



## The Loch Ness Marathon



On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, a mile beyond Whitebridge, 10 local runners, lined up alongside more than 2000 others for the start of the fifth Baxter's Loch Ness Marathon. As in previous years the Loch Ness Marathon & 'Festival of Running' (incorporating a 10km and 5km run in Inverness), was exceptionally well organised by Malcolm Sutherland (Event Director) and his team. As quickly as the buses arrived at the start to drop off runners, the buses were moved on out the way with military efficiency!

To the stirring sounds of the pipes and drums, the marathon started at 10am in mild, dry conditions. I always find that I am quite apprehensive in the first few miles because I am thinking about how tired I will be at the end! However, there was plenty local support out to banish such thoughts. From mile 1, where people had gathered outside the Whitebridge Hotel, through Foyers and Inverfarigaig, to Dores where a truly fantastic number of people were gathered, the support was tremendous.

Around mile 9 or 10 it started to rain, gently at first but then it became torrential. This was bad enough for the runners but for the volunteers manning the water stations it really can't have been pleasant. But stand they did, handing out water and juice – necessary sustenance to the marathon runner!

The rain had eased a bit as I neared Inverness but by then, along with most runners, I was soaked to the skin and beyond caring – it was about finishing a job now for personal satisfaction and, for many, about raising as much money as possible for charity. Last year £403,000 was raised and the organisers are hopeful that this year this sum will be exceeded.

Mile 24, the end is in sight, people clapping and shouting words of encouragement as I pass. Into the stadium and to the sound of ‘from Inverness, number 381.....’ over the tannoy, I cross the finishing line.

Will I do it again? I’m sure like other local runners and those from further afield, I will. Why? Because there is no other marathon in the UK that passes through such stunning scenery. Voted in the top three UK running events in an on-line poll by Runners World Magazine for the last three years, it is simply a unique experience.

Graeme Ambrose

The photograph on the front page is of the mass start above Whitebridge. While the photograph below is of the local runners who took part in the run.

### Baxters Loch Ness Marathon

#### Mens First Three

Zakary Kihara: 2 : 22.17

Simon Pride: 2:22.25

Jamie Reid: 2:24.04

#### Womens First Three

Hellen Cherono: 2:46.54

Krystyna Kuta: 2:47.30.

Jennifer Maclean: 2:58.57

I am sorry I have not been able to get hold of the finishing times of the local runners who took part in the run. But my congratulations to all on a superb effort.

Editor



Thanks to all who sponsored Morag, Fiona and Katy (MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT) who have raised around £300 pound but are still collecting!

### Mrs Nan Colville

Mrs Colville passed away on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and her funeral was attended by numerous friends and family at Boleskine Church. Her great granddaughter Elaine Brailsford gave a very moving address about her memories of "Nana Kinloch" afterwards the interment was at Kinlochmhor Burial Ground, Kinlochleven.

Born in Campbeltown in 1914 Annie Vettters Huie was one of a large family brought up in the farming community of Kintyre. Times were hard then with none of the luxuries of milking machines and it was the norm to be at 4.30 am. To help milk the herd of fifty cows.

After leaving school, she, like many others of her day went into domestic service, she worked as cook and baker in big houses in Campbeltown, Macrihanish and Edingburgh. Following her marriage to Duncan Colville she moved to Kinlochleven, at that time a busy aluminium producing village and there brought up their family of three sons, Billy, Archie and Duncan. She also assisted her husband in the running of the family taxi business as well as going back to her earlier roots – tending a flock of a hundred hens.

She was a regular prize winner at the annual Kinlochleven Show with her baking. She and her husband were active members of the church and when she decided to move to Foyers to be closer to Archie and Janet she continued to attend and support the church there.

She settled into the life of the village where she was known as Nan and always looked forward to the weekly visits with the older folk to the Telford Centre in Fort Augustus.

It was a great comfort and support to her to have Archie and Janet close by and her family are deeply appreciative of devoted attention they showed her in her last days.

Nan had a long, interesting and fulfilling, if sometimes very trying life. She will be remembered for her sharp wit and sense of humor, for her smart appearance and her kindness



The Photograph shows Nan Colville cutting her cake on her 90th birthday

#### AN INVITATION TO GET TOGETHER (Weather Permitting)

Anyone wanting to join in a New Years Day walk across Forestry land around Loch nan Lann, past the Stepping Stones to the Boat House, please contact Katie Ellam on 01456 486691 or

[katie.easterboleskine@virgin.net](mailto:katie.easterboleskine@virgin.net).

Walk to start 12.30 p.m.

Everyone welcome but children should have an accompanying adult.

