

The Boleskine Bulletin



Issue No. 17
Winter 2001

TWO BOOKS AND A TAPE

Gentle Warrior is the name given by Annabel Goldsmith of Whitebridge to a book which she has written about her father Hugh Grant who came originally from Knockie. Hugh Grant had a love of adventure and wild places which took him to the Northern Frontier of Kenya after a distinguished service in the First World War. There he farmed, served with the Colonial Administration, and led a highly effective military unit, the 1st Irregulars, against the Italians in Ethiopia during the Second World War. The book seeks to capture a life lived in remote and inhospitable surroundings, and often involving hardship and separation from loved ones. Hugh Grant's life, tragically cut short, was one of great passion and energy, his nature that of the frontiersman, but also of a devoted husband and father. Gentle Warrior

ing tunes and writing songs for years, delighting friends and local audiences. However, like many in the old tradition, he plays his melodeon and harmonica only by ear, and his tunes have not been available to other players and singers. In collaboration with Eric Allan of the Inverness music charity Highland Music Trust, Hugh recorded the music on cassette, Eric transcribed it, and the Trust has now published the collection under the title Music from South Loch Ness. Eric was impressed by the quality of the music, which he describes as "straight from the heart, combining nostalgia, infectious rhythm and sheer fun". These include tunes dedicated to old friends and musicians - Angus Grant, Farquhar MacRae and Bob Pegg, a bright schottische - The Stars of Strathnairn - for local youngsters learning fiddle at the feis, as well as flowing waltzes and evocative songs. The book was launched at a concert given by folk legend Andy Irvine in the Farr Community Hall on 10 November. The Book is available from Highland Music Trust, Arras, Drumossie, Inverness IV2 5BB at £5 post free, with all profits going to the Trust's charitable objects.



spans 50 years, 1897-1946, two world wars and two continents. The story is told in a compilation of text linked to Hugh's colourful and fascinating letters to his family and wife. Richly illustrated with 180 photographs and 30 beautiful pen drawings of African wildlife by Murray Grant, his grandson. It is available in hardback (239mm x 264mm; 283 pages) at a cost of £20.00. If you would like a copy contact Annabel on 486643 (local price £17.50).

Music from South Loch Ness is by Hugh MacNally, a 74 year old Gorthleck resident, who has been compos-

From Sea to Sea - The Great Glen Waterway - is a new cassette tape following a journey along the route of the Caledonian Canal, through music, song, story, verse and reminiscence. It is the last stage of a project set up in 1999 by Cultural & Leisure Services, Highland Council, to tie in with a wider EU TERRA funded programme entitled "Historic Canals: Living Waterways". Contributors from around Loch Ness include Hugh MacNally, Gorthleck on melodeon & mouth organ and Angus Grant on fiddle, both of whom grew up in Fort Augustus. Angus plays tunes linked with places along the Great Glen, including at least one from the Simon Fraser of Knockie collection. Hugh plays a couple of his own compositions and tells a local anecdote. There are vivid memories of work aboard the paddle-steamer, the Gondolier, from Willie Batchen, Foyers and of life at Invermoriston Pier, from Pat MacDonald whose father and grandfather were piermasters. The tape features around 20 different local contributors and some of the songs and pieces of music have been recorded here for the first time. It lasts over an hour - good value at £6.99 - and is being sold from the Council Service Point in Church St., Inverness and the British Waterways Heritage Centre in Fort Augustus. Or, leave a message on 01997 421186.

WATCH OUT FOR THE ICE !!

Highland Councils Road & Transport Services have published information on Winter Maintenance throughout the Highlands. The B roads in this area are classified as Priority 2 roads - "covered between 06.00 - 21.00, Monday to Saturday, all other roads are subject to the resources available". However due to enormous financial cut backs the level of gritting has been affected. Our local contractor for Highland Council explains:

"The level of winter gritting throughout the Highland Region has been reduced by approximately 33%. In this area, that means that where gritting and snow clearing were previously carried out by 3 gritters this has been reduced to 2 gritters. The result is that as the day progresses some roads either get treated later, or are not treated at all. It is unrealistic to expect every road to be treated in times of snow fall owing to time spent on the B roads. Should you wish to travel to Inverness in the morning from Stratherrick your best route would be to go down the Pass of Inverfarigaig and travel to Dores by the Loch Ness side road. Please bear in mind that as contractors we are simply carrying out the instructions of Highland Council. Should you wish an improved service, your contact must be the Councillor for this Area - Mrs Ella MacRae".

Angus C. Fraser, Contractors, Gorthleck.

Fire Brigade seeks site

(extract from Community Council minutes Oct 30th)

Present at the meeting were Mick Bryant- Sub Officer Foyers and Nick Granger along with Mr John Docherty Assistant Divisional Officer, Inverness who informed the Council that the Auxiliary Unit based at Foyers had outgrown its current location at the industrial unit in Lower Foyers. The group is being upgraded to a retained unit with training sessions increased to two a month, equipment upgraded and a proper fire tender provided. A plot of ground about 30m x 30m on which to build new facilities is needed. The facilities could also be used by other community organisations. The Community Council agreed to give its support to any application and would back the development.

Doctors share weekends



Doctors Gregor and Lesley Mackintosh will, from the 23rd of November, be sharing weekend out of hours medical cover with Dr Iain Farmer and Dr Jill Skeoch, the Fort Augustus GP's. They will, on alternate weekends, answer the telephone and see those who need medical attention either at the Medical Centre at Foyers or at home if they are unable to travel. The telephone will be automatically diverted to Fort Augustus, when they are on call, so there is no change in telephone numbers. Owing to the difficult driving conditions that can occur over winter months, this arrangement will only be from April to December. This will mean more travelling and work for all the doctors but fewer weekends on call. There will be a three months trial to assess this sharing of weekend medical care.

