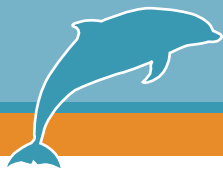


FREE

dolphin echo

issue 01 august 2005

supported by 



Welcome to the first issue of Dolphin Echo:

A quarterly newsletter about the world's most northerly population of bottlenose dolphins.



Brought to you by the Moray Firth Partnership, thanks to funding from the BG Group, the Dolphin Echo will provide lively and current information for everyone with an interest in the Moray Firth dolphins, such as; research and initiatives, where to see dolphins around the Moray Firth, impacts on the dolphins and how we help to safeguard them. The Moray Firth Partnership is a voluntary association, a charity with over 600 members representing a wide range of individuals and organisations who live and work and have an interest in the Firth. We promote agreement through open discussions, consensus and working in partnership.

We would welcome your views, and ideas for articles in future issues. Please contact the Moray Firth Partnership on 01463 225530 or email info@morayfirth-partnership.org

27 Ardconnel Terrace
Inverness IV2 3AE
www.morayfirth-partnership.org

Europe's best kept secret!



Did you know that the Moray Firth is one of the best places in Europe to see bottlenose dolphins? Wildlife watchers come from far and wide to catch a glimpse of the Firth's most famous residents. **Have you seen them?**



>> The Moray Firth is one of the best places in Europe to spot bottlenose dolphins. Photograph courtesy of Charlie Phillips.

Everyone can enjoy watching the Firth's wildlife. This may be from one of the many vantage points, such as North Kessock, Chanonry Point, Spey Bay or Portknockie, or by taking to the sea on one of the wildlife-watching boat trips, which operate along the coast. There's always something to look at on the water and you may spot birds like gulls, terns and shags, or marine mammals such as seals, porpoises, dolphins or even minke whales.

If you're choosing a boat trip, **don't forget to look for the distinctive**

dolphin logo. Operators displaying this logo are part of the Dolphin Space Programme (DSP), a special scheme for the Moray Firth. They follow a code of conduct to ensure that your boat trip minimises disturbance to the dolphins. They can also help you identify the different birds and animals you'll see during your trip.

For a list of accredited wildlife watching trips visit the Dolphin Space Programme website at www.greentourism.org.uk/DSP or look at the back page.

>> Caroline Warburton, Tourism and Environment Forum





a message from
our supporter

BG Group is a leader in the exploration, production, transmission, distribution and supply of natural gas to markets around the world. We operate in over 20 countries on five continents.

BG has a proud heritage of over 200 years in the gas business and our success is built on an outstanding track record for project delivery, the skills of our employees, and operating responsibly in the countries and communities we serve.

The UK is a key country, and the north east of Scotland is a key community, for BG Group. The opportunity to work with the Moray Firth Partnership on the Dolphin Echo was a great opportunity to produce an educational, informative and original publication to be of use to schools, local businesses and the community at large.

BG in the North Sea is "here today, here tomorrow" - by working together on projects like this newsletter we want to ensure that this is also true for the environment in which we work.

>> Peter Bolton, BG Group,
General Manager - Aberdeen

There are around
130 dolphins in
the Moray Firth,
many of whom
stay all year
round.

did you know?



Dolphin Watching Hotspots

You can spot dolphins and other cetaceans all around the Moray Firth coast, but here are some of the viewpoints where there are regular sightings:

Banff - Dolphins can be spotted from the headlands north of Banff.

Buckie - Dolphins can be seen swimming close to the shore at Buckie.

Burghead - A good year-round viewpoint for the bottlenose dolphins.

Chanory Point (between Fortrose and Rosemarkie) and Fort George - Strong currents and relatively deep water take the dolphins close to the shore at both spots.

Cromarty & South Sutor - Dolphins and even orcas (killer whales) can be spotted from the waterfront at Cromarty and the point at South Sutor.

Cullen - Dolphins can sometimes be spotted along the coast.

