

# Strachan Today



December 2009

Welcome to the December edition of Strachan Today. Just enough space to wish you Season's Greetings. I hope to see you at one of the events in Strachan during this month.

Lesley Young



Many thanks to Henry Ward of Waters of Feugh for providing this photo of the spaceship landing in our "hole in the road"



Feughdee West Community Council met in Strachan Hall in October. Find out more on [www.strachantoday.org](http://www.strachantoday.org)

**Next edition of  
Strachan Today will  
be January 2010 –  
deadline for copy is  
16 December 2009**

Many thanks to



SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS

For printing this edition



COME AND  
JOIN US AT  
STRACHAN  
VILLAGE HALL  
FOR OUR  
HOGMANAY  
CEILIDH

THURSDAY 31<sup>ST</sup>  
DECEMBER  
FROM 7.30 PM  
DANCING TO THE  
DARK ISLAND  
CEILIDH BAND

ADULTS £15,  
CHILDREN £10  
(UNDER 5'S  
FREE) TICKETS  
FROM HALL  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD  
AND DRINK

## YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MAKING STRACHAN SAFER



**Roads:** The debate about the location of the new Vehicle Activated Signs and the new footpath has led Feughdee West Community Council (FWCC) to ask Northeast Safety Camera Partnership (NESCAMP) to review road safety in and around our village. Traffic volume and speed will be monitored and analysed and may result in mobile 'speed cameras' being put in place. The results should be available by mid-December.

NESCAMP includes Grampian Police, Aberdeenshire Council and Grampian Fire and Rescue Service (see [www.nescamp.co.uk/faqs](http://www.nescamp.co.uk/faqs) )

**The Auld Strachan Kirk:** FWCC have met with the owners of the old Strachan Church to discuss public safety concerns. The granting of a building warrant to convert the former church into a dwelling has been delayed due to architectural restrictions on developing Category 3 Listed Buildings. It is hoped that the site will be tidied up until the building work is finished. The owners regret the time taken to resolve planning issues and are looking forward to a sympathetic conversion and moving into the village. There has been a place of worship on or near the site of the Auld Strachan Kirk since 1242, although the current building was erected in 1865-66.



**The Strachan Book Group** met in November and discussed "Losing Julia" by Jonathan Hull, which was recommended by Milly Judt. Our next meeting will be in January where we will discuss 2 books "Ignorance" by Milan Kundera chosen for us by Lize Strachan and "Small Island" by Andrea Levy chosen by Isobel McMillan. Interested in joining us? Call Lesley ☎ 850581.



**Useful Numbers for Drivers  
FOR ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION  
Grampian Police 24-hour Weatherline  
0870 444 5 444  
TO REPORT ROAD PROBLEMS  
Aberdeenshire Council 0800-1800  
0845 608 1205  
POLICE  
Non- emergency  
0845 600 5 700**

### Bus information

**DEESIDE VILLAGE HOPPER** **Thursdays** (On request, could deviate from route - ☎013398 85222)  
Strachan 10.05 14.05 Banchory (High St) 11.20 15.05  
Banchory (High St) 10.15 14.15 Strachan 11.30 15.15

### ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL SERVICE 204

**Monday to Friday** (Travel line ☎0871 200 2233) - Leaves Strachan 07.35 to Aberdeen; Leaves Aberdeen 17.20

### 65 SPECIAL – DIAL A TRIP SERVICE

Strachan routes: **Tuesdays** to Banchory; **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday** in month to Aberdeen; **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** in month to Porthleven and Stonehaven. To book seat (48 hours notice if possible) or for information: ☎01569 765765 or 013398 87070



### Portrait of our Time – The Community Play

Rehearsals are now well underway for the Portrait of Our Time Community Play. Performances will be on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 2pm in Finzean Hall. Tickets will be available in January. **Could you knit a fish?** Would you like to knit one or more fish for the play? If you don't have time to knit you can donate odds and ends of wool to Birse and Feughside Church or to **Wendy Hector (850453)**. If you'd like a knitting pattern, please contact **Jane Winton (013398 86955)** or e-mail [thewintons@thehaugh.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:thewintons@thehaugh.wanadoo.co.uk). Remember you can always catch up with the latest news on [www.portrait-of-our-time.co.uk](http://www.portrait-of-our-time.co.uk)

### Remembrance Sunday – some reflections

We have just stood around our "cenotaph" in Strachan and heard the names called up of the fallen in wars past: "They shall not grow old..."

It is important to commemorate those who gave their lives but I feel strongly that our Cross has been shunted off to the end of the village where cars turn and park and where a new house with entrance has been built. No peaceful rural setting for contemplation.

Does anyone else agree that the Village Cross for the fallen should be the heart of any village? I think there is a possible place for our Cross; but I need to know numbers who want a better place before going into details. What do you think? Would you like to move our Cross for our Fallen to a more suitable position?

