

DOUNREAY NEWS

Final countdown for competition

centre pages

DSRL PBO COMPETITION



**Film crew
on site**

– full story on page 2

**Safety awards
give money
to charity**

– see page 3

**An album
fit for a
queen**

– more on page 5

ON THE RECORD

by **Simon Middlemas**
DSRL Managing Director

Imagine you could wave a magic wand and remove all the man-made buildings and activity from Dounreay. What would you see?

I suspect most of us filter out much of the natural environmental from our minds when we come to work. We focus on the man-made hazards, the rules and regulations, the job of dismantling.

Pause for a moment. Take a look around. See the otters inhabiting the burn, the weasels and stoat, the rare breeding birds, bees and plants like the Scottish Primrose. It's a heart-lifting sight.

Mankind displaced some of nature when it set up camp here. But nature adjusts. Ironically, some of the measures to curb human activity, such as security fencing and fishing prohibition, created havens for wildlife to flourish.

There's a point to me highlighting this to everyone who works at Dounreay. It is our job to protect it from damage during decommissioning. And where we can, to enhance it, too.

Just as the environment of the site is precious to us, so the environment of the land around the site is precious to those who live and work outside the fence.

Just as our environment is fragile and vulnerable to damage, so is theirs.

A fence separates us. It keeps people out. But it is no barrier to noise, dust or fumes getting out and damaging the hinterland.

What we do impacts on every minute of their lives. We have a duty to think of their environment as much as our own, to protect it equally and every day.

Environmental nuisance knows no boundaries. We can walk away from it every day at 1615hrs. Those who live here cannot. Please remember that in all we do. ○

Send your stories to the editor at:



sue.thompson@dounreay.com

Wildlife thriving on protected site

TV naturalist **Mike Dilger** donned a yellow coat and went searching for species inhabiting Dounreay.

He was surprised to find evidence of stoat and weasel as well as otter living alongside rare bees inside Britain's biggest nuclear clean-up project.

Mike has been presenting Britain's natural heritage on the popular One Show on BBC1 for the last four years.

When he looked inside Dounreay, he discovered a thriving natural environment. Otter, stoat and weasel weren't the

only creatures detected during his visit.

Some of Britain's finest birds have made the site their home.

And thanks to the intervention of DSRL staff, the threatened Great Yellow Bumblebee is making a comeback in a specially prepared wildflower meadow.

National media normally focuses on the industrial story of Dounreay but Mike looked beyond the nuclear heritage and went in

search of the natural story.

He discovered how the security protection in place around the nuclear materials has also benefited the environment, protecting species from intrusion by the world at large.

Mike's trip to discover the environment of a nuclear site will be screened on the prime-time magazine programme in the near future. ○



Naturalist Mike Dilger is filmed in the wildflower meadow



A Great Yellow Bumblebee collecting pollen



Safety awards mean money for local charity

Dounreay's annual SHE Innovation awards presentation ceremony took place in July.

There were 18 entries for the awards this year, and as always the standard was impressive. The judges singled out three teams for a special mention, as well as picking the winner and two runners-up.

DSRL managing director **Simon Middlemas** introduced DSRL chairman **Stephen White** who presented the awards.

Stephen reminded everyone that the awards celebrated the teams who were delivering work safely and responsibly, as well as thinking up new and better ways to deliver. He commented that Dounreay was good at borrowing existing solutions from other industries that worked just as well as expensive bespoke solutions.

The winning team nominated two charities to receive money from DSRL. The local branch of the Scottish Huntington's Association will receive £700, to support local people whose relatives are suffering from the disease. And £300 will go to the Harmsworth Ward at the Town and County Hospital in Wick, to help with the refurbishment of its facilities.

FIRST PRIZE – The breeder removal project team (DSRL, MTDS, Babcock, Nuvia)

Eleven tonnes of out-of-reactor breeder material, which has been declared in the FCA, is to be re-canned and moved to the breeder removal building for packaging. The project team modified an existing fuel flask so that it could be used in the transfer of the re-canned slugs from the FCA to the breeder building. The modifications saved £6-8m and prevented unnecessary road moves.

RUNNER-UP – The irradiated fuel cave operations team (DSRL, Babcock, Nuvia, MTDS)

A build-up of dust and dirt had

made the cave windows difficult to see through, causing work in the caves to slow down. The team devised a way of successfully removing the crash glass from the cave windows. They cleaned both the crash glass and the fixed window glass using a technique borrowed from the motor industry. The cleaning has made a dramatic difference to the visibility of the windows, in turn making work more efficient and safer.

RUNNER-UP – The DFR pond decommissioning project team (DSRL, Nuvia, NDSL, Babcock)

The team devised an efficient and quick method of hovering up the four tonnes of radioactive sludge on the bottom of the DFR pond into bags for grouting into drums. The project was able to keep waste and workforce doses to a minimum, and completed safely and within budget.

SPECIAL MENTION – D1208 cell transfer system

The team designed and installed a new system to transfer raffinate out of storage tanks in the FCA, which had not been possible for the past twenty years.

SPECIAL MENTION – D1209 ventilation project

The project established new industry standards for ventilation in nuclear facilities which has been adopted by other projects on the NDA estate.

SPECIAL MENTION – The Dounreay Safety Representatives

Dounreay's safety reps have been working closely with the BP safety reps for a number of years, sharing best practice with them and adopting some of their best practices. ○



DFR pond team



PFR fuel cave team



Breeder removal team

News in brief

Dounreay wins prestigious safety and environment awards

DSRL has won two important awards from one of the world's foremost health and safety organisations.

The company received high marks in the British Safety Council's highly-respected five-star audits for both its health and safety systems and its environmental performance.

The independent audit took an in-depth look at the way the site manages its health and safety procedures, as well as the work it does to preserve the environment.

"Participating in these awards means that we are constantly evaluating our performance, and analysing the ways we can improve," said DSRL's Assurance Director, **Alan Scullion**.

"Achieving a good result is due to the performance and dedication of our staff and contractors."

New pension office opens at Forss

Babcock International's new pension office at Forss industrial estate has been officially opened by **John Thurso MP**.

The new premises will enable the business to grow and expand into the private sector.

Formerly part of the UKAEA, the pensions business has been established in Caithness since 1956, and currently deals with 71,000 scheme members.

'Atom Town' premieres in Amsterdam

Lecturer and film maker **Gair Dunlop**, who created the recent film about Dounreay, 'Atom Town', took part in a live event in Rotterdam in August.

He discussed and presented 'Atom Town' in the event, which focused on the connections between artists, journalism, and documentary forms, and the need to balance a portrayal of reality with artistic license.

Gair Dunlop took footage of the site and the local community in February 2010 to illustrate Dounreay's effect on Caithness. The film, which combined archive and modern footage to link the past and present, was supported by a grant from the Scottish Arts Council.

It was premiered earlier this year in Edinburgh and has been shown locally at Caithness Horizons and in London. ○

Value of Safety Reps acknowledged

Dounreay's safety representatives play an important part in keeping the site working safely.

It's an acknowledged fact that their contribution helps to prevent injuries at work every year.

At Dounreay, health and safety reps are appointed by trade unions to represent a company's employees.

But whether you are a member of a union or not, Dounreay's safety reps are looking out for your interests.

John Deighan is DSRL's lead safety rep. He says that DSRL, Babcock and the NDA all recognise the contribution made by the safety reps.

"Dounreay's safety reps have been working closely with the BP safety reps for a number of years now," he said.

"We have been able to share best practices with them and benefit from the lessons the oil industry has learned. Some of BP's best practices have been incorporated into our SHEQ improvement plan, and are endorsed by the DSRL senior management team.

"As a result of this interaction with BP's safety reps, the Dounreay safety reps were awarded the "Steve Best Award" from the BP forum committee.

