

The Boleskine Bulletin



Issue No. 25
Winter 2003

VALERIE WEIR RETIRES

Stratherrick Primary School – Jan 1980 to Oct 2003

On Friday 10th October, the retiral of Valerie Weir was marked by a special evening at Stratherrick Public Hall.

The programme consisted of :
Primary 1 - 3 performed songs.

Ewan Fraser read a poem composed by Primary 4 - 7 and Laurie Chattington read a poem he had written himself.

Mike Cumming gave a short speech highlighting some of the school's achievements under Valerie's headship.

1986 The School won a group section for a BBC radio playwriting Competition.

1991 A primary 7 pupil won 1st prize in a National Bible Study Art & Project Competition in which 136 primary schools took part.

1998 A primary 6 pupil won a Poster Competition organised by the Northern Constabulary.

1998 A good inspection report made particular reference to the effective leadership of the Headteacher.

2003 A Distinction awarded for Verse Speaking at Music Festival.

A nursery/patio and school garden were started and developed and won 1st prize in the Inverness Floral competition.

Valerie was then presented with a bicycle and some flowers by Norman Stoddart, one of her first pupils, and his daughter Rosie, who is in Primary 1. Valerie replied, following which Press photographs were taken.

The evening was rounded off with tea and cakes and a viewing of photographs which captured pupils and teachers during Valerie's time at the School.

The whole evening was made possible by the great efforts of pupils, teachers



MORE SCHEMES PLANNED

Six new hydro power stations and more than one hundred wind turbines (each over 400ft high) are planned for Stratherrick. Not a single burn, waterfall or hill will remain untouched. See BEN page for details.

From the Police Station.....

As some of you will be aware, I am the new Community Policeman for Dore & Essie and Foyers & Stratherrick and I replace Torquil Macleod PC462 who was here for approximately five years before me.

Before moving to Foyers, I worked in Inverness as a Community Beat Officer latterly in the Dalneigh and Merkinch areas of the city and am looking forward to the different challenge that rural policing has to offer. I also look forward to meeting as many of you as possible!

As you will no doubt be aware, we enjoy relatively low levels of crime, not only in this area but in the Northern Constabulary force area as a whole. I would however like to take this opportunity to bring one or two matters to everyone's attention.

Some of you will be aware that there have been two housebreakings in the village of Dore recently and even more recently there have been several thefts and attempted thefts from outbuildings in our local area over the past few weeks.

These incidents apparently involve roving opportunist criminals who are looking for insecure outbuildings, garages etc. and are targeting such items as power tools, trailers and light plant. I would urge everyone to take all possible care

that outbuildings are secure and that items of value are locked out of sight.

If anyone observes any suspicious persons or vehicles in this area at any time of the day, please contact me or my colleagues in Fort Augustus or Inverness via the telephone numbers listed below.

In addition, should anyone be leaving their homes unoccupied for either a holiday or short break over the forthcoming festive period or indeed at any other time of the year, it can offer some peace of mind to inform me or my colleagues before you go. The police has in operation a vacant properties register which allows me to keep an eye on any vacant property in my area.

Now that all the doom and gloom has been said, all that remains is for me to wish everyone a happy forthcoming Christmas and New Year!

Lewis Hannah PC939

Telephone Numbers

Foyers Police Station	01456 486222
Fort Augustus Police Station	01320 366222
Inverness Police Station	01463 715555

Out & About

We are sorry to report the deaths of John Rose of Whitebridge and Sam Firth of Foyers and send our sincere sympathies to Irene and Marion respectively and their families.

Anna MacLaren is recovering from a knee operation and Dave Mackenzie is making a good recovery after a spell in hospital - we wish them well.

Hamish Stoddart is in Raigmore Hospital recovering from a serious illness as also is Maisie Macmillan. Again, we wish them both well and hope they will soon be home again.

Great News! Little Jessica Main has made a wonderful recovery from major heart surgery and celebrated her 1st birthday on the 16th November. Many good wishes to her and her family.

Although they have been in the area for a while house hunting, we are delighted to welcome Sam & Doris Reid who have successfully purchased a property in Gorthleck. We wish them many happy years there.

We welcome all who have moved into our area.

STOP PRESS – Maisie MacMillan returned home on 27th November.

Only Balls Bounce!

Joe Ryalls and family would like to thank all who sent get well wishes and gifts after his recent failed attempt at flying. He is now finally out of plaster and well on the mend.

Joe would like to advise anyone considering street running as a hobby, as portrayed in recent TV adverts and programmes, that it's not much fun after all, and feet



COMMUNITY COUNCIL

John Campbell (Chairman) Gorthleck 486 240
Tine Butterworth (Treasurer) Gorthleck 486 275
Kenny Fraser Gorthleck 486 220
Liam MacNally Gorthleck 486 605
Eileen Martin Gorthleck 486 661

Fiona Kirkland (Secretary) Gorthleck 486 283
Angus Fraser Gorthleck 486 650
Elizabeth MacDougal Foyers 486 366
Sandy MacPherson Torness 01463 751213
Martyn Bateman Whitebridge 486 273

Minute of Meeting 23 September

Correspondence: Highland Council - invitation to Renewing Democracy seminar; there is an offer of free second hand computers to CC's.

Treasurer: Ord. acc. £975.58; project acc. £772.60. No cheques have been issued. The money from the photocopier was recently checked and was found to be more than £15.00 short compared to what had been recorded. It was agreed that a locked money-box should replace the existing box.

Planning: Three houses on Dell Estate - invitation to planning hearing.

House at Knockchoilum - copy of letter from Mr J Rule in response to comments made regarding the application.

3 house plots below Whitebridge Hotel - revised application.

Erection of 4 wind test anemometry masts at Corriegarth Estate, Gorthleck.

Erection of 1 wind-monitoring mast at Dell Estate, Whitebridge.

Concern was raised over the number of renewable energy schemes being proposed in the area. The secretary was instructed to contact the companies concerned to invite them to speak to the community about their proposals and to make Highland Council aware of the concerns of increased traffic, the visual impact and the detrimental effect on tourism.

