



DOWNREAY NEWS

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The **Site** Newspaper

December 2008

TOP CATS VISIT PUMA

– more on page 6

BUMPER 16-PAGE CHRISTMAS EDITION!



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH OUR CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ - on page 10



Scottish Labour MEP Catherine Stihler presents certificates
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ON THE RECORD

By
Simon Middlemas
Dounreay Director

**Banking crisis . . . recession . . .
redundancies . . . inflation . . .
Government borrowing . . .**

We've all seen and heard the headlines. And all of us will have wondered what it means for each of us.

In one respect, it doesn't change anything here at Dounreay. That is the importance of being prepared - each and every one of us - for the day when decommissioning nears the end.

Of course, no-one knows for certain when that might be. We're forecasting 2025 for the "job done" moment. It might be sooner or it might be later, depending on funding and competition.

Whatever happens, one thing is certain - the economy of the area will change over time.

We're playing our part in the regeneration plan. The Plan-it course helps each of us understand the choices we have. There is funding, too, to help us get the other skills we might need in future.

We're looking carefully at the range of services we deliver to the projects. Do these services have the potential to be spun out as businesses, servicing other customers?

Our training and development team think so. They're the first to move off site in search of other customers. Already the team is picking up consultancy and training contracts in the private and public sector.

They're doing it with the safety net that comes with still being part of DSRL. This way, they can build up new business without some of the normal worries of going it alone.

One day, all of us will be doing something different. That is what Plan-it is about. Now, training and development is spreading its wings. All of us have that potential. One of my jobs in managing DSRL is to help you achieve that. ■

Catherine Stihler presents certificates

Most of us know how to work a computer. But how many of us can prove we're qualified?

This group of Dounreay workers can after successfully completing courses through their local trade union learning network.

They were presented with certificates by the Scottish Labour MEP Catherine Stihler when she visited the site on November 21st.

"It's great to see money from the European Social Fund being used through the workplace to help people get qualifications," said Catherine, a member of the Unite union.

"You can be proud of what you've achieved and I hope your success encourages others to take up similar opportunities."

The certificates are "accredited", which means they are recognised as a proper qualification in the education and development sectors.



The successful group were Bryan Bain, Ian Pickhall, Colin Macdonald, Gary Harper, Colin Edwards, Roger Ashton, Donald Campbell, Ian Reid, Niall Manson, Ishbel MacDonald, Andrew Mackenzie, Martin Tait, Brian Scollay, Fraser McKechnie, Richard Douglas, Andrea Munro, Donald Campbell and Thomas Munro.

Lyn Turner, Unite's learning coordinator in Scotland, said: "These courses can build confidence in getting back into education and qualifications through lifelong learning.

"They match what the company is doing and fit with the Nuclear

Skills Academy. It helps to strengthen the skills base and that is really important in this time of global economic challenges."

The courses were delivered by June Gillies through Stowe College. ■

Be security aware - meet the challenge!

Beginning Monday, December 1st, the site will start its next safety challenge. This time it's a **Security Challenge!**

We are running this challenge to raise the profile of site security and to increase awareness of site security policies and regulations.

The challenge is to go 60 days without a breach of our rules.

When we meet the challenge, everyone on site will receive an Etón FR200 emergency and travel wind-up radio and light. ■



Etón FR200 emergency and travel wind-up radio and light.

Send your stories to the editor at:



sue.thompson@dounreay.com

To all of you who have worked so hard over the past year on this site - DSRL, UKAEA, AMEC, CH2MHill, CNC and all the staff of the local and national companies working here - may I wish you a very happy and relaxing Christmas. Take time to recharge your batteries and remind yourself that the reason we all work is so that we can enjoy living and being with our families. Enjoy Hogmanay and for those of you in Thurso, I might see you at the street party in Sir John's Square.

Simon Middlemas



Lou and Mandy nominated for national award

Lou McLean and Mandy Swan are used to handing out awards and commendations.

Helping others scale new heights is part and parcel of their job with Dounreay's training and development team.

But they could be on the receiving end for a change when they attend a glittering awards ceremony in Glasgow on December 3rd.

Lou and Mandy are among the finalists in the annual excellence awards held by Careers Scotland.

They've been nominated for their work with young people in schools in Caithness and Sutherland.

Lou and Mandy are trained to deliver a personal development programme known as Windmills.

The programme helps individuals shape a vision of their future and the actions they need to take during times of change. It was developed and licensed by Liverpool University

Lou and Mandy are delivering the programme to workers at Dounreay with financial support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

A teenage version called I-Hero is being piloted in schools in the Highlands and Islands by Careers Scotland.

DSRL offered the services of Mandy and Lou to Careers Scotland to help with the delivery of the pilot.



They spent several days with 15-year-old pupils from across Caithness and Sutherland as course "animators".

Lou also delivered two, 30-minute sessions dubbed the "Luck Factor" to a group of students as part of the recent Caithness regeneration conference.

DSRL, which is funded by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, picked up the cost of Lou and Mandy's involvement.

Careers Scotland was so impressed by their work that Lou and Mandy were nominated for one of the top awards.

Anthony Standing, manager of the Caithness and Sutherland Careers Scotland team said: "I was delighted that Mandy and Lou

joined our community delivery team for this ground breaking pilot programme. It was a credit to them and DSRL that their involvement and experience helped young people to become more involved in making decisions about their own futures and in the process, gain confidence and motivation. They fully deserve their nominations for a National Excellence award."

Mandy said: "It made me really proud when I learned that, of all the people who could have been nominated, Careers Scotland opted for us."

Lou added: "We get great satisfaction when we see and feel people realising they have the potential to achieve so much more as a result of these programmes. The nomination is the icing on the cake."



OFF-THE-RECORD

By Ron Peddie

Head of Socio-economics & community relations

Guest Columnist

I would like to use this column to say goodbye and share my thoughts and hopes for Caithness.

