

The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue No. 16
Autumn 2001

SHINTY BACK FROM THE BRINK

3 months ago Boleskine Camanachd were a club in crisis. It looked certain that it would fold and the famous name would be confined to the annals of history. Today Boleskine is top of the North Division Three. How did this come about? In June, Tesco said that they would sponsor new strips and Farr Sports Committee offered help both with players and committee members. Club secretary Liz MacDonald explained the plans for the future.

Under 12 and under 14 six and nine a side teams would be developed. This is already underway with coaching at Farr on Wednesday nights. The possibility of a mini primary school league with teams from Stratherrick, Farr, Daviot and Tomatin would be explored. An adult team solely from the Foyers/Stratherrick area is no longer viable but could become so by taking in Strathnairn, Farr and Daviot. "Clubs need to provide modern facilities," Liz explained, "and with the excellent facilities at Farr, this option is being explored. As long as we keep the name and the colours then it might make sense to look at using the available facilities. A successful shinty club can give a community something to be proud of. For this reason we ask people in the area to get behind their team. You could help out with coaching, fund raising or just come to the games (details in Friday's Courier) and cheer on the team." Contact Liz MacDonald on 01463 791955.

Saturday 9th September 2001 saw a 9 - 1 win away to Caberfeigh. It was 1 - 0 to Boleskine at half time thanks to a goal by Barry Paterson. In the second half Boleskine dominated the game with goals from Lewis Smith x 4, Barry Paterson x 2 and Steve Munro x 3 -

a tremendous result and an encouraging start to the season.



Local girl Deirdre Fraser from Knockarroch, Whitebridge had a splendid day for her wedding to James Stewart of Hatton of Newtyle, Perthshire. The sun shone and after the wedding ceremony, conducted by the Rev. Alan Lamb in Boleskine Parish church at Druimtemple, the couple were photographed on the shores of Loch Knockie. The reception followed at Gorthleck Hall (decorated by the bride beforehand) which proved to be a perfect venue. The caterer found the facilities excellent and everyone sat down to eat at tables each named after the surrounding hills (Diore Gioblach, Meall Nan Aighean, Cnoc Carrach to name just three). The many guests admired the church and hall settings amid such a beautiful landscape and appreciated how suitable the hall was for the excellent dance band which followed. A real Highland Wedding and such a memorable day. Eddie & Margaret Fraser, Deirdre's parents, tell us that the band's number is 01470 532 488 for anyone interested!

More Power to the Grid

Construction work may begin in April of next year for a new Hydro-electric Scheme on the Garrogie Estate beyond Whitebridge. A private company, Innogy PLC, put forward its plans to a recent meeting of the community council. The scheme will be constructed above the existing intake on the Fechlin River with the intake weir located just below Garrogie Lodge. Power generated by the scheme will be fed into the main grid. The enclosed minutes of the Community Council explain the project in more detail and a map of the scheme can be obtained from any of the Councillors. The plans are to be submitted to the Scottish Executive for distribution to various government agencies during what is believed to be a four month consultation period.

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Highland Councillor
Ella MacRae
01463 751 203

Chairman – John Campbell 486 240, **Secretary** – Fiona Kirkland 486 283,
Treasurer – Tine Butterworth 486 275,
Angus Fraser 486 650, Kenny Fraser 486 220, Elizabeth MacDougall 486 366,
Liam Macnally 486 605, Sandy Macpherson 01463 751213, Eileen Martin 486 661,
Martyn Bateman 486 273

MINUTE OF MEETING TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2001

Present: J W Campbell, I Nisbet, F Kirkland, T Butterworth, L MacNally, E Martin, M Bateman.

Also Present: Police Const. Macleod, Mr D Allen, Mr I Brown, Mr and Mrs Speight.

Correspondence: Duncan MacDonald, Boleskine Shinty Club – re falling membership numbers and in particular the lack of interest from the Foyers and Stratherrick areas. B.E.N. – copy letter in response to the Land Reform draft bill as sent in conjunction with SFCC; WRVS – request for donation – it was decided to send a cheque for £50.00.; Water Industry Commissioner – it was decided to invite him to the meeting on 25 September.

Treasurer: The current account stands at £1619.63 and the project account at £1005.78. A cheque for £50.00 was passed to the secretary to send to Mrs Brown at Foyers school, who is co-ordinating the collection of money for the reflective jackets on behalf of Foyers, Adourie and Stratherrick schools. They will be made available to all the children at the beginning of the new term.

Planning: Letters of objection had been received from Mr and Mrs Allen, Wildside Highland Lodges and from Mr and Mrs Miller, Killiechoilum Farmhouse in connection with the planning application for two houses at Wester Drummond. There was a lot of discussion, the main points raised were;

- housing should be kept within the Whitebridge boundaries
- the land is very exposed and screening trees will take time to grow
- if this application is granted, a third house may be applied for
- too near the road
- housing is needed in the area to keep the community and its services alive

It was put to the vote with a result of three for the application being approved and two against.

There were no objections for the proposed house at Errogie.

