



Carr-Bridge News

Landmark Chainsaw Carving Competition

They had already won a clutch of top awards at home, a chainsaw contest at Sandringham was in their sights and the buzz was in the air - "The Americans are coming." Well they came, they sawed and they conquered in Carrbridge. The Landmark Chainsaw Log Sculpture Competition was billed as the Ryder Cup of the chainsaw world and it didn't disappoint. The contest which is growing every year is the highlight of the annual Carrbridge Gathering which featured everything from a mini Highland Games, archery, and climbing wall to terrier racing. The Americans may have grabbed the giant claymore trophy team prize but it was the Scottish Chainsaw Champion, Pete Bowsher, a timber manager from Moffat, (photo) who took top individual honours with his stunning sculpture of a golf caddy. The piece fetched £700 in the auction after the contest. If the US won the team battle then Carrbridge won the war, for the hearts and minds. US team captain Bob King, a professional carver from Seattle in Scotland for the first time, confessed to a lump in his throat as the skirl of the Badenoch & Strathspey pipe band took to the field. "To see and hear a



real Scottish pipe band is just awesome," he said. The team was also bowled over by the pre-match ceilidh in the Village Hall. Said Bob, "We'll definitely be back next year," adding, "if they invite us, that is." Home grown talent included Alice and Jeff Buttress who both entered. Alice's carving of a bearded man (left) won first prize in the novice class but Jeff's bear (below) achieved more money in the sale. The event organiser, Tom Jones said, "The day was a tremendous success from the Americans acceptance of the Claymore Sword to the auction. It never fails to amaze me how the carvers manage to achieve such extraordinary works of art in a short time." The event received great support from local business Landmark, John Gordon Sawmill, David Ritchie & Sons and the Old Bridge Garage. Sadly Tom Jones is unable to mastermind the event next year so anyone out there who is ready to pick up the challenge, please step forward. For more information on the event look at the website www.carvecarrbridge.co.uk



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

With the necessity to do a survey and probable repairs to the Village Hall which is a great asset to the community, the hall committee members are encouraged by the support they have had in their fundraising efforts. The 200 club, which has proved to be a popular success, is now fully subscribed and thanks are due to all of those who are members. The dance that was run on the 28th of December was voted a great success by all who attended and the committee would like to thank all who helped. The musicians who gave their talents free, Colin and James who ran the bar, Ian, Bryce and Jimmy Carter who were the stewards on the night. We are now applying for grant aid to be able to carry out a structural survey to determine the state of the building and define what work may be required to safeguard its long term future.



The 12th annual Golden Spurtle World Porridge Making Championship

The 12th Annual World Porridge Making Championships took place in Carrbridge, Inverness-shire, Scotland, on Sunday 9th October 2005. This year, for the first time, the competition was held in conjunction with Highland Feast - the Highland Food & Drink Festival 2005. Co-organised by the Carrbridge and Vicinity Community Council.



A local lady, Lynn Bengie took the coveted title of World Porridge Making Champion. The popular event is followed with interest by connoisseurs of the traditional national dish across the globe. Thrilled at taking the prestigious title, Lynn, who was last year's speciality winners, commented "I'm just absolutely elated. I have been entering every year for the past 12 years and although I've come close before, I've never quite made the grade. I am just overjoyed to have won the championship this time around." In the speciality category, for porridge with other ingredients added, sponsored by Columba Cream, the top prize went to Lara Smith from The Buccleuch Arms Hotel, Moffat, for her "Bucc' n Dulge" recipe.



The Great Porridge Fun Run. Supported by Lyles Golden Syrup. More than 70 competitors took part in the first-ever Great Porridge Fun Run with the medals presented by Radio 2 DJ, Ken Bruce.

CHURCH REPAIRS

The recent appearance of scaffolding on the front of the Church is the result of major repair work on a gable that needed to be dismantled and rebuilt. The work secures the Church building for the future and for the significant part it plays in village life. The cost will be in the region of £12,000, a considerable sum for our small congregation to raise. We will hold a fund raising effort in due course. In the meantime if anyone would like to make a contribution towards the Church repair costs, please contact our Treasurer, Una Leitch, "The Sheiling" Tel 841618.



CAN YOU SELL JEWELLERY?

The Virgin Vie Company requires cosmetic or jewellery consultants to sell our award winning cosmetics and jewellery range. Please call Mary on 841612 (local) Or mobile 07815 423804 No party selling or experience needed.

What's on in Carr-Bridge

Interested groups who wish to promote their village activities in this section should notify the editor, Scott Bruce at 841264 or at: scottbruce@btinternet.com

MsFits Theatre Company presents... Secrets & Lies & DIY!