#### Congratulations

Congratulations to Graeme and Fiona Ambrose on winning the Green Highlands and Islands (Business Awards), sponsored by Scottish Natural Heritage for their Bed and Breakfast establishment at Evergreen, Inverfarigaig, presented at a ceremony held at Drumossie Hotel celebrating Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards 2006.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

John Campbell (Chairman)	Gorthleck 486 240	Fiona Kirkland (Secretary)	Gorthleck 486 283
Tine Butterworth (Treasurer)	Gorthleck 486 275	Angus Fraser	Gorthleck 486 650
Kenny Fraser	Gorthleck 486 220	Lesley MacGregor	Foyers 486 404
Helen Grainger	Inverfarigaig 486 231	Sandy MacPherson	Torness 01463 751213
Eileen Martin	Gorthleck 486 661	Martyn Bateman	Whitebridge 486 273

### Minute of Meeting 26 Sep

Mr Giles Ruck, CEO Scottish Community Foundation, Mr Nick Addington, Grants Director SCF. Scottish Community Foundation (SCF) are 10 years old. In that time they have distributed £11 million of grants to communities in Scotland, up to £2-£3 million annually recently. They act as agents on behalf of 250 funders from Sky TV to individuals who wish to make charitable contributions. They have staff in Glasgow and Edinburgh but funds are distributed all over Scotland. SCF manage about 700 grant applications/year, assessing and making recommendations to funders.

SSE are using SCF for a number of schemes, partly to simplify SSE's relationships with the community and because they are not experts in community development and support.

The Community Trust will know what funds are available to them, all charges for the part SCF play in the process are made to SSE. SCF would like to agree on a method of working with the Trust. They anticipate applications would be initially screened by the Trust and then passed to SCF for assessment/recommendations. The Trust would not have to abide by these but SCF would have an insight into what is likely to be funded and they can go back to SSE and confirm that the money is being well spent. They are used to working with panel and can help with administration, surveys, research, consultancy and decision making. SSE will not have any say in what is funded.

Mr A Sutherland explained that the Trust had been established for 3 months and was applying for charitable status. The percentage split with Fort Augustus had not been agreed. He was surprised by the late entry of SCF into the proceedings, with no consultation from SSE.

Q. Is SCF private or set up by Scottish Executive? A. It is a charity and company ltd by guarantee which files annual accounts with Companies House. They are non-profit making, although are trying to build up a years reserve in the bank, but are not there yet. Their mission is to add value to communities.

Q. Who holds the funds, who gets the interest? A. SCF do not want to hold onto the funds. When agreed what the funds are to be used for, they will be passed over. SCF agreed that funds could be passed over bi-annually to be put into an investment fund so interest could be distributed. SCF would like to ensure that the money is getting a good rate of interest - they could invest it for the Trust. They work on a 5% spend policy so that the capital will always grow above the level of inflation.

Q. How long would it take to get reviews back on applications? A. Dependent on the scale of the project: some small projects could be discussed over the phone, others that may need consultancy work would take longer. Generally, up to £1000 the whole process would be about 6 weeks. Up to £5000 about 3 months.

Q. Will SCF provide an accounting service. A. They would provide accounts for funds spent. The Trust would be required to prepare their own full accounts.

Mr Sutherland stated that he would like letters to follow up the meeting stating in full how the relationship would work. SCF anticipate that they will have a memorandum of agreement drawn up by the end of October, ready to be signed. They also have to draw up a contract with SSE. They hope that initial funds would be deposited to them by the end of the year and therefore available to the Trust in the new year. Mr Campbell thanked Mr Ruck and Mr Addington.

River E Hydro Scheme Mr Bill MacGregor, RWE Npower, Mr Chris Pasteur, supervising the construction phase, Mr David MacDonald, Associate Director, Tullochs, Mr Allan McKinnon, Tullochs.

Mr MacGregor noted that it had been 3 years since he last spoke to the CC, during which time planning consent has been attained, conditions have been satisfied and contractors employed. The scheme on River E, similar to the Garrogie scheme, consists of one intake and 4km of pipe to the power house, just upstream of the Fechlin tunnel. Water will be put back into the River E and there will be a compensation flow to maintain the ecology. It will be 3 megawatts, having more elevation than Garrogie, but less water, therefore it will have a different turbine. Construction is planned to start beginning of October and finish next autumn. It was designed by Mott MacDonald and there will be three contractors: Tullochs, civil works; Voith Seamans, mechanical and electrical equipment; Scottish Hydro Electric, connecting to the grid.

Mrs Macrae stressed the anticipated problems of the roads, speed, verge damage etc and asked what will be put in place to minimise the effects. Tulloch assured the CC that there will be a wear and tear agreement with HC making them responsible for making any damage good. They have met with Mr Colin Ross, HC and will undertake a walk in survey and video the road conditions so that they can assess what damage has been done for rectification. It is likely that signage will be put up in the villages to remind contractor of the speed limit. All employees will undertake a site induction which will cover road use. The contract with sub-contractors will also mention the roads. Tullochs would like to be made aware of any problems - in the past they have contacted the police to arrange speed traps to be set up. The use of mobile phones was discussed and it was agreed that it would be taken on board also.

