

## Message from the Director

### Re-focusing on rural research

In July 2008, and with the support of the School of Geo-Sciences, the Institute for Transport and Rural Research became the Institute for Rural Research (IRR). This change follows the successful launch, in April 2007, of the Centre for Transport Research, which is led by Professor John Nelson. IRR can now focus expressly on international, national and regional rural research issues and concentrate on bringing together the first-rate work of our Associates, Seminar Series speakers, and UK and international collaborators.

The IRR aims to stimulate new debates and collaborations in a wide range of rural research fields. Rural areas and their people face many challenges which our research reflects and, we trust, provides a lead in analysing and proposing responses. Rural demographics and functionalities are changing quickly, with re-population from urban areas, ageing, and continuing service losses posing difficult issues for rural dwellers and policy-makers alike. This not only has important implications for rural community cohesion, it also influences opportu-

nities for rural community development. Agriculture too faces rapid change, with food security and price, the continued reduction in number of holdings and livestock, the vexed topic of multifunctionality and succession issues among the challenges. These issues are further inflected by Scotland's relationship with the rest of the Union. For example, the British vision for a free market in agricultural produce may have profound consequences for rural Scotland, with its high proportion of Less Favoured Areas, where the decoupling of CAP payments already appears to have triggered a decline in livestock production in some areas. Impact assessment of policies affecting rural areas, at national and international levels, is a vigorous discourse in which our collaborations are playing a significant role through involvement in EU projects.

These are just a few of the issues addressed by our Associates' research and in our 2008-09 Lunchtime Seminar Series, details of which are included in this Newsletter.



Together with the IRR Board and research staff, I welcome you to our new endeavour and look forward keenly to exploring rural futures with you!

Professor John Farrington

### The impact of land use on social welfare

The various ways in which changes in EU policies that affect land use could significantly impact on society is being studied in the European Union-funded SENSOR project. With partners from fifteen European countries as well as China, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay,

co-investigator John Farrington and research assistant Zuzana Drillet have developed a tool for EU policy-makers to assess the impact of policy changes on unemployment, health, climate change and landscape quality. The assessment tool developed thus provides the opportunity

for policy makers to understand clearly the full spectrum of consequences and make informed decisions.

#### Inside this issue:

<i>John's research activities</i>	2
<i>ESRC seminar on transport and social exclusion in rural areas</i>	2
<i>David's research activities</i>	3
<i>Petra's research activities</i>	3
<i>Trends and developments in rural research</i>	4
<i>The community benefits of the (Crofting) Community Right to Buy</i>	5
<i>Pre-retirement transition in the Celtic fringe</i>	5
<i>IRR Lunchtime Research Seminar Series 2008/09</i>	6
<i>Last year's seminars</i>	7
<i>Mapping local food activity in Scotland</i>	8
<i>Bennachie Histories</i>	8

## John's research activities

I am a Partner or Co-investigator in three Research Council and two EU projects. The essence of my contribution to four of these is interdisciplinary work to support policy decision-making at UK and EU levels.

**PolicyGrid** (P.I. Dr Pete Edwards, Computing Science, Aberdeen University) is one of seven nodes funded by the ESRC's e-Social Science Programme. It facilitates Evidence-Based Policy Assessment (EBPA) using a rural accessibility policy assessment tool as a basis for developing grid technology-based evidence interfaces for use by researchers and policy-makers in a wide range of policy fields.

**PolicyGrid 2** (P.I. Edwards), funded under the second ESRC e-Social Science Programme, will explore the further potential for grid computing in Social Science by focusing on three research case studies: a social simulation of land use decision-making (Gotts and Polhill, Macaulay Institute); a large BBSRC/ESRC RELU project (P.I. Prof. Ken Killham, Plant and Soil Science, Aberdeen University), currently underway, which will use novel scientific understandings of risks of *E.coli* O157 infection in the British countryside to inform stakeholders and

policy-makers of risk amelioration options, for the generation of policy instruments for government end-users in Scotland, Wales and England; and ACES (Aberdeen Centre for Environmental Sustainability, director Prof. Steve Redpath) - an interdisciplinary research centre.

The **RELU** project itself involves collaboration with colleagues in the Universities of Manchester, London and Bangor, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

**SENSOR** (P.I. Dr Katharina Helming, ZALF, Germany) is a 34-institution EU FP6 Integrated Project which has produced a Sustainable Impact Assessment Tool (SIAT) to support decision-making at EU and national level, relating to policies' impacts on the sustainability of land use. SENSOR now includes partners from China, Brazil and Uruguay.

