



What's On in Highland Perthshire February 2010

www.explore-highland-perthshire.com

February 2010
Explore Scotland Ltd
01796 473335

www.explorescotland.net

www.hpwhatson.net

www.cyclehighlandperthshire.com

Blair Castle Blair Atholl WINTER 2009/2010 OPENING TIMES

31 October to 31 March 2010 Open every Tuesday and Saturday, 9.30am to 2.30pm (last admission to Castle Tour 1.30pm)
Prices: Adults £6.75, Seniors £5.85, Children £3.95, Family Ticket £15.
FREE admission to gardens, grounds, restaurant and shop.

Friday 29th Jan - 7 Feb 2010 Perth 800 - Winter Words Festival Pitlochry Festival Theatre Pitlochry

Where Scotland's literary year gets into gear -The Scotsman
Winter Words is six years old in 2010 and continues to attract more visitors with each passing year. This year, the Festival has expanded and will run over ten days and two weekends, with events taking place at some new and unusual venues!

With a programme featuring a variety of authors and wordsmiths - including **Gyles Brandreth, Neil Oliver, Barbara Dickson, Joss Ackland, Elaine C. Smith, Alasdair Gray, Don Paterson and Julia Donaldson (who returns with The Gruffalo in tow)** – Winter Words offers something, or someone, for everyone.

Across all ten days, there are events to entertain, engage and stimulate: from poetry, history, fiction and memoirs, to stories of places and people, of travel

and exploration. A number of themes wind their way through the Festival this year – rural life, Scottish history and culture, life on the stage, horticulture and the natural world – though which a host of entertaining writers and raconteurs will be charting very different paths.

hiper once again brings you a great selection of child-friendly entertainment for this year's Festival. We're giddy with delight at being able to welcome back **Julia Donaldson and Frank Rodgers**, and thrilled by a new development: watching the wee ones cuddle up for some great bedtime stories – a wonderful way to finish the day for young and old alike . . .

Our ever-popular Writing Workshops offer opportunities to develop and expand your own creative skills. **Neil Forsyth** will lead a session for aspiring fiction writers, whilst **Rachel Marsh** tackles the short story format. For a more intensive and thrilling experience, tutor **Tom Murray** will take you Out Of Your Head during his three day writing course!

As thousands of happy literature lovers have already discovered, Winter Words provides the perfect antidote to those mid-winter blues.

Book Fair

The Winter Words bookstall is organised by The Watermill Bookshop in Aberfeldy, who will be selling signed books by guest authors throughout the Festival. Located in a Grade-A listed former watermill, and winner of the UK's Best

You Could Advertise your Event Here!

Add an enhanced version Of your entry with Logo's or an image.

Phone James Rattray
01796 473335

Or e.mail

james@explorescotland.net

For details and costs.

Independent Bookshop, The Watermill is well worth a visit whilst in Highland Perthshire. Visit

www.aberfeldywatermill.com

The unique Pitlochry Station Bookshop will be running a second hand bookstall in the Theatre foyer throughout the Festival. The Station Bookshop sells a wide range of donated books to raise money for many different charities. Bestsellers, children's classics and interesting antiquary gems are waiting to be enjoyed – and not just by train travellers!

Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office
Tel - 01796 484626

Email: boxoffice@pitlochry.org.uk

Web www.pitlochry.org.uk

Monday 1st Feb - Monday 15th Mar 2010 Scottish Snowdrop Festival Perthshire

From the Latin name meaning 'milk flower', these tiny green and white flowers are amongst the first blossoms to emerge in the new year. In the mid 19th century soldiers in the Crimean War brought them back from the battlefields to plant in their gardens. Today they thrive throughout Scotland, in gardens, damp woods and on river banks. VisitScotland has teamed up with gardens around the country to bring you the Scottish Snowdrop Festival. At locations throughout Scotland, you'll find snowdrop after snowdrop, bringing brightness and magic to your day.

