



December 2011 What's On in Highland Perthshire

www.explore-highland-perthshire.com

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December 2011
Explore Scotland Ltd
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Why Not pay a small amount and
have an enhanced entry like the one
below!

Email james@explorescotland.net



Visit [Highland Perthshire's newest web site full of What's On information](http://www.explore-highland-perthshire.com)
that you can add to your own Trip Planner basket.

5th November to 25th March 2012 Blair Castle Winter Opening Times Blair Castle Blair Atholl

Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm
(Free admission to gardens, grounds,
restaurant and shop.)

Sunday Lunch in the ballroom 12noon -
3pm

Festive Opening from 28th December
to 31st December 2011 10am to 4pm
(Last admission to castle 3pm)

Closed from 21st December to 20th
January 2012 (except for Festive Open-
ing days)

email: 01796 481207 e.mail [office@blair-
castle.co.uk](mailto:office@blair-castle.co.uk) [www.atholl-
estates.co.uk](http://www.atholl-
estates.co.uk)

November to March 2012 Loch of the Lowes Visitor Centre A923 off A9 2m/s from Dunkeld PH8 0HH

Open Friday Saturday and Sunday
10.30am to 4pm

*Red squirrels are now considered endan-
gered, but here on the reserve families
of red squirrels visit our feeders, much to
the delight of our visitors. You'll also be
able to see woodland birds such as tree-
creepers, siskins and great spotted
woodpeckers that all make great use of
our feeders. Enjoy seeing beautiful wa-
terbirds including wigeon, moorhen to
mallards from the observation hides with
the help of powerful telescopes. The
four star Visitor Centre provides you with
a place to birdwatch in style and all in
the comfort of a cozy centre. Sit back
and relax with a cup of fair trade coffee*

*while you marvel at red squirrels playing
right in front of you from the viewing
window. further info contact Caroline
Hendry 01350 727337 e.mail [lochhoff-
helowes@swt.org.uk](mailto:lochhoff-
helowes@swt.org.uk)*

Monday 7th November – 28th Feb- ruary WINTER WATCH SAFARIS LAND ROVER SPOTLIGHT SAFARIS Highland Safaris By Aberfeldy PH15 2JQ

As dusk turns into night, climb aboard
your Land Rover and use the spotlight as
a window into this mysterious night-time
world. Web or Call 01887 820071
www.highlandsafaris.net

Monday 7th November – 28th Feb- ruary ALPINE SAFARIS Highland Safaris By Aberfeldy PH15 2JQ

Head into the hills to experience the sub
arctic wilderness and search for elusive
White Hares, Ptarmigan and Red Deer.
Enjoy refreshments in our cosy Mountain
Bothy. Web or Call 01887 820071
www.highlandsafaris.net

Every Saturday 11 - 11.30am Childrens' story Telling, The Watermill, Mill Street, Aber- feldy, Perthshire. PH15 2BG.

tel:01887 822896
email:info@aberfeldywatermill.com
www.aberfeldywatermill.com

**1st Sunday of the Month 8.30pm
Traditional Music Sessions
Ben Lawers Hotel Lawers Aberfeldy. PH15 2PA**

Ben Lawers Hotel is proud to host a Traditional Live Music Session on the first Sunday of every single month!
Tel: 01567 820436
www.benlawershotel.co.uk

**Friday 2nd December 7.30pm
Heartland Film Society present
'Harold and Maude'
The Locus Centre The Square
Aberfeldy.
Tickets £5**

**Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd December 7.30pm
The Farndale MacBeth (Comedy)
Pitlochry Town Hall.**

A Birnam Institute Players and The Atholl Players joint production. The Farndale Ave Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of MacBeth. (Just how many things can go wrong when the dramatic society attempt an original version of the Scottish Play... their entry into the drama competition is doomed from the outset!! An uproarious comedy. £7 full/£5 U16

**Saturday 3rd December 12 noon - 4.30pm
Festive Fun Day for all the Family
The Square Aberfeldy**

Christmas Lights Switch On and Christmas Market. Santa's procession will make its way from Aberfeldy Groundwork's depot to the square, led by the new Breadalbande Campus pipe band leading Santa's sleigh. Juggling, fancy dress and local trucks decorated for Christmas. Santa will then go to his grotto in the Locus Centre. Music and street entertainment. Best Fancy Dress and best shop window awards. Christmas Market. Christmas lights switch on 4pm

**Saturday 3rd December & Sunday 4th December 10.30am to 2.30pm
A Magical Meeting with Santa
Blair Castle, Blair Atholl PH18 5TL**

Santa will be dropping into Blair Castle this December and invites you to step

inside his magical grotto hidden in the Hercules Garden.