Innogy are investigating a further scheme east of the River E. The CC will be contacted as part of the scoping report.

Roads and Transport: The cutting of the scrub at the roadside has been started.

Mrs MacRae will chase the speed check instrument for Gorthleck and the signage for Foyers.

School bus - There was a near accident as a child crossed the road after getting off the bus at Abersky road end, Torness. They are dropped on the bend. The secretary was instructed to write to Mr Summers and Mrs Macrae will speak to the Education

Authority. It was felt that the safest solution would be for the second bus to travel along Strathnairn, cut through the Abersky road, picking up the children en route, and then continue from Torness.

Water and Sewerage: The 5-year plan for sewerage works will be announced soon. The Foyers plant should be in it.

Community Project: Discussions are ongoing.

Renewable Energy/Community Benefit:

Highland Council is working towards standardising community benefit payments from the energy companies.

AOB: Loch Ness marathon - after a site meeting with Mr Sutherland, the start has been brought slightly downhill from last year and competitors will be kept below the start line until the race is due to start. Toilets will be placed on either side of the road.

Loch-Tarff lay-by - Ongoing.

Community Council elections - the new council should be elected in October but Highland Council are late in instigating the proceedings. Mr S Maclure was returning officer on the last occasion and so it was agreed to approach him to officiate this time.

Firework display - Mr Houston asked the CC if they were willing to make a donation for this years' display. It was

agreed to contribute £400.00.

Minute of Meeting 28 October

Treasurer: Ord. acc. £772.60; project acc. £575.58.

A cheque for £400.00 was raised for Mr M Houston for the firework display. The locked money-box is in hand.

Planning: At the recent planning meeting the following three applications were granted consent: house at Killiechoilum; one house at plot A Cnoc an-t-Sionnach; one house at plot B Cnoc an-t-Sionnach. Concern was raised that a track has been made, joining the public road just above the Breineag Bridge on the Killin road. The concern is that the track has not been widened at the entrance so that there is no clear visibility. The road currently has increased traffic flow, which is set to increase further with the proposed hydro schemes. The secretary was instructed to contact the planning department, to clarify the situation regards the requirement of planning permission for such a track.

Roads and Transport:

Whitebridge Bus - Mr Summers confirmed that there will be no change to the bus routes at this time. Children no longer have to cross the road at Torness to get on the bus.

Speeding - There was a recent accident on the Loch Bran road caused by a car travelling too fast for the road conditions. It was felt that this was a general problem in the area but the CC was unclear on how the problem could be tackled.

Community Project: Ongoing.

Renewable Energy/Community Benefit:

Innogy - New proposal for a hydroelectric scheme on Aberchalder Burn. There was concern that water will be taken from Allt Uisg an t-Sidhein and Aberchalder Burn and discharged into Aberchalder Burn, reducing the flow ultimately in the River Farigaig, which could affect the wildlife and wetlands around this river. The secretary was instructed to write detailing the concerns.

Windfarms - the two companies applying for test masts at Corriegarth and Dell were contacted. Both felt that a meeting would be more beneficial after they have collected data from the masts. However, there was strong concern raised by the council and it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged for January to find out what the companies proposals are.

AOB:

CC Elections - nomination papers (available from Mr S Maclure) have to be returned by 7 November. If there are more than 10 nominations there will be a postal vote and the new council will be elected on 27 November. The first meeting of the new council will be held on 2 December 2003.

Neighbourhood watch - Mr Al Janabi has resigned from his position as co-ordinator. It was agreed that the new council should arrange a meeting of all interested people, willing to take the scheme forward.

Glenlia - there have been complaints of old cars around the area. Ownership and landowners need to be determined.

Loch Ness Marathon - the race was better marshalled this year and went without incident.

Picnic sites on Foyers road - they have been very popular this year since they have been cleared of bushes.

However, three picnic benches have been taken so FE are looking at providing stone benches next year. There is a litter problem but, if finances permit, FE will have someone to look after them for the season.

ELECTIONS

As there were only ten nominations, it was not necessary for a postal vote to be taken and all nominees were duly elected to the Community Council.

Highland Councillor

Mrs Ella MacRae

01456 751 203

ella.macrae.clr@highland.gov.uk

B.E.N.'S PAGE

Boleskine Environmental Network

100 Wind Turbines, 27 Dams & 6 Power Stations for Stratherrick (& don't forget the roads !!!)

• Aberchalder Estate	hydro
• Inverfarigaig gorge	hydro
• Dunmaglass Estate	wind farm
• Corriegarth Estate(River E)	hydro
• Corriegarth Estate	wind farm
• Dell Estate	wind farm
• Garrogie Estate (R. Fechlin)	hydro
• Garrogie Estate (R. Killin etc)	hydro
• Glendoe & Garrogie Estates	hydro
(16 rivers including R.Tarff)	

No river unspoilt

The latest proposals are for two hydro-electric schemes for the Aberchalder and Farigaig rivers. When all the schemes are completed every burn and river flowing from the Monadhliath Mountains into Loch Ness, between Fort Augustus and Dores, will be dammed.

WHY be concerned?

1. Because there are no guidelines on energy developments the energy companies, in a haphazard free-for-all, are rushing to develop renewable energy schemes in areas of small population and no landscape designations. The result is confusion as each development fights for water, access and approval. At least 2 of the above schemes are large scale industrial developments, inadequately researched and hastily put together for political and commercial reasons. **The impact on this small area will be immense, with severe pressure on the roads over many years.**

2. Because there are no guidelines on energy conservation - the government are making no effort to bring in legislation to curb the wasteful use of energy as agreed by the international community. **The potential for energy savings is vast.** Experts state current consumption could be reduced by up to a half - saving more energy than would be created by all

onshore renewable energy schemes!! Improving energy conservation rather than generating more would cut down on greenhouse gas emissions and be the most effective option, including cheaper bills for ourselves!

3. Stratherrick will have an unfair proportion of energy developments. All new electricity will be transmitted south and, in return, **our electric bills will rise** to pay for it all, tourism will suffer and the local environment will change for ever. In contrast, the **absentee estate owners and the developers will make huge profits** and the government will be seen to have achieved its target of supplying more electricity from 'green' sources.

