



BRANDED BUSES -
buses in the Park are
getting a makeover!

PAGE TWO



NEW LEADER -
community projects in the
Cairngorms National Park

PAGE FOUR



**CALLING ALL
YOUTH GROUPS -**
up to £200 up for grabs!

PAGE SIX

Community Heritage Boost

The heritage of the Cairngorms National Park's communities is going straight to the top of the agenda with the appointment of a new Community Heritage Officer.

Fiona McLean was appointed in August and is working with communities in the Park to help develop and realise their cultural heritage ambitions. Emphasis is being placed on cultural heritage projects which fit within three themes: land use, languages and routes, with these themes having been identified as the most significant and therefore providing a focus for the next two years.

Land use, languages and routes have particular relevance in the Cairngorms National Park and have played a key part in the cultural heritage of the area. However, Fiona is keen to stress that she is also happy to advise on projects which do not fit within these themes but which are still of relevance to the National Park.



Sluggan Bridge © CNPA/Stewart Grant

Fiona said: "There is an inextricable relationship between the Cairngorms landscape and the people who have lived here and one of my key aims is to make the connections between people and place in the Park and to highlight the significance of human impact on the landscape we see today."

Based in Grantown-on-Spey, one of Fiona's first tasks is

to organise a community heritage conference bringing together community members to share their experiences of cultural heritage projects and to hear from national and other organisations about the opportunities for support and collaboration. This event is scheduled for summer 2010.

To speak to Fiona about a cultural heritage project please email:

fionamclean@cairngorms.co.uk

or call: 01479 870564

Branded Buses

Buses in the Park are getting a makeover, featuring the brand of the Cairngorms National Park. Stagecoach in the Highlands is working with the CNPA to include the colourful designs on their Badenoch and Strathspey fleet.

The two organisations are keen to highlight the links between tourism and public transport. Fiona Milligan, Marketing Officer at the Park Authority explained: "The Park brand is becoming synonymous with quality and environmental standards and this is a fantastic opportunity to link the brand to sustainable transport."

David McCallum, Operations Manager at Stagecoach, Inverness added: "We are really pleased to have the Park brand on our fleet. By working with the Park Authority we can jointly promote greener, smarter travel for everyone."



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WOODFUEL is the future

Wood is fast gaining recognition as the fuel of the future and now householders and businesses in the Cairngorms National Park are getting a helping hand to discover smart, sustainable ways to keep warm.

With a plentiful supply on our doorsteps, using wood to heat buildings makes total sense. Rather than being at the mercy of bouncing oil prices, people can rely on having cheaper heating costs and burning logs, wood chips or pellets does not add to global warming. The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by a growing tree is the same as that released when it's burned.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority is working with partners to organise a series of specialist training courses for landowners, businesses and householders in order to boost both supply and demand for woodfuel in the Cairngorms National Park. The project is backed by Clim-ATIC, an EU funded

project helping communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

To find out more contact Fiona Chalmers, email: fionachalmers@cairngorms.co.uk or telephone: 01479 870524



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TAKING THE LEAD - responsible access with dogs

The Cairngorms National Park offers countless opportunities for both residents and visitors to enjoy the pleasure and health benefits of dog walking.

ranger services and estates - will be focused on three main areas:

- **DOG WASTE** encouraging people to pick up after their dog
- **FARMING AND STOCK ISSUES** helping dog owners to understand the impact their dog can have on livestock
- **NATURAL HERITAGE ISSUES** understanding the impacts on wildlife, particularly during the breeding season for ground nesting birds

The campaign hopes to raise awareness of these issues with people who own and walk dogs and ultimately to influence their behaviour when out with their dogs to ensure a National Park that can be enjoyed by all.

Therefore, the Park Authority is initiating a project to help ensure that people enjoy their dog walking in the countryside responsibly as highlighted within the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

The new campaign - working with partners including

Lights, Camera - ACTION!

The Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF) has been getting to grips with the glitzy world of movie making! In partnership with the Macaulay Institute, LOAF members have been making a film about dogs in the countryside and in true roving reporter mode, have been busy interviewing members of the public, estate owners and farmers to find out their views.

The short film can then be used at future events and exhibitions to highlight why it is important to keep your dog under control when enjoying the countryside.



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Year of Biodiversity

The New Year is just a few weeks away and with 2010 comes the International Year of Biodiversity. Being celebrated worldwide, International Year of Biodiversity is an opportunity to celebrate the success of action for biodiversity at a local and national level but also to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity for human well being.

The Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan will be putting together a programme of events and activities for 2010 as well as continuing to develop



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new projects and support action on the ground through its small grant scheme.

