



February 2009 ♦ News & Prayer letter

A big “Thank you” to all who have helped Atholl Centre by praying, volunteering and giving. Your support is helping us prepare for another year’s work. You truly have been “Friends of Atholl”. Some have set up standing orders, some have given one-off gifts whereas another group have given Interest Free Loans. You have made a huge difference and enabled us to make real progress in accomplishing our goals – but we continue to need regular donations for the work to continue and, as you’ll see from our appeal, significant gifts for the work to advance.

The winter tends to be a quiet time in the Centre but we use this time well. The chalet at the far end has been repainted and re-carpeted. What was the Staff Flat has been given a face-lift and is now going to be available for **holiday self-catering accommodation** – it has two bedrooms, a lounge, a kitchen and a bathroom (and a cot if required). We also fill any available spare rooms from July to September with **Bed and Breakfast** Guests. This is an excellent witness and also vital income. Can you publicise that these facilities are available and even plan to come for a break yourself with your family.

Renovations were helped greatly by a visit from a wonderful American family - the Yockeys, spending a few weeks out of Lithuania while waiting for their visa. In return for accommodation they helped us enormously with maintenance and also with good advice. Jeff had run a Christian Centre in the States for a while. Thanks to Billy for joinery work and Nev for carpet laying. Have you got practical skills to give? .

Here are some special holidays coming up. Please think about them and tell your friends.

Going Solo Easter Weekend: 10th - 13th April at £127.50 This is a time when single people can find fellowship and mutual encouragement. Hosted by Fiona Hay it begins with dinner on the Friday followed by a Good Friday service and goes through to Easter Monday lunch. The talks will be based on Joseph and there will also be plenty of free time to enjoy Pitlochry. There’s even “entertainment” on Saturday evening! Early on Easter Sunday there will be an open air communion service as well as Easter celebrations with the church.

Spring Watch Wildlife break: 14th - 16th April at £89.80 A short mid-week break for wildlife and bird watching enthusiasts led by myself. Pitlochry is an excellent place for this with its forests, lochs and moor land as well as the local Osprey Centre at Loch of the Lowes.

Spring Retreat with Willie Wright: 28th – 30th April at £98.80 Another short mid-week break for relaxation with morning and evening meditations led by Rev. Willie Wright. It runs from Tues afternoon tea to Thursday lunch with time in-between to do your own thing or join with others for outings around local attractions.

See Hear Deaf Conference: 1st – 4th May at £85.00 We welcome back this wonderful annual event initiated right at the beginning of the Centre’s work. It is run by and for aurally impaired people and is a packed programme of talks and entertainment with everything in British sign language. One of the highlights is an opportunity to take part in a deaf choir – an amazing experience. Our disabled facilities mean that deaf people with multiple disabilities are fully included.

detach and send

Please send me information on the following: address overleaf.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cost</u>	
Going Solo	10 th – 13 th April	£ 127.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring Watch Wildlife Break	14 th – 16 th April	£ 98.80	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring Retreat	28 th – 30 th April	£ 98.80	<input type="checkbox"/>
See Hear Conference	1 st – 4 th May	£ 85.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sponsored Walk	23 rd May		
Bank Mandate Gift Aid form			

This year will be the **40th Anniversary** of the founding of the Atholl Centre in 1969 and in 2011 it will be the 40th anniversary of the opening of the first phase of the Centre. Both are special occasions. To celebrate them we plan to hold a **Sponsored Walk** on Saturday 23rd May and a special **AGM** on 19th June. Please look out for more information on these two events. We will also launch a **Development Fund** to be built up over the next two years, looking to make the Centre a better equipped and more up-to-date resource for serving the church and community in training, bridge-building and refreshment. I attach a response slip and a we would be delighted if you could complete it. We hope you will want to share in this vision.

We have made a good start to our fundraising programme with several new applications sent off, a visit to a fundraising conference in Edinburgh in October and an appointment for a fundraising clinic in March. Our school's marketing is beginning to take shape and lots of groundwork has been done. Many thanks to Pitlochry High School for their help and advice. Draft programmes still need to be made and email marketing begun. The website is a work in progress. Lots of new additions have been made recently after some teething problems (thanks to Ian R. for helpful advice) and we're looking forward to getting our photos in the gallery soon (thank you Ian T. for great photos). Please log on and email your comments.

2009 is already looking pretty full for weekend bookings but there is still plenty of room for midweek use. We still run some programmes initiated by the Centre many years ago, and as part of our business plan we are working on ideas for more own programming to supplement the vital outside bookings. So far a couple of **retreats with guest speakers** have been planned (spring and autumn). We also have plans for assisting churches in **child protection** training (building on my training and contacts as a social worker). Another new programme we intend to introduce is "**mental health in the church**" and we are already in negotiation with experts from Glasgow about this. There is also the possibility of a general schools programme for **confidence building holidays for P7s** before they go to S1, which could then be tailored to each school as our fundraiser, Anne, is also a trained teacher.

Thank you again for your prayers and support and please do continue to remember the work of the Centre and its staff in your prayers. With your help and support the Atholl Centre can have a bright and exciting future. Keep up the good work!

Yours in His Service

Iain

Iain Walker (Director)

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.....*detach and send*

Please send me information on the programmes listed over the page.

I would like to donate towards the work of the Centre. Amount.....

Name email.....

Address.....

..... Post code

I am a British Taxpayer and wish to donate through Gift Aid

Signed.....Date.....