Water vole may be lost

Waterfalls and pools will disappear in our hill areas and the animal to suffer most will be the water vole. Water voles are Scotlands fastest declining mammal - 80% have disappeared in the last 7 years due to habitat destruction and mink predation. The burns in the Monadhliaths are one of the last refuges and free from development - but no longer. This is one example of environmental damage caused by hydro schemes.

Water voles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act !!



WHAT you can do

- Watch for planning applications in the local papers. All schemes are subject to the usual public planning notice i.e. 28 days. Updates from B.E.N.
- Respond with letters of concern to the Scottish Executive and to Highland Council. B.E.N. can provide example letters & information.
- Write to MSPs, MPs & local councillor Ella MacRae. Make a nuisance of yourself - it can be very satisfying (B.E.N. successfully changed the River E plan). Lobby and go to com. council meetings.

Exchange views

Act before it's too late

contact secretary of B.E.N.

tel: 01456 486355 or odonovan_jane@hotmail.com

Christian Comment

In recent months a great amount of energy, money and human life has been expended in the desire to overcome terrorism in many parts of the world - yet the peace for which most of us long seems elusive. Our government is rightly concerned to improve our national education and health - yet many individuals seem to lack peace of mind and body.

How can we have peace in our day?

Many years ago, a group of shepherds on the hillside near Bethlehem heard a crowd of angels bring a message from God about someone who would bring peace on earth and goodwill among mankind. His name was to be Jesus - meaning one who saves us from terrorism both within ourselves and around us. He is the Prince of Peace who gave his life on the cross outside Jerusalem to make this possible for those who would receive him into their lives.

One of the carols we may sing this Christmastime has the line "Hush the noise ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing". This is the way to find the Peace of God that we all need.

CHURCH MEETINGS

Church of Scotland

Sunday: 10.00a.m. Boleskine, 11.30a.m. Dores. Rev. J. Buchan 01463 713114.

Episcopal Church

Sunday: 11.00a.m. Croachy. Rev. P. Mosley 01808 521397

Free Church

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

Free Church (continuing)

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

Free Presbyterian Church

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

Roman Catholic Church

Sunday: 12 noon Whitebridge.
Rev. P. Bonnici 01456 486289

Inter-Denominational Bible Study

Rev. Martyn Bateman 01456 486273 (for details)

MACLEANS COTTAGE

In the mid 19th century a tailor named MacLean built a cottage on his croft - 18 Lochgarthside. We know very little about him but story has it that he washed his cloth in the waters of Loch Garth. His widow, Sarah, is registered as living in the house in 1885. Their son Jimmy MacLean - one of several children - took over the croft. As with many crofters of that time he also worked on the roads for the council. He married twice. His first wife died of consumption in the old sanatorium at Invergarry. Jimmy is said to have been a man of strong character with red hair and an explosive nature. He was fond of rabbiting with his dogs. Alistair Chisholm told me that the dykes on the croft were dismantled to catch the last of the rabbits.

He married a second time to his housekeeper who came to look after his three children, Donnie, Willie and Sarah. It is the death of Donnie, closely followed by his wife Sadie last month that has stimulated this article. Donnie worked in Glasgow and on the death of his mother decided not to take on the croft. He has two daughters Mary and Morag. Donnie's brother Willie, after

living in No1 Lochmhor cottages decided to move to Inverness with his family. Sarah moved to North America. The croft land was subsumed (reverted) to the estate (Ashdale) while the cottage was sold on to a young man from Blackpool in the early 1970's. He removed the roof and planned to rebuild but his wife left with the children during the first winter. He soon followed.

My husband, Roger, and I bought the 'ruin' from him in 1975. We re-built and later extended the house and managed to secure the original croft land. Over the years I have been visited by several members of the MacLean family both from the U.K and North America. One lady wished to take some of the soil from the croft to scatter on her husband's grave in Canada. It is sad to think that the last MacLeans to have been born in the MacLean's cottage in Stratherrick are now dead and so many of the tales from the last hundred years have been lost with them. My apologies for any incorrect details.

Jane O'Donovan

Congratulations

The website created by Andy and Rosemary Holt for their group of self-catering cottages which now takes many bookings over the internet (www.wildernesscottages.co.uk) has been named BEST e-TOURISM BUSINESS in the WINNERS @ WEB competition organised by Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands Enterprise beating runners up, Southern Upland Way and Edinburgh Principal Hotel Association. The business is now being run by Gordon

Valerie Weir

would like to convey her grateful thanks to the people of Stratherrick, Foyers and surrounding area for their tributes, gifts and good wishes and a very warm and memorable evening on the occasion of her retirement presentation in Stratherrick Public Hall on 10th October

Foyers Fire Brigade Retiral

Sub Officer Mick Bryant presenting Nik Grainger with his Fire service plaque, 30th November 1998 - 5th April 2002.

Born in Inverness, Nik moved to Aberdeen in the late 60's with his family. On leaving school, he joined the Gordon Highlanders, served 11 years and then played an active role in the Territorial Army Royal Signals until moving back to Inverness in 1989 to take up employment with Albyn Housing Society.

Nik moved to Inverfarigaig with his family in 1996 and in 1998 he joined and served as a Firefighter in the local Fire Brigade

at Foyers until 2002. Although Nik has hung up his Firefighter's axe, he is currently serving his community as a Special Constable with the Northern Constabulary and giving up evenings and weekends to go on duty.

On behalf of the Highlands and Islands Fire Brigade I would like to thank Nik for his commitment to the service and wish him the very best in the future.



Sub Mick Bryant, Foyers.

Moby Dick

the name invokes a tale of high seas adventure, revenge and a captain's



unceasing quest for the great white whale.

However.....North Country Theatre's recent production in the Hall provided a hilarious slant on Herman Melville's tale. From Grimsby, via excellent slick minimal scene changes to the high seas, onto a desert island and finally back to Grimsby the cast of three men and one woman (who played the cabin boy) along with the undoubted star Pip the three legged dog gave a superb evening's entertainment to a very enthusiastic and appreciative audience.