Policing: The Police are aware of the problem of speeding through Gorthleck and Errogie. They have carried out a couple of speed checks in the area, although the A82 remains their priority. It was found that the vast majority of people were within the speed limit, although this may still be deemed as too fast. The fact that the speed limit outside the school was 40 mph and not 30 mph as might have been expected. It was agreed that the Safer Routes to School scheme should be brought up at the next Stratherrick School PTA meeting.

Roads and Transport: Mr MacInnes has been reviewing the comment brought up at the public meeting. Some work has been actioned and other work is being prioritized. The Loch Ashie road has suffered as a result of the heavy works traffic using it. The secretary was instructed to write to Mr Dave Warren to request that NOSWA carry out remedial work. It was noted that residents around the Foyers Hotel are experiencing difficulties accessing and leaving their properties as a result not being able to see clearly oncoming traffic and due to its speed.

Water and Sewerage: The water pressure at Whitebridge appears to have reduced over the past year. It was proposed that a visit to the new Water Treatment Works at Loch Ashie be arranged.

A.O.B.: Bottle Bank – It was proposed and agreed that B.E.N. should be given the go ahead to arrange for bottle banks to be placed at the bus stop at Lower Foyers. It was felt that there should be constant monitoring to ensure that fly tipping does not become a problem. Boleskine Bulletin – As the newsletter will now include copies of the SFCC minutes, it was agreed that the Council should give £50.00 to cover the additional printing costs. Noticeboards – it was highlighted that the noticeboards are available for anybody to display information on. Traffic Survey – This will be looked at during the August meeting. Forest Enterprise plans – these will be displayed by B.E.N. in Stratherrick Hall and they welcome any comments.

MINUTE OF MEETING ON TUESDAY 28 AUGUST (Draft)

Present: J W Campbell, A C Fraser, A MacPherson, M Bateman, F Kirkland, E MacDougall, K Fraser.

Also Present: Cllr. Mrs E Macrae, Mr Warren and Mr Penhale – Immogy Hydro

Correspondence: The visit to Inverness Water Treatment Works was arranged for 20 September at 7.00pm.

Treasurer: There had been no cheques paid out since the last meeting, although there were three pending – £50.00 to WRVS, £50.00 to Boleskine Bulletin and £5.21 to Canon for the photocopier.

Planning: There were five applications for planning in the area, none of which were opposed:

- concern was raised that access would have to be carefully considered.

Local Plan – it was highlighted that there is no provision for ad hoc housing in the area, the plan restricts all new building to within community boundaries, which goes against the character and history of the area. The secretary was instructed to make comment and stress that freedom of choice be retained. Under the present guidelines, there will be no further development in either Erroigie or Torness as the earmarked plots have already been sold.

Roads and Transport: The signs at Foyers for the falls are still causing confusion. The proposed service bus times were looked at. The Foyers bus remains unchanged, there is a 17.40 bus leaving Inverness for Whitebridge proposed and the shoppers bus has been enhanced. It was felt that although initially, there may not be great uptake on the later Whitebridge bus, it would give people the opportunity to look for full-time work in Inverness and would give children at the IRA an opportunity to take part in after school activities. It was noted that verge cutting seemed to be very late this year and that none of the side roads were cut back. This has resulted in individuals cutting in some areas to allow visibility. Concerns were also raised about the prospect of winter gritting being cut. Cllr Macrae is not aware of any confirmation of cutbacks. A letter had raised concerns about the strength of the Bailey Bridge at Lower Foyers, but tests have been carried out and assurances made that it is strong enough for the timber lorries using it.

Water and Sewerage It was agreed that the Council members should visit the Inverness water treatment works at Loch Ashie on Thursday 20 September at 7.00pm.

A.O.B. Bins – It was noted that the bin at Loch Ceo Glais has been missing for some months and it is a popular area for camping. The secretary was instructed to request a replacement, although it was felt that it probably wouldn't be replaced at this time of the year. It was noted that the bins at Foyers shop were overflowing. Cllr Macrae had been informed that a request had been made and granted that the 'white witch' should come to Boleskine Cemetery on Monday 3 September and be filmed 'removing the curse'. There was unanimous objection to this and Cllr Macrae said that she would contact the Environmental Health department to object in the strongest terms and if she should fail to stop it then she would contact the members of the council. If necessary, an interdict should be sought. Foyers Graveyard – a seat is missing. Cllr Macrae will investigate.

Bracken Spraying – concern had been raised as a result of bracken spraying over Easter Aberchalder, especially because it was close to the water supply for Gorthleck. Cllr Macrae had investigated and found that SEPA, NOSWA and the Highland Council all have to be involved before permission is given. Two licences have to be applied for, but the EHO are only given 24 hours notice of it actually being carried out. It had not been possible to ascertain as yet, what was actually sprayed, but investigations will continue.

Transport Survey – specific points highlighted in the survey were discussed;

- the later bus timetables will allow children to become involved in after school activities.

- transportation problems to and from the medical centre and post office in Foyers are still a problem. The best solution would be to set up a community car scheme, but this would require a dedicated team of organizers and drivers. People at present rely on neighbours, but it is felt that most would feel happier about paying for a service. It may be a suitable project for Rural Funding Grants.

- The school bus contracts are out to tender at present. It may result in routes being changed, pick-up points and children's entitlement to transport being altered.