Why change and why do it now? There have recently been some well publicised problems recruiting doctors willing to work in rural areas. Young doctors can earn a lot more doing short term locum work than working as a rural GP, and in urban areas GPs do very little on-call work - that is medical care after 6pm and at weekends. General Practice is now administered by the Highland Primary Care NHS Trust. It has been encouraging rural GPs to work more closely with neighbouring practices and to look at sharing out of hours cover. It hopes by doing so it will make rural general practice more attractive to young doctors now and in the future

Some Objection to Inverfarigaig Houses

On Monday 19th November another meeting was organised by the Community Council to discuss low cost housing for the area. Representatives of the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) and Albyn Housing attended and explained that the remit of the HSCHT is to acquire land for affordable rented housing within small communities. Inverfarigaig, Gorthleck and Foyers have been identified for possible development. Despite opposition to housing in Inverfarigaig Mr Williams (HSCHT) pointed out that Forest Enterprise, who own the land, would sell it for housing in any case. The Community Council pointed out that no decisions have been made and this meeting was part of the consultation which private developers would not do. Up at Gorthleck acquisition of the land at South Muirnich has been delayed by uncertainty over sewage disposal. There is a NOSWA proposal for a sewage treatment plant for Gorthleck and possibly Errogie. However, with the impending take-over, NOSWA cannot commit itself to any specific timings. The alternative is for the HSCHT to provide the sewage facility for the housing development only. Negotiations for a refund of costs from NOSWA are uncertain. Mr Alexander (HSCHT) assured the meeting that there is a list of local people awaiting such a development and that it is the responsibility of the Community Council to ascertain local needs. If the Community Council is able to match the proposed houses to the actual needs of the community, such schemes will be successful. There was no time for Mr Lockhart of Albyn Housing to show examples of the houses which might be built.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meetings Held in September and October

Minute of Meeting held Tues. 25th Sept. (abridged)

Planning: Conversion of disused barn to dwelling house at Lochgarthside – no objections. House at Lower Cultie, Gorthleck – support was given by the C.C. on the grounds that a local person was moving back into the area and bringing with them children.

Highland Small Communities Housing Trust - Land at South Muirnich, Gorthleck. Mr Alexander (Secretary) and Mr Williams (Development Officer) informed the C.C. that planning permission has not yet been granted due to two unresolved matters – a. thecrofting resumption is not yet completed, partially due to the foot and mouth and the solicitors. b. NOSWA maintain that the ground above the road is not suitable for sewerage treatment and so want it on the other side, but will not specify the type of plant required or the size of ground needed. Mr Robertson is sympathetic to the needs. Albyn Housing are willing to become involved and take on the project, but there will be no development until the above problems are sorted out. The C.C. should invite NOSWA and SEPA to the next meeting to apply pressure. Potentially, there may be money available from Rural Partnership for Change to allow the sewerage work to be carried out sooner than NOSWA would. They would then refund the money when the capital is due for release (aprox. 2004). SEPA ultimately decide on what the sewerage requirements are, but it is NOSWA's responsibility to organise it. **Inverfarigaig** – Although, when the issue was raised last year there was some bad feeling about the Trust purchasing the land, there must be further thought given as the Forestry Commission are due to sell the land and it must be decided whether the land should be put into the hands of the trust for future development or allowed to be sold to private developers. If the C.C. were to back HSCHT it would put them in pole position for purchasing. The wishes of local residents must be established. **Whitebridge** – It must be established whether there is a need for amenity housing, whether rented accommodation or housing purchased under the rural home ownership grant. It was decided to hold a public meeting in November and to invite Mr Alexander and also Mr David Lockhart of Albyn Housing to discuss the requirements of the community.

Roads and Transport; The pothole at Errogie corner is increasing in size – letter to be sent to Mr Mc Innes. The trees and bushes alongside the passing places / scenic laybys on the Foyers road are overgrown and obstructing the views of Loch Ness – letter to be sent requesting their being cut back.

A.O.B.: Highland Waste Management – Mr JW Campbell and Mr M Bateman agreed to look at the proposals on behalf of the C.C. **Fireworks** – Mr M Houston requested a contribution from the C.C. for this years display. He has funded them himself in previous years, last year they cost £1280.00 and there was £276.00 donated on the evening. The C.C. agreed that it was an excellent display and well attended, therefore a donation of £250.00 was made.

Minute of Meeting held Tues. 30th Oct. (abridged)

Correspondence: South Loch Ness Nursery - It was agreed that £50.00 should be donated for Christmas activities.

Treasurer: The current account stands at £1239.93 and the project account at £1007.30.

Planning: Maurlynd, Inverfarigaig – erection of house; Balnabeeran Farm, Torness – outline planning for house.

Roads and Transport: Ditches - It was noted that the ditches were unable to cope with the recent heavy rainfall, but it was felt that the current financial situation of the Highland Council would not allow for them to be dug out. Grit Bins - In view of the reduced gritting of the minor roads, it was suggested that grit bins might be placed, instead of just salt piles which get lost in the snow and washed away. Again, it was felt that there would be little chance of getting such bins, but Mr A Fraser would raise the subject with the roads department.

A.O.B.: Sewage Treatment for Planning Application by HSCHT at South Muirnich Gorthleck.

Mr Stewart – NOSWA; Mr Fyfe – SEPA; Mr Williams – HSCHT

HSCHT had highlighted a problem in ascertaining exactly what NOSWA and SEPA's requirements for sewage treatment were, in order for the planning application to be approved. If a single house was being built, a septic tank (dependant on drainage) would probably suffice, however with a possible 10 houses, they were aware that a more sophisticated system would be required. It is likely that the land in question would not pass the percolation tests or be large enough for the treatment, therefore they had consulted Mr Robertson with regards to purchasing a piece of land opposite, to which Mr Robertson had agreed. NOSWA informed the council that a new sewage treatment works for Gorthleck and Errogie is in their capital expenditure plan for 2003/2005, however the programme is not contracted yet, so there is no guarantee that it would go ahead.

As there has been no preliminary investigations into discharges, percolation etc, NOSWA were unable to give an indication of what system of treatment would be used, or where it may be sited. HSCHT pointed out that if NOSWA could confirm the go-ahead of a new scheme in 2003/2004, then the construction of the houses could be timed to coincide. NOSWA agreed, but could give no such assurance and suggested that when Scottish and Southern Water take over, priorities may change and cause the proposed scheme to be moved down the list. If the Trust wished to start work ahead of a new scheme, the onus would be on the developer to plan and finance a system, which would have to be approved by SEPA and NOSWA. HSCHT acknowledge this but had hoped that the scheme that they ultimately implement would be adopted by NOSWA into their new scheme. Until such times, residents would have no sewerage rate as part of their Council Tax. Mr Williams suggested that HSCHT should employ a consultant to investigate the possibilities and put forward a sewerage system that would then be approved by NOSWA and SEPA. Mr Stewart agreed that this was probably the best course of action, but would not commit NOSWA to adopting the scheme.