A wonderful evening but it would be nice to see a bigger audience from the area. Live theatre on your doorstep – you don't know what you're missing – please make the effort to come along.

Boleskine Bulletin AGM

The committee was re-elected comprising Martyn Bateman as Chairman, Barbara Miller as Secretary and Peter Arrowsmith as Treasurer. Co-editors as before are Ana Arrowsmith and Buddy MacDougall. Appreciation was voiced to Jane O'Donovan for her hard work in building up the newsletter to what it is today.

Any budding writer or journalist out there who would

Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who attended and contributed to the Fair Trade Coffee Morning in October. This event raised £155 for ActionAid's Lick Child Poverty Appeal. You can continue to help alleviate poverty in the developing world by buying fair-traded goods. Phone Heather (486774) if you want any more information.

Around the World in Seventy Days



At the end of August, we set out on holiday, flying from Edinburgh to London, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Honolulu, Auckland, Invercargill, Christchurch, Sydney, Adelaide, Bangkok, returning to London and Edinburgh at the end of October. It was a wonderful experience, meeting friends and relatives, including John's sister in Adelaide. The temperatures ranged from 32 to 0 degrees C.

We were in the biggest mall in the world in Edmonton. It has 20,000 parking spaces, and the world's largest - indoor amusement park, water park and wave pool. There are 800 stores, 110 eating places, an ice palace and a deep sea adventure with submarines for 20 people. We had a meal in a revolving restaurant on the 24th floor overlooking the city.

We walked round a 1920's Ukrainian village with working mill, station, farm with animals and crops, shop and people dressed and acting the part of the era. Margaret ate Perogys - a floury dumpling.

Driving through Alberta for hours and hundreds of kilometres on straight wide roads, we viewed the vast prairies, golden with harvest. En route, we spied a coyote in a field and dead skunk and porcupine on the roads. Seeing the number of oil and gas wells on our journey proved that Canada is self sufficient in these fuels. The magnificent Rockies were enveloped in a smokey haze from the forest fires. This continued for weeks because of the inaccessible terrain.

In Waterton National Park, Alberta, we were thrilled to see a baby bear on the golf course, and on a lake shore, a brown bear with three cubs. We were privileged to have a rare sighting of a bald eagle. At Fort MacLeod, Alberta, a visit was made to the UNESCO World Heritage Site called Head-Smashed-in Buffalo Jump. Long ago, the Plains People hunted and killed herds of buffalo by driving them over a cliff into the valley below. When Europeans arrived with guns, buffalo became virtually extinct.

Vancouver, the crown jewel of Western Canada, was vibrant with flower-filled parks, yacht-crowded waterfront and sea-planes skimming in and out all day. It is also the terminal for cruise ships for Alaska. We drove to Whistler to view the ski-jumps and runs which will be in use at the 2010 Winter Olympics..

Spring was in the air in New Zealand, with magnolia trees laden with pink blossoms, primula, marigolds, daffodils and tulips. In South Island, hundreds of miles of lush, flat green fields were white with sheep and lambs. Romneys and Leicesters are popular. Margaret helped to bottle feed many lambs which were poorly and some triplets. A number of the lambs wore sheep-skin coats to keep them warm. Every morning, at the end of each farm track, a pile of dead lambs was picked up by a lorry and delivered to the lambskin factory - the only one in New Zealand. The lambskins are treated by several processes before being exported for

manufacturing into various garments. We were interested to see a herd of Jersey cows, each wearing a blanket lovingly provided by three elderly sisters.

Christchurch is a beautiful city through which flows the gently winding Avon River, lined with poplars and weeping willows. There are many beautiful trees along the roads and in the parks. One morning at 6.22 am, we were awakened by the biggest earthquake experienced in Christchurch in fifteen years. It reached 4.9 on the Richter Scale.

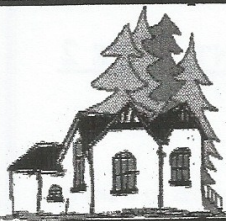
The harbour in Sydney is quite amazing, with the Opera House and Harbour Bridge dwarfing the skyline. On a guided tour of the Opera House, which is vast, we were shown the Concert Hall for 2679 patrons, the Opera Theatre which seats 1547, Drama Theatre, Playhouse, Studio, Restaurants and Shop. We saw Woolloomooloo Bay, Campbell's Cove, Argyle Street, MacLeay Street and the ANZAC memorial. We walked around the Rocks where in 1788, a fleet of 11 British ships entered the harbour with convict exiles. We were driven to the Blue Mountains which is a range covered in eucalyptus trees. There are 200 different species of these 'gum' trees. The blueness is caused by vapour rising from them. Fire can erupt from this vapour, spreading rapidly. Journeying downhill, we stopped at Bell Bird Hill to listen to hundreds of tiny birds chirping like the tinkling of bells.

Adelaide is peaceful and attractive with very few skyscrapers in the city centre. We took a tramcar to Glenelg, a nearby seaside resort, which is popular with swimmers and surfers. HMS Buffalo rests there - an exact replica of the ship which carried emigrants in 1836. The passengers were six months on board and were greatly annoyed by the Captain's cows, pigs, hens and dog roaming on deck! It is now a popular eating place. As we were unable to see any wild animals, we went to a wildlife park to see Koalas Kangaroos, Bettongs, Bandicoots, Potoroos, Wombats and Tasmanian Devils. Koalas have to eat up to one kilogram of fresh eucalyptus leaves each day.

Bangkok is the City of Angels, City of Smiles, bustles and never sleeps. With seven million inhabitants it has non-stop traffic, multitudes of motor scooters and tuk-tuks. Monks in saffron-coloured robes are frequently seen. There are 26,000 temples in Thailand, all outstandingly beautiful. We saw three and viewed the Statue of the Golden Buddah, weighing 5.5 tons of solid gold.

This was a memorable holiday with many highlights. We are thankful to have had excellent health and safe travelling throughout the whole tour.

