

Discover



Work



Live

Your guide to perfect Perthshire

# Perthshire

EXPLORE  
DREAM  
DISCOVER

The inner beauty of classic Scotland

perthshire

# Great deals. Great cover.

## Home insurance

Quote reference MAR2

0800 092 9888

## Motor insurance

Quote reference MD28

0800 121 000

## Van insurance

Quote reference VAND

0800 121 006

## Motorcycle insurance

Quote reference MTBE

0800 460 206

## Pay As You Drive insurance\*

Quote reference PD54

0800 753 002

## Breakdown insurance

Quote reference BW28

0800 753 154

## Travel insurance

Quote reference EXPR

0800 404 7352

## Accidental Death Benefit

Quote reference XLYA

0800 158 3291

Calls may be recorded and/or monitored.

[www.norwichunion.com](http://www.norwichunion.com)

\*Norwich Union Insurance Limited is licensed under the European patent applications Nos. 97904096.1 and 01303501.9 by Progressive Casualty Insurance Company, USA and is proprietor of European patent (UK) No. 0700009.

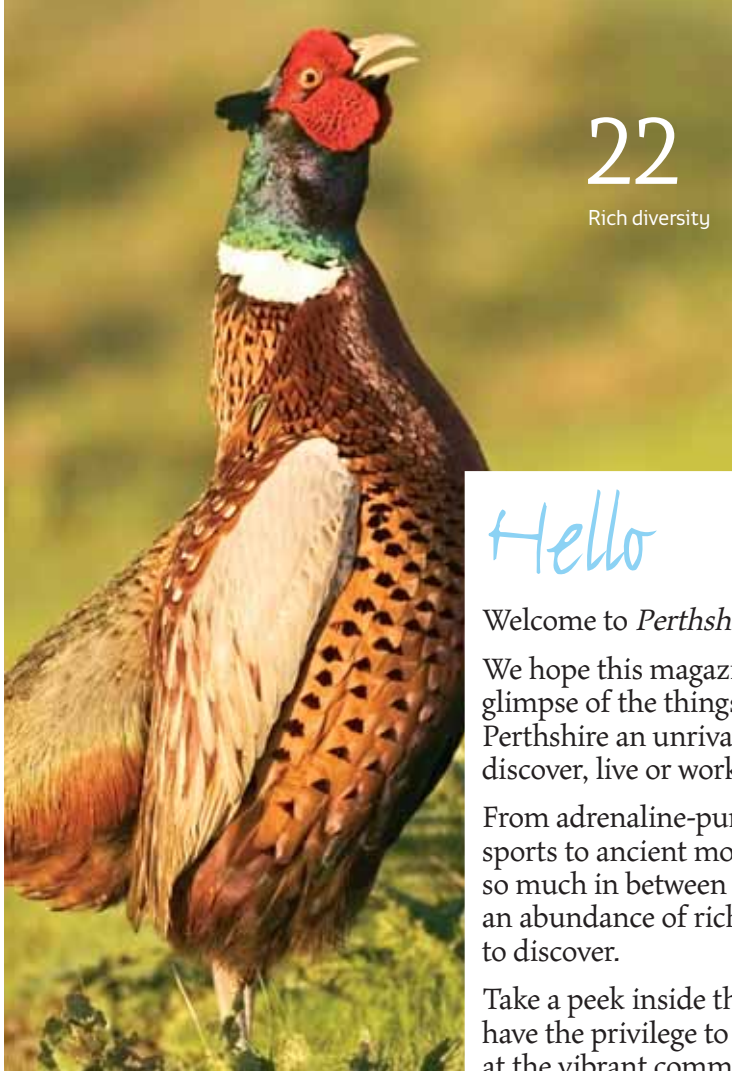
Norwich Union Insurance Limited. Registered in England No. 99122. Registered Office: 8 Surrey Street, Norwich NR1 3NG. Norwich Union is an Aviva Company. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Cover not available in Northern Ireland except Travel Insurance. Norwich Union Direct may decline to quote in some circumstances. Age restrictions apply. Norwich Union Life Direct Limited is an appointed representative of Norwich Union Life Services Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Any advice given will relate only to the products of Norwich Union.



**NORWICH  
UNION**  
*Direct*  
an AVIVA company

22

Rich diversity



# Hello

Welcome to *Perthshire*.

We hope this magazine will give you a glimpse of the things that make Perthshire an unrivalled place to discover, live or work.

From adrenaline-pumping adventure sports to ancient monuments, and so much in between – Perthshire has an abundance of riches for you to discover.

Take a peek inside the lives of those who have the privilege to call this place home, at the vibrant communities, rich culture and wealth of opportunities.

And find proof that, whether your business is large or small, traditional or cutting edge, there is no need to be in the big city to be innovative and successful.

So, whether this is your first visit, or you and your family have lived here for generations, we hope we can help you appreciate all that is here.

Enjoy reading the magazine – we know you'll enjoy Perthshire.



16 Chills and thrills



59

Fun for the whole family



8 The land of legends



64 Work, rest and play

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Perth & Kinross Council and its partners. Perth & Kinross Council does not endorse any goods or services advertised, nor any claims or representation made in any advertisement that appears in the magazine and accepts no liability to any person for loss or damage suffered as a consequence of their responding to, or placing reliance upon any claim or representation made in any advertisement. Readers should make appropriate enquiries and satisfy themselves before responding to any such advertisement, or placing reliance upon any such claim or representation. By so responding, or placing reliance, readers accept that they do so at their own risk. Every effort has been made to ensure that content is correct and accurate at time of going to press. On no account may any part of this publication be reproduced without the written permission of the copyholder and publisher, application for which can be made to the Council. Written, designed and produced by Connect Communications (Scotland) Ltd, www.connectcommunications.co.uk Published by Perth & Kinross Council, 2 High Street, Perth PH1 5PH. Copyright Perth & Kinross Council, 2008.





# Tickets for all!

Stagecoach offer a great range of tickets and offers on all of our services. Why not have a fun filled day out and hop on a Stagecoach bus today?

visit [www.stagecoachbus.com/perth](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/perth)  
for more information



*a warm*  
**WELCOME**  
Just what you'd expect from the heart of Scotland



Sir Walter Scott once said: "If an intelligent stranger were asked to describe the most beautiful province in Scotland, it is probable that he would name the County of Perth."

Perthshire and Kinross-shire cover the heart of Scotland. The outstanding natural beauty of the area is incredibly varied, from the peaceful Loch Leven in the south, with its island castle where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned, to the wild beauty of Loch Tummel and Rannoch Moor in the north west. There is a diverse mix of scenery, with the rolling farmland divided by sparkling salmon rivers giving way to the foothills of the Grampians, where ospreys and golden eagles can be seen, and ultimately to snow-capped mountains – home of the ptarmigan and mountain hare.

The Fair City of Perth, once the capital of Scotland, and for centuries Scotland's second city, is an historic town. Here is St John's Kirk, where the confrontation between Jenny Geddes and John Knox sparked the Reformation in Scotland, and here also, across the river, is Scone Palace and Moot Hill where Robert the Bruce was crowned. Around Perth are dotted small market towns and large castles, conservation villages and adventure sports centres, golf courses, magnificent hotels and a network of footpaths and cycle tracks.

Perthshire's unique quality of life attracts a wide range of dynamic entrepreneurs and forward-looking businesses. Food, drink and tourism dominate the economy and complement each other, with the best of Perthshire's produce being served in its hotels and restaurants. The strong economy supports a thriving arts and cultural scene and a host of speciality shops. There are two important theatres – in Pitlochry and Perth itself – museums, art galleries and, of course, Perth's state-of-the-art Concert Hall. This hosts a very varied programme from the best European symphony orchestras to rock and folk concerts.

From Perthshire, Scotland reaches out to the world.

*John Hulbert*

Provost John Hulbert

Picture courtesy of Colneages Hotel

Your Perthshire

“It's every-thing about

Perthshire which makes it so fabulous – the people, the stunning scenery. I suppose it's the quality of the life in Perthshire that's so much better than elsewhere.”

Pat Ayre  
Gallowglass



THIS & THAT

There are more than **3000** listed buildings in Perth and Kinross, of which **18** are castles. Some of them you'll be able to stay in, along with another **170** four and five-star hotels in the area. There are around **40** Munros\* and Corbetts\* within half an hour's drive of Perth, or if you prefer a more horizontal walk, there are also **40** superb golf courses. For an even more leisurely pursuit, you could try your luck salmon fishing on the Tay, where the largest fish caught weighed **64lbs**. What better way to wash that down than with a dram of the national drink from one of the **5** whisky distilleries in the area?

\*A Munro is a mountain that peaks over 3000ft, a Corbett is between 2500ft and 3000ft high.

# 10 THINGS

*you might not have known about Perth and Kinross*

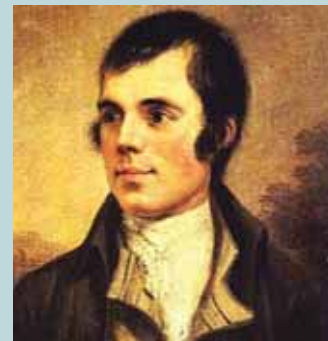
**1** Perth was the first Cittaslow city in Scotland, joining an international network of more than 100 towns and cities that are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Cittaslow cities support local producers, uphold local traditions, protect the environment, conserve historic buildings and artefacts, and encourage everyone to be involved in the life of their community.



**2** At the last census in 2001, Perth and Kinross had a total of just under 136,000 residents, spread out across 3285 square miles. The largest town and administrative centre, Perth, has a population of around 45,000.



**3** Bruar Water, the waterfall near Blair Atholl, inspired Scots poet Robert Burns to scribe *The Humble Petition Of Bruar Water* in 1787 (see below). During the same tour he gave locals the immortal toast: "The grace be – Atholl's honest men, And Atholl's bonnie lasses!"



**4** Nevil Maskelyne used the mountain Schiehallion in 1774 to estimate the mass of the earth. Following the experiment, Schiehallion became the first mountain to be mapped using contour lines.

## The Humble Petition Of Bruar Water *(excerpt)*

Would then my noble  
master please  
To grant my highest wishes,  
He'll shade my banks wi'  
tow'ring trees,  
And bonie spreading bushes.  
Delighted doubly then, my lord,  
You'll wander on my banks,  
And listen mony a grateful bird  
Return you tuneful thanks.

**5** Despite being landlocked, the city of Perth has its own thriving harbour, using the Tay to transport and receive cargos of more than 2000 tonnes at a time. The



Tay is the largest river in the UK with a catchment of approximately 2000 square miles and at more than 120 miles, it's also the longest in Scotland.

**6** The Stone of Destiny, or the Coronation Stone, was historically kept at the now-ruined abbey in Scone, near Perth. It was used for centuries in the coronation of the monarchs of Scotland, the monarchs of England, and, more recently, British monarchs. Long a symbol of Scottish nationhood, it is now on display at Edinburgh Castle.



**7** Rannoch Station, on the edge of one of Europe's last great wildernesses, was used in a scene in Danny Boyle's cult movie *Trainspotting*, starring Ewan McGregor (right).

**8** Ewan McGregor is one of Perthshire's most famous children. Others in the current brood include film and TV star Alan Cumming, golfer Colin Montgomerie, snooker champion Stephen Hendry and comedian Fred MacAulay.



Picture courtesy of SwCP

**9** Local legend states that Fortingall in Perthshire was the birthplace of Pontius Pilate who, according to the canonical Christian Gospels, presided over the trial of Jesus and ordered his crucifixion.

**10** Loch Leven, near Kinross, is an important site for thousands of wading, water and migrating birds. Loch Leven Castle, which is perched on a small island in the water, was where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned in 1567.



# Get paid to save energy. It's the knees.



## And get 100% cleaner hydro electricity too!

Ever wish global warming would buzz off? Us too. Based in Perthshire, we're your local energy supplier and the UK's leader in renewable energy.<sup>1</sup> So we really care about helping the environment, and work hard to do our bit. That's why we came up with a **better plan** to help you go greener – we pay you to save energy!<sup>2</sup>

With **better plan**, we give you great discounts and special offers to help save energy and cut your bills. And we pay you extra **cash credits** when you do. With 100% cleaner, greener hydro electricity at no extra cost<sup>3</sup>, the planet's better off too. Call us today for your **better plan**.

**FREE**  
energy monitor  
worth **£45\***

Save energy. Save money. Help planet. Get paid.

→ 0800 980 0439

→ [www.hydro.co.uk](http://www.hydro.co.uk)

  
better  
plan

Part of the Scottish and Southern Energy Group. <sup>1</sup>Scottish Hydro Electric is part of the Scottish and Southern Energy group which generates the most electricity from renewable sources compared to the other 5 major UK suppliers from year to end March 2007. <sup>2</sup>Get £25 credited to your bill when you reduce your energy use by 20%. Get £15 credited to your bill when you reduce your energy use by 10%. <sup>3</sup>We guarantee that for every unit of electricity used by **better plan** customers we'll put a unit of hydro electricity into the national grid. \*Limited offer, while stocks last. **better plan** is available on a dual fuel or all electric basis (i.e. no main gas / general domestic, economy 7, E10, THTC, superdeal). Prices are based on standard Scottish and Southern Energy rates in all UK regions. **better plan** is not available for some tariff meter types and is only available for UK residential customers (excludes Channel Islands and Northern Ireland). Scottish and Southern Energy reserves the right to withdraw or amend offers at any time. Scottish Hydro Electric is a trading name of the Scottish and Southern Energy Group of which SSE Energy Supply Limited is a member. Registered Office: 55 Vastern Road Reading RG1 8BU. Registered in England & Wales No. 3757502. [www.hydro.co.uk](http://www.hydro.co.uk)

An A-Z of the communities and landscapes that make up Perth and Kinross

# LAND *of* LEGENDS



**Aberfeldy:** The area around Aberfeldy boasts Perthshire's highest mountain, deepest loch, longest glen and unrivalled outdoor recreation. Explore Castle Menzies, St Mary's Church at Grandtully, Dewar's World of Whisky and Loch Tay's unique Scottish Crannog Centre. Or follow in the steps of Robert Burns by taking a walk to see the Birks o' Aberfeldy and the Falls of Moness, which are among the most spectacular and accessible waterfalls in Perthshire.

**Auchterarder:** Known locally as The Lang Toon (thanks to its extended High Street), the quality of its shops make Auchterarder a window shopper's paradise! Nearest town to the world-famous Gleneagles hotel and resort.

**Ben Lawers and Loch Tay:** Perthshire's highest mountain overlooks its largest loch.

**Blair Atholl:** Close to this handsome village is Blair Castle, the magnificent seat of the Dukes of Atholl where 32 rooms are open to the public.



**Blairgowrie:** Once a centre for growing flax, nowadays Blairgowrie is the focus of the Perthshire soft fruit growing industry. It is the main start point for the 60-mile circular Cateran Trail that walkers can follow around the historic drove roads used by brigands and cattle rustlers.



Blairgowrie also acts as a gateway to Glenshee that caters for year-round sports including skiing, golfing, mountain biking, abseiling, hang-gliding and paragliding. Close by, the village of Meikleour boasts the Meikleour Beech Hedge, which was planted in 1746 and at 30 metres tall, is officially recognised as the tallest hedge in the world.

**Comrie:** Comrie is a past winner in the Britain in Bloom campaign, and lies on the Highland Boundary Fault. If you are looking for something a little less ordinary, you should visit Britain's first seismological station at Earthquake House, which was built in 1874.

**Crieff:** Enjoy a taste of fine malt whisky at Glenturret, Scotland's oldest distillery, or take a fascinating stroll around Scotland's oldest lending library at Innerpefferay. In the Battle of Flodden (1513), between the Scots and English, Crieff was devastated by the loss of many local lairds and their followers.

**Dunkeld:** A cathedral town that was proclaimed the first ecclesiastical capital of Scotland by the country's first king, Kenneth MacAlpin. Stroll along the banks of the River Tay (Scotland's longest river) and cross Thomas Telford's Bridge, which leads to the



village of Birnam. See the Beatrix Potter Garden and Exhibition, and walk to the Birnam Oak, a fragment of ancient forest described in Shakespeare's Macbeth.

**Fortingall:** Home to a 5000-year-old yew tree that's believed to be Europe's oldest living thing.

**Fowlis Wester:** Once the centre of the Scottish weaving industry. The village is dominated by the 13th century Church of St Bean's. There has been a church on this site for well over 1000 years.

## Your Perthshire



Perthshire is beautiful scenically with lots of outdoor activities from hillwalking to other walking to kayaking and sailing and skiing and everything you could possibly want. The key to it is an identifiable Highland culture. Yet you can jump on a train and be in Edinburgh in an hour and 20 minutes. It's at the heart of things."



Hamish Moore

Bagpiper and pipe maker



**Kenmore:** Home to the Scottish Crannog Centre. Thought to date from before 2000 BC, crannogs were built by dropping stones by boat to the floor of the loch and driving piles and posts to support horizontal beams. The biggest “crannog island” that can be seen today was the burial place of Queen Sybilla, wife of Alexander I, King of Scotland.



**Kinloch Rannoch:** Dominated by Schiehallion, one of Scotland’s best-known and most popular mountains and close to Rannoch Station. From here, the West Highland Railway Line crosses one of Europe’s last remaining wildernesses – Rannoch Moor.

**Kinross:** One of the town’s most unusual features is the steeple standing by the Town House. When a church was designed in 1742 without a steeple, a committee was formed to raise money to have one added. The money was raised but the church was moved, leaving the steeple stranded! Kinross is the nearest town to Scotland’s biggest music festival, T in the Park, held every summer.

**Kirkmichael:** It’s thought the area has been settled since 200 BC. Although tranquil today, Kirkmichael has played its part in Scotland’s history. Oliver Cromwell’s troops were stationed in the village in 1653 and a battle took place in the churchyard. It was in Kirkmichael that clans sympathetic to the Jacobite cause mustered in 1715 before marching south.

**Meigle:** The village of Meigle has a collection of ancient stones, which represent some of the finest Pictish monuments in Scotland.

**Milnathort:** Lying in the shadow of the Ochil Hills, this village hosts a popular folk festival every spring.

**Perth:** A former capital of Scotland, rich in history with its eyes fixed firmly on the future. The state-of-the-art Concert Hall complements the much-loved Perth Theatre, Museum and Art Gallery. With excellent shopping and a wide variety of eateries, the city was the first in Scotland to join the slow eating movement.

**Pitlochry:** A popular resort for more than 100 years. Famous for its Festival Theatre, salmon ladder and woollens shops, the town is well placed for exploring Perthshire. Learn the secrets of malt whisky at nearby Blair Atholl or see the stems of heather being made into unique

jewellery at Heathergems. To the north is the Pass of Killiecrankie, scene of a famous battle.

**Scone Palace:** Now the home of the Earls of Mansfield, the palace is steeped in history. Fifteen hundred years ago, it was the capital of the Pictish kingdom and the centre of the ancient Celtic church. Since then, it has been the seat of parliaments and the crowning place of kings. It housed the Stone of Destiny – the seat on which monarchs were crowned – and was immortalised in Shakespeare’s Macbeth.



## GETTING AROUND

Here are the distances from Perth to some of the main towns around the county and beyond:

Aberdeen	87 miles
Aberfeldy	32 miles
Auchterarder	14 miles
Blair Atholl	34 miles
Blairgowrie	16 miles
Crieff	18 miles
Dundee	26 miles
Dunkeld	14 miles
Edinburgh	43 miles
Fortingall	40 miles
Glasgow	62 miles
Inverness	113 miles
Kinloch Rannoch	51 miles
Kinross	17 miles
Milnathort	16 miles
Pitlochry	27 miles
Stirling	37 miles

**Queen’s View:** The vantage point at Queen’s View, reputed to be a favourite spot of Queen Victoria, gives a spectacular and world-famous outlook over Loch Tummel towards Glencoe.

**Wade’s Bridge:** Designed by William Adam, Wade’s bridge was built in 1733 and still carries traffic near Aberfeldy today. The bridge was named after General Wade, who was appointed by the British government to oversee the building of roads and bridges linking army garrisons across the highlands in the wake of the Jacobite rebellion of 1715. ■



Map courtesy of VisitScotland

# GETTING AROUND

## in Perthshire

Travelling around the region is easy thanks to an extensive public transport network that includes bus, train and park and ride facilities. Here is a whistle-stop guide to the region's public transport facilities:

### Train travel

There are seven stations in Perthshire that transport travellers throughout the region, Scotland and beyond.

Some of the journeys will take your breath away. Few stations are renowned for their beauty, but a trip to Rannoch Station, on the picturesque West Highland Railway line, is a must. Business travellers can take a direct service to Perthshire from major cities, while there is also a sleeper service for those who want to take a more leisurely trip and still arrive in time for breakfast.

### Bus travel

Regular buses ferry passengers to all corners of Perth and Kinross.

There is a range of ticketing options, from special day rover passes and multi-journey tickets for tourists to commuter cards for regular public transport users. For example, Stagecoach Perth sells Megarider tickets giving unlimited travel on Stagecoach Perth buses for a week.

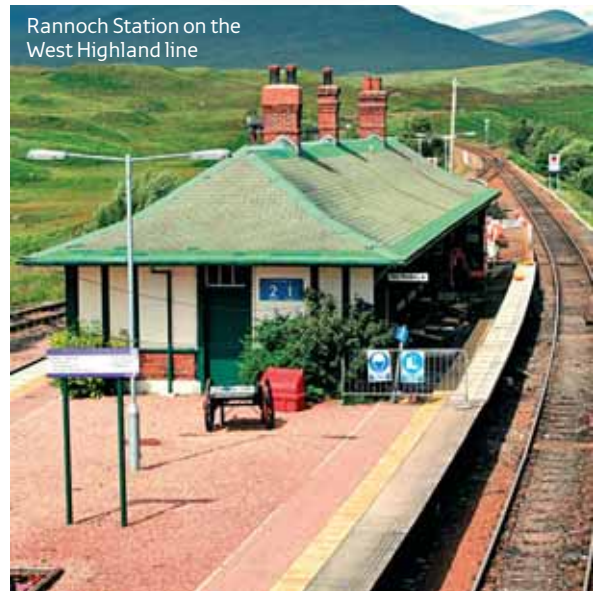
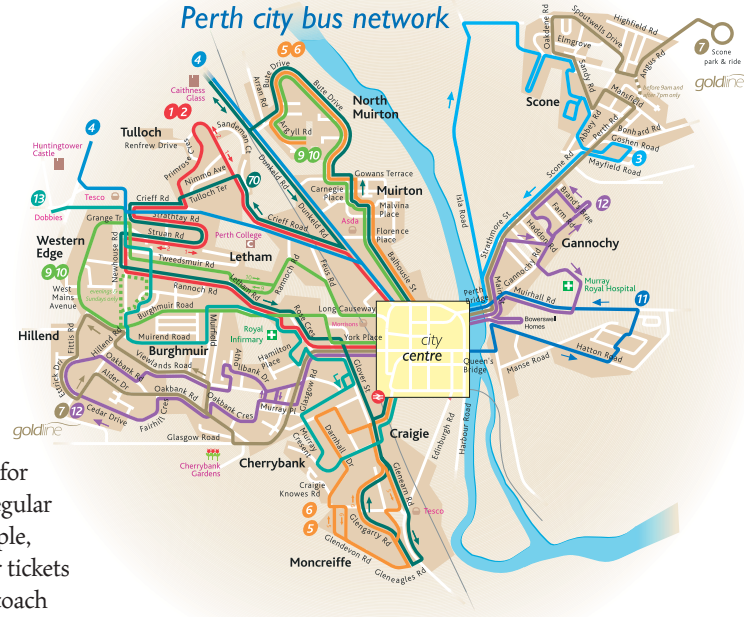
For those wishing to go further, Scottish Citylink and National Express operate coaches in and out of Perthshire to every major city and town in Britain.

