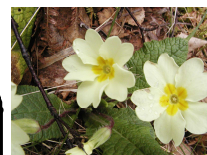


# TheBoleskineBulletin



ISSUE No.38  
SPRING 2007

## **A FAIR WALK FOR A GOOD CAUSE**



**A LOCAL "HEALTHY LIVING" GROUP, ARE LOOKING FOR SPONSORSHIP OR DONATIONS FOR A CHARITY WALK FROM LOWER FOYERS TO WHITEBRIDGE AND RETURN TO TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY 26TH MAY.**

**THE WALK WILL CO-INCIDE WITH THE MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT ORGANISATION'S MONTH OF FUND RAISING WALKS, ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE MACMILLAN ORGANISATION.**

**DONATIONS CAN BE GIVEN AT;**

**THE MEDICAL CENTRE, FOYERS  
OR AT  
THE FOYERS SHOP**

**ANYONE WISHING TO SPONSOR A WALKER, OR TAKE PART IN THE WALK CAN OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION FROM LESLEY OR JULIE AT THE MEDICAL CENTRE ON 01456 486412**



# Things going on with B.E.N. (Boleskine Environmental Network)

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## look out for .....

### Aspens to flower this year

Aspen trees only rarely flower and produce seed but experts believe this year will be a significant flowering episode. The last big flowering year was in 1995.

Look out for catkins in March and April and the fluffy white seed in late May. If you find any trees with female catkins or seed please let us know their location.

John Parrott 486 426

### Orange Tip Butterfly.

This survey will be done via postcards, which you fill in and return to Butterfly Conservation. There was a survey undertaken about 10 years ago and the survey aims to find out if the butterfly has been spreading North and West. For more information see <http://www.butterfly-conservation> Or if you see any let Rosemary Holt know on 486 631

### Waders in the Strath

Taking place this spring will be the annual survey of waders in our area. (Curlew, lapwing, oyster catchers etc). If you would like to take part contact Jane O'Donovan 486 355

### Don't forget the Red Squirrels

If you see a squirrel or would like to take part in the squirrel survey. please contact Rosemary 486 631

### National Spring Clean

1st-30th April

[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/springclean](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/springclean)

Stratherrick & Foyers  
Biological training and  
recording project

Boleskine Environmental  
Network



Highland  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
BIODIVERSITY  
THE VARIETY OF LIFE

## Wildlife Recording Project Report Published

The recently published report has information on surveys both local and national plus lists of species seen during the project.

email:

[odonovan\\_jane@hotmail.com](mailto:odonovan_jane@hotmail.com) if you would like a copy or if you would like further information.

## Ways to record Wildlife .....

there are a number of simple ways to record the wildlife that you see.

**For Birds** - the BTO has an easy web site. You can take part in the Garden Birdwatch (just report the numbers of each bird species you see in your garden every week). [www.bto.org/gbw](http://www.bto.org/gbw)

**For Mammals and Butterflies** – Send your sightings to **Rosemary on 486 631**. Rosemary will be keeping records locally and will send them off periodically to the appropriate organisation. You will need the date and grid reference of the species you are recording.

Here's an idea.....

## Flowery lawns and mini meadows....

*"Why have a green desert around your house when it could be a haven for flowers and butterflies....."*

For a flowery lawn in the late spring early summer; mow the grass regularly throughout the year just a little longer than you would normally, but leave it uncut between mid May and mid July. Slowly flowering plants will arrive (daisy, buttercup, ladys bedstraw, self-heal and even wild pansy. Start cutting again after the flowers have seeded and died.

What about using a rougher bit of ground and creating a mini meadow; take a few high cuts in the spring and then allow the plants to flower and seed throughout the summer. Take a hay cut in August and September removing the cuttings after the seeds have set. It will take a few years but eventually a community of plants (and the butterflies and insects that go with them) will establish themselves.

## **Advanced Notification – Local Parenting Classes**

Elizabeth MacKenzie and Lesley Caskie (Health Visitors) will be writing to all parents of children between the ages of 18 months and 8 years to invite them to apply for a place on a Parenting Program to be held locally.

We anticipate starting with the summer school term, so would be grateful for an early response to the invites, as places will be limited.

These programs have proven very successful and popular in other areas where Elizabeth has run them.

