

The Boleskine Bulletin



Issue No. 22
Spring 2003

OOPS!

.....it can
happen to
the best
of us!

*Grateful thanks
to those who
work all hours to
keep the roads
open.*



Forthcoming Retirement of Minister

It is with sadness we report the impending retirement of Rev. James Christie, after ten years of ministry in this community. He and his wife, Ann, will be sorely missed, not just for their active ministry but for their warm friendship. We wish them both many happy and healthy years of retirement in their new home in Inverness. Thank you both.

Falls of Foyers Access Re-opened

Work has been completed to improve the footpath, creating stepped areas to make it less slippery and the upper viewpoint has had its bank stabilised following a landslide. The work was supported by the Highland Council, the Partnership for Rural Inverness and Nairn and the Scottish Natural Heritage.

A strange optical illusion was first noticed at the Falls. If one stares at the tumbling water for a few minutes and then glances to left or right at the rock face, it seems as if the whole mass of rock is rapidly moving upwards.

A Message from PC462 Torquil Macleod

I am very pleased to have the opportunity, through the Boleskine Bulletin, to address the communities for which I have responsibility. With Christmas and New Year behind us, we are now well into 2003 and our thoughts may already be drifting towards our summer holidays.

I would, however, like to bring a few points to your attention. We are fortunate to live in a relatively low level crime area, compared to others within the Highland region but this should not make us complacent. Indeed, if we, as a community, wish it to remain so, we have to be increasingly vigilant, both to detect and deter any criminal activity. My job and those of my colleagues have been made much easier than they would otherwise have been, due to the support of these communities and we hope that this will continue to be the case.

The majority of problems in this area arise from those who live elsewhere and are merely passing through. They seek any opportunity that may come their way, either to steal, damage property or cause alarm or annoyance. In order to detect these individuals, it is imperative that the public

assists the police wherever possible.

The following are initiatives which will run in this area, at varying times over the forthcoming year.

NATIONAL ROAD POLICING STRATEGY 2002-2006. The aim is to make the roads in Scotland safer by reducing death, injury and crime.

FARMWATCH. The aim is to provide assistance and guidance to allow farmers to safeguard their property and livestock.

CRIME PREVENTION ROADSHOW. The aim is to provide education on matters of home security.

Any suggestions or comments regarding the above or any other matter would be welcomed. I would encourage people either to telephone or call at their local police office for guidance or further discussion.

PC462 Torquil Macleod

There's No Need to be Bored!

At first many teenagers or "young people" overlook the obvious opportunities in their immediate surroundings. No, there are no discos, leisure centres or sports complexes but there are snow-covered mountains, an abundance of wildlife, cascading waterfalls and the Loch Ness Monster!

I can only speak from personal experience: I have never been bored, lonely or unable to find someone willing to listen. Our small community is famous for its common bond, despite religious and political opinions. The shared interests of everyone in the locality revolve around the environment and the well-being of our neighbours.

The village hall, the churches and schools all offer a great range of activities, some weekly and some seasonal. Joining any of the offered activities can be very rewarding, in more ways than you would first assume. Meeting a wide range of age groups and personalities has so many benefits. I feel a sense of belonging and acceptance, which may not be found in a city. From being able to wave at every passing car and knowing most of the locals as I wait for the bus, to 'phoning neighbours for help with homework or using associates for references, I feel really appreciative of the exclusive area I live in.

In particular, I must cover the wide range of outdoor pursuits on offer. These vary from painting to cycling and, of course, traditional Highland sports, such as shooting, dancing, etc.. I know I am very lucky to participate in a large selection of available activities – there is something for everyone. There are hundreds of eye-opening bike rides and walks. The scenery inspires every artist and every loch presents a challenge to the keen fisherman. Historians relish the ruins that clutter our hills. Wildlife enthusiasts enjoy the rare species residing in our natural habitat and ornithologists can visit the amazing birds on Loch Ruthven. Many children enjoy joining the RSPB and trying to spot the rare Grebes on the loch as well.

Personally, I love art, nature and my local surroundings. Many of these things are overlooked or undervalued. Outside there is a community waiting to be explored by everyone!

Jessica Ricketts

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

John Campbell (chairman)	Gorthleck	486 240
Fiona Kirkland (secretary)	Gorthleck	486 283
Tine Butterworth (tresurer)	Gorthleck	486 275
Angus Fraser	Gorthleck	486 650
Kenny Fraser	Gorthleck	486 220
Elizabeth Macdougall	Foyers	486 366
Liam Macnally	Gorthleck	486 605
Sandy Macpherson	Torness	01463 751213
Eileen Martin	Gorthleck	486 661
Martyn Bateman	Whitebridge	486 273

Meetings are every 4th
Tuesday of the month at
7.30pm in Stratherrick
Public Hall - open to all.

Tuesday 25th March
Tuesday 22th April
Tuesday 27th May
Tuesday 24th June

Highland Councillor

Mrs Ella MacRae

01463 751 203

ella.macrae.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Minutes of Meetings

Minute of Meeting 17th December (abridged)

Correspondence : British Waterways – proposed charges for craft on Scottish inland waterways from April 2003 and changes to current practice.

Treasurer: Current acc. £185.67 ; project acc. £1070.92. cheques issued – Stratherrick Hall - £56.00, £50.00 donations to each – Stratherrick School, Foyers School and South Loch Ness Nursery and £300.00 to Stratherrick school for the playing field. £14.70 deposited from photocopier.