### Park and ride

Parking the car and travelling to your destination on the bus is a popular option in Perthshire. There are three park and ride sites to choose from; the Scone and Perth Park sites provide easy access to Perth city centre, while Kinross offers a service to Edinburgh as well as some local routes.

### More information

The Council provides full information on public transport facilities on its website [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)



**CND** Inspiring adventures since 1984

The Biggest Selection of **Quality Walking Holidays** in Scotland  
 Guided, Independent and 'Just for You' holidays, departing all year round from Central Scotland. Choose from:

- Highlands and Islands
- Classic Mountains
- Long Distance Trails
- Wild Exploring
- Plus Outdoor Skills and Leader Courses

Come and share our passion  
**01786 445 703**  
[www.cndoscotland.com](http://www.cndoscotland.com)  
 CND Scotland Ltd. 33 St.E.P., Stirling, FK7 7RP

**Crieff & Comrie (Strathearn) Outdoor Youth Parties**  
 Biking - Bushcraft - Hiking

Fly Fishing Bushcraft  
 Hiking Mountain Biking

Try something Alternative for your Stag or Hen Party

**Eco Parties**  
 Bushcraft and Woodland Skills

**Adventure Hikes**  
 (Hike + Bushcraft)

**Hike How You Like**  
 Short, long, steep, flat, Munros.  
 Training for a Charity Walk

**Do it Outdoors**  
[www.doitoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.doitoutdoors.co.uk)  
 Mob 07973802620

# Heart & soul OF MY WORLD

Situated in the very heart of Scotland, Perthshire has all the ingredients for everything you would expect from a fantastic Scottish holiday. Just a little over an hour by road or rail from Glasgow or Edinburgh, Perthshire provides an idyllic break from the norm.

Perthshire is a great location for a short break or holiday – but perhaps I'm a little biased! On my own travels of Perthshire I never cease to be amazed by the range of attractions, things to see and do and places to explore in an area that has so much to offer.

Perthshire is one of Europe's finest adventure playgrounds. As well as the traditional activities of walking, cycling, angling and golf, Perthshire also boasts an unrivalled range of unique outdoor experiences, more than 35 in total. Why not try your hand at sphereing (far right), an activity unique to the area, revitalise the senses with a cliff jump and a spot of canyoning or get closer to nature with a Highland Adventure Safari?

Those looking for a slightly more relaxed time won't be disappointed either. Famous the world over for its superb natural environment and outstanding tree and woodland heritage, Perthshire is known as Big Tree Country. The landscape boasts some of Europe's most remarkable trees and woodlands with spectacular seasonal colour changes. Throw in the fact that most of the local woods, forests and county gardens are free of charge and you're really on a winner to finding some of the best outdoor spots in the country.

One of the many things that makes Perth and Kinross such a fantastic place to visit is the tremendous variety of events on offer throughout the area every month of the year. Regular highlights include the Perth Festival of the Arts, the Scottish Game Fair, Perth Show, the Blair Castle International Horse Trials and Country Fair and, of course, Scotland's largest music festival, T in the Park at Balado, Kinross.

Highlights for the year include Perthshire



Vicki Miller



#### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

To begin to discover the range of activities to keep all ages and abilities amused, browse VisitScotland's website dedicated to Perthshire:  
[www.perthshire.co.uk](http://www.perthshire.co.uk)  
 e-mail: [perth@visitscotland.com](mailto:perth@visitscotland.com)  
 Phone: 0845 225 5121  
 (+44 (0) 1506 832 121 if outside UK)

Archaeology Month, the Johnnie Walker (golf) Championship at Gleneagles and the Colin McRae Forest Stages Rally, all confirming Perthshire as a major events destination.

After such fun-packed days, what better way to unwind and finish the day than with a leisurely meal? From pub grub to some of Scotland's finest dining experiences, Perthshire has a tremendous range of opportunities for

“I never cease to be amazed by the range of attractions, things to see and do and places to explore in an area that has so much to offer”

eating out and the emphasis here is very much on fresh local produce.

Away from the leisure market, our popularity with major corporations, political parties and scientific conventions, not to mention the hosting of the G8 Summit in 2005, stands testament to the professionalism of services and conference venues. This, paired with the outstanding quality of our hotel accommodation, puts Perthshire high on the agenda in the conference sector.

Whatever the reason for a trip to Perthshire, be it business or pleasure, the area really does have it all, making it a “must visit” and most definitely a “must return” destination. ■

Vicki Miller

Head of local marketing, VisitScotland



The range of activities make Perthshire an adventure hotspot

Whatever the weather, there's always loads to do...

# NEVER *a* DULL MOMENT

Whether you're interested in world-class piping or feats of strength, Perth and Kinross has more than 700 local, national and international events every year and we've picked out a few of the highlights.

For more details please visit the corresponding websites, or call the number if listed.

For events in 2009 and beyond, visit [www.perthshire.co.uk](http://www.perthshire.co.uk)

## FEBRUARY

### *Scottish Snowdrop Festival*

Taking place in gardens and woodlands across Perthshire over February and March. [www.perthshire.co.uk](http://www.perthshire.co.uk)

## MARCH

### *Niel Gow Festival*

Celebrates the life and music of Perthshire's fiddle legend. [www.musicinscotland.com](http://www.musicinscotland.com)

## APRIL

### *Annual Celtic Food and Drink Festival*

Sample some of Perthshire's finest plus many other activities at the Scottish Crannog Centre. **Tel 01887 830583, [info@crannog.co.uk](mailto:info@crannog.co.uk)** [www.crannog.co.uk](http://www.crannog.co.uk)

### *Glenfarg Folk Feast*

This family event sees concerts, ceilidhs, song competitions and legendary singarounds. **Tel 01577 830370, [www.glenfargfolkclub.co.uk](http://www.glenfargfolkclub.co.uk)**

### *Perth Racing Festival*

An early highlight of the racing season. [www.perth-races.co.uk](http://www.perth-races.co.uk)

## MAY

### *Scottish Open Volleyball Tournament*

The largest volleyball event in the UK at the Bell's Sports Centre, Perth, held on the last weekend of May. **Tel 01738 622301, [info@sovt.info](mailto:info@sovt.info)** [www.sovt.info](http://www.sovt.info)

### *Central Scotland Horse Trials at Scone Palace*

**Tel 07778 928115, [jamesoakden05@aol.com](mailto:jamesoakden05@aol.com), [www.centralscotlandhorsetrials.co.uk](http://www.centralscotlandhorsetrials.co.uk)**

### *Etape Caledonia*

Britain's first closed road cycle race open to the general public. It offers the ordinary cyclists closed roads to cycle on in safety. [www.etapecaledonia.co.uk](http://www.etapecaledonia.co.uk)

### *Perth Festival*

Once again set to thrill music and arts lovers at Perth Concert Hall and St John's Kirk.

**Perth Festival Box Office 0845 612 6330, [artsfestival@perth.org.uk](mailto:artsfestival@perth.org.uk)** [www.perthfestival.co.uk](http://www.perthfestival.co.uk)

### *Highland Games*

The Atholl Gathering is the first Highland Games of each year in Scotland, held on the last Sunday in May at Blair Atholl.

**Throughout the summer, many communities hold Highland games. For a sample, turn to pages 14 and 15**

## JUNE

### *Pitlochry Golf Week*

Various competitions mixed with tuition and evening entertainment.

**Tel 01796 472862, [pro@pitlochrygolf.co.uk](mailto:pro@pitlochrygolf.co.uk)** [www.pitlochrygolf.co.uk](http://www.pitlochrygolf.co.uk)

### *Perthshire Archaeology Month*

Guidance on the best archaeological sites in the area through guided walks, excavations, exhibitions and talks.

**Tel 01738 477081, [DLStrachan@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:DLStrachan@pkc.gov.uk)** [www.perthshire.co.uk/archaeology](http://www.perthshire.co.uk/archaeology)

### *Summer Solstice Live Music and Real Ale Festival*

Melodic sundown in Iron Age setting of Scottish Crannog Centre.

**Tel 01887 830583, [info@crannog.co.uk](mailto:info@crannog.co.uk)** [www.crannog.co.uk](http://www.crannog.co.uk)

### *Perth Gold Cup*

The busiest and most valuable day in the racing calendar.

**Tel 01738 551597 [www.perth-races.co.uk](http://www.perth-races.co.uk)**

## Your Perthshire



"You've got room to breathe and it's much nicer to drive on the roads here. It's a really beautiful place and the people are super."

Anne Edgar



JULY

*The Gleneagles Scottish PGA Championship*

The flagship competition of the PGA Scottish Region's schedule.

Tel 0800 704 705,  
resort.sales@gleneagles.com  
www.gleneagles.com

*The Great Kindrochit Quadrathlon*

One-day event including 1.35km swim in Loch Tay, 24km run over seven Munros, 11km canoe and 54km cycle.

Tel 01567 820409,  
david@eventsandactivities.co.uk  
www.eventsandactivities.co.uk

*Scottish Game Fair, Scone Palace*

The Game Conservancy Fair is regarded as one of the main countryside events of the year.

Tel 01828 650639,  
www.scottishfair.com

*T in the Park*

Scotland's biggest outdoor music festival, featuring more than 170 artists playing across 11 stages at Balado, near Kinross.

www.tinthepark.com

AUGUST

*Festival of Orchids*

Includes displays at Scone Palace from six of the UK's top orchid nurseries.

Tel 01738 552300, visits@scone-palace.co.uk, www.scone-palace.co.uk

*Johnnie Walker (Golf) Championship at Gleneagles*

Tel 01764 694360,  
resort.sales@gleneagles.com  
www.johnniewalkerchampionship.com

*Perth Show*

The annual agricultural show features trade stands, craft and food fair, competitions with exhibitions and a rare breeds tent.

Tel 01738 623780,  
secretary@perthshow.co.uk  
www.perthshow.co.uk

*Blair Horse Trials*

Taking place in the grounds of Blair Castle, this annual three-day event tests the all-round ability of horse and rider.

www.blairhorsetrials.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

*Doors Open Day*

The annual chance to see inside historic and other interesting buildings not normally open, including Atholl Palace and Glenalmond College.

Tel 0141 221 1466,  
dod@scottishcivictrust.org.uk

*Colin McRae Rally*

The final round in the Championship is based in Aberfeldy and covers some of British rallying's most famous forest stages.  
www.coltnesscarclub.co.uk

OCTOBER

*Enchanted Forest in Faskally Wood*

This spectacular journey of light and sound has increased in popularity over recent years.

www.enchantedforest.org.uk

*Blairgowrie and East Perthshire Walking Festival*

More walks added to the busy schedule this year from easy riverside walks to Munro-bagging events. Guided night walks included for the first time.

Tel 01828 640763,  
www.walkingfestival.org

*Annual Crieff and Strathearn Drovers' Tryst*

This event celebrates the life, work and play of the people who made Crieff the crossroads of Scotland in the 1700s.

Tel 01764 652578,  
www.droverstryst.co.uk

*Glenfiddich Piping Championships*

At Blair Castle, Blair Atholl.

Tel 01698 573 536,  
liz.maxwell@wgrant.com

*Celtic Samhain Festival*

Celebrate the ancient Celtic Hallowe'en festival at the Scottish Crannog Centre, Loch Tay, Kenmore.

Tel 01887 830583, www.crannog.co.uk

*Perthshire Amber Festival*

This festival is a celebration of the history, culture and musical heritage of the area and has become a major event in the calendar.

www.perthshireamber.com



T in the Park is Scotland's biggest music festival

NOVEMBER

*Galloway Antiques Fair*

Nationally known antiques and fine art dealers displaying a wide variety of items for sale.

Tel 01423 522122,  
www.gallowayfairs.co.uk

*Wild Harvest Food and Drink Fair*

Features hot cordials, Scottish wines, spit-roast beast, clay baked fish, and more.

Tel 01887 830583, www.crannog.co.uk

*Christmas Craft Market*

Thirty stalls selling local crafts – ideal for Christmas presents or as a treat for yourself!

www.perthcity.co.uk

DECEMBER

*Christmas Weekend*

A festive music programme provides the perfect backdrop for shopping in the gift and food shops and visiting Santa in his grotto at Scone Palace.

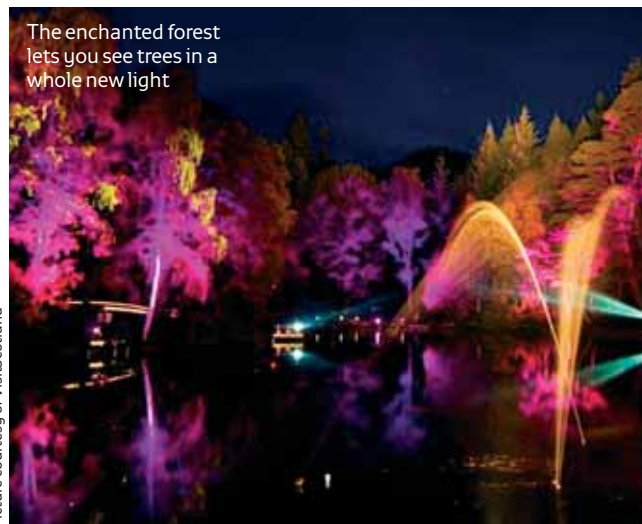
Tel 01738 552300  
www.theoriginalwindows.com

*Hogmanay Flambeaux Procession*

The Flambeaux is an ancient torchlight procession originally performed to drive evil spirits from the village of Comrie.

crieff@visitscotland.com

There are opportunities to see rare and migrating birds at Loch Leven Nature Reserve



The enchanted forest lets you see trees in a whole new light

Picture courtesy of VisitScotland



Picture courtesy of RSPB



Get out of  
the way!



# A Highland FLING

Highland Games are a familiar and popular part of Scots culture for residents and visitors

A great day out, a great place to socialise and meet your friends and an entertaining spectacle – all are true of Highland Games.

Perthshire offers a regular helping of Highland Games through the summer. Picturesque venues and family fun are all part of the attraction, according to Jean Swanston of the Perthshire Highland Games Association (PHGA), the umbrella organisation for all the different games in the area.

She said: “Every Highland Games event

you go to is different – they all have some elements in common, such as the piping, the Highland dancing and the heavyweight events, but the variety of events will vary.

“Some games make a bigger feature of the pipe bands or the track events, while at others the heavyweight athletes are the main attraction. The venues too are all different – from small arenas by the river to venues with a castle as the back drop.

“The games are a great family day out.”

The PHGA leagues run for the duration of

## PERTSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION



Formed in 2003 to support and assist the organisation and promotion of Highland Games in Perthshire and the surrounding areas.

We are proud to support Fifteen Highland Games covering the length and breadth of Perthshire in the heart of Scotland.

Leagues in the Heavy events and Highland Dancing run from May to September.

The Junior Piping league is 'in the pipeline'

For further information please visit:  
[www.perthshirehighlandgames.co.uk](http://www.perthshirehighlandgames.co.uk)

Contacts: Chairman: Stevie Ryder on 01764 654798  
Secretary: George Nicoll on 01764 653805  
Treasurer: Jean Swanston on 01796482376



**Miller Hendry**  
Solicitors and Estate Agents

**Sponsors of the  
Perthshire Heavyweights  
Championship League**

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

## CRIEFF HIGHLAND GAMES

Sunday, 17 August 2008, 10.30am - 5.30pm, Market Park, Crieff  
£6.00 for Adults; £3.00 for children

MAIN SPONSOR - O2

Main event is the Scottish Heavyweight Championship, but don't miss track and field events along with highland dancing, tug-o-war, solo piping and pipe band contest.

Website: [www.crieff-highland-games.co.uk](http://www.crieff-highland-games.co.uk)

Contact name: Andrew Rettie

Telephone: 01738 627782. E-mail: [andrew@highlandgames.org.uk](mailto:andrew@highlandgames.org.uk)

the games season. There are leagues confined to Perthshire competitors in the heavyweight events and Highland dancing, and a junior piping league is in the planning stage.

The Association runs training days in the winter so athletes can prepare for the heavyweight events under the tutelage of world champions. The coaching days and the heavyweight league are sponsored by Miller Hendry, Tayside Solicitors and Estate Agents.

The social aspect to the Games is something else Jean is keen to promote.

“You meet a lot of people and make friends through going along to the Highland Games. We’re farmers so going to the games is our ‘holiday’.

“I’ve been involved for more than 50 years and I met my husband through the Highland Games – that’s actually quite common. A lot of people meet their partners through the games.”

Native New Zealander and heavyweight athlete Pete Hart originally came to Scotland to play rugby.

## HIGHLAND GAMES THROUGH THE AGES



- Highland Games are said to date back to the reign of King Malcolm III in the 11th century.
- Highland dancing was traditionally done by men only, but the first woman, Jenny Douglas, entered the competition in the 19th century and the majority of dancers nowadays are female.
- Highland Games were a way for Scots men to practise their fighting skills when they were forbidden to carry arms during times of English occupation and following the Jacobite wars of the 18th century.

Over the years he took part in tug o’ war competitions, but never particularly enjoyed it. Watching the heavyweight athletes, however, was something else. He reckoned he would toss a caber, tried it and was hooked. He came top of the Perthshire Highland Games Heavyweight league for the in 2006 and 2007, the same year he was ranked 5th in the Glenfiddich Scottish open league.

“I’ve taken part in every Perthshire Highland Games since 2003,” said Pete.

“You meet some fantastic people and I enjoy beating them!

“Heavyweight events are very technical and I’ve benefited in recent years through coaching by the world record holder Bruce Aitken.

“We get a lot of support and help from our sponsors Miller Hendry and I’d also like to thank my lovely wife and two sons for their backing.” ■

To find out more about the Perthshire Highland Games Association, visit the website: [www.perthshirehighlandgames.co.uk](http://www.perthshirehighlandgames.co.uk)

### PITLOCHRY HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday, 13 September 2008, 11am - 5pm, Recreation Park, Pitlochry  
 Confined events 11am - 12noon approx. Open events after the Confined  
 Adults £5.00. Children: £1.00

With dancing, heavy events,  
 tug o’ war, cycling, running and piping.  
 Features the Massed Pipe Band Finale.

Website: [www.pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk](http://www.pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk)

Contact name: John Robertson (competitors); June Templeman (general information)  
 Telephone: 01796 482376 (competitors) or 01796 473488 (General information)  
 E-mail: [jrlogierait@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:jrlogierait@ukonline.co.uk) or [secretary@pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk](mailto:secretary@pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk)

### ATHOLL & BREADALBANE AGRICULTURAL SHOW & HIGHLAND GATHERING

Saturday, 9 August 2008, Wade’s Park, Aberfeldy  
 Admission: £5.00

- Agricultural Show from 9.30am onwards
- Confined Highland Dancing begins 11am • Confined Heavy events 12.30pm
- Gathering including Open Highland Dancing 1.00pm

Clan Menzies Gathering; horse & pony classes; cattle, sheep and Clydesdale horses; Confined & Open heavyweight events; carrying of the Manhood Stone of the Clan Menzies; Piping; Confined & Open Premier Highland Dancing; Weem Hill Race and more.

Contact name: John Robertson, Jean Swanston  
 Telephone: 01796 482376 or 01887 820666 (General information)  
 E-mail: [jrlogierait@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:jrlogierait@ukonline.co.uk)

### STRATHARDLE HIGHLAND GAMES & AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Saturday, 23 August 2008, Bannerfield, Kirkmichael  
 Local events 10.30am to 12 noon; Open Events 1pm to 5.30pm  
 Adults: £5 Senior Citizens & Children: £2 Families (2+2): £10

Traditional and very friendly Gathering featuring Heavyweight, highland dancing and Piping competitions, children’s races, pillow fight and one of Perthshire’s largest shows of farm stock. There is also a Home Industries Tent

Website: [www.strathardle.org](http://www.strathardle.org)

Contact name: Pete Hart  
 Telephone: 01575 582248. Mobile: 07719 295837. E-mail: [hartjoinery@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hartjoinery@tiscali.co.uk)

### BALQUHIDDER, LOCHEARNHEAD & STRATHYRE HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday, 19 July 2008, 12pm - 5pm, The Games Park, Lochearnhead  
 Adults: £5.00. Children & Concessions: £3.00 (inc parking)

A traditional Highland  
 Gathering with field, track and  
 novelty events.

Website: [www.lochearnheadhighlandgames.co.uk](http://www.lochearnheadhighlandgames.co.uk)

Contact name: Angus Cameron  
 Telephone: 01567 830268. E-mail: [gus.dundhu@btinternet.com](mailto:gus.dundhu@btinternet.com)

# ON TOP OF



Whether you're looking for an adrenaline rush or an indulgent pamper, few places offer more ways to help you feel your best



Scotland may be the home of golf and fishing, but Perthshire has carved out a niche for itself as the country's adventure capital. Only an hour's drive from Glasgow and Edinburgh, Perthshire's varied geography makes it an ideal setting for the new wave of adventure sports which are attracting adrenaline junkies from around the world.

Perthshire lies on the Highland Boundary Fault, a geological event which fused the Highlands and Lowlands to provide the area with the mix of terrain which forms the playground for many of the outdoor pursuits, be they on land, water or in the air.