By the time you read this I will probably have been gone from site for a month and be well established back with my old mates at AMEC Nuclear in Knutsford.

I feel very lucky to have been given the chance to be seconded to Dounreay. Socio economics was new to me when I came to the site but I have grown to love the job and the enormity of the challenge. I wish my successor, Ken Nicol, all the best and hope that he enjoys the challenge as much as I did.

I hope that:

- the Caithness economy grows by selling itself to the world;
- the enormous potential of the Pentland Firth is harnessed for the benefit of those living in the Far North;
- the young people of Caithness want to stay and raise their children in this wonderful part of Scotland;
- Caithness retains the skills and talented people that clearly exist;
- AMEC are actively involved in the ongoing decommissioning at Dounreay.

I will always have a soft spot for Caithness and will look out for the results from Harmsworth Park and Millbank.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the people around Caithness who supported me and a special mention for my assistants Donna Stewart and June Love.

Lastly I wish everyone at Dounreay a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Take care and all the best for the future. ■

WHERE IN THE WORLD



This month, we have photographs from Graeme Dobson.

The photos are taken during Graeme's downhill mountain biking holiday in Les Gets in the French Alps in August. Graeme is wearing his PFR "3 years without a lost time accident" t-shirt.

Graeme commented, "Attaching the paper to the bike required a bit of thinking; it's amazing what you can achieve with two sticks and a handful of zip ties!

"The bike I'm riding is designed to go down hills - fast. The 'PPE' is to stop you losing too much skin if you fall off! Dounreay should be proud that their safety messages are getting through to my leisure activities." ■

Preserving Dounreay's heritage attracts media interest

Heritage officer James Gunn is getting used to being in the limelight.

He has been featured in both BBC Reporting Scotland and on BBC Radio Scotland in the space of one week.

James was chosen to feature in a radio programme entitled "No Going Back", looking at the way in which Dounreay changed the community of Caithness, socially and economically.

The programme also featured local stakeholder group chairman Alastair Macdonald, local farmer Morris Pottinger and Dounreay worker and historian Stephen Cashmore.

BBC's Jackie O'Brien and Dan Holland came to site one weekend in November and recorded James as he showed them around the DFR control room and the soon to be demolished plutonium criticality laboratory, D8550.

Jackie was particularly enthusiastic about D8550, and returned the following week with a camera to film the interior of the building.

The resulting clip was shown on BBC Reporting Scotland on Tuesday November 18th. It introduced the radio programme which was broadcast on Thursday November 20th.

"With decommissioning progressing at pace, preserving Dounreay's heritage starts to become more in focus," James commented. "The fact that the BBC is taking an active interest, highlights the importance of the Dounreay phenomenon and the effect it has had on the lives of people in Caithness and North Sutherland.

"My role as heritage officer may be a new one, but with the amount of interest shown by staff, ex-Dounreay employees, the press and stakeholders, it is turning out to be a very interesting and busy baptism. Hopefully the local and national media coverage will make even more people stop and think about how they can contribute to preserving Dounreay's history.

"The Dounreay heritage strategy is currently being produced in conjunction with Atkins Ltd and it covers all heritage aspects including social history, buildings and artefact collections. The strategy is the first of its kind for a UK nuclear complex and is creating a lot of interest in the industrial heritage world." ■



HAGGIS – the sixties 'Dounreay News'

Heritage officer James Gunn received eight copies of the Haggis magazine from ex-Dounreay manager Leslie Rowe after he read the Dounreay News articles about heritage.

The magazine, managed by an editorial board, was a joint Ormlie Club / Dounreay Sports & Social Club (Viewfirth) venture. Mostly written by UKAEA employees, it covered a wide range of subjects, work related, leisure pursuits, thoughts on the area and what the area had to offer the newcomer, the whimsical and the funny. There was a Letters to the Editor section and a crossword, frequently in the shape of the Dounreay sphere. The publication, which was very professionally produced, carried a number of advertisements mostly from local shops and businesses.

The first issue of the Haggis came out in December 1957.

As a schoolboy, Roger Saxon used to help his father Jack (editor at one time and the magazine's illustrator) print the magazine over a weekend. It was sold on site and in newspaper shops in the town for 9d.

The magazine has fascinating articles relating to Dounreay life as well as more general ones, such as the time

that the Hollies visited Dounreay in 1964, and were photographed at the visitor centre.

The last issue of the magazine was produced in the late 1960s.

But it wasn't all just for fun. In 1972 funds from the deceased magazine were used to buy two wheelchairs and covers which Ken Sharp, secretary of DSSC, handed over to Malcolm Jack, director of social work, Caithness County Council, for use in Naver House, which had been converted two years previously from its original apprentice hostel role to a residential care facility. The remainder of the surplus was donated to the children's home in Ormlie Road. ■



Haggis cartoon - 1962

Nuvia help TASC get into the swim

Thurso Amateur Swimming Club (TASC) held its 30th annual open swim meet over two days on 20 and 21 September. Clubs from as far afield as Forres, Inverness, Skye and Orkney attended the event.

The open meet also showcased the talents of the local swimmers from the Thurso and Wick swimming clubs who demonstrated a very high standard of swimming.

In order to commemorate the 30th meet a limited edition towel, sponsored by Nuvia Limited, was presented to each competitor and official who attended the meet.

Due to the towels arriving late, following a fire in the factory, the towels were presented after the event had taken place.

The picture shows David Spencer of Nuvia Limited and TASC with some of the Thurso swimmers and their towels. ■



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Morgan

Training spread their wings at Naver

Twelve workers have become the first to loosen their ties to Dounreay in their search for work outside the nuclear industry.

DSRL's training and development team has taken the first steps towards a new career by moving off the site.

The relocation to Naver Business Centre frees them from the regulation and overheads associated with working on a licensed nuclear site.

This has opened up new markets – and the team is already picking up work in the private and public sectors locally.

Team manager Jillian Bundy acknowledges it is a big step, particularly in the teeth of a recession.