"This was the first time that the award had been given to a non-BP company and is a great achievement for us, and marks our dedication to safety at Dounreay." ○



Want to get involved?

Dounreay needs people willing to take on this very important role. Can you allocate a small part of your time to get involved?

Safety Representatives....

- represent employees in consultation with the employer on measures to ensure H&S in the workplace;
- take part in investigations into potential hazards and dangerous occurrences and to examine the causes of accidents at the workplace;
- investigate complaints by employees;
- make representations to the employer on the above and other general matters of health, safety and welfare;
- carry out planned and requested inspections (safety tours, sampling, surveys etc);
- represent employees in consultation with any enforcing authority;
- attend joint Safety Committee meetings in their capacity as a safety rep.

There are special training courses for safety reps provided by the TUC. Other short courses are provided by unions covering a range of subjects such as risk assessment, stress management, bullying, control of substances hazardous to health etc.

Nigel Lowe to take up NDA post in September

The new NDA programme director for Dounreay, Nigel Lowe, will be taking up his position on September 19.

He recently visited the site to familiarise himself and toured facilities in the FCA.

Nigel is a chartered engineer whose last position was with the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston. He is experienced in programme and contract management through assignments both in the UK and overseas as well as providing expert advice in contract disputes. ○



From left: Steve Beckitt, Nigel Lowe, Simon Middlemas, Stuart Chalmers

An album fit for a Queen

After unearthing historic photographs of royal visits to the Dounreay site dating back to 1957, and publishing them on the new dounreay.com image library, it was suggested that the photographs could be collated into an album.

A member of the royal family was invited to walk in the footsteps of Her Majesty The Queen Mother fifty years on and be presented with a record of their family visits over the years.

Dounreay then received a private invitation to send a small delegation to present the album to Her Majesty The Queen during her annual stay at Balmoral Castle.

One member of the party was **Calder Bain** who celebrated his fifty years of service at Dounreay in May. Calder remembers the Queen Mother visiting the site the same year he started his apprenticeship and saw her drive past the apprentice training building, which is now demolished.

During the memorable trip to Balmoral, Calder recalled his five-year apprenticeship working in various parts of the Dounreay site: "There was a great pioneering spirit on the site. There were a lot of top-class scientists around, but fast reactors were an unknown quantity, it was a very exciting time, although meeting the Queen is even more exciting."

Since 2004 Calder has been helping decommission PFR: "I have no intention of retiring just yet. I came in with the bricks, I'll go out with the bricks," he said.

Representing Dounreay along with Calder, were **Simon**



Group pictured outside Crathie Kirk shortly before they presented the album to HM The Queen.

Middlemas, Mike Brown, Tina Wrighton, James Gunn and Stuart Chalmers of the NDA.

Recalling the once in a lifetime experience Tina explained: "It was a great honour to be invited to Balmoral during the Queen's summer holiday. We were made to feel extremely welcome and special and enjoyed talking to Her Majesty, not just about Dounreay, but trying to remember names of people featured in the album, the plans to expand Thurso harbour and the rather unpredictable Caithness weather."

Simon Middlemas has received

a formal letter of thanks for the album from the equerry to Her Majesty The Queen. Additional copies of the 30-page historic record will also be presented to Lord Lieutenant **Anne Dunnett**, Caithness Horizons and the Queen Mother's former residence the Castle of Mey.

Turn to page 14 to read about the Queen Mother's visit to Dounreay by former Dounreay worker, **Alistair Fraser**. ○



Balmoral Castle



News in brief

- At the end of July 2011 the site recorded 415 days (3.96 million man-hours) without a lost time accident.
- The DFR NaK disposal plant team successfully replaced the blocked pipe work and routine operations re-started on July 16.
- A Magnox flask from Sellafield has been used to commission the flask leak testing station in the breeder removal facility. It will remain at Dounreay to be used for future operator training.
- The Dounreay cementation plant continued to process intermediate level liquid waste, with 60 drums being cemented during the month, bringing the total this financial year to 186 drums.
- The sodium inventory disposal facility at PFR cleaned two loads of alkali metal wetted steel, making a total of six loads processed this financial year.
- The FCA's redundant laboratory, Lab 90, continued to be cleaned up, with removal of the floor area in cell 2.
- An OJEU notice has been published for the design and build of a grouting facility for the new low level waste repository.
- Staff who handle personal data are being given refresher training on data handling.
- Further data requests from the bidders and the NDA have been processed. Since the start of Informal Site Access, 1,058 requests for documents or meetings have been received, and over 4,800 files supplied on disc to the NDA.
- The Department of Transport inspected Dounreay's radioactive transport arrangements, which they deemed to be above average.
- WRACS continued to make headway into the backlog of low level waste drums awaiting compaction. At the end of July, a total of 2,347 drums had been crushed. ○

Dounreay artefact seen by thousands

Thousands of visitors flocked to the new National Museum of Scotland (NMS) in Edinburgh when it opened its doors to the public in July.

In the first hour, 6,000 people trooped through its many galleries and over 121,000 visited in the first week.

Among the thousands of exhibits is an object from Dounreay, a quartz fibre electroscope (QFE) and dosimeter charging unit. It's housed in a gallery called "Shaping Our World".

The QFE, sometimes also called a pocket dosimeter, was worn by workers to measure their exposure to ionising radiation. Invented in 1937 by **Charles Lauritsen**, it was one of the first devices to measure radiation and had to be recharged periodically. It has now been replaced by modern electronic versions.

The museum also has the uranium glass model of Dounreay on show in a gallery called "Scotland: A Changing Nation".

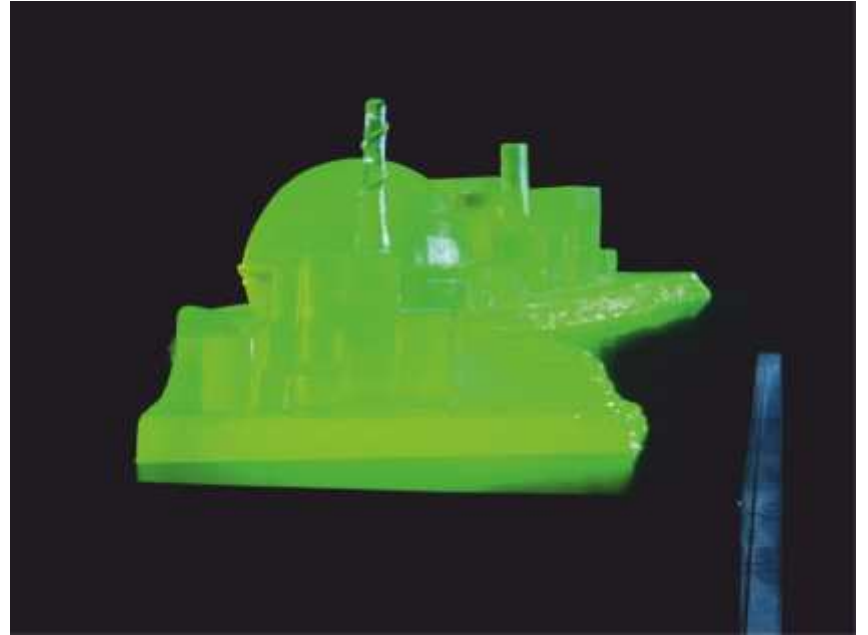
The model was made by **Kate Williams** via Northlands Glass in 2006,

as part of an exhibition of nuclear power station models. It was made by the process of lost wax casting, using uranium glass. Uranium oxide is a safe colourant for glass and has been used in glass making since the 1850s.

DSRL heritage officer **James Gunn** said that the dosimeter formed part of the large number of artefacts that would be removed from Dounreay as the site's decommissioning progressed.

"As the clean-up work continues, more and more of the site is being demolished. However, while Dounreay may disappear from the earth, its heritage will live on in the items that are displayed in museums across the country."