**WISETRIP** (P.I. in Aberdeen University, Prof. John Nelson) is an EU FP7 project using novel IT and user-oriented methods to produce an EU-wide journey-planning interface with the particular aim of increasing the ease and attraction of public transport use.

I am also working with Dr Watts and Dr Vergunst (IRR Research Fellows) on ESRC

grant applications, with colleagues in Soil Science on a large NERC grant application, with colleagues in Economics on a Joseph Rowntree Foundation grant application, and with Prof. David Gray (Centre for Transport Policy, The Robert Gordon University) and others at the Scottish Agricultural College and the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute on dimensions of social capital in rural communities. I have presented papers at conferences in Amsterdam, Berlin, Manchester, London and Cottbus, and have co-authored papers for conferences in Ann Arbor, Oxford, Edinburgh and Stanford. Several co-authored journal articles are in press and in preparation, and I continue to supervise two PhD students.



*“a tool for EU policy-makers to assess the impact of policy changes on unemployment, health, climate change and landscape quality”*

## ESRC seminar on transport and social exclusion in rural areas

In 2009, the Institute for Rural Research will host one of a series of eight seminars on transport and social exclusion funded by the Department for Transport and the ESRC.

The theme of the IRR-hosted seminar will be transport exclusion from a rural perspective. Invited papers will cover themes including: rural accessibility and social exclusion,

transport policy and rural social, economic and environmental sustainability, car dependence in low-income rural households, and sectoral integration of accessibility policies.

The seminar series, organised by Professor Anne Power of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion, and Dr Karen Lucas of the Centre for Sustainable Development, at the Uni-

versity of Westminster, aims to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and capacity building to better equip researchers, policymakers and practitioners to address the challenges of transport and social exclusion in the UK.



## David's research activities

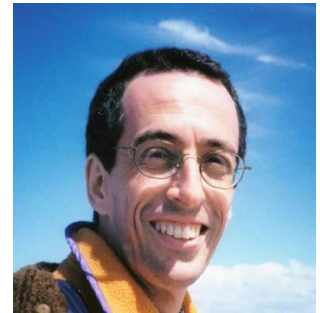
My activities this year have centred on food. I have been working with Philip Leat and Cesar Revoredo-Giha (both based at the Scottish Agricultural College) to map local and regional food activity in Scotland (see article on page 8). Philip and I will present findings from this work at the Sustainable Development Research Centre's fifth Annual International Sustainable Development Conference in Inverness this November. I have also been working with colleagues in England on quantitative and qualitative analyses of two grant schemes available to food producers under the 2000-2006 England Rural Development Programme. A paper based on the first of these has recently been accepted for publication in *Land Use Policy*. I am delighted to report that a review of 'alternative' food networks – co-written with colleagues at

the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) at the University of Gloucestershire – has been published in *The Rural* (ed. R Munton), part of Ashgate's series *Contemporary Foundations of Space and Place*.

I introduced undergraduate students to some of this work in a new Honours Course – Geographies of Food – that I delivered in the second semester of 2007-08 in Geography & Environment, the Institute's host discipline. The course proved very popular, showing that interest in issues relating to food extends beyond those of us researching them.

Like my IRR colleague Petra Vergunst, I am interested increasingly in the issue of rural property relations, though in

my case with specific reference to farming. Two joint-authored papers on this topic, based on research conducted for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, are currently undergoing peer review. Together with colleagues at the CCRI, I am also working on a research council grant proposal to undertake a Scotland-England comparison of the impact of legal and policy developments on agricultural property relations.



“a Scotland-England comparison of the impact of legal and policy developments on agricultural property relations”

## Petra's research activities

Rural communities, the social groups that constitute rural 'communities' and the social processes that bind them together have always been my main research interest. Since I commenced working for IRR in February 2008 my academic work has spanned a focus on specific groups including immigrants, immigrants and women, the social integration of these groups in communities-of-place, and how 'community' processes give rise to, and are a result of, rural community development. Among my achievements can be counted an article on the social integration of immigrants in Dutch rural neighbourhoods published in the August 2008 issue of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, and the acceptance of an article for publication in

*Population, Space and Place*. Partly written during my time with SAC, this article uses the Dutch case study and a Scottish Government-funded study of migrant workers in Scottish agriculture to critically discuss the assumptions underlying the notion of social integration.