Dolphin & Seal Centre, North Kessock - The Dolphin and Seal Centre is a great place to watch and listen to the bottlenose dolphins that visit the Inner Moray Firth. The centre is open daily from 9.30am to 4.30pm until the end of September. Admission is free.

Duncansby Head - It's possible to view cetaceans in calm weather.

Lossiemouth - Dolphins can be seen from Lossiemouth, on the coast north of Elgin.

Noss Head - Offers a good vantage point for watching seabirds and dolphins.

Portknockie - Just east of Buckie, this is a good year-round lookout point.

South Kessock Environmental Project - Open Sundays through to November, this centre offers a friendly point to have a cup of tea while watching dolphins and other local wildlife.

Spey Bay - Dolphins sometimes come in to feed at the mouth of the River Spey.

Strathy Point - Great for cetaceans and seabirds, especially late summer/early autumn.

Swiney Hill, Lybster - This coastal viewpoint provides great views up and down the coast.

Tarbat Ness, beyond Portmahomack - Dolphins can be spotted just a few hundred metres from the shore.



caught in the act

More than 80 illegal nets have been retrieved since Operation Fishnet was launched in 2002 by the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime.



>> Ben Leyshon (front right) of SNH and members of the fishery boards patrol hold up one of the illegal nets. Photograph courtesy of John Paul Photography.

Operation Fishnet is a coordinated effort between a coalition of public bodies, wildlife charities and police forces across the country. The initiative aims to encourage members of the public to look out for and report illegal netting in the Moray Firth.

A large part of the Moray Firth area is designated as a Special Area of Conservation, primarily for its dolphin interests, and many of the nets have been recovered from areas used by the dolphins. Illegal nets are known to have caused the deaths of dolphins, and possibly porpoises, that have drowned after becoming tangled in the unmanned nets.

Illegal salmon nets are usually:

- > 20 - 70 metres long
- > Made from monofilament nylon
- > Supported by cigar-shaped floats
- > Set on the surface in a straight line
- > Located within 500m of the shore
- > Fished at any time
- > Un-manned and stationery

Legal salmon nets are manned at all times and are operated by a team from the shore between 6am on Monday and 6pm on Friday.

>> Dr James Butler, Director, Spey Fishery Board

As well as providing anti-poaching patrols and training, Operation Fishnet also supports a free, confidential phone number (0800 085 8217), where sightings of suspected nets can be reported by the public. Leaflets with further information about the initiative are available from police stations and local Scottish Natural Heritage offices.

>> Illegal net markings on a stranded dolphin. Photograph courtesy of Lyn Macdonald.



An exciting new project, aimed at helping local communities to tackle the causes of litter on beaches along the Moray Firth, has just been launched by the Moray Firth Partnership (MFP).

The three-year Beach Guardians project which is being carried out by Rowan Tree Consulting on behalf of the Moray Firth Partnership aims to:

- > identify the types of litter on local beaches, and where the litter has come from.
- > find ways of cleaning up existing beach litter, especially by involving local businesses, community groups, schools and business/tourism associations.
- > reduce the amount of litter finding its way onto beaches through a mixture of educational and training activities, and special events.

Events will include schools activities, beach clean-ups and surveys, seminars for tourism businesses, and a special travelling exhibition which local communities will be encouraged to help create. Look out for further details about Beach Guardians in the local press as the project gets underway.

For more further information call 01463 715225.

>> Helen Smith,
Rowan Tree Consulting



Recent Sightings

Information provided by the Sea Watch Foundation

Bottlenose Dolphin (x4) sea (off Portknockie) at 20:10 on 19 July 2005 by Peter on board Delphis FMFD.

Bottlenose Dolphin (x10) headland (10+ off Findochty Viewpoint) at 09:00 on 19 July 2005 by John McKenzie.

Bottlenose Dolphin (x4) sea (4+ seen from Delphis off Portknockie) at 19:30 on 18 July 2005 by Mandy & Kaylie Brugen.

Risso's Dolphin (x6) tour operators boat (5-6 animals heading east off Portknockie) at 14:15 on 18 July 2005 by Peter MacDonald on Gemini Explorer.

