

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

### Cape Wrath Range

Cape Wrath range including Garvie Island will be active with various combinations of air bombardment, naval gunfire support and helicopter operations during the following dates: 01 to 05 September 2008, 09:00 to 17:00– (road open) 09 to 11 September 2008, 09:00 to 17:00 (road open) when the range is active, red flags/lights will be flown/displayed and sentries positioned on the u70 road. All efforts will be made to keep the u70 road open. However due to the nature of some practices and in the interest of public safety, closure may be necessary. Access advice can be sought from the sentries, who will be in contact with the range officer conducting the firing, or by contacting the freephone number. However, whatever the nature of the practice, under no circumstances is any person to leave the road or proceed anywhere onto the land, particularly the land north of the road within the range area, when the red flags are flying. for further information on the opening and closing of the road and military activity telephone the range freephone number.0800 833300 / 01862 892185

### Walker

Roy Higgins from Macclesfield started walking at the beginning of March, on his lifetime ambition - to walk (or traipse, as he calls it) the length of the country over as many mountains as possible, avoiding roads, carrying his tent and his little cooking stove on his back From lands end to cape Wrath. He arrived in Durness on Sunday. Roy was walking to support two very worthwhile charities: East Cheshire Hospice and Friends for Leisure (a small charity which helps children with disabilities to join in with mainstream leisure activities).Roy will be 60 in November and has now satisfied his mid life crisis.

### Cape Wrath Challenge Adventure Programme

The annual event held in May in Durness was featured last Sunday evening on the BBC2 Adventure Show. Earlier in the year the television crew spent the last days of this years event filming and interviewing runners and the location. With the weather being stunning the Highland scenery and the event came across as quite

spectacular. Enquires and entries for the 2009 event are now coming daily and the event has never been as popular this far in advance of the occasion. There are ongoing problems in the system which publishes programmes to the Iplayer and the BBC explain that the system that allows online viewing is managed by an external company, and they are working with them to sort out the glitches as soon as possible. The Adventure Show is still not on the Iplayer, but it is definitely on the Iplayer schedule so suggest people keep returning to the BBC site to check.

### Ministerial visit

Last week members of Durness Community Council met with Environment Minister Mike Russell MSP. Several topics were discussed at the informal but informative meeting. Mr. Russell made many notes of the activities that the community are involved in and is directing any issues he is not responsible for to appropriate colleagues. He gave invaluable advice about the process of ensuring that MSP's and ministers are kept informed of community actions. The main topics discussed were small scale renewable energy scheme, Mackay Country the youth programme being devised through CVS North and recent concerns with Garvie Island bombing range and the MOD.

### Flower and Vegetable Show

The annual Flower and Vegetable Show will be held in the Durness hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1- 3 pm. People are invited to enter in the categories potted plants, flowers, vegetables and the junior veggie super hero competition. The hall will be open for entries from 12 noon at a cost of 50pence each. The café and hall will open for visitors at 1pm with the presentation of prizes at 2pm. Full details of the various sub categories are displayed locally.

### Coastguard Callout

Last Sunday the Durness coastguard was called to Smoo Cave to help a gentleman that dislocated his shoulder while visiting the inner chamber of Smoo Cave. To reach the inner chamber requires a boat trip accessed by a decent into a small dingy to cross the waterfall pool chamber where after alighting from the craft a walk through a narrow and low passage is necessary to reach the innermost parts of

the cave. While in the interior of the cave the visitor experienced the problem and was unable to make the journey out. Coastguards stretchered the patient who was in severe pain to the top of the cave and was taken by helicopter to Raigmore. A similar event happened in Kinlochbervie when a climber fell from rocks and also dislocated a shoulder. The coastguard helicopter transported the patient to Stornaway.