

the newsletter of the  
Cairngorms National Park Authority



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**COMING SOON...**

Keep an eye out on our website [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk) for our Chief Executive, Jane Hope's, blog.

## Train to Sustain

Help is at hand for communities and land-based businesses looking to become more sustainable, efficient, competitive and adaptable.

The new Land Management Training Project for the Cairngorms National Park can provide help and financial assistance.

A key priority for us is developing the skills of young people already in employment. The CNPA, through the project, can also provide training grants to National Park businesses and operators involved in the use or management of land.



Harvest, hay bales at Tullochbribben, Dulnain Bridge © David Gowans

The land-based sector is an important and valuable economic driver in the Cairngorms National Park.

A programme of day-long training and awareness raising events to appeal to businesses and communities in the Park on topics relating to land management, sustainability, climate change and the Park's special qualities has been developed.

Whether you know the training you want to carry out, want to enrol on one of the many and varied public benefits courses, need help in identifying training providers or in satisfying your training requirements, get in touch as we are here to help.

**For more information contact Fiona Morris, email: [training@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:training@cairngorms.co.uk) or telephone: 01479 870535 or visit: [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)**

**EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE BUSINESSES:**  
estates, farms, crofts, golf clubs, outdoor recreation providers, equestrian businesses, horticultural nurseries, fishing/forestry operators and community groups.



# New Online Events Calendar and What's On Magazine

From Highland Games to Porridge Making Championships, music festivals to triathlons, ceilidhs to family days out - the new 'What's On' Magazine and Online Events Calendar for the Cairngorms National Park has it all.

Search the online calendar of events by area, date and type or even upload your own event. Events listings are also available on the Visit Cairngorms smartphone app. Alternatively you can pick up a copy of your FREE monthly 'What's On' magazine from over 250 distribution points across the National Park or download it from the website. To find out where your nearest stockist is, get your event listed for free or to advertise in the magazine please contact the Cairngorms Business Partnership email: [info@visitcairngorms.com](mailto:info@visitcairngorms.com) or telephone: 01479 810200.

**View the online calendar and 'What's On' magazine or download the smartphone app now at [www.visitcairngorms.com/whatson](http://www.visitcairngorms.com/whatson) to find out what's on in your area.**



New look Tomintoul VIC © CNPA

## LOOKING GOOD

Visitors to Tomintoul and Crathie are being helped to make the most of their visit to the Cairngorms National Park thanks to new-look information centres.

The CNPA in partnership with VisitScotland and Moray Council upgraded and re-branded the centre in Tomintoul Museum and in Crathie worked with VisitScotland and Balmoral Estate on the centre there - which is also the local post office.

## Community Path Leaflets

Going for a walk in the Cairngorms National Park, you are spoilt for choice whether to scale the high mountains, explore wild woods or gaze at beautiful lochs.

All across the National Park there is a fantastic range of walks on offer from the short to the long, each one unique in its own special way. To help communities promote the paths in their area, the Park Authority has supported a number to develop new Community Path leaflets and improve their path signs so people don't get lost. Already we have new leaflets in Nethy Bridge, Boat of Garten, Kingussie, Ballater and Carr-Bridge with many more on the way. So when you are out and about, remember to pick one up and go and explore!

# BLACK GROUSE on the way up

Black grouse, one of the Priority Species for the Cairngorms, have shown an encouraging increase in numbers in the National Park in last few years.

Famed for their flashy mating display or lek, they have been in serious decline across the country since the early 90's. But numbers of males counted on lek sites in spring in Strathspey, Perthshire and Deeside have been well up recently with lower Deeside in particular showing dramatic increases. This is despite the two severe winters which resulted in crashes to the populations in northern England. It is probably the result of good management of the moorland

and woodland edge habitat they depend on in the Cairngorms National Park that makes this a nationally important area for these charismatic birds.

**Further details are available from the various area Black Grouse Study Groups or by contacting Justin Prigmore, Biodiversity Officer, email: [justinprigmore@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:justinprigmore@cairngorms.co.uk) or telephone: 01479 870513**



## Fèis Spè Funding

Having operated in Badenoch and Strathspey for 20 years, Fèis Spè is bringing traditional music, arts, performances and Gaelic language to Highland Perthshire thanks to funding from the Cairngorms Local Action Group (CLAG).

The award of £2,260 will go towards bringing opportunities and events to more people in the Cairngorms National Park. Planned activities include a performance by The Cairngorms Ceilidh Trail in Blair Atholl this July and sessions in local primary schools.

**For information on the work of the CLAG visit [www.cairngorms-leader.org](http://www.cairngorms-leader.org) and Fèis Spè at [www.feisspe.org.uk](http://www.feisspe.org.uk)**



## Tread Lightly

We know the main reason why people enjoy the Cairngorms National Park is the beauty, diversity and quality of the scenery. And that most people enjoy it through spending time in the great outdoors, in particular walking. But what can we all do to ensure that the landscapes continue to provide this enjoyment for many generations to come?