Bottlenose Dolphin (x10) beach (10+ heading east off Pitullie) at 22:00 on 16 July 2005 by Isobel & Keith Gregory.

Bottlenose Dolphin (x20) headland (20+ off East Findochty) at 20:25 on 14 July 2005 by Peter MacDonald & Tess Hill.

Harbour Porpoise (x4) tour operators boat (4 harbour Porpoise off Port Soy) at 15:15 on 14 July 2005 by Puffin Wildlife Trips.

Bottlenose Dolphin (x20) tour operators boat (20+ off Cullen bay, Logie head) at 14:40 on 14 July 2005 by Gemini Explorer tour boat.

Bottlenose Dolphin (x20) sea (20+ in 4 groups off Findochty) at 10:40 on 14 July 2005 by Peter MacDonald on Delphis.

A cetacean is one of a group of marine mammals, including over 80 different species of whales, dolphins and porpoises.

did you know?



>> BP's Dave Seymour presents the Portgordon team with their £500 prize.

defending our dolphins

More than 3,000 people made a pledge to do something to help protect the Moray Firth dolphins this summer.

Individuals from around the Moray Firth, and beyond, signed up to the Dolphin Defenders project, which was funded by BP and run by the Moray Firth Partnership (MFP). So far the project has more than doubled its original target and pledges are still coming in!

As part of the project, schools throughout the Moray Firth took part in a competition to discover who was best at spreading the word about Dolphin Defenders. Pupils from Portgordon Primary School fought-off competition from eight finalists to win a cheque for £500 to spend on school equipment. The two runners up, Keiss Primary and Elgin East End, each received £250.

Rachel Harding Hill, joint manager at the MFP, says, "Portgordon was one of the teams that seemed to go the extra mile to help safeguard the fragile local dolphin population. They gave a presentation to the local councillor and luncheon club, wrote to local newspapers, made leaflets and poems, and wrote a play. The pupils also performed their drama at the annual MFP Conference. We'd like to thank everyone for their support, particularly all the schools, who have all done a tremendous job in helping to raise awareness of the Dolphin Defenders campaign."

Here are some actions you could consider to help protect the Moray Firth dolphins:

On land

- > Watch from one of the land base locations (see list on page 2)
- > Report illegal salmon nets
- > Don't drop litter - take it home
- > Pick up litter that's been thrown away
- > Take part in a beach clean
- > If you see a live stranded cetacean, tell the local office of the SSPCA
- > Tell the Scottish Agricultural College about dead stranded animals

At sea

- > No hand feeding or swimming with dolphins
- > Avoid dolphin areas if you're involved in motorised water sports
- > Tell the coastguard if you spot an oil spill at sea
- > If you go on a boat trip, use an accredited operator (list on back page)

At home or at work

- > Dispose of fuel oil at registered waste sites
- > Don't put oil or fat down the sink
- > Use biodegradable soaps and washing powders
- > Be careful what you flush down the toilet
- > Adopt a Dolphin

At the shops

- > Buy biodegradable washing powders and detergents
- > Only buy fish caught by legal methods
- > Buy dolphin friendly tuna

More information about the Dolphin Defenders can be found at www.morayfirth-partnership.org/DolphDef.html



friends of the Moray Firth dolphins

>> Peter MacDonald

More than a decade after a small number of individuals formed the Friends of the Moray Firth Dolphins, the group has grown into a huge success, with their own boat, the Delphis, an ever growing membership base of around 250, and a well-developed programme of activities to promote the dolphins in the Moray Firth.

The focus of the group has always been the bottlenose dolphins, and the group runs land and sea-based workshops in various locations from Fraserburgh to Nairn. With the use of slides and video they give an insight to the dolphins from a local and non-scientific point of view. The Friends have also trained hundreds of people in the art of cetacean watching.