Land at Inverfarigaig – The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust are interested in buying this plot of land for development, as well as looking at land in Torness and at Whitebridge. If they do not buy it, it is felt that other developers will.

Proposed Hydro Scheme at Garrogie - Innogy PLC

Presently the company operate electricity generating projects mainly in England and Wales but are moving into Scotland with hydro schemes as a result of Government incentives to increase the proportion of power generated from renewable sources.

They propose that the work on the scheme at Garrogie should commence in April (dependant on approval) and would be expected to take about a year – six months construction and six months fitting. It would be sited on the River Fechlin above the existing Scottish and Southern intake. The weir would be a maximum of 2 metres high and would have a flooded area about 50m behind it. The pipe would be buried from the weir to the powerhouse, approximately 2 km long, with a 60m drop. There would be three bridge crossings to avoid sensitive habitats and due to the lie of the land. The powerhouse will be tucked into the hillside, leaving existing trees as screening.

All water will be discharged back into the Fechlin. Permanent access would be from the main road around the back of the plantation. There will be an overhead power line from the power house to the existing Southern and Scottish lines, which will be upgraded, i.e. a thicker line installed.

The Council were concerned about the narrowness of the road and the use of heavy vehicles and the damage that they may cause. Innogy assured the council that in the unlikely event of any damage, the contractor would be responsible for repairs. The road will be considered before any construction begins.

SNH are being consulted about the visual and environmental impact of the project. Fish surveys have been undertaken and there should be no affect made to the present population.

Innogy will have a 25 year lease from Garrogie, after which time it will revert to Garrogie's property. The maintenance contract may be offered to Garroie. It is an unmanned scheme, but will require regular checks. It will be remotely controlled from South Wales. There may be a Community Contribution made, either as a lump sum or as an annual payment.

Planning permission is applied for to the Scottish Ministers to construct and operate a power station, another has to be sought for the overhead cables. It normally takes about four months, assuming there are no objections. There is then a period of final consultation and negotiations about the plans and construction, hence the proposed start date of April.

The Council voiced no objections.

FOYERS IN THE FORTIES

Anna McLaren has happy memories of her early years in Foyers when she came as a bride married to Argie in 1941.

At that time the British Aluminium Company factory was in full production and had a huge influence on village life. Each flat round the green contained young families and the green was never empty of swarms of children playing there and on the rocks behind the houses. Foyers school had a headmaster and three teachers who taught children up to the age of fourteen using the present building and the wooden structured class rooms (recently demolished).

Social life was never dull. Whist drives and dances were held in the B.A. Club (now Foyers House hostel and restaurant) and the Church Hall was in continual use by the W.R.I., Girls' Guildry and the Boys' Club, badminton and sales of work. There was a bowling green at the south entrance to the village which was sacrificed when the road was widened and a tennis court and pavilion where the Medical Centre now stands.

Each household was encouraged to keep tidy gardens by the B.A. who held a competition each year with prizes for the best flower and vegetable garden. A legacy of wartime "Dig for Victory" meant that vegetable and soft fruit gardens had been opened up behind the houses and hens were kept in runs up there too.

Foyers was probably one of the first villages to have electric light (from the Falls of Foyers Hydro Power which ran the factory) and there were lamp posts all down the path to the factory to light the way for men on shift work. But the houses all had paraffin lamps! Every house had its own toilet but only a cold water tap so the tin bath was filled with hot water heated on the range. B.A. employees were fortunate to have the use of hot baths at the Club. Sheds for storing coal were across the road behind the house and every year B.A. gave each house a load of free wood for the fire from the sawmill beside the factory. Whenever needed, employees painted and papered each house and also cleaned the chimneys free of charge.

Provisions were bought in the village from the two shops previously on the site of the present shop and cafe. Butchers meat, groceries, paraffin and petrol and haberdashery goods were supplied by Gibson's and Ken Ross's and even down at the men's hostel at Lower Foyers Roddy McKenzie sold groceries. Ecky Cameron of Glenlia farm supplied milk from his horse-drawn machine which filled each household pail. Jock Foyers of Foyers Mains also had a milk round. Jimmy Grant of the Intake used to cut hair and repair shoes. Vans came out from Inverness to sell their wares. Camerons and Sloans sold clothing to families who could pay off so much per week. A typical B.A. wage after the war was £9.00 a week which had to keep large families. There was a very slow bus service to Inverness which ran from the old McBraynes garage (half-way down to Lower Foyers).

Dr. Lamont had a tiny surgery at the present doctor's house. He did home deliveries of babies for two guineas a confinement with the mother required to wash and return his white coat. The district nurse did her rounds on her bike.

Foyers and Boleskine churches were packed with villagers every Sunday. Five shillings a year was paid for a family pew (the names can still be seen on notices on the pews!) The minister lived in the old manse near Boleskine church (now the home of the McNally family). Services were

shared by the minister and a missionary who lived in the Foyers Manse. Old people were catered for by Mrs. Lawson the under-manager's wife who held an Old Peoples' Club in a building called The Shack where tea and coffee and cakes were served and whist was played. The Manager of the B.A. lived in what is now Foyers Bay House and the under-manger in the former Craigdarroch House.