Roads and Transport: holes along the side of the cattlegrid on the Ardachy road and cattlegrid at Leadclune

AOB: Concern raised of trees cleared along the side of the Foyers road for development at Craigdarroch leaving a clear drop down the embankment to the riverside - a barrier should be installed; Trees around Loch Mhor have grown over the years so that the view is now limited. To be discussed at the January meeting.; Does to Foyers road View points - PRIN to access funding for the tree clearing along the side of Loch Ness; Foyers graveyard – the seat is now in situ; Community project – site visit by the sub committee at the Vennel.

PUBLIC MEETING RE. OUTREACH CENTRE

Northern Constabulary representatives - Inspector R Macaulay & Sgt. D MacNeil

After discussion Inspector Macaulay stated that his perception was that the community felt that it was a good idea in the wrong place. It was decided that the residents of Foyers only should give a show of hands. Against facility on present site 19; For facility on present site 9; For facility in Foyers on a different site 24. The recommendation will be to sell the site and look for alternative in Highland region. Any location locally would be considered alongside others.

(Full minutes of the meeting are available from the community council secretary.)

Minute of Meeting 28th January (abridged)

Mr David Cooper – **Victim Support** gave an account of the role victim support and Witness support plays in the community. (A full minute is available from the secretary .) They need volunteers

Correspondence: Highland Movement Against Water Fluoridation – Newsletter - the CC give their support, the secretary should write to the Scottish Executive. Stratherrick Feis – request for funds. CC should make a donation of £50.00. PRIN – Small Environmental Grant Scheme British Waterways – information regarding the launch of educational resources for schools. Loch Ness Marathon – Sunday 28 September 2003 Malcolm Sutherland of the Scottish Community Foundation assures that extra steps will be taken this year to rid the event of the people who brought it into disrepute last time. there will be more liaison with the community. Any one wishing to run the event to raise money for a local charity should contact him on 0131 524 0350. Forestry Commission - report

Development and Heritage Officer for Strathnairn Working 16 hours per month out of Farr Hall for a period of 18 months. Anyone interested should contact a member of Strathnairn CC or write to Secretary, Norma Duncan, 2 Leanach Cottages, Culloden Moor, IV2 5EH Mrs MacMillan – re Bus parked in Thane Road The service bus is parked opposite the houses in Thane Road during the driver's lunch break, which limits the parking of other vehicles. It is also making a mess of the verge. The secretary was instructed to investigate the situation.

David Stewart MP - nomination of an unsung heroine for International Women's Day 2003 It was agreed that Rose Fortune's name should be put forward.

Treasurer: Ordinary acc. £175.62 ; project acc. £1070 92. The secretary should be given £250.00 as allotted in the Highland Council grant. The last expense payment was made in 1999. £10.00 was paid to Dores and Boleskine church for the hire of the hall.

Planning: Mrs O'Donovan and B.E.N. raised concern about the development of the 3 hydro schemes - River E, Feclin and at Loch Tarff. During the construction of the three schemes, there will be an increase in traffic which will have a detrimental affect on the narrow roads in the area, as well as causing an increase in noise level and pollution. It was generally agreed that if it were just one generating scheme there would be no objections but there are too many such

schemes in small area, with the proposed wind farm at Dunmaglass also. Collectively, the area will be adversely affected, the secretary to write to outline the communities concerns.

Policing: The incident figures for Foyers are as follows;

	2002	2001
Total incidents	369	295

Roads and Transport: Errogie Corner – despite new signs, this stretch is still causing problems to drivers; Primary school bus - Dunmaglass – the children are still having to walk back from the Abersky road end The secretary was instructed to contact Cathy Way again; Loch Ness Viewpoints – Dores to Foyers road – the work will start imminently.

A.O.B.: Community Project – the sub committee visited the site at the Vennel and found there to be a good sized piece of ground that has been clear felled but has large stumps left. The forest adjacent to it was felt to be a good area to establish paths. Ms Beck advised the council that FE would probably clear the land of stumps as they would have to for whatever was decided to do with the land, and this cost could be used as matching funds for grants; Loch Mhor – It was agreed that the ownership of the trees surrounding Loch Mhor needs to be established before any further action can be taken. The secretary was instructed to contact Southern and Scottish Energy first; Farigaig Forest - the display in the information centre needs to be updated. Ms Beck (Forest Enterprise) would welcome any ideas; Stratherrick Footpaths – Mr David Andrews walked the path at Dun Dearduil and felt that it would be a good one to include. He is keen that the path around Loch Mhor should be pursued.

Forthcoming meetings will no longer be held in the power station due to the increased security status.

Minute of Meeting 25th February (subject to approval)

Mrs Ann Melia – Maggie's Highland Cancer Care Centre Following the success of a centre opened in Edinburgh in 1995, there are plans to open one at Raigmore at the end of the year. Over £1 million in total is required for the project, £300,000 of which still needs to be raised.

Correspondence: Northern Constabulary Chief Constable – confirming that they will consider the land at Lower Foyers, although they are not in a position to make any offers or guarantees. Mr Campbell approached the Shinty Club to ask whether they would consider relinquishing the lease. Mrs Macrae had spoken to the police and asked that the money should be kept available for the project. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Grant of Scottish and Southern Energy to give him details of the project and request use of the land; CHESS- Children in the Highlands Support Service launch; Malcolm Weild , FE – Leisure Landscapes research project; BEN – copy of letter sent to Scottish Executive regarding proposed hydro schemes; Loch Ness Marathon – invitation to the press launch on Tuesday

11 March, 11am at Dores Inn. Those residents at the start line should be invited.

Treasurer : Ordinary acc.£125.67, project acc.£820.92, issued £50.00 to Feis and £250.00 to the secretary.