Foyers Auxiliary Fire Brigade - see page 2

Foyers Medical Practice After consultation with Dr Farmer and Dr Skeoch at Fort Augustus, it has been decided to share out of hours cover between the two practices. It is proposed to have a trial period of six weeks prior to Christmas and six weeks in the spring where medical cover is provided by each practice on alternate weekends. It will not include the months of January, February or March due to the bad weather and potential problems of getting over the Suidhe, or on any other weekend when bad weather is forecast. The Saturday morning surgery will be retained. Consultations would still be at Foyers Medical Centre, unless the patient was unable to get there. There is a combined register of 2300 patients, 900 at the Foyers practice. The Doctors propose to notify every household registered with them and place a notice in the Boleskine Bulletin. They would welcome feedback from patients.

Loch Ness Partnership Meeting The boat across Loch Ness from Drumnadrochit to Foyers did not start this year as planned, but it is set to go ahead next season. There were sub groups formed i.e. for:- promotion and marketing. The next meeting will be held on 9 December.

Highland Councillor
Mrs Ella MacRae
01463 751 203

Community council meetings are held in either Foyers Power Station or Stratherrick Hall on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Minutes of each meeting can be seen in the Foyers shop.

Dates of Meetings in first half of 2002:

Jan 24th - Foyers; Feb 28th - Gorthleck;
March 28th - Foyers; April 25th - Gorthleck;
May 23rd - Foyers.

COMMUNITY COUNCILORS are:-

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

Planning Applications since last BB:

JA & DK Urquhart to decroft part of croft land at South Muirnich, Boleskine, extending to 1.238ha as site for 6 houses and a community facility. Ref:C/13345; R.MacMillan & C.Burke, Lower Cultie, for house & garage, land at Lower Cultie; Mr&Mrs J. Fraser, Altavaig, Torness for house on site of semi-derelict cottage, land at Balnabeeran; Mr&Mrs Cooper, Maurylynd, Inverfarigaig for house; Mr&Mrs Poupard for house, Duhallow, Errogie; Mr&Mrs Berry for house Plot 2 site Duhallow, Errogie. Forest Enterprise proposed development, land at Knockie North & Knockie South, Whitebridge; Innogy plc., Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire for construction and operation of 2MW hydro electric generating station, land at River Fechlin, north west of Garrogie Lodge, Whitebridge.

Approved: Forest Enterprise Foyers Area. 255 hectares felling of conifers. 030/518/242

Community photocopier

in Stratherrick Hall operates by card with an honesty box. It is 5p per A4 copy, i.e. 10p for two sides or for an A3 copy. A key to the hall can be arranged with Cathy Stoddart on 486 329

No time for Knitting!

On Saturday November 10th Christmas presents could be found at Gorthleck hall. There were 16 craft stalls from as far as Elgin, Fochabers, Tain & Tomatin but six of them were run by locals. Chris. Moore of Inverfarigaig with her embroidery and bead work, Jane Anderson with Christmas decorations, Victoria Dickson with patchwork, Cat. Spink with hand made cards and Jane O'Donovan with baskets. Brian Greenlees, who organised the event, said he was delighted with the standard of work on sale and that although it was not a fund raising event, teas and sandwiches were on sale and any surplus money would be going to the Hall funds. With a steady stream of customers throughout the day there was no time to hang around knitting!

GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS!

Ever get invited to an Anne Summers party with a difference? Well Flichity hosted one such gathering in November but for babies and toddlers. And the slinky stuff on view? Comfy, cute, colourful, skin-soft.....re-usable nappies!! It was one of the first gatherings of the Highland Real Nappy Project, a joint initiative of WHAM (Waste: Highland Action on Minimisation) and SWAN (Strathspey Waste Action Network). The project aims to reduce the number of disposable nappies in the waste stream, to raise awareness of the environmental, financial and health benefits of reusable nappies, and to provide a helpline service. Disposable nappies cause a major waste problem which our children will inherit. They make up about 4% of all household waste in the UK – in Highland this means that 16 million used nappies (4,800 tonnes) end up in landfill every year, costing the council over £180,000 in disposal costs. And they don't just disappear! Nappies are estimated to take 200-500 years to break down so every disposable ever

used still exists! But gone are the days of nappy pins and scratchy plastic pants. Real nappies come in all types, styles and prices to suit every baby, parent and pocket. Nappies never looked so good! SO...If you are interested in getting to the "bottom" of things, want to find out more or would like to arrange for a demonstration, 'phone Penny on 01479 821114, email nappies@nethy-pottery.freemove.co.uk



'I CAN LEARN Ceilidhs'

The 'I Can Learn Foundation' uses a little known method of teaching and learning designed for autistic children. Catriona Spink, who has an autistic daughter, explains why she is organising a series of ceilidhs in Stratherrick hall. "Our daughter Cheyenne, who suffers from autism, is taking part in the new method. We have been partially financed by a grant awarded to four families in the Highlands by the Highland Council Education Department. The funding covers the cost of the consultant and the money we raise allows staff to be employed for between 30-40 hours weekly - the optimum number of hours for the greatest success rate, boasting 47% of recovery – meaning that your autistic child will be indistinguishable from his/her peers in ability and behaviour, an amazing achievement considering that our daughter, diagnosed as severely autistic eight months ago, has made an academic jump probably the equivalent of two years in the last six months since the programme began. Our aim is to cover the costs of Cheyenne's tutors – 3 local people and 1 from Inverness, and to provide toy equipment to further her skills. To do this we hope to organise events that local people will enjoy and also to help us help all the following generations of special needs children who could learn through the success of our four families on trial. Our two ceilidhs have raised £246 which has funded tutors for 49 hours, a great aid in the improvement of Cheyenne's all round abilities. A big Thank you to all who came.