But she's confident they have the skills and enthusiasm to become a profitable business that doesn't depend on the nuclear industry.

"We know the training and development needs of Dounreay will diminish and disappear in time, so the future for teams like us is to diversify before that happens," she said.

"We've a business plan, we've targets to meet and we're learning every day about running a business. But the great thing for us is that we don't have the normal risks involved in starting a business because we are doing this from the shelter of still being

a part of DSRL."

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority wants to see more teams follow the example of training and development.

"This type of business is key to the regeneration of Caithness and north Sutherland as DSRL progresses through the decommissioning programme," said NDA regional director Randall Bargelt.

DSRL managing director Simon Middlemas says the team are leading the way.

"This is what the future looks like for every one of us – moving away from dependence on decommissioning to other areas of work," he said.

"They've seen an opportunity to make it happen now while they have a safety net in the form of a busy site licence company to support them."

Training at Naver – the new brand name for the DSRL team – was officially launched on November 14.



Jillian Bundy at the official launch



Lynda Macaskill (left) with Elaine Forbes

Kevin Porteous chats with Warren Jones



● "There's a saying that sums up the opportunity for me: 'You may not be able to change the direction of wind but you can adjust your sails.' That is what we are doing – charting our own path forward."

- **Kevin Porteous, safety and technical training co-ordinator, Training at Naver**

● "It's a huge opportunity for all of us to build something outside of the confines of working on the site."

- **Lynda Macaskill, development manager, Training at Naver**

● "I can see us reaching a position where we are taking on more staff – that's how optimistic I am."

- **Andrew Clarke, safety and technical training, Training at Naver**

● "I really like the different environment here. The feedback from people who use the facilities is really positive too - they find it a refreshing place to work and train."

- **Sharon Rosie, training administrator, Training at Naver**

Alan keeps quiet for BBC Children in Need

DSRL site decommissioning project engineer **Alan Farquhar** made a big sacrifice for this year's BBC Children In Need event – he stopped talking for the whole of one day!

Alan pledged to raise money for the event by not opening his mouth (except to eat, of course) on Friday 14 November.

His efforts raised over £1500.

His admin colleagues in D1226 excelled themselves by baking some yummy treats, which were soon snapped up.

They also held a raffle for some amazing prizes. The first prize was a fantastic hamper of food. Other prizes included a £40 meal voucher donated by Melvich Hotel, a bottle of Highland Park, and one hour's horse riding at Achalone Activities.

The total raised at the time of going to press stood at £2378.97

The lucky winners were:

Hamper of food: **Jan Maclaren**

One hour horse riding voucher: **Jim Beattie**

Bottle of Highland Park: **Graeme Mackay**

£40 meal voucher at Melvich Hotel: **Kath Taylor**

£20 Bin Ends voucher: **Charlie Fowler**

£20 Argos voucher: **John Nicolson**

£15 Hilltop Horses voucher: **Debbie Pottinger**

£15 Virgin Vie voucher: **Nancy Holmes**

Colour, cut and blow dry from 'Curl Up & Dye', Wick: **Nancy Holmes**

Avril Fell also won a tin of Roses in the Pudsey Scratch Sheet.

Site decommissioning's **Theresa Mackay** was thrilled with the amount they raised. "We are delighted with what we raised as we had only decided on the Monday before hand what we were going to do," she said. ■



BBC

Children in Need

Mick O'Donnell and Alistair Mackay help Alan with his vow of silence, while Theresa Mackay looks on



Visitors come to see PUMA cell before it is demolished

D8550 may be on the point of demolition, but there are still plenty of people wanting to visit before it becomes part of history.

The UKAEA Executive Committee were on site in November, and took the opportunity of visiting the facility while it was still standing. Steve Beckitt and Charlie Fowler gave them tea and biscuits in the criticality cell.

The NDA team based at Forss held a meeting in the criticality cell, which had been furnished with tables and chairs for the event.

Today, there is little evidence of the hard labour that the decommissioning team put in to get the place cleaned up and cleaned

out. Visitors are able to walk straight in through the front door.

Project manager Charlie Fowler reminds us that the building was once considered the dirtiest on the site.

"The building was heavily contaminated, and the decommissioning team made thousands of entries wearing airline suits or respirators, during the course of the clean up."

"I'm extremely proud of what they have achieved." ■



From left, Alan Farquhar, Charlie Fowler, Alec Carter, Mary Hills, Bim Adesanya, Stephen White, Andrew Jackson, Norman Harrison, Colin Bayliss, Martin Wenban, Martin Scott, Steve Beckitt, Ron Peddie and Donald Buchanan.

Dounreay's executives stretched by weekend away

Take forty people from all walks of life who have never met before, split them into teams, dress them in Army gear, give them a rifle and put them through a weekend of gruelling physical and mental training in all weathers, and you've got - Executive Stretch!



Martin Sutherland

Roger Broughton

Roger Broughton and Martin Sutherland were two of those people who spent a weekend in October finding out how their leadership skills measured up under pressure.

The weekend-long course took place at 'Barry Buddon', an Army training camp near Carnoustie. The whole event is run by individuals from the regular Army, TA, OTC, RAF and Navy.

The course uses tough physical and mental Army-style training to test each person's leadership qualities, and their ability to make decisions under pressure.

The teams faced eight tasks, including an assault course, an extremely realistic medical emergency/helicopter evacuation, mine clearing, and night reconnaissance using night vision scopes.

"They push you to your limit," says Roger. "It's relentless, all through the weekend. By the time you leave, you've got a pretty good idea of how tough you are."

Roger had been an Army Cadet in the past, so had some idea of what to expect, but Martin had never done anything like this before.

"I was 'conscripted' into the executive stretch weekend following a late call off," explained Martin. "At first I thought - what have I let myself in for? However in hindsight, I am delighted that I was given the

opportunity to attend and would thoroughly recommend the course to anyone.

