

The day Loch Ness Rocked



On the 24th June 2006 Loch Ness took centre stage as Fatboy Slim and a host of other DJ legends rolled into town. This was just one more stop on a lengthy world tour; Brazil, Australia, Japan, Does.

On every level this was a major coup (a report calculated that the region benefited to the tune of £7m) proving again that Scotland can play at the very top with the big boys. They said it couldn't be done, that the roads would crumble, the infrastructure shatter and the sky fall in. Chaos in Inverness with fans stranded and, if they did make it, boiling clouds of midges would eat them alive. But by 2pm the bulk of the 23,400 fans were happily on site, the hardcore claiming a space at the front and the oldies laying down picnic rugs at the back. How fresh, how exciting, when generations of people, from all over the country gather together in peace and harmony to listen to some music which was 'wholly or predominantly characterised by the emission of a succession of repetitive beats' (Section

63, **The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act**), that in some other situations would be considered illegal and dangerous.

Skye's Mylo proved that the local talent was alive and kicking. The Audiobullys were late, but well worth waiting for. The Scratch Perverts were magnificent. But it really started to kick off when Carl Cox took over the decks. Here was one of the original 'superstar' DJ's demonstrating how, over a decade ago, he became one of the highest paid people in the country to lay a slice of vinyl on a record player.

And then suddenly there was the man himself. Right up high on a massive podium, arms outstretched, in his characteristic welcoming embrace. The stage lit up as the light faded slowly over Loch Ness, undoubtedly one of the most magnificent settings in the whole of the world.

A seething mass of people jumped and danced as the puppet master tugged on his strings. Fatboy is the original mash up king, mixing dance and house, reggae and Scottish country dancing, then chucking in a few smash hits like the Artic Monkeys 'When the sun goes down'. Finally Automatic's 'Monster' got the crowd singing, as a giant monster played behind Fatboys back. As the mist rolled in and everyone headed home, there was only one chorus floating up into the night sky, "what's that coming over the hill...."

Editor

My thanks to Bruce Darby for the comments and the photograph on what was probably the biggest event in the area for a long while. The photograph shows Bruce and Steve Feltham with the stage and Loch Ness behind them. The reports in the Inverness Courier (14/7/06) into the short comings in the facilities for the police and lack of crowd control including cctv facilities after the event makes worrying reading and it is to be hoped that the comments on learning lessons for future events is not just lip service, although unfortunately it is often only when problems happen that any shortfall in planning is brought to light.

The Foyers Church Buildings

There has been considerable interest in the three church buildings in Foyers since they have been advertised for sale. Those who viewed the church with a view to conversion to a house have had to face the enormous difficulties that would entail. Others who viewed the hall mainly considered demolition to create a house site. Favourable interest has been shown in the Manse as a family home. For the sake of the community it is hoped that the buildings will remain in use and that there will be no more holiday homes. (One person showing people around was asked whether she would be paid for her services, or perhaps she would find her reward in heaven?)

Since the "For Sale" signs have gone up someone has stolen the the stone Celtic cross from the church grounds. It was replaced years ago from the roof to accommodate the belfry tower but its absence has been met with considerable dismay. It is hoped that the community could retain the church bell.