Margaret & John Campbell

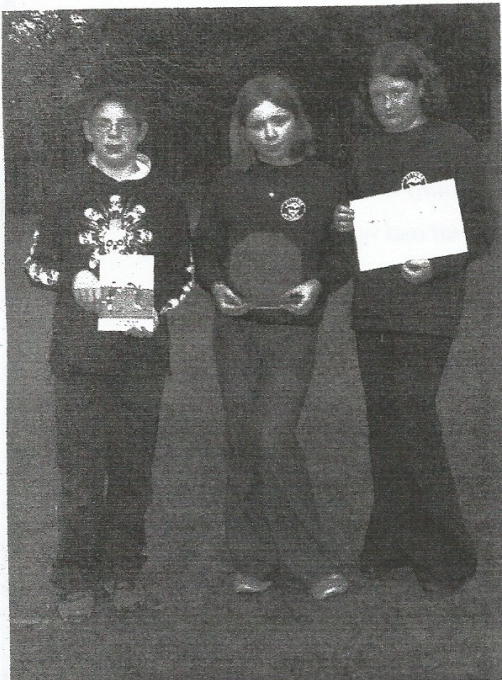


Boleskine Bulletin Foyers School Supplement

Autumn Issue

November 2003

Tourism Award



Young writers and artists who contributed to the booklet, *Footsteps of the Jacobites*, proudly display the certificate and plaque they were recently awarded.

Foyers Pupils Score a Hit!!!

Footsteps of the Jacobites - a booklet written jointly by children from Foyers and Aldourie Primary Schools, has been judged to be the best Community Tourism initiative in the prestigious Inverness Tourism Awards for 2003.

The booklet, which traces the retreat of Jacobite soldiers along the shore of Loch Ness after the defeat at Culloden was praised for the freshness of both the writing and illustrations. The subject is of special local interest but is largely neglected. At the award ceremony held on the 7th November, the schools were awarded certificates and a crystal plaque.

Both the booklet and the preceding schools' project were supported by Councillor Ella Macrea. The booklet is on sale at both Foyers and Aldourie Primary Schools and the Dores Inn—where Councilor Macrea reports that sales are so good that she might have to order a reprint!

Order yours now—while stocks last!

£3.00 per copy

Au Revoir, Fred!

Pupils and staff at Foyers School are very sad to announce the retirement of our Classroom Assistant, Mrs Winifred, 'Fred', Donald at the end of the present term. Mrs Donald has devoted herself tirelessly to supporting the work of the school and will be sorely missed by us all—particularly the infants for whom she has special responsibility. Normal working hours have meant little to Mrs Donald whose contribution has always been well beyond the call of duty and in the kindest of spirits.

However, every cloud has a silver lining. Mrs Donald will continue to visit the School informally, after hanging up her boots. We wish her a very happy retirement, but with a muted accent on the 'retirement'. Thank you from all of us Fred!

Our Children and Their Health...

Anxieties about the growing incidence of obesity in children and teenagers has led medical experts to warn of serious long-term consequences; the development of diseases like diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Some have gone so far as to suggest that more parents will outlive their children unless the trend is halted or reversed. Increases in obesity amongst children have occurred too quickly to be explained by genetics; the culprits are poor diet and lack of physical exercise.

- * *Children today eat less fruit and vegetable than 20 years ago.*
- * *Three out of every four children do not eat green leafy vegetables regularly.*
- * *Children in Scotland eat less fruit and vegetable than those in England and other European countries.*
- * *TV advertising of children's food is overwhelmingly for pre-sugared breakfast cereals, soft drinks, confectionary and savoury snacks—in sharp contrast to healthy diets.*
- * *Children eat too much saturated fat, sugar, salt and not enough fruit and vegetable*
- * *Conditions such as diabetes, normally adult problems, are affecting children increasingly.*

Healthy Eating—by Hannah Burgess

WHY? People should eat a lot more healthily...Why? If people are not healthy they are unfit, small, fat, spotty, lazy, tired and depressed. If you are extremely unhealthy you could die. But what if you *are* healthy? You're fit, energetic, active and happy! It also makes you big and strong. So, what would YOU rather be?

HOW? To be healthy you need to eat and do the right kinds of things. For example, instead of eating sweets, chocolates, biscuits and crisps you could eat things like oranges, bananas, pears, melon, red, green or yellow peppers and cucumber. You could grill and bake things—not fry them.

Ever thought of exercising outside?

But...but... Excuses, excuses: 'I'll miss my favourite programme!' 'But it tastes so nice!'

The good thing is that you don't need any excuses to exercise or eat healthily

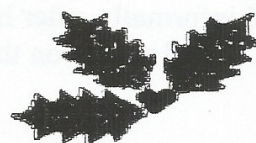
Christmas Sale

The annual Christmas sale will be held in the school hall on Saturday 6th December between 10am and 12 noon. Christmas decorations and crafts made by the children will be on sale and other stalls will include baking, bric-a-brac, bottle and a lucky dip. Proceeds are for school funds which are used to support many activities and extra expenses throughout the year. Refreshments are included in the admission price of £1. We hope you will support us



Christmas Concert

Please come along to join the children of Foyers School in their exclusive Foyers' version of "Snow White" in the school hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 17th December.



Western Isles Sponsored Walk

Colin Adamson and Eddie Moore would like to say a big "Thank you" to everyone who contributed so generously for the sponsored walk in aid of Highland Hospice.

The walk began in Stornaway, then on to Tarbert. We then got the ferry from Leverburgh to Berneray and walked through the Uists and Benbecula to Lochboisdale and on by ferry to Barra and Castlebay - a total of 95 miles.

Weather was great with grand hospitality from the folk of the Islands! We handed in a cheque for £600 to the Hospice.

Thanks again.



Loch Ness Marathon

Malcolm Sutherland, Event Director for Scottish Community Foundation has written thanking the people of Foyers for their support during the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon in September. Runners have reported that it was the best organised and most scenic marathon they had participated in. Many vital causes will receive money raised by the five nominated charities.

South Loch Ness Heritage Group

The second open meeting of the Group was held at Stratherrick Hall on October 20th and was well attended, although we always wish for more!