Five years after the introduction of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 the time has come to reflect on the experiences of Scottish communities thus far. This will be the focus of my work during the coming year. Based on field work I carried out last spring, I am currently writing a paper on the benefits of such asset-based community development and the benefits that can only be generated if communities actu-

ally own their assets. The same empirical material will be used in a paper on the role of social capital in community development processes. Together with other members of the Rural Social Capital Forum, a network discussing the role of social capital in rural development led by Prof. David Gray of the Robert Gordon University, I am leading a small research grant application to explore the contribution of the installation of renewable energy technology in village halls to community cohesion, both as a result of the mobilisation process and the physical improvement to the community facilities.



## Trends and developments in rural research — a thinkpiece

By *Kirsty Blackstock*

Team Leader Society, Institutions and Governance

Socio-Economics Research Group

Macaulay Institute

Aberdeen

k.blackstock@macaulay.ac.uk

Prompted by discussions with colleagues, particularly Bill Slee and Keith Matthews.

My work has been guided by C. Wright-Mill's demand that we understand the silences and biases in our research choices. I ask "rural research for what, and for whom?"; echoing recent debates in the Sociology and Geography arenas (e.g. Sachs, 2007; Murphy, 2006). Two intersecting sets of questions underpin trends in rural research - what are rural spaces and places for, and who decides?; recognising that rural researchers are part of the constellation of actors who are continually shaping, reacting to, implementing and resisting rural policy. What follows is a personal and highly selective reflection on trends in rural research.

Whether rural is a 'useful' scientific category is still debated, and there is a divide between researchers who see rural areas as a container for processes of interest (such as health, economic development) and those who are interested in the discursive construction of rurality itself (see the recent RELU 'Great Debate' for examples). Debates over the nature of rurality do not engage policy makers. However, given the role research is *supposed* to play in 'evidence-based' policy, clarifying assumptions regarding 'rural' can greatly improve the implementation of policy, particularly where these ignore important differences in local

contexts or the cosmopolitan nature of social networks.

Key issues for rural Scotland, as identified by the OECD review of Rural Policy (2008), are access to housing, services and wider issues of rural deprivation; diversification from agricultural production; and improving rural-urban linkages. Within Europe, rural research reflects the influence of the accession states and the evolution of policies such as CAP. For example, the implementation of the rural development plans offers either an opportunity for a new approach to land use or to consolidate the power of traditional land interests and the exclusion of other actors with claims to the use of rural places. Globally, issues such as food security, water security, persistent underdevelopment, chronic poverty, disease and climate-induced change shape the politics and practices of rural land use – the backlash against biofuel crops is just one example.

Within Scotland this summer, we have had to understand and respond to a new Scottish Government budget and the Government's national outcomes, including their promotion of sustainable economic growth; alongside the launch of SEARS (Scottish Environmental and Rural Services); the Strategic Review of National Parks, challenges to the implementation of the Land Reform Act and Access Code, the Committee of Inquiry on Crofting, and emerging policies on food; renewable energy and agriculture's response to climate change – the list goes on. Nearer to home, rural researchers are involved in the contested debates over the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and the Trump golf resort planning enquiry.

These policy initiatives are

underpinned by a vision of rural Scotland and assertions about what rural resources are 'for'. However, these macro-scale issues play out in multiple ways across rural settings and through the different practices of rural residents and visitors – rural places are heterogeneous and resist neat categorization. For example, landscapes of consumption co-exist with landscapes of production – but research tends to focus on one or the other. How often are these tensions explored with regard to their spatial distribution or the social impacts of these patterns?

At the heart of these trends is the nature of contemporary societies, which are globalised, networked, and interdependent; requiring attention to issues of risk, vulnerability and resilience. These are messy, complex, and dynamic problems that require large-scale and systemic socio-political changes to resolve. These trends raise questions about what we choose to study and whose voices inform our work. Rural researchers are increasingly recognising that research is both a process and a goal, a set of social relationships that are informed by, and inform, the aim of increasing our understanding of rural topics or places in a rigorous, transparent and reflexive manner.