"The enthusiasm of the organisers and the realism of the scenarios were fantastic, they even managed to lay on some fairly awful weather to add to the effect! The experience gave us all a small taste of army life and made us appreciate the conditions in which these people have to work and make critical decisions on a daily basis. You think you have it tough at Dounreay - think again!"

At the end of the first day, which saw each team member lead a task, it was time to cook the boil in bag rations and sleep in a "bivvy bag" in the woods. "The food was surprisingly tasty!" enthused Roger.

The teams competed against each other in all exercises which fed into the "mission" on Sunday morning - a realistic scenario in which they had to rescue hostages from an enemy country.

At the end of the weekend, the winning team received a trophy. Roger was delighted to find that his team had won, while Martin's team came a very creditable second. ■



Syndicate one (second place) with Martin Sutherland (back right)



Syndicate two (winners) with Roger Broughton (back second from right)



Community relations goes it alone

Dounreay's communications department recently split into two separate areas, following a review of its activities. Communications are now a small team concentrating on their core business of communicating to both external and internal audiences. As a result of the split, a new department, community relations has been created, which sits along side the socio-economic department but focuses specifically on some areas previously covered by Communications.

June Love manages the community relations department and her main responsibilities include:

- secretariat support to the Dounreay Stakeholder Group
- support to project teams for public consultations and stakeholder engagement



June working with the DSG Admin and Procedures sub group members

"I've been involved as secretary of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group since it was formed. There's never a dull moment and always plenty to do, with the sub-group meetings as well, but its worth the hard work when you start to see positive signs of progress being made. The spin out of DSRL services is an important part of a new future for the area and our work with the community helps to ensure that people are aware of how DSRL is supporting the regeneration efforts of all the other key agencies."

Marie Mackay, community relations coordinator, provides support to:

- the Dounreay Communities Fund
- the Employee Charities Fund
- liaison with near neighbours for site activities, including the low level waste disposal facilities project
- stakeholder engagement support to various site projects
- the organisation of community events
- school/educational projects



Marie discussing details of proposed low level waste facility with Buldoo resident, **Ian Webster**

"One of my main responsibilities is being the site contact for the Buldoo residents should they wish to raise any issues and concerns and in particular with the proposed low level waste disposal facilities project. We work hard to keep our near neighbours informed on site activities especially if there is a potential to impact on their day to day lives. I receive many requests for support for the communities fund from local groups and organisations - there's a criteria to follow and my role is to manage the fund and provide a report with recommendations for the Dounreay Stakeholder Group - so far over 102 requests have been received this year with a total of £26455.35 donated".

Community relations goes it alone

On site the department is based in Zone 11 of D2003 and work in Dounreay.com on a rotational basis. If you wish to find out more about the department feel free to pop into either of the offices and speak to the team.

Fiona Bruce, community relations co-ordinator, provides support to:

- day to day running of Dounreay.com - the off-site public information office in Thurso.
- stakeholder engagement support to various site projects
- off-site environment projects

Fiona also has secretarial responsibilities for the DSRL Executive (DEXCOM) meeting which meets once a month.



Fiona providing information to local resident in dounreay.com

"After time off on maternity leave I was lucky to come back to a job that meant that most of the time I work in the town managing on a day to day basis the public information office in Thurso. Its really interesting - we get all sorts of people coming in to ask questions about what is happening at the site and dealing with tourists, locals and the occasional drunk can keep you busy all day. Since May this year we have welcomed over 1300 people through the doors. Dounreay.com also has a conference room and anyone from the site can book it out for meetings if they don't wish to bring visitors to the site."

Gemma MacDonald, community relations support, administers

- all VIP site visits and provides advice to those organising their own site visits.
- the site's visit diary
- the collection of positive feedback for the site
- the day to day admin tasks for the department.



Gemma escorting Lithuanian visitors on a recent visit to site.

"The number of visits to the site throughout the year keeps me very busy - it's easy to put a visit programme together but not as easy to ensure that visitors and their hosts stick to the allocated time which means there can be last minute changes to schedules at very short notice. Ensuring security are kept informed is a must and I work closely with our security department to ensure that they are always kept in the loop. Its a great job, always varied and I get to meet so many interesting people who always seem to leave the site impressed with what they have seen and heard."

Apprentices' rig helps isolation training

Dounreay's apprentices have been roped in to produce a rig that will be vital to the success of an on-site training course.

The course is designed to deliver essential training as part of the roll out of the new Electronic Permit System (EPS)

During the first stage of introduction of EPS it became evident that there had been little or no formal training of personnel involved in the management, control or application of isolation of mechanical plant and systems.

To address this shortfall, Engineering Assurance have developed and will deliver, training to appropriate personnel to coincide with the roll out of the EPS across site.

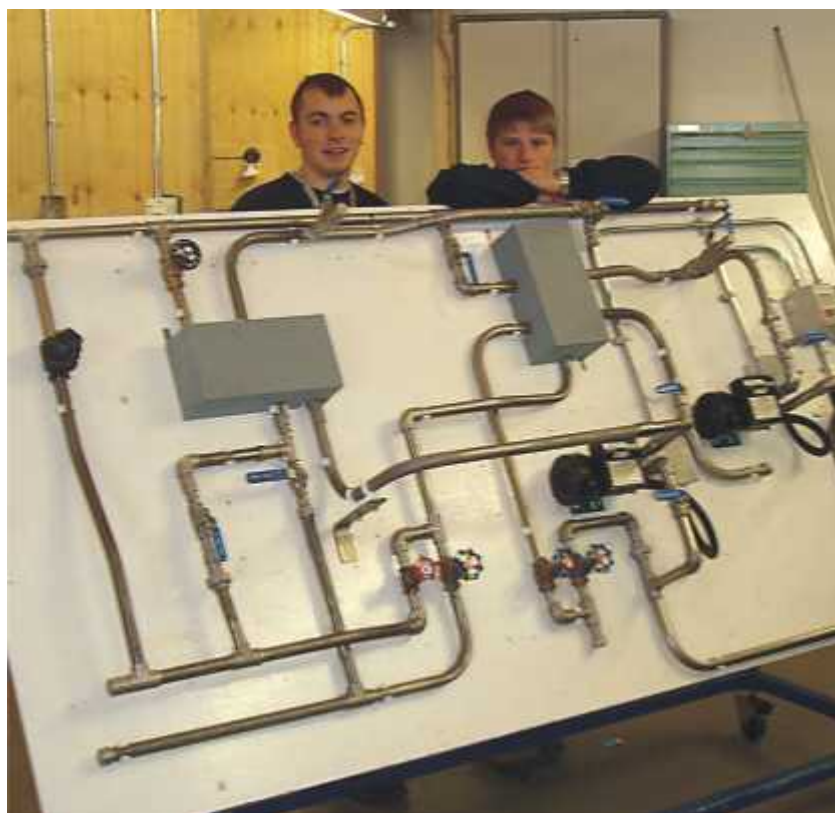
The training will cover the theory of safe isolation of mechanical plant, and will also feature practical training and assessment, putting theory into practice in a series of simulated scenarios.