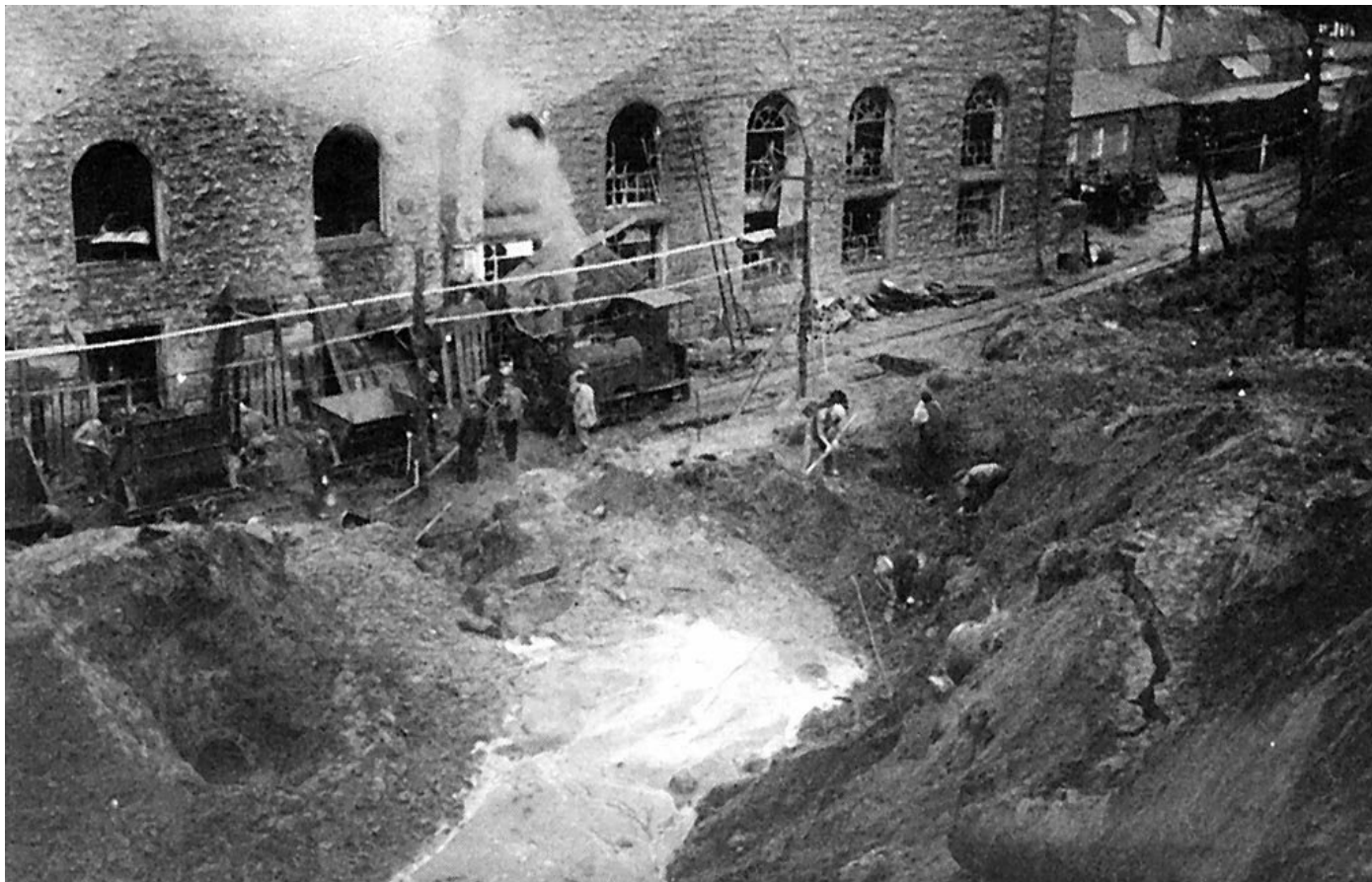
The above photograph was taken at a Foyers School Sports Day believed to be in the early thirties. Can anybody accurately date the photograph or possibly even identify any of the faces in the picture? Comments to the South Loch Ness Heritage Group. Thanks.

**Get Fit ! Have Fun !
Come Scottish Country Dancing**

On Monday 11th September Judith Borup hopes to start a 4 week beginners / refresher class. Both basic steps and formations will be covered but the emphasis will be on learning simple, fun dances. This is an opportunity for anyone to come along and give it a try.....find out for yourself how Scottish Country Dancing keeps both your mind and body fit and active.

Although there are already a few on "the list" the class can only run with a minimum of 8 people. If you are interested or would like further information please ring Judith on 486464.

The regular group of some 10 dancers has had another successful and enjoyable season ending in a party on 26th April when they were joined by about 40 dancers from other groups. Preparations will start in September for a rally on 6th October dancing to the superb live music of Marian Anderson. After that, on Wednesday 11th October at 7.30pm, any new members will be welcomed to join the regular group. Classes are taken alternate weeks by Hugh Nicol and Judith Borup.



“During World War 2 aluminium was a metal of prime importance and the Germans made a bombing attack on the British Aluminium factory at Foyers, to put it out of action. On 13th February 1941 a lone raider, a twin-engined Heinkel, came in along Loch Ness at mid-day, flying so low that the German airmen were clearly seen. Two 500lb. bombs were dropped and then the plane turned away fast, up the narrow gorge of the river. The pilot, had he known, need not have been in such a hurry to take that hazardous escape route for the sole defence at the factory was a machine-gun, the ammunition for which was locked in the manager’s safe!

Neither of the bombs scored a direct hit, and one did not explode. The bomb just glanced against the factory wall. The other one fell further away, but the blast fractured pipes leading to the generators and caused some minor damage inside the factory. But the blast was responsible for the deaths of two men. One was blown into the turbine chamber and was drowned, while the other died of a heart attack.”

This picture is of the bomb crater outside the factory. The above extract is taken from A Country Called Stratherrick by Alan B Lawson, a second edition of which has recently been published by the South Loch Ness Heritage Group (see elsewhere in this issue).

Both this photograph and the one on page 3 are from the Heritage Group’s archives and the originals were kindly lent by Duncan MacDonald.

LOST CAT

Missing from Edinuanagan Croft, Torness, (the croft at the Abersky Road turn-off); lightly built young female silver tabby cat, pale grayish colour in bands. One year old and neutered. If anyone has seen her please contact Ros or Alan on 01463 751314. Thanks very much.



Christian Comment

There can be no doubt that the book that is translated into more languages than any other is the Bible. The reason for this is that the translators – and the organizations to which many of them belong – are convinced that its contents are of the greatest significance to the whole of mankind, and that every individual should have the opportunity to know of its content.

The earliest part of the Bible was written in Hebrew at the time of the Jewish leader Moses, some thirteen hundred years before Jesus lived on earth; some parts tell the history of the Jewish people, and others of the teaching of the prophets and the songs of King David. The last part records the life and teaching of Jesus (the Jewish Messiah) and then the experiences and letters of his followers in the first century A.D., when they became known as Christians. It was written in Greek, the educated language of the Roman Empire.