Nae Limits, based at Dunkeld, is one such company that has embraced the concept of providing white knuckle experiences through its

wide range of extreme sports. White water rafting over swirling rapids is popular when rivers are in full spate, but when they are not, Nae Limits introduces groups to the excitement of canyoning along steep-sided eroded river channels, and even cliff jumping. It was also the first to introduce spherieing to Scotland (see over).

Perthshire is home to the rivers Tay and Tummel and these provide great opportunities for all sorts of water sports, including an international kayaking festival.

For those people who like their kicks behind the wheel, Perthshire offers lots of on-road and off-road fun, from racing quad bikes up hills and learning 4x4 driving skills, to enjoying the dramatic scenery and wildlife in mountain safaris.

The mountains are also a draw for keen climbers



# the WORLD



Picture courtesy of VisitScotland

and mountain bikers, and at Glenshee, on the Perthshire-Aberdeenshire border, there is everything for people seeking winter sports such as skiing, snowboarding and ice-climbing over four mountains and three valleys.

If the mountains are not high enough for you, then take to the air in a microlight and you will appreciate a real eagle's eye view of this extraordinary region.

If, however, you are looking for a bit of serious 'me' time, with fluffy towels, sensual oils and a relaxing massage in fabulous surroundings, then Perthshire is the place.

The region not only boasts one of the world's greatest hotels, but a wide selection of salubrious 4 and 5-star country house venues for you to de-stress and enjoy the very latest in pampered spa treatments.

The great thing about staying in hotels with exclusive spas is that everything is on your doorstep. You can just breeze down for a swim, Jacuzzi, sauna or steam treatment, then lie back

## LIKE IT, LIVE IT

*There really is Nae Limit to the adrenaline-pumping adventures. For more information on the range of activities, visit: [www.naelimits.co.uk](http://www.naelimits.co.uk) or call 0845 0178177*



*For an altogether more sedate – but no less satisfying – experience, you could try the Spa at Gleneagles. [www.gleneagles.com](http://www.gleneagles.com), or call 0800 389 3737.*

and enjoy a bit of serious body indulgence – be it massage, aromatherapy, or a full beauty treatment.

It this all seems a bit genteel, you can go for a game of golf, fishing, off-road driving or shooting, though today more and more of us are discovering the benefit of a good massage and manicure!

Here are a few of Perthshire's gems when it comes to state-of-the-art relaxation:

- The Gleneagles Hotel, near Auchterarder, is internationally renowned as one of the world's finest luxury hotels and one of the world's greatest golf resorts.

As you would expect from a 5-star hotel, Gleneagles has luxurious bedrooms and suites, wonderful restaurants and extensive onsite facilities, including indoor and outdoor swimming pools. However, for pure self-indulgence, you should head for the sanctuary of the Gleneagles Spa.

Treatments include Shiseido Qi massage,

*Continued overleaf*



“The region boasts a wide selection of salubrious 4 and 5-star country house venues for you to enjoy the very latest in pampered spa treatments”

*Continued from p17*

which works on acupressure points to ensure that Qi, or energy, can flow smoothly throughout the body, to a wide range of revitalising and relaxing from aromatherapy massages to mud or algae body wraps.

● You can get some more 5-star pampering at the Kinloch House Hotel, near Blairgowrie, set in 25 acres of woodland and parkland.

The 18-bedroom bijou hotel boasts a 35ft indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room, spa bath and fitness room offering aromatherapy and Swedish massage, Reiki healing, reflexology as well as facial treatments.

● Kinnaird House is another Perthshire gem – an 18th-century mansion and a 5-star Relais and Châteaux hotel in a peaceful wooded valley on the banks of the Tay offering a wide range of holistic massage or beauty treatment at its Retreat spa.

● Another luxury hotel on the River Tay is the Hilton Dunkeld House Hotel, where its Living Well health club offers aromatherapy, Swedish, hot stone or head massage, plus facials, waxing, manicures and pedicures.

Perthshire also boasts two original Victorian spa hotels that have been helping people relax for over 150 years.

● The 4-star Atholl Palace Hotel is the epitome of

Scottish baronial splendour, overlooking wooded parkland near the town of Pitlochry.

Originally opened as the Athole Hydropathic in Victorian times, its Lavender Spa has an extensive range of holistic, rejuvenating and anti-ageing treatments to enhance your health and beauty: one involving an relaxing aromatherapy massage using a blend of geranium and rose essential oils then a rose quartz luxury facial to awaken your senses.

● If you want a pampered weekend, but can't find a babysitter, then head to the Crieff Hydro – another original Victorian spa hotel that is popular with families. There's a choice of 213 en-suite bedrooms and lots of leisure and entertainment ideas to keep the kids occupied while you enjoy the pool and beauty treatments available.

● Also in Crieff is the Roundelwood Health Spa at Knock Castle, which is another hotel that offers a peaceful setting for guests to unwind and relax. However, unlike other spas, it offers complete lifestyle packages, designed to help manage and improve a range of health and lifestyle issues through five-day spa breaks.

So, whether it is a bit of simple pampering you need or a serious attempt to ease a health issue, Perthshire has all you need to rest the body and mind. ■

## PICK YOUR PLEASURE: ORB OR EGG?



### It takes all sorts!

There are a wide range of local companies who can provide you with an unusual adrenaline rush. Nae Limits are the first company in the country to launch 'sphering' – known as the human hamster ball experience.

Also known as zorbing or sphereballing, it involves

climbing into a specially constructed cushioned plastic sphere, fixing yourself to a harness and being pushed down a hill!

It's a huge adrenaline rush as you tumble down at great speed before coming to a halt.

You can also share the experience with a 'close' friend

as there are double harnesses in the balls. For the masochists, try aquasphering – basically the same thing, with a couple of buckets of water sloshing around in there alongside you – allegedly the perfect hangover cure!

Two rolls and you'll be addicted, apparently.

### Eggs over easy

A more unusual massage experience, which will appeal to people who are not comfortable about being disrobed, is 'The Egg' – an automated and private massage treatment pod.

Roundelwood Health Spa at Knock Castle in Crieff has installed The Egg to offer a totally private, fuss-free and fully clothed massage.

Simply step in, lie down and press the button to begin. Inside, the lights of The Egg dim to be replaced with a star-studded sky, relaxing music begins to play and aromatherapy oils are gently released into the air.

Simultaneously, gentle vibrations in the bed work up from the feet through the entire body. At the end of the programme the massage eases as the lights come back up and the music fades.

The user then spends a couple of minutes in peaceful relaxation before leaving The Egg.

Scrummy.



## In Style

Run by Anne Alison, a Glasgow trained stylist who set up shop in Auchterarder over 20 years ago.

This is salon with a difference, where you can enjoy spectacular views across the Perthshire countryside while you receive the latest cut or chic colour trend!

**Feus, Auchterarder (north end of High Street).**

**Tel: 01764 663070**

# Back to your ROOTS

An abundance of historical resources dating back centuries means tracing your family tree has never been easier

**T**racing your family history, or genealogy, has become a hugely significant interest for areas with a history like Perthshire.

The advent of the internet has enabled a generation of genealogists to identify ancestors from hundreds of years ago and to establish biological, genetic or distant family links with Perthshire.

Among the reasons for this surge in popularity are the many dedicated genealogical resources throughout the county, including the UK's first genealogy hotel at Dalmunzie.

Perthshire experienced large-scale migration throughout the 18th and 19th centuries as Scots headed for North America, Canada, Australia, South Africa and beyond. Indicative of this fact, it's estimated that today 11 million Americans have some Scottish

ancestry, making them the eighth largest ethnic group in the United States. Events such as Tartan Day celebrate that fact and have led to a huge increase in genealogy research from across the Atlantic.

John Irvine is Deputy Chairman of the Tay Valley Family History Society, a voluntary group promoting the study of family history across Perthshire and beyond.

The Society, a member of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies, has more than 2000 members worldwide. It also publishes family history books and CDs each year.

He has good advice for anyone keen to seek out their long-lost Perthshire cousins: "Before beginning your search it helps to know just what it is you are hoping to find out.

"Prepare a plan. Don't try to



undertake too much work in too short a time as this will result in making mistakes."

According to John, it's best to start your historical research in the here and now: "Almost always it is best to work backwards, starting with information about already


"Try to establish as carefully as possible the basic genealogical facts (date and place of birth/baptism, date and place of marriage, and date and place of death/burial) of as many near relatives as you can."

Perth & Kinross Council, as well as VisitScotland, offers

genealogical services, many of which are free. Perth & Kinross Council can even undertake research on your behalf.

Many of the services available are focused towards the

'Year of Homecoming in 2009', an event aimed at encouraging the global Scottish family to pay the old country a visit. The event coincides with the 250th anniversary of the birth of poet Robert Burns and welcomes everyone with a love of all things Scottish.

 Before beginning your search it helps to know just what it is you are hoping to find out"

identified ancestors. Start by talking with and writing to all your relatives with questions, and do it as soon as possible.

"Ask what documents such as birth certificates, family Bibles, photographs, letters or family papers anyone possesses.

## MAKING THE CONNECTION



Australian Lainie Grugan (left) discovered a Perthshire connection and is following the trail with the help of

Perth & Kinross

Registration Services.

Hailing from Sydney, Lainie's paternal great-grandmother, Elizabeth Mortimer McIntosh, was born on 5 January 1859 in Auchtergaven, Perthshire.

During her research, Lainie

discovered that of the nine children of Alexander and Ellen McIntosh, five migrated to Australia between 1884 and 1896. Her great-grandmother Elizabeth and husband Thomas Irwin arrived in 1884.

Lainie said: "I had already obtained my great-grandparents marriage certificate and knew from that the names of my great-great grandparents - Alexander McIntosh and Ellen Donaldson. On searching the Scotland Census, I discovered Alexander was born in Logierait and christened on 24 May 1824."

His date of death is a mystery as no record exists. With the help of Helen Moist at the Council's Registration Services, Lainie hopes to one day track it down.

She added: "I think Helen is as intrigued as to the mystery of Alexander as I am and has gone back into the records to see if she can find an answer. Unfortunately, she hasn't been able to yet.

"I will be visiting Perthshire and hope to spend some time not only researching but visiting the places that I have uncovered."





The Forthingall Yew, thought to be the oldest living thing in Europe, goes back further than most family trees!

#### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

At the AK Bell Library in Perth, the Local Studies section welcomes you to a wide range of information about the area. You can access maps, photographs, newspapers and specialist journals, as well as books and pamphlets to answer enquiries on particular parishes, villages or buildings.

And at the Registration Office in Perth High Street, the Family History Centre has access to all statutory registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages from 1855 to the present day for the whole of Scotland. They also have digitised images of Census returns from 1841 to 1901 and Old Parish Records in some parishes from 1553.

You can either book a search with the Registrar or a search can be carried out on your behalf. You can also take advantage of the enhanced service which supplies your family history in book format. ■

**PLAN AHEAD:** *Are you looking for a particular relative or just where your name originates from?*

**STARTING A SEARCH:** *Work backwards starting with living relatives or those you know most about.*

**KEEP RECORDS:** *You will find that an extraordinary amount of time can be wasted looking for previously found records.*

**VISIT YOUR ANCESTRAL HOME:** *Some archives that could be vital to your search may not be available online yet. So why not come and see them for yourself? Remember do not rely solely on online sources!*

Mysterious ladies, ghostly fogs, pesky poltergeists and phantom soldiers – just some of the things that go...

## BUMP *in the* NIGHT

Burleigh Castle, a 16th-century ruined tower house, is said to be haunted by “Grey Maggie”, the ghost of Lady Margaret Balfour, while “Green Jean” haunts Newton Castle in Blairgowrie. She is said to be Lady Jean Drummond – who used witchcraft to seduce and marry the local laird, but was taken away by the same witchcraft on her wedding night. She now sings love songs from the tower and can be seen passing through the castle.

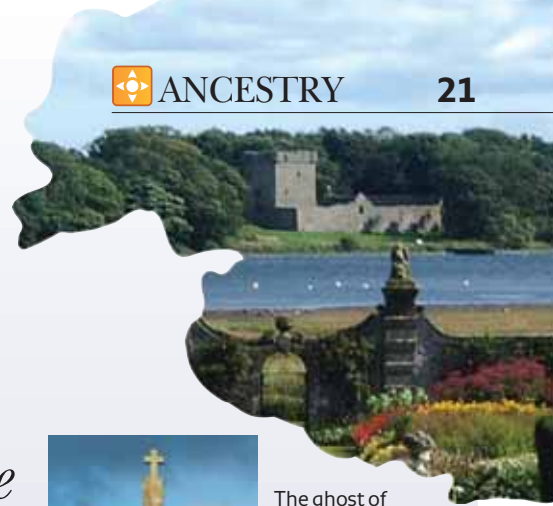
Another ‘green’ lady has been witnessed at Huntingtower Castle, west of Perth. She has been named “My Lady Greensleeves” and, although she is sometimes seen in advance of a death, she is also said to have cured sick people.

Mary, Queen of Scots, visited Huntingtower soon after her marriage to Lord Darnley, but she is reputed to haunt Loch Leven castle near Kinross, where she signed her abdication of the Scottish throne.

While castles would seem the ideal places to haunt, there are other spectres that can be found in and around more humble dwellings.

A ghostly apparition, known as a bogle, has been reported at the crossroads outside Pitlochry by a cyclist. He described it as a column of light forming in the middle of the road that eventually formed tendrils as it chased a father and son that were coming down the road on a hay cart! Apparently people who know of its existence are anxious to avoid it as it is said that if it touches you with its ‘cold white fingers’ you will meet your death shortly afterwards.

Perth had its share of horror, having witnessed acts of murder, witchcraft, cannibalism and plague, including body



The ghost of Mary, Queen of Scots, haunts Loch Leven Castle (above), while in Dunning, this monument to a local witch is beautifully maintained (left). Nobody knows who tends the memorial

snatcher John Larg who was executed in 1817. In the evenings he is resurrected by an actor as a popular tour guide to the horror and history of Perth’s dark past.

For an even more enjoyable brush with the supernatural, head for the Enchanted Forest sound and light show at Faskally Wood in the autumn. It includes another ghost tour and lots of spooky Hallowe’en activities – always a hit with the kids!

Killiecrankie is a popular site for tourists and school visits where the National Trust of Scotland has a visitors’ centre for people to experience the site where William III’s forces attempted to crush a Jacobite rebellion in 1689.

Although the Jacobites were victorious, their leader Viscount John Graham of Claverhouse, also known as Bonnie Dundee, was killed in the battle.

However, it appears the battle still rages on – especially around the anniversary on 27 July. There have been many strange sightings at Killiecrankie: an eerie red glow in the sky above the battlefield and even people seeing soldiers marching into battle. One woman, while picnicking in the area, reported seeing the bodies of English soldiers lying around her feet.

Oh, and the pesky poltergeist? This entity spent 20 years harassing a shop owner in Crieff by pushing items off shelving, opening doors and flicking light switches – but we aren’t telling you which shop. For your own good, of course!

## WHERE TO LOOK

The internet is a good place to begin your research. You can find out the location of public records, get contact numbers or join online discussions with others researching their family histories. Some of these services may involve fees.

Some internet sites of interest:  
[www.perthshire.com/ancestry](http://www.perthshire.com/ancestry)  
[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)  
[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)  
[www.ancestralscotland.com](http://www.ancestralscotland.com)  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/census](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/census)  
[www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)  
[www.perthshireheritage.co.uk](http://www.perthshireheritage.co.uk)



# THE HIGH

Some of the most spectacular plants and wildlife in Europe can be found in Perthshire

**I**n the wild is of course the best place to witness nature and throughout the county there is an abundance of opportunities to do so.

'Scotland's squirrel', the red squirrel, can be seen widely in Perthshire, which is a stronghold for this acrobatic and endangered species.

Likewise red and roe deer can be seen in large numbers nibbling on the moor or moving through woodland areas.

One of the most rarely seen birds of prey, the golden eagle, lives high in the mountains of Perthshire and if you're lucky, and very quiet, you might just see one.

Other rare birds, including the capercaillie and osprey, have small but thriving communities in Perthshire and the osprey in particular has been a huge success for the county. The birds were reintroduced to the area in the 1960s and Loch of the Lowes, near Dunkeld, is one of the best places to view these magnificent fish-eating raptors. The Scottish

Wildlife Trust, which has a visitor centre at Loch of the Lowes, even keeps an online diary of how the birds are doing – such is the interest in these majestic creatures.

Famous the world over for its superb natural environment and outstanding tree and woodland heritage, Perthshire is known as Big Tree Country. Located in the heart of Scotland, its spectacular countryside changes colour from season to season, reaching an autumnal woodland crescendo with blazing red and gold leaves still visible in mid-November.

With an amazing variety of things to do and see, wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers will find plenty of places to cycle or walk along forest tracks, gorges and riverside trails, keeping their eyes and ears peeled for a glimpse of remarkable birds and animals – deer, pine marten and red squirrels, to name just a few. You may even be lucky enough to spot a rare osprey nesting among the top branches of the tallest evergreens.

Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust has been

Ospreys and red deer are two majestic creatures breeding in the area



## OH, SO VANE!

Nature lovers can enjoy a great day out at the Vane Farm Loch Leven visitor centre near Kinross. The centre gives wonderful views over the nearby Loch Leven national nature reserve – home to the largest concentration of



breeding ducks found in the UK. There are three viewing hides, which offer close up access to the wildlife. As well as ducks, geese, ospreys, swans, lapwings, oystercatchers, snipes, ringed plovers and common sandpipers use the water. Check the skies for buzzards, marsh harriers, white-tailed sea eagles, sparrowhawks, kestrels and peregrine falcons.

Vane Farm Loch Leven visitor centre is open from 10am to 5pm every day, and the trails and hides are open 24 hours a day throughout the year.

# and MIGHTY



Perthshire's notable wildlife species include red squirrel, red deer, roe deer, pine marten, capercaillie, mountain hare, golden eagle, osprey, wild Atlantic salmon and puffins.

improving paths and bridges to ensure people of all abilities are able to enjoy the stunning countryside.

Through the Big Tree Country Heritage & Access Project, 25 woodland sites have benefited from upgrading and enhancement including the Falls of Bruar, the Birks of Aberfeldy and Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park.

Working with Perth & Kinross Council's Ranger Service, the Trust is helping to encourage locals and visitors alike to enjoy the green spaces in and around the region.

The Countryside Ranger Service in Perth and Kinross is responsible for protecting, promoting and preserving the scenery and natural heritage.

The team of seven Countryside Rangers are based at Blairgowrie, Aberfeldy, Crieff and Perth and cover East Perthshire, Highland Perthshire, Strathearn, Crieff and Comrie, and the Perth, Carse and Kinross-shire areas.

Niall Lobley is a senior ranger and he says that

*Continued overleaf*

## ACCESS ALL AREAS?

### A guide to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 established a statutory right of responsible access to land and inland waters in Scotland for outdoor recreation, crossing land, and some educational and commercial purposes.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code gives detailed guidance on your responsibilities when exercising access rights and if you are managing land and water.

The three key principles for responsible access apply to both the public and land managers:

- Respect the interests of other people: be considerate, respect privacy and livelihoods,

and the needs of those enjoying the outdoors.

- Care for the environment: look after the places you visit and enjoy. Care for wildlife and historic sites.

- Take responsibility for your actions: the outdoors cannot be made risk-free for people exercising their access rights; land managers should act with care for people's safety.

To order your personal copy of the Code, phone 01738 458545, email [pubs@snh.gov.uk](mailto:pubs@snh.gov.uk) or visit [www.outdoor-access-scotland.com](http://www.outdoor-access-scotland.com)

Continued from p23

visitors to Perth and Kinross will experience a wonderful natural experience.

He said: “This is an area of outstanding natural beauty and it’s our job to provide the day-to-day management of a variety of sites, paths and outdoor areas around the county. We also have a wider interest in access and rights of way in parts not directly controlled by the Council.

“Our job is essentially about the promotion of

## “Perthshire’s known as the Big Tree Country and it’s famous for a number of iconic woodland areas”

being outdoors so we are always on hand to encourage visitors and provide facilities for them to get out there and enjoy it.

“We try to inform people a little bit about the natural environment so that they can understand what they are seeing.

“Perthshire is famous for a number of iconic woodland areas such as Crieff Woods, with its very high diversity of lichens, and it’s also noted for snowdrops and, of course, bluebells.

“There are also many sites around the county that have been designated of special scientific, geological or conservation interest. So there is a lot to be enjoyed in the outdoors across the whole county,” said Niall. ■



Perthshire is a stronghold for the native red squirrel

### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

Find out more about the work of the Trust and discover the range of guided walks and events led by the Rangers by visiting:  
[www.perthshirebigtreecountry.co.uk](http://www.perthshirebigtreecountry.co.uk) or  
[www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)



To contact the Perth and Kinross Countryside Ranger Service, phone 01738 475349 or email [countryside@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@pkc.gov.uk)

For more information, visit:  
[www.perthshire.co.uk](http://www.perthshire.co.uk), or  
[www.swt.org.uk](http://www.swt.org.uk)

## BEN LAWERS: A ‘BOTANICAL MECCA’

### Blooming marvellous

Ben Lawers, in the Breadalbane Mountain Range of Highland Perthshire, is renowned for its outstanding flora. The alpine calcareous grasslands, treeline woods and rocky slopes support a diverse range of flowering plants, lichens and bryophytes.

Operated by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), Ben Lawers is described as a botanical Mecca by Plantlife International (Scotland), which has identified the mountain and the surrounding hills as one of the most outstanding plant sites in the UK.

NTS works in collaboration with Scottish Natural Heritage on a number of conservation projects at Ben Lawers aimed at ensuring the long-term survival of the native species of plant and animal and their habitats.

Among the rare plants to be found are the Alpine forget-me-not (*Myosotis alpestris*), Perthshire’s county flower the Alpine gentian (*Gentiana nivalis*), mountain sandwort (*Minuartia rubella*), and Alpine meadow-grass (*Poa alpina*).



Dr Deborah Long is Conservation Officer for Plantlife Scotland, a UK charity working to protect wild plants and their habitats.

She said: “Plantlife Scotland has been championing plant conservation since 1989 and is involved in campaigning, promoting and protecting Scotland’s threatened wild plants.

“We’ve been involved in a number of initiatives in Perthshire, including our County Flower competition and the listing of Ben Lawers as an Important Plant Area.

“The county flower – Alpine Gentian (*Gentiana nivalis*), the sweet ‘gentian of the snows’ – is among the botanical gems of Ben Lawers. It can be found on rock ledges and its blue petals only come out in sunlight between July and September.”