Another load of Dounreay artefacts were delivered to NMS in August, which may be displayed in a future exhibition on energy. ○



Rock cores to be preserved

A selection of geological rock cores from all over the site is now being preserved for scientific study in England.

The cores came from such diverse areas of site as the shaft isolation project, the new LLW repository and the boreholes drilled in the immediate vicinity of the site.

DSRL land remediation advisor **Tanya Favus** explained why preserving the rock cores is so important.

"The cores are a physical record of the rock strata under the site," she said.

"They show all the fractures that are a characteristic of the geology here, and so can be used to show how water or contaminants move through the rock.

"The cores are key evidence

for the environmental safety cases DSRL is preparing to support its proposals for the site end-state.

"They may also be useful to the wider geological and scientific community, as little research has been carried out on the rock formations in this area."

Each metre-long core was monitored for contamination and boxed in wooden crates.

A total of 600 boxes were accepted by the British Geological Survey and lodged in their national core repository in Nottingham.

They will be stored there permanently and can be accessed by DSRL and others requiring geological information on this area of Caithness. ○



Ronnie Campbell, project supervisor for the cores project, with one of the rock cores.

Investment in education and training in Caithness has reached an all-time high as the government agencies continue to back new facilities for the county.

Two new teaching and training centres have recently been completed at the North Highland College/UHI Thurso campus, three new schools are planned for Wick and a new community centre with inbuilt training facilities is currently being built in Wick.

A further £1.2 million has been invested by NDA and DSRL in *Make the Right Connections*, a skills development programme which is helping people retrain and benefit from new job opportunities as they arise.

Twenty first-year engineering apprentices are due to start in NHC's new £8million Engineering Technology and Energy Centre (ETEC) in Thurso in September, joining a further 60 second to fourth year engineering apprentices currently serving their time in Caithness.

The new centre will become a hub of engineering training, providing an opportunity for people

to acquire the skills that are needed now and in the future to enable them to live and work locally.

Last year the £3million Centre for Energy and the Environment was completed at North Highland College/UHI Thurso campus for the expanding Environmental Research Institute (ERI). Additional teaching and research jobs associated with the prestigious Marine and Renewable Energy and Environment (MaREE) research programme have clustered in Caithness.

Meanwhile Wick is set to benefit from major investment in educational facilities. Highland Council, with a financial injection from Scottish Government, is well into the planning stages for a new Wick High School, at an estimated cost of £37million. The Council recently announced it also plans to invest a further £19.75million in new primary schools for the town.

Pulteneytown Peoples Project

(PPP) gained nearly £4million from a variety of sources including NDA, Highland Council and HIE to construct a new community centre.

Several years of planning and fundraising has paid off and the community group is proudly watching their community centre being built next to the Pulteneytown Distillery in Wick by local firm MM Miller. It is due for completion in February next year.

The building will have facilities for computer training at all levels, sports and recreational facilities, and a training kitchen where budding chefs will be able to hone their skills, cook food and sell it in the café downstairs.

NDA stakeholder relations and socio-economic manager **Anna MacConnell** said: "The NDA is committed to mitigating the socio-economic impacts of its activities and recognises that Caithness is one of our priority areas.

"We are continuing to lend our

support to skills development in Caithness through these projects to ensure the best decommissioning skills are available at Dounreay.

"We want local people to be able to take advantage of employment opportunities as they arise but also ensure that inward investors, such as the new marine energy developers, and the local supply chain companies have ready access to a highly-skilled and versatile workforce.

"We also encourage DSRL staff to consider their long-term future career direction and contact Training at Naver for details.

Eann Sinclair, CNSRP programme manager added: "None of us can afford to be complacent in a challenging economic climate, but Dounreay's decommissioning programme and the wide range of investments are a demonstration of confidence in our future." ○

Direct Rail Services representatives meet with Caithness stakeholders

Representatives of the NDA's rail transport subsidiary Direct Rail Services (DRS) met with stakeholders in August to discuss how DRS could support wider economic regeneration in Caithness as well as assist the programme of movement of nuclear materials from Dounreay which is currently being considered by the NDA.

Andrew Sumner, business development manager and **Eva Foran**, communications liaison manager for DRS told members of the Caithness Transport Forum, DSG and Caithness & North Sutherland Partnership's advisory group they wished to open dialogue and obtain feedback from the community on potential business opportunities in the area.

DRS has invested substantially in a rail terminal in Inverness and they feel that a Caithness railhead offers an obvious next step in business expansion.

A wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA, DRS transports nuclear material and conventional freight

across the UK.

The Carlisle-based company recently collected a prestigious industry award as the UK's "Best Performing Rail Freight Operator" and received recognition as the most improved rail operator on performance over a year.

DRS is also collaborating with the Port of Workington in Cumbria on improved rail capability that will assist in opening up the area's trading route with the rest of Europe.

The NDA and Nuclear Management Partners (NMP), the parent body of Sellafield Ltd, have invested significant levels of funding to improve infrastructure at the port. ○



Competition enters final phase

DSRL will be under new ownership by next Spring. **Mark Raffle** explains how it works.

Competition

The NDA is required to compete the work it's been tasked by Parliament to carry out. This is so the taxpayer gets best value for their money.

The competition is to choose a new "parent body organisation", or PBO for DSRL. The PBO owns DSRL and seconds a small number of managers into it. The current PBO has seven secondees working in DSRL. The secondees and the PBO are expected to bring world-class experience and to optimise the decommissioning work.

The current PBO is UKAEA Ltd, which is owned by Babcock. CH2M HILL provides support to the current PBO.

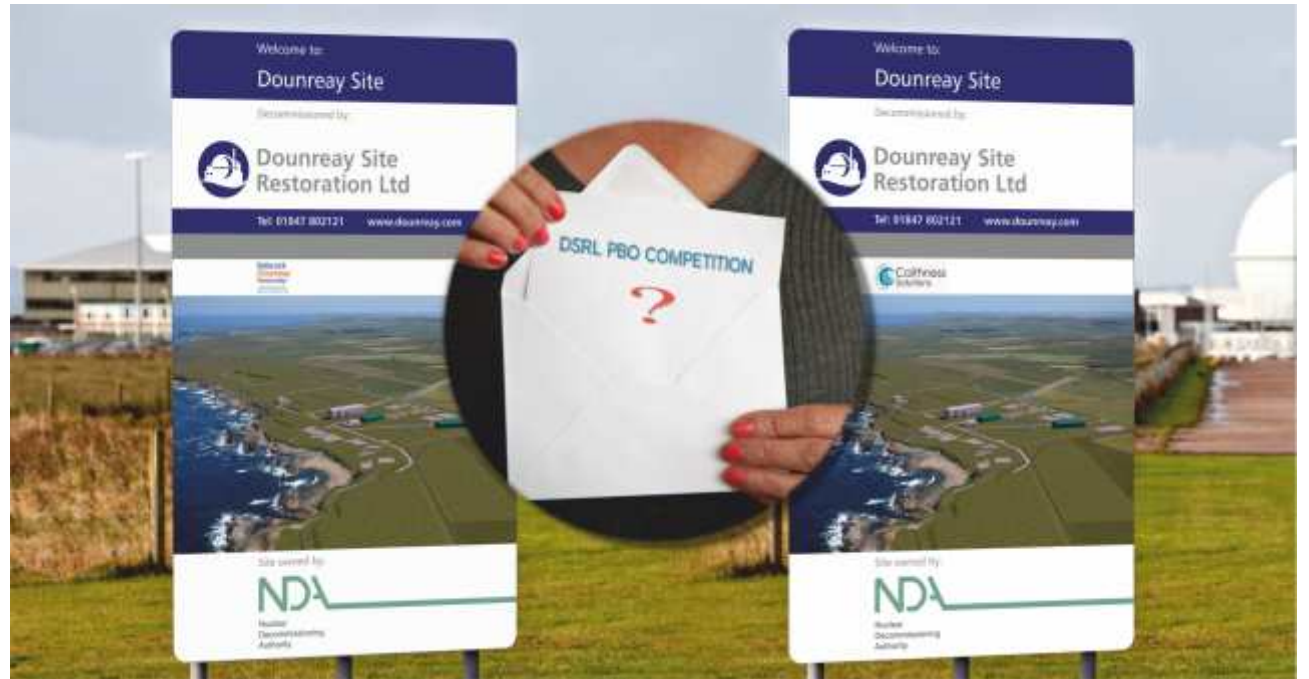
Whichever of the two bidders wins the competition, a new organisation will become the owners of DSRL.