Traffic Movements: there will be a maximum of 20 people on site, winter working hours 8-5pm, a bit longer in the summer. Initially there will be lorries and low loaders delivering heavy plant, crushing facilities etc. They will use as much on-site material as possible to reduce movements. There will be approx 500 cubes of concrete to come from Daviot - about 75 loads throughout the contract. The pipe delivery will be transported from Inverness over 2 weeks and lifted up the glen by helicopter. The first 4-5 weeks will see the heaviest traffic. The main concern is the 'white van' traffic. The by-pass bridge at Garthbeg will be strengthened so that the humped back bridge will not be used.

There will be no workings on Sundays and only occasionally on Saturdays if there is a timescale pressure. Any blasting will be carried out throughout the normal working day.



Tullochs would like to integrate with the local schools and may be organise a visit to the site. The secretary will pass on details to the schools. Npower also have educational material that can be made available.

Community benefit: the energy efficiency scheme that was offered initially is no longer running but there may be something similar that would increase the benefit. Highland Opportunities Ltd will continue with negotiations on behalf of the CC and Trust. Regeneration of the old woodland is a condition of planning. Mr John Parrot is advising on this. It will cover a few hectares around the power house which will both screen it and dampen any noise.

Mr Campbell thanked all for attending.

**Correspondence:** Highland Small Communities Housing Trust - AGM 30 September. Proposal to move the Gaelic medium from the IRA to Millburn Academy - meeting notice. Land Reform Core paths plan – meetings. Highland Council - equal opportunities monitoring. Copy of questionnaire used for all HC employees. Inverness Leisure - vacancy on board of trustees. No one wished to be put forward but it was noted that Mr I Cameron, Whitebridge, was already a trustee.

**Treasurer:** Ord. Acc: £734.41. Proj. Acc: £4283.21.

**Planning:** Mrs Macrae made CC aware of a planning brief which outlines proposals for 610 houses between Ness Castle and Torbreck. The entrance will be from Dores Road.

**Policing:** PC Rimmer assured CC that they were aware of the concerns over traffic going to and from Glendoe.

**Fire Brigade:** The fire station is nearing completion, with electricians and BT lines still to be installed.

They carried out a car wash on Saturday 16 Sep and raised £72.30 towards the Fire Brigade Benevolent fund.

**Community Project:** Mrs Kirkland met with Mr Lucas Chapman, HIE, who gave advice on the completion of the Lottery Grants form.

**AOB:** BT - responding to the letter sent detailing all complaints from the meeting last month, they stated that they had no reports outstanding of these, therefore the case was closed. Mr Rob Mullen took a copy of the letter and will approach a contact he has. Mrs Ella Macrae has c.£1000 from her discretionary budget available for any local cause.

### **Minute of Meeting 24 Oct**

**Correspondence:** HIE Community website development day - Saturday 18 and 25 November.

Highlands and Islands Fire Service - National standards for community engagement, statement of intent. Highland Council planning select committee - invitation to November meeting. Highland Small Communities Housing Trust - findings of housing survey have been collated. Ms I McGrath will attend November meeting to inform the council of findings. Mr Fortune, Phoenix, Errogie - copy of letter sent to planning dept regarding clarification on size/position of 3 new houses in Errogie.

Mrs J O'Donovan - copy of letter sent to Mr A Brown, Highland Council re noise and speed of traffic through Gorthleck, possibility of extending 40mph speed limit and introduction of traffic calming measures. The CC agreed with the comments on the situation and will write to HC also.

Highland Council - Highland Common Housing Register. 11 housing associations now have a shared register of people with housing requirements. People will now only have to fill in one application form making it easier and fairer. A draft allocation policy been developed and views being sought.

**Treasurer:** Ord. Acc: £709.41. £25.00 cheque to Mr Mckie, Foyers Ferry. Proj. Acc: £4283.21.

**Planning:** Full planning permission is sought for 2 houses near Soinnaich Cottage, Whitebridge, a house at Whitebridge Hotel, a holiday log cabin near Boleskine House, Foyers, and three house plots at Errogie. The applications were discussed but no objections were made at this time.

**Fire Brigade:** There were three incidents in the past month: a fire at Garrogie which was attended by Foyers unit plus 4 other units, a chimney fire at Gorthleck and a dog rescue from the Falls of Foyers.

The keys for the new building should be passed over at the end of the week. There was a problem with BT installing the telephone lines but this seems to have been resolved.

Mr Kirkland has requested an increase in the budget to continue with community fire safety visits.