Catriona Spink, Gorthleck 486 603

Stratherrick Feis

On Friday 19th October Stratherrick Hall vibrated to the tunes of My Fair Lady, English Folk songs, Irish Jigs, Highland Reels and a demonstration of the old custom of Step dancing. Teenager Jessica Rickets gave a fine rendering on keyboard. Hugh MacNally, who had organised the event, told the audience that he hoped that this would be the first in a series of Winter ceilidhs demonstrating the talent which exists in the area. Proceeds from the ceilidh went to the Stratherrick Feis. £206 was taken, with costs at £75 leaving a net donation of £131. Stratherrick Feis evenings start at 7pm in the Farr Hall on the following nights: 14th Dec, 18th Jan, 15th Feb, 15th March, 19th April. This year there will be lessons for fiddle, chanter, tin whistle, guitar, bodhran, Gaelic song, step dance, keyboard and (maybe) ceilidh dancing. Also planned will be extra monthly classes for fiddle and spoken Gaelic for beginners but these have yet to be confirmed. In response to his letter in the last BB, Hugh MacNally reports that "interest is blossoming in both a local Music Club and a Heritage Society. A meeting will be announced for a date in January where it is hoped to carry these proposals forward - all will be welcome. Keep the names coming!" Phone Hugh on 486605

COMPOST ROT from BEN

We now have 33 active composters and 39 bins in circulation. Monitoring forms have gone out for the first week of December – please return to Heather asap. From August forms, we guesstimated that around 600kg of waste were composted – quite a heap! If anyone else is interested in joining the scheme, let Heather know (486 774).

A shock warning

was given recently at an open meeting in Strathspey on the future of waste in the Highlands. Waste specialist Dr Richard Dixon warned that a large incinerator could be built just north of Inverness. An incinerator could damage the clean, green image of the Highlands, emit cancer-causing dioxins and produce toxic fly ash leaving recycling rates much lower than in other areas. Highland Waste Strategy's consultation document 'Your Rubbish Your Views' reckons that the costs of recycling and incineration are the same. It also reckons that recycling and composting is the best option all round (socially, environmentally, practically etc.). However Dr. Dixon predicted that "Whatever the public may want, what the Highlands is most likely to get is a large incinerator outside Inverness which will help keep us at the bottom of the European recycling league....." If you feel strongly about this, you could contact your local Councillor (Ella Macrae) or contact SEPA directly (Freepost IV342, Dingwall, IV15 9BR) and let them know your views. Folk in Europe and North America can separate their waste for recycling so why can't we? BEN's local composting project shows that people are prepared to contribute that extra bit of effort needed.....Keep composting!

Children Study Litter

As part of the Social Subjects component of the Scottish Executive's National Guidelines for Environmental Studies in Scottish Schools, pupils at Stratherrick Primary school have this to report:

Sophie Chattington P7 explains. "Our school has 3 compost bins - 2 wooden ones, which some people from Highland council helped us to build. They have come to our school about 2 times and they tell us about recycling and how much rubbish a family produces in a week. The other compost bin is a green recycled plastic Rotol compost bin from the Highland Council. Leftovers from school lunches get put into one of the compost bins. We shred used paper as well, which some people take home for animal bedding and some goes into the compost bin."

Kevin Hepburn P6 wrote "Stratherrick Primary school is recycling aluminium cans so that the people that make the cans don't have to waste time mining for aluminium. I think this is good for the environment and for the people in the school. It does not go in the landfill site".

Hannah Clark P5 explains "Stratherrick Primary School have started a litter patrol when the children take turns picking up the litter. This prevents animals from danger as well as the untidiness. The animals are in danger because at night hedgehogs and other animals like these can get stuck in crisp packets and things like that. It makes the place look very untidy as well. I think every where should be clean and tidy."

.....while Eleanor Parrott P4 says "that the pupils take turns in taking food like potatoes skins, carrot skins, paper and grass to put in the compost bins. When the compost bins are full Stratherrick School puts the compost onto the soil to make it healthy. I don't like doing it when it is my turn."

Photo - Valerie Weir

Inverness Company get School Contract

D & E Coaches have secured the contract put out to tender by Highland Council to transport children to Stratherrick school from the east of the Strath. Starting in January, the Inverness based company will be incorporating the school run into an existing service which they provide within the area. Times of the service can be found later in this issue.

The adventures of "Whizz" the Glanlia cat!