Dunkeld Visitor Information Centre
Telephone - 01350 727688

Email:

dunkeld@visitscotland.com Web
www.visitscotland.com/snowdrops

Tuesday 2nd February to 27th February Snowdrops and the Scented Castle

Blair Castle, Blair Atholl

In February, enjoy the seasonal delights of snowdrops in bloom on a walk around the castle grounds. A gentle meandering route passes through the Hercules Garden and

weaves along to St Brides Kirk. The walk also includes access to two new paths (only open to the public at snowdrop time). Then step in from the cold and enjoy the indoor flowers. The castle's entrance hall, Banvie Hall and restaurant will be filled with bowls of scented daffodils, hyacinths and tulips.

*Please note: The castle and grounds are open on Tuesdays and Saturdays only. Also open for Mothering Sunday on 14 March. Opening Days: 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 February 2, 6, 9, 13, 14 March **Times:** 9.30am to 2.30pm **Prices:** Free entry to grounds, restaurant and gift shop Tel: 01796 481 355

www.atholl-estates.co.uk

Every Wednesday Night Sept 09 to 24th March 2010 Night Time Mountain Bike Riding North Car Park in Dunkeld.

Meet at the North car park in Dunkeld Leaver 7pm Prompt for a variety of routes technical and non-technical. Good lights essential, full suspension is not. Please ensure you are necessarily equipped for winter weather & trailside repairs. Contact Scot Tares 07763 013862

Tuesday 2nd Feb 2pm to 4pm Queen Victoria's Highland Journals

A performance in Blair Castle's ballroom as part of Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Queen Victoria was a frequent visitor to the Highlands, especially to these Perthshire hills, and her journals reveal the solace that these visits brought her after the death of her beloved husband, Albert.

Readings from her diaries will be brought to life by some familiar faces from the Pitlochry stage in the historic setting of Blair Castle's ballroom, by a roaring fire. The event will start with a tour of Victoria's apartments and a chance to examine family photographs, portraits and the many letters that passed between Duchess Anne and Queen Victoria.

Blair Castle's Tullibardine Restaurant will be open before the event for the

enjoyment of light lunches, teas and Victoria sponge! **Prices:** £8 **Booking:** Via the Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office on 01796 484626 or online at www.pitlochry.org.uk

Tuesday, 2nd Feb, 7.30pm Winter Words Festival - Angus Konstam

Blair Castle Blair Atholl

A performance in Blair Castle's ballroom as part of Pitlochry Festival Theatre's For hundreds of years, Scottish soldiers fighting for sovereign and country have recorded their experiences in words: letters, diaries, poems, ballads and reports. Historian Angus Konstam has now brought these accounts together for the first time and will read from his moving and inspiring book *There Was A Soldier* in the historic setting of Blair Castle's ballroom. Angus will be illustrating his talk with examples from the castle's magnificent weaponry collections. Angus' book recently formed the subject of the fascinating STV programme *The Scots At War*. **Prices:** £7 **Booking:** Via Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Box Office on 01796 484626 or online at www.pitlochry.org.uk

Wednesday 3rd February 4.30pm

Bashabi Fraser

The Watermill Aberfeldy,

Bashabi Fraser will be presenting her modern epic poem From Ganga to the Tay.

www.aberfeldywatermill.com

Thursday 4th February 4.30pm Aberfeldy author Maisie Steven The Watermill Aberfeldy,

will be talking of her unique experiences as a child growing up in Glen Urquart. The events will take place at in The Watermill Aberfeldy, for more details go to

www.aberfeldywatermill.com

Thursday 4th Feb, 3.15pm. Winter Words Festival - Charles MacLean

Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Festival partner Dewars welcomes

whisky writer extraordinaire Charles MacLean for a fine afternoon's blend of entertainment, beginning with a free tour the heritage exhibition and distillery at 2.00pm, followed by an audience with the author of eight whisky books to date, including Whiskypedia, published in June 2009. Tickets £7.00
 Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office
 Tel - 01796 484626
 Email: boxoffice@pitlochry.org.uk
 Web www.pitlochry.org.uk

Thursday 4th & Friday 5th February

Heartland Film Society -

Persepolis cert 12A

The Locus Centre The Square Aberfeldy.