**Roads and Road Signs:** Mrs L Merther contacted the CC regarding poor state of the footbridge and ditches in Lower Foyers, stating the need for someone to dig them out (not with a mechanical digger). She also highlights the need for a rubbish bin in the parking area of the shinty pitch. State of the road to Lower Foyers was highlighted, the un-official passing places have a lot of pot-holes and are quite hazardous. It was felt that since the trees have been cut there is now little to stop a car from going down the edge and it was agreed that barriers were now needed. The grid at Bochrubben needs to be cleaned out. Secretary will forward all comments to HC and copy to Mrs Macrae.

A new sign at the Foyers road end, at the Catholic Church, was placed by the Forestry Commission as arranged by Mr McCormack, however, the old sign has not been removed. Mr McCormack will try to arrange for its removal. Highland Council, Transport and Infrastructure - notification of start of work to replace the Braenock Bridge, Whitebridge, by Les Taylor Construction. Any problems contact Mr Kevin Silverton, Highland Council 07795 304920

**Community Project:** Ongoing.

**Renewable Energy and Community Benefit:** Community Trust has written to Mr Ruck, Scottish Community Foundation, raising points following last months meeting. Corriegarth Wind farm - North British Windpower are trying to get their planning application ready to submit at a similar time to Dunmaglass one, although they have no grid connection and do not expect to until 2010. No community benefit agreements have been made yet.

**AOB:** War memorial wreath- it was agreed that Mr Campbell should arrange a wreath and that Mr A Fraser will lay it on behalf of the CC at service to be held at the memorial on Sunday 12 November at 3.30pm. OAP's Christmas Party - Mr Campbell, Mr Houston and Mrs MacGregor agreed to arrange the party for this year. Fire Work Display - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November at Gorthleck. Mr Houston asked the CC for a donation. It was agreed that £400.00 should be given. Mr Houston thanked the CC. BT - Mr Mullen is still pursuing the CC's complaints. December meeting - agreed that unless anything important came up, the December meeting would be cancelled.

Next meeting: Tuesday 28 November, 7.30pm, Stratherrick Public Hall.

## PAUL SMITH MEMORIAL TROPHIES

The family of the late Paul Smith have generously donated to Boleskine Camanachd Club three trophies in Paul's memory to be presented to Juvenile players of the year. There is a cup for each of the three age levels – U12, U14 & U17 – which the winner receives for a year along with a smaller trophy which they will keep.

Paul, who passed away in August 2004, had a life long association with the club. Though he never played for Boleskine in competitive shinty, he was an integral part of the club as a committee member, groundsman and raffle organiser. But perhaps the role he was most acknowledged for was that of goal judge and it was fulfilling these duties in 1997 that he unfortunately lost an eye. Paul, as unassuming as usual, never complained about his loss and carried on with his life as before – including occasionally taking up the goal judge flag again.

Prior to the opening of the annual Sale of Work in Gorthleck Hall on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, the winners for the U12 & U14 trophies were announced (the U17 will be decided at a later date following the completion of their league fixtures). Joey Smith, Paul's younger brother, presented the U12 Cup to Ewen Fraser and the U14 Cup to Gavin Butterworth, the winners for 2006.



## Christian Comment

The cover picture on the previous edition of the "Boleskine Bulletin" showed a large crowd on the shore of Loch Ness, who were attending a popular musical event. Two thousand years ago a similar crowd gathered on the shore of Lake Galilee in Israel – a comparable geographical setting. They were listening to a young teacher who had grown up helping in the carpentry business in Nazareth, owned by a man called Joseph, who had married his mother, Mary. Mary was a distant descendent of the famous Jewish King David, who reigned in Jerusalem a thousand years previously.

What attracted the crowd to listen to Jesus of Nazareth? Where did He acquire the insights that are to be found in the Bible as "The Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew: Ch. 5, 6 & 7)? At Christmas Carol Services around the world, crowds of people sing, "Once in Royal David's City stood a lowly cattle shed", which tells the story of the origin, birth, and example of this Jesus – "He came down to earth from heaven; who is God and Lord of all".

Christians understand that Jesus is Almighty God in human form; this is why His teaching is so inspired, and has influenced the human race for good over the past two thousand years. "For He is our childhood's pattern" – He is a wonderful example for young people today. "He feeleth for our sadness" – He understands the sufferings of all

ages, as He himself suffered as a young man. "He shareth in our gladness" – He enjoyed the celebrations of his contemporaries while He lived on earth, and will be pleased that we commemorate His Birthday at the coming Christmas Festival.

Martyn Bateman

May the humility of the shepherds,  
The perseverance of the Wise Men,  
The joy of the Angels and  
The peace of the Christ-child  
Be God's gift to you this  
Christmas and always.

