

# THE FORTH COLUMNIST

Issue No. 124     January/February 1998

*Merry Christmas*



*from all the Editorial Staff*



## FVO COMMITTEE 1997

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### INSTRUCTIONS:

Contents Page is having a Holiday Too!

Act Your Shoe-Size - Not your Age!

Have Fun!



Two elephants fell over a cliff -  
Boom! Boom!



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



As this newsletter will reach you all sometime in the height of the festive season, it might be a good time to remind everyone of the risks of over-indulgence in turkey and figgy pud: don't forget that FVO's first big event of 1998, our Lothian O-League at Beecraigs is only weeks away! If you haven't already done so, please contact Rona and Jonathan Molloy with your offers of help - these events are usually very busy, so the more hands the better.

It seems that my plea, in the last newsletter, for greater attendance at Club events must have been noted as, despite grotty weather, there was a healthy turnout at Coilhallen for our local event in November. Well done to Peggy and Fraser for some enjoyable courses in a notoriously rough area (it actually felt quite runnable to me). The following day, the rain was twice as heavy, and the forest infinitely more horrible, as the club stalwarts (following persistent bullying from efficient team captain Maureen), turned out to represent the club in the final of the Inter-Club Competition at Ross Wood. Luckily, it was worth all the anguish and sodden O gear, as we emerged victorious over INVOC, by a magnificent 10 points. Congratulations to Maureen for chivvying together the team, and to all those who crawled round for the club - another trophy to add to FVO's growing collection for the year!

A busy few weeks was rounded off with the Club Champs at Devilla, with excellent courses provided by Alison and Jonathan, on a day when the sun shone for a change. In general, the handicaps were well-judged (who is this Neil Kitching chappy, anyway?!), and the overall senior winners were Ben Stansfield (finally toppling Steve Nic from top spot) and Hazel Dean (again!). A dazzling display of prizes and trophies (all finally tracked down by our in-house detective, Susan) was distributed at the Dinner Dance that night, although I still have a few for absentees and will attempt to get these to their rightful owners soon. I hope everyone enjoyed the Dinner Dance as much as I did. Despite a rather small dance floor, there was plenty of energetic whirling and burling, and in the drunken haze of the evening, we even managed to sign up an organiser for the Birnam Scotlandsgaloppen event (thanks to Jim McGroarty for such a valiant offer!). Beccy did a grand job at arranging everything and thanks to you all for coming, especially to our farthest-flung member, Kevin King, who travelled up from Nottingham to attend!

Well, as I write, there are only 11 days to Christmas, so I'd better go and buy some presents! Happy Christmas and a Good New Year to you all, and look forward to seeing you at Beecraigs, and at the AGM/Burns' Supper in January

Cheers, Cathy.



# FVO WIN SCOTTISH INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS



Congratulations to the large group of Club members (28 in all) who turned out in foul weather at Ross Wood on 16th November to take on the might of INVOC, who turned out in strength for this prestigious competition. Ross Wood is currently being felled, so the map corrections (which had to be copied down in pouring rain), the rough underfoot conditions, the darkness of the forest and the heavy rain on the map case, in the eyes and on the magnifying lenses, glasses etc all made navigation difficult. However, most of us persevered and finished higher up in the results than we expected.

The final score was:

FVO 85 points    INVOC    77 points

Team members who gained points were

Brown 1	Brown 2	Blue 1	Blue 2
1. Steve Nicholson	1. Martin Dean	1. Gareth Bryan-Jones	1. Beccy Osborn
2. Ben Stansfield	4. Brian Porteous	2. Neil Brown	2. Cathy Tilbrook
3. Fraser Purves		6. Doug Wood	3. Alison Oxley
Green	Light Green	Orange	Yellow
1. Maureen Brown	1. Stephen Porteous	4. Kyle Heron	2. Jonathan Porteous
3. Penny Hicks	3. Lisa Brown		4. Robin Young
4. David Cooke	6. Hilda Astbury		

## CLUB O-SUITS

Several Club members have expressed an interest in buying club O-suits, so I will be putting in another order at the end of January. So if any of you out there need a new O-top or would like to be seen in Club Colours during 1998, please let me know before then.