Iran in 1979. Marjane Satrapi's funny and intelligent autobiographical animation captures her childhood, adolescence and exile in the turmoil of the Iranian revolution. £30 for 10 films as a member, or £5 per film

www.heartlandfilmsociety.org.uk

Friday 5th February

Pictism

Live at McKays Bar & Restaurant, Atholl Road Pitlochry.

- A traditional two piece from Edinburgh playing a mixture of Scots and Irish tunes and songs. The song's they perform can either be from within the last couple of hundred years such as Robert Burns or Robert Tannahill songs or the may be of an older tradition that is of an unknown origin usually part of a long forgotten oral tradition. Tel: 01796473888 .

Email: info@mckayshotel.co.uk

www.mckayshotel.co.uk

Friday 5th February 9.30pm to 10.30pm

Fearie Tales

Pitlochry Festival Theatre Ben-Y-Vrackie Bar.

Round of the day with tales of the macabre and the supernatural, read by some familiar faces from the Pitlochry stage. Each evening will feature a selection of different hair-raising tales, but a dram or two should help to keep the chills at

bay. FREE event. Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office

Tel - 01796 484626

Email: boxoffice@pitlochry.org.uk

Web www.pitlochry.org.uk

Saturday 6th February 7pm

Winter Puddingsnight!

in the McLean Hall. Fearnan

£5 per person. All proceeds to towards a Permanent Photographic Exhibition in the Hall. Live music, tea/coffee.

Saturday 6th February 10am to 12.30pm

Winter Red Squirrel Safari

Blair Castle Blair Atholl

Enjoy a morning walking and driving through our farm land and forests in search of red squirrels as they play and search for food. Winter is a great time to watch red squirrels as there's less cover from tree foliage and the squirrels are more active in their search for food.

As part of the tour you will stop at one of our wild life hides to witness these cheeky creatures move around in their natural setting and while there, enjoy some warm refreshments and listen to our guide, Sandy, a man who has lived and worked on Atholl for almost 50 years.

Sandy has lived and worked on the estate for all his career and will share his specialist knowledge of the natural area which is rich in wildlife including red squirrels, birds of prey, deer and mountain hares. Pick up and drop off at Blair Castle (in front of glass entrance doors).

Prices: Adults £30, Children (3 to 17 years) £18 **Booking:** Contact the Estate Office on 01796 481355, Blair Castle on 01796 481207 or Blair Castle Caravan Park on 01796 481263. Pre-booking essential. Numbers limited to 6 per tour. Group or private bookings are welcomed on other dates by prior arrangement (subject to availability).

Saturday 6th February 10am to 12.30pm

Land Rover Tour

Atholl Estates Blair Atholl.

Enjoy a breath-taking 2.5 hour Land Rover tour through some of the most remote, dramatic and tranquil areas on Atholl Estates. Our drivers both live and work on the estate and will share their specialist knowledge of the natural area, which is rich in wildlife including red squirrels, birds of prey and mountain hares. Winter tours will include a stop off for hot refreshments at a bothy or out on the hill (weather permitting). Pick up and drop off at Blair Castle. Prices: Adults £30, Children (3 to 17 years) £18. Group or private bookings are welcomed on other dates by prior arrangement (subject to availability). Tel: 01796 481 355 www.atholl-estates.co.uk

Saturday 6th February

Perth & District Ramblers -

Clunie Walk - 8 miles

Start Grid Ref: NN940580 or

Fishers Hotel Pitlochry at

10.04am

Climb Fonab Hill then through conifer plantations onto open moor, good views from the moor before returning to Pitlochry. Return Bus 15.30 or 16.30. Phone leader to confirm bus details. Note: No dogs please. Contact phone: 01738 637286. Local grade: B Meeting Info: ASDACP at 9.00 a.m. to catch X27 bus to Pitlochry (9.03 a.m. at Mill Street or 9.05 a.m. opposite Asda) or Fishers Hotel, Pitlochry at 10.04

Tel 01738 632645

www.perthramblers.blogspot.com

Saturday 6th February 7 - 10pm

MacPolvo

Live at McKays Bar & Restaurant, Atholl Road Pitlochry.