However, the continual evolution of the system we are studying creates a serious challenge. When we are part of the system, rather than impassive commentators on it, it can be difficult to maintain a contemporary and informed commentary on its complexity and dynamics. When embedded in and responding to continual changes, it is difficult to spot the transitions and changes ahead. Who would have predicted that food security and GM crops would be back up



*“These policy initiatives are underpinned by a vision of rural Scotland and assertions about what rural resources are ‘for’”*

## The community benefits of the (Crofting) Community Right to Buy

By Petra Vergunst

Research on the benefits of asset-based community development has shown that community ownership of land and buildings has significant benefits, but that many of these benefits can also be achieved without actual ownership of physical assets.

The research, carried out by Dr Petra Vergunst, identified four types of benefits: 1) local facilities, 2) economic regeneration, 3) sense of community, community self-esteem and empowerment, and 4) self-determination.

Communities can achieve all types of benefits of asset-based community development irrespective of whether they own the assets or not. Petra Vergunst's research shows that asset ownership may increase the sustainability of local facilities and enhance the opportunities asset-based community development provides for significant levels of income result-

ing in a reduced reliance on external funding. Asset ownership may also increase a community's ability to make independent decisions that are often based on well-considered visions for the future development of the community asset.

Except for a scoping study by colleagues from the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute and ethnographic work by Fiona Mackenzie, little research has been done on the experiences of (crofting) communities who have taken up their Right to Buy as stipulated in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. With her research, Vergunst hopes to contribute to the evidence base and stimulate the academic and political debate about community ownership of physical assets. Her current research has shown that communities take ownership of their asset-based community development projects and that such ownership is essential to achieve the above-mentioned benefits. Such ownership-taking, however, can take place irrespective of legal property rights.



*“We, as rural researchers, need to keep looking forwards, backwards and sideways, keeping tabs on how ever-changing broader social trends influence both our topics and our practice as researchers”*

the policy agenda; with the knock on effect that ‘multifunctional’ landscapes are being considered in the light of very different opportunity costs?

So, we, as rural researchers, need to keep looking forwards, backwards and sideways, keeping tabs on how ever-changing broader social trends influence both our topics and our practice as researchers. Good Luck!

### References:

- Murphy A (2006) Enhancing Geography's Role in Public Debate in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 96 (1): 1 – 13.
- OECD (2008) *OECD Rural Policy Reviews: Scotland UK – Assessment and Recommendations*, Edinburgh: Scottish Government.
- Sachs C (2007) Going Public: Networking Globally and Locally in *Rural Sociology* 72 (1): 2 – 21.

## Pre-retirement transition in the Celtic fringe

IRR Board member Dr Lorna Philip of Geography and Environment at the University of Aberdeen and Dr Aileen Stockdale of Queen's University, Belfast, have been awarded a £266,500 grant by the ESRC over two years to study mobility trends and migrant and community well-being. They will test for the existence of a so-called retirement transition—i.e. behavioural changes affecting 50-64 year olds in the UK—

as past research has noted that migration by this pre-retirement age group is among the most dynamic, and that these migrants favour peripheral and environmentally attractive areas. Relating this to debates about an ageing society, migrant and rural well-being, Lorna and Aileen will explore the 2001 Census to seek evidence for a retirement transition, conduct a household survey in three rural case study

areas (in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) to study the decision-making process underlying such transition, and carry out in-depth interviews with household respondents, local service providers and policy-makers to relate this to issues of migrant and community well-being.

## IRR Lunchtime Research Seminar series 2008/09

### 8 October

Dr Tom Kuhlman

*Agricultural Economic Research Institute*

*Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands*

'Sustainability – interdisciplinary research in action'

An economist, Tom works on a wide range of projects involving valuation of market and non-market goods, and on economic and social indicators. He challenges much of the orthodox thinking about the use of economic indicators to reflect well-being.

### 22 October

Philip Leat

*Scottish Agricultural College, Aberdeen*

'Food sustainability, consumers and supermarkets: Ticking all the boxes is really, really difficult!'

Philip received a Lifetime Research Achievement award from the Agricultural Economics Society in 2008, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to food marketing research. He has helped a number of central European countries prepare for their accession to the European Union and has played a key role in European-wide research into the promotion of food chain integration.

### 5 November

Dr Colette Jones

*University of Aberdeen*

'Muck, money and mortality: views of *E. coli* O157 risk in rural areas'

Colette has 20 years' research experience in a range of disciplines, including *E coli* in housed calves, air hygiene, human energy expenditure, public health intervention, sex, poverty and discrimination. She has worked in the Hannah Research Institute (Ayr), the Universities of Bristol, Cambridge, Oxford and Keneba (The Gambia). Colette joined the University from YWCA England & Wales, where she initiated a research programme using participative methods, particularly action research and co-operative inquiry.