*Buddy MacDougall.
With thanks to Anna.*



Anna McLaren with two of her five children at the Fountain, on the Green at Glenlia in the Forties

GM Concern

On Saturday 18th August, several Stratherrick people took part in a GM Rally, marching from Eastgate to Bught Park, where various speakers voiced their concerns over the development of GM crops. Young mum Catriona Spink from Gorthleck became one of the 'Munlochy eleven', a group arrested for its peaceful protest to halt the planting of GM oilseed rape at Rhives Farm, Munlochy. Why do people in our midst see GMOs (genetically modified organisms) as such a threat? Read on.....

- No one knows what effect GMOs will have on our environment or health. We do know that results can be undesirable - monarch caterpillar larvae were killed by pollen from GM maize that produces its own insecticide. Up till now, living organisms have evolved very slowly, over millennia. Now genes from totally unrelated species can cross all biological boundaries virtually overnight (such as fish antifreeze spliced into strawberries). Wholly new associations can be developed. Have we crossed a barrier that should have remained inviolate?

- Some scientists believe that by eating GM food, we may develop resistance to certain antibiotics because of the various marker genes used in genetic engineering. Gene changes in food can also create unexpected allergies eg. GM soya beans, modified with a brazil nut gene, caused allergic reactions in people with nut allergies. Because most genes used in GM food come from sources which have never been part of the human diet, there is no guarantee that they will not cause allergic or toxic reactions.

- GM advocates claim that GM crops will reduce the use of agrochemicals. But when crops are modified to be resistant to one type of herbicide (the Black Isle crop is resistant to glufosinate), that resistance can spread to weeds. "Superweeds" develop and stronger herbicides are needed to control them. GM crops can be blanket sprayed because of their resistance to the herbicide but this could spell disaster for millions of already declining birds and plants. There will inevitably be cross pollination with other crops and wild relatives. Even rare genetic transfers could have devastating effects, which may take years to become apparent.

- Most processed foods now contain some GM ingredients, though at present manufacturers don't have to state that. And if you are vegetarian, how can you guarantee your broccoli does not contain a bit from a rat? At the moment you can buy organic, but if contamination occurs, organic certification will become meaningless. GMOs could mean the collapse of organic farming and the collapse of choice.

- Advocates state that GM crops could solve world hunger. More likely, GM crops would concentrate agricultural power in the hands of a few multinational companies whose motives are to generate profits rather than to make third world agriculture more productive.

To get local, our Stratherrick GM protestors argue that the risks which the Munlochy trial poses to the Highland environment and to our agricultural economy are too great to allow it to continue. They demand that the Precautionary Principle is pursued and that as a consequence the Black Isle crop should be destroyed before it comes into flower next spring. This is only one side of the argument. Aventis CropScience (who carry out these trials) thinks otherwise.....What do you think? What would you do if Aventis came knocking on Stratherrick's door?

For more information about your local GM Concern Group, contact www.gmconcern.org.uk or Imogen Young, Membership Secretary, HIGMC, Henrietta Park, Balblair, Dingwall IV7 8LJ.

STOP PRESS The herbicide that is going to be sprayed on the trial crop at Munlochy has just been proven to cause convulsions in humans and rodents.

COMPOST ROT

- report by Heather.

All 28 compost bins are now in circulation (and hopefully in use!). Thanks to those of you who have sent in their monitoring forms for August...could I jog a few memories? I'd be delighted to receive more! Monitoring forms for December will be sent out soon. Information gleaned from returned forms shows that 130 kg of waste was composted that August week. Pretty good going for just eleven of you! Most of this was kitchen and garden waste, with some paper, cardboard and horse manure being thrown in too. We have been given a book by the Council called 'Backyard Composting'. It's full of useful information and is on loan to anyone participating in the compost scheme. Phone Heather (486 774) if you'd like to borrow it.

If you are concerned about waste issues, then there is another publication of interest. 'Your Rubbish, Your Views: Future Options for Highland Waste' is a public consultation document available from SEPA. There's an important section at the back which enables you to express your views. Contact SEPA on 01349 860 367 or online www.sepa.org.uk/consultation/ to obtain your copy. Exercise your people power!

Community Training Seminars

'Talking it through'; 'Money Matters'; 'Making it Happen'; 'Go for It'.

These seminars are a series of short sessions to help community project volunteers solve problems. For more information contact Helen on 01463 791442; email: hkmc@h-kmackie.supanet.com or visit the Community Toolkit web site at www.communitytoolkit.org.uk

Rural Conference - 6th October,

Saturday 6th March at Kirkhill Primary School 10.30am-4.00pm. The aim of the day is to provide community groups with the opportunity to meet other groups and supporting organisations, to share ideas and seek advice on a variety of community themes/projects.

Contact Nicole Wallace, Partnership for Rural Inverness & Nairn 01463 713503; email: n.wallace@hient.co.uk or Community Council Secretary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The bait taken!!

With reference to the Editorial Comment in last issue, I must confess to getting a little hot under the collar, especially at the latter part portraying something belonging to us, being stolen. Then I realised the article was intended to do just that. Provided the good people of Farr don't sue for slander, I will swallow the bait and make a response.