Your journey starts with a tractor ride from the castle to the secret garden door.

Knock on the door to be greeted by Santa's helper who will lead you and your family down to Santa's grotto. Tell Santa what you'd like in your stocking and receive a present, before writing your Christmas wish on a decoration to be hung from the tree. Prices: £6.00 per child Booking: Please call 01796 481 207 to make a booking <http://www.atholl-estates.co.uk/event-detail.cfm/>

Sunday 4th December 12 noon to 3pm

**Sunday Lunch in the Ballroom
Blair Castle, Blair Atholl PH18 5TL**

Take a table in the ballroom of Blair Castle for a traditional Sunday lunch. Enjoy the warmth of the blazing fire and the traditional festive decorations. Prices: Two courses - £14.95 per person Three courses - £17.95 per person Booking: Please call 01796 481 207 to make a booking

**Saturday 3rd and
Sunday 4th December 12 to 5pm
Christmas Wine and Gift Weekend
The House of Menzies Aberfeldy
PH15 2JD**

Taste some wines, try the new menu, and Christmas Shop till you drop. (Gift wrapping available) Tel 01887 829666
www.houseofmenzies.com

**Saturday 10th December 9.45am
Santa with his Reindeer Parade
from Fishers Hotel to Bells Blair
Athol Distillery Pitlochry**

Santa and his Reindeer Parade along Atholl Road. Mrs Christmas will be Storytelling for the children. (with the kind assistance of Bells Blair Athol Distillery, the reindeer will be here, we are extremely grateful for their support).

**Reindeer Parade leaves Fishers
Hotel at 9.45am to march to Bells
Blair Athol Distillery.**

Pitlochry in Bloom Coffee Morning from 10.00 am to 12.00pm Enjoy a complimentary Winter Warming Pimm's or a "dram" of our wonderful

Blair Athol 12 year old single malt. Storytelling with Mrs Christmas.

**Saturday 10th December 10am-12noon
Pitlochry & District Choral Society
Christmas Coffee Morning
The Tryst Pitlochry**

Our Christmas Coffee Morning is Saturday 10th December in The Tryst from 10-12. All the usual stalls and bargains, plus coffee and mince pies for a £2 entrance fee.

Saturday 10th December 11am-11.45am

**Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre presents Peter and The Wolf Ages 4+
Birnam Arts Centre, Birnam by
Dunkeld PH8 0DS**

Join Birnam Arts and Clydebuilt Puppet



Theatre as part of Birnam & Dunkeld's Santa Day celebrations. One of Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre's most successful touring shows ever, Peter and the Wolf is a wonderful rich story. Follow the adventures of Peter's visit to his grandfather's cottage at the edge of The Great Forest. Meet all the familiar characters – the Duck, the Cat, the Little Bird and of course, the wonderful life-sized WOLF! This is a large scale puppet show with life sized animal puppets and actors. Great fun for the wee ones and the whole family! £4 01350 727674 www.birnaminstitute.com

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**Saturday 10th December 1pm
Santa Day**

Dunkeld & Birnam.

Santa's Reindeer Parade starting from outside the Birnam Hotel at 1.00 pm making its way over the Telford Bridge to Dunkeld and Santa's Grotto in the Drill Hall. The reindeer parade will be escorted by several groups of children in costume from local organisations and all families and visitors are welcome to join in. Two lucky children will ride with Santa in his sleigh drawn by the reindeer – a prize draw will be held at the puppet show to select the winners. Meet Santa in his grotto between 1.30 & 4pm. See the Reindeer in their pen, Community Market 11am - 4pm. Perth Brass Band will be playing. Hot food available

www.dunkeldandbirnam.co.uk

**Saturday 10th December 4pm
Carols in the Cathedral
Dunkeld Cathedral**

After your Visit to Dunkeld to see Santa and his Reindeer, the Community Market and the Perth Brass Band, finish your day and really get into the Christmas Spirit and join everyone for the Carols in the Cathedral, always a very popular event. dunkeldevents@live.co.uk

**Saturday 10th December 8pm,
Woolfstone
Birnam Arts Centre Station Road
Birnam Dunkeld PH8 ODS**

Tickets are already selling very fast for The Fiddle Tree's "Santa Night" event on Saturday, December 10th with Scotland's kings of Celtic Rock, the legendary WOLFSTONE.