Maureen.

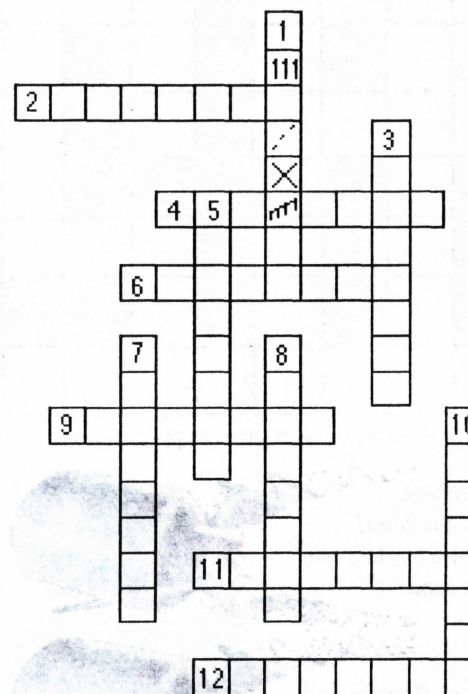
## COMPASS-SPORT CUP 1998

We have entered this competition in 1998 after a 2-year gap. The first round will be against Perth Orienteers on 1st March at the Lothian O-League event at Corstorphine Woods, Edinburgh. This will also give you the chance to get your orienteering technique sharpened up in time for the first Scotlandsgalopen a week later. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Maureen

## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

How's your IOF Symbol recognition? This little crossword (or should it be cross-symbol?) requires you to draw the correct control descriptions into the grid provided! We've done the first one for you.....