If you have an idea for an event or want to develop a biodiversity project please contact Stephen Corcoran, the Cairngorms Biodiversity Officer, email: stephencorcoran@cairngorms.co.uk

Follow the LEADER!

Funding community projects in the Cairngorms National Park

New LEADER is a European funded programme operating across the Cairngorms National Park. It is managed locally by the Cairngorms Local Action Group with support and funding from the Cairngorms National

Park Authority and runs until 2013. Community groups, small business co-operatives, voluntary organisations, land based businesses and other constituted groups can apply to New LEADER for funding which is being aimed primarily at:

- Revitalising Communities
- Progressive Rural Economies

Significant funds are still available until the end of 2013, in some cases funding support can amount up to 95% of

projects. Activities underpinning economic development, signposting and interpreting local path networks, heritage interpretation, training for work and many other types of project can be considered.

BOAT OF GARTEN - £4,653 for Boat of Garten Community Company Heritage Group for the creation of interpretive materials. This project was also part funded by Scottish Natural Heritage.



AVIEMORE - £15,000 for Aviemore Sports Project towards the costs of producing a comprehensive feasibility study into the creation of a new sports facility.

NEWTONMORE - £18,039 for the Newtonmore Camanachd Club for a project aimed at creating new clubs, coaching and opportunities to be involved in shinty for local primary and secondary schools.



LAGGAN - £5,000 for Wolfpax Riders towards the cost of creating basic first aid training especially designed for junior mountain bikers.



GLENBUCHAT - £1,200 for Glenbuchat Hall Community Association to create a photographic exhibition of the Glen and community archive.

CRATHIE - £1,172 for Crathie Primary School's wildlife project which involves the installation of a portable nest camera linked to a screen in the classroom.



BRAEMAR - £50,000 for Braemar Community Ltd towards the first phase of renovating Braemar Castle which involves harling and roof repairs.

MAR LODGE - £4,328 for National Trust for Scotland's Nature Club for Kids to carry out more diverse activities and provide members with educational material.



For more information visit the website www.cairngorms-leader.org or contact Patricia Methven: email: patriciamethven@cairngorms.co.uk or telephone 01479 870543

Communities in ACTION!

It's a two stage process with information on community issues and needs gathered by local communities and then prioritised into an action plan.

Community action planning is sweeping the Cairngorms National Park!

The residents of Dalwhinnie, Laggan, Kingussie and Newtonmore are currently going through this planning process with assistance from Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey. This builds on the experiences of 'Our Community A Way Forward' – the pilot initiative which kicked community action planning off and which will have reached all communities in the Cairngorms National Park by the end of 2012.

In Aberdeenshire there has been progress on some important actions in Ballater where the 'Ballater One Voice Our Future' community consultation has been completed. These include improving NHS dental care in Ballater, enhancing facilities at the Victoria and Albert Halls and developing activities and facilities for young people.

Dalwhinnie Distillery © David Gowans



Junior Rangers with Ben Fogle © CNPA



Junior RANGERS

The Cairngorms National Park Junior Ranger Project was launched in June 2009, involving 21 young people aged 12-15 in two five day programmes - one in Deeside and one in Strathspey.

The programme took biodiversity, outdoor access and visitor management as its themes and activities were set up to fully explore these in the context of the Park. All Junior Rangers achieved the John Muir Discovery Award.

Insh Marshes National Nature Reserve, CairnGorm Mountain and the River Spey were the wild places visited by the Strathspey Junior Rangers. Activities included moth recording, footpath maintenance and first hand experiences of outdoor access issues whilst canoeing down the River Spey. An added bonus for two of the Junior Rangers was to walk up CairnGorm with Ben Fogle for a future BBC 'Country Tracks' programme and share their experiences with him.

Over on 'the other side of the hill', Mar Lodge Estate, Burn o' Vat, Loch Muick and the mighty River Dee formed the backdrop for activity. The Deeside Junior Rangers worked hard digging out ditches and marking deer fences to help avoid bird strikes from black grouse, as well as exploring the pinewoods of Glen Quoich. They met ghillies from Glen Tanar Estate whilst canoeing on the River Dee to discuss outdoor access issues around salmon fishing.

The Junior Ranger project is set to expand in 2010, details will be publicised in the New Year.



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David Green

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The Green outlook

David Green, Convener of the Cairngorms National Park Authority

Delivering the Park Plan for the Cairngorms National Park is a partnership effort. No one group or organisation is responsible for making everything happen but it's not just public sector bodies that are involved in the delivery of the Park Plan, businesses, community organisations and even individuals have a role to play.

