

Cautious Move Towards 2011

WE all know that on top of difficult times in the Scottish house-building industry, Moray has had a particularly cruel blow with the loss of RAF Kinloss and a continuing threat to the future of RAF Lossiemouth.

This will inevitably mean a further slow-down in house-selling and present our sales teams with a growing challenge.

But Springfield is fighting back and doing all we can to maximise opportunities and move ahead where we can.

This is a time for patience and determination as we wait for a recovery in our local market and press ahead with our plans to expand into Central Scotland in the face of a difficult financial climate. We all need to pull together to help us ride out this tough period.

It's not all bleak news.

We've recently signed a build contract with Grampian Housing association to build houses in Forres and we are currently negotiating a contract for more.

'On-Site' keeps you up to date with lots of Springfield news. Remember, this is your newsletter. If you hear of something you think could be of interest contact us by calling Jane Innes at the Head Office or drop her a line at Alexander Fleming House.

William Wins!

THIS month's lucky winner of the 'On-Site' supermarket voucher draw is William George who is currently working on our Knockomie Meadows site in Forres. He's delighted with his £100 Tesco voucher prize which will be well spent on his next visit to the supermarket. Well done William!

A Challenging Year

Springfield chairman, Sandy Adam, reflects on a challenging year.

This has been a year of challenges, changes and firsts for Springfield.

In February Sandy Anderson took over as managing director and introduced new levels of reporting and recording which have enhanced our business.

In March we began building the first council houses in Moray for thirty years and by May, after a long haul through planning, we had begun work on the Moray Hydrotherapy Pool.

July saw our move to Alexander Fleming House and a milestone start on site in Edinburgh.

In August we went to London to pick up a Premier Guarantee British Homes Build Quality Award, a testament to the skills and commitment of our workforce.

September brought Planet BBK into the Springfield Group of companies and this month has seen the welcome signing of a contract to build affordable homes in Forres.

These are great achievements in the face of the adversity which has faced the construction industry for the last two years. So far Springfield's strength through the recession has been buoyed by affordable housing contracts and by capturing the majority of private new home sales in Moray.

In recent months the private market in Moray has slowed further in reaction to the wider economy. Lack of mortgage availability and uncertainty over cuts in the public sector have been compounded by uncertainty over the future of the Moray air bases.

Sadly in these hard economic times cuts in employment are unavoidable and necessary to protect the company, ensuring employment in the future.

Those of you who have many years experience of construction will know that this is the nature of the industry and the challenge for management is to act strategically to make sure that the company is in a strong position when the recession ends.

With this in mind we are continuing to purchase high quality development land ready for when people are able to buy houses again.



Our chairman Sandy Adam wishes everyone a Happy Christmas

Difficult Times But We've Had Achievements Too

Springfield are leaders in the delivery of affordable housing and as public sector cuts bite we are rising to the challenge of finding new ways to deliver funding for these projects. Good news on the immediate horizon is the negotiation of further affordable housing build contracts which will see us build 124 homes in 2011.

We have many challenges to face over

the coming months including managing delivery of our homes on a far wider geographic scale.

We take on the challenge every day to ensure a strong future for the company and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your efforts in supporting Springfield.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Call Santa Parkus!



Our warm-hearted Santa Parkus!

SPRINGFIELD'S very own charity fund-raising star, site manager Mark 'Parkus' Parkington, is once again offering to call the youngster in your life with a special Christmas message straight from Lapland.

All you have to do is hand your details to your site manager or in to reception at the office along with a minimum £1 donation for each child you'd like 'Father Christmas' to call.

We'll need to know the children's names, age and of course telephone number and any special information that would help Santa with the call such as a pet's name or favourite toy or character or brothers and sisters names.

Springfield will donate another £2 for every pound donated and all the proceeds will go to CLIC Sargent, a Scottish charity that supports the families of children with cancer.

Go on, give Father Parkus a call!

Have Mouser - Will Travel!

SIX Springfield staffers are "bristling" with charity growth.

Under the watchful nose of team captain Chris Bremner, Bruce Thomson, Dave Main, Stuart MacGregor, Gareth Hollis and Alexander Mackie are each putting their best follicles forward in an effort to grow mousers – moustaches to the uninitiated!

The goal is to raise cash for and awareness of prostrate cancer.

They all work in either the design department or the QS department and you can help their efforts by contacting Chris Bremner, donating at the office or by using this online link

http://uk.movember.com/donate/your-details/member_id/965502/

to boost their hairy top lip efforts.

Karen Makes a SportMoray Splash!

SHE'S as fleet-finned in a pool as a seal and her efforts have brought her the 2010 SportMoray Sports Person of the Year award.

Our financial controller Karen McBeath is an accomplished competitive swimmer and has sealed her prowess with a top recognition from the Moray organisation.

On November 18 at Elgin's Eight Acres Hotel Karen was presented with a magnificent silver quaich and certificate to mark her achievement as a Forres Bluefins Swimming Club swimmer in the UK Masters 45-49 category.

Her reputation in the pool is formidable – Karen is one of Britain's elite 50-metre butterfly swimmers.

So outstanding are her skills in all four swimming disciplines that she is currently lying second out of 1184 Masters swimmers in this year's British Masters Swimming Decathlon in addition to having a year of competition success at gold medal level and setting the new British and Scottish 200m Freestyle record at Glasgow.

The citation on her SportMoray submission described her as a "committed and phenomenal athlete who also gives up time to train the junior swimmers of the future."

But what of the award-winner herself? How does she feel?

"A bit shocked really," she told On-Site. "It's a fantastic honour to get,



Our Karen with her SportMoray Sports Person of the Year Award.

but I do it simply because I love swimming."

Already with a display cabinet full of awards Karen has now added a remarkable local award – recognition of her dedication that should inspire others to follow her lead.

As November came to an end the Forres swimmer was off again, this time to Preston Pans for the end-of-season meet 2010 Masters Series.

And what then?

"Training," says Karen. "From now until April I'll be training hard, and that's something I really enjoy."

And here's a thought.

If you fancy the idea of emulating Karen then give her a call and find out how easy it is to start.

She says: "The area has some excellent pools and I train at several including Forres, Elgin, Nairn and Kinloss. The facilities are great and so is the sport."

Hydrotheraphy High Hopes

ALMOST there!

The superb new Moray Hydrotherapy Pool next to the public swimming pool in Forres is nearing completion.

Springfield's project manager, Dave Main, says the pool should be bringing waterborne relief to many people early in the new year.

Erected free of charge by Springfield Properties it will provide a specialist service to people with mobility problems and deliver a type of physiotherapy which has brought thousands of sufferers relief at similar facilities around the country.

Until now anyone in Moray requiring this

treatment faced a round trip of over 100 miles to Dingwall. The reality for many is that they receive no treatment at all.

Our involvement goes back to 2006 when fundraisers approached Springfield to ask if we could help with building costs. We went one step better and offered to meet the cost and provide the skills to build the structure. We also became involved in fund-raising and Anne Adam, wife of our chairman and a Springfield director, joined the charity's group.

In 2007 we hosted a charity dinner that raised £25,000 for the fund.

The charity have raised £270,000 since



Staff working on water pipe trenches at the attractive timber clad frontage of the new Moray Hydrotherapy Pool at Forres.

they started but will need £25,000 a year to help keep it running.

The new hydrotherapy facility will have a depth of one metre at its shallowest point and 1.5 metres at its deepest.

Tommy's Kickboxing Queen!

If ever there was a fighter – it's 13-year-old Elgin Academy lass Jodi Henderson.

The first three months of her life were spent in a harness after she was born with a dislocated hip that has limited some of her movement.

But it hasn't slowed her down. Jodi battled back, not just to full fitness, but to hit the sporting heights as a world kickboxing champion eight times over.

She's the apple of her Springfield site foreman granddad's eye – Tommy Hay – and his proud wife Moira.

Jodi started kickboxing at the tender age of four and took part in her first competition when she was seven.

"She's never looked back," said Tommy. "My wife and I are just so proud of her achievements."

And they are some achievements!

Under the watchful eyes of her Mum and Dad and constant encouragement and support from Tommy and his wife, Jodi trained incessantly and built up a level of skill that mightily impressed her Elgin kickboxing instructors.

Local competitions were easy meat for the young sportswomen and it wasn't long before medals and trophies began coming her way from many Scottish national events.



Battling Jodi Henderson and her proud granddad Tommy Hay.

World Champ Jodi is Granddad's Top Girl

Hard on the heels of those results came awards from England and Ireland in addition to UK and European tournament success.

Aged just 11 she stepped up a notch and was selected to represent Scotland at the 2008 World Kickboxing Association World Championship in Florida. It was a successful debut and delivered her first World Title in the "light contact under-12" category.

Last year she qualified for the World's again and returned from Spain with her second World Title, this time in the "semi-contact" category.

But that was just the start!

This year Jodi has won no fewer than six World Titles.

She won at championship level in Greece in the 12-14 "semi-contact and three-point" categories, won again in Slough where was crowned CIMAC World Cup winner and went on to represent Scotland again in the World Kickboxing Association World Championships where turned out champion in three disciplines – "teams semi-contact" and individual "semi-contact" and "full-contact".

Now, under the direction of her dedicated coaches Kayleigh Robinson and David Firth, she's training up to seven days a week at Elgin's Kaizen Fitness Studio in readiness for 2011 with the World Championships scheduled for Ukrainian city of Kiev in May.

Proud Tommy and Moira are continuing to support her as always and do their bit to help raise funds to help meet the cost of Jodi's travelling.

If you would like to help on the fund-raising or sponsorship front give Julie Wilson our receptionist a ring on 01343 552550 or drop in to see her at reception.

Sign From The Past

A UNIQUE nameplate sign that once marked the southern entrance to Forres will be back in place thanks to Springfield.

The original "Welcome To Forres" road sign erected by the former Royal Burgh of Forres and complete with the town crest was discovered some years ago after being in storage for a long time.

Local people arranged to have it returned to the side of the A940 Forres-Grantown road – but a lot further out than its original position.

Since then the Forres town boundary has expanded and the sign was in danger of being absorbed when we started building Knockomie Gardens.

Realising the historic sign was in need to some tender loving care and a bit of a spruce up we restored the nameplate and its pole so that it can be returned to the side of the A940 again – just a little further south – to continue welcoming visitors to the old Royal Burgh as they drive past our new Knockomie Meadows development



Easy does it! Springfield Properties machine driver Stewart Bryne checks out the memorial after he gave up his lunch hour to help position the Nimrod tragedy memorial stone on its site alongside the Forres War Memorial.

Stewart Delivers A Lift

WE stepped in to help position a heavy plinth that carries a memorial marking the memory of 14 Service personnel who died when an RAF Kinloss Nimrod crashed in Afghanistan in September, 2006.

Springfield Properties were approached by the group who are erecting the memorial next to the Forres War Memorial after problems in finding a suitable machine and manpower to position the stonework.

At precisely the right time on October 8 a Springfield lifting machine and driver from our nearby Knockomie Meadows housing development, arrived at the memorial site overlooking St Catherines Road in Forres to help locate the stonework.

The request was quickly dealt with by Knockomie Meadows site manager, Parkus, who called in machine plant

operator Stewart Bryne and asked if would mind giving up his lunch hour to help position the stonework.

Stewart, who had started his career in the construction world as an apprentice stonemason, was eager to help.

Parkus, said: "We were approached by a member of the memorial group to see if we could help. We were delighted to do what we could and Stewart was happy to give up his lunch hour to help the team make sure the main stone was safely delivered to its site and carefully located on its base."

The memorial to the 14 Servicemen was erected with the proceeds of donations made by the public to RAF Kinloss in the aftermath of the tragedy.

The permanent memorial was project-managed by the families and RAF Kinloss.

Yuletide Winner

THERE'S a snug Festive feeling circulating round the Stoczkowski home after fencer Krzysztof Stoczkowski heard he'd won our Special Christmas Draw for a £100 voucher from Johnstons of Elgin. The prize can be turned into anything available at the busy Johnstons' outlet in Elgin to add a little bit of Moray luxury to the Seasonal celebrations.

Help Make Christmas special!

YOU can help us make Moray Firth Radio's 2010 Christmas Toy Appeal the success it deserves.

MFR work with social work departments, schools, churches and GP's to deliver gifts to children in our communities who without their help would receive nothing on Christmas morning.

Every child gets £50 worth of gifts and last year MFR delivered to over 900 children.

As well as individuals, toys were given to:

- The children's wards at Dr Gray's Hospital and Raigmore Hospital

- Moray, Inverness, Ross-shire and Caithness Women's Aid

- Alba Place, Elgin

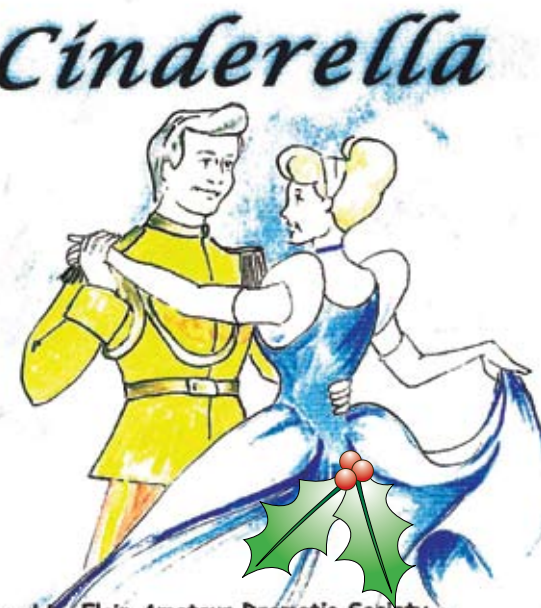
- Moray and Highland Young Carers

You can help by making a toy or cash donation to the appeal. All MFR ask is that the toys are brand new and unwrapped.

Leave toy donations with Julie at reception and cash donations in any of our collection cans which can be found at reception, in our Buckie and Forres show homes and in the marketing suite in Elgin.

Site managers are helping by putting a poster up in site canteens or taking the collection can out on site for a quick "whip round".

If you would like further information about the appeal visit www.mfr.co.uk



Cinderella

Performed by Elgin Amateur Dramatic Society
Written by Stephen Duckham

December 15th - 18th 2010 - Elgin Town Hall

Admission	Performance Times	Information & Tickets
£10 / Concession £8	Weds - Sat at 7.30pm Sat Matinee at 2.30pm	www.elgindrama.co.uk Tel: 07902315715



Book a phone call from 'Father Christmas'

For the kids in your life.
(See page 2)


Onsite would like to wish all their readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from David, Jane and Julie

Grampian Hospitals Carol Concert in aid of Clic Sargent

Elgin Town Hall Wednesday 8th December @ 7:30pm



Caring for Children with Cancer



Free Suite

Good condition
2 x 2 seater 1 x chair
New owner to uplift
Small donation to MFR Toy Appeal requested
Call Gerry on 07796692966

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD

Blood Donor Sessions for December/January include:

7/12/10 Forres, The Town Hall 14.30-16.00 & 17.00-20.00

JANUARY 2011

6/1/11 Elgin, The Town Hall 12.00-15.45 & 17.00-19.00

9/1/11 Elgin, The Town Hall 10.45-12.30 & 14.15 -17.00

10/1/11 Elgin, The Town Hall 12.00-15.45 & 17.00-19.00

23/1/11 Dufftown/Aberlour, Mortlach Memorial Hall 10.30- 12.30 & 14.00-16.30