Mervyn Stockwood

## **CHURCH MEETINGS**

### Church of Scotland

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

Mr. Ian King 01463 751293

### N.B. The Church of Scotland United Services for Boleskine and Dores

are now at 11.00 a.m. on the last Sunday of each month at alternate venues

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December, usual services at Boleskine and Dores.

### Episcopal Church

Sunday: 11.00a.m. Croachy.

Rev. Peter Mosley 01808 521397

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**

Christmas Eve, 6.30 p.m., Carol Service

Christmas Morning, 10.30 a.m.

### 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

### Stratherrick Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner

This will not be taking place before Christmas this year but will be on held **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00p.m. at the Craigdarroch Hotel, Inverness.**

## **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	Erroglie, Church
11.40 - 12.20	Lower Foyers, Riverside
<b>12.25- 13.25</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
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	Dores, 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	Croachy, Old Parsonage
11.15 - 11.25	Dunmaglas, Old School House
11.45 - 12.30	Stratherrick, Primary School
12.35 - 12.55	Gorthleck, Public Hall
<b>13.00 - 14.00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
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	Erroglie, Bridge before "Ark"
16.00 - 16.20	Farr, Old Post Office

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.

## **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



Dear Elizabeth (*Buddy*)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon this year. The event weekend was a great success and this is largely due to the support from all our volunteers and the local community.

We have already received a number of emails and letters from runners thanking us for such a well organised event with emphasis on the fantastic support they received at the start, along the route and at Queens Park Stadium.

Our official charities are busily gathering all the funds raised by their runners, and we are waiting to hear their final totals raised. In the meantime, one thing that is sure is that the tens of thousands of pounds raised will go a long way to benefiting many great causes.

Thank you again for your tremendous support.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Sutherland

Race & Event Director

Baxters Loch Ness Marathon & Festival of Running

### Friendship Group

#### Daviot Hall

A Friendship group has been established Meeting at 2-4pm on the Fourth Friday each month in Daviot Hall.

This is for older people to meet for two hours and talk, reminisce, join in activities or crafts. We would welcome any from Foyers and Stratherrick who would care to come along and join us.

The cost is £1 entry which includes tea / coffee and cake or biscuits. If you can provide your own transport it will be helpful, the SCATA community bus may be available, phone Sue Fenton on 01808 521368

The next meeting is on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2007

## Bus Times

### WHITEBRIDGE-INVERNESS

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-INVERNESS

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-INVERNESS

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

## I BELONGED TO GLASGOW

A story of a childhood in care in the forties & fifties through the eyes of Helen Tennant relating to all the establishments she stayed at during the journey.

One paragraph is about her stay for four years in Cullintyre Stratherrick (near Garthbeg now derelict) and gives a valuable insight to crofting life and condition in the district at that period.

Copies are available at £7.99 plus £1.49 P & P from the author, 6 Nelson St, Edinburgh, EH3 6LG.

# Halloween

Halloween, the annual celebration on evening of 31 October has been held since Celtic times, when during that period it was called Samhain. The word Halloween has its origins in the Catholic Church being a corruption of All Hallows Eve. All Hallows day or All Saints day, November the first was the Catholic day of observance in honour of the saints.

Folklore has it that the spirits of the deceased revisited the mortal world on that night, in search of living bodies to possess for the next year. Naturally the living did not want to be possessed. So on the night of October 31, people would extinguish the fires in their homes, to make them cold and unwelcoming. Then they would dress up in all manner of ghoulish costumes and noisily paraded around the district being as destructive as possible in order to frighten away the spirits.

My recollection of Halloween as a child in the 60s was the excitement you felt as the night of guising approached, what type of mask would you get, would it be one of the older pressed paper type or the newer plastic ones, not a patch in today's ones though. Generally the elastic holding the mask on broke away and by halfway through the night the paper ones had got wet and fell apart. The plastic type were prone to develop a small tear that quickly spread up through the middle of the mask rendering it useless, but at least you looked the part to scare anyone you met or called on, when you set off on the night's adventures. As a small child I recall, along with my brother, getting taken guising by my father, walking along the road to the neighbours holding a carved turnip lantern with a lighted candle inside, trying to remember the poem I was to recite at the houses we visited. The night was very dark as we walked along. Somehow I managed to wander from the road onto the grass verge then fell headlong into a deep ditch filled with water and losing my mask. As a result of my soaking, there was no other option but to return home to get dry clothes before resuming the night's events.

At primary school you always had a Halloween party last thing before school closed for the day. I always liked our version of dooking for apples. A large tub full of water with apples floating on top was placed between two chairs that had the backs facing each other, you knelt on the chair leaning over the back with a fork in your mouth and tried to spear an apple floating below. Possibly it wouldn't do to be sent home from school soaking wet on a cold October night as would have been the case if we went dooking for apples the more traditional way involving catching the apple with your teeth. We also had toffee apples and another game where you tried to eat a treacle scone that was strung up at head height with your arms behind your back. You had to follow the movement of the scone and tried to catch it in your mouth to eat it, rather than holding it in your hands to eat it.