Membership is open to all ages, with opportunities to go out on the Delphis boat over the summer and also take part in dolphin watching surveys. The Friends also have contacts with all the major UK cetacean awareness groups and freely give out their data, via the four Louper newsletters they produce each year. Their booklet, Dolphin Watching Along the Moray Firth, is now in its second edition, and a new DVD is being produced for schools and the public. For more information about the group or becoming a member visit www.loupers.com or telephone 01542 833867

spotting tips for Caithness Cetaceans

>> Marina Swanson, Highland Council Countryside Ranger (East Caithness) Planning & Development Service



Last summer was a particularly good year for dolphin and whale (cetacean) watching in Caithness, with bottlenose, common, white beak and risso dolphins all being spotted, along with minke and pilot whales and even Orcas (Killer Whales). The sightings are probably a combination of the good viewing conditions, an increasing awareness that cetaceans are actually out there, and arguably a result of climate change, which is altering the water currents and food supplies.

To get the most out of your sea watching, try following these basic tips:

- > Firstly, choose days when the water is calm. White horses can make it difficult to notice dorsal fins and blows.
- > Timing is important, the light is normally best early morning or late afternoon.
- > Choose a site that offers good views out to sea. Normally headlands such as Strathy Point, Holborn Head, Dunnet Head, Duncansby Stacks and Noss Head are recommended. The East Caithness coast has many good sites such as the coastal viewpoint at Swiney Hill, Lybster.
- > While sea watching, scan with both the naked eye and binoculars. Look for any disturbances on the sea surface and pay attention to flocks of sea birds as they indicate a food supply that cetaceans may be sharing.
- > If you spot anything, search the area to either side and pay particular attention to the shape of the dorsal fin and its position on the animal's back.
- > Try to gauge size by comparing the animal to other markers such as boats or sea birds.
- > Study the animal's behaviour. Some species will jump out of the water or bow-ride in front of boats.

The Highland Council countryside rangers have various cetacean leaflets, which may help with identification, and are available at public places such as local libraries.

spreading the word

>> Liz Sandeman, Director of Operations, The Marine Connection



Successful conservation is all about education, and in April 2004, the Marine Connection, started to fund a new educational initiative to spread the word about local Scottish marine wildlife. So far, with the assistance of a £1,000 grant from the Moray Firth Partnership, the charity has been able to run educational workshops for more than 5,000 children in the Moray Firth area.

Marine Connection's local representative, Peter MacDonald, sometimes reaches as many as 300 children a week through visits to schools and community groups. After a lively introduction, he provides information about the local marine environment and shows how it links to worldwide marine conservation issues. The children then watch a video and slide show, and are given educational leaflets and activity sheets to complete individually or as a group.

The initiative plays an important part in conserving the marine environment in the Moray Firth and is also inspiring local communities to take pride in the rich mix of unique wildlife in their area. Further information about Marine Connection is available at www.marineconnection.org



>> Peter talks to pupils with the help of the educational roadshow marine mammals! Photograph courtesy of Peter MacDonald.



a day in the life of a.....

Marine Mammal Medic

Name: Natalie Simmons

Job Title: Volunteer Marine Mammal Medic (MMM) with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR), I also work full time as a Job Coach on the Shirly Project.

Experience: I trained as a Marine Mammal Medic three years ago and have attended three call outs.

Hours: Call-outs can happen at any time of the day or night.

Why is your position important? I help animals when they become stranded and help get them re-floated and released.

What role do you play in the Moray Firth? I keep an eye on the local dolphins and am trained to help any that strand or look like stranding.

What's the most interesting aspect of the job? Every call-out is different and you never know what you are going to find until you get there.

What does a typical day involve? There aren't any typical days, but when I receive a call the adrenaline kicks in and I just want to race there! I keep my dry suit and other relevant items in my car so that I am always ready to go. Once at the stranding I introduce myself to the person in charge (this could be my co-ordinator, a SSPCA inspector or another Marine Mammal Medic) and find out what species is involved and get an update on the situation. The BDMLR Co-ordinator will have a trailer load of equipment with them, which includes stretchers and pontoons for lifting the cetaceans with.