Friday March 17 Carrbridge Village Hall @ 7.30pm
Tickets £5/ £3 under 16
Tickets from: Old Bakery Coffee Shop, Carrbridge
Carrbridge Community Arts Ticket Line: 01479 841211

A brand new comedy drama with award winning comedy actress **Fiona Knowles**. Pat has finally snapped, her husband started to put that new kitchen sink in years ago and she's had it with washing up in the loo. Plumbing can't be that difficult! Downstairs neighbour retired schoolteacher Mary is caught between Barley White & Coffee Cream but what is her obsession with Acrylic Matt & Gloss really covering up? Painter & Decorator, young single mum Katerina, thinks this job is her passport to independence but she really needs to take those dark glasses off first! The past comes flooding in when a DIY disaster reveals more than just cracks behind the anaglypta!



Puppet Lab present...

Funny Bones

Thursday March 30 Carrbridge Primary School @ 7pm
Tickets £2

This is the story of three skeletons who were lonely. One big skeleton, one little skeleton and a third skeleton, who was a dog. They are looking for people to scare, but everybody was sleeping except for them. So, they decided to scare each other. A fun show for all the family.

FIRE-FIGHTERS UPDATE

Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service delivered Carrbridge's Community Response Unit in December. The ten strong unit, following an extensive period of training, are now back providing a Fire and Rescue service to this community. The Unit is currently using temporary accommodation while awaiting a decision as to where the new vehicle will be permanently stored. The new role for the former volunteers is to provide a response to road traffic accidents and Wildfires (Moorland and Woodland incidents) The team has been provided with a Fire and rescue vehicle which can hold a crew of six. The vehicle has cutting gear and other associated equipment required when rendering help to casualties at road traffic collisions. As well as responding to incidents the Carrbridge crew have been providing Fire safety advice to the community through leaflet drops and a visit to Class 1-3 at Carrbridge Primary. Sub Officer Dougie Macdonald and his crew are very



grateful to all of those over the last two years who campaigned to retain the unit in the village.

HISTORY CORNER



TRAFALGAR CONNECTIONS

Local descendants of one of the Captains at the Battle of Trafalgar were recently invited to a presentation. George Duff who has a transport business based in Carrbridge and his sister Wilma Stirling of Auchterblair are descended from Captain George Duff. Captain Duff was the son of James Duff, one time sheriff clerk of Banff, Scotland, and a grandson of Alexander Duff of Hatton. He was also a great nephew of William Duff of Dipple who in 1754 had become the First Earl of Fife. He was born in 1764, and entered the service in 1777. He commanded the Mars (74 guns) during the blockade of Rochefort and Brest in 1804-5 and in the Battle of Trafalgar, where he lost his life, 1805. He was killed early in the action by a shot that carried off his head; it fell on the gangway, where it remained, covered by a Union Flag, till the end of the battle. A monument to his memory is in St. Paul's Cathedral; his family received the gold medal for the battle, a piece of plate from the Patriotic Fund and an honourable augmentation of arms. He was grand-nephew to Vice Admiral Robert Duff, who died in 1787, and father of Vice Admiral Norwich Duff who had been present as a Volunteer in the Mars at Trafalgar, and died in 1862. HMS Mars was more heavily armed than the standard British 74 gun ship, and carried 24lb guns on the upper deck instead of the usual 18lb. She was built at Deptford and launched in 1794, joining the Channel Fleet where she was in action during the blockade off the French coast. In September 1798 she fought a successful single ship action against the French Hercule (64 guns), which was chased into the Passage du Raz where she was anchored. The Mars came up alongside, also anchored and at close quarters engaged the Hercule until she surrendered. Both sides suffered severely in the fight and Mars lost 30 killed and 60 wounded, her captain dying after a mortal injury. Mars joined the fleet blockading off Spain in 1803 and was one of the supporting squadron close to Cadiz that relayed the news to HMS Victory of the sailing of French and Spanish fleets. At the battle she was in the column led by Admiral Collingwood, and was third in line between Belliesle and Tonnant. George Duff, her captain, had his young son aged 13 aboard as a volunteer, and stationed him below before writing a final hasty letter to his wife. The French and Spanish fleets opened fire at 11.50am but Mars approached in strict silence, almost falling on board the Santa Ana, as she reached the enemy line. To avoid this she turned and engaged the French Pluton (74 guns), but continuing to turn was heavily raked across her stern by the French Fougueux (74 guns) and also fired on by the Spanish Monarca (74 guns) and the French Algeciras (74 guns). The damage to Mars rendered her ungovernable with rigging shot away so that the masts would not take sails, several guns disabled and the rudder head injured. Captain Duff was killed along with 28 others of the crew and 69 were wounded. After this, Mars drifted a way while the crew concentrated on re-rigging the ship to regain control. After the battle, Captain Duff's son had the melancholy duty of writing to his mother in Edinburgh to report his father's death while the Mars entered for repairs before returning to England.