



# Speyside Area Forum

## **Chairman's Report Year ended 30th April, 2014**

Firstly, we were deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death of Rita Marks, a stalwart of, not only Glenlivet Community, but also Speyside as a whole. She made a major contribution over many years and her presence will be missed.

The main initiative during the year was the supporting role given to Aberlour Community Association in re-opening Speyside Visitor Centre during the Summer months. As the Community Asset Transfer progressed it was clear that the onus was on Aberlour Community Association and not the Forum for responsibilities for the Centre.

We continue to receive progress Reports on the CAT initiative for Tomintoul Tourist Information Centre and Musuem by Tomintoul Development Trust.

From an Economy point of view investment in Distilling at Carron, Dufftown, Ballindalloch and proposals for Macallan and Glenlivet can only make for good future prosspects for the area. Also new job creation will be seen at the Bio-mass Plant planned at Elchies. The new Gas Line to Ballindalloch and Tomintoul is under review for possible supply to domestic properties.

From an ongoing situation a close watch will be needed to ensure that our infrastructure does come under unacceptable pressures from the increased activity.

Tourism facilities have improved with the upgrading of several hotels in the Speyside area.

It appears that our overtures on Allahoy signage have been successful as signs are about to be installed.

On procedural matters we continue to have good relations with the local Police and find their regular Reports to be informative and helpful.

I continue to enjoy the challenge of the Chairman's position and would thank all Members for their support.

Hopefully we can continue to work together to promote Speyside in all manners.

Bill Burgess  
Chairman  
September, 2014