- MacPolvo have delighted audiences from Skye to Salamanca with their repertoire of traditional song from Scotland, with Irish songs and even the odd English number thrown into the mix. Check out macpolvo.com Tel: 01796473888 . Email:

info@mckayshotel.co.uk

www.mckayshotel.co.uk

6th February 9.30pm to 10.30pm

Fearie Tales

Pitlochry Festival Theatre Ben-Y-Vrackie Bar.

Round of the day with tales of the macabre and the supernatural, read by some familiar faces from the Pitlochry stage. Each evening will feature a selection of different hair-raising tales, but a dram or two should help to keep the chills at bay. FREE event. Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office
Tel - 01796 484626
Email: boxoffice@pitlochry.org.uk
Web www.pitlochry.org.uk

Saturday 6th Feb 3 - 4.30pm

Afternoon workshop

Birnam Arts Centre, Station Rd, Birnam, Dunkeld

TRADITIONAL TUNES WORKSHOP (suitable for 10 years - adult) Performer: ANGUS GRANT / LUKE PLUMB Tickets: £5 Tel.: 07971 511952 or email: jamie@jauncey.co.uk to reserve a place

Saturday 6th February 7pm
Evening CD launch & concert
BIRNAM ARTS CENTRE, STATION ROAD, BIRNAM, DUNKELD.

Performer: THE BIRNAM QUARTET
Tickets: Adult - £5; Under-18s - £3 / 2 for £5 Online: www.thebooth.co.uk
Tel.: 01350 727158

Tuesday 9th February 8pm

Quiz Night

The Auld Smiddy Inn, Atholl Rd Pitlochry.

Teams of 4 **£5 entry fee per team** (money to Guiding Group) hot food for all participants at half time. SPACE AT A PREMIUM SO A MAXIMUM OF TEN TEAMS CAN COMPETE PLEASE CALL TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM ON 01796 472356 Quizzes continue every 2nd Tuesday of the month until March, then Grand Final In April

Every Wednesday Night Sept 09 to 24th march 2010

Night Time Mountain Bike Riding

North Car Park in Dunkeld.

Meet at the North car park in Dunkeld Leaver 7pm Prompt for a variety of routes technical and non-technical. Good lights essential, full suspension is not. Please ensure you are necessarily equipped for winter weather & trailside repairs. Contact Scot Tares 07763 013862

Thursday 11th February 7pm

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS - A ONE WOMAN PLAY

The Watermill Bookshop & Gallery Mill St Aberfeldy

The Watermill is very pleased to be hosting this outstanding one-woman play performed by local actress Anna Hepburn telling the tragic story of Mary Queen of Scots. The evening starts at 7pm with drinks and a hearty supper, followed by the play. Tickets (£17.50 including meal and wine) are limited so book early, from The Watermill on 01887 822896 or e-mail marketing@aberfeldywatermill.com

Thursday 11th February 7-7.30pm

Scottish Country Dance Class
Moulin Hall Pitlochry.

Great exercise, music & fun. No partner required. Class commences at 7.30pm and if you have not danced before or need a refresher then come along at 7pm. Admission £2.50 nightly contact June Templeman 01796 473488

Friday 12th February 1.30pm

Mindstorm Challenge - Childrens Workshop ages P4-P7
Birnam Arts Centre, Birnam by Dunkeld

A fun programming and Robotics Workshop. brought to you by Generation Science. Learn how to programme your robot to follow commands and navigate its way around our obstacle course. Bring Lego to life in this fun and engaging hands on session. £5.00 Tel Box Office 01350 727674 www.birnamarts.com

Friday 12th February 7-10pm
John Davidson.