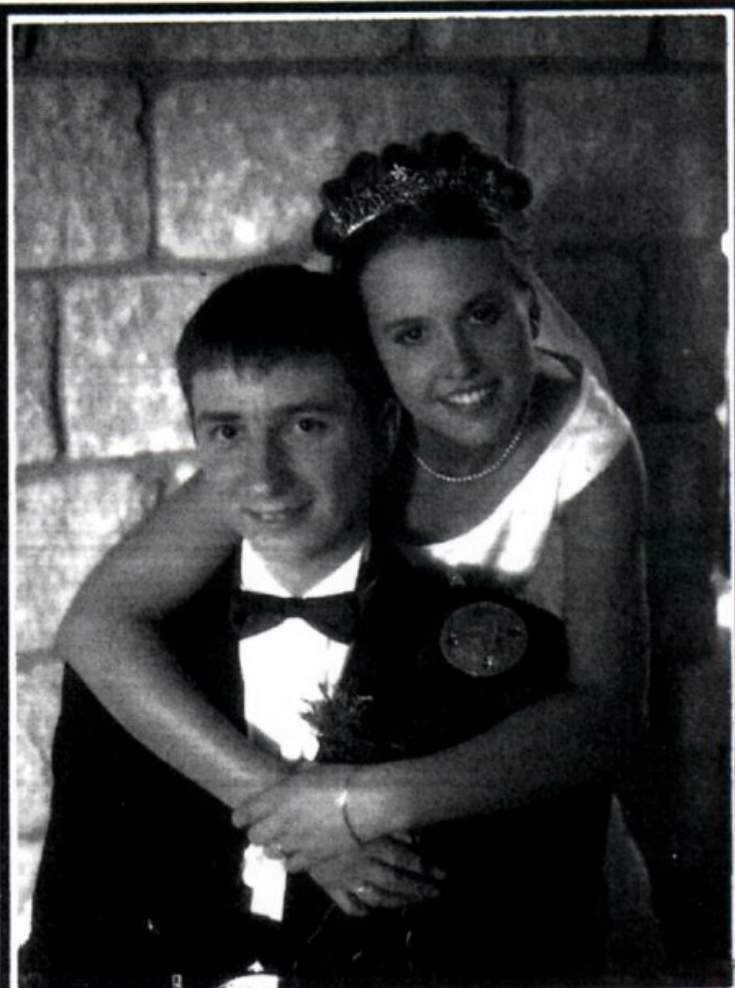




"On Yer Bike" success

Late in September we were blessed with a perfect day for the Stratherrick "On yer bike" sponsored cycle event, raising funds for "Whizz - Kidz" - the movement for non-mobile children. In May of this year our son, Laurie, aged 9, was given a specially designed tandem, enabling him to experience an activity previously inaccessible to him; giving him a tremendous feeling of achievement, and plenty of good Stratherrick fresh air! This was made possible by the generosity of "Whizz - Kidz", and those who raise funds for them. We felt it appropriate to do something in return, to give another child the access to opportunities and independence they may otherwise never experience. Over 60 energetic people, of all ages, from the Strath. and beyond, took part; most cycling, some walking, and an invaluable team who organised, supplied and drove support vehicles, and made tea! The weather was perfect, everybody had fun, and what's more they raised an enormous £1160.35 in the process!!! Our sincere thanks go to all those involved on the day, in whatever capacity! We would like to express our appreciation to the representatives of the St. Andrews Ambulance Association, for their attendance at the event, and their professional handling of the one injury, (now fully recovered!). Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Heather Parrott for "being there" throughout! Warmest regards to all, your generosity has been overwhelming.

Graham & Catherine Chattington



Aileen Campbell and Raymond Mitchell married on Saturday 15 September at St Paul's Church, Croachy. Aileen is Margaret and Donald Campbell's daughter from Whitebridge. Raymond is from Aberdeen. Aileen moved to Aberdeen in 1993 after she left school to continue her studies. Both she and Raymond work in the Oil industry.



Dunmaglass - the estate

this is the first in a series written by A.C. Fraser

Dunmaglass is regarded as being the ancient seat of the Clan MacGillivray. They held Dunmaglass and as staunch Jacobites were "out" in the risings of 1715 and 1745. The Clan continued to own Dunmaglass until 1890 when financial hardship caused the 13th chief to sell the estate. The estate was then purchased by the Sopper family along with Easter Aberchalder. When Mr W. Sopper died in 1922, they sold Dunmaglass to Major T.P. Barber. Major Barber became a Baronet for his 60 years service to Nottingham County Council and also for his service as Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham University. He passed the estate to his son Sir William Barber who sold the estate in October 1987 to the Hayward family. The Haywards continue to concentrate on the sporting aspect of the estate with considerable input in to the renovation of existing cottages along with building three new staff cottages. The existing lodge was extensively renovated and a new lodge was also built with the rather unusual name "The Folly". The hill road was extended and upgraded, three lunch huts were constructed along with the Millennium Bothy which was erected in 2000. Staff include two game keepers plus two or three trainee keepers, estate foreman, gardener, farm manager, housekeeper, etc.

The estate runs to approximately 13,000 acres and is

regarded as an example of the old style highland sporting estate. In 1998 the number of grouse shot was around 2300 brace but in 1908 there was a record of 2800 brace. During the war years the number of grouse shot had declined. Pheasants and ducks are reared on the estate and there is deer stalking and hare shooting on the high ground. Dunmaglas borders other estates on all sides - Aberarder on the east, Coignafearn on the south-east, Corriegarth on the south-west, Wester Aberchalder on the west, Easter Aberchalder on the west, Farraline on the north-west and Abersky on the north.

The attached photograph circa 1930 is of the Barber family having lunch on the hill at a grouse shoot - no lunch huts in those days!! The butler is on the extreme right helping to set out lunch and the younger female fifth from the right is one of the daughters of Sir Philip Barber still active in the South today.

One final point, the river Farigaig rises in the high ground of Dunmaglass making it's way to Loch Ness through Abersky, Torness, Balnabeeran, Balaggan etc. If the Loch Ness salmon had been able to leap the falls below Dirichurachan the value of the fishing on the river Farigaig would of course increase enormously - perhaps a challenge for an enterprising explosives expert to alter the height of the Falls to allow the salmon up river.



LETTERS



New challenges for Foyers Store

We'd like to say a thank you to our customers for their understanding during the past months, when we have been endeavouring to make sense of 'The System'. As we are pretty much settled in, our thoughts are now looking toward the future: "What changes do they have in mind?" I hear you ask.

- * Installation of a 'Bake Oven' to provide fresh bread/rolls/baguette etc.

- * Ongoing investigation of National Lottery terminal installation.

- * Expansion of Wine stock. We will shortly be stocking some quality Scottish wines - believe me these are very good, and not too pricey. Watch out for tastings during December!

- * General on-going spruce-up of the shop/tea room/frontage during year 2002.

Steve Hill

Apathy, contentment or complacency?

It matters not whether you call it apathy, contentment or complacency, there is little support for events at the Public Hall. Whist drives - apparently have always been popular, not any more! Ceilidhs - what could be more traditional? - You're lucky to be able to pay the band! The recent dance at Dores - huge amount of publicity and effort (and even a bus) - apparently a fraction of the turn-out hoped for. Inverness Fiddlers - fund-raising concert of traditional Highland music at the Hall - turnout - appalling! (It was very good too!).

It's not all bad news: the Hall was packed for the re-opening Party last November, the recent Craft Fair was a big success, the Car Boot Sale and of course the annual Sales are usually well attended. Other successes include the Highland Festival plays over the last couple of years - although audiences obviously came from a much wider area to support these events.

A survey to see what local people want to

happen in their community is *not* what is needed. What is needed is local people to organise and attend those events they would like to see happening in their community. There is a sad lack of people willing to take over organising groups or events. What happened to the WRI in Foyers? The Monday Club for youngsters in Gorthleck? The Badminton Club? These sort of things seem to collapse when the (very) few willing people who run them, need a break. *If we do actually want a hall, it costs money and needs support. If we, as a community, cannot or will not run things, then perhaps we need more new people to come and do it for us?*

Jill Cooper & Dave Bradwell, Gorthleck

MSP responds to GM concern

Following our article on GM Crops in the last issue of the Boleskine Bulletin, Mary Scanlon MSP presented a range of questions regarding the safety of GMOs to the Scottish Executive. Mary submitted these from information she read in the Bulletin. If anyone is interested in seeing the replies, contact the Editor (Jane on 486 355).