Planning: Proposed house at West Drummond – plans and comment at the next meeting. - Renewal of planning permission for a plot at South Muirnich, Gorthleck - Permission is sought to build a house incorporating existing derelict farm buildings at Dunchea, Torness. There were no objections.

Roads and Transport: Errogie Corner – there have been two accidents since the signs were erected, Mr Robertson is going to report incidents to the police; Loch Ness Viewpoints – The work will start in March. A grant of £3600.00 received from INE; Foyers school road – it is now on the list of roads to be gritted, however, realistically it won't be done before school starts as a result the reduction from 3 to 2 gritters. There is a new policy that if the roads are not suitable for emergency vehicles to get to a school then it should be closed.

Community Project – The sub committee met and decided they would like to see – football pitch, hard play area, log cabin/shelter, toilets, childrens adventure playground, flying fox, woodland walks, cycletracks, picnic area and carpark. A draft plan was drawn up. Karen Thompson of INE may help funding of the cycle track, woodland walk and picnic area. There should be adequate insurance and a long term agreement for the use of the land as INE would not give money to a project that would revert to the FE in the short term. Sporting Scotland may help with football pitch and Mr Andrews may help with the walk. The proposals must be costed out. Jeannie Graham at the Sports Development Office of the Council may be able to give suggestions of who to approach for information. Mrs Macrae advised the CC that if the hydro schemes go ahead, there could be money made available to the community which could help with financing the project.

AOB: Whitebridge bus – the letter from Mrs MacMillan was passed to Mr Goodall at Rapsons, but there has been no response, so the secretary was instructed to write to the company. It was noted that the option of putting two 33 seater buses on the route, one at Whitebridge end, and the other at Farr was being investigated by Rapsons; Renewable energy schemes – the survey mast was put up last week for the wind farm at Dunmaglass. The plans for the Glendoe hydro scheme will go to planning committee soon.; Speeding Cars – There have been a number of incidents of cars driving at high speed through Dores in the early hours of the morning. Any sightings should be reported to the Police with registration numbers if possible.; Invernfarigaig Forest information centre – Forest Enterprise are considering changing the display and are looking for ideas. Mrs Butterworth to bring up the matter at Stratherrick PTA meeting and that secretary should contact Foyers school.

Boleskine Environmental Network - Newspaper .

What does BEN do?

- discusses and comments on environmental issues
- consults with the Community Council
- identifies local projects of an environmental nature
- can apply for funding to commission such projects.

Please come along to our meetings. We are small in number and would like to take on new projects

Jane O'Donovan 486355 (secretary)

First up..... are you 'wild about wildlife' or maybe 'worried about climate change' if so a unique opportunity to join one of Scotland leading naturalists and commentators.

Dick Balharry 'Highland Wildlife' and how climate change may effect its survival at Stratherrick Hall on Monday 31st March 7.30

..... a slide show and more - see and learn about the animals & plants of the Highlands from an ex-game-keeper and experienced man about the hill! You will leave feeling inspired.

Free admission - donations welcome.

Need a lift? phone either:- Foyers - Sylvia 486434, Gorthleck - Jane 486355, or Whitbridge - Judith on 486464

Real Nappies take off heading forGairloch

The Real Nappy Project run by BEN was a guest of the Gairloch Health Centre recently. The mobile display and nappy 'library' hit the road to visit district nurses and local mums. The project, set up last June, has already been tottlering around Inverness, other health centres and local playgroups. The nappy 'library' is available for parents to look at and try out (babies only please!!) plus there is lots of information on the economic, environmental and health benefits of re-useable nappies e.g. did you know that 8 million disposables are throw out in U.K. everyday? Phone Catherine on 01463 751 248 - home visits can be arranged to suit you and your baby's needs!

COMPOST ROT

Now that spring is here why not get composting and help reduce the pressure on landfill sites?

Bins are a **bargain at £5** (retail price £39.99).

Phone Heather on 486 774 for bins, tips, books on making compost .

Natural History Sightings List - Seen anything interesting? - birds, animals, plants,.....? - phone Sylvia on 486 434

DITCH DIPPING ANYONE?



Top tadpole tips for frog lovers



Out walking yesterday I interrupted a choir of amorous amphibians croaking in the boggy ditches behind the house. And the result of these songs? Mass upon mass of glutinous wobbly frogspawn!

For kids (and adults) watching tadpoles transform from a black dot-in-jelly into tiny squiggles then miniature frogs can be a great way to learn about life cycles. It's better to let them develop in their natural habitat but if you do borrow a few to get a closer look remember:

- Take only one small clump of spawn and keep in a wide necked jar or small fish tank. When the eggs hatch, return all but 10-20 tadpoles to their ditch
- Change the water regularly using ditch water or tap water which has been left to 'breathe' overnight
- It's best to feed your tadpoles on pellets sold as rabbit food, or boiled lettuce or nettles (not meat as some people claim). If you don't feed them they will eat each other !
- Provide a moss-covered 'island' for developing tadpoles to climb out onto - otherwise they'll drown
- Once the froglets start emerging from the water, return them to the ditch where you caught them.

Have fun!



Green Energy - Threat or Benefit?

B.E.N has written to the Scottish Executive about the development of the Monadhliath as a source of renewable energy. The letter was in response to a recent planning application for a small hydro scheme on the River E. B.E.N. is in support of renewables but, along with other environmental organisations, we feel that they could pose a serious threat to our hill ground and river systems unless a sound strategy can be formulated. At present, local schemes are mushrooming before any such strategy is in place. Already there are plans for two windfarm developments in Strathnairn (one with 40 windmills above Farr). Along with minor hydro schemes planned in Stratherrick and a major scheme at Glendoe, these add up to a substantial impact on our landscape. They also mean big profits for the developers. Highland Council is pressing developers to provide compensatory payments for local communities. Regular payments could bring great benefit to our community, with a percentage being ploughed back into environmental projects? What are your views?