If you would like further information please contact:

Lesley Caskie - 01456 486412

Elizabeth MacKenzie - 01808 511410

### South Loch Ness Book Reading Club

THIS group has now been running for nearly 2 years and we are quite surprised to find that we have read 19 books in this time. We started off with no set framework except the desire to enjoy and discover more books.

We have at the end of this time found that being given a book which one would not necessarily choose to read has proved to be very rewarding. We have been quite laid back about the form of the meetings and they have gradually resolved into a structure which seems to suit everyone. We choose a book - (a short selection from those read is appended) - and at the next meeting members give a summary, of their thoughts on this read. This leads to a discussion - frequently quite robust - on the contents. We usually break for a cup of tea, and afterwards we give our personal marks on various aspects of the chosen book - i.e. contents, characterisations, quality of writing etc., also whether we would read it again.

These meetings have frequently produced quite surprising comments and views and the Group are all agreed that this manner of reading a book which one would quite possibly pass by on the bookshelf has been a great success. We obviously do have discussion about which book will be read next and there are occasionally low marks given, and even active dislike is expressed, but even this has value as one has to think about why the book was not enjoyed.

Although it would be counter-productive to have too large a group, it is felt that two or three more members would be welcome.

It is a most friendly and cheerful afternoon meeting so please don't hold back.

If you think you might be interested and would like to have a chat about it please Contact Jean Marshall 01456 486758.

Short selection of books read:

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.: The Island by Victoria Hislop: Shooting History by Jon Snow: The Wellbeloved by Thomas Hardy: Emma by Jane Austen: Brother & Sister by Joanne Trollope: The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende: Then we sailed away by John Ridgeway and family: The Road Taken by Michael Buerk: The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown: Light on Snow by Anita Shrieve: The Life of Pi by Yann Bartel.

Next month's choice either The Silk Road by Paul Theroux or Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Local Builder Andrew Fraser and his wife Donalda who had a son Lewis Finlay born on 31st January at Raigmore Hospital. Both Mother and son are doing well.



**All so to** Heather MacDonald formally of Riverside, Foyers who attended Foyers Primary School and then Kilchuimen Academy, Fort Augustus, has just recently achieved a Bachelor of Nursing Degree at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. She has now taken up a post as Staff Nurse in Aberdeen. Heather attended Foyers Primary from Primary 1 through to Primary 7, in fact she was the only primary 1 pupil attending the school in the year of 1989/90 when she was 4 and a half. Mrs Abbot, the teacher at the time, allowed her to stay for lunch, as she was upset that everyone else was staying and she was the only one to go home! The school only had about 9 pupils at the time and 2 of them were her brother, Stuart and sister, Fiona. Heather then went on to Kilchuimen Academy where she stayed till 4th year and then moved to Glenurquhart High School for 5th year.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT DONATED MONEY TO THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DISCO.

**WILDERNESS COTTAGES**

**WILDSIDE**

**WHITEBRIDGE HOTEL**

**KOCKIE TRUST**

THE DISCO WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND ENJOYED BY ALL.

## Christian Comment

There cannot be many people alive today who doubt the existence of evil - we are confronted with international terrorism, violence in our local communities, strife within families, and our own inner turmoils. When Jesus Christ lived on earth He faced some problems, and the Gospel writers in the Bible record His confrontations with the Devil. He was tested in the wilderness before He began His ministry - a time which Christians recall during the season of Lent, (from the old Saxon word describing the lengthening of days), leading up to the celebration of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating on Easter Day, when His triumph over the force of evil, and death, was demonstrated.

During His life on earth, Jesus showed great concern for those who were troubled by evil forces. He brought to them peace of mind, as His love entered into their lives, and He encouraged His followers to continue this ministry of casting out evil. He taught us in the Lord's Prayer to say, "Deliver us from evil" - a prayer that we should use daily in this 21st Century. On the cross outside Jerusalem, where He was nailed up on "Good Friday", He prayed for those who were mistreating Him, that they might be forgiven, and His followers, like Peter, realised that His suffering was caused by our sin. Peter wrote to his fellow Christians, "Christ Himself carried our sins in His body on the Cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness". (I Peter Ch.2 v. 24 Good News Bible)

It is a simple truth that a cross is formed by an "I" being crossed out - this is something demonstrated by Jesus as He gave His life for others, and His followers were encouraged to take up the cross and follow Him. There are people of other traditions who consider that Jesus was too good to suffer such an awful death as crucifixion, yet this coming Holy Week, Christians will celebrate the truth that,



"He died that we might be forgiven;  
He died to make us good,  
That we might go at last to Heaven,  
Saved by His precious blood."



