willie agree the expansion of Russwood, and its higher profile, has local benefits. John says, “it’s getting much bigger all the time: that has to be good for the village.” Willie agrees, pointing out “there’s plenty of Newtonmore people employed here, and it’s still getting bigger. We have our annual outings, and there’s been some reasonably good ones.”

www.russwood.co.uk
**Through the Year in NEWTONMORE**

The Wildcat Experience (try it today!) info: wildcatnewtonmore@dsl.pipex.com

Highland Folk Park (re-opens April 2011) highlandfolk.com

Summer Shinty (home fixtures: next page) newtonmoreshinty.com shinty.com

MacPherson Museum opens April - October daily 10-5 (Sun 12 - 5) clan-macpherson.org

Highland Games Sat. August 6th, from 11.am newtonmorehighlandgames.co.uk

Golf Week: Aug 6-14 newtonmoregolf.com

year-through fun on horses newtonmoreridingcentre.com

year-through fun in water, now, on hills and cycles activeoutdoorpursuits.com

Xmas Eve and our legendary Hogmanay events... www.newtonmore.com

**NQ across the world**

We would like to take this opportunity to mention our overseas readers: absent friends, relations, and fans of NQ and Newtonmore, from California, India, New York, Turkey, Vancouver, Ontario, Washington State, Tennessee, Australia, and Ireland. A special mention to Bobby in Melbourne who tells one local reader that “it’s fantastic to read the magazine in Australia, and recognize a few faces in its pages, some characters who I’ve known from the village.”

a very few copies of issue 1, 2 & 3
still available email NQmag@aol.com

**CPTION COMPETITION**

The winner of NQ#3 Caption Competition is **Andrew MacBean.** He wins a generous voucher from The GLEN HOTEL. It was a tough contest, thanks to all who sent an entry.

Competition ideas? NQmag@aol.com

**USEFUL INFO:**

CO-OP 7AM - 10PM (8AM Sun)
PETROL STATION 7AM - 10PM
Last Post, 5.15PM, village square

**WEBSITE:** www.newtonmore.com

**DOCTOR:** (01540) 661 233 **DENTIST:** 661 280
AVIEMORE MEDICAL CENTRE (01479) 810 258
OSTEOPATH 673 767 mobile: 07985 917101
C.O.S MINISTER: Rev. Catherine Buchan 673 238
INTERNET: Gift Shop, 9-5 (not Sun.) Glen Hotel 11-11
Spring Events in Newtonmore

EVENTS

sensible barmen
(after the shift)

ACTIVITY

2-mile fun run

Co-op night out

MUSIC

Capone’s the name

Rory Runrig & NQ

Thurs. Mar. 17: PIATTI STRING QUARTET, 7.30
St. Brides Church, £7 / £5
Sat. Mar. 19: NEWTONMORE ROAD RACE & FUN RUN
from 11am; see article page 5
Sat. Apr. 2: official opening, 2011 season at golf club: 1pm
Sun Apr. 3: Golf: opening competition (details 673 878)
Sat. Apr. 23: Riding Centre Presents: Family Open Day 2-5pm
Sun Apr. 24: NRC Easter Egg Hunt (from 10am) with Parade
and “bunny hop” : 2pm. (see ad page 2)

Shinty: (most games throw-up at 2:30; see posters for details)
Sat. Mar. 19 1sts. vs. KILMALLIE
Sat. Mar. 26 2nds vs. Glenurquart
Sat. Apr. 2 1sts. vs. GLENURQUART
Sat. Apr. 9 1sts vs. KINGUSSIE
Sat. Apr. 16 1sts vs. KYLES
Sat. Apr. 30 2nds vs. Skye
Sat. May 21 2nds vs Inverness (Strathdearn Cup)
Sat. June 4 2nds vs. Glengarry
Sat June 18 1sts vs. INVERARY

(all shinty cup home fixtures t.b.a. - check www.shinty.com)

Fri June 3: Golf: Seniors Open

Wednesdays: Line Dancing (Golf Clubhouse) ph. 673-878
Wednesdays: Zumba Dancing: village hall (6:30) see pg 9
Thursdays: Pub Quiz: Glen Hotel, 9.15, ph (01540) 673 203
(every 2nd week: Mar 10, 24, Apr 7, 21, May 5, 19, Jun 9
Thursdays: Poker at the Glen, 9.30, £5 per player, 673-203
Mar 17, 31, Apr 14, 28, May 12, 26, June 2, 16
Thursdays: Poker at The Braeriach; ph. 673-279 for details
Fridays: Breariach: Karaoke after 10pm

Live Music at the Glen and Brae, Sat. nights, from 10pm
Brae: Mar.12: Lee Rogers, 19: Keith (disco)
Brae: Apr. 9 C&W Bill Alexander, 16 Keith Mair
Glen: Apr 16 Bleeker, Apr. 23 Davy Holt, 30 Alfie
Brae: May 7 Keith disco, 21 Rob Simms, 28 Lee
Glen: May 7 Andy Chung, 14 Ailsa
May 21 DJ Mr. Pink, 28 Davy Holt
Glen: June 4 Capone 11 Ailsa 18 Bleeker 25 Alfie

TRAVEL INFO

TAXI: (01540) 661 343
Sun- Wed: 7AM - Midnight
Thur- Sat 7AM - 2:30AM

FIRST / LAST TRAIN North 9.27, 22.11 (Sun 12.11, 20.31)
FIRST / LAST TRAIN South 10.18, 21.17 (Sun 10.36, 19.26)
FIRST / LAST BUS South 9.23 - 18.23 (the same Sun.)
NQ presents some evocative and engaging images from our colourful past, selected from the “Newtonmore and District Heritage” pages on Facebook, assembled by local man Ruaridh Ormiston. The site seems to have a life of its own and is developing on a daily basis, so any comments, photo contributions or complaints about old haircuts, send to Ruaridh, search Facebook for “Newtonmore and District Heritage.”

we don’t print the captions so you can supply your own, it’s much more fun!

further info: ormistonhighlands@yahoo.co.uk