DSRL is NOT being replaced. DSRL remains the site licence company that holds the nuclear site licence and waste authorisations issued by the regulators. Importantly, DSRL has to be capable of operating the site even without any PBO personnel.

DSRL has supported the NDA to run the competition for more than two years, supplying over 6,000 files, organising many bidder visits to site between August last year and July this year and preparing "management of change" documents to allow the change in ownership to happen.

Preferred bidder

In late November the NDA will announce its choice to take over ownership of DSRL - the "preferred bidder". A transition contract will be issued to the preferred bidder which will cover the period December 12, 2011 to April 1, 2012.



Transition period

During the transition period the preferred bidder personnel will receive induction briefings and site visits from nominated staff and handovers from the current PBO secondees. The new PBO personnel need to show they're competent to take up the PBO secondee posts before share transfer can take place.

The induction briefings will be more than just the standard induction course. The visits will include most areas of site and will be similar to the two week programme of visits organised for bidders last year.

The preferred bidder will be carrying out "due diligence", which allows them to confirm that everything is as expected, before signing a new contract and parent body agreement.

A series of readiness reviews will be carried out to confirm that everything is ready to proceed with share transfer.

Share transfer

This is when the new PBO takes over from the old one. There will be a one-for-one substitution of PBO people within DSRL and on the DSRL Board. There will be no other changes at this point - the new PBO inherits the existing management systems, Lifetime Plan and organisational structure.

Any changes that the new PBO wishes to make can only be made by following the "management of change" process after share transfer.

This is expected to happen over the next nine months during a "consolidation period". During this period the new PBO will work with DSRL and the NDA to revise the Lifetime Plan.

Review of other organisational changes

To avoid any adverse effects during this process, some other "management of change" proposals may be subject to additional scrutiny.

If you are involved in any organisational change of Category C or above between September 2011 and June 2012, please seek advice from **Alison Ross** (MoC coordinator - tel 6521) or **Mark Raffle** (tel 6670).

Further information

A Q&A brief and other information is available on the Intranet in 'Useful pages/DSRL PBO competition'. If you have any further questions, please let the DSRL competition support team know.

It's planned to run information rooms in October 2011 when people can drop in and discuss any queries. Further regular updates will be provided throughout the competition and transition periods.

Are you concerned?

Neither bidder has shared its plans with DSRL. This is unlikely to happen before the start of the transition period.

Even then, only high level

information is expected to be available. Details such as cost and schedule will not be announced until after share transfer.

The transition period and the uncertainties of what might happen after share transfer may be unsettling for some people. The possibility of reducing morale and increasing stress are the major concerns.

DSRL management will continue to monitor and look for indicators of any such problems. We'll continue to provide updates on the progress of the competition and transition.

If you do have any concerns, or if you think the transition is affecting the normal work of the site, please speak to your line manager. If concern causes stress, help is available from OHD, HR employee support, or your own GP. Stress awareness training for all staff is available from HR.

Competition team

The DSRL Competition Support Team contacts are **Mark Raffle** (Tel 6670) and **Rhona Gill** (Tel 6067) D2003 Zone 9, or email "dsrl competition support". Please get in touch if you have any questions.

To ensure that only work formally agreed with NDA is carried out, all requests for competition support should be routed through this team. Please let the team know if you are asked directly by NDA, bidders or anyone else to carry out any work connected with competition. ○

Competition enters final phase

HAVE YOUR SAY

The preferred bidder should be announced on November 23. Are you anxious about the results of the PBO competition?



Graeme Rennie

I'm not worried, as I'm used to changes of manager in my department. There have been a lot of changes over the past six years, and this is just another one. My department have had a lot of information requests from the bidders so it will be nice to see the whole thing ended.



Miriam Sutherland

Occupational health aims to secure the health, safety and well-being of the workforce by assessing, monitoring and promoting the health status of employees and working with management to develop strategies to improve the working environment. Our in-house OHD provides an excellent, proactive and cost-effective service. My concern is that we may not get a chance to explain our extensive role to the new PBO.



Roger Broughton

I haven't taken that much notice of it up to now. I'm more interested than concerned, and interested to see what might change. The posts that are changing are only a few at the top.



Janice Miller

What will happen, will happen. I think they'll need most people here to carry on the work.



Audrey Halle

Change can be unsettling but it's always interesting. I'm interested to see if they bring in a new strategy, or ways of doing things. There's plenty of work still to be done here.



Eann Plowman

I'm not losing sleep but am concerned by what might happen because we don't know yet. You can't influence what happens anyway. I'm looking at my future and the possibilities for further training.

KEY DATES

August 30 - Bidders return tenders to NDA.

November 23 - NDA will advise the winner of the competition. Information on the winning bid isn't expected to start emerging until the transition period, with details not available until after share transfer. The competition rules - available on the Intranet - continue to apply until this point.

December 12 - Start of the transition period when the preferred bidder can attend site and start the handover from the existing team, who remain in charge meantime.

April 2 - DSRL shares transfer from UKAEA Ltd / Babcock to the new "parent body organisation". New secondees take over from the existing team.

THE BIDDERS

**Babcock
Dounreay
Partnership**

A partnership between
Babcock | CH2M HILL | URS

A consortium of Babcock International Group, CH2M HILL and URS.

Babcock International Group is the owner of UKAEA Ltd, the current "parent body organisation" for DSRL and Research Sites Restoration Ltd. CH2M HILL currently works with UKAEA Ltd. URS is one of the partners in Nuclear Management Partners, the "parent body organisation" for Sellafield Ltd.

www.bcdp.dounreay.co.uk

**Caithness
Solutions**

A partnership between AMEC and EnergySolutions.

AMEC is one of the partners in Nuclear Management Partners, the "parent body organisation" for Sellafield Ltd. EnergySolutions is the "parent body organisation" for Magnox Ltd.

www.caithness-solutions.co.uk

If you go down to the woods today...

This year's first year apprentices from DSRL and Johnson Controls spent a busy week working in Dunnet Forest in July.

The main project was to construct a new bridge over a boggy area to allow the quad bike and trailer easier access to an area of the forest frequently used for collecting logs, removing old trees and general forest maintenance.

Previous access to this area was only possible by a 45 minute trip round the forest, through various gates and over a very narrow bridge.

This new bridge allows direct access from the main part of the forest and will greatly assist the Forestry Trust in the future.

The apprentices also widened two other existing bridges, put in a

small new bridge on the mountain bike track, cleared some ditches, carried out path maintenance and chopped some logs.

Dave Bertram and **Jean Barnett** from the Dunnet Forestry Trust were delighted with the effort and the amount of work the guys had put in and rewarded them with daily deliveries of fresh home baking courtesy of **Anne Bertram**.