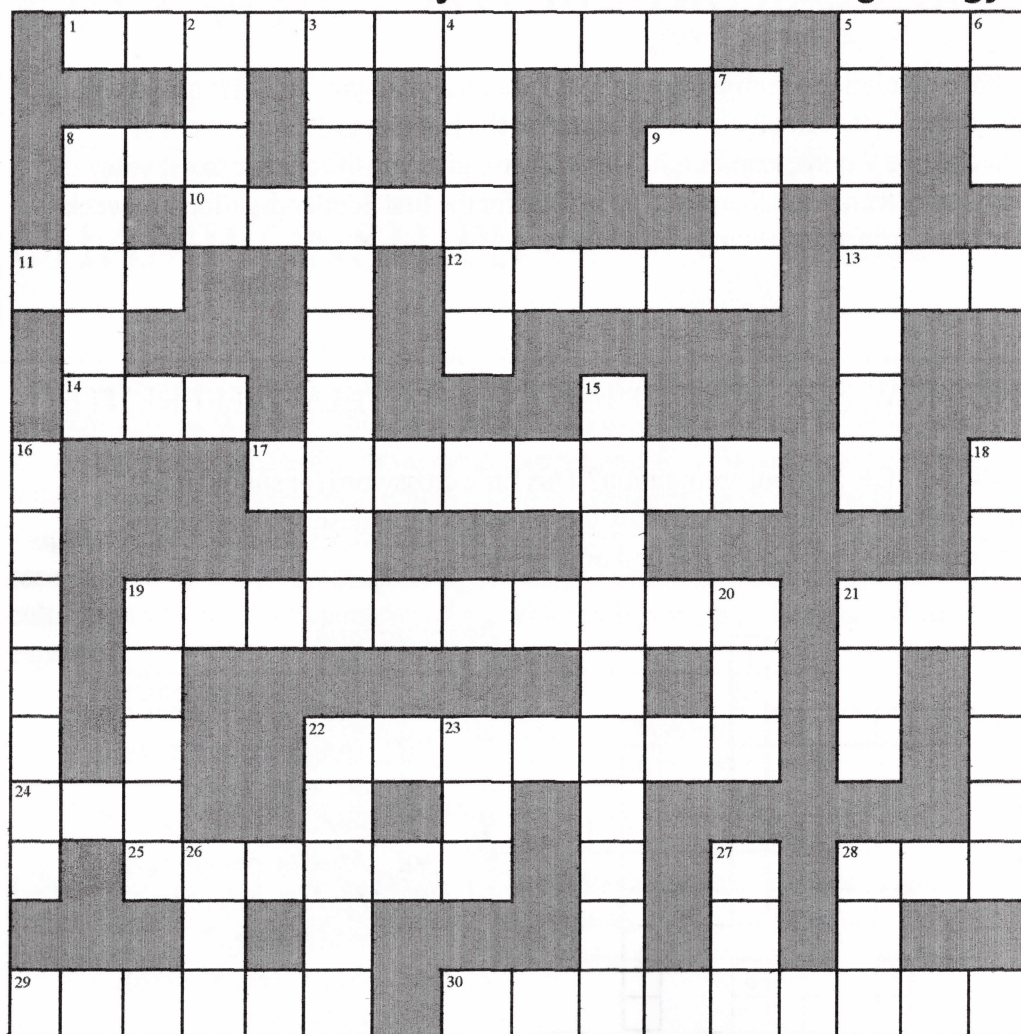


## Descriptions

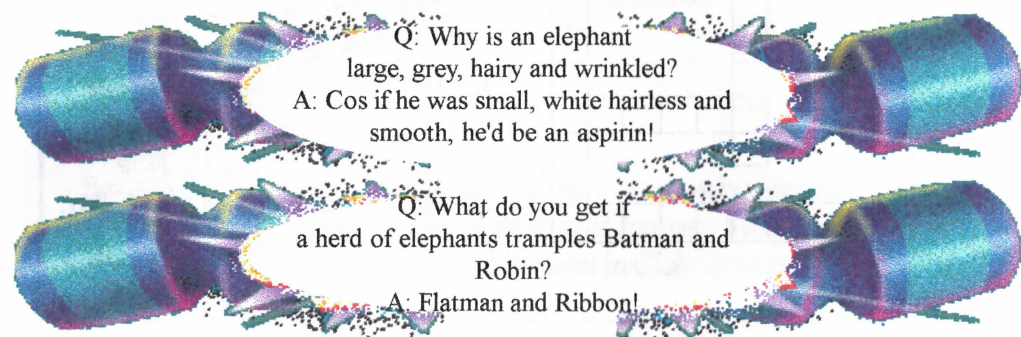
- 1 111 Path fence crossing
- 2 72 Inside fence bend
- 3 43 Stream bend
- 4 5 Fence junction
- 5 42 Middle re-entrant
- 6 205 Middle boulder 1.5 east side
- 7 522 South-west crag, foot, 4m
- 8 101 Ditch, road junction
- 9 752 South-west most re-entrant, manned
- 10 147 North most boulder, 1m, north side, manned
- 11 713 Marsh, north side
- 12 150 Middle crag, foot 2m, manned



## CROSS-WORD - loosely based on Orienteering thingys



CROSSWORD ANSWERS WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE FORTH COLUMNIST



## ACROSS

- 1 American Financial Institution (10)
- 5 You need one of these in a thicket to get through (3)
- 8 Sounds like you'd find this bar in a forest, with punch (3)
- 9 See 16 Down (7,4)
- 10 Country Park South of the Forth (5)
- 11 Do this to Win (3)
- 12 East End of Clackmannan (5)
- 13 Give me one and I'm Magic! (3)
- 14 For a HotHead (3)
- 17 C-C March 15th (4,4)
- 19 Sounds like French Mountains? (5,5)
- 21 From A to B by C
- 22 Points the way (7)
- 24 ... A Long, Long Way to Run (3)
- 25 Excellent Permanent Course Here! (6)
- 28 Orienteering is supposed to be (3)
- 29 Sounds like his House Party on a Saturday Night (6)
- 30 Source of Pit Props? (9)