Engineering Assurance asked the apprentice department to help with the production of a training rig.

DSRL craft apprentices **Ben Taylor** and **Mark Mackay** (pictured), constructed a training rig under the watchful eye of supervisor **Doug MacKenzie**.

"The resourcefulness and ingenuity of Ben and Mark played a key part in ensuring that the rig was produced to time and within an extremely meagre budget," said Engineering Assurance's senior mechanical engineer, Stuart Hamilton.

"Use of the rig during the training courses will help DSRL to meet their legal obligation to ensure that personnel who are involved in the isolation of mechanical plant and equipment are competent to carry out their responsibilities." ■



CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ

- 1 What is the actual title of the 2000 Jim Carrey smash-hit 'Grinch' movie?
- 2 December 26th, also known as Boxing Day, is the holy day of which saint?
- 3 What was the name of the little son of Bob Cratchitt in Dickens' book "A Christmas Carol"?
- 4 Which American state was the first to recognise Christmas as an official holiday, and which was the last?
- 5 Who originated the ancient custom of burning a Yule log during the twelve days of Christmas?
- 6 What year did Boney M release their Christmas single 'Mary's Boy Child'?
- 7 In what year did the English parliament pass a law making Christmas illegal?
- 8 What are the names of Santa's eight reindeer?
- 9 In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas", what did my true love send me on the eleventh day?
- 10 Which of the Three Kings gave the Christ Child a gift of Frankincense?



DFR model for exhibition

Modelling expert **Robbie Holmes** has been repairing the DFR model so that it can be displayed in Caithness Horizons, with help from **Doug Mackenzie**, **Alistair Gunn**, **Robbie Macgregor** and apprentice **Mark Mackay**. ■



Pictured with the model are, from left, Doug Mackenzie, Mark Mackay, Janice Campbell, Alistair Gunn and Robbie Macgregor.

Thank you and good luck to Nuvia's PFR DSS team

Nuvia staff have provided operations, maintenance and support at PFR for many years during both the operational phase and in the current decommissioning phase. Indeed added together their time at PFR exceeds 300 man years. So it was a poignant occasion on October 31st when Nuvia's PFR DSS contract came to an end and the majority of the staff moved on either to the new contract holder or new posts within DSRL.

The diversity and success of the work carried out by the team under the PFR DSS contract (9.5 years) is quite remarkable. To acknowledge this and their dedication and professionalism and to thank them for their contribution to Nuvia and their time at PFR, the team was presented with a laser cut memento depicting the outline of PFR. The presentation was made on their last day of service with Nuvia by Alan Gerrard, Nuvia's head of site at Dounreay.

The photograph does not show all the team members but everyone who was available at the time – there are also staff remaining with the company.

In addition to this presentation there was also a retirement presentation to **Willie Swanson** who retires after 44 years service at Dounreay. ■

The PFR DSS Team

Norman Arrowsmith, Robbie Young, John Wright and Donald Miller, Dave Parkin and his decontamination/waste processing team consisting of **Dougie Mackay, Billy Campbell and Donald Mackay**, plus **Angus Ross** and **Cyril Elder, John (Zeeky) Munro, Dennis Macintosh, John J Munro (JJ), John (Jock) Campbell, Les Watt, Donald Falconer, Allan Macleod, Richie Campbell and Mick Donachie, James Macivor, and Murray Graham, Les Stevenson, Leanne Wood; Steve Cashmore and Willie Swanson.**



Back row from left: Billy Campbell, Donald Mackay, Angus Ross, Donnie Falconer, Douglas Mackay, Dennis Macintosh, Michael Donachie, Willie Swanson, Alan Macleod, Murray Graham, James Munro, Cyril Elder, John(Zeeky) Munro. Front Row from left: Alan Gerrard, Dave Parkin, Les Stevenson, Les Watt, John Hilton, Norman Arrowsmith, Alan Scott, John Campbell--Missing from picture are- Steve Cashmore, James Macivor, Joe Wright, Donald Miller, Robbie Young, Ritchie Campbell and Leanne Wood.

Dry ice, red cabbage juice and squealing jelly babies

If you were wondering why **Pat Kieran** was so desperately seeking dry ice on the bulletin board recently – this is the reason.

Pat is the chairman of the local British Science Association (BA), who hosted a series of science workshops featuring the amazing **Annie Hodgson**.

Annie, a lecturer at York University, and her young sorcerer's assistant, Ben, spent three days in the Highlands visiting Farr, Pulteneytown and Mount Pleasant schools.

Using liquid nitrogen, dry ice, red cabbage juice and a selection of household chemicals, she introduced around 500 children and adults to the fun and colours that can be extracted using some simple chemistry and simple equipment.