The guys who took part were: from DSRL - **John Budge, Marc Anderson, Liam Stewart, Euan Mackay** and **Andrew Macaskill** and from JCL - **Jamie Cormack** and **Daniel Storton**. ○



Building the bridge



The apprentices road-testing their work

Training at Naver

To arrange your training please check the training event calendar and SAP for dates, or call us at Naver on 01847 804735. ○

September	Course Title	Venue
1	RPS refresher	Dounreay
1	Forklift refresher	Ormlie
1-2	Alkali metals handling	Dounreay
2	Rider pallet truck	Ormlie
2	Pressurised suit training (2 piece)	Dounreay
5	Mobile towers	Ormlie
5	Stack sampling overview presentation	Dounreay
6	Site induction	Dounreay
6	Fall protection	Ormlie
7	RMC refresher	Dounreay
7	Confined space operator	Dounreay
7-8	Overhead crane novice	Ormlie
8	Risk assess & specialist advice	Dounreay (am)
8	Works control systems overview	Dounreay (pm)
9	Asbestos awareness	Naver
9	MEWP boom (assessment only)	Ormlie
12-14	Slinger/signaller	Ormlie
13	Business Warehouse new user training	Dounreay
13	Site induction	Dounreay
14	Basic radiation induction	Dounreay
15	Radiation worker	Naver
16	MEWP scissor (assessment only)	Ormlie
19	Tent assessor	Dounreay
19	Forklift refresher	Ormlie
20	Site induction	Dounreay
22	Manual handling (high risk)	Naver
22	Environmental awareness	Dounreay
23	Emergency first aid	Dounreay
23	Forklift refresher	Ormlie
26	IOSH working safely	Naver
26-28	Slinger/signaller	Ormlie
27	Site induction	Dounreay
28	Basic radiation induction	Dounreay
29	COSHH & DSEAR awareness	Naver

Arrow Word

Eg An Adder	Tribal Emblem	Glamour	Fever	Polite	Arm Joint	
		More Slothful				
Untie	Small Branch		Den		Foreshadow	
Abound	System Of Rules	Spring Flowers				
		Fanatic				
Loutish Person	From A Distance	Musical Instrument	Discovered	Arouse	Capital Of Norway	Simplicity
			Penned			
Leg Bone				Salt Water Body		
			Large Ovens			
Cut Of Pork	Corner			Doe (anag)		

This is like a crossword but with the clues embedded in squares in the grid. An arrow in each clue square shows you the direction in which you need to write the answer to that clue. ○

Answers in next months issue

+ OHD BULLETIN +

One World, One Home, One Heart.



**WORLD
HEART DAY**

29 September 2011



by **Kate Henderson**,
work experience
student at
OHD.



World Heart Day was created in 2000 to inform people around the world about heart disease and stroke- the two main killers. Each year 17.1 million lives are lost world wide, with a further 2.6 million living with heart disease in UK alone.

There are many kinds of heart disease, and they can affect the heart in several ways. The most common cause of heart disease is a narrowing of or blockage in the coronary arteries supplying blood to the heart. This can in turn lead to heart failure or strokes.

A stroke is caused by a blockage in the arteries leading to part of the brain or by a ruptured blood vessel, leading to bleeding, in or around the brain. Strokes nearly always produce some degree of permanent impairment.

The main risk factors affecting the heart are smoking, an unhealthy diet, lack of exercise and alcohol.



Tuna sweetcorn burgers

A low-fat alternative to beef burgers and every bit as tasty. Try a salsa with chilli in for an added kick.

Serves 4, low-fat, 15 minutes

Ingredients

- 85g white bread , torn into pieces
- 198g can sweetcorn , drained
- 2 x 185g cans tuna in water, drained well
- 25g grated cheddar
- 3 spring onions , finely chopped
- 1 egg , beaten
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- wholegrain bread rolls, lettuce, salsa, to serve

Method:

1. Whizz the bread in a food processor to crumbs, tip into a bowl, then whizz half the sweetcorn until finely chopped. Add the chopped corn, remaining whole corn, tuna, cheese, spring onions and some seasoning into the bowl with the bread and mix well. Add the egg, bit by bit (you may not need it all), until the mixture is sticky enough to be shaped into four even-size burgers.
2. Heat the oil in a non-stick pan, then cook the burgers for 5 mins on each side until golden and hot through the middle. Stuff into wholemeal buns with your favourite lettuce and a good dollop of salsa.

Per serving

262 calories, protein 22g, carbohydrate 21g, fat 11 g, saturated fat 3g, fibre 1g, sugar 5g, salt 0.87g

Every day you should aim to do at least 30 minutes of moderate activity, this will help improve the blood flow and prevent blood clots forming which can lead to strokes. It will also lower your blood pressure therefore reducing the strain on the heart. It has been found that heart disease is twice as likely to develop in inactive people as it is in those who do just 30 minutes of exercise each day.

Dietary choices can affect a person's risk for heart disease because diet directly impacts a person's weight. If you are overweight, you are more likely to develop forms of heart disease, such as heart attack, angina (chest pain), and abnormal heart rhythm, even if you have no other risk factors.

An increased weight of 5kg will increase the risk of you getting coronary heart disease by 40%.

It is important to eat a well balanced diet, but cut down on high-sugar foods, saturated fat and salt intake as these all contribute to heart disease.

Smoking prevents oxygen from getting to the brain and increases your blood pressure. In heavy smokers, around eight per cent of the blood's oxygen carrying capacity is removed by carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that's found in cigarette smoke which makes it more difficult for the red blood cells to release oxygen to the body.

We have an on site smoking cessation advisor who can be contacted on 07748761749.

Alcohol can have a harmful effect on the heart if you drink more than the recommended limits. It damages the heart muscle and could lead to strokes. Alcohol is also high in calories so it can lead to weight gain which will prevent the heart operating effectively.

The heart is the strongest muscle in the body and needs to be looked after properly to prevent heart disease and strokes occurring.

The main symptoms of heart disease to look out for

- **Chest pain/ discomfort**
- **Light headedness**
- **Syncope (sudden fainting)**
- **Fatigue**
- **Shortness of breath**

If you develop any of these symptoms do not hesitate to contact OHD.

Look out for the OHD blood pressure road-show which will be at various locations on the Dounreay site in November. ○

Missing OHD appointments is sometimes unavoidable.

However, an appointment missed without reasonable notice is an appointment not available to another person. If you are unable to attend an appointment, please let OHD know as soon as possible, by phoning 2184.



CNSRP call for survey help

CNSRP are issuing a final plea to Dounreay workers for the return of any remaining questionnaires on the socio-economic impacts of Dounreay's decommissioning.

NDA, DSRL and HIE, working together under the banner of the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership, jointly funded a study to provide an updated picture of the impact of the decommissioning programme on Caithness and north Sutherland, following a similar study carried out in 2006.

The Partnership will use the results of this study to identify and pursue opportunities to attract new employment opportunities to the area.

The workforce survey will provide a snapshot of changes that have taken place in the structure of the DSRL and contractor population since 2006.

Dounreay boss **Simon Middlemas** said "By completing the survey you will help CNSRP to assess how the local economy has changed since 2006, and predict how it will develop in future."

The deadline for responses is Tuesday September 6. If you have not received a copy or would like one to be re-sent please contact ext 4611 or email socio-economic@dounreay.com and a paper copy will be sent to you. ○

Keys handed over for new NHC engineering centre

Thurso's new £8.3m engineering centre welcomes its first students in September.

The keys to the North Scotland Engineering, Technology & Energy Centre have been handed over by Morrison Construction to North Highland College.

The flagship facility will welcome 165 students at the start of the new academic session. With its purpose-built teaching block, fabrication yard and workshop, it will deliver engineering programmes and modern apprenticeships in partnership with employers, in a setting which replicates an industrial environment.

Donald McLachlan, operations director of Morrison Construction, said: "I am absolutely thrilled to be handing over the keys to this amazing building today and I know that staff, students and the community are looking forward to having their first glimpse inside of the newly completed centre. It is an outstanding facility and we are very proud of the quality of work we have produced."