Plantlife Scotland is always looking for volunteers interested in plant conservation in Perthshire and beyond to monitor both rare and common plants and their habitats.

If you would like to get involved then please contact:

**Plantlife Scotland**  
**Balallan House**  
**Allan Park**  
**Stirling FK8 2QG**  
**Tel 01786 479382**  
**[Scotland@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:Scotland@plantlife.org.uk)**  
**[www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)**



# OFF *the* BEATEN TRACKS

## Safari so goody

Now you can go on safari in Perthshire – and help clean up the environment at the same time

Highland Adventure Safaris, based near Aberfeldy, won the 2007 Best Business in Perthshire award for its 4 x 4 Highland safaris and off-road experiences.

Armed with cameras and binoculars, you can choose from a range of mountain and forest safaris, and marvel at the amazing scenery where, if you're lucky, you could catch sight of magnificent red deer, grouse, pine marten or the most elusive mountain hare.



While the 4 x 4 vehicles do use fossil fuel, you can offset the carbon emissions of your safari experience by choosing to plant a tree at nearby Cashel Forest.



Highland Adventure Safaris also provides activities for corporate days out, team-building challenges, stag and hen parties, birthdays, anniversaries and weddings, including sumptuous catering in a marquee set high in the grandeur of the Perthshire hills. What could be nicer?



## Open Road Hire

Where the motorway ends and the fun begins

Now you can enjoy the thrill of driving a sports car in the country that is made for the experience.

Open Road Hire, based in Perth, offers the chance to drive a Caterham Seven – the cheeky little car with the big reputation.

When Lotus ceased production of the legendary Seven in 1973, main agents Caterham Cars took over production and have continued to develop and improve the car for both track and road use.

But despite appearances, this is no 'old classic', but a thoroughly modern sports car which continues to set the standard for performance, handling and comfort.

Perth and the surrounding area is a popular visitor destination for activity breaks in the great outdoors. Not only are there quiet roads throughout Perthshire, with magnificent scenery for you to enjoy, but your adventure on wheels will take you to a wide range of visitor attractions and outdoor activities with accommodation always available just around the next bend.

### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

For details on any Highland Safari, contact Highland Adventure Safari at: [www.highlandoffroad.com](http://www.highlandoffroad.com)



To hire a sports car, visit the Open Road Hire website: [www.openroadhire.co.uk](http://www.openroadhire.co.uk)



# RAISING

Just why are critics gushing that

## LIKE IT, LIVE IT

*To begin to discover the range of activities to keep all ages and abilities amused, browse VisitScotland's website dedicated to Perthshire:*  
[www.perthshire.co.uk](http://www.perthshire.co.uk),  
 e-mail: [info@visit-scotland.com](mailto:info@visit-scotland.com)  
 Tel: 0845 225 5121  
 (+44 (0) 1506 832 121 if outside UK)

“We programme unique performances that can't be seen anywhere else”

**E**wan McGregor, Colin McReadie, Jason Connery, the late Gordon Jackson and James McAvoy all began treading the boards at Perth Theatre. Their talent was nourished and encouraged before they all went on to fantastic things.

Perth Theatre has undergone a comparable graduation since it became part of the glittering Horsecross project.

Horsecross – named for the old market area upon which it stands – was set up to run Perth Theatre and launch the Concert Hall.

Since then, the reputation of the city as host to world-class productions and performers has grown and grown.

Horsecross Chief Executive Jane Spiers said: “The biggest draw is our Horsecross Exclusives.

“We programme unique performances that can't be seen anywhere else, and these are what really raise the bar.

“International pianist Mitsuko Uchida's only performance in 20 years ... percussion guru Trilok Gurtu working with local musicians... Scotland's own world percussion star Colin Currie working across Perthshire and performing rarely heard music ... combinations of Scottish and world musicians and plays that we mount exclusively for Perth, such as Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*.

“These are the things that set Perth apart from the crowd and gets the critics in a lather.”

In the first two years of Horsecross's existence, the benefits for Perthshire were clearly evident.

According to an economic impact analysis, 355 performances and concerts took place, attracting 135,000 people – a third of whom travelled from outside Perth. This suggests the city is clearly taking on Scotland's bigger cultural centres and giving them a run for their money.

As well as the Theatre, Concert Hall and an array of watering holes and meeting places, Horsecross also offers extensive conference facilities.

Jane said: “Some 22,000 delegates have attended conferences and many are so bowled over with Perth and with Perth Concert Hall that they make plans to return to see concerts, visit the theatre and take in the countryside.”



# the ROOF



‘heaven is a place in Perth’?

It seems Perth Concert Hall and its wider Horsecross project have managed to achieve the virtually impossible: providing something for everyone without letting their standards slip for an instant.

Cutting-edge comedy giants such as Jimmy Carr and Dylan Moran rub shoulders with traditional stars such as Karine Polwart. At other times the Scottish national orchestra plays almost alongside Katie Morag and her young fans. Somewhere nearer the middle, Marti Pellow and Barbara Dickson have delighted their respective audiences.

Flushed after a recent thrilling performance, The Herald’s critic gushed: “Heaven is a place in Perth.”

Horsecross is certainly working very hard to live up to such fulsome praise. ■

## OUT AND ABOUT

### OTHER CULTURAL HOTSPOTS

Across Perthshire, cultural excellence is rife – from the finest fine art to new and groundbreaking folk creations.

Pitlochry Festival Theatre provides an excellent backdrop for its vision of “stay six days and see six plays”. Its repertory company is one of Scotland’s largest.

Award-winning Perth Museum and Art Gallery is one of the oldest museums in the UK, and holds more than half a million objects.

Exhibits include watercolours by Beatrix Potter and oils by John Everett Millais and Sir Edwin Landseer.

However, one of the region’s most famous painting sons, John Duncan Fergusson, earns a gallery all to himself.

The Fergusson Gallery in Perth displays a large collection of the most admired works by an artist who is now recognised as one of the leading exponents of the Scottish colourist movement.

Elsewhere, Crieff’s Strathearn and Artery Galleries, The Glenlyon Gallery near Aberfeldy (showcasing the work of Alan Hayman) and The Watermill in Aberfeldy are all good places to discover what talent Perthshire has to offer.

nights out + good food + concerts + theatre + musicals + comedy + new media art



0845 612 6313  
www.horsecross.co.uk

PERTH  
CONCERT  
HALL

PERTH  
THEATRE





# A safe BET

Whether you prefer to watch or participate, there's a sporting pursuit to suit in Perthshire

The Sport of Kings is firmly at home in Perthshire and can be enjoyed at one of the UK's most elegant locations. Perth Races, set in the stunning Scone Palace Park on the outskirts of Perth, has the distinction of being voted one of Britain's top 10 racecourses.

The present course opened in 1908, but records show racing in Perth as early as the 1600s.

The course is now exclusively linked to jump racing with many of the sport's greats including the legendary Jonjo O'Neill and Tony McCoy enjoying major triumphs there.

Perth Races has enjoyed something of a renaissance over the last few years, rising from a small provincial course to its position as one of the most popular courses on the jump circuit.

Sam Morshead is the General Manager at Perth Races and responsible for the day-to-day running of the course.

He is proud of the reputation that Perth Races has developed.

He said: "Racing at Perth has increased steadily since the 1970s. There were only about five days' racing a year in the 1970s and we have managed to build that up to 13 days over the last 10 years."

Included in those 13 days is the Stan James Perth Festival, three days of racing in April marking the start of the season for Sam and his staff – and, of course, the punters!

The festival offers £250,000 in prize money and can attract 12,000 people over the course of the event, many of whom can enjoy stunning views from the Nelson Grandstand. The £2.1 million stand was opened in 2005 and offers visitors a superb viewing restaurant, bar and betting facilities below.

The course also caters for corporate guests and is open all year round for conferences and banqueting.

Sam added: "We have grown significantly over the last few years and the corporate business is very popular. That growth gave us the confidence to

“People of all ages are welcome. The atmosphere, facilities and competitive racing are what makes this place so special”

build the new main stand.

"Perth Races is a family course and people of all ages are welcome. The atmosphere, facilities and competitive racing are what makes this place so special.

"It was described as a little piece of heaven by one racing publication and we are all very proud of that." ■

## LIKE IT, LIVE IT

To find out more about Perth Racecourse, including fixtures Tel: 01738 551597 or visit: [www.perth-races.co.uk](http://www.perth-races.co.uk)



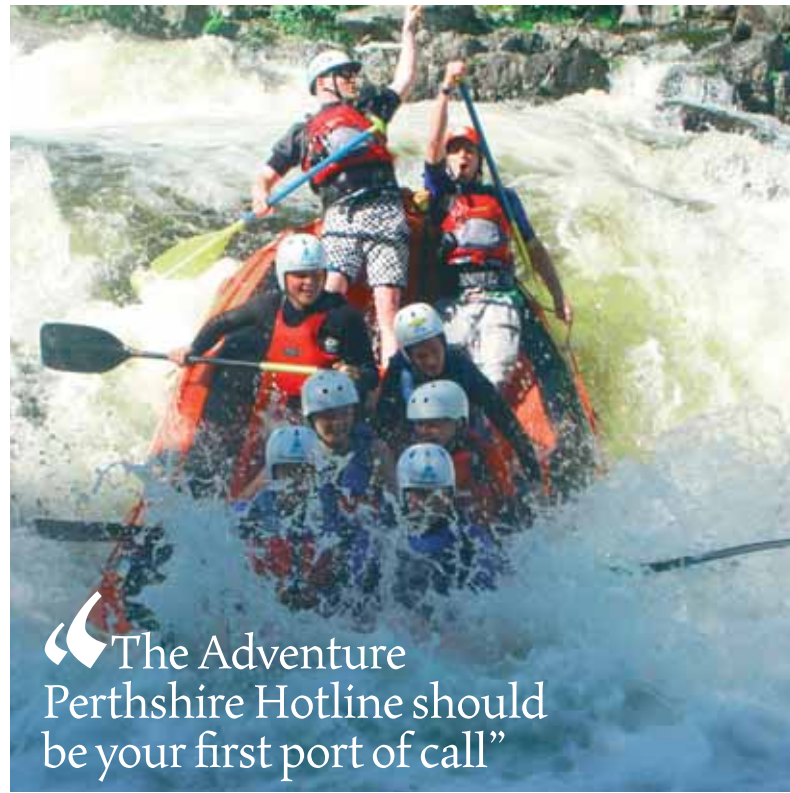
For further information on adventure sports, contact Adventure Perthshire Hotline Tel: 01887 829010 [www.adventure.visitscotland.com](http://www.adventure.visitscotland.com) [www.activityscotland.com](http://www.activityscotland.com)

# TAKING *it to* EXTREMES



**W**hatever type of extreme sport you enjoy, you'll find it in Perthshire. As the adventure capital of Scotland, there's plenty of opportunity to indulge yourself in white water rafting, bungee jumping, mountain biking or even microlight flying.

The Adventure Perthshire Hotline (01887 829010) should be your first port of call before beginning your white-knuckle visit to Perthshire. Staff can help check availability and also book your activity. They can even help with advice on which activity is right for you and your party.



“The Adventure Perthshire Hotline should be your first port of call”

## Perth Racecourse

*Racing at the Home of Scottish Kings since 1908*



PERTH RACECOURSE

### Centenary year 2008

*Come and see why Horse racing is the second most popular sport in the U.K after Football. Perth Racecourse is Scotland's "Little Piece of Heaven" Racing Post*

#### RACING FIXTURES 2008

**Perthshire Showcase Meeting – July 2nd & 3rd**  
Come and sample the best produce that Perthshire has to offer. From local preserves to handmade herbal products, this is a unique opportunity for local business, and 2 great days of racing in the summer sun.

**Centenary Celebration Day – July 13th**  
**Perth Party Night – July 29th (eve)** "The Drifters" playing live after racing.  
**Summer Meeting – July 30th**  
**Glorious Finale – September 24th & 25th**

Racecourse Office: 01738 551597 • e-mail: [julie@perth-races.co.uk](mailto:julie@perth-races.co.uk) • Website: [www.perth-races.co.uk](http://www.perth-races.co.uk)

HOSPITALITY \* SPONSORSHIP \* ADVERTISING \* CONFERENCE CENTRE



# GO green

## A little birdie tells us the Ryder Cup is coming to Perthshire

**G**olf's premier international team competition, the Ryder Cup, comes to Perthshire in 2014. Gleneagles will host the event – the first time the biennial tournament has been contested in Scotland since 1973, enhancing Perthshire's reputation as a centre for sporting excellence.

The Ryder Cup is played for between the US and Europe and is one of the most eagerly anticipated events in sport. The eyes of the world will be on Gleneagles when the players take to the first tee.

Of course, golf isn't just for the Tiger Woods of the world, it's a sport enjoyed by millions of serious,

semi-serious and not-so-serious enthusiasts. An abundance of courses throughout Perthshire means you are never too far from the fairways wherever you visit, live or work.

Golf in Perthshire is often described as its "best-kept secret", as many of its courses are not as well known as the likes of nearby St Andrews or Turnberry – something that's reflected in the surprisingly low cost of golf in Perthshire.

VisitScotland operates its own discount schemes, the Perthshire Green Card and the Perthshire Highlands Golf Ticket, which offer golfers tremendous value for money. ■

### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

For more information on golfing in Perthshire, visit: [www.perthshire.co.uk](http://www.perthshire.co.uk)

[golf.visit-scotland.com](http://golf.visit-scotland.com)

[www.perthandkinrosscountygolf.net](http://www.perthandkinrosscountygolf.net)



# ICE *to* MEET YOU

**C**urling victory at the 2000 Winter Olympics for Scotland's women alerted the wider public to the joys of the 'Roaring Game'. But Perthshire has long been a centre for curling excellence and is served by three rinks attracting novices and international competitors.

Perth, Pitlochry and Kinross all have rinks that are open to the public throughout the season.

## *Perth*

The Dewar's Centre is one of Scotland's main curling venues and hosts the Perth Masters each year. Curling is available from September to April.

**Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth PH2 0TH Tel 01738 624188 Fax 01738 637810, info@CurlingScotland.com www.CurlingScotland.com**

## *Pitlochry*

**Atholl Curling Rink Ltd, Lower Oakfield, Pitlochry PH16 5DS Tel/Fax 01796 473337 athollicerink@aol.com**

## *Kinross*

A four-sheet rink in the Green Hotel Complex in Kinross is home to Kinross Curling Club, the oldest in Scotland, dating back to 1668.

**Green Hotel, 2 The Muirs, Kinross KY13 7AS Tel 01577 863467 Fax 01577 863180 curling@green-hotel.com www.green-hotel.com**



Photo by Andrew Mitchell

## THE BEAUTIFUL GAME



### When the Saints go marching in

Housed in modern McDiarmid Park Stadium, St Johnstone Football Club has a proud history.

The club has spent many seasons of its 124-year history jousting in Scotland's top flight, but sometimes finds itself pushing for promotion from the Scottish League First Division.

McDiarmid Park is one of the most modern sporting venues in Scotland, attracting other sports apart from football as well as international rock concerts.

The ground itself is named after farmer Bruce McDiarmid, who donated the land for the stadium which replaced the club's previous home at Muirton Park in 1989.

Among the club's honours are

three First Division championships and the Bell's Challenge Cup for season 2007-2008.

The ground is located close to the main roads to and from Perth, Glasgow and Edinburgh and as well as concerts and sporting events the stadium is a popular location for weddings in its modern conference and event facilities.

Among the club's notable ex-players are Scotland great Ally McCoist and Manchester United manager, Sir Alex Ferguson.

**St Johnstone Football Club  
Creeff Road, Perth PH1 2SJ  
Tel: 01738 459099  
www.stjohnstonefc.co.uk**

## McDiarmid Park

*So much more than just Football!*



The home of St Johnstone Football Club is an ideal venue for: Birthday Parties, Engagement & Anniversary celebrations, Weddings, Private Dining...  
**Just about any social occasion you can think of!**

For information on forthcoming events, as well as details of facilities available, please visit our website at [www.mcdiarmidpark.co.uk](http://www.mcdiarmidpark.co.uk)

Contact: Paul Smith on 01738 459090.





## A true taste of Highland Perthshire.

*As you spend time in Perthshire, you'll make many amazing discoveries - starting with Dewar's World of Whisky. With its interactive heritage exhibition, distillery tour and Scotch whisky tasting, you'll experience an unforgettable introduction to this glorious part of Scotland.*

## Discover the spirit of Dewar's.

*Aberfeldy Distillery, Aberfeldy, Perthshire  
Tel 01887 822010 [www.dewarsworldofwhisky.com](http://www.dewarsworldofwhisky.com)*



# Browse, taste and enjoy the Real Taste of Scotland



A fine display of Scottish Liqueurs, Single Malts, Blended Whiskies and many gifts items.

All visitors to the Scottish Liqueur Centre are welcome to taste, free of charge, all the products we produce.

Visit our Columba Cream Café where you can enjoy a complimentary liqueur with your tea and coffee, whilst you sample some of our famous home baking.

**Scottish Liqueur Centre, Bankfoot, Perth, PH1 4EB**  
Tel: 01738 787 044. [www.scottish-liqueur-centre.co.uk](http://www.scottish-liqueur-centre.co.uk)  
Open Mon – Sat: 9.30am – 5pm and Sun 12.30pm – 5pm







# WATER *of* LIFE

You'll find an abundance of the 'national drink' in Perthshire

Scotland is traditionally split into five main whisky producing regions – the Highlands, Lowlands, Speyside, Islay and Campbeltown – with Perthshire under the Highland banner. Broadly speaking, each region produces whisky with a unique flavour shaped by the characteristics of the regional terrain and climate – as well as other factors such as the equipment and production methods used.

For example, Islay malts are distinguished by a smoky aroma caused by the peat fuel that is used for malting the barley during production.

Perthshire overflows with a supply of good clean water and untainted fresh air, which tends

to produce a medium-bodied, slightly fragrant whisky with a dry finish.

There are several distilleries in the region, all drawing on the abundance of water coming off the local hills and crops from the fertile land along the River Tay and its tributaries the Earn and the Tummel.

Each distillery has a unique heritage; for example, the Glenturret distillery in Crieff, which produces the Famous Grouse blend, is Scotland's oldest distillery, while Edradour in Pitlochry is the smallest distillery in Scotland – the single malt is handmade by three men on the same wooden equipment that was used when it was established in 1825.

With around 90 per cent of the

whisky which is produced in Scotland being exported, the drink reaches millions of people across the world. It is estimated that one million tourists visit a distillery in Scotland every year, with a large percentage of them heading to Perthshire on a 'whisky trail' around the various distilleries – many of which have created their own visitor centres.

Campbell Evans from the Scotch Whisky Association says whiskies in Perthshire have a worldwide reputation and play a key part in bringing visitors to the region.

He said: "The whiskies of Perthshire are renowned in their own right, but each distillery is unique and, therefore, there is a range of differences between them all.

"They tend to be fairly full whiskies which reflect the character of the hills around them thanks to the abundance of water coming off the mountains.

"They are also important because they bring a huge amount of tourism. There has been enormous investment in the facilities, not just in terms of work on the actual distilleries, but also to create a much larger visitor attractions." ■

## Perthshire's whisky trail

### GLENTURRET

Scotland's oldest distillery produces the Famous Grouse blend, the biggest-selling whisky in Scotland. Its visitor centre, the Famous Grouse Experience, is hugely popular, making this also the most visited distillery in Scotland.

### EDRADOUR

Scotland's smallest distillery. It may be small, but this revered whisky is a big player on the international market and exports across Europe and is sold in USA, Japan, Taiwan and New Zealand.

### ABERFELDY

Makes Aberfeldy Single Malt Scotch Whisky, one of the key ingredients in blending Dewar's White Label, the leading whisky brand in the US.

### TULLIBARDINE

This distillery in the village of Blackford sits on the site of Scotland's oldest brewery dating back to 12th century. It uses high-quality spring water from nearby Ochil Hills to create a smooth, easy drinking malt.

### BLAIR ATHOLL

Another of Scotland's oldest distilleries, Blair Atholl was first established in 1798.

### CASK MATURED

By law, all Scotch whisky must be matured for at least three years, but most single malts lie in the wood for eight, ten, 12, and 15 years. Up to two per cent of all maturing whisky evaporates each year – this is known as the 'angels' share'.



Pick of the crop: Perthshire's sheltered position and climate help create ideal growing conditions for local produce.



# ALL IN *good* TIME

Savouring your food is something that's encouraged in Perthshire

**M**odern life is often hectic and rushed – but there's no reason for our food to be that way. Perth is leading the way in promoting good food as it should be – using the best local produce, lovingly prepared and shared in good company.

The city was Scotland's first location to be awarded Cittaslow (pronounced chit-a-slo) status. Cittaslow grew out of the Slow Food movement and is a network of more than 100 cities and towns across the world that are improving the quality of life in local communities.

The principles of Cittaslow include supporting local food producers, using good environmental practices, maintaining the historical fabric and providing a warm welcome.

Douglas Ritchie is the leader of Perth's Slow Food group. He said: "A Cittaslow city aims to be a good place to live, work and visit. Food is a key component of this. We believe that food should taste good and its purchase, preparation and consumption should be a communal activity that is a main part of our lives.

"I used to be one of those who visited a

supermarket once a week to stock up on food. I didn't really enjoy what I was eating so I started visiting Perth's Farmers' Market and our local farm shops – and there are many good ones in Perthshire – to buy my food there because it tasted so much better.

"I also agreed with the principles of the slow food movement – eating locally produced food that hasn't travelled miles and miles to get to your plate. The Slow Food Movement is good for the local economy and good for small producers in general."

Many Perthshire farms have taken up the organic baton and produce organic crops and meat, while abundant supplies of local game, cheese, honey, venison, whisky and speciality beers offer foodie treats for all tastes.

Douglas continued: "Our local Slow Food group is primarily for people to get together and enjoy good food. We have a serious purpose, but our meetings are informal, fun events. We hold regular dinners where those who come along get to try locally produced food and we visit local producers to get a better understanding of what they are trying to do.

"To make the most of Perthshire's food and drink, I would recommend visiting our growing number of regular farmers' markets and farm shops. Also look out for restaurants and speciality food shops that promote local produce in their menus or their window displays.

"We hold regular food events throughout the year to celebrate our quality local produce as it comes into season. But mainly, I would simply recommend that visitors take a little longer to unwind and enjoy local food as an integral part of a restful visit to Perthshire."

All over Perthshire, there are farmers, food producers, chefs and brewers who really care about their product, its effect on the local environment and its taste.