Martyn Bateman

In The Community

Community Carol Services were very well attended, both at Stratherrick Hall and Foyers School. Our thanks to Readers, Musicians and all who

joined in the singing. £80 was donated for the work of "Bible Lands", assisting deprived people in the troubled "Holy Land".

A Service of Easter Readings and Songs is planned for Easter Day, 8th April at 6.00pm in the Stratherrick Community Hall. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and to meet with Christians of all denominations after the service.

Christian Aid Week, 13th - 20th May, 2007

Our thanks to all who will be collecting and contributing.

Last year's total was as follows:-

Total Collected: £1,323.13

Gift Aid: £ 193.98

Grand Total: £1,517.11

#### 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

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

Free Church (continuing)

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

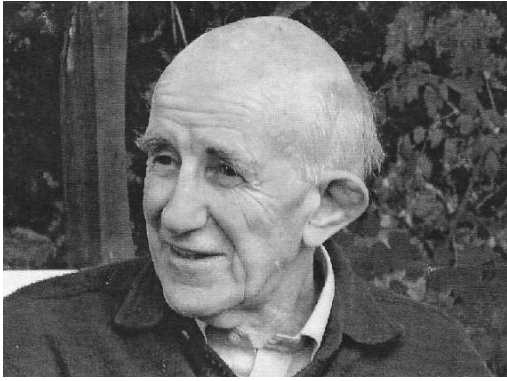
Sunday: 12 Noon Whitebridge.

Mrs. Therese Finley 01456 486747

Inter-denominational Bible Study

Rev. Martyn Bateman 01456 486273

## HUGH MACNALLY 1927 – 2007



**Hugh MacNally was born in 1927 at Fort Augustus, in the house that is now the local police station. The family moved to Glasgow in 1936, but he returned North as an evacuee in 1939 to his aunt and uncle's Market Hill croft. For the next nine years he lived and worked in the area, honing his stalking skills, when he could escape from**

**the daily milk round with horse and cart. By the time he was sixteen, he regularly stalked the hills with rifle and pony bringing home meat as part of the war effort. His knowledge of the hill was put to good use as a young member of the Home Guard, on exercises and guiding Allied troops who were training in the area during this time.**

**After the war, while working at Sronlairg with Wulstan MacPherson, he was introduced to the MacPherson clan. Later, he met Ishbel MacPherson at a Fort Augustus dance and this relationship flourished to the extent that she would become his bride.**

**Saving a shilling a week for five years, Hugh was able to book a passage to Canada in 1948 where he worked in a steel factory at Hamilton, Ontario. He made enough money in a year to enable him to fly back home to attend the wedding of his brother Lea. About four years later, he returned to the Highlands to attend his own wedding. There followed a long career of working on Highland estates, including Falar, Garrogie and Ardnamurchan and then latterly as a wildlife consultant. Working with sheep as well as deer helped his understanding of the deer world and this was one of his main interests, along with a passion for music and photography. As a result of the latter, the family archives are full of captured moments and wonderful mementos, from a time when few in his line of work used cameras. His love of photography has passed on to several of his family members, thus furnishing them with a very complete stock of photographic memories.**

**Describing himself as a contented man with a loving wife, four sons, three daughter and eleven grandchildren, he also enjoyed and supported local community life. He was very involved with the fund-raising project to improve the Gorthleck Hall, and was a keen supporter of the local Feis. He also helped to set up the South Loch Ness Heritage Group, which is flourishing. But music was a great part of Hugh's life. He taught himself to play the harmonica and melodeon by ear. He never did learn to read music, but despite that, he became an accomplished musician, composing many tunes and songs, some of which have been published by the Highland Music Trust.**

**Hugh was not a conventionally religious man, but was none the less a spiritual one. Philosopher and thinker, blessed with a truly open**



mind, he developed his own beliefs, whilst always respecting those of others. A voracious reader and collector of books, he learned about local history, the Celtic era, and researched many diverse subjects. He understood Man's relationship with Nature better than most and deplored the way their natural balance is too often upset by ignorance or greed. Hugh was also quite a prolific writer of letters, articles and musings. For years he clattered away with a noisy old typewriter at the kitchen table, but latterly learned the magic of word processing by computer. After being badgered for years to do so, he finally buckled down to the task of recording some of the stories and folklore of the district. Thus memories of characters and happenings have been preserved, which might have been otherwise lost. He did not live to see his completed work published, but his family intends to do just that.