NHC Principal, **Dr Gordon Jenkins**, said: "On behalf of the College students and staff, I am delighted to receive the keys for



In the foreground is Alison Macquarrie, Site Manager, Morrison Construction handing over the keys to Gordon Jenkins, Principal, NHC. Back l-r are Grant Sim, Project Manager; Frank Grant, Project Sponsor; Alan Ogg, Assistant Director of Learning & Teaching - Energy, Technology & the Built Environment; Mark Garland, Morrison Construction; Anne Dodds, Estates & Facilities Manager; Donald McLachlan, Morrison Construction; Donald MacBeath, Vice Principal & Director of Learning and Teaching, NHC.

such a state of the art building from Morrison Construction and thank and congratulate them for the work they have done.

"The development of this facility demonstrates the commitment of our funders, and the Board of North Highland College, to provide the best possible educational experience for our learners. We look forward to working in partnership with

employers and our other stakeholders to ensure that we maximise the benefit of these facilities for the whole community."

The new Centre has been funded by CNSRP partners the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and The Highland Council together with the Scottish Funding Council and the European Regional Development Fund. ○

HIE promises £12million to local economy

Highlands & Islands Enterprise has committed £12m to Caithness and north Sutherland to help prepare the local economy for life after Dounreay.

Some £3.5 million of this has already been earmarked for new projects, including Scrabster Harbour, North Highland College and John O'Groats.

In 2006, HIE agreed funding for the area over three financial years, but has extended the timescale to allow important projects to be developed.

Convener of the Highland Council, councillor **Sandy Park** welcomed the news.

He said: "This is a welcome sign of the continuing progress the partners in CNSRP have been

making to encourage a diversified economy, through new jobs and the creation and retention of wealth in Caithness and north Sutherland.

"Over the past three years over 80 local businesses have committed to the creation or retention of over 500 jobs, despite the wider economic climate."

HIE area manager **Roy Kirk** said: "Whilst this concludes the commitment of the extra funds promised in 2006, we continue to work hard to ensure that this and other projects will deliver the

desired economic impact for Caithness and North Sutherland." ○



Keeping on the right side of the Bribery Act

Philip Colville sets out your obligations under the new Act.

The box of chocolates you gave a contractor at Christmas. The free entrance ticket they sent you for the Halkirk Games. The food and drink you consumed at a contractor's hospitality tent at the County Show. The drinks you bought for a manager at Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The dinner that a supplier paid for after their delivery performance had gone through a bad patch. The invitation to a supplier's golf day at which you won an all-expenses-paid day at the British Open.

The UK Government has enacted new legislation, the Bribery Act 2010, which came into effect on July 1, 2011. Under the new legislation it is an offence to offer, give, request or accept a bribe or facilitation payment – a “fixer's fee” – to or from another individual or to bring

about the improper performance of a function.

- Was the dinner after the poor delivery performance an improper attempt to persuade you not to change supplier?
- Was the ticket to the Games in return for sorting out a complicated compensation event in the supplier's favour?

On a corporate level, a company may be found guilty of an offence if it fails to prevent bribery by anyone performing services for or on behalf of the company, unless the company can show that it has in place an “adequate procedure” to prevent such bribery occurring.

In addition to the offence companies will suffer loss of reputation and as a consequence of this loss of business and jobs.

However, we do need to have appropriate procedures in place with respect to the giving or receiving of hospitality or gifts. Transparent procedures protect both the individual and the organisation.

Therefore, if in the course of your work, you accept or offer in your working capacity or the name of DSRL or using DSRL funding, any hospitality (travel, meals, lodging, free admittance tickets, etc) or gifts regardless of its value you must complete a form and submit it to your line manager for approval in advance.

Any hospitality or gifts accepted or given since July 1, 2011, when the Act came into force, should be submitted for retrospective approval. The DSRL form (D672) can be found on the intranet. ○

Shetland championship challenges Caithness

Five hardy Caithness triathletes travelled to Shetland to take part in the Tri-County Championship as defending champions.

They aimed to repeat the success of 2010 when Caithness won the competition in Wick. The race, a sprint distance, consisting of a 750m swim, 20km cycle and 5km run took place at the Clickimin Leisure Centre in Lerwick in July.

Eight hardy travellers, five from Caithness and three from Edinburgh, lined up alongside twelve local individuals and two relay teams, to provide the event with a healthy field of experienced and competitive triathletes.

Three of the Caithness triathletes team work at Dounreay – **Brian Grant** (DSRL, Wick Triathlon Club), **Helen Richard** (CNC, WTC) and **David Spencer** (Nuvia Limited, Thurso Amateur Swimming Club). Also joining the Dounreay-based workers were **Mark Taylor** and **Sandy Christie**.

On race day the weather was unforgiving with continuous hard rain

and a strong wind – a “traditional” Shetland day.

To make it more of a challenge the cycle leg included four steep hill climbs. The run, twice round the Clickimin Loch, was flat, partially making up for the tough cycle.

Mark did very well with the third fastest cycle time and fastest run, leading to him winning the event. David produced the second fastest run time and Helen came in as third fastest female.

Despite these good performances Shetland used their home advantage, winning the Tri-County Championship with Orkney not fielding a team. The times for Mark Taylor, Helen Richard, David Spencer, Brian Grant and Sandy Christie were 1:07:30, 1:29:10, 1:15:20, 1:27:09 and 1:31:13.

Babcock (through the DSRL managing director's 'slush fund') provided sponsorship for the Caithness team. ○



OFF THE RECORD

by Anne Dunnett
Lord-Lieutenant for Caithness

I was appointed as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Caithness on March 8, 2004 having been a Deputy Lieutenant for a few years prior to that. The appointment lasts until I am 75.

There are 98 Lord-Lieutenants in Britain, one for each geographical county. The male LLs have a military style uniform complete with sword and spurs! The ladies, however do not have a uniform. Our only means of identification is our badge of office – loaned to us by the Exchequer. Fundamentally the LL is Her Majesty's representative in the county.

The post of Lord-Lieutenant, created by King Henry VIII in the sixteenth century, was initially more of a military and magistrate nature – responsible for raising an army when trouble loomed, sitting in judgement when some men appealed against “call-up” for military service. Even today there is a very close association with the military, especially the reserve forces and cadets association of which LLs are automatically vice presidents.

We are often called to inspect cadets or TA troops, to give them help and encouragement where we can, and also are associated with the Royal British Legion. I receive military reports from Afghanistan, Iraq and even Ministry of Defence. I find the work with the young people in sea, army and air cadets particularly interesting and take a keen interest in the work they do.

LLs have a duty to take an interest in all aspects of events in the county – social, business, industry etc. We also encourage voluntary services and benevolent organisations. On occasion we may have to present honours, Queen's awards and the like on behalf of Her Majesty and I have had the pleasure of doing this a few times.

It is also the duty of the LL to be first to greet any member of the Royal Family visiting our county on an official visit, and the last to bid farewell. We are fortunate to have an annual visit from HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay. All arrangements for such visits are made through me and this work starts many months before the visit.

I deal with all the LL correspondence myself and it is surprising how much of it there is. I also have many requests to speak to various groups and gatherings so life is never dull – and always busy.

The honour of serving Her Majesty in this way is overwhelming. There are undoubtedly many privileges too, not least having been a guest at the Royal wedding in Westminster Abbey when I found it hard to believe that I was actually there.

I work hard and always try to do my duty to the best of my ability and for the good of our county. ○

“Quotable Quotes”

“Caricom [the Caribbean community trade bloc] vehemently condemns as unacceptable and injurious the practice by the United Kingdom, France and Japan of transporting hazardous waste through the Caribbean Sea, thus risking the very existence of the people of the Caribbean.”

Denzil Douglas, prime minister of St Kitts and Nevis and chair of Caricom, reacting to the latest waste shipment from the UK to Japan, which passes through the Caribbean (Morning Star Online).