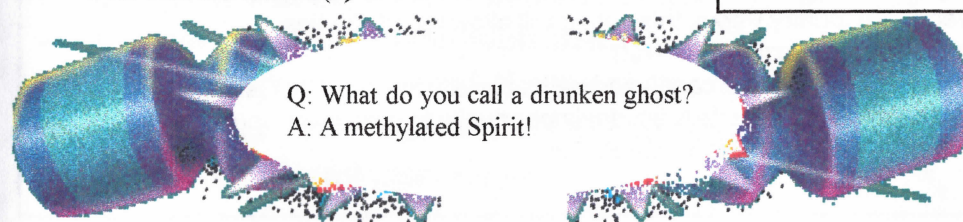
## DOWN

- 2 Large Bound every four years (4)
- 3 Religious precipice (5,5)
- 4 This one gave Macbeth a bad time!(6)
- 5 Water Supply for part of Alloa (8)
- 6 Careful - don't fall into one of these! (3)
- 7 Hot - Ouch! (4)
- 8 If Midas did this you'd turn to gold (5)
- 15 Our last Local Event (10)
- 16 Upholding Justice in the Hills with 9 across (7,4)
- 18 WARNING! - this plant can cause ill health (7)
- 19 "That's a little tight" (5)
- 20 Six Blasts for Help (3)
- 21 The Sinclairmobile (3)
- 22 Punched or sent at Christmas (5)
- 23 When the British Champs are (3)
- 26 Another name for what's between you and a horse!
- 27 Scottish mornings can be like this - so can vegetables!
- 28 Best Club in Scotland (3)

## WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

PARTY  
SLEIGH  
ANGELS  
CAROLS  
CHRISTMASTREE  
ADVENT  
REINDEER  
SLEIGHBELLS  
CANDLES  
MERRYCHRISTMAS  
TINSEL  
NOEL  
PRESENTS  
SANTA  
RUDOLPH  
SNOWFLAKE  
SNOWMAN  
HOLLY  
MISTLETOE  
PLUMPUDDING  
TURKEY  
WISEMEN  
STAR  
STOCKING  
CRACKER  
ELVES

**If you got all these, allow yourself an extra long lie tomorrow!**

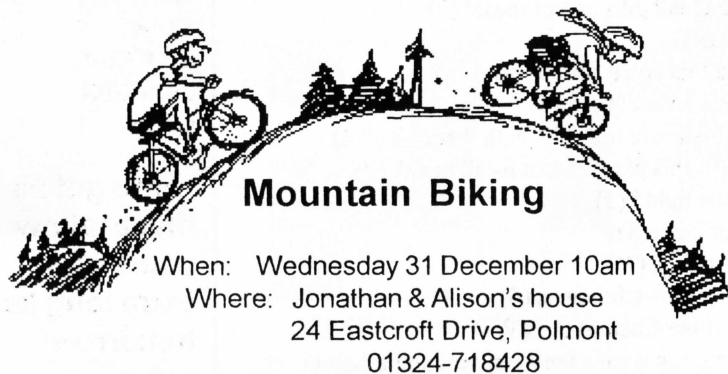




# Merry Christmas Orienteering WordSearch

(You need to be able to see in two directions at once to get this!)