Christmas at the South Loch Ness Nursery

This year's Nativity was charmingly presented by the girls and boys of South Loch Ness Nursery.

Mary, played by Rosie Stoddart, and Joseph, played by Owen Easter, sang their solos really well. The angels, (Naiomi Chattington, Sorcha Hill, Natasha Robinson, Chloe MacLennan and Poppy Baker-Smith) twinkled and sparkled in their lovely costumes. The shepherds, (Ruben Smith, Jack MacAdam, Ash Young, Grant Gruer and Gemma Munro) looking

splendid with their shepherd's crooks, led the way to the baby in the crib and all the children sang with gusto, "Here we go up to Bethlehem". Mary Campbell was the narrator and this lovely performance was much enjoyed by the audience of parents and friends. Natasha sang a solo and Grant recited a poem. After a singsong, refreshments were served.

Rosie Kern

"Let's Dance Around the World"

Rob Sargent and his Stratherrick Hall Dance Group are eager to involve local participation in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's "World Day of Dance" on Saturday, 14th June this year. The plan is that, at 12 noon local time, all around the world, dancers of whatever type of dancing, will join in two dances – the "Gay Gordons and the "Jubilee Jig".

Rob has already been in touch with dancers as geographically separate and disparate as the Inverness Belly Dancers and Rio Scottish Country Dancers. Somewhere in between lie the Stratherrick Hall group!

Locally, there will be a short workshop in the Hall on that Saturday morning, for those who would like to brush up on their skills and give it a go. Hopefully, dancers of all ages and ability will attend. Local musicians are coming along. Soup and sandwiches will be provided by the dance group.

There is no charge and we hope that the event will provide a happy and memorable day for the community.

Please come along and put our area on the World Map!

Further information in the next Boleskine Bulletin. In the meantime, contact: Rob Sargent: Tel. 01808 521338, Hugh Nicol: Tel. 01456 486350, Lorraine Fraser: Tel. 01456 486427

Lorraine Fraser



LOCAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION?

Everyone is interested and proud of ones' own heredity, and therefore heritage is a common bond. We hold it for our children and grandchildren, to enhance their knowledge, pride, and self-confidence which comes with a strong identity and sense of belonging. We owe it to posterity to pass on our knowledge of times and events long past – but which formed the basis for our culture, our character, and our close bonds with nature.

South Loch Ness has a very rich human and natural history which can be researched, preserved and presented for everyone's benefit and enjoyment. Various statutory bodies presently pledge support and financial assistance and with the technology now available for storing and presentaion, there will never be a better time to propose our own heritage programme.

Come along to the public meeting, Stratherrick Hall, Monday 24th March 7-30 pm to approve, comment on, or criticise the proposal. More information (and some surprising pictures) will be available on ways and means, etc.

Hugh MacNally

PROTECTING CHILDREN AGAINST DIABETES

Fifty years ago, some 30,000 Scottish people suffered from diabetes – a large enough number you might say, bearing in mind the problems that can arise from the disease and its many complications. However, by the year 2010, a staggering 400,000 Scots will have the disease and the number will continue to rise. The outlook for our children's health is therefore grim, but what makes the situation worse is the fact that diabetes is largely preventable.

The epidemic increase is strongly associated with rising levels of obesity and is mainly in Type 2 diabetes. This used to be called maturity onset diabetes, as it was found only in older people, but it is now occurring in teenagers. This spread to younger people is due to the increasing and excessive consumption of "junk" food from childhood onwards, together with lack of exercise. This, in turn, is due to the conditioning and control of young people by commercial interests. Children and teenagers are being exploited in two ways: firstly through the cynical promotion, often using sports' personalities, of diabetogenic foods, such as chocolate, burgers, crisps, biscuits, cakes, sweets and soft drinks and, secondly, through the promotion of computers and computer games, which act as substitutes for the sports and other outdoor activities essential for normal development in children.

I have sent many letters to Government Ministers and other politicians about this exploitation of children's health for commercial gain and have always received sympathetic replies, usually mentioning the need to promote exercise and healthy eating patterns, but never a mention of taking action to stop the promotion of "junk" food.

There is, of course, nothing to stop us taking action ourselves to protect our children against the scourge of diabetes and its complications, such as kidney, heart and eye disease.

Firstly, we should get the balance right. The occasional treat or reward of a bar of chocolate, a packet of crisps or a soft drink is harmless and can be psychologically beneficial. It is the daily, frequent consumption of such foods that is a risk factor for diabetes.

Secondly, we could make the matter a political issue. If our councillors, MPs and MSPs are not prepared to take action to stop the ruthless promotion of "junk" food, they are not worth voting for.

Thirdly, we could consider showing children the way, by binning "junk" food ourselves; by substituting fruit juice for cola and by snacking on fruit and nuts instead of chocolate and crisps. We could, even, get the bike out of the shed!

Dr. Eddie Moore

Stratherrick School Council Elections

Recently we had our School Council Elections, in which we had to write a small piece of writing which would be put on a ballot paper and we would be elected. The people elected were myself, Laurie Chattington, Kyle Easter, Annie Butterworth and Hannah Tweedlie. We now have a box in which pupils can put their ideas and we will discuss them. Each class has a representative. One for Primary 7, 6, 5, 4 and one Primary 1, 2 and 3. Our first meeting is due very soon.