Of course you cannot steal someone's culture, or their Shinty, or whatever Club; we can only lose these things through default - by our own seeming indifference. Incidentally, the Feis group is called "The Stratherrick & Strathnairn Feis Group", and it was intended to hold alternative tutoring classes at Gorthleck and Farr. Unfortunately, only one local family enrolled, which made it impractical to come to Stratherrick Hall, especially as some tutors came from Inverness. Whose fault? Ours! This is not a dying community.....but only we can prove this by our actions.

I share the hope of the BB that contributors will come forward with some constructive ideas and I personally put forward a couple for consideration; ideas that have slumbered for too long.....waiting for somebody else to do. One is to form a musical group for all persons in the area sharing an interest or knowledge of music: instrumental, vocal, dance, technical backup, or whatever. There is a lot of hidden talent in our community, of all age groups, and it may be that because the Feis movement, by charter, is Gaelic orientated, some may think it is not for them. A complementary musical club or group would fill this perceived gap. The second thought, also lying dormant for too long, is to simply form a local Heritage Group, for the very good reasons of developing knowledge and pride in our area, with its vibrant history, and to preserve such knowledge for our children and grandchildren. Every activity which brings people together, and makes use of our excellent hall facilities, will have a knock-on effect.....as Farr Hall so adequately demonstrates. Anybody interested in either of these potential programmes, please leave your name and telephone number with the Boleskine Bulletin, or list it at Foyers Shop ----and see what develops. This is our countryside, our culture, our hall. Only we can safeguard them! How about it?

Hugh MacNally

A Contented Community?

I write with reference to the article regarding 'Apathy in our community'. Is apathy being confused with complacency and contentment. As a child growing up in this community, I was aware of community spirit, many social functions held in Gorthleck Hall were family centred. I am sure there are still some folks around who fondly remember 'The Braxy Ball'. This was community spirit at its best, money raised by the people for the people! Sadly, many of the local stalwarts involved in this organisation are no longer with us and their loss is evident. As new faces appear with new ideas, traditions and values are lost, and replaced with innovative suggestions which may not work in this community. With a community age range spanning many generations, many of the new ideas are not appealing to the more, mature, the middle aged or the young; others perhaps are too busy with family, career etc. With decreasing employment and housing opportunities locally, it is necessary for young people to move out with the area in order to find work, this may be a factor in the diminishing shinty support.

This is traditionally a farming community. For those living in this way, it is often difficult to find time to participate in some social activities, depending on the season. We need to look at the younger generation too, in order to encourage them to develop. This is where the future of our community lies, perhaps this is the place to start. Has the BB considered a survey to see what local people would like to see happening in their community?

Yours etc. *Eileen Martin, Tyndrum.* (good idea - could the C.C. fund it? -ed.)

Sad Display?

While visiting my sister in this part of my native Scotland I was dismayed to notice a resurgence in the use of weed killer on roadside edges of dwellings and round children's public play areas. I thought people on the whole were more attuned to 'greener' methods of weed eradication, (such as strimming) and I found the brown dying vegetation offensive to the eye and a blot on this beautiful landscape.

Jean Wannop, Leamington Spa.

Editorial - Lack of public consultation

In August a helicopter was seen spraying chemicals on land adjacent to the Stratherrick & Foyers water-supply. Investigations by the BB revealed that Easter Aberchelder estate was attempting to eliminate bracken by spraying herbicide from the air. No public consultation needs to take place for these operations but there are strict rules set down by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. It is a legal requirement that the company involved informs S.E.P.A. of their intentions at least 72 hours in advance and then again 24hrs before operations start. It is S.E.P.A.'s responsibility to inform the Water Authority. A 160m buffer zone must be maintained along all water courses in the catchment upstream of supply intakes. It is the responsibility of the contractor to inform the

Local Authority. Aerial spraying of bracken is increasingly common throughout the Highlands yet there is no consultation with local communities and only three days to consult with local authorities; only one day if the application is made on Friday afternoon! Local authority planning controls appear to be inconsistent. You or I need planning permission to change the shape of our windows or to build a shed but owners of large tracts of land are able to spray chemicals near water supplies, plant GM crops or develop hydro schemes without public consultation. The proposed hydro scheme on the Fechlin may or may not be a suitable development for the area. What seems unfair however is the lack of opportunity for the public to respond through normal planning channels.

Boleskine Bulletin

FOYERS SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT

Full Steam Ahead...

Foyers School's youngest pupils ended their first summer term with a glimpse of the age of steam. They read stories about steam railways and built a table-top model under the expert guidance of



classroom assistant and engine-driver, Mrs Fred Donald. Finally, they rounded off their project with an exciting, whole-school excursion on the real Strathspey steam railway. After a return trip from Aviemore to Boat of Garten and opportunities to view the engine at close quarters under the supervision of the driver and fireman, the school rounded off the day with a guided tour of the Highland Wildlife Park at Kingussie.

Left: Some of Foyers School's youngest pupils proudly display the model railway they have helped Mrs Donald to build on their classroom table.

And for our next exhibit... A year-long study of 'The Changing Face of Foyers', sponsored by *British Telecom*, is to be rounded-off with an exhibition. Work by the children of Foyers School will be displayed at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery this Autumn. Watch this space for further details...