**LIKE IT, LIVE IT**  
FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
CITTASLOW



[www.cittaslow.org.uk](http://www.cittaslow.org.uk)



Perthshire produces 90 per cent of all Scotland's berries.

*Continued overleaf*



### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

#### WHAT IS THE SLOW FOOD MOVEMENT?

*Founded in 1989, Slow Food is a non-profit, membership organisation set up to counteract fast food and fast life, disappearing local food traditions, and people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, how it tastes and how their food choices affect the rest of the world.*

*The Slow Food movement believes that food should taste good, that it should be produced in a clean way that does not harm the environment, animal welfare or people's health and that food producers should receive fair prices for their work.*

*There are more than 90,000 Slow Food members in 90 countries across the world.*

*To find out more about the Slow Food Movement, visit: [www.slowfood.org.uk](http://www.slowfood.org.uk)*

*Continued from p35*

#### Jamesfield Organic Farm

Ian Miller runs Jamesfield Organic Farm. Organic since 1988, it supports a restaurant, bakery, shop and butchers.

The farm works in tandem with the organic box delivery scheme Bellfield Organics, which rents land on the farm to produce more labour-intensive crops. Jamesfield Organic Farm produces and sells a wide variety of food.

Ian said: "I had numerous reasons for wanting to go organic. I wasn't happy with what I was selling and didn't like spraying chemicals on the crops. I was aware that the farming was damaging local wildlife."

Ian works closely with chefs Craig Mellor and Darin Campbell to ensure dishes served in the restaurant showcase outstanding organic food.

#### Jamesfield Organic Farm

**Abernethy KY14 6EW**

**Tel 01738 850498**

**[www.jamesfield.co.uk](http://www.jamesfield.co.uk)**

#### Provender Brown

"Wonderful artisan producers" stock the shelves of Perth delicatessen Provender Brown.

The independently owned fine food delicatessen stocks farmhouse cheeses, cured hams, artisan salamis, hand-selected olives, traditionally smoked salmon and

hand-made preserves.

Owner Diane Brown's philosophy is based on quality, provenance and passion. The food stocked is made by small-scale producers from all across Scotland, the UK and beyond.

Diane said: "People shop here because it is a friendly and happy shop. They get a warm welcome and there's a bit of banter, which is always good."

"People are a lot more discerning about what they eat nowadays and Perthshire is very firmly associated with quality produce."

#### Provender Brown

**23 George Street, Perth PH1 5JY**

**Tel 01738 587300**

#### Atholl Glens

High animal welfare standards and quality are the principles behind Atholl Glens Organic Meat. The farming co-operative was established in 2005. The countryside in the Atholl region forms one of the largest Special Protection Areas in the UK – an accolade for its high level of land management. Small wonder then that the farmers wanted a system of farming that would help maintain the quality of that countryside.

David Greer, Atholl Glens' director, said: "We set ourselves up so that we could directly market our organic meat."

"We tick all the right boxes in terms of what people look for these days – high standards of animal welfare, confidence in the product and delicious food."

"We compete on price too – our meat is the same price as supermarket organic ranges."

#### Atholl Glens Ltd

**Atholl Estates Office, Blair Atholl**

**PH18 5TH**

**Tel 01796 481482**

**[www.athollglens.co.uk](http://www.athollglens.co.uk)**

#### Inveralmond Brewery

For centuries, Perthshire has been renowned for the quality of its water and microbrewery Inveralmond has taken advantage of this to produce cask-conditioned specialist ales.

Fergus Clark set up the brewery in 1997 after working for multinational drinks companies.

The company produces four permanent cask-conditioned ales throughout the year, a range of speciality brews that change every two months, seasonal beers and bottled ales.

The ales are available across the UK, USA, Italy and Scandinavia.

Fergus said: "All our products are made with the finest ingredients – Maris Otter malt, choicest hops, yeast and, of course, the water! The





Diners enjoy a taste of fresh local food and the fresh local air in Perth

beautiful scenery around us provides inspiration for our recipes and Perth is a great place to distribute from because it's so central and has great road and rail links."

**The Inveralmond Brewery Ltd**  
**Inveralmond Way, Perth PH1 3UQ**  
**Tel 01738 449448**  
**www.inveralmond-brewery.co.uk**



Graeme Pallister (above) uses local produce to serve a rare treat

### *63 Tay Street*

One of many local restaurants who have signed up to the movement. Local laddie Graeme Pallister works hand in hand with Perthshire's food producers to bring good food to the table. Graeme returned to Perth several years ago because he wanted to bring up his family here.

He describes the cooking style as modern Scottish and his menu changes to make the most of seasonal produce.

He said: "We take a simple and honest approach to food – we use fresh, local ingredients and

showcase them, not mask them with lots of different flavours.

"Working at 63 Tay Street is my dream. It appeals to a broad range of diners and we're building up our own clientele who return for the great service and food.

"I work closely with local producers who are very passionate about what they produce and their food is fantastic."

**63 Tay Street, Perth PH2 8NN**  
**Tel 01738 441451**

### *Fortingall Hotel*

The hotel re-opened under current ownership in 2006, and has since established itself not only as a hotel of some repute, with its delightful setting, stylish décor and friendly welcome, but Ashley Miles, the Head Chef, is producing a fantastic daily-changing menu using locally sourced produce (including game, fruit, vegetables and herbs from the Glenlyon Estate) where possible and using seasonal ingredients. The menu includes 'slow' options.

As well as winning four stars from VisitScotland, the hotel won Hotel Review Scotland's 'Best Small Country Hotel' in 2007, followed by 'Rising Star Green Hotel' in 2008, along with a Highly Commended in the Country Sports Hotel category. They were awarded a Gold level for their environmental policy by the Green Tourism Business Scheme – one of only two hotels in Perthshire, the other being Gleneagles. They have recommendations in the Michelin Guide as well as Scotland the Best and are currently awaiting assessment from the AA for the cuisine.

**Fortingall Hotel, Fortingall, Aberfeldy,**  
**Perthshire PH15 2NQ**  
**Tel 01887 830367**

## A FINE RECIPE FROM THE FAIR CITY

### Ways that Perth meets the Cittaslow principles

- Local producers get help and promotional support from Perth & Kinross Council
- There are regular monthly farmers' markets throughout Perthshire that showcase local produce as it comes into season
- Perth College specialises in tourism training, ensuring there are well-trained people working in the area's tourism industry and providing a warm welcome for visitors
- The air and water quality in the city is monitored and action is taken to maintain standards
- Perthshire has one of the highest waste recycling rates in



Scotland and actively encourages home composting of waste

- The Fair City has well-kept green spaces and alternative mobility options, such as plenty of cycle and footpaths, and good public transport links.

Perthshire is Europe's premier soft fruit growing region

# Berry GOOD SHOW



**T**he Vale of Strathmore, nestling between the Grampian Mountains and the Sidlaw Hills, provides sheltered growing conditions and just the right balance of sun and rain to make for perfect strawberries, raspberries and blueberries.

Look at the evidence – identical “60-day” strawberry plants planted at the same time in May will take 45 days to produce a ripe berry in Spain, 60 to produce a similar berry in Kent, and 75 in Perthshire. But it's the extra ripening time that makes the softer, sweeter fruit well worth waiting for, according to Perthshire businessman Geoff Bruce.

“We don't have the temperatures that Spain gets, but overcast and rainy weather keeps the place cooler and makes fantastic fruit.”

Bruce's of Balmyle may be a “new” name in supermarkets, but it has a superb pedigree as a family business that has farmed berries, peas, beans and potatoes just outside Meigle for four generations.

“New” because until recently, most of their produce didn't carry the Bruce name. The produce goes to customers such as Birds Eye, Tesco and Ribena.

Geoff Bruce is behind the family's recent decision to promote their name on the very best of their berry fruits. He said: “We knew that restaurants, hotels, caterers and specialist shops would appreciate our top-of-the-range soft fruits and began marketing our own brand.”

Picking and packing is important. The product must be off the field, chilled, packaged and in the customer's hands within 24 hours.

Some of Britain's top eateries are now customers – London's Ritz gets a regular supply – and some of the country's celebrity chefs have also been impressed by the quality of Bruce's products.

“A lot of our business comes from word of mouth,” said Geoff. “Top restaurants want the very best quality. But continuity is also high on their list, and they must get a guaranteed supply. They know they have an audit trail right back to the field in Perthshire where their berries were grown.

“Some people think we enjoy a nine-month holiday every year, but these days, berry growing is a very

## LIKE IT, LIVE IT

*There are numerous places across the region where you can pick your own seasonal fruit. Try: [www.pickyourown.org.uk](http://www.pickyourown.org.uk) for details.*



*There may also be opportunities to earn some cash picking fruit in the summer months. See the local JobCentre for vacancies, or visit: [www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)*



**We know our produce is first class”**

intensive business and the season lasts for five to six months. Then there's the preparation – we have to turn the ground, lay irrigation pipes and put up the new buildings or lay roadways.”

He has a high regard for the people who work on the family farms: “Perthshire people have always been loyal, committed, hardworking and conscientious.

“And it's not just the older generation who are like that. We're getting young guys in their 20s who are showing just as much commitment. The technology of farming has changed. There are a lot more machines doing the work now and that has made farming more efficient. But you still need people to drive the machines.” ■

The only entirely natural cream liqueur in the UK is full of fantastic Perthshire flavour!

## CREAM *of the* CROP



Columba Cream has only three ingredients – single malt whisky, honey and cream – and all are sourced within a few miles of the Scottish Liqueur Centre just north of Perth, where it's made.

With no artificial flavourings, colours or sweeteners, Columba Cream – based on a 200-year-old family recipe – has been described by drinkers as “smooth, creamy and full of flavour”.

And it's going down very well with customers of national supermarket Waitrose after proving a smash hit in their Edinburgh stores in 2007.

Columba Cream national sales director Jamie Morrison said: “We outsold Britain's most popular cream liqueur by 300 per cent

# FRUITS *of the* LAND

## Larder makes most of local produce and talent



Loch Leven Larder, a farm shop situated five miles from Kinross, has become a magnet for local suppliers and discerning shoppers.

It is the brainchild of Robin and Emma Niven (pictured), a couple who have combined their experience and found a winning formula. Their motivation was partly as a result of their own frustration about the lack of good local produce available in shops, but they also recognised that the local population wanted more from a farm shop than they had previously.

When they opened for business in 2005, the facility was more of a café. Locals were attracted to the larder, but the Nivens knew they needed to do more to make the business more sustainable.

So in 2007 they virtually doubled the floorspace with a new extension. As well as the café, the Larder now contains substantial retail space with room to stock a range large enough to cater for all tastes.

They have added a patio for those seeking to take advantage of the fresh air as they enjoy lunch, and completed a nature trail through their land to join the trek that follows the loch.

This is very much a local success story. Loch Leven Larder now employs 35 local people, from waitresses and retail assistants to top-quality chefs, and provides those in the area with a realistic and attractive alternative to the supermarkets and chain stores. It also offers suppliers an outlet for their own high-quality products and artistic creations.

*This article first appeared in Land Business, the magazine for members of the SRPBA.*

over the festive period in 2007 when Waitrose trialled us in their Scottish stores – despite being more expensive. Waitrose's national buyers saw the figures and asked us to supply all of their stores in the UK.

"It says a lot when a small Perthshire company can have its products sold in 200 supermarkets across the country.

"That, together with our traditional outlets – the independent retailers and export clients – means we have trebled our turnover to more than £1 million since buying the business in 2005."

“The secret of our success is the quality of the raw ingredients, all of which are locally sourced”

Columba Cream may be the most famous of the brands created at the Scottish Liqueur Centre – but others are catching up.

Bruadar (Gaelic for 'Dream') is a Scots twist on the English favourite 'sloe gin'. With a base of malt whisky, it contains honey and sloe berries and has a lightness of style that makes it

refreshingly different from other Scottish liqueurs.

The centre's 'S' range of fruit liqueurs blend malt whisky, honey and fruits to provide the drinker with the best flavours of Scotland.

And how about a Ginger Tam's – the UK's strongest liqueur? It's a spicy mix of single malt whisky, honey and ginger that has a decided kick to it!

Jamie added: "The secret of our success is the quality of the raw ingredients, all of which are locally sourced. The malt whisky comes from the Tullibardine Distillery in Blackford, the

blossom honey from a beekeeper just outside Meikle, and the cream is from Graham's Dairies in Bridge of Allan. They arrive at Bankfoot and are manufactured and bottled on site.

"More and more tipplers are demanding quality from their suppliers. They want to know where the product is made and what it's

made from. More and more of them are looking for locally sourced products and the Scottish Liqueur Centre's offerings tick every box."

The Scottish Liqueur Centre recently opened an upmarket coffee shop where visitors can try a complimentary glass of liqueur with their coffee.

"When we took over the Scottish Liqueur Centre we decided to expand the visitor experience, and opened the coffee shop serving what's possibly the best coffee in Scotland.

"Now, depending on our production schedule, visitors can go on a tour of our facilities and watch Columba Cream and other liqueurs being made."

With the latest traffic census indicating that more than nine million cars, trucks and coaches pass the Scottish Liqueur Centre, it looks like Jamie, and his business partners Brian Morrison and Kenny MacKay – both former directors of Morrison Bowmore Distillers – will be kept busy supplying their products to an ever-increasing customer list.

And that can only be good for Perthshire.

# A FAIR *to* REMEMBER

Perth Farmers' Market – the first of its kind in Scotland  
– is just one of a number of markets in the area

**T**here's always a fair going on somewhere in Perthshire. Whether it's selling local crafts, antiques or some of the freshest food you can imagine, you'll find it all here.

Markets and fairs have drawn people to all parts of Perthshire for centuries – whatever the time of year.

Local craftspeople are thick on the ground, and visitors and residents alike can uncover truly stunning jewellery, woollen and leather goods, and



arts and ceramics at one of the regular fairs that pop up in every corner of the county.

Antiques outlets and galleries are popular too, and the Carse of Gowrie – between Perth and Dundee – has its own antiques trail! Just look out for the brown and white signposts that will lead you to a veritable treasure trove of antiques outlets on both sides of the busy A90 road.

And for a good day out, look for the markets at Errol and Kinross. With an eclectic mix of goods for sale, they'll keep the whole family happily browsing for hours.

If food's what you fancy, look no further than Perthshire. When nature has blessed a region with fertile soils and the most magnificent growing climate, it's little wonder that the local food and drink products are something to rave about.

Soft fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry and fish are all sold over the counter at shops and market stalls in towns and villages across the region just a few miles from where they were picked, plucked or prepared in "Scotland's larder".

Perth Farmers' Market – the original and arguably the best-known farmers' market in Scotland – is still going strong after almost a decade.

The brainchild of local sheep farmer Jim Fairlie,

#### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

*Perth Farmers' Market takes place in the city centre on the first Saturday of each month.*  
[www.perthfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.perthfarmersmarket.co.uk)







who'd seen similar markets in France, the Perth Farmers' Market takes place all year round on the first Saturday of each month. It's a real showcase for local producers and growers, and a very rewarding experience for shoppers who appreciate being able to buy fresh Perthshire food from the people who produce it.

Around 40 stallholders visit on a regular or seasonal basis, and they're all rigorously checked and monitored to make sure their products are top quality.

Organic producers are approved by The Soil Association.

Look out for the freshest fish, meat and game, baked goods, fruit wines and liqueurs, honeys and preserves, fruit and vegetables and sweets and herbs.

Many of the stallholders will offer you a free taste of their product, and will happily advise you on menu ideas, cooking methods and traceability.

And you'll find local chefs cooking up some delicious dishes with the freshest ingredients too – every month specialist chefs are invited to come along to the market to show off their skills.

And of course, you can pick up the free recipe cards that are handed out each month and try a magical taste of Perthshire when you get home at the end of a great day out. ■



“It's a real showcase for local producers and growers, and a very rewarding experience for shoppers who appreciate being able to buy fresh Perthshire food from the people who produce it”

## Drumkilbo House



For your smaller intimate wedding Drumkilbo House offers something that even top hotels cannot... a place for you, your family and friends to relax in the privacy, comfort and complete exclusivity that only an historic country house can provide.

**Now Licensed For Civil Weddings**  
Also available for special occasions, business meetings and corporate events

For details contact Denise Webster  
Drumkilbo House, Meikle,  
Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH12 8QS  
Tel: 01828 640445  
F: 01202 823363  
[www.drumkilbo.com](http://www.drumkilbo.com)  
email: [dwebster@drumkilbo.com](mailto:dwebster@drumkilbo.com)

## IONA DESIGNS

Is a treasure trove of exquisite soft furnishings, furniture, gifts and fabrics, showcasing a mix of contemporary styling with traditional designs including Scottish Decorative Furniture and Objects d'Art. A full interior design service is also available to help you to create that unique look for your property. When visiting 'The Lang Toon', Iona Designs at the bottom of the High Street should not be missed!



4 High Street, Auchterarder. Tel: 01764 664073



## FORTINGALL Hotel & Restaurant

"It's definitely among the best places to eat in Scotland"

*Barry McDonald, Glasgow Evening Times*

As one of only two Perthshire hotels with the prestigious Gold award from the GTBS, we utilise local and seasonal produce in our delicious and diverse menus, including 'slow' food. This comfortable and friendly four star hotel is the perfect place for a relaxing escape. See the new website for special offers.

Fortingall, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2NQ  
Tel: 01887 830740 [www.fortingallhotel.com](http://www.fortingallhotel.com)



## The Blackford Hotel



We welcome you to the picturesque village of Blackford in the heart of scenic Perthshire. Relax and enjoy! We offer comfortable accommodation, a choice of dining areas, a well stocked cosy bar and a great location for exploring the local area or for just stopping for a well earned break. Wedding and conference facilities available

Moray Street, Blackford, Auchterarder, Perthshire, PH4 1QF  
Tel: 01764 682497 [www.blackfordhotel.co.uk](http://www.blackfordhotel.co.uk)

## Communication brought to life!

As Scotland's largest contract publisher, we are in a unique position to support your business, whatever your communication needs are.

Our highly experienced in-house team provides a comprehensive range of services, covering all aspects of communication, including:

- Planning and consultancy
- Production and project management
- Online publishing
- Editorial and writing services
- Design
- Advertising sales
- Print and distribution management.

For more information on our award-winning range of services, ring for an informal chat on 0141 561 0300.



www.**CONNECT**  
communications.co.uk

# NO PLACE *like* HOME

The man who helped build one of the biggest banks in the world wouldn't swap Perthshire for anywhere else

**S**ir George Mathewson is one of Scotland's best-known and most influential business figures. He rose to prominence during a 19-year career with the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). Sir George steered the company through a period of dramatic growth that peaked in 2000, when, as Chairman, he masterminded the £21 billion takeover of NatWest – at the time the largest acquisition in British banking history.

In 1999, he was knighted for his services to economic development in Scotland and to banking.

Though Mathewson stepped down from his post at RBS in 2006, he retains a lot of influence – he chairs the First Minister's Council of Economic Advisers.

Mathewson moved back to Perthshire seven years ago – buying and renovating a property in Blairgowrie.

He chose to settle in Perthshire having been brought up in the region as a child. "I was born in Fife but my family moved to Perthshire when I was four and I went to school at Perth Academy. As a result, I know Perthshire very well – I spent a lot of time as a child cycling, walking and climbing in the area," he said.

"I used to play rugby for Perthshire as well, so I have always had ties to the area in one way or another."

George, who met his wife Sheila in a Perth café, believes the area offers a superb quality of life for residents and visitors. Its location

makes it very accessible, he says, and also boasts unbeatable countryside for outdoor activities – something he is very fond of.

"Perthshire has a lot going for it because it is central; Edinburgh is very accessible from Perthshire and Dundee airport is close by.

"I'm keen on outdoor activities such as hillwalking and you've got as much hillwalking here as it's possible to do in a lifetime. Then there's fishing, horse riding, watersports – it's all here. The city of Perth itself has a great deal to offer too – from the concert hall to restaurants."

Mathewson previously had a second home near Aberfeldy but wanted a bigger property to act as his main family home. After a long search, he fell in love with the property in Ballintuim.

He said: "We were looking for a bigger house for quite a long time. A lot of my friends and acquaintances were looking for a house in the same area at the same time, so we kept bumping into each other at viewings.

## Your Perthshire

“It's quite amazing who you meet – I meet a lot of people who I used to deal with in business here. It's a very gregarious place in terms of its social life.”



Sir George Mathewson Blairgowrie

"The house required a huge amount of renovation which took over a year – we're still improving it and recently converted the cottage in the grounds too."

Mathewson says he loves living in Perthshire – on the eve of his retirement from RBS, he was quoted as saying: "I don't want to get up on a beautiful morning in Perthshire and think that I have got to get down to London on a plane. Why would I want to do that?" ■

“I'm keen on outdoor activities such as hillwalking and you've got as much hillwalking here as it's possible to do in a lifetime”

# A FIGMENT *of* IMAGINATION

The stunning landscape of Perthshire has inspired artists, musicians and writers for millennia

## MILESTONES

- 1589** Shakespeare visits
- 1603** Publication date of Macbeth
- 1721** Niel Gow born
- 1759** Robert Burns born
- 1802** Sir Edwin Landseer born
- 1811** Beatrix Potter first visits
- 1828** Sir Walter Scott publishes *The Fair Maid of Perth*
- 1867** George Bizet's *La Jolie Fille de Perth* opens
- 1870** John Everett Millias paints *Chill October*
- 1874** John Duncan Fergusson born
- 1971** Ewen McGregor born

Standing in Birnam Wood adorned with elegant birch and larch trees, it's easy to see why Shakespeare chose this as a setting for a scene in *Macbeth*, one of his most famous plays.

You can understand why he placed Malcolm's army there amid the heather and blueberry bushes while they cut branches from young trees to disguise themselves for their march to Dunsinane.

This way they'd bring the witches' prophesy that "Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill shall come against him".

No one knows for certain whether Shakespeare actually paused on one of the rocks here to admire the scenery. But local tradition has it that as a travelling player, young William visited the area.

Perth Kirk Session records for 1589 state that a company of English strolling players were granted a

licence for a play in the town – Shakespeare could have been among them.

What is not in dispute is that Perthshire has long been the setting – muse, even – for creativity of all sorts.

Sir Walter Scott's description of it as the "most varied and most beautiful province in Scotland" doesn't quite cover it though.

Since the Picts took up their tools and created the stunning carvings now on display at Meigle, there's been something inspirational about Perthshire and its people.

In 1721 Niel Gow was born, seemingly destined for a life of plaid making, but it didn't take him long to discover his real talent for the fiddle.