### 19 November

Dr Damian Maye

*Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire*

'Growing risk? Plant disease, farmer perceptions and risk management'

Damian is a Senior Research Fellow at the Countryside and Community Research Institute. His research interests encompass alternative and local food networks, farm tenancy and plant disease and biosecurity. He is currently involved in three major projects: a RELU project examining potential plant disease impacts on land use and the rural economy; a Defra project examining the nature of organic marketing chains in England; and an EU 7th framework project examining the 2007 to 2013 rural development programme.

### 3 December

Prof. Ken Thomson

*University of Aberdeen*

'Spending billions: designing and implementing the Rural Development Regulation in Scotland'

Ken's main interests are in European agricultural and rural policies, with particular reference to countries in central Europe (e.g. Poland, Romania, Serbia) and Scotland. He also has interests in economic modelling, rural regional economics, and policy for forestry, fishing and rural tourism. Although now officially 'retired', Ken remains highly active, participating in several EU research projects. He was a member of 2005-2008 UK Research Assessment Exercise Panel for Agriculture, and has advised the European Commission and Parliamentary Committees in London and Edinburgh.

### 4 February

Prof. Geoff Wilson

*University of Plymouth*

'Multifunctional agriculture: a transition theory perspective'

Geoff is a leading thinker in agricultural and rural geography whose recent publications introduce new perspectives on productivism, post-productivism, and multifunctionality. Leader of the "Policy and Governance in Europe" research group at the School of Geography, University of Plymouth, he is particularly interested in the theoretical and environmental implications of the 'non-productivist' and 'multifunctional' countryside.



**18 February**

Dr Margaret Currie

*Centre for Rural Health, University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute, Inverness*

'Assessing bus support policies for their accessibility benefits in rural areas'

Having successfully defended her PhD in 2008, Margaret is now keen to present her research findings on the ability of bus support policies to meet rural peoples' accessibility needs in Scotland.

**4 March 2008**

Dr Katrina Brown

*Macaulay Land Use Research Institute*

'Claiming rights to rural recreational space: Scottish access legislation in practice'

A human geographer, Katrina studies the moral and cultural dimensions of how formal and informal institutions mediate people's access to and control over rural resources and landscapes, and their implications for land use and rural development.

**18 March**

Dr Jane Atterton

*Centre for Rural Economy, Newcastle University*

'Rural businesses in the North East of England: some survey findings'

Being especially interested in exploring the reasons for the differential performance of rural areas and the role of small towns in these processes, Jane will reflect on some of the findings of her most recent survey of rural businesses in the North East of England. Her PhD explored the geography of networking relations in three small towns in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and the potential implications

of these patterns for the future development of the towns.

**22 April**

Philomena de Lima

*PolicyWeb, University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute, Inverness*

'Addressing equality Issues in rural areas - thinking out of the box'

The new director of the UHI PolicyWeb, Philomena is a leading sociologist and researcher specialising in social inclusion and minority ethnic issues in rural communities. She has also been appointed to the Carnegie Commission of Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society in the UK and Ireland, set up by the Carnegie (UK) Trust, which will explore future threats and opportunities for civil society, consider how it can be strengthened and look at the ability of organisations to prepare for the challenges coming up.

**6 May**

Dr Katharina Helming

*Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape*

*Research (ZALF), Müncheberg, Germany*

'Assessing land use changes impacts on rural development perspectives'

Katharina is the leader of SENSOR, a 34-institution FP6 Integrated Project which has produced a complex Sustainable Impact Assessment Tool as a decision-support for the European Commission and national policy end-users.



## Last year's seminars

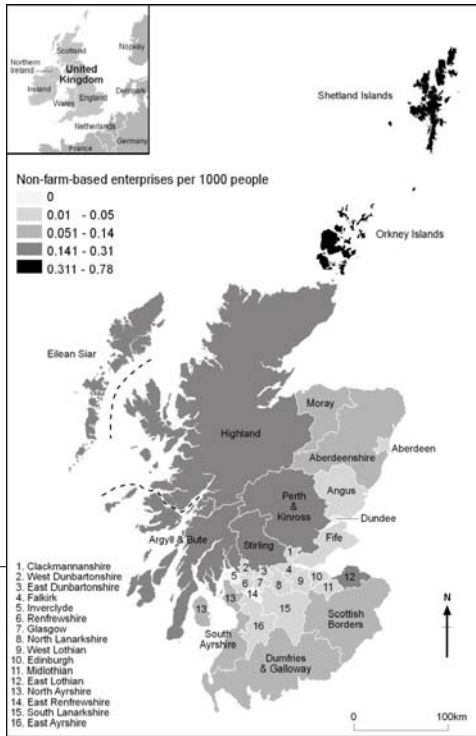
Last year's seminar series, jointly organised with the Centre for Transport Research, attracted attention from a wide audience. Seminars were attended by academic colleagues from within the University (e.g. Geography and Environment, Anthropology and the Business School) and from the Robert Gordon University, the Macaulay Institute and the Scottish