It has been said that in the first part Jesus is concealed and in the last part He is revealed. In the Life of Jesus, written by John, he says that He is the Word of God in human flesh, showing to mankind the nature of Almighty God, and showing God's way for us to live. Other Holy Books claim to teach about God and His laws – only Jesus shows us the Way, the Truth and the Life. For this reason the Bible was described as the “greatest gift this world offers” at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Each one of us should treasure this gift, should read it carefully and discover Jesus for ourselves, to help us to live as God wishes in this confusing 21st Century.

Martyn Bateman

Holiday Club at Stratherrick

Pyramids, palm trees and Pharaohs provided the backdrop for the holiday club, Pyramid Rock, which took place in Stratherrick School from 24th to 28th July. It was organised by volunteers from the Greyfriars-Stratherrick Free Church, with the help of a group of young students from Lewis and Banff, who had come specially to assist with the clubs at Greyfriars (Balloan Road) in the mornings and at Stratherrick in the afternoons.

Fourteen children from the local area signed up at Stratherrick School for the week's activities. On arrival each day they did some artwork for ten minutes, which resulted at the end of the week, in a very colourful frieze depicting the Egyptian themes. Then it was time for games. The weather was excellent and so, apart from one day, games were held outside and a lot of fun was had by all.

After much-needed refreshments came the story. The life of Joseph was presented on DVD and the children responded well to the more serious aspect of the Club, vying with each other to recite the memory verse correctly by the end of the week.

Craftwork rounded off the afternoon's activities and the completed items, which again related to Joseph's life and God's continuing care over him, were taken home as a memento of the happy time spent at the Holiday Club.

Sandy McClure

Christian Aid Week (14th – 21st May)

Thank you very much indeed to all those kind people who donated, collected and counted for this most worth-while work – a record sum of £1,323 was collected and together with Gift Aid donations the final total amounted to £1,517.

CHURCH MEETINGS

Church of Scotland

Sunday: 10.00a.m. Boleskine, 11.30a.m. Dores.

Rev. Stewart Jeffrey 01463 230085

Episcopal Church

Sunday: 11.00a.m. Croachy.

Rev. Peter Mosley 01808 521397

Free Church

Sunday: 6.00 p.m. Errogie.

Mr. J. Campbell 01456 486240

Sunday: 10.30a.m. & 4.15p.m. Dores. Wednesday: 7.30p.m.

Mr. D. Fraser 01456 486408

Free Presbyterian Church

Sunday: 12 Noon Farr, every second Sunday: 7.00p.m.

Gorthleck.

Mr. E. Fraser 01456 486282

Roman Catholic Church

Sunday: 12 Noon Whitebridge.

Mrs. Therese Finley 01456 486747

Inter-denominational Bible Study

Rev. Martyn Bateman 01456 486273

IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Harvest Praise

Stratherrick Hall

Sunday, 24th September at 3.30 p.m.

EVERYONE MOST WELCOME

Boleskine Church

Welcome to Reverend Stewart Jeffrey, retired Church of Scotland Minister, who is looking after the Parish of Boleskine and Foyers on a part-time basis.

Thank you to Mr. Len Cazley for his ministry over the previous months

Bus Times

WHITEBRIDGE-IVERNESS

Mon-Sat

Whitebridge	07-35	12-30
Gorthleck	07-45	12-40
Errogie	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	
Errogie	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-IVERNESS

Mon-Fri Sat

Up. Foyers	0755	1310	1623	0900	1320
L. Foyers	0800	1315	—	0905	1325
Inverness	0853	1400	1710	0950	1410

Inverness	1215	1515	1743	1230	1743
L. Foyers	1300	1605	1828	1315	1828
Up. Foyers	1305	1610	1833	1320	1833

D&E GORTHLECK-IVERNESS

MWF T Th SD SH

Gorthleck	0932	0920	1514	1515	
L. Foyers	—	0934	—	—	
Errogie	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	—	
Errogie	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

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

John Campbell (Chairman)
Tine Butterworth (Treasurer)
Kenny Fraser
Helen Grainger
Eileen Martin

Gorthleck 486 240
Gorthleck 486 275
Gorthleck 486 220
Inverfarigaig 486 231
Gorthleck 486 661

Fiona Kirkland (Secretary)
Angus Fraser
Lesley MacGregor
Sandy MacPherson
Martyn Bateman

Gorthleck 486 283
Gorthleck 486 650
Foyers 486 404
Torness 01463 751213
Whitebridge 486 273

Minute of Meeting 23 May

Correspondence: Mr Graham Strachan - update regarding community benefit for Dunmaglass wind farm since the meeting held at Farr. Deer Commission - meeting on 19 May re Monadhliath Conservation. Canon - re photocopier. Agreed to keep existing copier until it breaks down.

Treasurer: Ord. Acc: unchanged at £69.74 - £41.50 OAP Christmas fund. Project Acc: £4183.21.