Neighbours on the Web at:

www.strathnairnheritage.co.uk

EDITORIAL

On entering the fifth year of the BB, a thank you to everyone who has helped and supplied material. In Issue No 1 we felt that our circulation would represent a wide variety of ages, backgrounds and occupations which would inevitably lead to a broad experience of opinions and beliefs. The editorial team try to be as objective as possible. But our own interests are inclined to dominate! Every meeting we laugh at the continual battle to balance the content. All this is leading up to the question how do you see the Boleskine Bulletin? Is it a talking shop for a few or are people too shy to put pen to paper? Please come forward with anything that interests you. You can be sure that some people will disagree with you but you can also be sure that some will agree!

Not in our back yard say some. Debate over low cost housing in the area continues. It appears that the opportunity given by The Highlands Small Housing Trust cannot be grasped with enthusiasm. A committee dedicated to the allocation of houses and land within the community should study the proposal and consult actively. If there is

Ken Brown of Foyers, an Honorary Research Fellow at Aberdeen University, has just published 'The Right to Learn - Alternatives for a Learning Society.' (Routledge Falmer, 2002). This is an academic treatise which will be of interest to specialists in education, politics and philosophy, and also to those seeking alternative ways of educating their children.

A dead squirrel was seen recently under the big rope near Dores - did it fall or was it pushed?

no time to tackle this kind of issue within the agenda of the Community Council then a trust or association needs to be formed. Throughout the Highlands, indeed anywhere in rural Britain, decisions are being made by local people. There is money and help to be accessed from central government and from Europe. Funding is available for many different projects, creating employment, improving our environment and helping the less fortunate living amongst us. We must speak out if we want to keep this area vibrant. To keep a community 'alive' we need young families, whether they come from here originally or from elsewhere is surely irrelevant.

a thought for Christmas

do you know what would have happened?
if it had been three wise women
instead of three wise men?
they would have asked directions,
arrived on time,
helped deliver the baby,
cleaned the stable,
made a casserole,
brought practical gifts and
there would be peace on earth.

Christian Comment

Stars are as numerous as grains of sand upon the sea shore! They have been used as guides for travellers throughout the ages - most well known is the one that guided the wise men from the East who came to worship the new born King Jesus. Our most important star is the sun that gives us light and warms our bodies - for Christians it may remind us of Jesus who is The Light of the world and whose Holy Spirit warms our inner-most being. Usually stars are only noticed against the background of the dark sky, when they appear so beautiful - thank God for people you know who shine out with love against much that is dark in the world today.

Christmas Services:

Dores Church Friday 14th 7.00pm;
Stratherrick Hall Sunday 16th 6.00pm. 6.30

Christmas Eve:

St. Pauls Croachy 6.30pm.
Whitebridge R.C. Chapel 11.15pm.



MONDAY CLUB GOES

On Monday evenings throughout the winter months, Stratherrick Hall resounded to the voices of excited children. But no more, as Jane Ricketts explained recently to the BB. "We no longer wish to take on the responsibility which comes with the provision of children's activities in a public hall. There are now Child Protection Policy recommendations which we feel cannot be met easily by only a few adults on a voluntary basis." The Monday Club have generously donated their equipment to the Hall in the hope that in the future other parents will take on the challenge. Jane and Steve Ricketts along with Joan & Ken Fraser have been running the Club for the past five years.

KEEP FIT CLASS

Mondays 8-9pm.
Kilchuimen Academy, Fort Augustus commencing 7th January. £2.50 per class. For more information about keep fit, line dancing and children's dance classes 'phone Iris on 01320 366 235.

WESTERN LINE DANCING

for beginners.
Mondays 7-8pm, Kilchuimen Academy, Fort Augustus commencing 7th January. £2.50 per class, discount if paid in advance.

HOWDY FOLKS!!

Now's the time, now's your CHANCE - If you wanna learn to DANCE
Basic Country Western LINE - Step by step you'll do just FINE
Steppin' High and Steppin' LOW - Heel and toe then off you GO
An hour a week will do the TRICK - Some steps are slow and some are QUICK
Great music helps to roll AWAY - The cares and woes of every DAY
Young and old come one come ALL - Loosen up and have a BALL
Make new friends, have some FUN - Enjoy a laugh with everyONE
Get in line and strut your STUFF - Until you think you've had ENOUGH
And now this rhyme is at an END - This invitation I EXTEND
Do come along and make it a DATE - On Monday nights from seven till EIGHT.
YAHOO!!

Arts Revival

Anyone interested?

'Strathart' was a local community arts group formed here in the mid 90s. Their performances included a very successful production of Ali Baba and the Four Teen Thieves in Stratherrick Hall in 1995, an extremely memorable Widow Twanky was played by John Joyce. There is still a bank account and a constitution in place and although several of the principal movers have left the area, it might be possible to revive the group with a view to introducing arts projects which people would be interested in (drama, dance, art, music, etc.). There could well be funding available from the Scottish Arts Council. If you are interested please give Janet Sutherland a call on 486711.

Khyber Pass, Caithness and Whisky

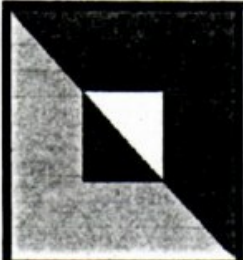
After a gap of several years the Aberdeen University talks recommenced again this Autumn in Stratherrick Hall. The first, by geologist Ian Basham, was a blend of fascinating slides of his time spent on the Afghan border in Pakistan in the 70s, an insight into the construction of Hong Kong's new airport and why uranium is present in the north of Scotland. (All to do with fish).

The second talk, by former excise officer Geoff Armitage, provided an amusing insight into the history of the Whisky industry in Scotland.



The Boleskine Bulletin AGM

took place in October, the first for the newly constituted Management Committee. The Treasurer was able to report that finances were healthy with £687.72 on hand. Each issue cost in the region of £70 to produce. It was decided that editorial expenses should now be re-imbursed. The Editor reported that this was the end of the fourth year of publication and about twenty people were now helping, from the initial story collecting through to delivery. Those present discussed the possibility of finding a new Editor to take over at the end of 2002.



Boleskin Bulletin

Foyers School Supplement

Wildlife Corner

Christmas Issue
14th December 2001

OWLS AREN'T AFRAID OF THE DARK...