He died on Wednesday 24th January and was buried at Whitebridge on Saturday 27th January. A large crowd attended the funeral service which was a fitting farewell for a man who was so well known and liked in our area. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow and family.

### ALL THESE YEARS

A lifetime comes, and fills with memories,  
Love and laughter, toil and tears.  
Years flow by; loved ones around us.  
Thank you Lord, for all these years.

Some have lived in towns and cities,  
Some have lived beside the sea,  
Some are born midst lochs and mountains,  
Each, sweet home, to you or me.

Heard the music of the bothy,  
Heard the fiddle, pipes, and drum,  
Young we were, those hours of dancing,  
Friends and neighbours all would come.

Shared the dawns of the morning,  
Shared the sunsets, glowing red,  
Watched with joy, our young ones growing.  
Lord, how quick the years have sped.

Life is mystery, life is wondrous,  
Love and faith quell all our fears.  
Springtime brings new life around us,  
Thank you Lord, for all these years.

Hugh MacNally

### Lonely Glen Tarff - Hugh MacNally

1. There's a wild Highland glen that will  
ever be dear,  
Where with friends of my youth I shared  
laughter and tear,  
Where the red deer repose and the eagle  
flies free,

That's the lovely Glen Tarff which  
keeps calling to me,  
That's lonely Glen Tarff which keeps  
calling to me.

2. Where the fast river runs through green  
bank and wild gorge,  
Where stones roll and crash in the flood-  
times' fierce forge,  
Where remote pools flow deep, only  
dippers may see,

3. Where the Sheallagh, Carn Chuillin and  
high Garbh Bheinn,  
Where the birth of the river flows down  
from their springs,  
Where the ptarmigan croak, well con-  
cealed by the scree,

4. S'ron Garbh and Blackburn, Glen Buck,  
Ladies Falls,  
Faces of comrades, my memory recalls  
How oft in these places we brewed the  
black tea;

5. The wild glen remains, whilst old  
friends have passed on,  
Hauntingly lovely, with memories  
strewn,  
Where the red deer repose and the  
eagle flies free:



## Notes From a Large Loch

Dear Dad,  
Arrived Scotland stop  
Streets filled with water stop  
Please advise

They say the first thing that people over here talk about is the weather. Well, not talk actually; complain. There is a reason. Of all the Scots I knew in America, each one always insisted that it didn't really rain as much in Scotland as people claimed. They lie. Either that or they have selective amnesia and living in a climate with colder winters and hotter summers has made them forget the rain rain rain they left when they left. I've been here just over a year now and I think I've seen every type of rain possible except for monsoon and that's simply because I get the impression that for a monsoon you need warm weather. I can't exactly claim that the rain here is of biblical proportions because in The Bible they usually keep it to a comparatively modest forty days and forty nights.

The legend goes that the Inuit have fifty-six words for snow. Some of the more scholarly authorities list slightly fewer numbers. I wonder how many different words there are in Gaelic and Scots for rain? One night the river was so high our neighbors and we parked our cars on the other side of the bridge as it is our only vehicular egress. There is a footbridge further upriver, or should I say, up torrent that we could use in case the Bailey bridge was washed away.

The bridge, by the way was built as a "temporary bridge" so many years ago that the people I've spoken to about it have lost count. That seems to be the way the Highland Council (more or less the local government) does things around here; works in terms of geologic time. I'm doing a long term supply (sub) stint at the IRA (Inverness Royal Academy). There were "temporary huts" built at the school because shortly after it opened thirty two years ago it was already too small. I think the huts have been there as long as the bridge. As you can see, planners and elected officials here operate not much differently than they do back in the States.

Living in the Highlands is, however, different. It requires a whole new set of skills. I'm not talking about just the usual driving on the left side of the road or knowing that gasoline is "petrol". I'm talking about learning how to make that trout that came out of the loch look like it's supposed to when it winds up on your plate; no head, tail, or guts. The same goes for the pheasant that decided to Kamikaze our window one night. It was a tasty thing when my wife cooked it but I had to do the prep. I had help from the neighbors, all of whom knew exactly what to do with it. Naturally a young teenager in our neighborhood was quite eager to chop off the head.