Planning: Planning application for a house on The Bank, Glenlia. Mr Rybak addressed the meeting. He objected to the fact that the CC had not approached him for his comments before making the decision to object to the application. He said: the visual impact would be improved by having a house on the site rather than it being used as a 'rubbish dump'; the trees that had been cut were wind blown; he was building an environmentally friendly house with a ground source heat

pump, good insulation, wooden and sustainable in structure and will keep emissions down; the house is positioned for thermal gain, with the backdrop of bedrock; roads department say that the bellmouth access is acceptable; he has prescriptive rights of access through Mr D Forbes whom he bought the land from; house will be more in the village than many others so should be included in development plan. Mr Rybak submitted a letter from Mrs Helen Rybak and one from his solicitor. It was agreed that the issue of ownership of access was unresolved and in the hands of solicitors. CC apologised for not contacting him prior to contacting the Council and agreed to write to HC to retract statements concerning access and visual impact. An objection will still be made in terms of being outwith the local development plan.

Fire Brigade: Event at Dores on the 24 June may result in some road closures. It is expected that all festival traffic will use the Inverness-Dores road. There will be 3 main car parks plus additional ones beyond the school. People will start arriving Friday afternoon. The beach and Dores Inn will be closed. There will be a 1 mile cordon around the event to stop illegal camping and parking. Local traffic should use either the Essich or Strathnairn road. Police will be monitoring.

Roads and Road Signs: Whitebridge bus - no replies (except acknowledgements) to letters sent. Bus was late again. Mrs Martin spoke to Ms Caro Munro at Kinguissie and stressed that children were starting standard grades that week. The service had been on time since.

Water and Sewerage: Mr Danny Alexander will be meeting with Scottish Water on Friday. He wished an update on the situation - all information is hear-say as SW have not responded to our correspondence. The problem is due to SW not having a licence to allow them to draw the necessary water. SW issue the licences now but this will change to SEPA in October. The Albyn housing development is on hold, as are 15-20 projects in the area as they are unable to connect to water. We know for certain that one planning application has been granted but is not allowed to go ahead until the water situation is resolved.

Community Project: A donation of £100.00 was received from Ms Christina Mackintosh Palmer.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit: Glendoe Hydro Scheme - traffic is still using this side of the Loch. When the subject was raised at the Liaison meeting it was suggested that this was not the case. The situation will be monitored. Camp - work has started as planning was granted in April. It should be ready for July. Recruitment - local recruitment will begin in earnest once the camp is established. The advert run in Polish will also be published in English. Blasting - by mid-June the noise of the blasting should be muffled. Each blast is preceded by a sequence of 10 second sirens. The B862 will be closed during blasting further up as an additional safety precaution. Traffic management - work to strengthen the verges on the B862 will begin mid-May. Fully automated traffic lights will be positioned at the first site entrance for the duration of the project. Site works - upgrading of the tracks is well underway. The permanent sub-station building is complete. It will be used to power the site until completion, then will take power out of the new power station. Anyone with questions or concern should contact Douglas Gilchrist on 01463 741322 or 07732 477793 or e-mail douglas.gilchrist1@btopenworld.com

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust: looking to employ a part time professional secretary.

Minute of Meeting 27 June

Correspondence: Deer Commission - minutes of meeting. HC re savings required in libraries with the closure of three and service replaced by mobile service. Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust - launch of website www.HSCHT.co.uk Fire Brigade - annual report. Canon - price per copy increasing to 1.1p. Foyers Ferry - business plan. Request for support from CC. All agreed that it was a worthwhile project that should be supported.

Treasurer: Ord. Acc: £69.74 (£41.50 OAP's Christmas fund). Project Acc: £4283.21. £100.00 deposited from Mrs Mackintosh Palmer.

Planning: House at 5 Riverside, Lower Foyers. No objections

Fire Brigade: Mr Kirkland notified that contractors should move onto site of new unit on 21 July.

Roads and Road Signs: Mr S Reid had a meeting with Mr Neil Gillies regarding the bad condition of roads in area, asking for answers as to why they were so bad. CC agreed and highlighted the need for the verges to be cut and attended to, re-surfacing especially where the surface has been damaged by car fires. There were a couple of occasions when traffic has been diverted from the A82 down this side of the loch, resulting in gridlock when two large vehicles have met. Secretary instructed to write to HC. '20's Plenty' - notification has come from HC of plans to impose part-time speed limits outside Stratherrick and Foyers schools. It was felt the speed limits should apply throughout the length of the villages as children walk to and from school. Secretary instructed to pass on comments.

Water and Sewerage: No correspondence from Mr Alexander after his meeting. It appears that SW are removing water from Aberchalder. Secretary instructed to write, asking how this can happen when housing is being restricted. Lower Foyers - incident of creosote getting into the water supply. Those affected were not confident about the conflicting information they were given.

Community Project: The outline proposal submitted to the Big Lottery was accepted. A full application for the grant must now be made.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit: Traffic from the site is still using this side of loch.

AOB: BT - people with new houses are experiencing problems getting their telephones connected. There appears to be no space in the exchange. Many people are regularly affected by faults on their lines. Secretary instructed to contact BT to ask about the situation regarding the exchange.