JPSLKADVHYSLEQCGSEATNASLONSTAONT  
MERRYCHRISTMASPRNLDRODKUEKILIMSK  
REREOHTURKEYLUNSOLIELTHNINWHIRLA  
HEVISKLMENGTOSPLECRCKORUSTARPLLE  
PAELVESSTONIDHOLLYLRAAGEHIAMOWEP  
LONDUPNHONTHWSLEIGHLTRLEHIRTIDBP  
OEISTAFTJURMNNWPUTJIDEOFFAJKLRHE  
DOFTNIMISTLETOEALRHUDEMLWOJTHUGA  
USGRCHRPITNUYWIRNUDANGELSOIJRIID  
REINDEERPLTISMJTISELOFTADVNEHYEV  
PDOIKERJOOSWAAPYOMUSGNIKCOTSTRLE  
ORSCRANWISEMENOJTAIEJTIMLONRNOSN  
PIAOJTVDEERTSAMTSIRHCLEIJSADIJDT  
AREJDOTHSLICHRIDYTPLUMPUDDINGKDF  
CANDLESSJTUASPSOJRTHEBAURKIOEAHU



Taking in the delights of the Union Canal, Antonine's Wall, Muiravonside & Beecraigs Country Parks, this outing will allow for all abilities (even, perhaps, complete JOKers!).

With plenty of tracks and canal-side paths equally matched by testing sections of mud and vegetation, this is an ideal opportunity to blow away your 1997 cobwebs in time for the New Year Party!

## SOCIAL CALENDAR

### Wednesday pub nights.

For the time being this has moved for the winter, to the Cross Keys in Alva.  
Come along about 8.30/9.00 for food / a drink and good chat!

## NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM is on Friday the 30th of January in the Dumyat Centre.  
A copy of last Year's Meeting Minutes is enclosed for your information.

The Meeting starts at 7.00pm. This will be followed by a Burns night supper.  
Please bring your own drink!

Volunteers to bring food please contact Beccy A.S.A.P.

The hall is booked to 10pm after which we will probably move on to the local pub. (that's The Holly Tree - just across the road!)

Nomination forms and RSVP's are enclosed - PLEASE send them back!  
We need to know numbers EARLY so we can get enough HAGGIS!  
There's no excuse - there's even a SAE!

## FVO Christmas Outing!!

The Outing to Merlin at the MacRobert  
was Magnificent -

Next Year it will be Beauty and the Beast  
- Book now to avoid disappointment!!  
The only disappointment of the evening  
was that Rona didn't get to the shop in time  
to get a Fairy Wand and Tiara!





# FORTH VALLEY ORIENTEERS

## LOTHIAN O LEAGUE 4

### SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY 1998

### BEECRAIGS COUNTRY PARK

### LINLITHGOW

Directions: Leave M9 at Jn 3 (from Edinburgh) or Jn 4 (from Glasgow / Stirling). Follow A803 to Linlithgow and then roadsigns to Beecraigs Country Park (turn off opposite 'Black Bitch' Pub on High Street)

Car Park: Cockleroy car park (Grid Ref: NS994743)

Map: 1:10000(Updated 1995)

Terrain: Mixed forest, mostly runnable, with good path network

Courses: White to Brown + String Course

Cost: £3.50 Seniors  
£2.00 Juniors and Students  
£1.50 White and Yellow Course entries

Registration 10:00-12:00

Start Times 10:30 - 12:30

Organisers (and Offers of Help to:) Rona & Jonathan Molloy  
(01506) 842857

**HEEELLLLLLPPPPPP!**

If you fancy lending a hand, Rona Molloy is organising LOL4 at Beecraigs on Jan 18th - contact her on (01506) 842857 to offer help.

# What's On in and Around FVO

Dec 20 FVO Christmas Outing - Merlin the Magnificent - SATURDAY 7.30pm

## Dec 25 Merry Christmas!

Dec 28 ELO Xmas Festive Frolic, Yellowcraig, N Berwick

NT515855

## 1998

## Jan 1 Happy New Year!

Join  
the  
Dots!

Start Here →

Jan 18 FVO LOL4 Beecraigs - Organiser - Rona Molloy

Jan 30 FVO AGM & Burns Supper - Dumyat Centre, Menstrie - 7.00 pm

Feb 22 WOSOL2 Colour Coded Fleet Forest

Mar 1 EUOC Colour Coded Corstorphine, Edinburgh NT 21?71?  
First round of the Compass-Sport Cup vs PO (La-La, Dipsy & Tinky-Winky)

Mar 8 SG1 Clyde ????????