Live at McKays bar & Restaurant, Atholl Rd Pitlochry

John has an extensive repertoire, focusing mainly on Scots and Irish popular folk. Depending on his audience he adds some music hall, American folk and melodic blues to his set. A true entertainer, his warm engaging personality ensures that audiences have a great night. As a soloist he accompanies himself with guitar and mandolin. Tel: 01796473888 . Email: info@mckayshotel.co.uk www.mckayshotel.co.uk

Friday 12th February 2010

7.30pm

Alvin Stardust with his Band
Pitlochry Festival Theatre
Pitlochry

We are delighted to welcome the legendary Alvin Stardust and his band to Pitlochry for one night only. And what a night it promises to be... This concert celebrates the Rockabilly roots of Rock 'n' Roll, with songs from the 50s and 60s, before moving on through the decades, right up to the present day. The show will include Alvin's own array of unforgettable hits from the 70s and 80s, as well as classics by Elvis, Buddy Holly, Joe Brown, Marty Wilde, Billy Fury, Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. Make sure you don't miss this great night out with the Godfather of Rock 'n' Roll! Tickets £18.50 Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office Tel - 01796 484626 Email: boxoffice@pitlochry.org.uk Web www.pitlochry.org.uk

Saturday 13th February -15th March

Exhibition - *Printworks* by Kate Downie

The Watermill Mill Street, Aberfeldy.

Downie's third solo show features prints: new, previously unseen as well as works from the artist's archive at Watermill Gallery Mill Street, Aberfeldy PH15 2BG tel: 01887 822896

www.aberfeldywatermill.com

Open: Mon- Sat 10am - 5pm &
Sun 11am -5pm

**Saturday Feb 13th 10am
Perth & District Ramblers -
Glen Banvie 8 miles**

Meet Glen Tilt Car park

Up Glen Banvie, down to Bruar Falls and returning by Blair Castle grounds. Note: No dogs please. local grade: C+ Tel 01738 445930.

**Sat 13th Feb 10am to 12.30pm
Winter Red Squirrel Safari
Atholl Estates Blair Castle Blair
Atholl**

Enjoy a morning walking and driving through our farm land and forests in search of red squirrels as they play and search for food. Winter is a great time to watch red squirrels as there's less cover from tree foliage and the squirrels are more active in their search for food.

As part of the tour you will stop at one of our wild life hides to witness these cheeky creatures move around in their natural setting and while there, enjoy some warm refreshments and listen to our guide, Sandy, a man who has lived and worked on Atholl for almost 50 years.

Sandy has lived and worked on the estate for all his career and will share his specialist knowledge of the natural area which is rich in wildlife including red squirrels, birds of prey, deer and mountain hares. Pick up and drop off at Blair Castle (in front of glass entrance doors).

Prices: Adults £30, Children (3 to 17 years) £18 **Booking:** Contact the Estate Office on 01796 481355, Blair Castle on 01796 481207 or Blair Castle Caravan Park on 01796 481263. Pre-booking essential. Numbers limited to 6 per tour. Group or private bookings are welcomed on other dates by prior arrangement (subject to availability). Tel: 01796 481 355

www.atholl-estates.co.uk

**Saturday 13th February 7-10pm
Andrew Gordon.**

**Live at McKays bar & Restaurant,
Atholl Rd Pitlochry**

Andrew has been singing solos since 1999. Since then Andrew has played in The US, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands and all over Scotland. A firm favourite in McKays check out andrew-gordon.co.uk Tel: 01796473888 .