The Guest speaker was Mr Willy Forbes from the Strathnairn Heritage Group who gave a fascinating and stimulating talk, emphasising the sheer scope of the term 'heritage', especially in this area where we have treasures from as far back as the Druid circles and the Pictish stones, right down to the present day with the priceless memories of some of our older inhabitants. There must be a wealth of photographs, books and old items of interest, which we would love to be able to see in order to record them (an old prayer book belonging to the Grant Brothers who lived in Shoemakers some 50 years ago has just been unearthed). Some photographs of Dore from the 1919 - 1939 period were on display, arousing interest both from those for whom these were childhood memories and from those whose knowledge of the village is entirely modern.

During the discussion at the end of the meeting some people

volunteered to undertake small research projects, on subjects as diverse as local hydro power/aluminium smelting, WW2 graves and analysis of the content of ancient thatch. This will be a vital function of the Group, so if you have a similar interest, please share your knowledge with us. In fact if you have anything that you think may be of interest or you can tell us about happenings within your memory, please help us to ensure that these are not lost forever.

Mr Graeme Biggs of the Fort Augustus Group also attended. With this sort of combined strength we shall hopefully be able to build up a living record of the South Loch Ness area, past and present, for future generations. All too soon our present will be somebody else's past!

The next meeting will be on Monday 12th January 2004 at 7.30pm in Gorthleck Hall. If you are unable to attend, but have something to contribute, please ring the Group Secretary, Jean Marshall on 01456 486758, or any of the Group members listed in the last Boleskine Bulletin.

Ian Cameron, Chairman.

DAVID JOYCE

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of David Joyce at the age of 45 on 9th September after a serious illness.

His passion was cars which led to his career as an AA patrolman and to his hobby of rally driving. Another hobby was skiing and it was on a skiing holiday in France that he met Birgit from Germany who became his wife. He lived with his parents, Harry and Edna at Wester Farigaig, Foyers until he and Birgit moved to Inverness and latterly to Knockbain, Munloch. He was devoted to his family especially to his little son, Alexander who has only just started school, aged 5.

At his funeral in Foyers Church, his AA colleagues almost filled the Church to pay tribute to him. He is buried in Foyers Burial Ground.



Nessie's View

This year I have had it up to the neck
Interest in me is not waning
Why should it? I'm here and intend to remain
Whatever these humans throw at me
My large duckpond has hid me so well
Even Dr.Rines can't really be sure
He keeps on looking - it keeps him happy
And visitors come to encore.
Now and then I give a ripple and intrigue new recruits
Those pretty visitors in the hotels or leaning out of their boats
Not much rain this year so the rivers to my pond are sluggish
So a new scheme is in action to give me a flood
From a catchment via tunnels and a power housing.
Also on the hills - more sights to behold!
A lot of masts are coming with sails
They will blow in the wind and make lots of noise
And be worse than those planes with their smoke trails
I'm to expect lots more barges with bricks, pipes and cement
Steaming past me to unload by the locks
Then onto large lorries to roar up the roads
Upset all the locals, keep them and us awake round the clocks
So roll on these new schemes
Renewable energy is here to stay
Keep everyone's thoughts off me.

These are the ramblings of JAY

PS
Yes, I saw that iron-cased human
Doing his latest marathon in MY pond
I didn't let him see me, though tempted to cut his pipe
I think he should keep to dry land
What next have you got for me?
What do you think? Do you believe?

Foyers School Reunion (1940's and 1950's)

Over 100 ex. Foyers School pupils assembled in the Chieftain Hotel, Inverness recently for a reunion organised by Mary McDonald (Mary the Farm) when she got the idea from seeing so many familiar faces at a recent local funeral. They came from all parts of the UK and some from overseas - the excitement of meeting again almost prevented dinner being served at all! Local people who attended were sisters Muriel McDonald and Isobel Allan, Donald Forbes, Ala MacGruer and sister Flo, Cathie Stoddart and Jocky Stoddart.

The vote of thanks was given by Iain MacPhee (the past schoolmaster's son) who was accompanied by his sister Isma. The event was pronounced a huge success by all.

Work Underway – The Lodges on Loch Ness

After not just months but years of delay due to planning control difficulties, the project to bring what independent consultants claim will be "A lodge resort in the top 3 in Scotland" is at last underway.

The Lodges on Loch Ness is to be a Five Star development situated adjacent to the grounds of Craigdarroch House Hotel. Each lodge will have 3 bedrooms all en-suite, two lounges, dining room, kitchen and main bathroom with a steam room. Each property will boast a balcony with barbecue area, hot tub and anti midge machine. The resort will be available both for time-share and letting clients. Plans exist for a swimming pool but unfortunately they will have to be on hold pending Foyers getting a public sewerage system. The lodges are of Canadian manufacture and meet full Scottish domestic housing specification.

The lodge park is a joint venture between Langdale Leisure PLC and David & Kate Munro who previously owned the Craigdarroch House Hotel, now owned by their eldest son Andrew and his wife Belinda. The ownership of the park is a 50/50 split between Langdale and the Munro family. All on site management and day to day running will be handled by David & Kate with Langdale PLC handling the Sales & Marketing aspect of the joint venture.

During the construction phase there will be approximately 12 to 15 people employed on site with an estimated 10 to 12 full time jobs and 50 part time jobs when the resort is fully operational. Hopefully a considerable number of the required staff will come from South Loch Ness Side area boosting the local economy considerably.

One of the plus factors for the locality is that the Turns Road will be illuminated; perhaps the Community Council might bring pressure to bear on Highland Council to extend the street lighting at Lower Foyers up to the Craigdarroch Hotel junction thereby giving local residents an illuminated walk-way from Upper Foyers to Lower Foyers.

During and after the construction phase, the top section of the Turns Road will be ruled for downwards traffic only with access from the Turns Road to the Upper Foyers Road prohibited by order of Highland Council. This should not prove troublesome for anyone as the Turns Road is in fact an access only road to properties off it and is not a through road for traffic. Its status as a walking and bridle right of way is not affected by the Highland Council order.