A Day in the Night of an Owl—by Foyers School

You are more likely to hear an owl than to see one, because they are one of the few species of birds that hunt by night. But Foyers School pupils had a splendid opportunity to study these shy creatures with Paul Doyle of Grampian and Cairngorm Wildlife Services at the end of November.

Paul brought numerous examples of stuffed owls and other birds, as well as bones, skeletons and the extraordinary owl-pellets in which they wrap up the remains of their meals! This huge collection of exhibits was partly on loan to Paul from Aberdeen University's Zoology Museum. He also brought five powerful microscopes so the children could examine the structure of feathers and evidence of the birds' diets.

The event was part of an 'owl theme' during which the children produced their own variations on Edward Lear's famous poem; 'The Owl and the Pussy-cat' and made model owls from dried autumn leaves.



Barn Owls live in churchyards, old barns, bushy trees and other places where they are not seen. They eat rodents, some reptiles, fish and insects.

Barn owls live on their own. They are nocturnal. This means they hunt at night. They are white with orange-brown patches and have curved beaks.

The barn owl female can grow up to 40 centimeters in length and her wingspan can grow to

more than a metre. Females lay 3-6 eggs regularly, but sometimes they lay as many as 12!

The male barn owl is smaller. It can grow up to 38 centimeters in length and its wing span is a few centimeters less than the female's.

They usually only live between one and two years, but the oldest barn owl known was living in Holland and was 17 years 10 months old.

It was in 1769 that the barn owl was first described, by Giovanni Scopoli, an Italian naturalist. There are quite a lot of other names for this bird. Here are some of them:

Monkey-faced owl; Ghost owl; Death owl; Hissing owl; Hob-goblin owl; Golden owl.

Hannah Grainger

Some facts about OWLS...

- Most owls are nocturnal. They hunt by night for their prey 1
- The Snowy, or Arctic Owls is diurnal: the only daytime hunter 2
- There are over 160 species of owl in different parts of the world 3
- Owls' eyes are large - fixed in a forward position to see in the dark 4
- Owls can move their heads nearly in a full circle; 270 degrees! 5
- They have special feathers to help their heads to turn round 6
- And they have special feathers to help them fly silently at night! 7

The Snowy Owl is the only owl that is a daytime hunter; it is diurnal as well as nocturnal. It lives in northern parts of the world and is camouflaged with white and black-barred feathers. This helps it to catch voles, lemmings and other animals for food. Snowy owls grow to about 66 centimeters in length and their wingspan can be more than one and a half metres. It has a sharp, hooked bill, like other owls, and has feathers on its legs to keep it warm in the ice and snow.

THE CHANGING FACE OF FOYERS

Exhibition at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery

The concluding part of Foyers School's year-long project, *The Changing Face of Foyers*, was an exhibition of some of the children's work at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. Held during the October holiday, the exhibition attracted a large number of visitors.

The project, sponsored by British Telecom, was designed to enable the children of the village to research and present some important aspects of the history, social and economic life and natural environment of the local community. We received gen-

erous support and assistance from numerous people. In particular, we would like to thank Katie Stirling, our Countryside Ranger, and Mr. Willie Batchen for valuable insights into the wildlife and history of Foyers and district.

Foyers School Supplement

WOLVES ON THE PROWL...

Foyers School annual concert featured a production of *Little Red Riding Hood* with a special Foyers flavour! Not only did we reintroduce a wolf into the local forest (without the knowledge of Forest Enterprise) but the cast included a number of singing and dancing rabbits. Luckily, none of the latter fell victim to the Big Bad Wolf, who was arrested and escorted to the Highland Wildlife Park by the local policeman! The evening was rounded off with action songs and Christmas carols.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas
and
A Good New Year!



**Red Riding Hood, a rabbit
and the Big Bad Wolf**

Foyers Shop Times

Winter

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Frid: 9.00-17.30

Tues. (half day) 9.00-13.00

Sat 9.00-17.00; Sun 12.00 - 14.00

Post Office

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9.00 -13.00

Wed, Frid, Sat: 10.00 13.00

Mon & Thurs also 14.00-15.30

Shop closes from 13.00-13.30 during the winter months.

Christmas/New Year

Opening:

Mon 24th 0900-1300

Tues 25th & Wed 26th Closed

Thurs 27th normal hours

Fri 28th 0900-1300

Sat 29th 0900-1300

Sun 30th 1200-1400

Mon 31st normal hours

Tues 1st Jan Closed

Wed 2nd 1000-1200 (No Papers)

Thurs 3rd Normal hours

Church Meetings

(revised for winter)

Church of Scotland

Sunday 10am Boleskine;

11.30am Dore; 4pm Foyers;

Last Sunday 11.30 as announced - also mid-week.

Rev. J. Christie 01456 486 206

Episcopal Church

Sunday 11am Croachy;

Wednesday 10.30 (as announced)

Rev. J. Evans 01808 521397

Free Church

Sunday 12 noon Farr,

5pm Erroigie;

Thursday 7.30pm (as announced).

Mr. J. Campbell 01456 486240

Free Church (continuing)

Sunday 10.30am and 4.15pm Dore;

Wednesday 7.30pm;

Mr D. Fraser 01456 486408

Free Presbyterian Church

Sunday 12noon Farr, 5.15pm

Stratherrick/Farr (as announced). Mr E.

Fraser 01456 486282

Roman Catholic Church

Sunday 12 noon Whitebridge (midweek as announced).

Rev. P. Bonnici 01320 366451

Inter-Denominational Bible Study

10.30 am Thursday

(as announced).

Rev. M. Bateman 01456 486273

Buses

GORTHLECK - INVERNESS

D & E COACHES

(Monday to Friday)

	MWF	TTh	SD	SH
Gorthleck	0932	0920	1514	1515
Strath.Sch.	---	---	1535	---
Upp Foyers	---	0931	---	---
Low Foyers	---	0935	---	---
Inverfarigaig	---	0942	---	---
Erroigie	0937	---	1540	1525
Dunmaglass	0945	---	1550	---
Abersky	---	---	1554	---
Torness	0955	---	1600	1535
Dores	0959	0959	1604	1545
Inverness	1014	1014	1619	1600
Raigmore	1024r	1024r	---	---

	SD	SH	MWF	TTh
Raigmore	---	---	1410r	1410r
Inverness	0800	0830	1420	1420
Dores	0815	0845	1435	1435
Torness	0845	0900	1439	---
Abersky	0850	---	---	---
Dunmaglass	0855	---	1449	---
Erroigie	---	---	---	1459
Upper Foyers	---	---	---	1503
Strath. Sch.	0910	---	---	---
Gorthleck	0920	0920	1502	1514

SD - Schooldays; SH - School holidays
r - serves Raigmore Hospital on request to the driver. Passengers who require the bus to depart from Raigmore Hospital on the return journey should tell the driver on the outward journey or phone the operator before [time to be defined].