>> Natalie Simmons and her dog, Gypsy

Once updated, I join in with keeping the cetacean comfortable and we do not attempt to re-float a cetacean until a vet, or Bob Reid (SAC), has arrived to assess it, and confirm it is healthy enough to re-float. Unfortunately, rehabilitation facilities are not available in the UK so ill and badly injured animals have to be euthanised, but the decision is never taken lightly.

Many hands are needed to re-float the animal as it can often be a long day or night. This allows tired and cold medics to take a rest. Members of the public usually gather to see what's happening and sometimes TV crews and press attend too. They all need to be kept updated with what's happening and asked to keep back so that the animal doesn't become more stressed.

After a stranding the adrenaline is still going, and you can be quite exhausted too!

When did you first come face-to-face with a dolphin? My fiancé Tim and I came up from the Borders for a night about four or five years ago with our dog, Gypsy, and as soon as we got onto the footpath at Cromarty, towards the Sutors, we saw a dolphin leaping. We got closer and there were four or five of them and so we followed them for a while until they headed out to sea.

How often do you spot them now? I probably see them around ten times a year and it always cheers me up to see them.

What's your best tip/advice? Chanonry Point is a great place to see the dolphins close up, and watching them from the land doesn't disturb them!

'Phototastic' Dolphins

>> Susan M Lusseau, Photo-ID Officer, Lighthouse Field Station

Have you ever wondered how we know so much about the Moray Firth dolphins? For the past 16 years researchers at the Lighthouse Field Station in Cromarty have been finding out how many dolphins there are in the area, whether this number is changing, and if the dolphins they see in one area are the same as those seen in others.

They use a technique called photo-identification (or photo-ID). This method is based on the fact that all dolphins can be recognised by their dorsal fin. By taking a picture of each dolphin's dorsal fin researchers are able to count the animals and study their movements both in the local area, and in others such as Spey Bay. The photo-ID work also helps with the study of the social organisation of the dolphins and their individual life histories.

Susan Lusseau, of the Lighthouse Field Station, says, "We are just beginning to understand more about the dynamics of the population, but with such long-lived animals it can be years before we can tell with certainty whether the numbers are decreasing or increasing. So we will be taking photos of the dolphins for a long while yet."

So far this technique has helped researchers to discover that there are about 130 different dolphins in the local population. It has also shown that some of the dolphins in the inner Moray Firth are present year round while others travel as far away as the Firth of Forth.



>> Lightning, an adult male, has a large nick on his dorsal fin. Photograph courtesy of Susan Lusseau, Aberdeen University.

The Moray Firth bottlenose dolphins are the most northerly population in the world!

did you know?

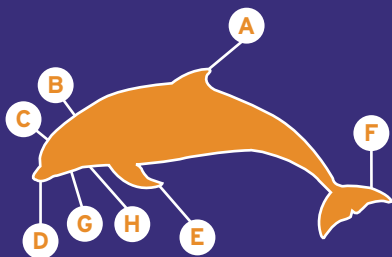


dolphin anatomy

A > The dorsal fin is on the centre of the dolphins back. It may help to stabilise the dolphin, but it's not essential as some dolphins have damaged fins.

B > The blowhole is on the top of the head. Dolphins use it to breathe air and make sounds.

C > The melon is the rounded front of the dolphin's head. It is used to produce sounds.



D > The rostrum (or snout) is the dolphin's mouth and jaws. The snout contains 20-25 teeth that are used for catching prey, but not chewing it. Dolphins swallow their food whole!

E > The dolphin's pectoral flippers resemble the forearm of land mammals. They help the dolphin to steer while swimming.

F > The tail fluke is the most powerful part of the dolphin. The flukes are flat and contain no bone or muscle. The tail helps the dolphin to travel as fast as 40mph!

G > Dolphins eyes have 20/20 colour vision in and out of the water.

H > The dolphin's ear is only about the size of a pinhole but it gives the dolphin great hearing in the water.

how do dolphins play?