“Treading lightly in the Cairngorms National Park” is the theme of a new programme of education and awareness about responsible outdoor access, aimed at visitors and residents. Several issues crop up regularly when considering responsible access in the context of the National Park: road-side camping and fire risk; the impact of dogs, in particular on ground nesting birds and the integration of ‘shared use’ such as cycling and walking. These will form the basis of a number of projects that will develop resources - leaflets, banners and posters - for rangers and front line visitor staff who ‘meet and greet’ the public; help land managers who experience a lot of recreational pressure to ‘plan’ for visitors; and make more information more accessible through websites and social media.



# Food for LIFE!



## Chefs adopt a school

The Cairngorms Food for Life project has teamed up with the Academy of Culinary Arts to deliver their highly successful Chefs Adopt A School programme. Chefs from across the National Park have had training to help them run practical, hands-on, fun and informative sessions for pupils.

Following great interest from local schools, the first sessions take place this month when the chefs will help teach children respect for food, nutrition, health and hygiene as well as highlight where the food we eat comes from - from field to plate.



## GROW Cairngorms

A pilot project for residents in the Cairngorms National Park to find out more about growing their own vegetables saw them take part in hands on gardening sessions.

Produce grown by the group in the garden of a local hotel appeared on the menu.

They also received additional experience in erecting a polytunnel and installing rabbits and deer proofing measures - essential when attempting to grow in the Cairngorms National Park.

A series of talks also explained how to control pests and diseases, grow fruit and how to store and use their produce.



# EAT local

Look out for even more wonderful local food on the menu at your 'local'! To help chefs, we joined up with Scottish National Rural Networking and Scottish Council Voluntary Organisations to arrange a day for chefs to meet up with local producers. Over 60 producers and chefs made connections. If your local isn't serving local - **ask for it.**

We've also been working towards getting more local food used in schools and village hospitals. Working with Soil Association Scotland we held a highly successful event at Glenmore Lodge where those involved in providing catering in our local authorities and NHS regions in the Park came to find out how they might help. Those involved know this won't happen overnight. Caterers need to know they have a regular supply of produce and suppliers must plan to meet that demand. Proof it can be done is The Highland Council who achieved a bronze Food for Life Catering Mark for their work in using local producers for primary school meals.



## Coming SOON

More gardening and cookery clubs will be springing up in schools near you. Not only will children be growing your dinner, they'll be cooking and bringing it home to you!

We also hope to have the Healthier Scotland Food bus visit an area of the Park for schools and communities to learn more about nutrition and healthy local food.



## Where to find LOCAL FOOD

FARMERS MARKETS - A good place to start to find local produce is your local farmers' markets. The Cairngorms Farmers Market programme is on the Visit Cairngorms website: [www.visitcairngorms.com](http://www.visitcairngorms.com)

CAIRNGORMS FOOD & DRINK GUIDE - You can also download the guide to find which shops and restaurants stock and serve local produce at: [www.visitcairngorms.com](http://www.visitcairngorms.com)

For more information on Food for Life in the Cairngorms

National Park contact Ruathy Donald,

email: [ruathydonald@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:ruathydonald@cairngorms.co.uk) or Brid McKibben,

email: [bridmckibben@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:bridmckibben@cairngorms.co.uk)

telephone: 01479 873535 or visit our website:

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

food  
for  
life  
SCOTLAND



Soil Association  
Scotland

# A positive future for Deer in the National Park



In recent opinion polls, deer consistently come out on top as our 'most Scottish' and 'most popular' animal. It follows that people have strong views about deer and views can be divided on how best to manage them. Deer are vital to the environment and the economy of the Cairngorms National Park. Consequently, the Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group (CDAG) has, since 1995, brought together both local and national interests in deer and has been instrumental in producing a 'Deer Framework' for the National Park.

The Framework aims to help ensure that the long-term vitality of deer and the economy which depends upon them is secure for future generations. This depends on deer populations being managed to ensure the habitats they need for food and shelter continue to be carefully protected. The Framework is just part of the process of bringing people together to celebrate deer as a positive asset that must be managed sensitively and sustainably, for future generations to admire and enjoy.

**You can get hold of a copy of the *Deer Framework* by calling the CNPA office on 01479 873535 or visiting our website: [www.cairngorms.co.uk/look-after/](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/look-after/)**

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## LANDSCAPE Improvements

The landscape of the Cairngorms National Park is going through a positive change at the moment with the removal of 35 kilometres of electricity pylons between Boat of Garten and Tarland. The CNPA presented a strong argument for the redundant pylons to be removed when the Beaully to Denny power line was given approval by Scottish Ministers in 2010. Having objected to the line, the removal of the pylons is seen by the CNPA as a step to offsetting the visual impact of the new line going in.

Further ways to positively enhance the landscape of the Cairngorms National Park will be set out in the Landscape Framework. This spring, the CNPA will be looking for your views on how the landscape can be positively enhanced. The Framework will focus on the issues that are changing the landscape, such as the desire to produce more of our energy from renewable or plant more trees to counter climate change.