“Perhaps only archaeologists will appreciate the lengths of the timescales that we talk about in Sellafield. There are substances in there that will still be dangerous in a quarter of a million years. The building known as Dirty Thirty holds two ponds as big as swimming pools filled with waste materials from the days of the old Magnox power stations. It's so radioactive that you can't spend more than two minutes near it. They now say they are going to rebuild it to withstand earthquakes.”

Local archaeologist Pippa George comments on the Magnox waste held at Sellafield, following the news that its Mox reprocessing plant has shut down (The Independent)

“I would like to go forward with the ambition of seeing the first waste put into a geological disposal facility by the end of 2029 and I have tasked NDA to look at opportunities for accelerating progress.”

Energy Minister Charles Hendry, writing in the Government's first annual report of its 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely' programme (www.thisisdevon.co.uk)

“It's absolutely outrageous that EDF are going to flatten 400 acres of countryside in advance of preliminary works for the station, without any planning permission for the nuclear power station itself.”

Roy Pumfrey, a member of Save Cannington Action Group and Stop Hinkley, is angry that West Somerset Council have approved the preparatory work for the new nuclear reactor proposed for Hinkley (BBC News)

“Now the nuclear landscape looks different. Safety is better: even the multiple layers of incompetence and bad luck visited on the clapped-out Fukushima plant won't end up killing many people. Radioactive waste is more containable than the carbon emissions from coal and gas that are sending our climate haywire... However many roofs we cover in solar panels and hills with wind turbines, less nuclear means more coal and more climate change. That's what I fear now.”

Fred Pearce, author and environment consultant at 'New Scientist' magazine, on whether we should fear nuclear power more than climate change (The Independent)

To see these and more visit the communications homepage at: <http://dnotes6.ukaea.org.uk/dsrl/exernal-headlines.asp>

Royal album sparks memories of Queen Mum's site visit

At the cutting edge of fast reactor technology, and lately of decommissioning, Dounreay has had its fair share of VIP visitors over the years. Ex-Dounreay worker, crofter and historian Alistair Fraser recalls one such visit....

“On August 25, 1961, the Queen Mother paid an official visit to the Dounreay Experimental Reactor establishment and spent more than three hours at the station,” recalls *The John O'Groat Journal*.

Clarence House staff had advised Dounreay management that the Queen Mother liked a nap after lunch, and that she was partial to a Martini cocktail.

To ensure her every need was met, a comfortable chair with a high back and padded arms was bought from a furniture shop in Thurso, most probably J Miller Calder Ltd, who had premises on Traill Street and who carried the “By Appointment” royal crest above their door.

To ensure the Royal cocktail was prepared correctly, a member of staff was dispatched to the Royal Hotel, where he was advised on the correct measures of martini and gin.

After lunch in the director's dining room, the newly-trained “barman”, accompanied by the Queen Mother's lady-in-waiting, went to prepare the cocktail. As he carefully poured the correct measures from the specially-installed optics the lady-in-waiting declared: “That's not how it's done!”

With that, she removed the bottles from the optics, poured out a very liberal measure of gin, followed by a very modest measure of martini, and proclaimed: “Now that is the way Her Majesty likes it!”



The Queen Mother in the DFR control room: one of the photographs included in the Royal album.

Ann sees how Swedish communities cope with nuclear waste

In May Dounreay Stakeholder Group member Anne Chard represented the DSG on a trip to Sweden, where she attended conferences on waste management and the effect on local communities. She told Dounreay News what she learned.

The trip was broken down into two separate but related events; the 2011 international conference for better global nuclear waste management, and a stakeholder workshop.

The conference was held in Stockholm and organised by SKB, the Swedish nuclear fuel and waste management company. It was attended by around 130 participants from at least 14 countries. As a DSG representative, it was useful to compare the Caithness/Dounreay case with stakeholder groups from other European countries.

The second part of the Swedish trip was a stakeholder workshop in Gimo, in Osthrammar municipality, about 90 mins north of Stockholm. Osthrammar is the municipality that will house the new deep repository for Sweden's spent nuclear fuel. The municipality already contains the Forsmark LLW/ILW national facility and a nuclear power station.

The workshop was called 'actual implementation of a spent nuclear fuel repository' and focused on how Osthrammar developed its vision for a successful future by seizing the opportunities that would become

possible as a result of hosting a deep geological facility.

As a DSG representative, the processes of developing a local vision, the added value program, and local economic development could be useful to us in Caithness.

The trip helped my understanding of where the DSG is positioned in relation to local community groups in other European countries in terms of stakeholder engagement on waste management issues.

My full report is available on the DSG website.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH



Biodiversity Awareness

What is biodiversity and why is it important?

The term 'Biodiversity' may be defined as the variety of animals, plants and their existing habitats in an area. We rely on biodiversity to provide us with the basics of life. Here in the North of Scotland we're lucky to benefit from a unique range of animals, plants and habitats. Safeguarding them all for future generations is everyone's responsibility.

Habitats and Species in and around Dounreay

Dounreay covers an area of approximately 140 acres and is surrounded by a variety of habitats including maritime grassland, cliffs, maritime heath, the beach, the Mill Lade and grassland which are of nature conservation importance. Within these habitats there are a number of species including breeding birds and otters, which are protected by the law.

Dounreay's new biodiversity action plan (BAP)

From the present day to Dounreay's Interim End Point, habitats and species will be given consideration during the decommissioning programme and procedures will be put in place in order to protect them, where possible and appropriate.

There will be the potential that projects will have an impact on biodiversity; therefore pragmatic decisions will be developed in line with the decommissioning work to protect biodiversity as much as possible, without impacting the delivery of the decommissioning programme.

The new Dounreay BAP covers the period 2011 to 2013. The plan will be further developed beyond 2013 in line with the decommissioning programme as the site is restored.

Some of the biodiversity actions include:

- translocation of Scottish Primrose (*Primula Scotica*) plants from within the new LLW facility

(NLLWF) construction site. The Scottish Primrose is confined to Caithness, Orkney and North Sutherland and should be protected. The NLLWF will monitor the impact of the translocation and will continue to monitor throughout the project;

- providing a bird-friendly cap on Landfill 42 will attract seagulls to that area. This should discourage them from nesting in unsuitable locations on site. Additionally, bird boxes will be placed in the copse area to the south east of the site to encourage nesting and to maximise the diversity of species in that area;

- continue to manage the bee meadow which was set up as a foraging area for primarily attracting the rare Great Yellow Bumblebee (GYB). An initiative was undertaken to prepare and monitor the success of an on-site wildflower meadow, working with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. The habitat is developing, with more wildflower being encouraged each year. Bee surveys have been carried out to monitor the success of the meadow and a wide variety of species have been noted throughout the year, including GYBs. Recently, the site has recorded the GYBs mating in the wild flower meadow on the site. It may be the first time that such an event has been recorded on film in mainland Scotland.

- the Mill Lade provides a valuable habitat corridor for varied plant and aquatic animal communities typical of clean and unpolluted conditions. It provides a significant feeding station for otters and the animals appear to frequent the stream regularly. Otters are fully protected under UK law and by EC directives. The protection extends to the animal's "resting place". There was footage taken of an otter recently at the Mill Lade, filmed by **Chris Gregory**.

These are just a few of the actions in the BAP. To read the full plan, visit www.dounreay.com



Did you know?

The £475,000 Plan Bee campaign, which was launched in 2009 aims to raise awareness of honeybee decline. It also funds research, encourages people to help bees and plant bee-friendly wildflowers. Bees pollinate native plant species and crop species. An estimated £100 million to £200 million a year of commercial crops benefit from bee pollination. For more information, visit: <http://www.co-operative.coop/corporate/ethics/naction/takeaction/planbee/ways-to-get-involved/>

Contacts for Dounreay's Biodiversity Action Plan:

Doug Graham – Environment Team Leader (ext: 6030)

Simon Cottam – Environmental Advisor (ext: 3245)

Lindsay Banks – Environmental Compliance Officer (ext: 6315)

Nuclear news

F1 technology goes nuclear

Technology developed to power Formula One racing cars will be used in the nuclear industry to monitor pumps that circulate water through reactors.