As I got older you were allowed out on your own guising, meeting up with your friends at a predetermined spot, armed with torches fitted with new batteries specially bought for the night and mounted on bikes you set off. The object of the evening was to visit as many houses as possible to enable you to get as much nuts, apples and sweets as possible.

I recall going to visit an old neighbour at Lochgarthside in the evenings with my brother in the late sixties and she would relate to us the tales of pranks of yesteryear at Halloween which we listened to with intent, only sorry now I cannot recall all the details of stories

One favourite trick of the Guisers was to climb onto the roof of the house and put a divot of turf over the chimney, with the result that the smoke from the fire, unable to get out chimney, went back into the house. The occupants were then forced to get out of the house before they were suffocated. Another prank was to tie the knob of the door tightly with string to the gate post or some other unmovable object, then knock on the door. The occupier came to the door but could not open it, the string preventing this, leading to the frustration of knowing something else was afoot and he couldn't get out to prevent it happening. The window tapping prank was another favourite, a button was attached to a black thread and threaded through the eye of a needle which was then stuck onto the window frame. Then the prankster concealed from view by being behind a shed or a bush etc, jerked the thread which caused the button to swing hitting the win-

dow pane. When the occupier came out to investigate, the button would have been pulled away from the window and lodged against the needle on the frame, so there was no obvious visible cause of the knocking on the window.

Some pranks often led to work having to be redone. An example of this was when they used to cope stacks of corn or hay at Halloween. This would, be in all probability, be at least a days work to rebuild.

Another prank was to remove the wheels of the householders cart and to take them away, he might spend most of the next day trying to locate them. They might well be strung up in the branches of trees or they could well be hidden behind a dyke.

A story I recall being told was of a farmer who always had a lot trouble with the Guisers. So one year he decided to get the better of them by lying in wait on the road up to the farm with his gun. When he heard them coming up the road in the distance he challenged them and fired a shot in the air. They stopped and started a conversation with the farmer for quite a period of time whilst a few of their number sloped off behind him and made their way to farm, where they made off with wheels and the cart unbeknown to the farmer.

Even in the semi urban area of Foyers there was no respite from the wiles of the Guisers. In the nineteen twenties, Willie Cameron (Bonus), Glenlia farm, had his plough taken by Guisers and strung up on a tree. Jock Scott had his pride and joy, a motorbike, removed from his house in Glenlia and Hugh Macdonald had his Donkey taken. Both the motorbike and the donkey were then swapped over much to the owner's perplexity the next morning. At Inverfarigaig, on the island, an apple tree had all its fruit removed and peats strung up as a replacement, perhaps the leaving of articles in place of the ones taken, would lead to the blame being appropriated on the little people (fairies elf's etc)

It is not known that the next two stories actually happened on Halloween but they follow the same vein and are worth including

A man called Grant who stayed at Heath Cottage, Errogie, was courting a lady who resided at Fenecrieich in Gorthleck. One evening he went west to visit her on his black horse. On arriving he stabled the horse in the byre and went into the house. While he was in the house somebody entered the byre and whitewashed his horse. Several hours later when he went to leave, he entered the byre and struck a match to get his horse. There was no sign of his black horse, only a white one there, which resulted on him having to walk all the three miles back to Errogie in his best clothes.

Round about 1870 a tailor from Easter Duntelchaig had an appointment with a client for a new suit at Bochruben early on the Monday morning. Unfortunately he had no clock and relied on the cockerel to awaken him first thing in the morning with its crowing. As it was so important an appointment the tailor went to bed early on Sunday evening in preparation of the next days event. Just prior to midnight a local boy went to the tailors house and pretended to crow like a cockerel. Awaking, thinking it was near daybreak the tailor arose and made his way of 6 miles westward to Bochruben, arriving at the house in the early hours of the morning to find the family still in bed.

Jimmy MacLean, Lochgarthside, was always subject to the attention of the Guisers and he would be relieved in the wee small hours if nothing happened, so he could rest peacefully for the remainder of the night

One ironic fact was that the subject of the devilment, had more than likely being one of the perpetrators twenty to forty years before, giving credence to the phrase 'what goes around comes around', while reflecting on the delight he felt then and thinking not too ill of the misfortunes that befell him on All Saints Eve .