By the age of 17, the Duke of Atholl had become his patron, securing his life of playing and composing.

In the wake of Gow, there has been a lively community of traditional Scots musicians living and creating in the area.

In Gow's honour an annual Niel Gow Festival was launched a few years ago.

“World-renowned artists picked up their brushes because of what they'd seen in Perthshire”



Piper and pipe-maker Hamish Moore said: "There's a huge history of traditional music in this area and it all started then.

"Energy and music making and creativity doesn't stop when someone dies. It gets passed down."

The stunning mountains and lakes of the Lake District are the setting for many of author Beatrix Potter's childhood classics, but she may not have even started writing without the influence of Perthshire.

Between 1871 and 1881 she spent the summers of her girlhood at Dalguise, near Dunkeld.

It was there she struck up a friendship with young postie Charlie Mackintosh and they shared an interest in flora and fauna.

From Dalguise, Potter wrote a fictional tale about four rabbits for a friend – it was to become Peter Rabbit.

Potter said of the area: "The grass grows greener... clearly the birds sing, how long the twilight lasts."

At the Perth Museum and Gallery some of Potter's watercolours often hang alongside works by John Everett Millais and Sir Edwin Landseer.

Both world-renowned artists, Millais and

Landseer picked up their brushes because of what they'd seen in Perthshire.

Robert Burns too was moved by being in Perthshire to pen "The Birks of Aberfeldy". The Birks are a spectacular set of birch trees.

Just outside the town there's a Robert Burns seat carved into the rocks affording a view of the stunning Falls of Moness.

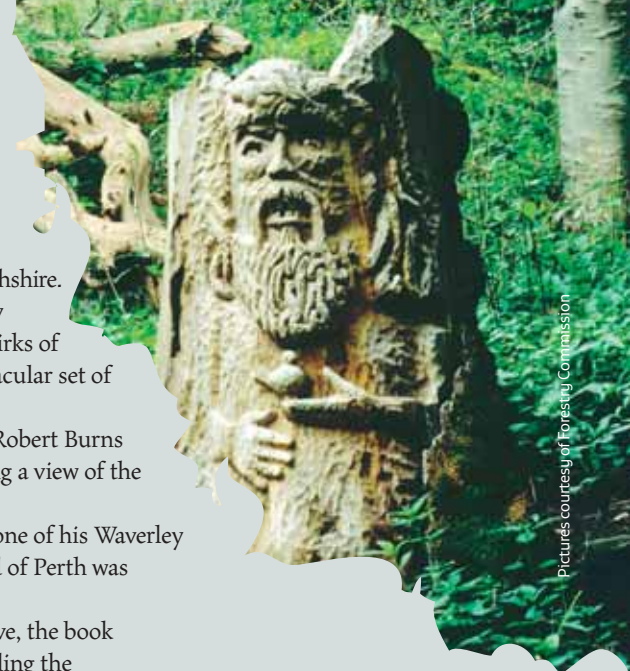
Sir Walter Scott decided to set one of his Waverley Novels in the area – the Fair Maid of Perth was written in 1828.

Also known as St Valentine's Eve, the book was well received, probably signalling the height of Scott's career and sparking a local tourist boom.

The Fair Maid of Perth caught the eye of French composer and pianist Georges Bizet.

His operatic version La Jolie Fille de Perth opened in Paris in 1867.

That Perth is still home to artists, writers, musicians and craftspeople is testament to the area's nurturing qualities. It's hard to visit and not be inspired. ■



Pictures courtesy of Forestry Commission

## WOOD WALK

The ancient woodland of Weem Forest near Aberfeldy has fevored the imagination for generations. The Forestry Commission now manages a trail through it, featuring the sculptures of John Hunter.

## A MODERN CITY WITH A RICH PAST

**W**hen a city reaches its 800th anniversary, it's worth a big celebration and that's exactly what is planned for Perth in 2010.

Perth was awarded royal burgh status in 1210 by King William the Lion and was used as a royal residence throughout the Middle Ages, which is why the City was known as the Ancient Capital of Scotland.

The 2010 celebrations will focus on and celebrate Perth's past, present and future, but will also be aimed at attracting visitors and money to the City – something that will help ensure Perth's continued prosperity.

The 800th anniversary will come at the end of national Homecoming Scotland 2009 celebrations. The date 25 January 2009 marks the 250th birthday of Scotland's national poet

Robert Burns and a whole series of events will mark the year and encourage the contributions the Scots have made to the world – Burns himself, whisky, golf, great minds and innovations and, of course, our rich culture and heritage.

Perth's 800th year events will continue the celebrations, but also highlight the reasons why Perth is such a special part of Scotland – a great city to live in, work in, visit and enjoy!

Perth & Kinross Council is preparing for the celebrations and would like to hear from local people who either have ideas for what they would like to do or any celebrations they are planning themselves. If you have ideas, please contact the Council's Economic Development Team on 01738 477940 or e-mail [economicdev@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:economicdev@pkc.gov.uk) ■

### Perth – 800 years of history

1210	King William the Lion grants Perth Royal Burgh status
1296	King Edward I of England takes occupation of the town
1313	Perth recaptured by Robert the Bruce
1396	The Battle of the Clans takes place, a gladiatorial style fight to the death to settle a long-running feud between the Chattans and the Mackays
1437	King James I of Scotland stabbed to death by Robert Graham while staying at the House of the Dominicans or Blackfriars
1559	The Reformation (rise of Protestantism) begins in Perth when John Knox preaches a sermon at St John's Kirk
1652	Oliver Cromwell establishes a fortified citadel
1689	City occupied by Jacobites supporters (and also in 1715 and 1745)
1760	Perth Academy founded
1848	The railway comes to Perth
1902	Victoria Bridge built
1923-26	St John's Kirk restored and made into one Kirk again (it had been divided into three)
1960	Queens Bridge built
1992	The Fergusson Gallery opens
2007	Perth becomes Scotland's first Cittaslow City



# *An education* IN EXCELLENCE

Strathallan School has built a reputation for encouraging pupils to make the most of their abilities in all areas

Strathallan School is generally regarded as one of Scotland's leading independent boarding and day schools for boys and girls aged between nine and 18 years old. Located on a beautiful campus in 150 acres of rural Perthshire, it is within easy reach of Scotland's international airports, making it just two hours from London.

Strathallan's supportive environment values the strengths of each pupil and places emphasis on the importance of the individual within a team. The school develops the ideals of responsibility, tolerance and integrity, and encourages its pupils to become happy and well-adjusted individuals, who are prepared for the challenges of adult life.

Strathallan's junior house, Riley, is for pupils aged from nine to 13, and along with the six senior boarding houses (a seventh is under construction) ensures a high level of pastoral care, while allowing parents to remain closely involved in their child's development and upbringing.

The school's academic record is one of the best in the country with more than 95 per cent of its pupils going on to university, and it offers both the English and Scottish curricula.

Sport is important too. There is an unrivalled range of sporting activities on offer at the school. The girls' netball team won the Scottish Schools' Championships in 2007, the boys reached the semi-final of the Scottish Schools' Rugby, and the girls' hockey team won the Independent Schools' Championship.

The extra-curricular dimension allows the pupils to extend their personal interests, to develop health and fitness, and to experience success. Pupils learn specific skills and by taking part in group activities enjoy a range of experiences.

The music department is one of the foremost in the country and holds more than 60 concerts each year from a base of 20 different ensembles. Around 50 per cent of the pupils take individual music lessons in a wide range of instrumental and vocal areas.

Strathallan's ethos is friendly, disciplined and caring. The school aims to bring out the very best in every individual child, encouraging each to develop his or her potential to the full, realising both evident and hidden talents, and creating opportunities for everyone to excel. ■



Young people do great things at  
| STRATHALLAN |



*"Having made several visits over the last few years to other schools, I can say without doubt that your students were the brightest, most engaging and generally best adjusted of any that I have encountered."*

Nicholas J Clifford MA PhD (Cantab) FRGS C Geog.  
University of Nottingham



Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perthshire PH2 9EG  
t: 01738 812546 e: admissions@strathallan.co.uk

**w: [www.strathallan.co.uk](http://www.strathallan.co.uk)**

Strathallan is a Scottish Charity dedicated to education. Charity number SCO 08903

# got goals?

Get the ball rolling!  
Call or visit our website  
**0845 270 1177**  
[www.perth.ac.uk](http://www.perth.ac.uk)

DEDICATED STUDENT SUPPORT.  
TEACHING STAFF WITH  
INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS.  
WITH OUR TEAM NOTHING  
IS OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE.



MORRISON'S ACADEMY  
Developing the whole child



## TURNING AMBITION INTO SUCCESS

97% OF OUR S6 PUPILS GO ON TO UNIVERSITY

Independent school for boys and girls aged 3 to 18

Morrison's Academy, Crieff PH7 3AN Tel: 01764 653 885  
[www.morrisonacademy.org](http://www.morrisonacademy.org)





Innovation and enterprise are hallmarks of a fresh approach that will equip Perthshire children for the 21st century

# CHILDREN *of the* REVOLUTION

**W**ork is under way on an education revolution which is going to affect everyone in Perthshire, not just school-age children.

The Council is committed to setting up a series of community campuses which will provide a focal point for the surrounding area.

Under a £136 million public private partnership, six new community campuses are to be built – some are already under way.

By 2011, 25 per cent of Perth and Kinross's children will be at one of these new schools.

Chris Webb, Perth & Kinross Council's Head of Education Services, said: "These are campuses for

the benefit of the community. There will be significant advantage in terms of range of access to resources from libraries to sports facilities.

"It is part of our big agenda to raise attainment in all our schools as well as to improve facilities – we want to get our learning and teaching fit for the 21st century.

"The quality of learning and quality of environment are closely linked. With this purpose-built accommodation it is flexible enough to develop the curriculum to meet the needs of the youngsters in the future."

The Council has 86 schools across the region and

*Continued overleaf*



“This purpose-built accommodation is flexible enough to develop the curriculum to meet the needs of the youngsters in the future”

*Continued from page 49*

new community campuses are being built at Blairgowrie, Breadalbane, Glenearn, Loch Leven, North Inch and Strathearn.

Facilities – planned to be open at the weekends and until 10pm every weekday – will include information technology suites and drama spaces.

Setting the schools at the heart of their communities will encourage much closer links between education and ‘everyday life’.

The community campus project, known as the Investment in Learning Programme, is being delivered in partnership with the private consortium Axiom Education (Perth and Kinross) Limited.

Axiom Education – a special purposes vehicle – will build, operate and maintain the six campuses over a 30-year period.

At the end of the 30 years, the buildings pass from Axiom’s ownership to that of the Council, and must

be in an appropriate condition at that time.

Part of the concept behind the campuses is that the buildings be as energy efficient as possible.

Heating and hot water will be provided at three of the campuses (Blairgowrie, Breadalbane, and Strathearn) through innovative, environmentally sustainable means.

Biomass boilers, using locally-sourced woodchips as fuel, will be installed at these locations, supporting the equivalent of 24 full-time jobs and removing 620 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere each year.

The first campuses, at Glenearn and Strathearn, will open in 2009.

Meanwhile, the Council is at pains to point out that the rest of the education department’s estate will by no means be overlooked.

A capital programme of renewal and improvement will continue to keep schools in line with the highest standards. ■

# ENTERPRISING EDUCATION



Perth & Kinross Council is fostering links between education and business.

Convener of the Council's Lifelong Learning Committee George Hayton said: "The Council has been pursuing opportunities for taking enterprise activities into schools. This includes building partnerships with businesses, introducing vocational qualifications and developing ways to introduce pupils to some of the skills

required to run businesses.

"Additionally, these activities help uncover talents and enthusiasms and also offer an interesting and stimulating twist on learning."

Enterprise in Education looks set to continue. George added: "A tremendous effort has gone in to building a network of partners and developing the skills needed to deliver these learning opportunities. I'm confident the framework will consolidate our success."



## CRAIGCLOWAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Are you looking for more?

To arrange a visit to the school or for further details, contact **The Headmaster, ANDY RATHBORNE** on 01738 626310

email: [headmaster@craigclowan-school.co.uk](mailto:headmaster@craigclowan-school.co.uk) or write to:

**CRAIGCLOWAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
EDINBURGH ROAD, PERTH PH2 8PS**

[www.craigclowan-school.co.uk](http://www.craigclowan-school.co.uk)

**Means tested bursaries available**

Craigclowan School Ltd is a registered charity. Scottish Charity No. SC0 10817.

## Glenalmond College



One of Scotland's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys and girls aged 12 to 18, set in 300 acres of stunning facilities where pupils are given confidence for life beyond school.

Academic, Art and Music scholarships and All Rounder Awards are awarded each year. In addition means tested bursaries are available to assist pupils through their time at the school.



Glenalmond College Perth  
PH1 3RY  
01738 842056

[registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk](mailto:registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk)  
[www.glenalmondcollege.co.uk](http://www.glenalmondcollege.co.uk)

Registered Charity SC006123

## KILGRASTON

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

Nursery • Prep School • Senior School • Sixth Form

### OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS

Kilgraston is currently in the top three schools at Higher and Advanced Higher



Kilgraston, Bridge of Earn, Perth PH2 9BQ

Telephone: 01738 812257

Email: [headoffice@kilgraston.pkc.sch.uk](mailto:headoffice@kilgraston.pkc.sch.uk)

[www.kilgraston.com](http://www.kilgraston.com)





# First choice for first-time buyers!

**APARTMENTS AVAILABLE FROM UNDER £110,000**

Stunning value homes combined with superb moving options means you just can't lose with Persimmon!

## **Beechmount, Crieff Road, Perth.**

Beechmount offers the chance to buy and enjoy a new Persimmon home in a highly attractive and convenient location.

The development offers five different apartment styles, making it easy for you to choose the size and layout of home which will best suit your needs. Our apartments are designed with modern living in mind and incorporate many stylish design features.

**1 & 2 bedroom apartments from £109,950**

**Call Ann Wylie on 01738 625936**

Marketing Suite and Show Apartment open  
Thursday to Monday 11am – 5.30pm



**Executive Package\***

**With 3% deposit paid or carpets  
and stainless steel appliances**



For details of all developments  
call **08459 10 10 11†**  
[persimmonhomes.com](http://persimmonhomes.com)

 **PERSIMMON**  
Together we make a home

Old or new, in the centre of a bustling community or remote seclusion, Perthshire has an abundance of homes to suit most lifestyles and budgets



# Our LOCATION LOCATION

**O**ften described as the 'Heart of Scotland', when it comes to house prices, Perthshire is bang in the middle of the country.

A survey in early 2008 by Nationwide that looked at the average cost of a home breaks Scotland up into 13 regions.

Perthshire sits proudly at number seven, with six areas above, and six below.

Of course, when you think about everything that Perth and Kinross has to offer, buying property in the area means you're getting a lot of 'quality of life' for your money.

Like anywhere else in the UK, there's a variety of different properties – and prices – on offer. The area has its share of £1m plus homes, but in general terms, Perthshire compares

outstandingly well with other parts of the country.

## Perth

The city attracts a range of different homeowners, it's a great location for families, single people and those who like living near fantastic countryside.

If you're searching for a smaller property you can opt for the city centre, which has great choice, or the modern estates on the northern and southern sides of the city.

The most expensive areas were originally outlying villages and they retain their individuality. One example is Kinnoull Hill in the east of the city which has a range of Georgian, Victorian and modern family homes. It's an area where

demand constantly outstrips supply.

It's similar on Perth's west side, although prices haven't quite caught up with the east. Glasgow Road is the location for period property, and there's generally a gulf in price between old and new homes, although Burghmuir offers a wider choice and more reasonable prices.

## Other areas

Although homes have usually been cheaper in the areas around Perth city, an influx of people attracted by the beauties and benefits of the region as a whole has meant rising prices all round.

One of the most popular areas is Craigie, which has terrific period properties, with spacious rooms, high

## LIKE IT, LIVE IT

*There are several comprehensive websites listing properties of all sizes, ages and prices, including:*

*www.PSPC.com & S1homes.com*

*Continued overleaf*

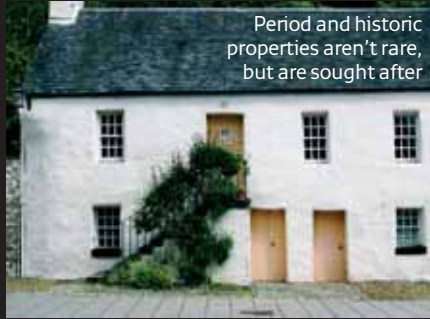
Continued from page 53

ceilings and original features. Other period properties around the town fetch slightly less, while post-war, semi-detached houses make good family homes.

There's been a recent boost around Blairgowrie as people relocate from other parts of the country to take advantage of its great rural lifestyle. Another popular location is Dunkeld on the banks of the Tay. Like other parts of the county it's rich in outstanding scenery, historical interest and great leisure opportunities. That combination attracts eager buyers and makes for a healthy housing market.

That buoyancy exists in much of the rest of Perth and Kinross, from Auchterarder in the south to Pitlochry in the north, Longforgan in the east to Locheamhead in the west.

It's never simple to predict movement in the housing market, but one thing's for sure – setting up home in Perth and Kinross always has its benefits. ■



Period and historic properties aren't rare, but are sought after

“When you think about everything Perth and Kinross has to offer, you're getting a lot of 'quality of life' for your money”

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY?

In London, what you pay for this:

A converted two-bedroom flat in Ealing



...can get you this in Edinburgh

A modern three-bedroom home in Portobello



...and this in Perth

A substantial five-bedroom villa close to Balhousie Castle and a few minutes from the city centre



All information and statistics correct at time of printing.

**KEY SELLING POINT!**

Buying or Selling - unlock the potential at PSPC.

**1<sup>st</sup> for property in Perthshire**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

**Perthshire Solicitors Property Centre**  
Perthshire Solicitors Property Centre  
6 South St John's Place - Perth - PH1 5SU - 01738 635301

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

Thinking of SELLING? Want to make that MOVE?

**IAN HUNT**  
Personal Service at its very best

**better business partnership**  
Perth & Kinross

For all that **FREE HELP** and **FREE ADVICE** you need simply take a look at [www.ian-hunt.com](http://www.ian-hunt.com)

**rightmove.co.uk**

**All Hours FREEPHONE**  
**0800 652 4887**

OFFICE: 01738 552 128    [ian@ian-hunt.com](mailto:ian@ian-hunt.com)    MOBILE: 07764 794 795  
[www.ableagents.co.uk](http://www.ableagents.co.uk)  
MAIL: PO Box 7528, Perth, PH2 6WX  
[ian@ableagents.co.uk](mailto:ian@ableagents.co.uk)

**ABLE**    **OEA**    **OFT**  
Estate Agents    Estate Agents    Estate Agents

**ESTATE AGENTS and PROPERTY CONSULTANTS**

ALSO : Edinburgh - Dunfermline - Cowdenbeath - Stirling  
A Really Pro-Active Property Service - Here in Perthshire

**THE YELLOW PAGES**    Thomsons PERTH Local Directory    **THE PHONE BOOK**    **ESPC**

# WHERE *the* HEART IS



Ecological houses are a speciality of James Denholm

## Local architect James Denholm designs homes that reflect his passion for buildings and the surrounding landscape

### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

For more on James' practice, visit: [James-Denholm.co.uk](http://James-Denholm.co.uk)



If you're interested in building your own home in the area, visit [www.buildstore.co.uk](http://www.buildstore.co.uk)

A place of great natural beauty, highly accessible, and an outstanding quality of life – there's no wonder local property development has enjoyed a recent boom.

If choosing a place to set up home, few beat this superb part of the world.

Equally, few people know more about property development in Perth and Kinross than architect James Denholm. His local practice undertakes a wide mix of work, including new homes for private clients, affordable housing developments and refurbishment of existing properties.

On the local market, James said: "It's certainly been a hotspot in recent years. Obviously, it's a fantastic place to live, with lots of facilities and good schools.

"We've noticed a lot of growth in the top end. For example, we've been involved in building 40 homes on a 60-acre site. It's a small number of homes in a big space, with prices starting at £650,000 and going to £1.5m. That kind of development might not have been viable here a few years ago.'

As with any large geographical region, Perthshire has its own particular areas of high demand. "Around Gleneagles is very popular – anything associated with the hotel appears to have a dramatic

effect on prices, and there's a ripple effect that impacts on the wider area.

"The area around Auchterarder and north to Comrie commands slightly higher prices than the east of the county."

In terms of house style, it seems traditional is strong. "A lot of our clients like fairly traditional houses that are laid out for today's living. I do believe, though, that there will be a move towards more contemporary solutions. An increasingly important factor is energy use, with people now putting a priority on efficiency and sustainability and looking to use solar, thermal and other methods of generating power."

The buoyant local scene means that the James Denholm Partnership is not the only local practice with a burgeoning order book. There are many others working on all sorts of projects county-wide.

That level of activity means there is always a need for skilled labour, bringing additional opportunity for local business and tradespeople.

"It's always hard to predict how things will unfold, but as far as we're concerned, the market is still extremely buoyant and Perthshire is well placed for that trend to continue," James said. ■

Besides a great range of chain stores, the towns and villages of Perthshire have a fantastic selection of family-run shops, selling everything from antiques to zen therapies – with all sorts in between

# *Independent* THINKING

**P**erthshire is a haven for shoppers seeking bargains, incredible local foods, original arts and crafts, antiques – or just retail therapy in any shape or form!

While Perthshire's towns and villages have their fair share of familiar high street names, what visitors will notice is the number of family-owned stores, specialist establishments, unique shops and themed markets.

Perth's compact shopping centre has the best range of speciality shops in Scotland and the intrepid retail experience hunter needn't worry about missing out by not shopping in Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Whether you're looking for great clothes, crafts gifts, furniture, antiques and artwork for your home, jewellery, a great haircut or even a smile makeover, you'll find it in Perthshire.

### *Antique trail*

The artistically minded will find antiques outlets and art galleries throughout Perthshire – the Carse of Gowrie between Perth and Dundee even has its own antiques trail – look out for the white and brown tourist signs on the A90. Wherever you travel in Perthshire, it's worth looking out for the signs directing visitors to craft

workshops or galleries or why not make a day of it by visiting the markets at Errol and Kinross or Abernethy, the speciality antiques market?

### *Fresh food*

Perthshire is a real haven for foodies – so much so that the area is known as Scotland's larder. You'll find plenty of farm shops, farms offering the 'pick your own berries' option during the summer, specialist delicatessens, good-quality butcher shops selling local beef, lamb and pork, artisan bakeries and organic outlets.