A key aim of the Framework is to get more landscape information out there so that people can use this to help with things like planning applications, school work or a community project. More information will soon be available by visiting our homepage [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk) and following the link.



Redundant pylons being removed from Dell Woods, Nethybridge © David Gowans



# Revealing Stories

Communities across Strathspey are revealing the stories of their local areas with the support of CNPA and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). Over the next three years, communities will get the opportunity to develop their skills to create cultural heritage surveys of their local areas.

The programme for 2012 includes talks, town walks, training in archaeological survey techniques, archiving, oral history and woodland history.

**For more information join the Cairngorms Community Heritage Facebook page or contact Fiona McLean, Community Heritage Officer, email: [fionamclean@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:fionamclean@cairngorms.co.uk) or telephone: 01479 873535**



Cultural Heritage Training © RCAHMS

## Cairngorms National Park Junior Rangers Spread their Wings!

Seven Junior Rangers from the Cairngorms National Park took off for a week in July to meet up with their Junior Ranger counterparts in the Bavarian Forest National Park in Germany.

The trip was part of an exchange programme that will increase understanding of protected landscape areas and forge friendships between youngsters from different parts of Europe who live in similar rural settings.

During the visit the Cairngorms Junior Rangers climbed mountains, learned about lynx re-introductions, took part in cultural visits and completed conservation tasks. They also made a presentation to local people about the Cairngorms National Park and about the Junior Ranger Project.

The next phase of the exchange programme happens this year when Bavarian Forest National Park Junior Rangers and adult mentors will take part in an exciting programme highlighting the best of the Cairngorms National Park.



Over looking Bavarian Forest National Park © CNPA

David Green

© CNPA/Stewart Grant



## The Green Outlook

**David Green, Convener of the Cairngorms National Park Authority. Stepping down but not away**

**This year I will be standing down as Convener of the CNPA after six very challenging and enjoyable years in the hot seat. I'm proud of what we have achieved: delivering a lot of what we committed to in our first National Park Plan enhancing this fantastic National Park and laying the foundations for future improvements.**

I'm looking forward to launching our next National Park Plan and Local Development Plan. Plans and fine words are just that; and I much prefer the action that comes from them so that our paths are improved, our exciting plans to get youngsters into outdoor classrooms progress, land managers are appropriately supported to face the challenge of CAP reform, local food and drink goes from strength to strength, our local biodiversity action plans bring improved habitats for our threatened species and more visitors come here and enjoy quality experiences.

I know and appreciate there are many people who looked after the Cairngorms before the CNPA came into existence. Many residents contribute so much to the Park through living here, work or getting involved in volunteering or committees. The Cairngorms has been big enough to look after all of us for centuries and I have been reassured over the last six years that there will be plenty of commitment, passion and energy to look after the Park for centuries to come.



## Quick updates

### Sustainable Tourism Charter

The Cairngorms National Park has once again been recognised at a European level for sustainable tourism. David Green, CNPA Convenor and Alan Rankin, CEO of the Cairngorms Business Partnership collected the prestigious European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas at the EUROPARC Conference in Germany in September 2011.

### Cairngorms National Park Design Awards

Launching this Spring, the first ever Cairngorms National Park Design Awards will celebrate excellence in design and building in the Park. We'll be looking for entries in a number of categories. More details about the awards, including how to take part, will soon be available at [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)

### Cairngorms Biodiversity Plan up for review

The Plan which helps to guide our conservation work is being refreshed. Consultations are underway on The Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) to work out what the most important habitats and species are in the National Park. The new plan, which should be published towards the end of the year, will help us collectively focus on the top priorities for the coming years.

More details from Biodiversity Officers, Justin Prigmore & Stephen Corcoran, email: [justinprigmore@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:justinprigmore@cairngorms.co.uk)  
[stephencorcoran@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:stephencorcoran@cairngorms.co.uk) or telephone: 01479 873535

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

You can read the newsletter on our website: [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk) or we can provide copies of all the articles in large print.

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

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

## What's on?

Cairngorms National Park Authority meetings 2012

**January 6**  
Planning committee, Ballater

**January 20**  
Board meeting, Grantown-on-Spey

**February 3**  
Planning committee, Boat-of-Garten

**March 2**  
Planning committee, Ballater

**March 16**  
Board meeting, Grantown-on-Spey

**March 30**  
Planning committee, Boat-of-Garten

**April 27**  
Planning committee, Ballater

**April 13**  
Board Meeting, TBC

**May 11**  
Board meeting, Blair Atholl

**May 25**  
Planning committee, Boat-of-Garten

**June 8**  
Board meeting, TBC

**June 22**  
Planning committee, Ballater

**July 6**  
Board meeting, Ballater

**July 20**  
Planning committee, Boat-of-Garten

**August 17**  
Planning committee, Ballater

**August 31**  
Board meeting, Grantown-on-Spey

All venues TBC.  
Please check the CNPA website for further details of dates, times and venues: