



# Tulchan News

*The latest news from Tulchan Sporting Estate*



'European hero' Orri Vigfusson (second left) visited Tulchan last year. The Icelandic environmentalist, winner of the coveted Goldman Environmental Prize in 2007 for his work conserving North Atlantic salmon stock, praised the conservation work being undertaken at Tulchan.



Fish planting in Lodge Stream.

## CATCHES ARE UP AT TULCHAN

Spey catches are up - with a 27% increase on the 10 year average and 2008 recording highest catch levels since 1994, according to the Spey Board. Tulchan Water is no exception. Careful river management, the introduction of the new hatchery and our stocking policy are all paying dividends.

Most outstanding was the number of fish caught during the month of August, a total of 189 salmon in all, the highest return for the month in well over a decade.

'A' beat was one of the stars of the month and with a great record for the whole season. Despite being fished more lightly than other beats, ghillie John Anderson followed an excellent August in the previous year with the second highest return per rod days fished of any of our beats in 2008.

The success story continued with 'A' beat delivering the highest returns of all the Tulchan

beats in September - confirming it as an excellent "back-end" fishery.

Work on the river continues with the rebuilding of the battery at Lodge Stream on 'B' beat during 2008.

August and September display the Highlands in all their summer glory and, in the school holidays, offer the opportunity to introduce children and grandchildren - the next generation - to the excitement and art of the sport.



With a limited number of days in August and September still available, it's worth taking a look at the scope offered by Tulchan Lodge and our choice of self-catering cottages on the estate. Friends and family groups can take advantage of superb accommodation, access to the Estate and the traditional warm Tulchan welcome. For availability and rates for fishing in August and September, and for special rates on cottages, contact the Estate Office for details.





## ADVIE CHURCH JOINS ESTATE

**Advie's picture postcard church has a new lease of life as part of the Tulchan Estate.**

The parish church at Advie has long had close links with Tulchan. The current church, originally built in 1874, was largely restored by the McCorquodale family following the death of Edmund George McCorquodale in 1904.

The Litchfield family acquired the building and grounds in 2008 and, led by Gillian Litchfield, have undertaken a programme of restoration work which began last year with the renovation of the roof along with landscape and drainage works, all to safeguard the church for future generations.

Part of the parish of Cromdale and Advie (the two were united in 1969) the church has an illustrious history. King Edward VII worshipped here on his visits to the Estate and a roll of honour in the porch records the names of the

77 men of the parish who fought in World War One. The list is headed by Captain John Lockhart Wood DSO, one of sixteen from the parish who died during the conflict.

In 1939, Mrs Wood, his widow, established the Advie Church Trust - with the then considerable sum of £4000 - income from which was to be "applied to the maintenance of the church and manse, and of worship".

The church is open for community events and provides the perfect setting for christenings and weddings.



## 45 YEARS - AND THREE GENERATIONS!

**To mark 45 years since his first visit to Tulchan in 1964, Mr Ray Jacks celebrated with a special dinner for family and friends at the Lodge this April.**

In the intervening years he has fished all four beats. Both his sons learned to fish at Tulchan and are now regular visitors. Continuing the family tradition, his grandson Sam, aged eight, caught his first fish on fly this April.

Chris Excell presented Ray with a silver Tulchan quich and a bottle of 12 year-old malt. Ray is already looking forward to his 50 years Tulchan celebration in 2014.



## NEW FACES

Those of you who have been in touch with the Estate Office in the last year will know that Fiona Thompson has replaced June Ewing as Estate Secretary/ Administrator at Tulchan. After 14 years of service to the estate, June retired in April 2008 to be replaced by Fiona who now deals with bookings of sport and accommodation along with all the many other behind-the-scenes tasks which are hugely important to the efficient running of a diverse Estate such as ours.



Fiona hails originally from Ayrshire where she worked for various knitwear companies as a freelance designer having completed an honours degree in Printed Textiles at Edinburgh College of Art. Fiona decided to concentrate on sales and marketing and worked in recruitment and for several supply companies in the Central Belt before moving to Nethy Bridge in 1998 with husband Iain following his relocation to Aviemore with the Met Office. Iain is now manager of the Estate's Salmon Hatchery.

Fiona brings with her experience of the hotel and catering industry and has fitted into the post extremely well, having now experienced all of our sporting seasons in her first year.

Please contact Fiona at the Estate Office for all information on availability, bookings, catering requirements and pricing.

Estate Factor Chris Excell has now entered his retirement year following 17 years developing



and managing Tulchan. Whilst Chris will retain an active involvement on the Estate beyond his official retirement in November 2009, ultimate management responsibility will pass to new Estate Factor, Michael Mole.

Michael returns to the Highlands where he was Assistant Factor of the Seafeld Estate, based on the Strathspey Estate at Grantown-on-Spey. Since leaving the area he has worked as a partner of an independent firm of chartered surveyors in the Borders, specialising in rural estate management, development and agency.

Michael joined the staff in October 2008 and will work closely with Chris over the coming months before taking post in November.

A passionate shot and gundog enthusiast, Michael was born and brought up in the Borders on Tweedside where he has fished since he was a boy. He trained with land agency firms in the North East of England, practising on both sides of the border, before first moving north to Speyside in the late nineties. He moves to Tulchan with his wife Ruth and baby daughter Emily.

## A WARM COTTAGE WELCOME - ALL YEAR ROUND

**Every one of our eight beautifully appointed holiday cottages, including the hugely impressive Knocktulchan House, are now available to let all year round.**

All the cottages, positioned around the estate from the banks of the Spey to the edge of the heather hill, are full of character. Each is finished to exacting standards - all centrally heated and many with open fires - offering wonderfully comfortable holiday accommodation in what visitors acknowledge is one the most beautiful areas of the UK.

The choice is yours. With the range accommodating between four and twelve people, every property is made available on a fully serviced or unserviced basis - for full weeks, half weeks or short breaks.

We can even provide first class food from our Lodge kitchens where our team of chefs will prepare the finest local produce, much of it from the estate itself, delivered direct to your cottage. Fine dining for groups of guests in the Lodge with butler service is also available by prior arrangement.

Out of sporting season breaks offer particularly good value. Simply relax around the estate with family and friends, or use Tulchan as a wonderful base from which to enjoy a wide choice of sporting and leisure activities. Golf, walking, watersports, skiing, castle visits, distillery tours and access to the wonderful beaches of the Moray Firth are all options for those seeking a break with a difference.

**For more details about Tulchan cottage holidays, visit our website or contact the Estate Office for a brochure. For more details about attractions around Tulchan, ask for our 'Out & About' brochure.**



*Knocktulchan is a magnificent property in the most impressive of positions, commanding far reaching views over the Spey to the Cromdale Hills and Ben Rinnes beyond. It sleeps up to 12 guests in great comfort and is the perfect party venue for a gathering of family or friends with its large reception hall, dining room, drawing room, dining kitchen and large games/function room.*





# PHEASANT SHOOTING - A TEST FOR THE BEST GUNS

Considerable time and effort has been invested by headkeeper Les Mallinson and his team of beatkeepers over the course of the last few years in developing the established pheasant shoot at Tulchan.

New woodlands and strategically planted game crops have added a new dimension to the already highly acclaimed shoot, making the most of the spectacular topography to produce a driven shoot able to test the very best of guns.



The 2008/09 season saw those efforts bear fruit with an extended shoot programme of 46 days from late October to the end of January producing consistently tall, testing pheasants in the most natural and beautiful of surroundings.

Drives such as Flagpole, Culdorachmore and Knocktulchan have established themselves amongst the best in the country. With the addition of new drives at The Gled and Culdrein, we are now able to drive pheasants for six consecutive days without repeat on a variety of ground from the edge of the heather hill to the bottom of Glenmore and the Tulchan Glen

All birds are reared from day-old chicks on our own game farm at Wester Culfoich under the watchful eye of manager Bryce Coutts, allowing us to ensure they are fully feathered and acclimatised prior to going to wood.

The pheasant shooting package includes coffee, elevenses and three course lunch and can be taken by the day or days with the option of fully catered accommodation at the Lodge or Knocktulchan to make it the highlight of any sporting calendar.



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## HELP US TO KEEP IN TOUCH

We're keen to keep you and your friends right up to date with news from Tulchan Lodge and Tulchan Estate. To do this we need your help.

We're planning to produce Tulchan News as an e-newsletter in future too. Please email us so that we can add your email address to our mailing list to receive Tulchan e-news on a regular basis. Our email address is [estateoffice@tulchan.com](mailto:estateoffice@tulchan.com)

*If you have friends who would like to receive printed copies of Tulchan News, or Tulchan e-news by email, please let us have their details and we'll be happy to oblige.*