Retailers selling local food in Perthshire are passionate about their product and give a whole new meaning to the shopping experience – you'll be given plenty of information about what you're buying and can be reassured that local food is produced in a way that is sensitive to the environment and good for the local economy.

### *Health and beauty*

The spa experience is a great way to bring a little affordable luxury into your life. Day trips are an option at most spas or why not go the whole hog and book in for a weekend of pampering? Crieff Hydro Hotel and Gleneagles both offer plenty of beauty and relaxation treats, such as facials, hot



stone treatments, swimming, sauna and steam rooms, manicures, massages and many more.

Changing the look of your smile is a very popular and affordable option for many of us these days. The Cherrybank Dental Spa in Perth runs a smile makeover service, which can give customers the smile they have always wanted through straightening and whitening options. The dental spa also offers a special service for young patients to help make sure they don't grow up with a fear of dentists.

Trendy haircuts, hair extensions, Japanese straightening techniques and up-to-the-minute colouring, weaves and hair transplants are often thought to be the preserve of big city hair salons – not so! Whatever your hair needs, worrying about bad hair days shouldn't be a problem with the wealth of salons on your doorstep in Perthshire.

*Clothing*

There are a number of exclusive boutiques in Perthshire, offering customers a range of clothing options for weddings, cocktail



Independent shops such as Provender Brown (above) have real character and add extra interest

parties and other smart events. But you don't need to stop there – the boutiques carry clothing labels for leisure activities, work wear and comfortable home wear.

For a personal and very pleasant shopping experience, try out Bear Necessities and Bear Feet in Auchterarder for beautiful lingerie, men's underwear and fabulous shoes. ■

“Retailers selling food in Perthshire are passionate about their products and give a new meaning to the shopping experience”

**INSPIRATIONAL BATHROOMS**

- Wide choice of bathroom suites
- Showers & shower enclosures
- All leading brands
- Designer radiators
- Bathroom furniture
- Accessories
- FREE design service
- FREE delivery
- Open 6 days a week
- Ample parking

**PERTH** Dunkeld Road **Tel: 01738 638323**  
[www.williamwilson.co.uk](http://www.williamwilson.co.uk)  
**William Wilson**  
 BATHROOM SHOWROOMS

let us take you on a *journey...*  
 what will you discover? the choice is *enormous!*

- Special occasion & evening glamorous sizes 6-24
- Bear feet – jewellery, bags & shoes, sizes 2-10
- Special occasion sizes 6-24
- Finishing touches hats, fascinators & accessories
- Special occasion – the long and short of it all...

*always* an occasion, *always* an experience,  
*always* something special  
*glamour / beauty / sophistication*

**Bear Necessities**  
 179-185 High Street / Auchterarder / just off the motorway between Stirling and Perth / T. 01764 664559  
[www.bearnecessitiesfashion.co.uk](http://www.bearnecessitiesfashion.co.uk)

# LOVE *and* MARRIAGE

Pictures courtesy of David Brown

**T**he tinkle of Champagne flutes, the sweet scent of fresh flowers and the sight of fairytale stone halls bathed in warm light – these are the sensations of a dream wedding. In romantic Perthshire, the reverie can become a reality!

## Finding the venue

The venue is vital for the day that will live among your precious memories, and Perthshire has plenty of both.

Gleneagles Hotel in Auchterarder, for example, is known as a place of luxury and romance. And, like many venues in Perthshire, the hotel is just an hour away from Glasgow and Edinburgh. The dramatic Huntingtower Castle, on the other hand, offers the quintessential Scottish wedding in a timeless setting.

## Capture the moment

Most people spend months, if not years,

planning for their wedding day – but with all the excitement, the hours can fly by, which makes immortalising the moments important. In Perthshire, there are many local photographers who can provide memories for years to come. For example, Pitlochry based David Brown is one, with 16 years of experience providing wedding and portrait photography throughout the UK.

## Don't forget the little things

Little flourishes can make the difference to your big day and make those involved feel special. From jewellery that can make the wedding party sparkle to gifts that can make those involved in the planning feel valued, you don't have to travel far to find what you are looking for. In fact, jeweller Alex Cairncross has recently opened a business in Perth supplying jewellery and silver gifts over the web, meaning busy planners don't have to leave their home to shop.

## MAKING IT LEGAL



You've made your plans, but have you ensured that the marriage is legal? It is easy to get married in Scotland by just attending to a few details. You need to complete a marriage notice form, which should be submitted with a fee to Perth & Kinross Council,

ideally between four to six weeks before the wedding. You then need to pick up a marriage schedule within seven days of the ceremony, which needs to be signed in the presence of two witnesses and the person who officiates the wedding. And once the big day is over, and the marriage is registered with the Council, you will receive a marriage certificate.

For more information on wedding requirements in Perthshire, visit [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)

Perthshire has all you need to make your wedding, and your honeymoon, extra special.

For further information on David Brown's photography, visit [www.dwbprophot.co.uk](http://www.dwbprophot.co.uk) or Alex Cairncross' jewellery, visit [www.alexcairncross.co.uk](http://www.alexcairncross.co.uk) ■

## Alex Cairncross Silver Gifts

A beautiful collection of hallmarked silver gifts and presents, perfect for couples to celebrate events such as engagements, civil partnerships, weddings and wedding anniversaries.  
[www.alexcairncross.co.uk](http://www.alexcairncross.co.uk)

Alex can offer a personalised sourcing service should you be looking for that very special or unique gift which is not commonly available and she will be delighted to hear from you.  
Email her on [alex@alexcairncross.co.uk](mailto:alex@alexcairncross.co.uk) or call 07771 566429.



## David Brown MBE ABIPP Photographer

A highly personalised service fitted to your requirements across the range of modern, traditional and creative photography.



- Wedding
- Portrait
- Commercial
- Restoration



email: [dave@dwbprophot.co.uk](mailto:dave@dwbprophot.co.uk)  
tel: 01796 473 831  
[www.dwbprophot.co.uk](http://www.dwbprophot.co.uk)

# LEISURE *is your* PLEASURE

Perth & Kinross Council provides a variety of services to help you make the most of your time and the environment

**G**etting active in Perthshire is easy – in fact, the hardest part is choosing from the options on offer. Spread across the area is a range of leisure facilities to cater to all fitness levels and tastes. Of these, nine are run on behalf of Perth & Kinross Council, giving residents and visitors access to healthy activities.

Those facilities with pools don't just give people the chance to splash around or perfect their swimming techniques – there are a range of water-based activities, such as basic canoeing and kayaking lessons.

At Perth Leisure Pool, adults as well as children can zip down flumes, float through a wild water channel or relax at poolside whirlpools.

The fun doesn't stop there: like many other facilities in the area, it has a health suite, boasting saunas and steam rooms. To build up a sweat, there are gyms in the leisure facilities with state-of-the-art exercise equipment and a range of fitness classes.

But exercise shouldn't be just about staying indoors. There are a huge number of activities outside. For example, there are around 40 golf courses to choose from, as well as cycling routes and an abundance of rivers for anglers.

Even walking holds rich rewards. There is a vast network of local trails, of varying distances and demands. Weaving through stunning countryside, past ruined castles, the routes are waymarked for easy navigation, and some are even suitable for cycling or horse riding.

For families, Perth & Kinross Council also provide a range of public spaces, from play areas for the children to burn off some extra energy to parks for a leisurely stroll. Inside and out, Perthshire is bursting with ways to get energised. ■

## LIKE IT, LIVE IT

For more information on leisure facilities in Perthshire, visit: [www.liveactive.co.uk](http://www.liveactive.co.uk)



## KEEPING THE OUTDOORS GREAT



When it comes to being green and diverting waste from landfill, Perth & Kinross Council is up there with the best.

It is the top rural recycler in Scotland, having recycled 34 per cent of the region's waste in

2007, beating its target from the Scottish Government of 25 per cent.

Currently the Council is on track to recycle 37 per cent of its waste and is bringing in a range of initiatives to help it go even further in the future.

Mixed kerbside pickups are to be introduced, meaning residents can have material ranging from cans to paper picked up outside their homes. And there will be a boost in the number of recycling points in public areas such as supermarket car parks for a range of material.





# Perth

perthshire



the best shopping, markets,  
dining, arts,  
heritage and  
leisure



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



# THE LURE *of* PERTSHIRE

Whether you are a romantic or not, whether you are a hard-nosed business person or not, Perthshire continues to hold significant attractions for new and existing business to start or expand.

The romantic is attracted by the natural environment, the peace and calm, the relative lack of traffic, the open spaces, the close proximity of town and country, and of mountain, river and loch.

If you are looking at strictly economic criteria, then the many 'pull me' factors are right there. Apart from the M8, virtually all the major routes pass through Perth; Edinburgh – Dundee, Aberdeen or Inverness; Glasgow – the same. There is an excellent balance of large companies such as Stagecoach, Scottish and Southern, The Famous Grouse Experience and Highland Spring, significant local companies including McEwens, Watsons of Perth, A & J Stephen, James Barclay (Carpets & Furnishings) and Symphony Hotels and Leisure and many, many smaller employers.

It is no coincidence that Perth has been voted the best place in Scotland to live, and identified as the site of the fastest-growing population in Scotland.

Culturally, the Concert Hall has given a huge boost to the city, while the Festival of the Arts is a major attraction in early summer. Recreationally, the population sits in the middle of golf gems such as Rosemount. In terms of education, the people of Perth can choose from schools that lead in their field including Craigclowan, Strathallan or Glenalmond among several others. In the



Mike Beale



#### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

For more information on the Perthshire Chamber of Commerce, visit: [www.perthshirechamber.co.uk](http://www.perthshirechamber.co.uk), e-mail [info@perthshirechamber.co.uk](mailto:info@perthshirechamber.co.uk) or phone: 01738 450401

greater area of Perthshire, there are vibrant individual communities where things are made to happen. The Blairgowrie regeneration project and the Enchanted Forest Festival in Pitlochry are excellent examples of what local co-operation and drive can achieve.

The area has a history of innovation to adapt to changing market conditions. The recent developments in fruit farming are illustrative of this fact, as has been the ability of the whole

“It is no coincidence that Perth has been voted the best place in Scotland to live, and identified as the site of the fastest-growing population in Scotland”

farming industry to adapt to new market conditions. Farming, tourism, finance, light engineering and food provide a strong balance of interests for Perthshire. New and existing businesses are encouraged to expand and adapt by the environment, the availability of wide varieties of labour skills, the transport network and the sheer warmth of welcome from those who have benefited from the qualities of Perth over a period of time. ■

*Mike Beale*

President, Perthshire Chamber of Commerce



With one of the most diverse economies in Scotland, Perthshire is well placed to give any business the opportunity it needs

# ECONOMIC

## Your Perthshire



Charlie Stewart, a director of Growing

Business at Scottish Enterprise, said: "Perthshire is a fantastic place to live, work and do business, with good transport links to the rest of Scotland, excellent leisure opportunities and a high quality of life.

"We work with many ambitious and innovative companies in the area to help them grow their businesses through new products and services and give them support to expand into new markets."

*Charlie Stewart*  
Scottish Enterprise



It's an area of a thousand opportunities. From wind farms to whisky and from tourism to transport, Perth and Kinross offers an amazing range of employment and job prospects.

When it comes to the breadth of the local economy, this really is a land for all seasons. It's a place where hugely successful national companies sit side by side with dynamic small businesses, specialised rural industries and sole-trading artisan crafts men and women.

There's no doubt that Perth and Kinross has one of the most diverse and interesting economies in Scotland. The area is forward thinking and energetic, and home to pioneering companies operating in booming sectors of the economy.

It's estimated that more than £45 million worth of goods are exported from Perthshire each year – on top of the hundreds of millions of pounds earned and spent locally.

Tourism and distribution are hugely important – they employ more than 31 per cent of the local working population, in excess of 19,000 people.

Hardly surprising given this is one of the most beautiful parts of the country, making it a magnet for visitors. Every type of holiday is catered for here, from opulent luxury through to small family-run bed and breakfasts and self-catering facilities.

Finance and commerce are also hugely important. They account for more than 13 per cent of the local economy, employing in excess of 8000 people.

One of the biggest companies operating locally is Norwich Union, which has shown a big commitment to the area by donating £1 million to Perth's sparkling concert hall.

Another important company is Scottish and

“It's a place where hugely successful national companies sit side by side with dynamic small businesses”

Forestry, financial services and transport all play a significant role in the local economy





# hot SPOT

Crieff Hydro is a prime example of a world-class service provider



Southern Energy, which supplies electricity and gas to customers across the UK. It owns brand names Scottish Hydro Electric and Southern Electric and is the third biggest company in Scotland, employing more than 12,400 people overall and making a profit of more than £1.1 billion in 2007.

Retail and shopping are also important. Perth city centre in particular has a large range of chain stores and speciality outlets, making it one of the most attractive and popular places to shop in Scotland.

In keeping with the area's reputation for excellent produce, food outlets – including the monthly farmers' market – are a popular draw.

Technology firms are also booming. Companies specialising in web-based marketing such as Calinet UK have established successful operations and there is plenty of support for the development of the sector through Perth & Kinross Council and Perth

“Agriculture, forestry and fishing maintain the strong reputation for farming, including its world-famous soft fruits activity”

College's Advanced Technology Centre.

The area's position at the very centre of Scotland also serves it well – transport and communications account for 4.2 per cent of the workforce. This is partly because leading coach and rail operator Stagecoach, one of the largest transport companies in the UK, has its headquarters in Perth.

Other sectors include public administration, education and health, which includes the vital services such as schools, council functions and hospitals which keep the area going – accounting for 28 per cent of the working population, or 17,000 people.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing are other hugely important economic sectors. They maintain the area's strong reputation for farming, including its world famous soft fruits activity.

Manufacturing companies, large and small, employ more than 4000 people locally – that's 6.5 per cent of the population.

So there's a huge amount going on in Perth and Kinross – it's this huge and fascinating diversity of activity which helps to maintain its strength and assure its future. ■

#### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

*Scottish Enterprise will give you help and information on how to get the most from your business, and Perthshire.*



Tel: 01382 223100,  
[www.scottish-enterprise.com](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com)

In association with



With an unrivalled range of facilities,  
the smart choice for your business  
conference is Perthshire

# A MEETING

**T**he global market for conferencing and business incentive travel is worth billions of pounds every year – and Perth and Kinross is working hard to make sure it gets more than its fair share.

The area is one of the most attractive in Europe for conference organisers. It has a wealth of superb venues, offers fabulous value for money and can provide fantastic leisure options to give delegates a terrific all-round experience.

From bustling Perth city through to tucked away corners of the exclusive Perthshire countryside, the area can offer venues suited to all tastes, with an incentive and leisure programme to match.

One of the area's flagship venues is the fantastic Perth Concert Hall – a purpose-built conference destination which first opened its doors in 2005.

The stunning new facility is fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology and provides flexible space for a whole variety of different purposes and events. Its main auditorium can seat 1200 people and, in addition, there is a range of contemporary, flexible spaces with capacity ranging from 16 to 100.

This adaptability makes the Concert Hall suitable for a wide range of business functions including conferences, events, business meetings, exhibitions, corporate hospitality and training.

The main meeting space, the Gannochy Auditorium, can extend its capacity to 1600 and is

ideal for everything from political party gatherings through to fashion events.

The venue can also host dinners for up to 300 people and provide more than 500 square metres of exhibition space. A stunning media art space which greets visitors provides a multimedia digital canvas which is perfect for branding opportunities. There is also a café bar and smaller spaces abound.

Another venue in the city, Perth Theatre, is ideal for conference organisers seeking both traditional charm and character. Its Edwardian auditorium holds 450 people and is ideal for delegates seeking intimacy. There is also a working studio and restaurant.

Horsecross, who run both Perth venues, has put together a team which can help with all aspects of planning. They said: "Our promise is to provide the highest level of support to our customers, whatever their requirements and regardless of budget."

*Continued on p66*

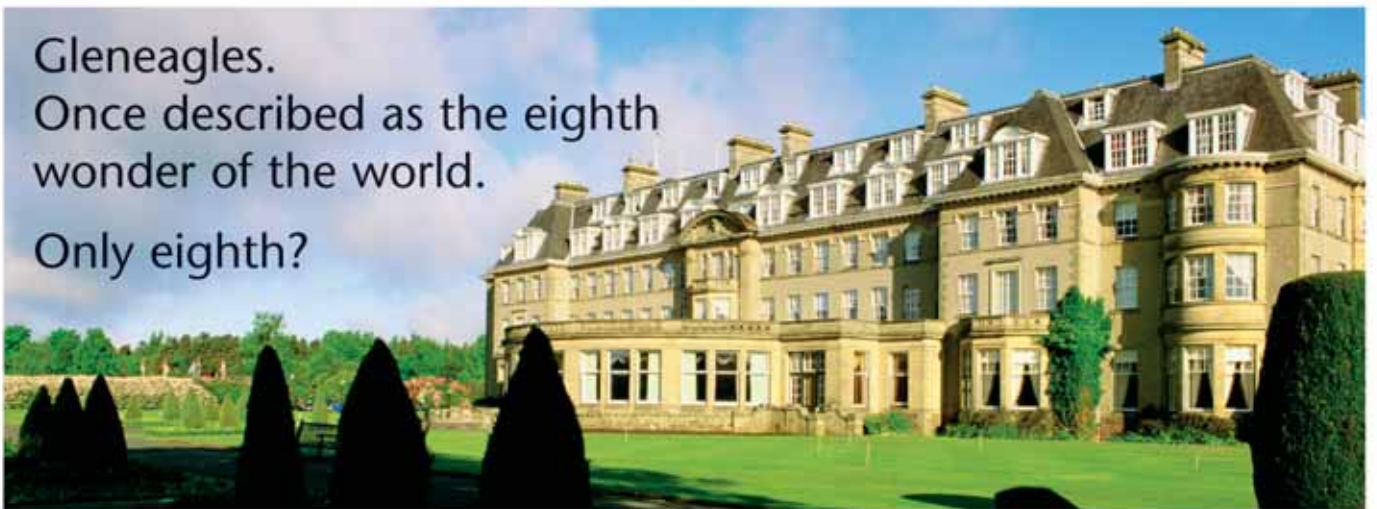
“Our promise is to provide the highest level of support to our customers, whatever their requirements and regardless of budget”





# of MINDS

Gleneagles.  
Once described as the eighth  
wonder of the world.  
Only eighth?



If you're looking for the best that Europe has to offer, you'll find it all at The **Gleneagles** Hotel.

Situated in stunning countryside, it is the only hotel in Scotland that can boast three championship golf courses – as well as all the other unrivalled leisure activities you would expect of a world class resort.

It's hardly surprising then that it was known as the eighth wonder of the world, and being just a one hour drive from both Edinburgh and Glasgow, it's one that's much easier to reach than the other seven.



A member of  
*The Leading Hotels of the World*

The Gleneagles Hotel  
Auchterarder, Perthshire,  
Scotland PH31NF  
Telephone 0870 2513527  
Tel +44 (0) 1764 662231  
Please quote reference: Perthshire  
[www.gleneagles.com](http://www.gleneagles.com)

The GLENEAGLES word and the EAGLE device are trade marks.

In association with



“The area is one of the most attractive in Europe for conference organisers. It has a wealth of superb venues and offers fabulous value for money”

*Continued from p64*

“We’ve already won high-profile business including an international Mountain Studies conference bringing delegates from all over the globe, the annual Scottish Conservative Party conference and the Scottish Trade Union conference.”

Another unique conference option is Crieff Hydro Hotel and Resort, which offers 12 meeting rooms. It can seat 500 in theatre style or 360 for a banquet and is set in 900 acres of glorious countryside. The Victorian building has been totally redeveloped over the last five years and offers a very high standard of accommodation.

Like Gleneagles, this is much more than a conference hotel – as well as a spa, gym and two swimming pools, there’s golf, horse riding and both off roading and quad biking. An in-house team can also organise team building ranging from Highland Games to team challenges, either indoors or outdoors.

Another possibility is to hold a conference on the banks of the Tay at the Ballathie House Hotel in rural Perthshire. It has all the necessary facilities for intimate conferences and can offer everything from a day delegate rate through to week-long events. The proximity of estates nearby means it is ideal for shooting, golfing, hunting and fishing.

Events planners who want to organise unusual and extreme sports can plan a whole host of high-adrenaline activities including white water rafting, canyoning, adventure tubing and river bugging. So if you want to work hard and play hard, you simply can’t go wrong in Perth and Kinross! ■



## World-class choice



The area is lucky in having one of the world’s most famous and prestigious meeting venues – the 5-star Gleneagles hotel near Auchterarder.

Gleneagles has been providing luxury accommodation for more than 80 years and after a £70 million investment programme, it is now better than ever. The 232-bedroom hotel sits in 850 glorious acres and has an unparalleled history of running high-level conferences – it hosted the G8 Summit of world leaders, including US President George Bush and then Prime Minister Tony Blair, in the summer of 2005.

It’s easy to see the attractions for conferences. The Ballroom and Gleneagles Suite each hold up to 360 people and there are plenty of opportunities



for breakouts. Staff will help you plan your event from start to finish and even offer to put together a mini website for you to help the event along.

It’s when conference organisers want to combine business with pleasure that Gleneagles really excels. It was voted Best European Resort by America’s Condé Nast magazine in 2006 and last year won the accolade of Best Golf Hotel Worldwide at the Luxury Travel reader awards.

Its three championship standard golf courses are enhanced by a golf academy which includes a covered driving range. Shooting and fishing are also on the agenda, with expert instruction available. The British School of Falconry is based at Gleneagles and the nearby Equestrian School has some of the world’s finest facilities.



There’s also a health club and spa and for those who fancy their entertainment to be exhilarating rather than gentle, the hotel offers off-road driving with courses designed by some of the country’s leading specialists.

When it comes to dining, too, Gleneagles’ standards are uncompromising – it can provide full delegate dinners and its traditional



Strathearn restaurant has been picked as one of the world’s ten top great hotel restaurants. Another eating experience is Andrew Fairlie at

Gleneagles, run by the famous chef and Scotland’s only two Michelin-starred restaurant.

Value, space and flexibility – Perthshire is more than able and willing to accommodate your expanding business



# ROOM *to* GROW

**G**rowing a business is always exciting – and if you can find accommodation which is ideal for your company’s needs, then you’re well on the way to success.

More and more entrepreneurs are finding that Perth and Kinross is an ideal place to build and nurture their enterprises. For a start, its position at the centre of Scotland is ideal, with 90 per cent of Scotland’s population within a 90-minute drive.