Email: info@mckayshotel.co.uk

www.mckayshotel.co.uk

**Saturday 13th February 2010
7.30pm (dinner 6pm)**

**A Tribute to Ella and Oscar
Pitlochry Festival Theatre
Pitlochry**

Featuring Joni Keen and The Euan Stevenson Trio. A romantic, musical celebration for Valentine's weekend, with one of Scotland's finest stars of the British Jazz scene performing her tribute to the songs of Ella Fitzgerald and the late, great Oscar Peterson. Joni's voice has been thrilling audiences and critics alike this year, with her live festival and radio performances promoting her acclaimed album Fragile. Her sultry, accomplished range beautifully resonates with the jazz heroines of yesteryear. Joining her onstage will be the Euan Stevenson Trio. Euan is a talented and charismatic piano player and composer, much in demand as a sideman for many of Scotland's finest jazz musicians. Euan's reputation as a skillful and sensitive vocal accompanist is also growing rapidly. Together with Andy Sharkey on bass and Jim Drummond on drums, they provide the perfect accompaniment to Joni's voice. To enhance the mood, why not join us earlier in the evening for a special Valentine's dinner in the intimate atmosphere of the River Room Restaurant? Tickets £13 (with dinner £29) Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office Tel - 01796 484626

Email: boxoffice@pitlochry.org.uk

Web www.pitlochry.org.uk

**Saturday 13th February 2010 Sat-
urday 6pm**

**Music in Blair Atholl
Lude House Blair Atholl**

A series of delightful chamber concerts given in informal surroundings at

Strathgarry - today's music is performed by members of The Yehudi Menuhin School of Music.

Admission - Tickets £15 Lavinia Gordon Telephone - 01796 481216 Email:

info@musicinblairatholl.com Web
www.musicinblairatholl.com

**Saturday 13th February
Dance at the Birnam
The Birnam House Hotel Perth
Road Birnam by Dunkeld**

Dance at the Birnam – Music by Bill Jackson – 50s, 60s, 70s, & 80s Tickets £5.00 per person available the hotel reception Tel: 01350 728 030 enquiries@birnamhotel.com
www.birnamhotel.com

**Saturday 13th February 8pm
"Wonderful Day" Celebrate the
life and music of Hollywood's
most adorable star!
Birnam Arts Centre Birnam
Dunkeld.**

"Scott's impression just seizes the day..." Scotsman Remember Que Sera Sera, the Deadwood Stage and Sentimental Journey? Reminisce and rediscover with great songs from Calamity Jane, Pillow Talk, Young at Heart, Love Me or Leave Me and The Pyjama Game. Enjoy this stylish musical cabaret tribute to Doris with glitz, glamour, songs, stories, laughter and anecdotes from her life. Find out the story of the real Doris Day, who she was, where she came from and how she became a huge international star!

Don't miss out on singing along with Doris backed by her Rhythm Boys, a live band of talented top UK jazz musicians. Tickets: £12 / £10 Tel Box Office 01350 727674

www.birnamarts.com

**Sunday 14th February 2010
2.30pm**

**Music in Blair Atholl
Lude House Blair Atholl**

A series of delightful chamber concerts given in informal surroundings at Strathgarry - today's music is performed by members of The Yehudi Menuhin School of Music.

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**Thursday 18th February
Heartland Film Society - AGM -
Waking Ned cert 15
The Locus Centre The Square
Aberfeldy.**

A Black Irish comedy as two rogues pursue a dead man's winning lottery ticket. £30 for 10 films as a member, or £5 per film

www.heartlandfilmsociety.org.uk

Thursday 18th February 7-7.30pm

**Scottish Country Dance Class
Moulin Hall Pitlochry.**

Great exercise, music & fun. No partner required. Class commences at 7.30pm and if you have not danced before or need a refresher then come along at 7pm. Admission £2.50 nightly contact June Templeman 01796 473488

