



Education, Culture & Sport Committee

Comataidh Foghlaim, Cultair is Spors

Thursday 15 January 2009

Coaching Highland National Success

Coaching Highland brought home a trophy from the UK Coaching Awards 2008 winning the new category “Agency in Support of Coaching”





St Andrews Day Celebration Success

On December 3, , The Red Hot Chilli Pipers wrote:

The Red Hot Chilli Pipers want to say a huge thank you to the people of Inverness for inviting us to play at your utterly amazing St Andrew's Day celebrations. We had offers from all over the country but we chose Inverness as we are always assured of a great welcome and a rocking crowd. The event was brilliantly managed by your Winter Festival Committee - in fact we can safely say it was the best organised event we have attended this year. Much of the praise for this must be attributed to Gerry Reynolds and his amazing team. Thanks Gerry. The show was an utter blast for us and we got a huge buzz from seeing everyone - mums and dads and grannies and kids and teenagers - all turning out on such a cold day. We hope that we added a special bit of Chilli heat to the event. So once again, thank you so much Inverness for giving us one of our very best gigs this year. Let's hope it's not too long before we are invited back to rock your City. Lots of love and best wishes to you ! all for Christmas and the New Year from The Red Hot Chilli Pipers.



Psychological Services

- the Annual national conference for Educational Psychologists was held in Glasgow at the end of November. The conference provides a focal point for CPD for Educational Psychologists from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Highland Council Psychological Service was involved in providing three workshops at the conference, all of which were well attended and very positively received. The workshop on Solution Focused Meetings, and the positive evaluations of these multi-agency meetings, was the focus of the best attended workshop of the conference, with many EPs from England and Wales taking this process back to their own authorities. The involvement of the HCPS in multi-agency work was further highlighted by the Keynote Speech provided by Bill Alexander, to the conference, which spoke of the positive contribution the Psychological Service has made to the effectiveness of multi-agency work and the GIRFEC agenda within ECS in Highland. A vote of thanks was provided to the Principal Psychologist in Highland, from the conference organisers for the contribution made to this national conference by Highland EPs.

ROK Partnership with Schools

- Charleston Academy and Kingussie High School have bought poly tunnels to support Skills for Work delivery in Rural Skills and Hospitality; the Science Curriculum; ASDAN awards; and also to contribute to Eco Schools projects. These poly tunnels have been erected free of charge by ROK, who sent several of their apprentices along to the schools to do this work, thus improving their own skills in construction!





Charleston Academy Debating Success

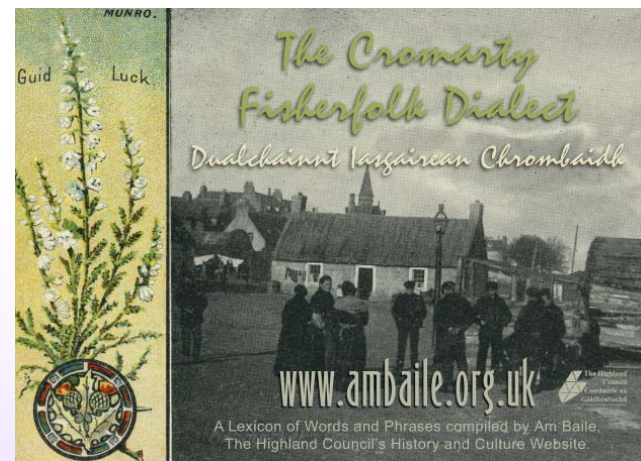
- Charleston Senior Debating Team won the Lloyds TSB North of Scotland Schools Debating Championship for the third year in a row last Friday (28th November). Rachel Tidey was voted best speaker, the first time in the history of the competition that a novice speaker has won this award. The other speaker, Morna Harding has reached the final each year for the past four years and has been in the winning team three years in a row – another first. Both girls have paid tribute to their coach, English teacher, Mrs Jennifer MacTaggart, who supported them through the competition.
- The competition involves three rounds before the final with teams picking up points at each round. The top six teams then compete in the final. The competition is open to all teams in Highland, Moray, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. This year's final was in Aberdeen.

Am Baile

Cromarty Fisherfolk Dialect Booklet

Cromarty brothers Bobby and Gordon Hogg believe they are the last two fluent speakers of the 'Cromarty fisher dialect', a unique Scots dialect associated with the fishing communities of the Black Isle and other small towns and villages along the shores of the Cromarty Firth.

Last year Am Baile was fortunate enough to interview the brothers and as a result, is producing a lexicon of Cromarty fisherfolk words and phrases, compiled using various oral and written sources. The booklet will be distributed to schools, further education facilities and libraries.





Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis Pre-School Care Service

- The first Care Commission Report for the pre-school care service provided at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, the Council's first purpose-built all Gaelic school, is extremely positive with **very good** gradings awarded to the service for all four themes inspected. Head Teacher Janet MacLeod said, "In addition to these gradings, we have also received an **excellent** grading from the Care Commission, for *the environment allowing service users to have as positive a quality of life as possible*, so we are extremely pleased. This is a testament to the success of the Council's sessional care and wrap around service for pre-school children in a Gaelic-medium setting. The committed leadership and hard work of the deputy head teacher and of team of staff has resulted in very good practice in providing Gaelic-medium pre-school education and childcare at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis." The nursery was seen very much as an integral part of the Gaelic school where the strong commitment to providing Gaelic medium education was evident.



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Loo of the Year Awards 2008

At the recent Loo of the Year Awards Highland Council received the following gradings:

5 Star – 28
4 Star – 31
3 Star - 6

In addition to these gradings ECS was successfully announced as the Scottish Category Winner for the following:

Primary Schools	-	Hilton of Cadboll Primary
Secondary Schools	-	Thurso High School
Day Care Centres	-	Beach View Lodge, Brora
Historic Buildings	-	County Building, Dingwall
Commercial/Public Offices	-	Council Offices, Drummuie, Golpie
Parks & Gardens	-	Countryside Visitor Centre, Lairg
Visitor Attractions	-	Brora Heritage Centre
Scottish Individual Attendant Team Winner Services (Schools)	-	Highland Council – Cleaning