Theatre for Youth

It is more than two centuries since wolves roamed Scottish forests. That did not prevent children from Foyers, Aldourie and Stratherrick schools from appreciating the story of 'Peter and the Wolf' – dramatised excitingly by members of the *Theatre for Youth*. The theatre group, based in faraway Manchester, is currently touring Scotland to encourage interest in drama and story-telling by schools and young people.



Above: Members of the Manchester-based 'Theatre for Youth' dramatise scenes from 'Peter and the Wolf' for the children of Foyers, Aldourie and Stratherrick schools.

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FOYERS SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT continued...

There once was a person from Limerick...

Stuck? – or can you compose the remaining four lines? Limericks are not easy to write, as Foyers pupils have been discovering in a short language-based project. Focusing on the work of Edward Lear, the project is intended to introduce children to rules governing rhyming and syllable-count in verse.

Primary 7 pupil, Callum Bellingham and Primary 5 pupil, Hannah Grainger, researched the life of Edward Lear, finding that...

...he was born in London in 1812 and died in 1888, so he was 76 years old. He died in San Remo of epilepsy and depression. He had 20 brothers and sisters and his older sister, Ann, brought him up.

'Mr Lear liked travelling and was famous for his drawings of places he visited; Italy, Albania, Illyria, Calabria, Corsica, Egypt, the Holy Land, Greece and India. He also wrote about botany. Limericks became very popular in 1846 when Mr Lear published his own book of nonsense Limericks. No-one knows where the first Limerick came from, but people believe that it came from a song about a town called Limerick in Ireland.

All his lyrics were very famous, though not all were Limericks. His favourite's were; 'The Jumblies' and 'The Owl and the Pussy Cat'.

Here are some examples of our own Limericks:

*There was an old purple-haired punk
Who picked up millions of junk.
She picked up a crown
And out burst a clown
That naughty old purple-haired punk*

Hannah Burgess, Primary 5

*There was an old man called Todd
Who went for a walk with a cod.
When he looked at the sky
He started to cry
That shy old man with a cod.*

Hannah Grainger, Primary 5

*There was an old lady from the coast
Who thought she saw a big ghost.
When she found it was a cow
She gave it a row
That very old lady from the coast*

Iain Craven, Primary 6



Visitor numbers up despite F&M

At the Falls visitor numbers are up on last summer, making up for the drop when Foot and Mouth was at its height. Katy Stirling reports that the new fencing work is progressing well with the money spent working out at 11p per visitor over the last 2.5 years, "good value for money given we've been replacing ancient infrastructure! The next work planned is to upgrade the rest of the path to the upper viewpoint, that's a big job and trying to get the funding together won't be easy!"

On Thursday 9th August, **A THANKSGIVING SERVICE** for the life of Lady Serena Bridgeman, of Dell, was held at St. Paul's Church, Croachy. The church was filled to capacity. The service was led by the Reverend Martyn Bateman who, like so many of those present, had come to know Serena as a very good friend. Tributes of gratitude for her life were led by Mr. Kit Bowen from Strathpeffer and by her younger brother, the Honourable Charles Bridgeman, who plans to maintain Dell Estate for the foreseeable future. Refreshments were provided at the Lodge afterwards by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Campbell from the Whitebridge Hotel.

Squirrel Update

New squirrel signs are again in place this autumn to help them access their winter food supply. There are moves afoot to try and create a red squirrel group to co-ordinate and share red squirrel activities. The first meeting was on Wednesday 5th September but anyone interested should contact Ian Collier, Woodland Officer of the Forestry Commission on 01349 862144.



CHRISTIAN COMMENT

'Thankyou' is a phrase we like to encourage children to use and one we like to hear ourselves! Over 1000 years before Jesus Christ, the people of Israel were given instructions by Moses to bring a gift to the priest at the place of worship and say "I bring to the Lord the first part of the Harvest he has given me" (Deuteronomy 26v10). Three thousand years later the Jews will celebrate this festival of Succoth on October 2nd. Many Christian Churches encourage the same practice. On October 7th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Croachy there will be a Harvest Festival Service - 11am followed by lunch at Farr Hall. All will be welcome to this occasion - and to say Thankyou to God at the regular Church Services for all His goodness to each one of us throughout the Year.

Martyn Bateman

STRATHERRICK FEIS

The Feis will restart on 16th November at 7pm. If you want to learn to play fiddle, chanter, tin whistle, guitar, bodhran or keyboard or step dancing then come along to Farr Hall. Classes last for about 40 mins. and you can take two on any one evening. After that we finish with a wee concert led by the class tutors. Enjoyment guaranteed in a

very relaxed environment. Caters for all ages. The sessions are once a month and run through to April.



New life

has come to our area in the shape of:-
MIRELLA COCKERILL (Ault na Goire) born 28th January.
HAMISH BAIN (Glenlia) born 4th February.
GREGOR MACLEOD (Police House, Foyers) born 26th March
ALEXANDER BROWN (Whitebridge) born 12th July
and those who have moved here recently:
JACK MACADAM (3 years old) and baby CLARA MACADAM (Glenlia)
SORCHA HILL (2 years old) (Foyers Shop)
and baby ANDREW STOCKS (Glenlia)

Church Meetings

Church of Scotland

Sunday 10am Boleskine; 11.30am Dore; 6pm Foyers; Last Sunday 11-30am as announced. Tel: Rev. J. Christie 486206.