**Friday 19th February
Acoustic Perthshire
Birnam Arts Centre, Birnam by
Dunkeld**

An evening of the finest, locally made acoustic music featuring a number of artists from the area. Tickets £8 advance £10 on the door/under 18s £3 (2 for £5) Ticket info 01350 727158 (cash/cheque only) card bookings online at

www.thebooth.co.uk
www.thefiddletree.com

Friday 19th February 7-10pm

Lisa & Fiona

Live at McKays bar & Restaurant, Atholl Rd Pitlochry

This young female duo on fiddle and accordion are gaining quite a reputation for themselves on the traditional live music scene. Lisa, who is studying the BA Gaelic and Traditional Music degree at the Gaelic College on the Isle of Skye, and Fiona who studied the BA Scottish Music degree at the RAM in Glasgow, take their influences from the West Coast tradition, and will provide us with a night of Ceilidh Music. Tel: 01796473888 . Email:

info@mckayshotel.co.uk
www.mckayshotel.co.uk

Saturday 20th February 10am to 12.30pm

**Winter Red Squirrel Safari
Blair Castle Blair Atholl**

Enjoy a morning walking and driving through our farm land and forests in search of red squirrels as they play and search for food. Winter is a great time to watch red squirrels as there's less cover from tree foliage and the squirrels are more active in their search for food. As part of the tour you will stop at one of our wild life hides to witness these cheeky creatures move around in their natural setting and while there, enjoy some warm refreshments and listen to our guide, Sandy, a man who has lived and worked on Atholl for almost 50 years. Sandy has lived and worked on the estate for all his career and will share his specialist knowledge of the natural area which is rich in wildlife including red squirrels, birds of prey, deer and mountain hares. Pick up and drop off at Blair Castle (in front of glass entrance doors). **Prices:** Adults £30, Children (3 to 17 years) £18 **Booking:** Contact the Estate Office on 01796 481355, Blair Castle on 01796 481207 or Blair Castle Caravan Park on 01796 481263. Pre-booking essential. Numbers limited to 6 per tour. Group or private bookings are welcomed on other dates by prior arrangement (subject to availability).

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Saturday 20th February 7 - 10pm

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Live at McKays Bar & Restaurant, Atholl Road Pitlochry.

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www.mckayshotel.co.uk

**Tuesday 23rd February 8pm
Quiz Night**

The Auld Smiddy Inn, Atholl Rd Pitlochry.

Teams of 4 **£5 entry fee per team** (money to Guiding Group) hot food for all participants at half time. **SPACE AT A PREMIUM SO A MAXIMUM OF TEN TEAMS CAN COMPETE PLEASE CALL TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM ON 01796 472356** Quizzes continue every 2nd Tuesday of the month until March, then Grand Final In April

Every Wednesday Night Sept 09 to 24th march 2010

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North Car Park in Dunkeld.

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**Wednesday 24th - Saturday 27th February 7.30pm
SCDA 78th Perthshire District
Festival of One Act Plays
Birnam Arts Centre Birnam by
Dunkeld.**

Book for the whole run and get a £6 concession. Balcony £9 Stalls £8/£6 concession Tel Box Office 01350 727674 www.birnamarts.com

Thursday 25th February 7-7.30pm

**Scottish Country Dance Class
Moulin Hall Pitlochry.**

Great exercise, music & fun. No partner required. Class commences at 7.30pm and if you have not danced before or need a refresher then come along at 7pm. Admission £2.50 nightly contact June Templeman 01796 473488

**Thursday February 25th 7.30pm
North Perthshire Family History Group**

The Tryst Lounge, Pitlochry

Donald Isles will speak of his Welsh Ancestry. All welcome.

**Saturday 26th February 7-10pm
Andrew Gordon.**

**Live at McKays bar & Restaurant,
Atholl Rd Pitlochry**

Andrew has been singing solos since 1999. Since then Andrew has played in The US, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands and all over Scotland. A firm favourite in McKays check out andrewgordon.co.uk Tel: 01796473888 . Email: info@mckayshotel.co.uk www.mckayshotel.co.uk

**Friday 26th February 7.30pm.
Breadalbane Heritage Society meeting.**

Village Hall, Grandtully.

Dave McNicoll 'Telford's crossing of the Tay at Dunkeld'.