Mar 15 Colour Coded Event BarrWood - Fraser Purves Organising

Apr 4-5 AROS Elite Tests

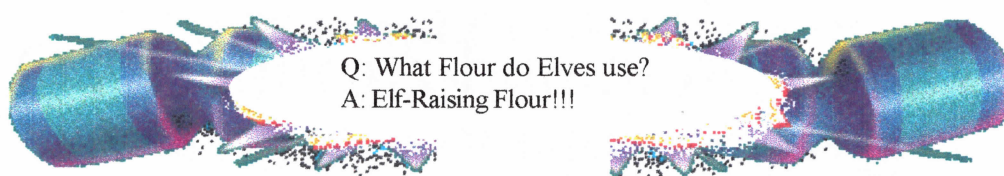
Apr 10-13 J-K - Wales SH732181

Apr 26 SG 2 FVO Badge Event - Birnam - Jim McGroarty Organising NO004410

May 3-4 British Champs - Aldershot

May 10 SG 3 Solway - Mabie forest NX949711

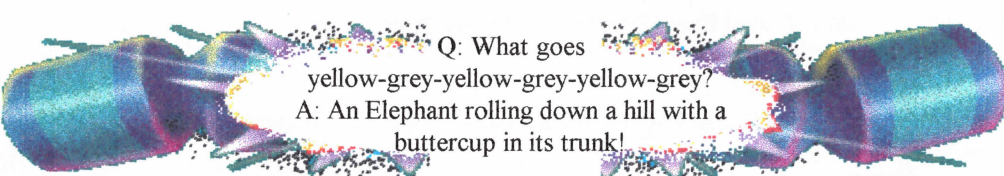
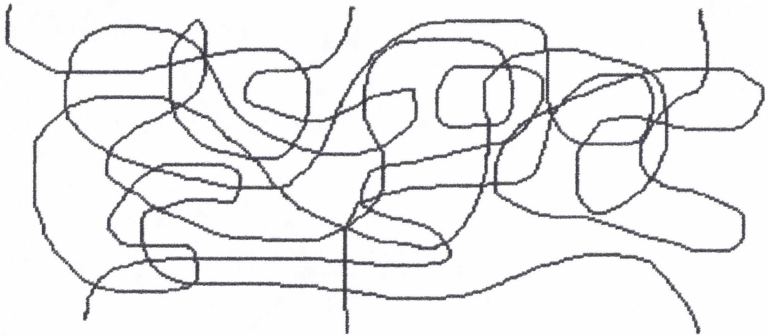
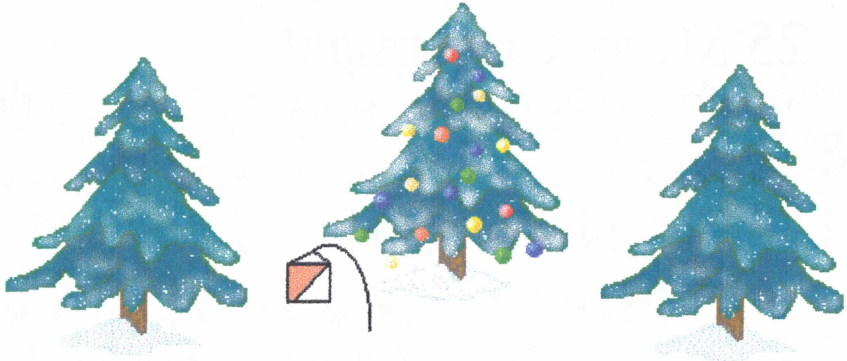




Q: What Flour do Elves use?  
A: Elf-Raising Flour!!!

For our Older Orienteers . . . . .

Helpyours'elf to find which one gets to the Checkpoint



Q: What goes  
yellow-grey-yellow-grey-yellow-grey?  
A: An Elephant rolling down a hill with a  
buttercup in its trunk!