Wolfstone's current line-up is undoubtedly, the most vibrant and exciting ever and their unique blend of electric and acoustic guitars, fiddle, pipes and pulsating percussion, all combined

with a dynamic stage presence, remain well-known hallmarks of this unique band. These qualities ensure Wolfstone's continued success in attracting a large and loyal following of fans from all genres, ages and cultures around the World.

Support act on the night will be the young Pitlochry-based singer/songwriter BRENDON NEILL, who regularly plays at the Taybank's "Open Mic." nights to great acclaim.

The Fiddle Tree concert takes place at Birnam Arts Centre on Saturday December 10th, starting at 8.00 p.m.. Tickets: DOWNSTAIRS (Standing / limited seating) Full price - £19.50 (advance) £22 (on the door); concessions - £17.50 (advance) £20 (on the door); Under-18s - £5 (downstairs only). UPSTAIRS (seated). Please note - no wheelchair access to upstairs. Full price (advance or on door): £22.00 Concession (advance or on door): £20.00 Cash & cheques: Birnam CD (01350 727158) and Zig-zags, Dunkeld (01350 728666). Credit & debit cards: ONLINE ONLY: www.thebooth.co.uk

**Sun 11th Dec Birnam Arts Centre
Blow & Blast Woodwind Ensemble
Workshops**

**Birnam Institute Station Road
Birnam Dunkeld PH8 ODS**

One-off woodwind ensemble workshops catering specifically for inexperienced adult learners/'returners' on flute, oboe, clarinet or bassoon. (You will need your own instrument.)
Introductory 10am – 12 noon
£15 Playalong Band 12:30 – 2pm
£10 Intermediate 2:30 - 4:30pm
£15 A limited number of saxophones or brass players can be accommodated in the lunchtime band (check first for availability). For more information/bookings, visit www.blowandblast.co.uk or tel: 01764 652052

**Sunday 11th December 12 noon
to 3pm**

**Sunday Lunch in the Ballroom
Blair Castle, Blair Atholl PH18 5TL**

Take a table in the ballroom of Blair Castle for a traditional Sunday lunch. Enjoy the warmth of the blazing fire

and the traditional festive decorations. Prices: Two courses - £14.95 per person Three courses - £17.95 per person Booking: Please call 01796 481 207 to make a booking

**Sunday 11th December 6.30pm
Christmas Choral and Carol Service**

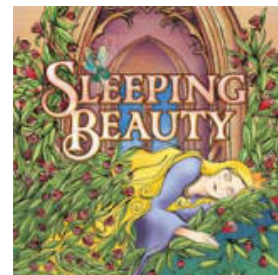
Blair Castle, Blair Atholl

A Christmas Choral and Carol concert in the magnificent setting of Blair Castle's ballroom with Pitlochry District Choral Society. Enjoy a festive performance of Benjamin Britten's St Nicolas followed by carols and seasonal readings. Tickets £12.50 Please call Blair Castle on 01796 481207 www.atholl-estates.co.uk/events

Thursday 15th December - Saturday 7th January

**Sleeping Beauty
Pitlochry Festival Theatre**

Following the huge success of our spectacular first panto, Cinderella, we've dreamed up another magical



Christmas treat for all the family . . . Spinning wheels, wicked fairies, beautiful princesses, strange enchantments, overgrown castles, heroic princes - what else could it be but that most magical of fairytales, Sleeping Beauty. Join us this festive season to see if the Prince can awaken Princess Aurora from her slumber - and save the kingdom into the bargain . . . ! With glittering costumes, sparkling sets, and a host of colourful characters, there will be song, dance and laughter aplenty to delight the young - and the young at heart!

Tickets £15 - £22 (concessions available) Tel:01796 484626 www.PitlochryFestivalTheatre.com

Friday 16th December 8:00pm



Solid Gold 70's Christmas Party
Birnam Arts Centre, Birnam by Dunkeld PH8 ODS

So many hits songs, so little time. . . it's the fabulous Solid Gold Seventies concert show. The world's grooviest theatre spectacular features an incredible 30 hit songs from the decade that made superstars of ABBA, The Bee Gees, Donna Summer, Mud, Gloria Gaynor, T-Rex, Candi Staton, The Nolans, K C and the Sunshine Band, Earth Wind and Fire, Tina Turner and Queen – to name but a few legendary artists. Get ready to dance, sing along and join in with all your favourite 1970s hits!!! Tickets: £12 / £10 01350 727674 www.birnaminstitute.com

Sat 17th Dec & Sun 18th December 10.30am to 2.30pm

A Magical Meeting with Santa Blair Castle, Blair Atholl PH18 5TL
 Santa will be dropping into Blair Castle this December and invites you to step inside his magical grotto hidden in the Hercules Garden.