Lize Strachan.

*What do readers think? I know that many people will have views. If you would like to send comments to me (details at the end of this newsletter) and I will send them on to the Community Council.*

*Lesley Young, Editor*

### STRACHAN CAROL SINGING

Monday 21st December

Join us to go around some houses with the children - meet at Strachan School 6.45pm.

Or join in festive singing at the Village Hall 7.30pm – with Mince Pies and Mulled Wine (or Hot Chocolate)



### Who to contact

#### **BIRSE-FEUGHSIDE CHURCH**

(covers parishes of Strachan and Birse)

Rev Jack Holt

The Manse, Finzean ☎850237

#### **BOWLING CLUB**

New members welcome on Monday evenings

Elma Duncan (Secretary) ☎820399

Lesley Smith (Treasurer) ☎823284

#### **FEUGHDEE WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Alistair Stenhouse (Chairman)

#### **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**

Robert Brown ☎850571

#### **SWRI ("RURAL")**

Aileen Black ☎824781

#### **STRACHAN HALL COMMITTEE**

Sam Wylde (Chairman) ☎850655

Arlene Thomson (booking secretary) ☎850324

David MacFarlane (Treasurer) ☎850657

#### **STRACHAN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

David MacFarlane ☎850657

#### **STRACHAN PATHS GROUP**

Mark Hagger ☎823418

Stirling Marshall ☎850439

#### **UNDER 5's**

Pamela Clarke ☎850727

#### **STRACHAN SCHOOL**

Jill Dunn Headteacher ☎850231

Linda Yule (School Administrator)

[strachan.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:strachan.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

#### **PARENTAL FORUM**

Meets early each term

#### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Fiona Daines (Chairman)

Arlene MacFarlane (Secretary)

Jennifer Neish (Treasurer)

#### **PORTRAIT OF OUR TIME ("POOT")**

Mel Shand ☎850674 or [melanie.shand@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.shand@gmail.com)

## Strachan Country Dancing

We've had two very enjoyable and well-attended evenings this autumn, ably led by Isobel McMillan standing in for Isobel MacDonald. Our next dance will be on **Saturday 12 December at 8.00 pm** in the Village Hall. Please note that this is Saturday, not the usual Friday evening. We will have a Christmas theme with a number of 'seasonal' dances; please bring seasonal food for the mid evening break - some mulled wine will be provided. Santa costumes optional! If you would like to know more about the dancing evenings please give Robert a call on 850571. Future dancing dates are 15 January, 12 February, 19 March and 23 April. Dress informal.



## Calendar of events - December 2009

### Thursday 3 December

Deeside Village Hopper from former Post Office

### Saturday 5 December

10am: Strachan Junior Football Team Training\*

### Sunday 6 December

11am: Service (B&F Church)

### Monday 7 December

9.30-11.30: Under 5's Group (former Post Office)  
7.30: Bowling Club (Village Hall)

### Thursday 10 December

Deeside Village Hopper from former Post Office  
7.30: Rural: (Village Hall)

### Friday 11 December

7.30: Music & Movies (B&F Church)

### Saturday 12 December

10am: Strachan Junior Football Team Training\*

8pm Scottish Country Dancing (Village Hall)

### Sunday 13 December

11am: Service (B&F Church)

### Monday 14 December

9.30-11.30: Under 5's Group (former Post Office)  
7.30: Bowling Club (Village Hall)

### Tuesday 15 December

7pm School Christmas Show (Village Hall)

### Thursday 17 December

Deeside Village Hopper from former Post Office

### Friday 18 December

End of term

### Sunday 20 December

11am: Christmas Family Service (B&F Church)

### Monday 21 December

6.45pm Village Carol Singing (School)  
7.30pm Carol Singing (Village Hall)

### Thursday 24 December

Deeside Village Hopper from former Post Office



### 25 December

10am: Christmas Day Service (B&F Church)

### Sunday 27 December

11am: Service (B& F Church)

### Thursday 31 December

Deeside Village Hopper from former Post Office  
7.30: Hogmanay Party (Village Hall)

\*On pitch, unless unplayable, in which case, Village Hall

## Strachan Sporting Successes!

**Football:** The first two matches of the season in the Deeside Small Schools League (B) were postponed due to bad weather. However, in the game against Drumoak on Sunday 8 Nov, Strachan won 7-3, with Adam Burkitt scoring a hat trick and Findlay Randalls, Timothy Groves, Morven MacFarlane and Dominique Lonnes all on the score sheet - a great team effort!

**Bowling:** LADIES SINGLES – 1<sup>st</sup> Ness Morrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Elma Duncan. MENS SINGLES – 1<sup>st</sup> William Duncan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Donald