*Mussady*

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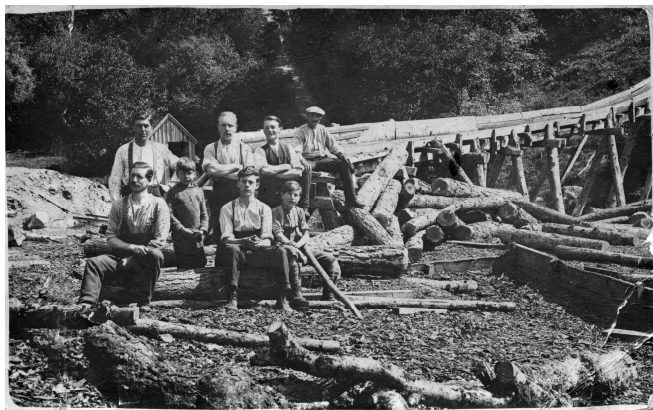
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**Craig Hepburn and Fraser MacPherson P7**





Photograph 1  
See description below



Photograph 2  
See description below

Two more photographs from the collection of the South Loch Ness Heritage Group. More photographs and articles can be seen at [www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk](http://www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk). If you have any other pictures of this area, please get in touch. We can make copies, often better than the original, and would love to extend the collection.

We would particularly like photographs of the following - The 1970 hydro electric pump storage scheme including camps and worksites, closure of the B. A. Factory in Foyers, Dores Gala, Stratherrick Games in 1980s for Hall funds, Queens Jubilee events in 2002, Foyers centenary in 1996, bridges swept away in December 1966, Stratherrick school opening 1979(?), Stratherrick Hall refurbishment 1966 1987 & 2003, Thain Road council houses built 1966, Foyers forestry fire 1983 (?), bad snow storms 1955 & 1977, Queens visit 1958 (?) and raised Wellington bomber at Dores 1988 (?)

Photograph 1  
Woodmen at the Inverfarigaig saw mill in c1916. British Aluminium utilised the former Bobbin Mill after refurbishment until it was destroyed by fire in 1926. The operations were then moved to their factory at Foyers. Front left is Duncan (Birch) MacDonald and front row third from left is Eckie McLaren. Photograph courtesy of Moira McCallum.

Photograph 2  
Outside MacGillivray's shop in Gorthleck. Angus MacGillivray, the last of that family to run the shop up to the mid 1980s, is the young man standing at the front of the car. Photograph courtesy of Grace MacGillivray via Alister Chisholm."

There is a postscript to our last issue in which we published a photograph of the bomb damage at the B.A. factory in Foyers.

Frank Ellam and Colin Adamson were at the Boleskine Burial Ground a few weeks ago mapping and recording the graves for the Highland Family Historical Society (further information can be found on the South Loch Ness Heritage website) when a lady stopped her car and came into the Ground appearing to be searching for a particular grave. Frank asked if they could help and the lady, who was Deirdre Smythe the property manager at the Culloden Battlefield Exhibition, explained that she was looking for the grave of her great grand-father, Murdo MacLeod who was the poor gentleman that died of a heart attack as a result of that bombing. Because of the work that had already been completed, they were able to locate the grave within seconds. Murdo was 70 years old when he died on 13th February 1941 and his grave reports "killed by enemy action".