Whilst construction work is under way, we do not recommend the use of the upper part of the Turns Road if you can possibly avoid it. We suggest that when possible, local residents should use alternative routes. If you have to use the track, please be aware that you will be in a construction zone and should be alert at all times and obey any instructions given to you by construction staff. Please note that very heavy construction machines will be using this track.

In the interests of safety for Foyers school children, heavy construction traffic will be banned from using the track for 30 minutes prior to Foyers school start and for 30 minutes after school finishes. If you have children using the track, please make them aware of the dangers of a construction site area.

David & Kate Munro (01463 711601)

Harvest Songs of Praise

On Sunday 26th October, a good company gathered in Stratherrick Hall for the Harvest Songs of Praise. The singing from both choir and congregation was enthusiastic with the emphasis this year on Celtic music and spirituals from the Deep South.

We were pleased to welcome our locum Minister, the Rev. John Buchan and his wife and to give a special welcome to the Rev. James and Mrs Anne Christie. Thanks to our readers - Anne Rose, Anne Urquhart, Christine Shaw, Margaret Conway, Tine Butterworth, Peter Arrowsmith and Donald Macaskill and to everyone who helped with the refreshments and decorating the hall (and tidying up afterwards!). A special thank you to Gavin, Annie, Fraser and John for their help with the singing and to Francis Bell, our accompanist for travelling every week from Inverness to rehearse the choir. Last but not least, thanks to Colin Adamson for his performance on the horn.

There will be a Christmas Carol Service for the Family on Sunday 14th December at 3.00pm in Stratherrick Hall. All welcome!

Local History Revealed

One of the events of Highland Archaeology Week was a guided visit expertly conducted by Kirsty Cameron, an archaeologist with Highland Council and Katy Stirling, our Countryside Ranger. They showed us a quite extensive Pictish barrow cemetery which lies in a field approached by the old bridge opposite the Roman Catholic cemetery at the junction of the B852 and B851 near the Catholic chapel at Whitebridge. Many of us have motored along these roads numerous times without realising the ancient remains lying there. The graves are of circular and square shape and one which could harbour the remains of an important person or family is a raised oblong shape. The grave that was exposed when a tree fell some years ago has been closed off. Hopefully the site will be explored in the future when funds allow.

The remains of a cornerstone showed later use of the site and nearby is the still obvious form of part of a Wade road leading to the Foyers river and the remnants of a bridge.

What history lies in such a small area!

Buddy MacDougall

South Loch Ness Tourist Group

In response to the need for an effective tourism voice on the south side of Loch Ness and in order to meet the new challenges facing tourism, the SLNTG has recently undergone significant changes:

1. A new management committee has been elected to drive forward the group.
2. A new constitution has been approved which reflects a more proactive approach and one which recognises the importance of the environment to the success of tourism on the south side.
3. The group has developed its own website - www.lochnesswelcome.co.uk which promotes all members on the internet and also provides a forum on which members can communicate.

The group has also recently embarked on the development of a marketing plan that aims to deliver real benefits to members. However, as with any voluntary group, long term success is only achieved by the enthusiasm and commitment of all members. The initial impetus of change can only be sustained if all members are willing to assist in the process.

So please, all past, current and prospective members, put aside your doubts, get involved and help make it work. If you would like more information about the aims of the group, please feel free to contact me.

The Atheist and the Loch Ness Monster

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness Monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air and then opened its mouth to swallow both. As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!"

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place and, as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds "I thought you didn't believe in Me!"

"Come on God, give me a break!" the man pleaded. "Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness Monster either!" Then the Atheist continues, "God, please let the Loch Ness Monster become religious". God replies, "So be it".

The scene starts up, the atheist falling. The Loch Ness Monster folds his claws together and says, "Lord, bless this food you have so graciously provided..."

Walks

Highland Council Guided Walks

Saturday 6th December CHRISTMAS CREATIONS

Meet at Farr Primary School, Grid Ref NH 685336 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Meet for a quick walk around the Strathnairn Community woodland to learn about the plants we associate with Christmas and gathering materials to make Christmas decorations. (for family groups with children aged between 7 and 12 years)

Saturday 21st February INVERMORISTON - PAST & PRESENT

Meet at Invermoriston Car Park, 2.00 to 3.30 pm. People have travelled through Invermoriston for centuries. This gentle walk takes us along the bank of the River Moriston. Learn about the old bridges and the up to date Great Glen Way.

Sunday 22nd February REPEL THE RHODIES, FOYERS

(Bookings only) Phone 01463 724312 Help repel the rhododendron invasion at the lovely Foyers Falls and return this pine woodland to a healthier state.

Saturday 20th March WINTER ON THE MOUNTAIN- MEALL FUAR-MHONAIHD

(Bookings only) Phone 01463 724312 10am to 2.00pm. 6 miles (weather permitting). Learn about specialised plants and animals that live on the open hill. Strenuous walk - wear walking boots and full windproof and waterproof clothing.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