For this reason, a new body is emerging in the Park - the Cairngorms Business Partnership is bringing together the Destination Marketing Organisations, the Chamber of Commerce and others into one more financially sustainable, efficient, effective organisation that will strengthen the business voice in the Park and ensure that the private sector is better placed to capitalise on the economic potential of the Cairngorms National Park.

'Making Tourism & Business More Sustainable' is a priority for action in the National Park Plan and the private sector is crucial to delivering key elements of this work, supported by the likes of the Park Authority and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The benefits of the Cairngorms Business Partnership - which is due to be launched officially in April 2010 - is that they are best placed to harness Park-wide marketing opportunities and maximise the potential business value offered by National Park status. I for one very much look forward to working with the business community in its new guise and wish the Cairngorms Business Partnership every success.

© David Gowans



GRANTS up for GRABS

Are you aged 5-18?

Do you attend a social group such as cubs, brownies or scouts within the Park?

Does your group need money to help you enjoy the special qualities of the Park?

If you can answer 'yes' to all of the above then look no further.

Park Authority staff have been raising money over the last few years by holding book sales, ceilidhs and BBQ's and they want to give it to you!

Up to £200 per group is up for grabs and the application process is easy.

Simply send a letter or email, by Friday 26th February 2010, setting out how much you need, what you will use the money for and when you need it by to Quentin McLaren, email: quentinmclaren@cairngorms.co.uk or to 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey PH26 3HG

Planning ENFORCEMENT Charter

The CNPA has produced a new Planning Enforcement Charter which outlines how the planning enforcement process works.

The Park's residents have an important role to play in the monitoring of planning control and conditions and this charter should give them confidence to know how to contact the CNPA with any concerns regarding unauthorised development or construction that does not comply with the conditions of planning permission.

Examples of concern might be new tracks across moorland; demolition of a building or operations that would affect a listed building. The charter will be available at both the Ballater and Grantown-on-Spey offices and electronically on the CNPA website, early in 2010.

Quick updates

Strategic Review

One of the conclusions of the Scottish Government's Strategic Review of Scotland's National Parks is for a cut in the number of board members from 25 to 19.

The mix of locally elected, ministerial appointed and council nominated board members will remain to help ensure local and national accountability as well as a balance of skills and experience. The number of locally directly elected members will remain at five. Of the seven council nominated members Angus, Moray and Perth and Kinross Councils will each nominate one member, and Aberdeenshire and Highland councils will each nominate two members. The remaining seven members will be appointed directly by Scottish Government Ministers. The changes are expected to take place by October 2010.

Local Plan

The Reporter's recommendations (following the Public Inquiry which took place in the summer) are expected to be with us before the end of the year. We will have to consider the recommendations and report to the Planning Committee early in 2010 along with any proposed post inquiry modifications. We will then consult on any modifications and follow the statutory process to adoption (expected autumn 2010).

Core Paths Plan

New paths are already being built and old ones improved as a result of core paths planning in the Cairngorms National Park. Thanks to everyone who got involved in the process. The Core Paths Plan was submitted to Ministers in March 2009 and was then subject to a Local Inquiry. **For more information on this please visit our website www.cairngorms.co.uk/outdooraccess/corepathsplanning**

Don't forget that Parklife is available in a variety of formats

You can read the newsletter on our website www.cairngorms.co.uk and we can provide copies in large print and on audio cassette. And to keep you right up to date with the work of the Park Authority, you can sign up to our monthly ebulletin - see the home page of our website.

We're always pleased to receive feedback, comments and suggestions:

**Communications Team, Cairngorms National Park Authority,
14 The Square, Grantown-on-Spey, Moray PH26 3HG.
Email: enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk Tel: 01479 873535**

What's on?

Cairngorms National Park Authority meetings 2009/2010

December 11

Audit and planning committees, Ballater

December 24

Planning call-in, Ballater

January 8

Planning committee, Grantown-on-Spey

January 22

Board meeting and planning call-in, Boat of Garten

February 5

Planning committee, Nethy Bridge

February 19

Finance committee and planning call-in, Kingussie

March 5

Planning committee, Ballater

March 19

Board meeting, planning call-in and climate change group, Tomintoul

April 1

Planning committee, Aviemore

April 16

Audit committee and planning call-in, Kinraig

April 30

Planning committee, Ballater

May 14

Finance committee, board meeting and planning call-in, Grantown-on-Spey

**Please check local press or the CNPA website for further details of dates, times and venues.
www.cairngorms.co.uk/parkauthority**