Agricultural College (SAC). Seminars also attracted attendees from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Highland Councils, demonstrating their policy relevance.



Institute for Rural Research  
 Geography and Environment  
 University of Aberdeen  
 St. Mary's, Elphinstone Road  
 Aberdeen, AB24 3UF

Phone: 01224 272352  
 E-mail: d.watts@abdn.ac.uk



## Mapping local food and drink businesses in Scotland

By David Watts

Interest in local and regional foods has increased significantly in recent years. These distinct but related phenomena – local food is consumed near its place of production, regional food circulates more widely while retaining a strong geographical provenance – have been the subject of numerous academic studies and have attracted attention from the policy community. In Scotland, the *Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture* (Scottish Executive, 2006) undertook to ensure that more Scottish food is processed in Scotland and to encourage localised food distribution systems. Responses to the Government's national discussion on a new food policy for Scotland also showed significant public interest in this issue. 'Local food and local economies' was the second most-mentioned topic across Scotland, being raised by 49 per cent of respondents; while in the Highlands and Islands it was the most mentioned topic (Leat et al. 2008).

Despite this interest, there is little quantitative evidence on Scotland's local and regional food sectors. Research by the IRR's David Watts, working with Philip Leat and Cesar Revoredo-Giha of the Scottish Agricultural College, is starting to close this gap. Using secondary sources, they have mapped local food enterprises

in Scotland. Just over half of the 723 enterprises they located are farm-based, demonstrating that a significant number of farmers are marketing themselves as producers of local and regional food and drink. This is a sure sign that there is a market for local food in Scotland. However, the distribution of local food enterprises is geographically uneven. The map shows that the largest concentrations of non-farm-based enterprises, relative to population, occur in the Highlands and Islands. Thus, local and regional food are not simply the preserve of affluent urban consumers – a criticism levelled at organic food – but are of importance to rural and particularly to remote rural Scotland.

### References

Leat P, Kupiec-Teahan B, Revoredo-Giha C, Lamb D, Hughes P And Moxey A (2008) *The future for food in Scotland. Analysis of responses to the national discussion*. The Scottish Government, Edinburgh.

Scottish Executive (2006) *A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture: Next Steps*. Scottish Executive, Edinburgh.

## Bennachie histories

By Jo Vergunst

Having taken groups of Anthropology students and other visitors on field trips to the hill of Bennachie, near Inverurie in Aberdeenshire, I was very pleased to be able to carry out some oral historical and ethnographic research there. The Bailies of Bennachie are a community group – a kind of 'Friends' of Bennachie – who wished to collect the reminiscences of the older folk and get a take on life around the hill today. It has taken me round some out-of-the-way corners of Bennachie. I have gathered tales of the distant and mythical past, memories from childhood and

youth, and reflections on the current management and practical activities going on around the hill. Many of the respondents spoke about the crofters around Bennachie as an important part of the landscape of the hill. The well-known crofters' 'colony', close to where the Bennachie Centre now is, flourished in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century on land understood as a commonty. But in 1859 the land was divided and assigned to the surrounding estates, rents were imposed, some of the Bennachie crofters left and others were evicted. One nearby farmer still remembers well the last of them, Geordie Esson, who died in 1939.

The Forestry Commission now owns most of the hill, but management is carried out in conjunction with the Bailies and other organisations. A striking theme in the oral accounts is the importance placed on moving around the hill, making routes and journeys in order to carry out various activities, and this is as relevant today as in the past as access to the hill is being improved. While I am following this topic, a PhD student in Anthropology and the Elphinstone Institute, Jennifer Fagen, is working on the broader history of the landscape around Bennachie with the continuing support of the Bailies.



View from Bennachie  
 (Photo by Alice Mascarenhas)