This was the paragraph I wrote to encourage people to vote for me.

I am going to put forward some principles for the P7 representative on the Pupil Council. You should vote for me because I know everybody well in P7. I also know what everyone likes. I would be very happy to listen to everybody's opinion. I am also very willing to give up spare time for the school, like to help on the school tidy up day. So please vote for me because I think I would be a good P7 representative.

Would you have voted for me?

John Fraser, P7 Stratherrick

FLOWER ART

Stratherrick Primary School is entering for a planting competition. All the pupils in Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 have to design a flower bed for the tyres or the butterfly garden out the front. Then Miss Weir would pick a few of the nicest from the tyre gardens and one from the butterfly garden. We will plant them soon when the weather improves. My design was of a clock. In May a judge will come to judge our planting as he will judge in other schools. I hope we win.

Laurence Parrott, P7 Stratherrick

Stratherrick Primary School's Success at Inverness Music Festival

Congratulations to the pupils on their success in the Festival, also to Mrs. Margaret Campbell and the staff, who coached the singers and verse speakers. **Hebridean Song Section:** John Fraser: Merit; Laurie Chattington: Distinction. **Scottish Song Section:** Roma MacRae: Merit. **Verse Speaking – Burns:** Christina McGregor: Merit; Roma MacRae: Merit. **Verse Speaking – Solo Girls:** Christina McGregor: Merit; Roma MacRae: Distinction. **Verse Speaking – Choral:** Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7: Distinction.

STRATHERRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Stratherrick Primary School held their annual Christmas Concert in the Public Hall on Monday, 16th December. This year the pupils performed the "very funny" play, "Captain Christmas".

Their performance was magnificent. It was apparent that they had all made a huge effort to ensure the evening became the success that it was. They all performed, sang and danced their way through the play, showing great pride in what they were doing.

The scenery was excellent. I am led to believe that Miss

Weir did the pencil work, while the older pupils did the paintwork.

The evening finished with a raffle towards school funds, raising £125 and tea and mince pies were served.

Special thanks were given to Miss Weir, Miss Paterson, Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Charmley, Mrs. Owen (Music Teacher) and Mr. Nicolson (Art Teacher) for all their hard work in organising the play. Well done everyone.

Elaine Hepburn, PTA Secretary

Stratherrick Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner

Forty-eight seniors attended the annual dinner, held in the first class surroundings of the Craigdarroch

Hotel on 18th December 2002. The Hotel is now under the management of Belinda and Andrew Munro, son and daughter-in-law of the previous owners.

The hospitality and the meal were, as in the past, excellent. We all wish the young Munros every success for the future in their new venture.

We would like to thank our Whitebridge friends, Isobel and Robin McGregor and supporters, for their generous donation of £100 towards our dinner. This provided chocolates or biscuits for all who attended.

Our special thanks go to the Knockie Trust Committee for the funds provided to meet our happy occasion.

Rose Fortune and helpers



The Loneliness of Space

First, I'm speeding through the sky,
Then a comet shooting by,
Here comes Mars the little one,
I said to myself I'm having great fun,
Now there is nothing there,
Only my little teddy bear,
Suddenly I was back in bed,
I think I will stay cosy and snug instead,
How lonely I was in space,
I think home is a better place.

By Eleanor Parrott, P5 Stratherrick



Red Cross Collections for 2002

£646.70 was the total amount raised locally during 2002.

Red Cross Week: £383.50, to be used for Inverness and Area

Private sale of goods and donation of "small change" from a pensioner: £263.20, forwarded to Disaster Fund

Grateful thanks to all who support the Red Cross in our area.

Rose Fortune

FOYERS' SCHOOL CONCERT

A large audience attended the Foyers' Primary School Christmas Concert in December, which was its usual success.

Michael Hook played Hansel and Hannah Grainger was Gretel. The rest of the children all participated in an extremely funny evening, the highlight of which had to be "The Birdie Song" routine.

The music for the play and for the carol singing was performed by Rosie Kern.



John Willie Campbell of

Gorthleck is retiring from the post of Fixture Secretary of the Camanachd Association. He was known as the "voice of shinty" when he reported on the Saturday night slot on the BBC sports programme, eagerly listened to by all the area's shinty enthusiasts.

He learned his shinty skills at Bernisdale Primary School on Skye and went on to become a keen player with a full university blue from Glasgow University. He went on to coach and his Inverness Royal Academy team became one of the finest senior school teams. He latterly became increasingly involved in the administration of the sport, becoming President of the Camanachd Association in 1982.

Youth Shinty

Boleskine entered a team in the Highland News U12 First Shinty six-a-side competition at the Inverness Sports Centre on 4th January. Sixteen teams entered and were split into four sections of four, the winners of each section going through to the next round. Although Boleskine did not qualify for the next round, they did perform well, showing great commitment and enthusiasm against some very good teams.

The children enjoyed the occasion, as did the mums and dads. The U14 team was also in action on 9th February, taking part in the annual five-a-side competition at Aviemore. The teams played with wooden camans under normal shinty rules but on an Astro-turf surface, at an indoor sports complex. Once again, the youngsters performed really well, winning some games and losing by the odd goal in others. The coaches present felt this was by far the best performance of the U14 team so far. The contribution from some players in particular, was outstanding and bodes well for the future of our club. We shall be entering a team for an U12 competition, to take place at the same venue on 23rd February.

Liz MacDonald, Secretary, Boleskine Camanachd Club.