**Friday 26th February 7.30pm
Nightmare Songs
Pitlochry Festival Theatre
Pitlochry**

The infamous patter songs of Gilbert & Sullivan – all to be learned in one, panic stricken night... On a rainy night in a town in the north of England, the patter man's understudy in the famous D'Oyly Carte Opera company is given a day's notice that he is 'on'! A sleepless night ensues and, in the dingy bedroom of his theatrical digs, he tries to rehearse his role – helped, but often hindered by one of the other residents of the house, an itinerant variety performer. As the

night progresses, their discussion take on a more disturbing tone as the understudy's rehearsal begins to turn into a true nightmare. Opera Della Luna create new and innovative productions of musical theatre, comic opera and operetta in English. In this performance, Simon Butterkiss, renowned master of the 'patter roles', is joined by Jeff Clarke, artistic director of Opera Della Luna, as his musical adversary. This new theatre-music piece contains most of the G&S patter songs within a play that is, by turn, hilariously funny and surprisingly moving. Tickets £15-£17 Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office Tel - 01796 484626
Email: boxoffice@pitlochry.org.uk
Web www.pitlochry.org.uk

Saturday 20th February 10am to 12.30pm

**Winter Red Squirrel Safari
Blair Castle Blair Atholl**

Enjoy a morning walking and driving through our farm land and forests in search of red squirrels as they play and search for food. Winter is a great time to watch red squirrels as there's less cover from tree foliage and the squirrels are more active in their search for food. As part of the tour you will stop at one of our wild life hides to witness these cheeky creatures move around in their natural setting and while there, enjoy some warm refreshments and listen to our guide, Sandy, a man who has lived and worked on Atholl for almost 50 years. Sandy has lived and worked on the estate for all his career and will share his specialist knowledge of the natural area which is rich in wildlife including red squirrels, birds of prey, deer and mountain hares. Pick up and drop off at Blair Castle (in front of glass entrance doors). **Prices:** Adults £30, Children (3 to 17 years) £18 **Booking:** Contact the Estate Office on 01796 481355, Blair Castle on 01796 481207 or Blair Castle Caravan Park on 01796 481263. Pre-booking essential. Numbers limited to 6 per tour. Group or private bookings are welcomed on other dates by prior

arrangement (subject to availability). Tel: 01796 481 355
www.atholl-estates.co.uk

Saturday 27th February 7-10pm

Whistleblowers

Live at McKays bar & Restaurant, Atholl Rd Pitlochry

The Whistleblowers are a trio who play a mixture of Scottish and Irish music with a couple of contemporary tunes thrown in for good measure!! From ballads to foot tappers, The Whistleblowers go out of their way to make you feel a part of the night Tel: 01796473888 . Email: info@mckayshotel.co.uk www.mckayshotel.co.uk

**Saturday 27th February 2010
7.30pm**

The Sorcerer

**Pitlochry Festival Theatre
Pitlochry**

Opera Della Luna return for a second night in succession, with a brand new production of Gilbert & Sullivan's first full length, successful operetta. The story is relocated from its quaint Victorian setting to sleepy rural Britain in the 1970s. John Wellington Wells, the celebrated dealer in 'magic and spells' spreads chaos and havoc in an unsuspecting country village, when he places a powerful aphrodisiac in the village hall tea-pot. The resulting revelations and numerous comic twists are indeed "a marvellous illusion, a terrible surprise!" Touring the UK for over ten years, Opera Della Luna have earned themselves a matchless reputation with acclaimed productions of Gilbert & Sullivan, Offenbach and Johann Strauss. We welcome them to PFT for the first time in what promises to be a great evening's entertainment! Tickets £18-£20 Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office Tel - 01796 484626 Email: boxoffice@pitlochry.org.uk Web www.pitlochry.org.uk

**If you have an Event you would like to advertise Free of Charge
e.mail eileen@explorescotland.net with Date/Time/Event/Venue/Price**

NB We try to make sure all the information we post is accurate, but please check directly with the venue concerned before committing yourself.

NB. If you would like to discuss a small advertisement on these pages please e.mail james@explorescotland.net or phone 01796 473335