In an evening lecture, she entertained 70 adults and children to a selection of bright, smelly and noisy activities. One of the evening's highlights featured a squealing jelly baby which amazed the audience with



the amount of light, sound and heat energy released from one small sweetie when it's set violently on fire.

All those who enjoyed her shows can be thankful to the BA, the Royal Society of Chemistry who supplied the bulk of the funding, BNES and IET for making it all possible.

If you want to join the BA, or get involved in public science activities, contact **Pat Kieran** (BA Chairman) on: pat_kieran@yahoo.com or log onto <http://www.the-ba.net> and take it from there. ■

Laser cut memento presented to staff



Anne Hodgson in action



What can the Estate Records office do for you?

The Estate Records Office (ERO) exists to manage records and drawings relating to the Dounreay estate, its buildings, infrastructure and utilities.

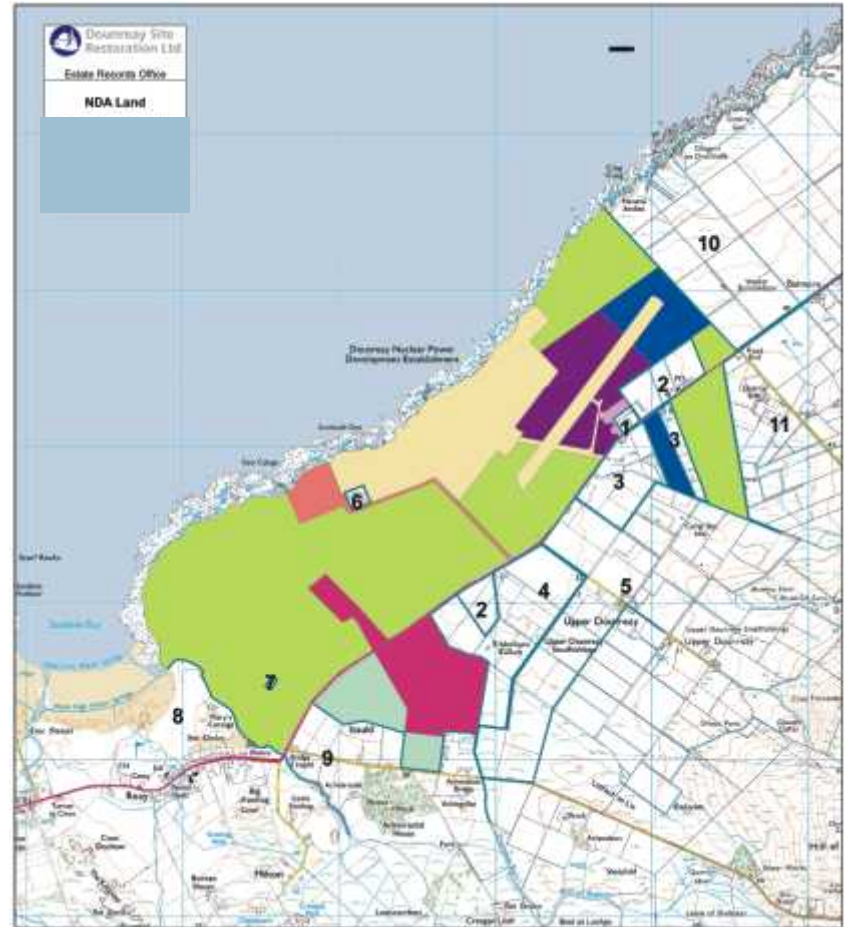
Basically, if work involves any change to the estate, anything from installing a new fence post to demolishing a building, then ERO needs to know about it.

Such information is recorded through the use of Estate Development Control (EDC) forms (D128).

Another function of ERO is to control the use and recovery of land on the Dounreay estate. Therefore, project teams requiring laydown areas or locations for portacabins or new buildings need to apply for such areas through EDC.

The recording of such estate-related information allows ERO to produce maps and drawings displaying a variety of information essential to site personnel. So for example ERO can produce drawings showing all known utilities (including underground services) in a particular area for project teams involved in demolition or excavation work. In addition, ERO staff can visit the excavation site to record any cables or features not identified on our drawings.

For a more detailed explanation of the ERO service, or if you think this type of information could assist you in achieving your work objectives, then please contact ERO on extension 6764 to arrange a visit or meeting. ■



Charity relay money handed over



Event organisers and supports look on as the Caithness Relay for Life cheque is handed over. The record-breaking proceeds of £119,825.10 will be increased by several thousand pounds through the Gift Aid tax relief regime.

Charities benefit from safety culture climate survey



Laurence is pictured presenting a cheque for £345.00 to RNLI representative William Munro.



Andrew presented a cheque to Gaye Gunn of Children's Hospice Association

Back in June, when the site held a safety stand-down, everyone was invited to complete a safety culture climate survey, with the enticement of a cash prize if your name was picked at random.

There was an excellent response rate of nearly 50%, and so two cash prizes were awarded.

Campbell, who each received £250. The winners also selected local charities to receive money - RNLI and the local Children's Hospital Association. ■

The lucky winners were **Andrew Main** and **Laurence**

Viable videoconferencing

Ever had your luggage misplaced by an airline, been stuck in an airport, or arrived at a hotel late at night - only to find they've never heard of you?

If so, then you'll already recognise some of the downsides to business travel.

One viable low-cost alternative is videoconferencing.

Videoconferencing has become far more prevalent in recent years, with applications such as witness testimonies in court and even medical diagnoses carried out remotely.

More and more people are also using webcams at home to communicate with distant relatives and friends.

However, the use of videoconferencing in DSRL has been steadily declining over the year. This might be expected, given that we have less interaction with other UKAEA Group sites and summer holidays also have an impact.

However, we spent a whopping £230,000 on flights between January and August this year, a 10% increase on the same period last year. Naturally there are times when travel is unavoidable, but there are undoubtedly savings to be had.

The benefits of videoconferencing are obvious, and many:

- Substantial savings to be made on flights, hotels etc.,
- No 'hidden' costs, such as travelling time, subsistence and loss of productivity.
- No environmental impact.