Minute of Meeting 22 August

Correspondence: RES - they have explored the possibility of extending Farr wind farm road so that traffic would only use B851 from Flichity to Dunmaglass. However they feel that monies may be more positively used if they increased community benefit. They have offered £500,000 over and above any other CB settlement in respect of the increased volume of traffic, and disturbance and inconvenience caused. They propose that this should be split 80% to Strathnairn and 20% to Stratherrick. CC agreed that this would be acceptable. Strathnairn CC – they are currently experiencing problems of anti-social behaviour and asked if we had such problems and how it was dealt with. Mr Campbell responded saying that it was not a problem in Stratherrick, however there was then the incident of the Free Church in Errogie being vandalised. National Plan for the Gaelic language. SMP Playgrounds - product updates. Loch Ness marathon - details of road closures on 1 October. It's a Knockout - Millburn Academy 17 September. Canon - details of changes to company.

Treasurer: It was clarified that the payment to Mr Campbell was to cover expenses. Ord. Acc: £734.41. The grant cheque of £914.67 from HC was deposited and cheque for £250.00 was issued to Boleskine Bulletin. Project Acc: £4283.21. Agreed that cost per photocopy should be increased to 6p to absorb the increased costs.

Planning: Addition of new chalet to existing development of Wildside Lodges, Whitebridge. Erection of additional log home at Lodges on Loch Ness, Foyers. There were no objections.

Fire Brigade: The unit should be delivered this week and the fire station should be completed by 8 September. There will be a car at Foyers Pier on Saturday 16 September, 10 - 1pm, in aid of the Fire Service Benevolent Fund. Refreshments will be offered.

Roads and Road Signs: 20's Plenty - a reply from HC explained that they were following Scottish Executive guidelines and that the area covered by the speed limit would not be extended to the length of the villages. White lines at Ceo Glais - Mr Sutherland has written to HC about need for white lining and threatened to do it himself with coverage from the Highland News! Aberchalder road - the tarmac is cracking, possibly due to the weight of the water lorries. Essich turn - the whins are overgrown and require cutting back. HQC and Ross-shire Engineering are still using the road - driving too fast and with no consideration for other road users. Mr Campbell will inform the Glendoe Liaison group again.

Water and Sewerage: SW have still not replied directly to the CC. Water is now being drawn from Loch Ness and purified for the camp at Fort Augustus.

Community Project: Secretary to meet Mr Lucas Chapman, HIE, to discuss Lottery application.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit: It appears from the document produced by SSE that the Community Benefit fund will be managed by Scottish Community Foundation. Mr Giles Ruck, CEO of SCF, will attend the next CC meeting to explain the situation. It was suggested that there should be a meeting prior to that with Fort Augustus to discuss the split.

AOB: BT - in response to the complaint made about the exchange, BT have asked for specific details of problems. Secretary noted who was experiencing problems and will notify BT. Foyers Ferry - agreed that a small donation of £25.00 would be given to affirm the CC's support for proposed ferry. There has been no further mention of the pier at Foyers. The Secretary will contact Mrs Macrae. School bus - there were a couple of days when there were not enough seats for the children. Mr A Fraser spoke to HC. D & E have got the contract for the service commencing January.

Next meeting: Tuesday 26th September, Stratherrick Public Hall, 7.30pm.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

AIDS HELP LINE: Freephone 0800 567123 Open 24 Hrs

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA) Open 24 Hrs confidential service, charged at local rates. Tel 08457 697555 Scottish service office. For information on meetings etc. Tel. 01412 262214

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

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

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

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

CITIZEN ADVICE (Inverness) Tel 01463 235345

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE Tel 01463 713741

SEXUAL HEALTH Highland Sexual Health outpatients Raigmore Hospital Tel 01463 704202 All ages, free, confidential, **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** Contraception including emergency, pregnancy testing, diagnosis/treatment of infections and HIV, Postal condom service.

SAMARITANS 66 Tomnahurich St Inverness Tel 01463 713456 Also Tel 0345 909090 charged at local rate. All branches offer 24 Hr service.

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

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

SOCIAL WORK HOTLINE Tel 08457 697284 calls charged at local rate 24 Hr service

VICTIM SUPPORT Tel 01463 710806

RAPE AND ABUSE LINE Free confidential listening support Call free on 08088 000123 every evening This line is answered by women. Call free on 08088 000122 This line is answered by men both lines open 7.00p.m. till 10.00p.m

FAMILY MEDIATION HIGHLAND Tel 01463 712100

B.E.N.

(Boleskine Environmental Network).

The Wildlife Recording Project sponsored by B.E.N. is drawing to a close. The two-year project, a series of wildlife tutorials culminates in a report to be produced at the end of the year. The aim of the project has been to highlight the importance of recording wildlife: what we see, when and where. Different species, we learnt, are dependant on different habitats and this in turn can be affected by how the land is managed.