Cosworth Group is part of a consortium working on a feasibility study looking at improving the efficiency of the pumps that are critical to the safe operation of nuclear reactors.

The company's 'Diablo' electronic software, written specifically for the F1 motor racing industry, will be employed to monitor the pumps' performance in real-time.

Cosworth's sales director **Jog Lall** said: "It's absolutely critical that the nuclear industry has the best technology to ensure safety, availability and efficiency." (*The Engineer*)

Radioactive weeds threaten biodiversity at Rocky Flats

The US Interior Department's Inspector General is worried that invasive weeds growing on contaminated ground could threaten plants at the national wildlife park at Rocky Flats, Colorado.

His report advises that immediate action be taken to reallocate funds needed to control the weeds and replant the area with native seeds, before the problem escalates.

The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge covers 6,000 acres of the former nuclear site and is home to more than 600 species of plants, including rare prairie grasses.

(www.summitcountyvoice.com)

Russian region aims to change its polluted image online

The irradiated region of Chelyabinsk is trying to change its reputation as one of the dirtiest places in the world, through Google.

Its local authority is desperate to attract new investors into the region, and says that its ecological problems have been exaggerated. It wants software developers to clean up its online image through search engine optimisation.

The area's Mayak nuclear plant suffered at least three serious accidents during the Soviet era which contaminated a large area, affecting an estimated half a million people.

Many of its lakes and rivers are choked with nuclear waste, and radiation-related illnesses are high among its population.

(*The Telegraph*)

Swedish man builds nuclear reactor in kitchen

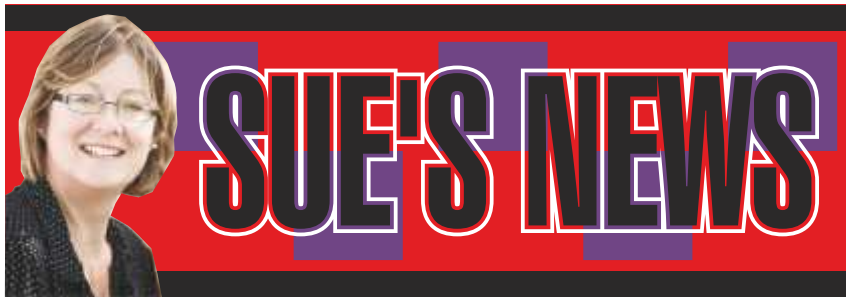
A Swedish man who blogged about his attempts to build a nuclear reactor in his kitchen has been arrested and jailed, and his equipment confiscated.

The unnamed man ordered a Geiger counter online, and dismantled smoke detectors, which contain small amounts of nuclear material.

He told his local newspaper that his attempts were unsuccessful.

Nearly 40 people worldwide have achieved nuclear fusion from home-made reactors, joining the growing "fusioneers" club.

(*Fox News*)



In August, DSRL said hello to **Darrin McClure** (waste technical support, site projects unit), and said goodbye to **David Auld**.

Sheila Mackay held a masked ball to mark her 50th birthday. Guests were asked not to bring gifts but to donate money instead to charity. They raised £763 on the night. Sheila is pictured handing a cheque to **Lorraine Ryan** of the Crohns and Colitis group.



It's not too late to sign up for the Nuclear Bikers motorbike ride from Dounreay to Dungeness in aid of the Japanese disaster relief efforts. It's a four-day ride, split into stages, and bikers can opt to complete as many stages as they wish. The first stage is from Dounreay to Hunterston, setting off on September 9. If you would like to be involved, please contact **Colin Ellam** on 07896 253468, colin.ellam@accenture.com

Dot Sinclair is walking 70 miles of the Great Glen Way in September, to raise money for children's charities. Some of the money she raises will go to the Archie Foundation, which is aiming to raise £1 million for a new children's ward at the Raigmore Hospital. Dot's previous charity fundraiser, where she trekked through India, raised £7,000. To sponsor her, go to her webpage at Virgin Money Giving (details can be found on the bulletin board).

Local builder **Keith Budge** completed a Lands End to John O'Groats charity cycle ride to raise money for the RNLI. He was sponsored by the Dounreay Employees Charity Fund (DECF) to the tune of £200. Unite the Union also sponsored Keith for £50. Keith is pictured with his daughter **Emma** (left) handing over the cheque to **Simon Middlemas** representing the Lifeboat Committee, with DECF chair **John Deighan** on the right.



The Caithness Amateur Athletic Club Wick to Thurso charity sponsored relay takes place on September 25. All the proceeds of this event will be split locally between the Thurso High School resourced base for children with severe and profound learning difficulties and the Caithness branch of the MS Society, Scotland.

A team from the reactors unit are planning to take part, and is raising funds by holding a number of events, including a bake day, guess the birthday, a raffle and a Reactors 'gunging' day.

Keith Bramhall, CNC, raised £255 for the Thurso Sea Cadets. ○

Has Wick avoided climate meltdown?

Andrew Hamilton has been looking at temperatures for Wick since the Met Office started recording them in 1914, and has come to a startling conclusion.

It seems that Wick is avoiding the worst of the global warming.

move to Wick to avoid the apocalyptic effects." ○

Andrew, who works for NDSL at DFR, says: "If you compare the data recorded by the Met Office from 1914 with data from last year, it is hard to understand claims that warming over the last 100 years is unprecedented."

Climate change has been a hobby of his since 1981, when he first studied environmental chemistry, and came across the global warming theory.

"The greenhouse theory predicts that warming starts first and shows the greatest effect at the earth's poles, and Wick is closer to the north pole than to the equator, so I would expect to see temperatures reflecting that," Andrew explained.

"Perhaps everyone should



Answer to Samurai Sudoku Puzzle

4	8	2	6	5	7	9	1	3			7	2	5	8	9	1	3	4	6	
7	6	9	3	1	2	5	4	8			3	1	4	7	2	6	8	5	9	
1	5	3	9	8	4	2	6	7			6	8	9	5	4	3	7	2	1	
9	3	6	5	7	1	4	8	2			9	3	6	4	8	5	2	1	7	
5	2	4	8	3	9	6	7	1			5	4	8	1	7	2	9	6	3	
8	1	7	2	4	6	3	9	5			1	7	2	6	3	9	4	8	5	
6	9	8	1	2	3	7	5	4	3	6	2	8	9	1	2	6	7	5	3	4
2	7	5	4	6	8	1	3	9	8	5	4	2	6	7	3	5	4	1	9	8
3	4	1	7	9	5	8	2	6	1	7	9	4	5	3	9	1	8	6	7	2
									4	1	8	7	9	3	5	2	6			
									2	6	7	4	1	5	9	3	8			
									3	9	5	2	8	6	7	1	4			
6	3	1	4	8	9	5	7	2	6	4	1	3	8	9	1	2	6	4	7	5
9	4	7	5	1	2	6	8	3	9	2	7	1	4	5	3	7	8	9	2	6
8	5	2	3	6	7	9	4	1	5	3	8	6	7	2	9	4	5	8	3	1
7	1	9	2	4	6	8	3	5				7	1	3	6	9	2	5	8	4
3	2	8	7	9	5	4	1	6				9	5	4	8	3	1	2	6	7
5	6	4	1	3	8	2	9	7				8	2	6	4	5	7	3	1	9
4	7	5	8	2	1	3	6	9				2	9	1	5	6	3	7	4	8
2	9	3	6	7	4	1	5	8				4	3	8	7	1	9	6	5	2
1	8	6	9	5	3	7	2	4				5	6	7	2	8	4	1	9	3