Another new skill is wiping off your tools every time you work outside or they'll rust. A neighbor walked by one evening as I was working and asked "Working in the rain?" I just shrugged and replied "It's Scotland". There is also the delightful skill of "going metric". It'd be bad enough if it were just that but they don't even use the centimeters here – it's millimeters! Somehow, I just can't envision a house built in millimeters. Cigarettes maybe but not a house.

Speaking of which, Scotland has had it's second Enlightenment and banned smoking in enclosed public places. They had the same scaremongering we had in Boston before similar legislation was enacted and they've had the same lack of massive pub closures that were forecast. Like the experience in the States, smokers are now huddled around the door and people must walk through a phalanx of them to enter a building but perhaps in time, here too, there will be further legislation banning smoking within so many feet of building entrances. It's a joy to go out, hear wonderful music, have good food and a few pints and not return home smelling like a lum (chimney).

Which brings to mind another set of new skills - cleaning the chimney and the back boiler. Fireplaces here are not simply decorative. Ours provides the heat for the central heating. That's right, a fireplace. Stoked by coal no less. And that's another skill, building a coal fire – quickly. It does take a bit of learning, it's not like the campfires we use to build in Boy Scouts. But somehow, it's one of the things that seems to slow the pace of life living next to Loch Ness which is a welcome relief from the grueling rat race that is the pace of life in America. The ethos here is not – he who is first to earn his heart attack, wins. Not yet at least. In fact, the only drawback I can think of living next the world's most famous loch is the constant request (usually from Americans) of "How is Nessie?" or "Say hi to Nessie". The next time I hear that I think I'll just fix a blank and ask "What's a Nessie?"

I'll send more soon, Dad, on some of the other delightful surprises and differences here but I have to go grade papers.

Brian Yates (to be continued)

## **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

## GARDEN ORNAMENTS STOLEN

Last year the Celtic cross was stolen from Foyers Church garden. Lately heavy stone ornaments have gone missing from the old manse at Errogie. Garden thieves are obviously operating in the area.

## HUNTINGTON'S RESEARCH MONTHLY DRAW.

Over the last couple of years our Membership has fallen quite a bit due to people moving etc. We are canvassing for new Members and wondered if you would be interested?

The cost is £1 per month. At the moment the first prize is £30, second £10 and third £10. In December there is an additional draw of twenty numbers all winners receiving £10.

If we cannot attract new Members we will require to cancel the additional draw in December so that we can continue to raise money for research into Huntington's Disease.

If you are interested please contact either :

Elspeth Hall - 01456-486332 or  
Chris Smith - 01456-486625

Payment can be made monthly, quarterly or annually. For those outside the village of Foyers it would be appreciated if you could pay at least three months at a time unless there are a few interested and someone in your area would be willing to collect and arrangements could be made for the money to be collected from one person.

At the moment between funds raised from the Monthly Draw and donations the Bank Balance stands around £750/£800 and once £1,00 is reached this will be sent to Research.

Thank you,  
Elspeth and Chris.

## 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

## Postscript to a postscript!

In the winter issue of the B.B., we published a follow-up story to the photograph of the bomb crater at the British Aluminium factory in Foyers during the Second World War. Deidre Smythe was visiting the Boleskine Burial Ground looking for the grave of her great grand-father, Murdo Macleod, who was the poor gentleman who died of a heart attack when the bomb fell.

Deidre has kindly provided this additional information about Murdo.

Murdo Macleod was born in Ullapool in 1871, the only child of William and Ann (nee Mackenzie). His father was a fisherman and drowned in Little Loch Broom when Murdo was a young boy. His grandparents were Murdoch (also a fisherman who drowned) and Mary who married in Bailleraich in 1832. It is believed that the family originally came to Lochbroom from Raasay.

Murdo walked from Ullapool to Foyers to get a job in the Foyers factory probably when it opened in the late 1890s. He was a furnaceman. He married Mary at Boleskine in 1901 and they lived at 35 Glenlia, recently the home of Russell and Eileen Bain. They had 7 children: Angus, Robert, Murdo (the grand-father of Deidre Smythe), Alec, Kate, Williamina and Annie. Angus, Murdo and Alec all went on to work for B.A., Alec at Foyers but Murdo junior was an apprentice gamekeeper before joining B.A. at Fort William. Kate married and moved to Glasgow; Annie joined the WRAF and later married and settled in Fort William. Williamina married and settled in Forres. Robert (Buff) never married and lived in Fort William with Annie in his later years. However he was visiting Tommy Cooper at Dalrag, Gorthleck when he was taken ill and died at Raigmore. He is buried at Drumtemple.