Over 80 species of moth were recorded on the night of 27th July in Stratherrick. Tom Prescott of Butterfly Conservation helped enthusiastic local *moth'ers* to identify the many weird and colourful species. Names such as northern spinach, golden y, lesser yellow broad bordered underwing, antler, true lover's knot and many others

Different habitats, e.g. moorland, woodland, forest plantations, grassland etc are good for different species of moth. On this occasion our catch reflected the upland aspect of Stratherrick with its scattering of fields and native woodland.

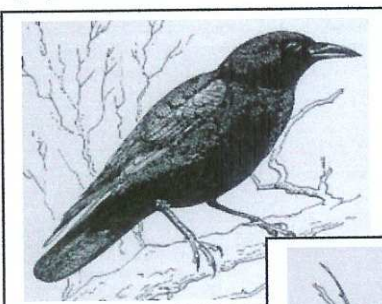
Scottish Hydro Electric has new guidelines to expand the width of the electricity wayleaves throughout the area. It is an example of how management policy can cause habitat change. After several years of contracting out the work they have returned to clearing the wayleaves themselves. This is good news for those whose land is affected. However, under the new safety guidelines many old trees will have to be felled where previously they were simply pruned. This will be bad news for the declining numbers of moths, bats and insects that are established in the older trees.

The Forestry Commission are shortly to begin felling operations in the forestry plantations. We will see continuation of the felling taking place on the way up to the Suie, at Knockie and to the west of the Pass of Farigaig. At Knockie a new bailey bridge has been constructed by the old stepping stones to allow timber lorries into the area east of the river. It is hoped that this will be a temporary bridge for the duration of operations. The felling by the Farigaig will extend down to the Glenlia road over a two- year program.

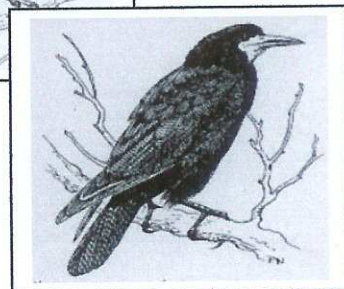
Safety on the roads this summer has been risky for both drivers and for those walking. Despite instructions from the developers for all vehicles to use the other side of Loch Ness an increase in traffic due to the Glendoe Hydro scheme is causing a problem. Early in the morning and late afternoon smaller cars and vans, belonging to the subcontractors, are doing speeds unsuitable for our single track roads. Is it time for, at the very least, a temporary speed limit along the B862. The development will continue for several years and next month work will begin on the River E hydro scheme creating more traffic. If you are worried, for whatever reason, now is the time to make your voice heard. Write to Ella Macrae, our local councillor, to support her campaigns for traffic calming methods.

Can you tell a Rook from a Crow? Hoodie from a Carrion?

The B.T.O. (British Trust for Ornithology) has shown in their annual survey that the hoodie crow is in decline in parts of northeast Scotland, particularly in Moray and Nairn. Hoodie crows have grey shoulders and a grey belly and occur mainly north and west of the Great Glen. The population of hybrids, born as a result of cross-breeding between hoodies and carrion crows and generally found in a narrow band either side of the Great Glen where the two species meet, appears to have moved around 20 miles north west. Carrion crows are all black while the hybrid is a mixture of grey and black.



The Rook is slimmer and has a patch of bare whitish skin at the base of its bill, it has thick feathering on the



upper part of its legs so it looks as if the bird is wearing baggy trousers. The crow's legs, by comparison, are only sparsely feathered. A young

rook can sometimes be confused since they lack the distinctive white patch at the base of the bill. The Carrion Crow is slightly larger and is completely black.

In general Rooks are gregarious, they nest in colonies and frequently go about in parties, searching the fields for food, Crows on the other hand are nearly always solitary or travel in pairs, and can pair for life. Their calls are very similar; the Crow's deep-throated *krar*, is usually uttered three times and is a harsher sound than the Rook's rather more tuneful *caw*. My mother used to tell me as a child that crows wore bowler hats while rooks wore top hats.

SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP



A COUNTRY CALLED STRATHERRICK

Alan B Lawson

Second Edition

A new edition

is now available of this fascinating portrait of the area south and east of Loch Ness.

First printed in 1987, sold out very quickly, and much sought after second-hand, the new edition has added 16 pages of colour prints and more material from Alan Lawson's research.

Tracing the evolution of the area from the stone age arrival of man, through the formation and destruction of the clan system, to the 20th century, the book explains developments in a way which can be easily related to the landscapes and people which we see here today. It is a fascinating read, and a reference source to return to time after time.

An essential buy for anyone with connections to the area. If you are not interested in our heritage now, you will be by the time you have read it!

Available from various outlets in the area, from any committee member of the South Loch Ness Heritage Group, or specifically from Frank Ellam,

Easter Boleskine, 01456 486691, or Iain Cameron, Drummond, Dores, 01463 751251

Next Meeting – December 12th Gorthleck Hall

The speaker will be **Margaret Bennett**, well known Scottish folklorist, singer, writer and broadcaster. Those of you that heard her before will know that she is a very popular and entertaining speaker. The topic is **“Highland Customs from the Cradle to the Grave”**

Web Site

We now have our own web site, www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk. Over the next months it will be populated with articles about the area, news and projects that we are involved in and a gallery of photographs from our archives. We are especially keen to hear from you if you can put names to any of the Loch Ness folk in the gallery. Our e-mail address is info@southlochnessheritage.co.uk.