WVS DINNER

The Foyers/Inverfarigaig annual WVS Dinner at the Craigharroch Hotel in Foyers was overshadowed by the sudden death of Mrs. Nellie Sey earlier in the day.

Over thirty people attended the evening, organised by Mrs. Edna Joyce, helped by Jeanette Colville and Chrissie Cameron. Everyone agreed that the meal was excellent but, under the circumstances, it was a quieter evening than usual.

CHURCH MEETINGS

Church of Scotland

Sunday: 10.00a.m. Boleskine, 11.30a.m. Dores, 6.00p.m. Foyers. Rev. J. Christie 01456 486206

Episcopal Church

Sunday: 11.00a.m. Croachy.

Free Church

Sunday: 12 noon Farr, 6.00p.m. Errogie.
Mr. J. Campbell 01456 486240

Free Church (continuing)

Sunday: 10.30a.m. & 4.15p.m. Dores.
Wednesday: 7.30 p.m. Mr. D. Fraser 01456 486408

Free Presbyterian Church

Sunday: 12 noon Farr, Every 2nd Sunday:
7.00p.m. Gorthleck. Mr. E. Fraser 01456 486282

Roman Catholic Church

Sunday: 12 noon Whitebridge.
Rev. P. Bonnici 01320 366451

Inter-Denominational Bible Study

Rev. Martyn Bateman 01456 486273 (for details)

CHRISTIAN COMMENT

Stress in the work place has become a serious issue in these days. Most of us are very glad of a "day off" from the routine of our daily work - particularly if the job is demanding on our time and energy - both mental or physical.

The Ten Commandments, given through Moses to the people of Israel, specified that there were six days for work and then one for rest and to remember with gratitude the goodness of God to them. (And so we find that practising Jews observe the Sabbath day for rest and worship, as they did in the time of our Lord Jesus Christ in the first Century A.D.)

Soon after Jesus of Nazareth had been put to death on a cross outside the city wall of Jerusalem on Friday and then amazingly found to be alive on the first day of the week, Sunday, his followers began to celebrate this remarkable event every week on that same day in his honour.

This practice has continued around the world for almost 2,000 years, a remarkable proof of the truth of the Christian Good News that we celebrate at Easter.

"He died that we might be forgiven - He died to make us good; that we might go at last to heaven - saved by his precious blood."

Martyn Bateman

Boleskine Schools

The earliest mention of a school in Boleskine parish is a 17th or early 18th Century source, saying, "Betwixt Loyn and Fechlin is a charity school". This was probably no more than a few families paying someone to teach their children in what was later known as a "subscription school". In 1765 and 1766 there was a request from a "Donald Williamson, schoolmaster at Bellaloyne of Stratherrick.....to allow him a salary as schoolmaster and catechist in Stratherrick". "A new school should be provided at a place called Culintyre, part of the farm of Garthbeg or at Garthmore".

In 1798 the Presbytery of Abertarff petitioned the county Commissioners to proceed formally against the heritors (the Frasers of Foyers and Farraline) to provide a site for a school on the farm of Dalcrag. The heritors were notoriously slow to act and it may be that no school was provided until 1815, when Mr. Colin Fraser was appointed schoolmaster (mentioned in the Kirk Session records).

The original parish school of Boleskine was situated in the present garden ground of the new house built in the corner near Boleskine church. It was demolished very recently. One end was a dwelling and the other, smaller part, was the schoolroom. An HM Inspector reported in 1875, "New premises should be provided at earliest..... the room is very confined and miserable..... the equipment is also poor..... dirty state of the copy books..... the miserable desks interfere with this".

A new school was finally erected about half a mile away in 1979. The schoolmaster was Duncan Stewart, whose gravestone can be seen in Drumtemple burial ground - he was succeeded by Henry Cumming.

The school was in an extremely exposed position and an entry in the school log book in February 1894 reads, "A fearful hurricane this morning with heavy



rain. Most of those present very wet, you actually hear the water working in their boots, clothes wet through and through. As only a small number turned up, dismissed school between twelve and one".

In 1895 recurring snowstorms meant that the school hardly opened its doors from the last days of December till the end of February. Severe frosts meant that the ink froze solid in the desks. The few hardy children who ventured over the crusted snow on less stormy days were soon miserable with cold and had to be sent home. In February "Drifts around the schoolhouse ten foot deep".

Poor attendance was the norm. Older pupils were often absent, particularly during the summer, "casting peats", "planting potatoes", "at the herding", "at the turnips", "lifting potatoes", "beating" or, more vaguely, "helping with work at home".

For a long time the curriculum included little but the "3Rs", though for more able pupils the master attempted tuition in Latin, French and Mathematics. Gaelic does not appear to be of any significance.

Boleskine School closed in 1980/81, when the new school opened at Gorthleck (Stratherrick Primary School).

(Material for this article is from, "A Country Called Stratherrick", by Alan B. Lawson (Late of Errogie))

Buddy MacDougall

Compassion

A beggar in the street I saw,
Who held a hand like a withered claw,
As cold as clay;
But as I had no silver groat
To give, I buttoned up my coat
And turned away.

And then I watched a working wife
Who bore the bitter load of life
With lagging limb;
A penny from her purse she took,
And with sweet pity in her look
Gave it to him.

Anon I spied a shabby dame
Who fed six sparrows as they came
In famished flight;
She was so poor and frail and old,
Yet crumbs of her last crust she doled
With pure delight.

Then sudden in my heart was born
For my sleek self a savage scorn,—
Urge to atone;
So when a starving cur I saw
I bandaged up its bleeding paw
And bought a bone.