Episcopal Church

Sunday 11am Croachy; Wednesday 10-30am as announced. Tel: Rev. J. Evans 01808 521397.

Free Church

Sunday 12 noon Erroglie; 6pm Farr; Thursday 7-30pm as announced. Tel: Mr. J. Campbell 486240.

Free Church (continuing)

Sunday 10.30am & 4.15pm Dore; Wednesday 7.30pm. Tel: Mr. D. Fraser 486408.

Free Presbyterian Church

Sunday 12 noon Farr; 5-30pm as announced. Tel: Mr E. Fraser 486282.

Roman Catholic Church

Sunday 12 noon Whitebridge; mid-week as announced. Tel: Rev. P. Bonnici 01320 366451.

Inter-Denominational Bible Study

10-30 am Thursday as announced. Tel: Rev. M. Bateman 486273 for details.

THANK-YOUS!

Scooter for Iona

The scooter has arrived and seems to be in constant use this summer. When invited to a meal at the Abbey, we were able to hand over a cheque for the last of the money raised. This will be added to a maintenance fund which is now in place to ensure the upkeep of the scooter on Iona. Margaret and I would like to thank again all who helped achieve their daughter Adele's dream. It is a fitting memorial. Thank you.
Colin Adamson, Inverfarigaig

Colin Adamson and Eddie Moore would like to say a very big "Thank you" to all those generous people who supported and sponsored them on their walk across Scotland in aid of **the Highland Hospice**. A total of £500 was raised. The 170 mile round trip, taking in the South Glenshiel ridge with its 7 Munros was a rare challenge and we were met with great kindness along the way. Too many highlights to mention but Glen Affric was pretty spectacular! Thanks again to everyone!
Eddie Moore

RED CROSS SALE

The sale this year was opened by Dr. Margaret Conway from Foyers whose late husband Donald was a keen supporter of the Red Cross and was our local organiser for a few years. After declaring the sale open, Dr. Conway was presented with a box of chocolates by Sophie Chattington. We were delighted to have an unexpected visit from Miss Claire Dixon Carter, the President of the Branch Council. Although we did not have the usual numbers attending the sale this year a cheque for £672.50 was sent to the Red Cross for the Disaster Fund. On behalf of the Red Cross, I would like to thank EVERYONE who contributed in any way towards the success of the sale.
Rose Fortune

NURSERY NEWS

It's all change at South Loch Ness Nursery! After their AGM on 5th September, Mandy Stoddart now holds the Chair, Rory Robinson is the Treasurer and Jenny MacAdam the Secretary. A new Administrator also joins the staff - Ann Forsyth has taken over an ever increasing load of paperwork! For information about the nursery contact Ann on 486 481 (evening).

INVERNESS FIDDLERS gave us a delightful evening of traditional music in the hall at Gorthleck recently in aid of hall funds. Around £120 was raised. Many thanks to the Fiddlers for their generous offer to play and to those who attended.



COFFEE EVENING IN FOYERS CHURCH HALL

On Friday 24th August, recognition was given to Donald Mackintosh's service to the Dores and Boleskine Church as Session Clerk and to his wife Margaret's membership of the Woman's Guild. (They are the parents of Dr. Gregor Mackintosh and have retired to Balloch after farming at Antfield, Dores). Coffee, cakes and entertainment were provided. The Choir accompanied by keyboard, guitar, horn and drums (played by Rosie Kern, Eddie Moore, Colin Adamson and Callum Martin) first presenting songs of a religious nature and finishing by a resounding rendition of songs from 'My Fair Lady'. Donald and Margaret were presented with gifts of appreciation from the congregation, one of which was a picture of a Highland snow scene by local artist Brian Clarkson.



Planning Applications

Mr & Mrs A. Fraser, Lynemhor Lodge, Gorthleck - erection of one-storey dwelling house, land at Tom A'Mhoid, Gorthleck; Mr & Mrs Marston, 38 Methersgate, Basildon, Essex. - single storey family home, Upper Knockchoilum, Whitebridge; John Rule, Innishenlannie, Knockchoilum, Whitebridge - Bungalow, land at Moor of Knockchoilum, Whitebridge; Mr & Mrs Ambrose, Evergreen, Inverfarigaig - for extension; Dan Kelly, 6 Victoria Drive, South Darenth, Watford for conversion and extension of existing disused barn into house with adjacent garage Lochgarthside.