AIDS HELPLINE: Freephone 0800 567123. Open 24 hours.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA): Open 24 hours, confidential service, charged at local rate.
Tel. 08457 697555 Scottish Service Office. For information on meetings, etc. Tel. 01412 262214.
ALCOHOL COUNSELLING (INVERNESS): Tel. 01463 220995 Free, confidential, one-to-one counselling for anyone 16 years and over who is worried about their own or someone else's drinking.
BROOK HIGHLAND: 77, Church Street, Inverness. Tel. 01463 242434. Sexual Health Advisory Service for young people under 25 years old. Contraception, pregnancy testing, infection testing and counselling available.
CHILDLINE: Tel. 0800 1111. Free, confidential advice for children and young people 24 hours a day.
CHILDLINE SCOTLAND (BULLYING): Tel. 0800 441111. Free advice: Mon. to Fri. 3.30p.m. – 9.30p.m.
CITIZENS ADVICE (Inverness): Tel. 01463 235 345.
CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE: Tel. 01463 713741.
DEPRESSION ALLIANCE: Tel. 0131 467305. Mon. to Fri. 10.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. Offers information and support for those with depression, their family and friends.
DRUGLINE SCOTLAND: Tel. 0800 776600. Free 24 hour confidential advice on drugs.
FAMILY MEDIATION HIGHLAND: Tel. 01463 712100.
HIGHLAND COUNCIL: Tel. 0345 002005. Emergency number for homelessness and repairs after 5.00p.m
HELP THE AGED: Tel. 01315 516331. Seniorline: Tel. 0808 800 6565.
KIDSCAPE BULLYING HELPLINE FOR PARENTS: Tel. 01717 303300. Mon. to Fri. 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m.
MARRIAGE COUNSELLING (HIGHLAND): Tel. 01463 712888 for appointment. Professional individual and couple counselling for those in intimate relationships. Strictly confidential service.
PARENTLINE: Tel. 0345 567800. Helpline for parents under stress. Mon. to Sat. 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. Answer phone service outside office hours.
RAPE AND ABUSE LINE: Free, confidential, listening support. Call free on 08088 000123, every evening 7.00p.m. to 10.00p.m. This line is answered by women.
Call free on 08088 000122, Mon. and Wed. 7.00p.m. to 10.00p.m. This line is answered by men.
REACH OUT HIGHLAND: 34, Waterloo Place, Inverness. Tel. 01463 711585. Confidential information on sexual health. HIV counselling and testing.
SAMARITANS: 66, Tomnahurich Street, Inverness. Tel. 01463 713456. Also Tel. 0345 909090, charged at local rate. All branches offer 24 hour service.
SEXUAL HEALTH: Highland Sexual Health, outpatients Raigmore Hospital – Tel. 01463 704202. All ages – free – confidential – no appointment necessary. Contraception including emergency, pregnancy testing, diagnosis/treatment of infections and HIV, postal condom service.
SOCIAL WORK HOTLINE: Tel. 08457 697284. Calls charged at local rate. 24 hour service.
VICTIM SUPPORT: Tel. 01463 710806
WOMEN'S AID, INVERNESS: Tel. 01463 220719. Offers information, support and temporary accommodation for abused women and their children.

Compiled by Tine Butterworth

Bus Times

WHITEBRIDGE-INVERNESS

	Mon-Sat	
Whitebridge	07-35	12-30
Gorthleck	07-45	12-40
Erroglie	07-49	12-44
Torness	07-58	12-53B
Inverness Acad	08-40	13-25
Inverness Bus	08-50	13-35

	Mon-Fri	Sat
Inverness Bus	10-30	15-15 17-10
Inverness Acad	10-40	15-35 17-20
Torness		16-17B
Erroglie	11-21	16-16 18-01
Gorthleck	11-25	16-20 18-05
Whitebridge	11-35	16-30 18-15

B-via Torness when reqd.

FOYERS-INVERNESS

	Mon-Fri	Sat
Up. Foyers	0755 1250 1623 0900 1320	
L. Foyers	0800 1255 — 0905 1325	
Inverness	0853 1340 1710 0950 1410	

Inverness	1155 1515 1743 1230 1743
L. Foyers	1240 1605 1828 1315 1828
Up. Foyers	1245 1610 1833 1320 1833

D&E GORTHLECK-INVERNESS

	MWF	T	Th	SD	SH
Gorthleck	0932	0920	1514	1515	
L. Foyers	—	0934	—	—	—
Erroglie	0937	—	1540	1525	
Torness	0947	—	1550	1535	
Farr shop	—	—	1619	—	
Dores	0957	0958	—	1545	
Inverness	1014	1014	1634	1600	

	SD	SH	MWF	T	Th
Inverness	0800	0830	1420	1420	
Dores	—	0845	1435	1435	
Farr shop	0825	—	—	—	
Torness	0855	0900	1445	—	
Erroglie	0905	0910	1455	1459	
L. Foyers	—	—	—	1459	
Gorthleck	0920	0920	1501	1514	

SD-Schooldays, SH-holidays,
Above schedules are abbreviated
There is also the Post Bus

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Email: munro@hotel-loch-ness.co.uk

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Inverfarigaig	9.10-9.30
L. Foyers	9.40-10.00
U. Foyers	10.00-10.20
Whitebridge	10.30-10.40
Gorthleck	10.50-10.55
Errogie	11.00-11.10

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Events at Stratherrick Hall

Toddlers Group - Wednesdays 10.30 - 11.30

Yoga classes - Tuesdays 2.00 - 3.30

Thursdays 7.00 - 8.30 Tel. Sylvia on 486434

Bowls

May move to afternoon session - possibly Wednesdays. 486377

Country Dancing - Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30 All welcome

Wednesday 14th December 3pm - Christmas Songs of Praise

Monday 12th January 7-30 -

Heritage Group Open Night

Friday 19th March -

Fiona Knowles "Catch a Falling Star"

To book the Hall 'phone Judith Borup on 01456 486464

We keep the notice board outside the hall up to date with other local events.
See also local website www.erroglie.supanet.com and click on Stratherrick
Public Hall

Farr Traditional Music Concerts

Friday 19th December 8pm - Wolfstone

Tickets from A. Forbes 01808 521333 £12/£10 or Riverside Gallery, Inverness
Advance booking strongly recommended

Christmas Services to which all are welcome.

Church of Scotland

Christmas Songs of Praise: 3.00pm. Sunday 14th December at Stratherrick
Community Hall.

Christmas Eve: 7.00pm. Family Carol Service at Dores Church.

Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve: 6.30pm. Carol Service followed by Communion.

Christmas Day: 10.30am. Family Service followed by Communion.

Roman Catholic Church

Monday 15th December at 7.00pm. "The Shipwrecked at Christmas"

Christmas Eve: 11.30pm. Carols by Candlelight followed by Midnight Mass of
Christmas with tea and mince pies after.

Doctor 486224

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Next issue: March

**Deadline 15th
February**

to: Buddy MacDougall,
The Coach House, Foyers
or Ana Arrowsmith, An
Treabhair, Erroglie. Mark
the envelope "BB"
ppa135@ukonline.co.uk