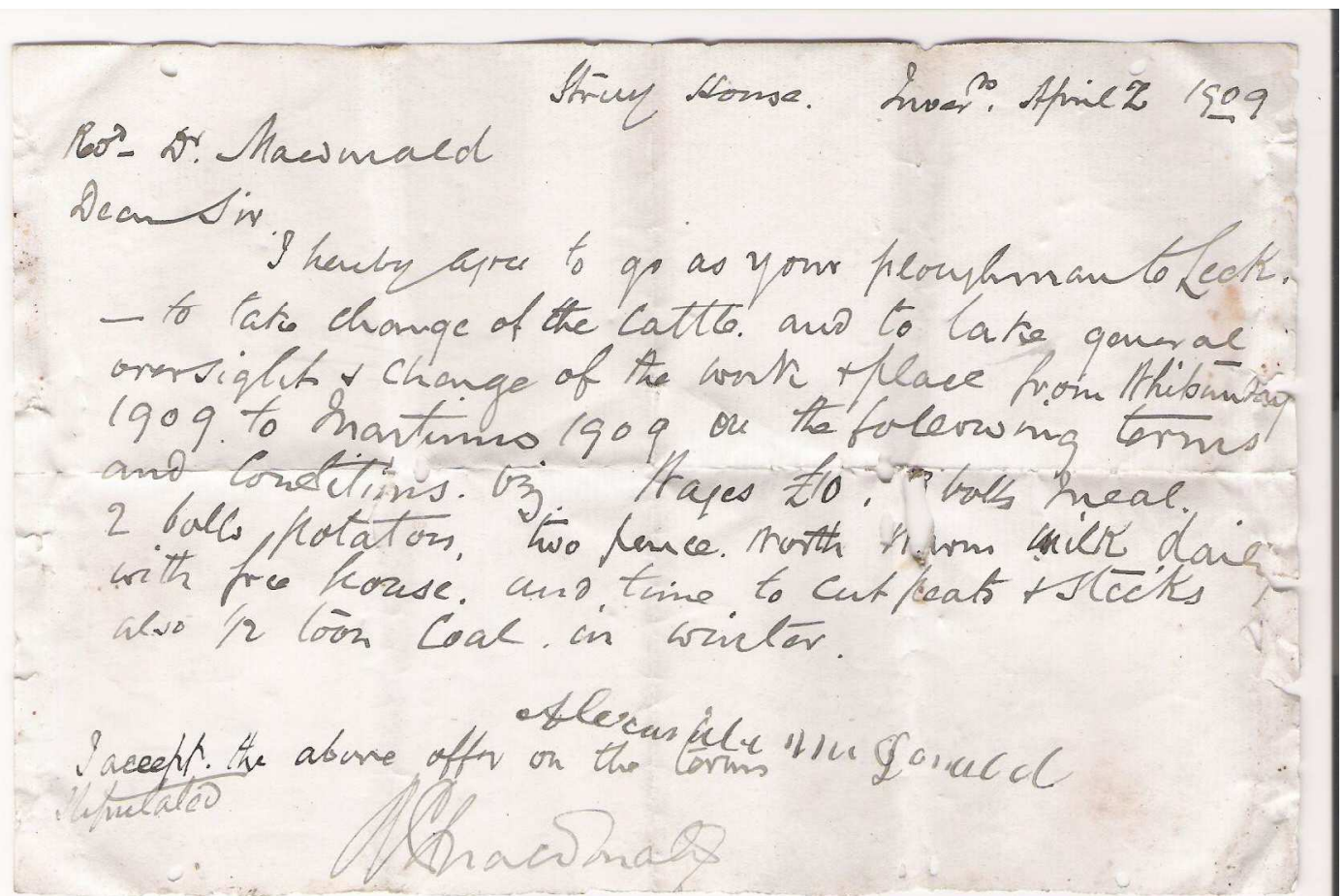
## SO YOU THINK THAT YOU ARE UNDERPAID!

Frank and Katie Ellam have been renovating the buildings at Easter Boleskine since November 2004. The buildings appear to date from 1870 and were originally known as Easter Boleskine Farm having been a farm, a mill and a dairy during their working life. They were sold to the Forestry Commission in the 1950s and appear to have become empty some time after that. After being sold by the Forestry at auction in the 1970s the cottage was "modernised" by the standards of that age into a residential dwelling.

During the past two years, Frank and Katie have been uncovering features hidden from view for many years. They are now working on the steadings and Katie recently found an employment contract dated April 2 1909 tucked into a door frame. The contract is between one Alexander McDonald and the Revd. Dr. MacDonald and reads as follows:

"Dear Sir – I hereby agree to go as your ploughman to (Leck?) – to take charge of the cattle and to take general oversight and charge of the work & place from Whitsunday 1909 to Martinmas 1909 on the following terms and conditions viz. Wages £10, 3 bolls meal, 2 bolls potatoes, two pence worth fresh milk daily with free house and time to cut peats and sticks also ½ ton coal in winter. I accept the above offer on the terms stipulated. – Alexander McDonald"

The wages of £10 are not, you will note, per week but for the whole period which is some 30+ weeks long.



Struy House. Inverness April 2 1909

Rev. Dr. MacDonald

Dear Sir

I hereby agree to go as your ploughman to Leck.  
— to take charge of the cattle and to take general oversight & charge of the work & place from Whitsunday 1909 to Martinmas 1909 on the following terms and conditions. viz. Wages £10, 3 bolls meal, 2 bolls potatoes, two pence worth fresh milk daily with free house and time to cut peats & sticks also ½ ton coal in winter.

I accept the above offer on the terms stipulated Alexander McDonald

Would all contributors or people wishing to contribute please note the change of email address for articles for the Boleskine Bulletin from this issue it will be:-

Boleskine\_Bulletin@hotmail.co.uk

This is to prevent confusion with my personal mail.

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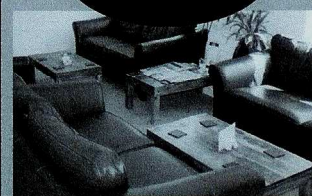
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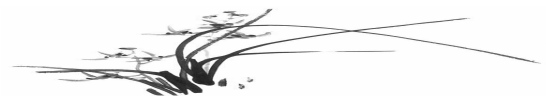
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The Boleskine Bulletin would like to thank all those who submit adverts in support of us. Because of printing costs without you there would be no Bulletin.

Unfortunately, in a small number of cases, getting renewal confirmations and payment is proving more and more time consuming for the volunteers who put the paper together. We ask that when we contact you about renewal, please let us know your amendments or requirements ASAP.

Thanks again

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