Dolphins love to play! Playing is an important part of their growing up process and they spend lots of time doing it. Dolphins can chat to one another using their own special language and dive deep down into the water and blow out hula hoop shaped air rings through their blowholes.

Dolphins also play with each other and the things they find around them like seaweed and leaves. Sometimes dolphins approach boats. Three of the main behaviours are:

Lobtailing - which is when they flap their tail fluke at the surface of the water



Breaching - when they jump out of the water completely



Bow-riding - when they surf on the water that is pushed forward by the bow of a boat



wordsearch

Can you find these ten words relating to the dolphin population in the Moray Firth?

DOLPHIN - CETACEAN
FIN - FLIPPER
SWIM - POD - PLAY
MAMMAL - JUMP

A	J	M	E	F	R	Y	O	J
C	D	F	L	I	P	P	E	R
J	D	O	M	B	O	I	R	M
D	U	O	P	C	D	C	A	A
H	L	M	L	R	E	K	S	M
O	E	I	P	P	L	A	Y	M
L	S	W	I	M	H	M	F	A
D	A	W	T	F	P	I	I	L
C	E	T	A	C	E	A	N	M

The Seawatch Foundation needs your observation skills!

National Whale and Dolphin Watch Week takes place from 13 to 21 August this year. Now in its fourth year, the annual event provides a snapshot of the status and distribution of the whales, dolphins and porpoises that can be found around the British Isles.



Last year more than 2000 people took part in the unique event, which recorded more than 500 sightings! To find a local Seawatch co-ordinator in your area, and to take part in this year's Seawatch Foundation survey, visit www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk



Events

7 August: 11am - 5pm. Crovie to Pennan Coastal Walk. Join the Banff & Buchan rangers on a spectacular 6-mile cliff-top walk. £2 donations towards the minibus back to Crovie appreciated. Contact: 01261 813299.

13 August: 11am -1pm. Seawatch 2005. Join the Ranger to look for cetaceans (whales, dolphin & porpoise) and help their study and protection. Bring binoculars and wrap up well. Contact: 01641 521884.

14 August: 11am. Lybster Seawatch 2005. Help search for whales and dolphins from the Swiney Hill coastal viewpoint. Bring binoculars and wrap up well. Contact: 01955 607758.

26 August: 1.30 - 5pm. Lybster Coast. A cliff top walk to the old Herring Station at Achastle on the look out for cetaceans, nesting seabirds and plantlife. Contact: 01955 607758.

4 September: Launch of the Moray Firth Trail, part of the Nortrail North Sea Trail. Look out for local events.

25 September: 8.30am - 4pm. Sandend to Portknockie Coastal Walk. Your chance to spot a variety of seabirds, dolphins, seals and porpoises as you take part in a 7-mile coastal walk. Cost £10. Contact: 01467 681470.

Accredited Boat Operators, as of 24 June 2005

www.greentourism.org.uk/DSP

Cromarty Rose/Cromarty Ferry,
Cromarty 01381 610269
www.cromarty-ferry.co.uk

Dolphin Trips Avoch, Avoch
01381 622383
www.dolphintripsavoch.co.uk

Ecoventures, Cromarty 01381 600323
www.ecoventures.co.uk

Gemini Explorer, Buckie
01309 675650
www.geminiexplorer.co.uk

Inverness Dolphin Cruises, Inverness,
01463 717900
www.inverness-dolphin-cruises.co.uk

MV Top Cat, Lossiemouth
01309 690421

Phoenix, Nairn 01667 456078
www.greentourism.org.uk/Phoenix.html

Puffin Cruises, Macduff
01452 832560 www.puffincruises.com

Sailing Wild, Lossiemouth
01343 829244 www.sailingwild.com

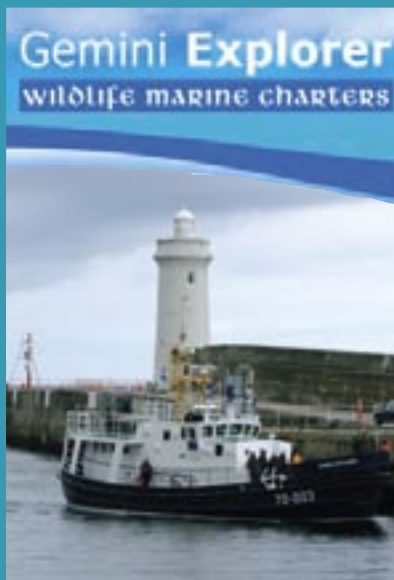
Scorpion, Portmahomack
01862 871257

win a boat trip and look for the Moray Firth Dolphins!