This photograph shows Murdo with some of his children – Angus, Kate and Annie.

The next meeting of **The South Loch Ness Heritage Group** is on Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dores Parish Hall, 7:30pm.

The subject is talk by Iain Cameron entitled “From Princes Street to Loch Ness side”. It is the story of how a Fraser girl from Stratherrick met and married the eminent academic from Edinburgh, Alexander Tytler in the turbulent 18<sup>th</sup> century. Individually, these two families have intriguing histories and together they made their mark on Aldourie, Dores and the northern end of Stratherrick.

Admission is free but a collection will be taken during the evening.

Please visit our website at [www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk](http://www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk) where there are posted a number of local interest articles and a host of local photographs dating back in the beginning of the last century.

Copies of the new edition of Alan Lawson’s book “A Country Called Stratherrick” are still available at £10 from any of the Heritage Group committee members or from Frank Ellam on 01456 486691.

# Stratherrick Hall Arts

## Forthcoming Attractions

### ***"A Clucking Good Hen Night"***

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March - 8.00 p.m.**

We are delighted to welcome back award-winning comedy actress **Fiona Knowles** in the latest comedy drama from the pen of multi award-winning playwright **Rona Munro**. The duo that brought the hilarious one woman show **"Stick Granny on the Roof Rack"** to Stratherrick Hall are returning with their latest funny and poignant comedy drama.

Gale force winds are battering the Riverside Function Suite. Inside there are not one, but *two* Hen Nights! **Bride to be Annie (57)** – she's no spring chicken.... third time lucky... could this be it? She already has more in-laws than she can cope with, and they're all here! There's young bride Zoe's **Great Granny (92)** - she's an old hen....

68 years married....seen it all and doesn't care who she terrifies! Lastly there's office manager **Jane (36)** - she isn't strutting her stuff with the other girls.....okay, she hates hen nights, but why can't she keep her eyes off the stripping fireman?

Events take an unexpected turn and **our three heroines are literally swept away!** They have to fight for survival or nobody's getting married in the morning!

*"The eminently watchable Fiona Knowles"* - **Evening News**

*"funniest and most attractive drama around"* - **The Scotsman**

*"Munro and Knowles have carved a niche in creating funny, accessible drama"*  
**The List Magazine**

For further information contact Hugh Nicol – 01456.486350

### **Stratherrick Public Hall - What's On**

#### **Groups**

<b>Badminton</b>	Monday Contact	7.30 – 9.30pm Alex Sutherland	01456 486711
<b>Yoga</b>	Tuesday Contact:	10.30 - 12.00pm Sylvia Young	01456 486434
<b>Toddlers Group</b>	Wednesday Contact:	10.30 – 12.30pm Fiona MacDonald	01456 486296
<b>Scottish Country Dancing</b>	Wednesday Contact:	7.30 – 9.30pm Hugh Nicol	01456 486350
<b>Youth Club</b>	Friday Contact	6.30 – 8.30pm Gordon Matheson	01463 241840

#### **Events**

For forthcoming events see the notice board outside the Hall.

Also see local website <http://www.caor.co.uk/hall.htm>

**Want to book the Hall? Ring Judith Borup, Hall Bookings Secretary, on 01456 486464**



## **Boleskine Camanachd Club update**

Last season the adult team final placing in the lower part of the league was not totally unexpected given that due to some of the players' work commitments, we had to play a lot of the younger players to fulfil the fixtures. The experience gained from these matches will stand the youngsters in good stead for the future in the coming seasons. However when we did get all of our senior players available, interspersed with some of the youngsters, we could hold our own with the best, as highlighted in our league match at Inverarnie against the league and Sutherland cup winners Fort William when we gave them their hardest match to date only to lose in injury time. Our U14 team reached the final of the North Development plate against Skye at Invergarry in November only to lose by four goals to nil, though in the early part of the game they looked by far the more likely winners. In the U14 league they were placed wrong by the association in the experienced league, which was well without their capabilities and it was only in the Development round robin one day competitions that they were able to hold their own.