FOYERS - INVERNESS

Mon - Frid*

Upper Foyers	0755	1250	1623
Lower Foyers	0800	1255	---
Inverfarigaig	0807	1302	1630
Royal Acad.	0840SD	---	---
Inverness Bus St.	0850	1340	1708

	SH	SD			
Inverness Bus St	1155	1520	1520	1740	1230 1740
Royal Acad.	---	---	1535	---	---
Inverfarigaig	1233	1558	1608	1818	1308 1818
Lower Foyers	1240r	1605	1615	1825r	1315 1825r
Upper Foyers	1245	1610	1620	1830	1320 1830

* Not Inverness public holidays

SD - Schooldays only, SH - School holidays only

r - Diverts via Lower Foyers when required.

WHITEBRIDGE - INVERNESS

Mon-Frid* Sat

Whitebridge	0735	1230	1230
Gorthleck Sch.	0745	1240	1240
Erroigie Tel. Kiosk	0749	1244	1244
Torness	0758	1253r	1253r
Inverness R. Acad.	0840	1325	1325
Inverness Bus St.	0850	1335	1335

Inverness Bus St.	1030	1520	1710
Inverness R. Acad.	1040	1535	1720
Farr Post Office	1056	1551	1736
Torness	---	1617B	---
Erroigie Tel. Kiosk	1121	1616	1801
Gorthleck Sch.	1125	1620	1805
Whitebridge	1135	1630	1815

B - Operates via Torness when there are passengers on board for that point. Time at subsequent points will then be 10 minutes later than shown.

Royal Mail Post Bus Times to be in next issue

Mobile Library

Wednesday

Foyers Coach House 11.15-11.25

Lower Foyers 11.35-12.20

Glenlia Road 1.30-1.55

Foyers School 2.00-2.40

Inverfarigaig 2.45-3.05

Thursday

Erroigie 11.20-11.45

Stratherrick School 11.55-12.25

Gorthleck Hall 12.30-12.45

Craft Shop 12.50-1.10

Whitebridge 2.10-2.40

Trade Directory

Architects

Thomas Munro & Co
01463 232233

All Jobs

Darholm Enterprises -
486 416

Builder & Joiner

Steve Ricketts - 486 225

Cafes & Restaurants

Foyers Bay House - 486 624

Foyers House - 486 405

Contractors

Angus C. Fraser - 486 650

Embroidery Classes

Chris Moore - 486 255

Funeral Directors

John Fraser & Son

01463 233366

Hotels & Lounge Bars

Craigdarroch House Hotel -
486 400

The Foyers Hotel - 486 216

Whitebridge Hotel - 486 226

Dores Inn - 01463 751203

Native Tree Nursery

Jane O'Donovan - 486 355

Picture Framing

Hugh Nicol - 486 350

Plumbers/Heating

D. Matheson & Sons Ltd

01463 716477

Shop & Post Office

The Foyers Store - 486 233

Watercolours & Art Classes

Ros Rowell - 01463 751314

To advertise in the BB:

Call Chris Smith on 486 625.

Charges: trade directory £10 for 4
issues; display advertising £5 for
2" column box

**Small ads. are free for items
under £100 (not trade).**

**Extra Copies of BB
50p inc. postage
phone
486 366**

Eric Grant Plant Hire

Katterick Lodge, Gorthleck

Ditching/Drainage

Road Construction

Site Clearance

Pond Construction

Lock-Block Paving/Patios

**WHEELED & TRACKED
MACHINES**

QUALITY WORK/CITB REG.

Tel. 01456 486221

Mobile. 07802 411090

For Sale:

"Ensign" Class 22ft Boat: Bilge Keel,
draft 3ft, Beam 8ft.3", fully moulded in
GRP ready for fitting out. Included 4
wheel boat trailer, plans. £1000

Chris Smith 486625

Ford Sierra Estate GLX, H reg 1990,
MOT March, 105,000 miles, £650 o.n.o.
01463 751 329 after 6pm

Vauxhall Astra Estate 1.9 D, 1992, J reg.
Diesel, MOT June02, 123,000miles,
£1500 o.n.o. 01456 486355

Organic Meat now available locally.
MacLeods Organics are now offering
a wide range of organic meat along
with their regular vegetable boxes
scheme which is delivered throughout
the area every two weeks. Phone
01667 462555 for more information.



Andrew Fraser

Building Contractor

Houses-Extensions- Renovations

Stonework

Bein Sgurrach, Errogie

Tel. 486408

**Doctor -
486 224**

The Boleskine Bulletin accepts no legal
liability for the views expressed by individual
contributors

What's On

at

Stratherrick hall



Bowls - Tuesdays 7.30 pm

Yoga Classes

starting

Tuesday January 8th

2.00-3.30pm

and Thursday January 10th

7.00-8.30 pm

Suitable for men and women of all ages
and (or no!) level of fitness. Please bring
a mat or blanket and wear something
warm and comfortable.

Contact Sylvia Young on 486252
£3/class, £10/ 4 classes.

Toddlers group - Wed 9.30 am

Country Dancing - Wed 7.30 pm

Badminton equipment available in the
hall (hire by the hour)

BURNS SUPPER

Saturday 2nd February

7.30 p.m.

Ticket only : available in new year
from Foyers Shop or Riverside Gallery,
Inverness.

For more information ring Hugh on -
day 01463 224781 / eve 01456 486350

To book hall phone Cathy Stoddart on
486329

Next issue of the BB March

Deadline 20th Feb to: The

Editor, Norbu, Lochgarthside,

Gorthleck, or leave at Foyers

shop marking the envelope BB

or email

odonovan_jane@hotmail.com

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