Your journey starts with a tractor ride from the castle to the secret garden door.

Knock on the door to be greeted by Santa's helper who will lead you and your family down to Santa's grotto. Tell Santa what you'd like in your stocking and receive a present, before writing your Christmas wish on a decoration to be hung from the tree. Prices: £6.00 per child Booking: Please call 01796 481 207 to make a booking <http://www.atholl-estates.co.uk/event-detail.cfm/>

Every Saturday 11 - 11.30am
Childrens' story Telling, The Watermill, Mill Street, Aberfeldy, Perthshire. PH15 2BG.

tel:01887 822896
 email:info@aberfeldywatermill.com
www.aberfeldywatermill.com

Sunday 18th December 12 noon to 3pm
Sunday Lunch in the Ballroom Blair Castle, Blair Atholl PH18 5TL



Take a table in the ballroom of Blair Castle for a traditional Sunday lunch. Enjoy

the warmth of the blazing fire and the traditional festive decorations. Prices: Two courses - £14.95 per person Three courses - £17.95 per person Booking: Please call 01796 481 207 to make a booking

Sunday 18th December 4pm
Birnam Arts Ballet presents Alice Birnam Arts Centre, Birnam by Dunkeld PH8 ODS

Join Emma, the children, teenagers and adults of Birnam Arts Ballet for their annual Christmas show. This Christmas, Birnam Arts Ballet presents "Alice", Emma Gray's adaption of Lewis Carroll's fantasy story, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Magical entertainment by Birnam Arts Ballet, just to get you in the right frame of mind for the Christmas season. Online booking is currently not available for this event. To book, please call the box office on 01350 727674. Tickets: £5 www.birnaminstitute.com

Tuesday 20th December 5.30pm
Birnam Arts Ballet presents Alice Birnam Arts Centre, Birnam by Dunkeld PH8 ODS



Join Emma, the children, teenagers and adults of Birnam Arts Ballet for their annual Christmas show. This Christmas, Birnam Arts Ballet presents "Alice", Emma Gray's adaption of Lewis Carroll's fantasy story, Alice's Adventures

in Wonderland. Magical entertainment by Birnam Arts Ballet, just to get you in the right frame of mind for the Christmas season. Online booking is currently not available for this event. To book, please call the box office on 01350 727674. Tickets: £5 www.birnaminstitute.com

Thursday 22nd Dec (2 - 3.30pm)
Festive Music The Watermill, Mill Street, Aberfeldy, Perthshire. PH15 2BG.

Linda Dewar & Douglas Craik play (and you can sing!) seasonal favourites in the cafe. tel:01887 822896 email:info@aberfeldywatermill.com www.aberfeldywatermill.com

Wednesday 28th Dec (11am)
Christmas Holiday Storytime The Watermill, Mill Street, Aberfeldy, Perthshire. PH15 2BG.

Storytime for 4-7 year olds - no need to book, just come along tel:01887 822896 email:info@aberfeldywatermill.com www.aberfeldywatermill.com

Thursday 29th Dec (11am)
Christmas Holiday Storytime 2 The Watermill, Mill Street, Aberfeldy, Perthshire. PH15 2BG.

Storytime for 4-7 year olds - no need to book, just come along. tel:01887 822896 email:info@aberfeldywatermill.com www.aberfeldywatermill.com

Thursday 29th Dec (3pm-4pm)
Bagpiping at The Watermill The Watermill, Mill Street, Aberfeldy, Perthshire. PH15 2BG.

Local piper Harry MacLachlan plays outside the cafe and around The Watermill. tel:01887 822896 email:info@aberfeldywatermill.com www.aberfeldywatermill.com

Friday 30th Dec (11am)
Christmas Holiday Storytime 3 The Watermill, Mill Street, Aberfeldy, Perthshire. PH15 2BG.

Storytime for 4-7 year olds - no need to book, just come along tel:01887 822896

email: info@aberfeldywatermill.com
www.aberfeldywatermill.com
www.aberfeldywatermill.com

31st December

The Best party in Pitlochry for New Years Eve!

McKays Bar & Restaurant, Atholl Rd Pitlochry PH16 5AG

Come and join us for the best party in Pitlochry this New Years Eve! Highland Dancers, Piper, Scottish Folk Singers and DJs will keep you entertained throughout the night - Enjoy music and fun into the wee small hours of 2011. Limited seats are available for our fantastic Gala Dinner so book your table now. Call us: 01796 473 888 Email us: info@mckayshotel.co.uk
<http://www.mckayshotel.co.uk/celebrations/festive.htm>

**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