The DSRL standard governing business travel (STD 0012) also asks drivers to consider alternative communications methods prior to undertaking any journey.



CEO Norman Harrison and the UKAEA executive committee speak to UKAEA staff in a video conference

There are presently 2 public videoconference suites at Dounreay, in D2003 and D1300. Both have the following facilities:

- Multipoint connections (up to 5 separate sites may be connected at once)
- Picture in Picture (allows you to see one view superimposed on-screen)
- External organisations may be included in videoconferences
- Full remote control

In addition, the D1300 suite has VHS video and DVD broadcast, and PC integration.

Together with advances in audio and video technology, all of these features further enhance the videoconference experience – making it a real alternative to travelling. And there's no danger of losing your luggage...

More information on the videoconference facilities (including online booking) may be found within the ISaT Intranet pages. ■

Computer classes pay off



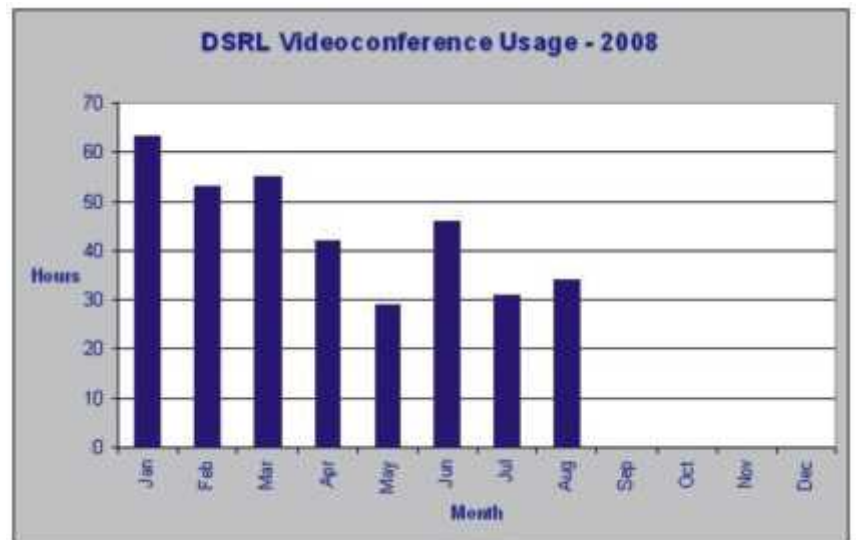
Lyndsay Doull and Hayley Polson have just obtained Microsoft IC3 (Internet and Computing Core Certification program) accreditations through evening classes at the North Highland College.

The course covers subjects such as computer hardware, software, networks and the internet.

"IC3 is recognised world wide as its endorsed by Microsoft," says Hayley. "It's a really valuable addition to anyone's CV."

"Because the college run the course on a weekly drop-in basis, its really easy to fit it in, and not expensive," adds Lyndsay.

The girls are hoping to carry on with their computer studies in the future. ■



DOUNREAY NEWS

The Site Newspaper

Participate in making Dounreay News even better

In January, Dounreay Communications will be holding a short workshop dedicated to finding ways of improving Dounreay News and giving you more of what you want to read.

The workshop will last approximately one hour, and participants will be able to book to a Communications job number.

If you would like to participate in this workshop, please let **Sue Thompson** know, either by phone (806085) or by email: sue.thompson@dounreay.com ■

Civil Nuclear Constabulary Police search team in action at t3UK at Janetstown

On Monday November 3rd, the Dounreay counter terrorist search team embarked on a 'training venue search' at t3UK at Janetstown.

The director of t3UK, Mrs Helen Mackay, and her staff kindly agreed for the team to 'invade' the building to carry out this training exercise.

The t3UK building is currently used as a trials, testing and training and conference centre with modern facilities, where the staff are currently manufacturing large chimney stacks for the ventilation system in the Fuel Cycle Area.

All of the Police search team officers are required to carry out 2 days training per year in accordance with their licensing regulations to allow them to remain on the national Police search register. Previous training searches have been carried out on site, at Achvarasdal care and

nursing home grounds and on Sandside Estate. The team have also assisted Northern Constabulary prior to royal visits to Caithness.

The Civil Nuclear Constabulary's community engagement programme, which forms part of its current policing strategy, ensures that they will engage with the stakeholders and public to improve the understanding of their policing role, and thereby provide reassurance and develop their capability to combat terrorism. Therefore, CNC is always interested in utilising

venues within the county to undertake training searches. ■



Gavin Begg, Tim Thwaites, Bill Johnson, Keith Morrell, Linda Smith C/Insp, Dave Hardie, Helen Mackay, Stewart Nicol, Gavin Younger & Brian Watson.

Brian & Alfie



'Macca' indicating to Gavin a possible explosive find



Searching for suspect items



Keith Morrell at incident inside telephone control point

Topic of the month – electrical safety

Each year there are about 1000 accidents at work in the UK which involve electric shock or burns. Around 25 of these are fatal. This article outlines the basic measures to help you control the risks from your use of electricity at work.

The main hazards associated with electricity are:

- Contact with live parts causing shock and burns – remember that normal mains voltage can kill.
- Electrical faults – these can and do cause fires.
- Fire or explosion, where electricity could be the source of ignition in a potentially flammable or explosive atmosphere

The first stage in controlling any risk is to carry out a risk assessment and identify what needs to be done to reduce the unacceptable risks.