For God knows it is good to give;
We may not have so long to live,
So if we can,
Let's do each day a kindly deed,
And stretch a hand to those in need,
Bird, beast or man.

Robert Service, 1874-1958

SONGS OF CHRISTMAS PRAISE

This event was well supported at both Churches on Friday 13th December and Stratherrick Public Hall on Sunday 15th December. A blend of readings, carols and prayers with some choir items was enjoyed by all. The music was provided by Rosie Kern, Eddie Moore and Colin Adamson. A highlight was the performance by the local Sunday School children. Refreshments were served afterwards and the sum of £250 was raised which, thanks to everyone's generosity, was donated to the Highland Hospice.

All about me

Hello! My name is Melissa. I am six years old. I live in a village called Foyers beside Loch Ness. I am the only child in the family. I enjoy playing schoolies with my teddies and playing football with Dad. I like going for walks with Mum and Dad to the graveyard. I am shy. I am kind because I share my sweets with Mum and Dad. I am miserable when I try to get the hoop off the bottom step of the swimming pool.

*By Melissa Cumming,
P1 Stratherrick*

Ranger Walks

Saturday 10th May – Longman Bird Hide Morning, Longman Drive, West of Kessock Bridge. 10-12am. A chance to check out the Highland Council bird hide. The local Ranger will be on hand.

Sunday 11th May - Maytime Meander (Part of Great Glen Week). 11am-3pm. Grade B. 11km/7 miles. Meet at Floral Hall, Bught Road, Inverness. An extended hike along the canal towpath to Dochgarroch. Bring packed lunch.

Saturday 11th June – What's in a Name? Meet at Grottaig Car Park, Bunloit, near Drumnadrochit. 10-4pm. Grid Reference NH 491 239. BOOKINGS ONLY. Phone 01463 724312. Grade D. A strenuous but rewarding walk up Meall Fuar Mhonaigh hopefully providing a view of other hills with Gaelic names. Bring a packed lunch and a camera if you have one.

Sunday 8th June – Mini Magic at Craigmorie. 2-4pm. Meet in Drumnadrochit village car park. BOOKINGS ONLY. Phone 01463 724312. Grade A. Family event. Look at the bugs and beasties under your feet in this walk through Craigmorie Woodland.

LOCAL SCULPTORS

In our midst are two talented sculptors Mike Cumming and Tracy Moore of Elmbank, Lower Foyers. Unfortunately, they have little time for their craft at the moment which involves designing imaginative sculptures, often using old scrap metal. One sculpture of a nine foot golfer was used as a centrepiece in a Blairgowrie flower festival and an owl and a pussy cat were exhibited at a Nairn Festival. Items of their work adorn the gardens of Blair Castle and nearer to home quirky pieces can be seen adorning the house and gardens of Tracy's parents at Inverfarigaig.

Aldourie Castle to be a mini-Skibo?!

Aldourie Castle may be setting up to be a smaller rival of the luxurious Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle. A US company, which has taken over the castle, is rumoured to be considering opening it up as an exclusive country club.

The castle and ninety-three acres of parkland went on the market last summer with a price tag of £1.2 million. However, the amount of land eventually included in the sale was almost 400 acres, including direct access to Loch Ness.

Local people will be interested to see how such a local landmark will be developed. There will be quite a degree of sadness that the Cameron family have left after 300 years of ownership. There is a little private graveyard in the grounds, full of Fraser-Tytlers – the maternal line of the late Col. Angus Cameron.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

AIDS HELPLINE: Freephone 0800 567123. Open 24 hours.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA): Open 24 hours, confidential service, charged at local rate.

Tel. 08457 697555 Scottish Service Office. For information on meetings, etc. Tel. 01412 262214.

ALCOHOL COUNSELLING (INVERNESS): Tel. 01463 220995 Free, confidential, one-to-one counselling for anyone 16 years and over who is worried about their own or someone else's drinking.

BROOK HIGHLAND: 77, Church Street, Inverness. Tel. 01463 242434. Sexual Health Advisory Service for young people under 25 years old. Contraception, pregnancy testing, infection testing and counselling available.

CHILDLINE: Tel. 0800 1111. Free, confidential advice for children and young people 24 hours a day.

CHILDLINE SCOTLAND (BULLYING): Tel. 0800 441111. Free advice: Mon. to Fri. 3.30p.m. - 9.30p.m.

CITIZENS ADVICE (Inverness): Tel. 01463 235 345.

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE: Tel. 01463 713741.

DEPRESSION ALLIANCE: Tel. 0131 467305. Mon. to Fri. 10.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. Offers information and support for those with depression, their family and friends.

DRUGLINE SCOTLAND: Tel. 0800 776600. Free 24 hour confidential advice on drugs.

FAMILY MEDIATION HIGHLAND: Tel. 01463 712100.

HIGHLAND COUNCIL: Tel. 0345 002005. Emergency number for homelessness and repairs after 5.00p.m

HELP THE AGED: Tel. 01315 516331. Seniorline: Tel. 0808 800 6565.

KIDSCAPE BULLYING HELPLINE FOR PARENTS: Tel. 01717 303300. Mon. to Fri. 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m.

MARRIAGE COUNSELLING (HIGHLAND): Tel. 01463 712888 for appointment. Professional individual and couple counselling for those in intimate relationships. Strictly confidential service.

PARENTLINE: Tel. 0345 567800. Helpline for parents under stress. Mon. to Sat. 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. Answer phone service outside office hours.

RAPE AND ABUSE LINE: Free, confidential, listening support. Call free on 08088 000123, every evening 7.00p.m. to 10.00p.m. This line is answered by women.