Baxters Loch Ness Marathon

The Loch Ness Marathon and Festival of Running is, this year, to be held on the 1st of October 2006. With the start in its usual place above Whitebridge running down through Foyers and along the Loch side into Inverness. There will be the attendant disruption to traffic. In the past this has not been a major problem and it is hoped the same will be true this year although the entry list may well be larger, as the marathon has been selected to host the 2006 Scottish Marathon Championship.

The following schedule of road closures on the 1st of October has been supplied by the Highland Council.

B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road closed at its junction with the Knockie Road to its junction with the B852 Dalrag Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road from 8.00am to 10.30.am.

B852 Dalrag Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road closed at its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road to its junction with the Inverfarigaig Glenlia Road from 9.45 am to 11.30 am

B852 Dalrag Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road closed with its junction with the Foyers Road to its Junction with the Inverfarigaig - Errogie Road from 10.15 am to 12 noon

B852 Dalrag Bridge _ Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road closed at its junction with the Inverfarigaig - Errogie Road to its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm.

This will affect all vehicular traffic but pedestrian access and access for emergency vehicles will be maintained at all times.

Alternative routes will be sign posted during the periods of closure.

May I wish any locals taking part in the runs this year the very best for the run. I will be happy to publish finishing times and a report from a runners perspective in the next edition if anyone would be interested in submitting a piece. (Editor)

Mrs J Scott 9th June1902 - 12th August 2006

On the 22nd of August we bade a fond farewell to MRS JAMESENA SCOTT (ENNIE) who had reached the grand age of 104.

Born in 1902 she spent her childhood in Inverness later moving to Perth to work in the office of Pullars of Perth. When they opened a branch in Inverness she moved back to work with them. She came to Foyers in 1932 when she married John Scott the local postman.

During her time in Foyers she was a staunch member of Foyers Church, serving as treasurer of the womens guild for many years. She was a keen gardener, loved dancing and enjoyed walking. In her 90th year she walked from Foyers to Stratherrick and back. She was also treasurer of Foyers Scottish Womens Royal Institute for many years.

When Ennie was unable to live on her own she moved to Strathmiglo to be with her friends Irene and Derek Smorthitt. Latterly she was cared for by the loving staff in Strathview Nursing Home in Auchtermuchty and made many new friends.

Those of us who knew her well will all miss her couthy sense of humour.

There is a major force compacting on our lives.
Construction Traffic Chaos.

We cannot stand in the path of change. Increased population, greater and larger developments, we are all requesting more from our environment and our human footprint is slowly but surely changing the world we live in. For those with sense and understanding this need not be such a scary process because like all change there must be a fine balance. Like the scales of nature, if you remove or destroy, you must replace or repair. I think the word that best describes this is sympathetic.

It is unfortunate that sympathetic is not a word that could be applied to the sudden change in the lives of people along the B851 – B862 and surrounding minor roads. The Highland Club Abbey Scheme, The Glendoe Dam Construction, 3 year Forestry Timber extraction from Inverfarigaig Forest, the River E Hydro Development and the proposed Wind Farm Developments all continue about their huge developments using roads that were originally constructed for horse drawn vehicles.

Roads with no footpaths to offer the weary walker sanctuary. One must run the gauntlet, where the roads narrow, of 60 m.p.h. vehicles trying to scrape your elbows as they pass. The sane and sensible among us must question how it ever came to this.

Single track roads with no drainage, no kerbs, no footpaths, no safety features, carrying vehicles of all shapes and sizes, traveling in opposing directions on the same piece of road and legally allowed to do this at just 10 m.p.h. less than the six lane carriageways of the M1/M6 motorways.

Even those among us that do not drive and have little to do with man's greatest polluter, the motor car, can see the little consideration and thought that has been given by our local authority to the people of Stratherrick, Strathnairn and local areas.

So I would suggest that we all unite, make ourselves heard and write to those concerned and show that YES we do matter

Gordon Roberts, Errogie

B862 and all Connecting Roads

70 m.p.h.60 m.p.h. 50 m.p.h. 40 m.p.h. 30 m.p.h.

Should we do something about our speeding traffic?

- Are you worried about the increased speed of traffic?
- Are you frightened to drive at certain times of the day?
- Can't sleep because of early morning speedsters?
- Don't feel safe walking along the road anymore?
- Could we have more speed limit policing along the Strath and/or should the developers have more control of their workforce?

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

If you are getting worried about the safety of the B862 and connecting roads how about joining a campaign to ease the increasing pressure put upon our community?

Local people and visitors alike, elderly people and young families all walk along our single track roads in good weather. So far only wildlife and an occasional cat and dog are the casualties but accidents between vehicles are on the increase making it more dangerous for our daily lives.

The Glendoe development will continue for three or four years, may be longer. Next month the River E Hydro development will start and in the future years we could have wind factory developments.

More lorries, more vans and more fast cars.