For the first time in nearly twenty years we were able to field an U17 team in league, unfortunately all U17 matches suffered this season due to the extended adult playing season into late November so the development league, instead of four matches, was curtailed to a one day five team round robin competition with games of 20 minutes duration. The team finished a creditable third but were disappointed on the lack of actual games over the season for their age group.

The Boleskine Camanachd Club fixtures for season 2007 are as detailed below. The Club play in the North Div 2 their home games are at Smith park Inverarnie, matches commencing at 2:30pm generally, but check local press for details of any changes. The club web site at:- <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/shinty/index.htm> will give updates in Fixtures & results section, also any events organised by the club in the club news section. We intend to enter teams in the U14 & U17 north leagues this season no fixtures released yet.

On the 29th of September the Strathdearn Cup Final the North of Scotland Junior Cup will be played at the Smith park in Inverarnie, it was played here in 2002 as the opening adult shinty match on the field.

Any one interested in playing shinty or becoming a member of our monthly draw club, contact club secretary Joan Fraser on 01456 486220

### **Home team listed first**

DATE	Adult North League Div 2
3 MARCH	BOLESKINE v LOVAT
10 MARCH	LOCHABER v BOLESKINE
17 MARCH	BOLESKINE v FORT WILLIAM
24 MARCH	KINGUSSIE v BOLESKINE
31 MARCH	BOLESKINE v GLENGARRY
7 APRIL	BOLESKINE v KILMALLIE
14 APRIL	SKYE v BOLESKINE
21 APRIL	LOCHABER v BOLESKINE (Strathdearn preliminary rd)
28 APRIL	BOLESKINE v NEWTONMORE
5 MAY	BOLESKINE bye Sutherland cup 1st rd
12 MAY	GLENGARRY v BOLESKINE
19 MAY	NEWTONMORE v BOLESKINE
26 MAY	LOCH/BOLESKINE v KINGUSSIE (Strathdearn 1st rd)
2 JUNE	(Sutherland cup 2nd round)
9 JUNE	BOLESKINE v LOCHABER (Mactavish Cup Final)

# 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 28 November

**Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.** Mr Di Alexander updated the CC on the situation regarding the land at South Muirnich that HSCHT purchased on the communities behalf some years ago. Half was sold to Albyn Housing who intend to build houses for rent. HSCHT had sent out questionnaires to all members of the community and a copy of the report was passed to the CC. The response rate was disappointing at 26% (82 households) but of those it showed that a quarter had housing needs. This is backed up by the HC waiting list for housing. About half of respondents want housing for rent and half would like low cost home ownership. Therefore it may be the case that Albyn will provide the properties for rent and HSCHT may have affordable plots for building.

However, the current infrastructure restraints from Scottish Water mean that no plans can go ahead. Scottish Water have consultants looking at the quantity of water abstraction now but it may take a year for them to come to any conclusions. The waste water system put in has only the capacity for 6-8 houses. CC was under the impression that the new system was being built to accommodate the proposed houses. Secretary will check past minutes. Other housing associations are coming up against similar problems and they are now looking at the possibility of providing their own water.

It was agreed that real pressure should be put on Scottish Water so that these much needed houses can be built. HSCHT also have a plot of land at Inverfarigaig but the development is also held up by Scottish Water. Mr Alexander explained that plots sold at a reduced price for building will have an option written into the deeds that HSCHT will be able to buy the house back at less than the market price to ensure that people do not take advantage of the scheme and build to sell on at large profits. Mr Campbell thanked Mr Alexander and Ms McGrath.

**Correspondence:** Scottish Community Foundation - thanking the community for continued support of the marathon. Foyers School and Stratherrick school made requests for donations for Christmas celebrations. Mrs Butterworth informed the CC that no funds were available but Mr Campbell agreed to investigate getting funding from HC, as was done last year. Countryside Alliance - in support of rural post offices, urging people to contact Jim Fitzpatrick MP, minister responsible.

**Treasurer:** Project Account: £4283.21. Current account: £364.41. Cheque for £400.00 was given to Mr Houston for fireworks and £55.00 was deposited from photocopier.

**Planning:** Easter Boleskine - plans to renovate barn to provide workshop, storage and office.

18 Lochgarthside - plans to build a new house and access 120m west. There were no objections.

**Policing:** A car was stolen from Gorthleck in the early hours of Saturday morning. If anyone has any information please contact the police.