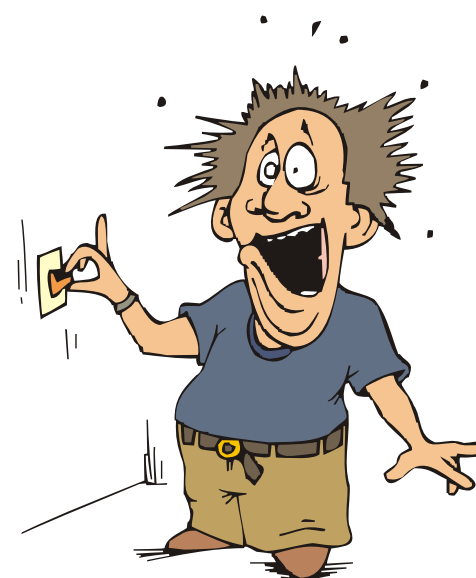
There are many things you can do to reduce risks:

- Choose the most suitable equipment for the working environment.
- Reduce risks by using an alternative power source – such as air, hydraulic or hand powered tools.
- Inspect your equipment before using it to ensure it is safe, and maintain it in a safe condition.
- Provide an accessible and clearly identified switch and emergency stop near each fixed machine to cut off power in an emergency.
- For portable equipment, use socket outlets which are close by to keep cables as short as possible and so the

equipment can be easily disconnected in an emergency. The ends of flexible cables should also have the outer sheath firmly clamped to stop the wires (particularly the earth) pulling out of the terminals.

- Replace any damaged cable completely.
- Electrical equipment must have the correct zone classification when used in special installations or locations. The electrical installation/equipment should be designed to stop it from initiating an electrical problem or causing ignition.
- Reduce the voltage wherever possible. The preferred voltage for portable hand tools is 110V CTE (55 – 0 55 V ac).

- When using equipment at 230 volts you must use a Residual Current Device (RCD). If the RCD detects a fault in the supply to the portable it will switch off the supply
- Remember that electricity can flash over from overhead lines even though plant and equipment do not touch them. It may be necessary to have the power lines switched off while work proceeds. ■
- When using equipment over 230 volts supplied by a plug and socket, an RCD with an earth proving unit should be used to provide additional safety. The earth proving unit will disconnect the supply if the earth connection is disconnected.
- If equipment is faulty, take it out of use and label it "DO NOT USE".
- Always assume cables will be present when digging on the site. Use up-to-date plans, cable avoidance tools and safe digging practices to avoid hidden underground services. Ensure that operators of the CAT machine are trained in its use.



GOSSIP

In November, Dounreay said goodbye to:

- **Ron Peddie**, being posted elsewhere by his company, Amec;
- **Wullie Sinclair**, leaving site to work elsewhere.

and said hello to the following new starts:

- **John Mackay** (decommissioning operative, Site Projects)
- **John Nicolson** (decommissioning operative, Site Projects)
- **Gillian McArthur** (project engineer, Site Projects)
- **Allison Murray** (Mainsaver support, Site Services)
- **Christopher Shaw** (design engineer, Site Services)
- **Samuel Tolworthy** (lab analyst, Site Services)
- **Kevin Scanlon** (trainee environment advisor, Assurance)
- **Niall Watson** (environment advisor, Assurance)



Len Mason spent some of September in France sharing his expert knowledge at Phenix NPP. He received a certificate from WANO commemorating his "significant contribution". Len is shown receiving the certificate from **Simon Middlemas**, while **Jim McCafferty** looks on.



We have a photo of the new addition to **Adreain and Rhona Gill's** family. This is baby **Iona** at six weeks old being cuddled by her older brothers. From left, **Lewis (3)**, **Craig (11)**, and **Jack (7)**.



The **pensions office** and **programmes office** are two departments who made shoeboxes for this year's Blythwood shoebox appeal. They are pictured here.



Lorraine Lannon and Janette Swanson (Pinky & Perky) would like to thank everyone who gave so generously on 'Dare to Wear it Pink' day, Friday 31 October. Lorraine and Janette visited various buildings on site shaking their tins, and collected a grand total of £660 for breast cancer.

ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ

- 1 "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas"
- 2 St Stephen
- 3 Tiny Tim
- 4 Alabama (in 1836) and Oklahoma (in 1907)
- 5 The yule log custom was handed down from the Druids
- 6 1978
- 7 In 1647, the ban was imposed by Cromwell and lifted in 1660 when the Puritans lost power
- 8 Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen – but no Rudolph!
- 9 Eleven pipers piping
- 10 Balthasar, the black king from Ethiopia or Saba.

Dounreay News is edited by: Sue Thompson, Dounreay Communications

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HAVE YOUR SAY

The fuel pond that served DMTR is the first pond on site to be cleaned out and completely decommissioned. The team who have achieved this are a mixture of Doosan Babcock, DSRL and NDSL workers.



Gary Manson (Doosan Babcock)

I've worked here for about two years, originally I started in D1217, then D8550 for a short period. The pond clean out has run smoothly, and we've got a really good safety record, so it was obviously very well organised.



Ritchie Knight (Doosan Babcock)

I come from Newcastle and got sent here for six weeks. So far I've been here on and off for the last eight or nine years! I've worked all over at different nuclear sites, but I really enjoy working here because everyone is so friendly.



Jason Simpson (DSRL)

There are three different contractor companies working on this project. We have a mixture of very experienced and less experienced staff, and they all work together really well, and look out for each other.



Alex Johnston (NDSL)

I've been working in the team since June this year. I've done similar work to this before. I'll go wherever so long as I've got work.



William Mackay (NDSL)

I just joined NDSL, previously I was working for another company. The work here is similar, basically we are just dismantling things, but we're doing it in airline suits.



Shaun Robson (Doosan Babcock)

I've been here just over a year, I come from Newcastle. I'm well travelled, I've been all over at nuclear sites. I think Dounreay is one of the best sites I've worked for.

DSRL IT SERVICES – TIP OF THE MONTH

A recent software upgrade has highlighted that some people are still storing data on the internal hard drives (C:\drives) of their computers.

All network account holders are reminded that data should not be stored locally since it will not be backed up. In the event of a disk failure, you will lose all the data. Also, if your machine needs a major upgrade or re-imaging, there is no guarantee that any local data will be preserved.



Please use the network (home or share drives) for storing your information.