If you are concerned contact the people listed below, the more letters written the more chance we have of improving the situation.

Mrs. Ella Macrae, Highland Councillor, Dore Inn, Inverness. IV2 6TR
01463 751203, or ella.macrae.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Andrew Brown, Highland Council Planner, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness.
IV3 5NX
01463 702561 or andrew.brown@highland.gov.uk

Douglas Gilchrist, Community Liaison Officer, Scottish and Southern Energy
01463 741322 or douglas.gilchrist1@btopenworld.com

Changes to the Mobile Library Timetable

WEDNESDAY – ALDOURIE/DORES

From 31 July 2006 the Mobile Library will follow a new, 3 weekly timetable. The Mobile Library will visit your area every third Wednesday initially calling on Wednesday 2 August, as detailed below. Principal stops are listed below. Please phone the above number to enquire about other stops in this area.

09.15 - 09.30	Holm Mills, 25 Dore Road
09.40 - 10.10	Aldourie, Primary School
10.45 - 11.15	Errozie, Church
11.40 - 12.20	Lower Foyers, Riverside
12.25- 13.25	Lunch
13.30 -13.55	Foyers, Glenlia Road
13.05 - 14.40	Foyers, Primary School
14.50 - 15.05	Foyers, Coach House
15.15 - 15.40	Inverfarigaig, Forestry House
16.00 - 16.30	Dore, By Dore Road

THURSDAY - FARR/WHITEBRIDGE

From 31 July 2006 the Mobile Library will follow a new, 3-weekly timetable. The Mobile Library will visit your area every third Thursday initially calling on Thursday 17 August, as detailed below. Principal stops are listed below. Please phone the above number to enquire about other stops in this area.

09.25 - 10.05	Daviot Primary School
10.20 - 10.30	Farr, Forestry House
10.45 - 11.10	Croachie, Old Parsonage
11.15 - 11.25	Dunmaglas, Old School House
11.45 - 12.30	Stratherrick, Primary School
12.35 - 12.55	Gorthleck, Public Hall
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 14.15	Whitebridge, Old Post Office
14.20 - 14.30	Whitebridge, Thain Road
14.35 - 14.40	Gorthleck, Craft Shop
15.00 - 15.35	Errozie, Bridge before "Ark"
16.00 - 16.20	Farr, Old Post Office
16.25 - 16.50	Farr, Community Hall

Books will be loaned for a period of 3 weeks, and may be renewed by telephoning 01667 458506. A reminder letter will be sent when books are more than 7 weeks overdue.

Stratherrick Hall Arts Forthcoming Attractions

Saturday 21st October - 8.00 p.m.

Duncan Chisholm and Ivan Drever

Well established as one of Scotland's top duos these guys really need no introduction. Orkney singer/songwriter Ivan is well known throughout the traditional music world for his work with Wolfstone, and his partnership with Kirkhill-based fiddler Duncan (who plays with Wolfstone and Blazing Fiddles) has proved both fruitful and exciting.

Monday 23rd October - 8.00 p.m.

Eden Court In Exile presents **"Mobile"**,

A sparkling one-man play with music about a Bank manager, thrown (literally) into the wheelie-bin of life. As he emerges to rail against our disposable world, he reasserts his right not to be so easily disposed of. Fetching up first in Glasgow, then Paris, he finds that – with a little digital manipulation of the right mobile phone – life need not be a prison after all.

Tuesday 24th October - 7.30 p.m.

China : Walls, Warriors & Waterways

University of Aberdeen illustrated talk by Lis Thoms.

Saturday 18th November - 8.00 p.m.

Tim Kliphuis, Dutch gypsy jazz violinist, with players from Edinburgh-based hot club band, Swing 2006, plays the music of Stephane Grappelli – Gypsy jazz in the Hotclub style of Paris 1934-39. Having performed this tribute throughout the UK, Germany, France and Holland, Tim is joined by John Russell (rhythm guitar), Stephen Coutts (solo guitar) and Roy Percy (double bass) to play virtuoso violin with an undoubted love for melody.

"Stephane Grappelli's style is alive and well in the hands of Tim Kliphuis"

Nigel Kennedy

Saturday 25th November – 7.00 p.m.

Family Ceilidh Evening

With music by John Sommerville (Croft No 5) and friends, and dancing by Heilan'Toe, this will be a fun evening for all the family.

Early December Date to be confirmed

Charity "Health and Beauty Evening"

An evening of pure indulgence – watch for further details on Notice Boards, etc..

For some time now Stratherrick Hall Arts Sub-Committee have been using various methods to advertise forthcoming events at the Hall – advertising in the Boleskine Bulletin when time and the printing schedule permits, posters, road-side signs, direct mail, Ness Link web site etc. – but no one method on its own is ideal and many people have been disappointed at missing certain events. We are keen to create a database of those people who wish to be contacted with details of forthcoming events by e-mail or by conventional mail, so if you wish to be notified in advance of events coming to the Hall please fill in your details on the tear-off slip below and return it to:-

Hugh Nicol, Barr A Bhealaich, Ault Na Goire, Errogie IV2 6U

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Would anyone with property available for long term let in and
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