We've teamed up with the Gemini Explorer to offer one lucky young reader and their family a boat trip on the Moray Firth, and the chance to see the Moray Firth dolphins! Young people aged 12 or under are invited to write a story about the adventures of a young dolphin that has a narrow escape when playing with some litter floating in the sea. You should give your dolphin a name and start your story with the words:

One morning (your dolphin's name) the young dolphin was enjoying swimming and playing beside his mother. No-one could have known what was about to happen next...

The young person who sends in the most imaginative story will win a family ticket (for up to four people) on board the Gemini Explorer and will also have their story published in the next edition of the Dolphin Echo.



Competition Rules

All entries must show the name and age of the author, and a contact address and telephone number. Entrants must be 12 years or under at 01 December 2005.

Entries can be sent either: by email to info@morayfirth-partnership.org or by post to Dolphin Echo Competition, Moray Firth Partnership, 27 Arddonnel Terrace, Inverness, IV2 3AE. Closing date for entries 12 October 2005. The winner will be notified by post and presented with a voucher for up to four people, which will be valid for up to 12 months. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The prize is not transferable and no cash alternative or other trip is offered. If the winning entry is very long, only extracts may be printed, and the full text will appear on our web site. The Gemini Explorer is based in Buckie Harbour, approximately a one-hour drive from Aberdeen and Inverness on the A96. The cruise lasts up to two and a half hours and includes complimentary refreshments. You could spot dolphins, whales, seals and many different seabirds. The Gemini Explorer is available for charter on a daily basis. To book a trip, or to find out more, call 0774 7626280.

contact numbers

Dolphin & Seal Centre
North Kessock 01463 731866

South Kessock Environmental Project
01463 243489

Moray Firth Wildlife Centre Spey Bay
01343 820339

Friends of the Moray Firth Dolphins
01542 833867

Cetacean Research & Rescue Unit (CRRU)
01261 851 696

Seawatch Foundation 01865 717276

Operation Fishnet, to report illegal nets
0800 085 8217

Caithness Ranger 01847 821531

Sutherland Ranger 01571 844654

Wester Ross Ranger 01854 633350

Inverness & Nairn Ranger 01463 724260

Moray Ranger 01343 563469

Easter Ross Ranger 01463 731920

Aberdeenshire Ranger 01771 622857

Deborah Benham, Dolphin Space Programme
Project Officer 07921 106144

This newsletter was produced by the Moray Firth Partnership, thanks to funding from the BG Group. The Moray Firth Partnership (MFP) is a voluntary association with over 600 members representing a wide range of individuals and organisations who live, work and have an interest in the Firth. The MFP does not have any statutory powers, and works by promoting agreement through open discussions, consensus and working in partnership. It is not a lobby group, and does not "take sides" on issues. The Partnership's neutral status lets us bring together many diverse interest groups and help them to develop joint actions. Membership is free and open to everyone with an interest in the Firth.

For more information contact The Moray Firth Partnership, 27 Arddonnel Terrace, Inverness IV2 3AE. You can also contact us by email at info@morayfirth-partnership.org, by telephone 01463 225530 or visit www.morayfirth-partnership.org

HotChilli Design and Julia Mackay of Different Thinking PR are designing and co-ordinating this series of four newsletters on behalf of the MFP. If you have any comments or would like to contribute an article for the next edition, please call Julia on 01463 225217, or e-mail jmackay@different-thinking.co.uk