Make Money -

Stratherrick hall bookings have remained steady but the Hall, sadly, stands empty most of the time. Why not use the Hall for your own venture? - **if you make the booking, you keep the takings!!** Some halls regularly have cafes, coffee mornings and concerts. What about a food market or other local service? - or raise money for your favourite charity. If you are proposing a new regular long term booking, the first two sessions come **free** while you test support. To make a booking contact Cathie Stoddart on 486329.
Hall Committee



Foyers Stores

Winter opening from 1st October:
Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri: 9.00-17.30
Tues: (half day) 9.00 - 13.00
Saturday: 9.00 - 17.00
Sunday: 12.00 - 14.00

Post Office opening hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9.00-13.00
Wed, Frid, Sat: 10.00-13.00
Mon and Thurs also 14.00 -15.30

Mobile Library

Wednesday

Foyers Coach House 11.15-11.25;
Lower Foyers Riverside 11.35-12.20;
Glenlia Road 1.30-1.55;
Foyers Primary School 2.00-2.40;
Inverfarigaig 2.45-3.05

Thursday

Erroglie 11.20-11.45;
Stratherrick Primary School 11.55-12.25;
Gorthleck Hall 12.30-12.45;
Craft Shop 12.50-1.10;
Whitebridge 2.10-2.40

Boleskine Bulletin Management Committee will be holding their first AGM in Stratherrick Hall on Friday 19th October at 7.30pm. The BB has been running for four years. Please come along if you have any ideas, raising funds or otherwise. The editor needs writers to help, especially people with inquisitive minds! It can be fun following a story up and the more people who contribute the better. Stops it becoming boring!



IMPROVED BUS SERVICES

In October, Highland Council's Rural Transport department will be announcing possible improvements to the local bus services. The Boleskine Bulletin hopes to be able to publish the new timetables in the next issue.

Foyers Shop now has mobile phone top-up facilities

KEEP FIT Classes start at Kilchuimen Academy, on Monday 10th September, 7.30pm

Class motto for Health and Fitness:

This is not a slimmers class nor is it an aerobics one
A bit of everything you'll find makes exercising lots of fun
It's beneficial as you'll see....I think you'll heartily agree
Now is your chance to do or die....be resolute, enrol and try
Don't just sit there on the settee...bring your body for an MOT
The story goes if it be told....you're never too young and never too old
Time goes by but it's not too late.. so ladies do not hesitate
Whether you're long or short or tall....really it does not matter at all
Forget your size it's always wise....get yourself fit and be a hit!



Interested? phone Iris on 01320 366235 for Keep Fit and Dance classes.

Guided Walks

Highland Archaeology Week

Saturday 13th October 12-4pm

Visiting the Bronze Age, Abriachan

Imagine travelling back in time 5,000 years.... This event is part of Archaeology Week. Meet in the Achpopuli Road car park

Sunday 14th October 2-4pm

Family Event

Archaeological Antics, Clava Cairns

See how well you would have fared in days gone by! Could you have survived thousands of years ago? Take part in one of our Highland Archaeology Week events. To book a place contact Saranne Bish on (01463) 724312.



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Deadline for next issue: 20th November.
Send to: The Editor, Norbu,
Lochgarthside, Gorthleck, or leave at
Foyers shop marked BB, or email
odonovan_jane@hotmail.com.

Thanks to Ray Cooper for the printing

WINTER EVENTS IN STRATHERRICK HALL

Mondays Monday Club - not starting yet.
Tuesdays Bowls starts 16th October, 7.30 pm. Tel. 486377/329
Wednesdays Parents and Toddlers 9-30 am.
Country Dancing starts 26th September, 7.30 pm.
Thursdays Badminton seems to have faded away. Where are you?

PRE CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 10AM - 4PM
14 CRAFT TABLES FILLED WITH INTERESTING GIFTS FOR
CHRISTMAS
JEWELLERY, TOY CLOCKS, TAPESTRIES, MORE TOYS, BASKETS
AND MUCH ELSE
FREE ADMISSION. REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

University of Aberdeen Evening Talks

Tuesday 6th November: Travels of a Geologist: Karachi to Caithness
Monday 3rd December: Whisky & Freedom: the story of illicit whisky
distilling in Scotland. Both at 7-30 pm.

Friday 5th October: 7-30 pm Autumn Gospel Rally. Speaker: Rev. Dr.
Andrew McGowan, Principal, The Highland Theological College. Refreshments.

Friday 19th October: Ceilidh Dance. - contact Hugh MacNally 486605.
7-30 pm Boleskine Bulletin AGM.

Saturday 18th November: Ceilidh/Hall Birthday Party in aid of the "I
Can Learn foundation". Music by "The Infidles".

FARR TRADITIONAL MUSIC CONCERTS

Friday 26th October at 8pm BRUCE MACGREGOR and friends.

Saturday 10th November at 8pm ANDY IRVINE.

**Friday 30th November, at 8pm MAGGIE MACINNES, CHARLIE
MACKERRON (Capercaillie) and BRIAN MACALPINE** on St.
Andrews Night.

Community Council Meetings: 25th September Gorthleck, 23rd
October Foyers, 27th November Gorthleck. All meetings start at 7.30 pm
and are held in the Hall at Gorthleck or the Foyers power station. Chairman:
John Campbell 486240. All meetings are open to all.

The Boleskine Bulletin accepts no legal liability for the views expressed by
individual contributors. Extra copies of the BB available from Buddy MacDougal
on 486366. (50p per copy inc. postage).

To advertise:

contact Chris Smith on 486625, or leave at shop.

Charges:

£10 for four issues in the Trade Directory.

Display Advertising: £5 for a 2" column box per issue.

Small ads. free for items under £100.