The range of accommodation is also impressive. It’s generally cheaper than you’ll find in the centres of cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh – and you’ll often get additional features such as free car parking and wonderful views into the bargain.

Any businesses interested in moving into the district will find there’s plenty of help available. There are dedicated business teams within Perth & Kinross Council and Scottish Enterprise. They jointly fund the Business Gateway to act as a one-stop contact point.

Ken Macdonald, Head of Economic Development at Perth & Kinross Council said: “We offer support to existing businesses and work actively to attract new businesses to the area.

“Through effective partnership working the aim is to ensure two things. Firstly, that the necessary infrastructure is available through the supply of serviced land and buildings. Secondly, that Perthshire has a well trained and well equipped workforce ready to meet the demands of business.”

Mike Beale from Perthshire Chamber of Commerce

pointed out that by having a supply of purpose built office accommodation available, businesses would be encouraged to migrate to the area.

“Sites are available for bespoke building and commercial property is available for rent. All the fundamentals for business growth are available in the area. There are business banking centres, availability of legal and accountancy advice, marketing and PR.

“Costs of office accommodation, commercial space and business support charges make running a business from Perth and Kinross competitive.

And modern communications do mean that businesses no longer need to be located in centres such as Glasgow and Edinburgh.”

A range of accommodation is available, varying from small commercial, industrial and retail units suitable for start-up businesses through to larger premises for well-established companies seeking room for further growth.

One local company, Castlecroft, provides a range of serviced, industrial and office units to suit every size of business. Its £5 million flagship development is the highly appealing King James VI Business Centre on the banks of the Tay. Castlecroft also has five further office developments and three industrial unit sites in Perth.

Glenalmond Business Park is a 24-acre business park by the same company, bought from Scone Palace last year. The plan is to develop the site over a number of phases and this is one of the very few industrial areas in Perth that can be purchased for design and build.

Whatever your choice, Perth and Kinross can accommodate you – literally! ■





Many locals are using their imagination and the resources available to them to carve out a business

# CRAFTING *a* LIVING

“**T**he Scottish people, especially those in Perthshire, are very appreciative of beautiful things – particularly hand-made beautiful things” – Pat Ayre, who runs Gallowglass with her husband Roy, on what prompted them to set up their business in Blairgowrie.

Former antique glass dealer Roy makes glass beads and jewellery using traditional techniques.

While drawn to the area for a range of reasons, the Ayres have found strong support from within the Perthshire glassworking studios.

Perhaps the most well-known of the glass-makers is Caithness Glass, famous for collectable paperweights.

Business is also thriving for smaller studio-based businesses such as Lorna Radbourne’s Catriona Glass in Dunning who makes jewellery, lamps and bespoke windows.

There’s also Dunc Smith, who worked as a lampworker for Perthshire Paperweights in

Crieff until 2002. A few months later he set up his own business making glass animal and bird ornaments.

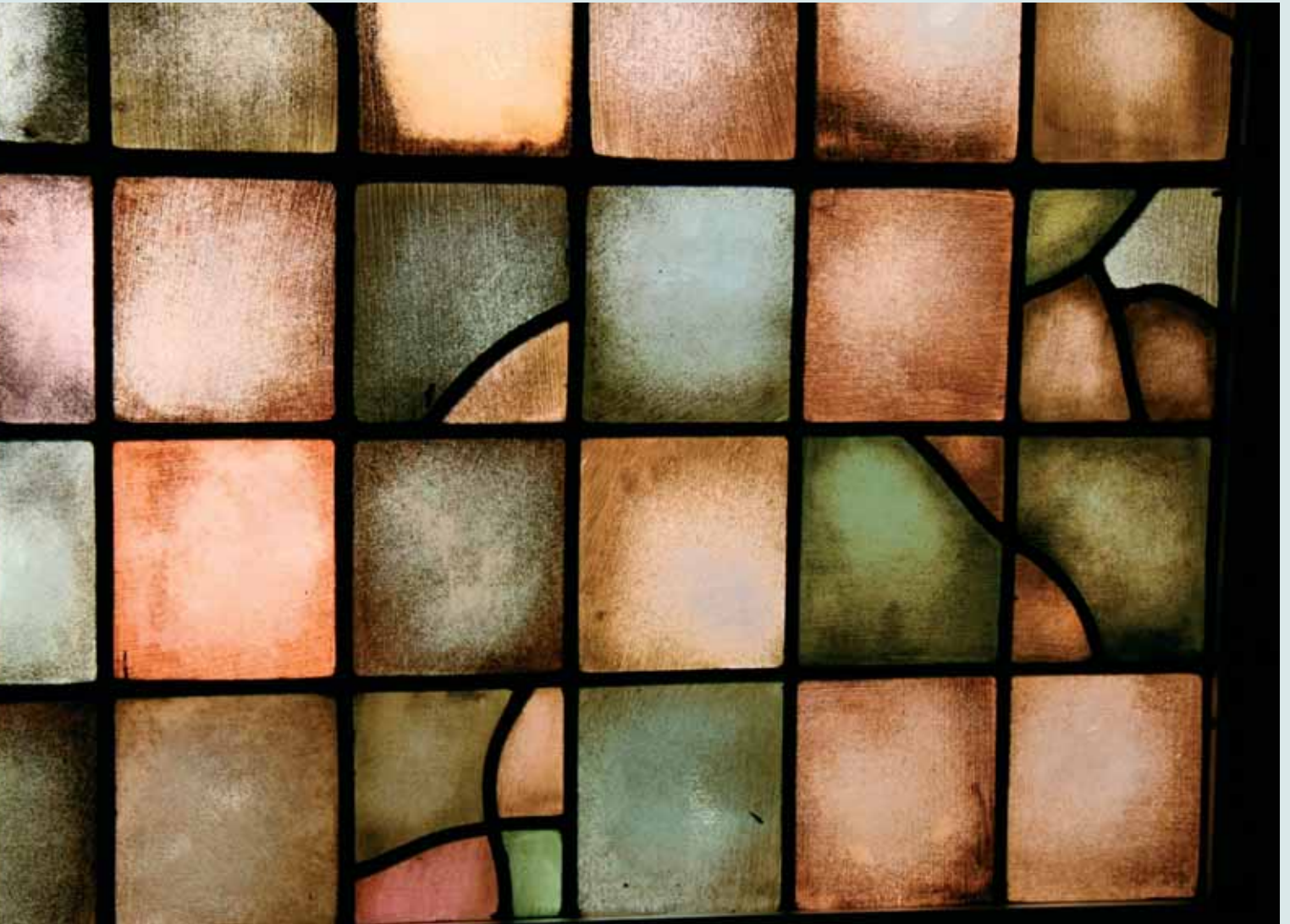
Whether they were trained during the heyday of the bigger Perthshire glass manufacturers or whether they gravitated to an area where the skills of glasswork are still alive and well now seems irrelevant.

*Continued overleaf*



“The fact that things are made in Scotland carries a lot of weight especially when things are sent to America”

The skills of locals have been instrumental in their success



## Your Perthshire

### STUART COSGROVE television executive

Perth is the home of my lifelong passion St Johnstone. They are the only team in the UK with a 'J' in their name. Juventus have a 'J' in their name. But they've never won the Forfarshire Cup.



Stuart Cosgrove

### *Continued from page 69*

Pat said: "There is no formal group for the glass workers, but they do come together and it's very supportive.

"We have become friends with Dunc and now know a lot of the others. No one is going to give away any trade secrets, but we all understand each other."

Roy and Pat are also learning that whatever you make, Perthshire is a highly desirable brand.

Roy has even created a range of jewellery inspired by the famous Blairgowrie raspberries.

Andy Moore found the same thing after he set up his business making wood carvings and guitars.

South African Andy said: "The fact that things are made in Scotland carries a lot of weight, especially when things are sent to America.

"My customers often ask for labels saying

Perthshire, Scotland so the person they give it to will know where it's made."

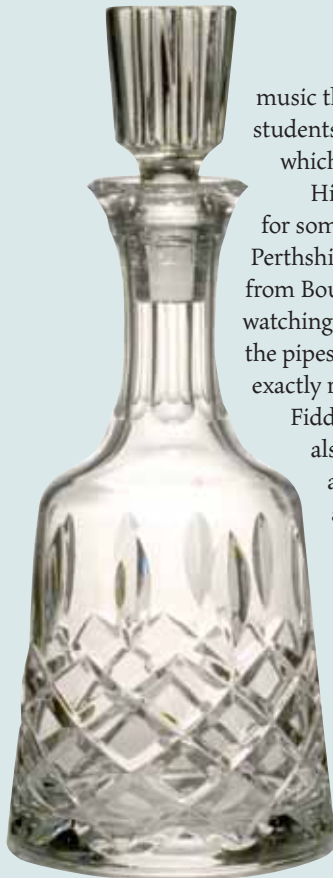
While he agrees the central location makes Perthshire attractive, he concedes that it makes little difference to his guitar making business. The customers for his Sharkattack electric guitar business come from far and wide.

While Andy claims nothing more than coincidence has him making guitars in Perthshire, other musical instrument manufacturers disagree.

Small pipe manufacturer and musician Hamish Moore (no relation) reckons the tradition of musical excellence began with the birth of fiddler Niel Gow in Inver in 1727.

He said: "There's a huge tradition of music in this area which probably started then. That energy, music-making and creativity doesn't stop – it gets passed down.

"When you get a core group of people enjoying



Perthshire has a strong tradition of glassmaking

music they start teaching, which attracts students and one aspect feeds off another, which leads to the instrument making.”

His customers travel huge distances for something which is made in Perthshire. One recently made the trip from Boulder, Colorado, to spend two days watching Hamish work and make sure the pipes he was planning to buy were exactly right.

Fiddle maker Joseph I Ross of Perth also makes instruments which attract discerning customers from around the world.

Meanwhile, Sam Gifford’s Birnam-based Pegasus Cases makes high-quality cases for musical instrument, most of which are sold to customers in America.

On a much smaller scale, other music-related businesses are manufacturing a tuneful profit.

“My customers often ask for labels saying Perthshire, Scotland so the person they give it to will know where it’s made”

Neil Archbold retired to Perthshire and fell into the business of composing music. Calling himself the Tunemaker, Neil explained: “I play the pipes and was playing a lot of folk music and found that people started to ask me to write tunes for them.

“They ask me to write something for a wedding or anniversary or to mark other kinds of celebration.

“The most recent one I did was for someone’s mum’s 70th birthday present. It turned out that when she was young she enjoyed Scottish country dancing so I wrote her a Strathspey.” ■

## A BREATH OF EVEN FRESHER AIR

Device helps consumers monitor energy usage

It’s a problem the world over – many great ideas never make it past people’s imagination. But in Perthshire, Tanya Ewing is showing how they can become a reality. And, in her case, help reduce climate warming and energy bills.

Tanya, pictured right, has developed an innovative wireless device that clearly shows people how much electricity, gas and water they are using in their properties at any one time and, crucially, the cost and level of CO emissions.

Her “eureka” moment came in 2006 when she tried to work out how much gas she was using but her bill was in kilowatt-hours and the meter was in cubic feet.

“I suspected that I was wasting money, but I couldn’t see what was going on,” Tanya explained. “I then trawled the net for a device that I had in my head – but there was nothing. It was an untapped market.”

So she set up a business, Tayeco Ltd, to develop and market the device called Ewgeco.

What is remarkable about Tanya, then a housewife, was that she had no experience of electronics, product development or running a business. What she did have was creativity, passion and the strong belief that she would succeed.

Tanya received help from local business support organisations.

Initially, Ewgeco will be for the business sector, but when the units go into mass production, a consumer version will be available.

Tanya said: “I get contacted from people all over the world wanting one. It is this demand that is helping to drive me, as well as helping people change their behaviour to make a difference to the planet.”

For more information visit [www.ewgeco.com](http://www.ewgeco.com)



# UP *for a* CHALLENGE

Perth-based Macrae & Dick are set to meet new challenges

## LIKE IT, LIVE IT

Whatever your motoring needs Macrae & Dick are the people to help.



A family firm driven by service, it has been awarded the Ford Chairman's Customer Car League awards for four consecutive years.

Telephone 01738 625121 or log on to [www.macrae-anddick.co.uk](http://www.macrae-anddick.co.uk)

**M**otor sales company Macrae & Dick, which has its flagship dealership in Perth, is celebrating a milestone birthday this year – but we are still at the forefront of motor dealership.

At 130 years old, the firm is Scotland's longest established motor dealership and continues to provide a superb level of support for all the customers.

The Dunkeld Road dealership has a team of fresh faces – assistant sales manager Colin Robertson, salesmen Gordon Taylor, Graeme Thomson and Mike Collins, trainee salesman Scott McGregor and motability expert Jim Close – all looking forward to welcoming customers old and new.

Marcus Robertson, General Sales Manager, said: "We've got lots to celebrate this year. Reaching 130 is an exciting achievement and this year looks set to be a memorable one for us in.

"Today, we are among the leading motor dealerships in Scotland and recently won the Ford Motor Company Chairman's Award at our Inverness site for high customer satisfaction levels.

"We are determined to build on this with our new sales team. I'm confident the team is able to achieve this."



## Our services

Macrae & Dick Rapid Fit Centre offers a while-u-wait service that combines convenience, Ford quality and competitive prices on tyres, exhausts, brakes and other 'wear and tear' repairs for all makes. Every vehicle undergoes a free, no-obligation safety check, which can then be used as a basis for scheduling and servicing, repairs or MOT work your vehicle may require.

The Service Department can service any make or model of vehicle and offers a Ford Value Service from as little as £99. All work is performed by Ford-trained technicians ensuring you get the very best service and care for your vehicle.

The service team work alongside the Ford Business Centre servicing all makes of commercial vehicles. When booking

in commercial vehicles for servicing, customers can benefit from the service backbone hours allowing them to drop vehicles off at 5pm and collect them before 9am the following day.

## New models promise top year

Macrae & Dick has seen hundreds of new designs come through its showrooms over the years and right now seems to be the most exciting yet.

With the new registration now available, orders for the bold new look Focus have been flooding in.

With on the road price from £11,945, the new Focus is just £250 more than the equivalent outgoing model. And given the array of new technology and equipment now fitted as standard, it's higher value than ever before.

## Bumper time for Budget

The car and van rental business, also run by Macrae & Dick, announced an incredible 800 per cent rise in turnover at the end of its first year.

The Budget franchise, which opened in November 2006, has tripled its fleet of vans to meet huge demand. ■

• We're offering three days for the price of two at weekends on everything from convertibles to Jumbos.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE

The Perth dealership was delighted to provide a four-wheeled boost to local charity Caring for Kids, which helps more than 25,000 children and young people every year.

The charity's first branded car is already proving crucial to Caring for Kids staff, who use it daily to raise funds and awareness of the charity in Tay Territory.





## BMW Rental at Grassicks of Perth



From the adventurous MINI to the style of the BMW 1 series, the excitement of the BMW 3 Series, the sheer luxury of the BMW 5 Series or the versatility of the BMW X5, we have the right vehicle to suit your every need.

Meet & greet airport delivery service available.



**BMW Rental.  
Affordable luxury.**

Call Kate Gallazzi, BMW Rental Manager  
on 01738 492090 or email [car.rental@grassicks.bmw-net.co.uk](mailto:car.rental@grassicks.bmw-net.co.uk)

'You don't rent a car every day, so why rent an everyday car?'  
[www.car-rental-scotland.co.uk](http://www.car-rental-scotland.co.uk)



## Luxury YOU DESERVE

Leisure time is precious! Therefore, having a bit of luxury in your free time is essential. You may prefer the executive style of a 5 Series, the versatility of the X5, or the exhilarating excitement of the 3 Series Coupé. BMW Rental is affordable luxury, available at Grassicks!

Pick up your car at Perth and miss the congestion of the central belt. Perth has good rail links and we can pick you up at the station.

We have a meet and greet delivery and collection service for most of Scotland's airports. Rates for airport delivery service are available on request.

With full BMW 24-hr emergency cover and the renowned BMW Service, your holiday in Scotland starts here! [www.car-rental-scotland.co.uk](http://www.car-rental-scotland.co.uk) Enquiry form on site, please quote PGO1.

If its fun and adventure you want, Mini rental is also available.

## ARNOLD GIVES YOU QUALITY... AT AFFORDABLE PRICES



*The Complete Motoring Package...*



- New Car Sales
- Used Car Sales
- Car & Van Rental
- Motability
- Contract Hire
- Commercial Vehicle Sales
- Parts & Accessories
- Servicing & Maintenance
- Accident Repair
- Insurance Services
- Financial Services

# Arnold Clark.com

FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST BRANCH CALL ☎ 0141 422 2700

REF: 77469





# natural GOODNESS

With more than enough to go round, it's only natural that Perthshire should share its water with the world



In 1503, King James IV issued a Royal Charter sanctioning Blackford Beer, which used the local water, as his coronation beer.

Think of a factory and it's likely images of heavy industry come to mind. When it comes to the UK's leading bottled water supplier, Highland Spring, in the village of Blackford, think again.

The company's fortune lies in the land above the natural springs where it takes its water – also known as the catchment area. The 2000 acres of pristine land are entirely devoid of any kind of development. There are no buildings or agriculture. This land, with stunning vistas, is as nature intended. In fact, the company was the first of its kind to have its catchment area certified as organic by the Soil Association.

The importance of this can't be underestimated; after all, Highland Spring relies on this land to supply its product – rainwater that has been filtered for 15 years through 60 metres of red sandstone and basalt. In turn, the purity of this land relies on Frank Findlay and his team, who ensure nothing disrupts the natural process that means Highland Spring's water needs no treatment at all.

The company's Water Resource Manager is the man with his hand on the tap. His role also involves controlling the supply and sampling of the water that gushes up from the boreholes in the hills and down into the bottling factory below every day.

Frank explained: "I have a fairly unique job, being up in the hills in the day. All the boreholes are controlled by telemetry from the computers in the company, which I monitor. It is my responsibility to make sure there is sufficient water to meet the

bottling programme and to make sure there is sufficient water to meet the needs of the company."

Despite the fact that the supply in many ways is down to what nature offers, Frank's job is to strike a delicate balance so that the springs sustain the company and the environment in the future.

"It's not just a matter of harvesting the rainfall. We need to know what is going into the ground and what the ground water level is, and what is coming out of it. You can't take out any more than what is going in."

*“It is one of Scotland's largest and strongest brands. We are at the top of the tree”*

Sitting behind Frank and his team is a fully-equipped, accredited laboratory at the factory that checks the purity of the water daily. And behind it is a workforce of around 260 in the factory – a state-of-the-art facility that has trebled in size since it opened in 1980.

To Frank, Highland Spring isn't just important to the community as being a major employer. "It gives something for people to be proud of," he explained. "It is one of Scotland's largest and strongest brands, known not just nationally, but internationally. We are at the top of the tree." ■

#### LIKE IT, LIVE IT

*The natural springs that feed the plant are more than 400 million years old.*



*The company has independent accreditation under the Eco Management and Audit Scheme, which recognises organisations that go beyond the minimum legal compliance and continuously improve their environmental performance.*

*Highland Spring has the highest ethical ranking in the Good Shopping Guide's list of bottled water suppliers in the UK.*

*To find out more, visit: [www.highlandspring.com](http://www.highlandspring.com)*

# PROTECT & SERVE

A local company is providing a valuable service dealing with a potential environmental hazard

Perthshire may be a verdant and pleasant land but thanks to one company, it is also the centre of Scotland when it comes to being green in an entirely different way.

Shore Recycling has become the leading recycler of electrical equipment in Scotland, if not the UK, in terms of the size of its plant in Perth and the volume of work that comes through its doors.

The company's £10 million investment in machinery since it first opened more than five years ago is paying off.

Shore has become so successful that it serves virtually all of Scotland and it bought another plant in St Helen's in Lancashire in January doing a similar job for northern England.

Such is the success that it was recently taken over by one of the UK's principle waste companies – Viridor Waste Management Ltd.

It all began back when Perthshire entrepreneur Simon Howie, himself a local success story – building up a butcher's chain and food business to now supply many major supermarkets – was alerted to a need in the recycling market.

At that time, the press was warning of an impending fridge mountain as the Ozone Depleting Substances regulations came in to force on 1 January 2002. There just weren't enough specialist plants in the UK to deal with the number of fridges that now by law had to have their CFC – chemicals that are damaging to the ozone layer – removed.

"From a standing start, in nine months we got up to speed with learning about the business, building a factory and commissioning the machinery, before opening for business in 2002," said Shore's Commercial Director Malcolm Todd.

"It's now become an important business for Perth – it's the only plant of its kind in Scotland."

In fact, Perth is important to Shore as well. "It is a good place to do business in, because we have a good workforce, a good work ethic and good accessibility from Shetland to Stranraer.



We all have a responsibility to take care of the environment for the next generation



Shore recycles 300,000 fridges and 250,000 TVs every year. Visit [www.shorerecycling.co.uk](http://www.shorerecycling.co.uk) for more information.

"We are at the geographical centre and are well connected to the motorway," he explained. And it is a good thing that the company has good transport links as it capitalises on a second piece of legislation.

In July 2007, the EU's Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment came into force in the UK, and Shore was ready to recycle anything with a plug on it and keep its customers on the right side of the new requirements.

Malcolm Todd added: "With the introduction of the WEEE Directive, there will be a burgeoning of the material that require treatment and recycling. And it is something that the public wants to get behind. We are poised for another great year. The take-over by Viridor represents the start of another exciting chapter for this successful Perth business." ■

## LIKE IT, LIVE IT

*There is help and advice for you setting up or growing your business in Perthshire.*

Contact the Economic Development Unit of Perth & Kinross Council on 01738 47 79 40

Visit: [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com) tel 0845 609 6611, Scottish Enterprise on [www.scotnet.co.uk](http://www.scotnet.co.uk)

Meet and share experiences with fellow entrepreneurs at the Perthshire Chamber of Commerce. [www.perthshirechamber.co.uk](http://www.perthshirechamber.co.uk)



# MILL WORKERS WANTED. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

Stanley Mills was a powerhouse of the industrial revolution from 1786 and is now open to visitors. Find out what it was like to work as a scavenger or piecer and experience life at a cotton mill through our interactive displays.

Situated on the banks of the Tay, 7.4 m N of Perth off the A9. Postcode PH1 4EQ.  
Open 7 days, 9:30am to 5:30pm. Adult £5.00, child £2.50, concessions £3.75.  
Annual membership from £9.00.

Text 'COTTON' to 84118  
for more information.

STANLEY MILLS