Call free on 08088 000122, Mon. and Wed. 7.00p.m. to 10.00p.m. This line is answered by men.

REACH OUT HIGHLAND: 34, Waterloo Place, Inverness. Tel. 01463 711585. Confidential information on sexual health. HIV counselling and testing.

SAMARITANS: 66, Tomnahurich Street, Inverness. Tel. 01463 713456. Also Tel. 0345 909090, charged at local rate. All branches offer 24 hour service.

SOCIAL WORK HOTLINE: Tel. 08457 697284. Calls charged at local rate. 24 hour service.

VICTIM SUPPORT: Tel. 01463 710806

WOMEN'S AID, INVERNESS: Tel. 01463 220719. Offers information, support and temporary accommodation for abused women and their children.

Compiled by Tine Butterworth

COULD *YOU* SAVE A LIFE?

A Lifesaving First Aid Course will be held in Stratherrick Public Hall on Saturday 10th May from 9-30am to 4-30pm. Participants (12 years and over) must pre-register with Peter Westrick on 486464 by 3rd May. The £4 charge includes tea/coffee. Bring your own packed lunch.

The course will cover resuscitation, recovery position, severe bleeding and burns. It will be run by Peter White, a Red Cross First Aid instructor.

SOUTH LOCH NESS TOURIST GROUP have changed their website. It is now:- www.lochnesswelcome.co.uk Anyone wishing entry on the website please contact Andy Holt on 01456 486631. Anyone wishing to join the group will get free entry on the website.

Apology

At the Public Meeting on 17th December 2002, I indicated that Mr. Sandy Steel had signed a petition against the Foyers Outreach Project. This was incorrect. I would like to apologise for any embarrassment to Mr. and Mrs. Steel.

Jim Kennedy, Elmbank, Foyers

Bus Times

WHITEBRIDGE - INVERNESS

	Mon-Frid	Sat
Whitebridge	0735 1230	1230
Inverness BusSt.	0850 1335	1335

	1030	1520	1710
Inverness BusSt.	1030	1520	1710
Whitebridge	1135	1630	1815

stopping at Gorthleck, Errogie, Torness

FOYERS - INVERNESS

	Mon-Frid	Sat
Foyers	7.55 12.50 16.23	9.00 13.20
Invern	8.50 13.40 17.08	9.50 14.10

	11.55	15.20	17.40	12.30	17.40
Invs	11.55	15.20	17.40	12.30	17.40
Foyers	12.45	16.20	18.30	13.20	18.30

stopping at Low. Foyers & Inverfarigaig

GORTHLECK - INVERNESS

D & E COACHES (Monday - Friday)
Phone 01463 713 181

	MWF	TTh	SD	SH
Gorthleck	0932	0920	1514	1515
Strath.Sch.	---	---	1535	---
Upp Foyers	---	0930	---	---
Low Foyers	---	0934	---	---
Inverfarigaig	---	0941	---	---
Errogie	0937	---	1540	1525
Torness	0947	---	1550	1535
Abersky	0952d	---	1554	---
Dunmaglass	0947d	---	1559	---
Farr Shop	---	---	16.19	---
Dores	0957	0958	---	1545
Inverness	1012	1014	1634	1600
Raigmore	1022r	1022r	---	---

	SD	SH	MWF	TTh
Raigmore	---	---	1410r	1410r
Inverness	0810	0830	1420	1420
Dores	---	0845	1435	1435
Farr Shop	0825	---	---	---
Dunmaglass	0845	---	1445d	---
Abersky	0850	---	1450d	---
Torness	0855	0900	1445	---
Errogie	0905	0910	1455	1459
Inverfarigaig	---	---	---	1452
Low Foyers	---	---	---	1459
Upper Foyers	---	---	---	1503
Strath. Sch.	0910	---	---	---
Gorthleck	0920	0920	1501	1514

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Development and Heritage Officer

for Strathnairn.

This person would be working for 16 hours per month out of Farr Hall for a period of 18 months. If anybody is interested please contact a member of the Strathnairn Community Council or write to the Secretary, Norma Duncan, 2 Leanach Cottages, Culloden Moor IV2 5EH.

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Inverfarigaig	9.15
L. Foyers	9.40
U. Foyers	10.00
Whitebridge	10.30
Gorthleck	11.00
Errogie	11.20

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Events at Stratherrick Hall

Toddlers Group - Wednesdays 10am

Yoga classes - Tuesdays 2-00 - 3-30.

Thursdays 7-00 - 8-30. 'Phone Sylvia on 486434

21st March 8-00 Fiona Knowles in "Women on the Verge of a T
junction". £6/£4.

24th March 7-30 Heritage group inaugural meeting.

29th March 2-4 South Loch Ness Nursery Sale of Work.

31st March 7-30 Talk on Scottish Wildlife by Dick Balharry.
Admission free.

20th April 7-30 Easter Songs of Praise.

10th May 9-30 - 4-30 Life Saving First Aid Course. £4 pre-registration
with Peter Westrick (486464) by 3rd May.

5th June Bob Hall - Blues and Boogie Woogie.

To book the Hall 'phone Judith Borup on 01456 486464

Farr Traditional Music Concerts

29th March 7-45 Session A9 plus Hugh Marwick

26th April 8-00 Andy Irvine

6th June 8-00 Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Tickets from A. Forbes 01808 521333 £7/£5 or Riverside Gallery, Inverness

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Mon & Thur also 2 - 3-30 pm

Next issue: June

Deadline 31st May

to: Buddy MacDougall, The
Coach House, Foyers or
Ana Arrowsmith, An
Treabhair, Errogie. Mark
the envelope "BB"