**Fire Brigade:** Mr Kirkland had secured extra budget for community fire safety but this is also now running out. Any one wishing a home visit should still contact him on 01456 486283. 47 smoke detectors have been fitted and 7 multi-bar adaptors, 2 deep fat fryers and 3 toasters have been given to residents free of charge to replace dangerous items. Mrs Macgregor informed the CC that people are having fires at the base of a large old pine tree on the shores of Loch Ness and it is now burnt about 8 feet up. Lots of cans are also being left on the bridge.

**Roads and Road Signs:** SSE have made money available for the roads. Members of HC will come out to inform the CC of proposed work. The signs at Errogie corner are to be replaced. It was felt that the new kerb at the phone box will cause problems, particularly in the snow. Mrs Elgar Bond highlighted the problem of leaves on the road at Alt Na Goire. The trees at the sides of the Inverfarigaig Pass, the Trinloist road and at Loch Bran became so weighted down in the recent snow fall that the gritters were unable to get through. The secretary will contact HC.

**Glendoe Hydro Scheme:** It was noted that people walking down the hill to Fort Augustus during the hours of darkness are in danger of being hit by a vehicle as there is no proper walkway. HQC lorries are still using Stratherrick to access Glendoe.

**Community Project:** The application for money from the Big Lottery is almost complete and should be submitted by the beginning of next week.

**Renewable Energy and Community Benefit:** The subgroup met with representatives of FA CC to discuss the percentage split of Community Benefit between the two communities. Various points were raised, such as the boundary of the CC areas, the amount of disruption to the communities, benefits gained from the scheme, the visual impact after construction. At the end of the meeting there was no agreement and it was determined that each side would go back to their respective CC to discuss further, before meeting again.



A draft agreement has been drawn up between SSE and SCF for the management of funds. Both S&F and FA CCs would like their respective Trusts inserted into the agreement and are in joint discussions. A contract also needs to be drawn up for the dispersal of the funds.

**AOB:** Childrens Disco - will take place on 16 December in Stratherrick Hall. Donations have been given from Wildside Lodges, Whitebridge Hotel, Knockie Trust, Foyers Shop and Wilderness Cottages to cover the cost of the hall, disco and food. OAP Dinner - 18 January, Craigdarroch Hotel.

### **Minute of Meeting 23 January 2007**

**North British Windpower re proposed wind farm at Corriegarth.** Mrs Macrae listened to the presentation, for information, but did not take part in any discussion. NBW currently have 9 sites actively developed and 3 sites with planning applied for. The site at Corriegarth was first looked at in 2003 and has been subject to environmental assessments and discussions with SNH. It is hoped that plans will be submitted in February 2007. The test mast has shown that it is a predominantly SW wind of good strength that should make for a productive wind farm. The layout of the turbines has been altered 22 times to avoid intrusive impact on the community and to keep off prominent heights and the skyline, with the concentration of turbines behind natural landform screening. The bird surveys have shown flight patterns of the eagles and nesting sites of golden plover, so these have also been considered. SNH asked NBW to look at otter, badger, water vole, wildcat and bat habitats but there was nothing particularly found. The ancient woodlands are not to be touched and existing tracks will be used where possible. Initially there were to be 42 turbines but this has been reduced to 20. Other issues considered were the cultural heritage (an assessor will be on site during construction although nothing has been found yet), aviation (civil and military), telecommunications, peat (it has been probe tested for depth and assessed so that deeper areas will be avoided, as will exposed areas) and noise.

Traffic - the blades and towers (about 100 lorries) are likely to be brought from the A9 through Strathnairn. They will be escorted. There are concerns about a couple of bridges and Errogie corner.

Community benefit - there is a possibility of supply of local services. NBW offered £1000 per MW which will be matched by the landowner. Mr Campbell thanked Mr Irwin and Mr Shaw for coming.

**Mr Brian Macgregor re plans for housing at Balvonie of Inshes.** A recent application was made to HC for 50 houses to be built for a 'housing fair' and then a further 50 will be built by Tullochs in 2009. The proposed site is land on the west side of the A9 by the flyover. Mr MacGregor was looking for support in his objection. Mr Campbell proposed that the CC should support the objection and Mr A C Fraser seconded the motion. It was agreed that the secretary should write to HC as it is contrary to the Local Development Plan.

**Correspondence:** Fort Augustus CC - letter increasing their offer of percentage split of community benefit from Glendoe Hydro Scheme. It was agreed that the secretary should write to decline their offer and state that S&F CC still propose that the split be 50:50.

**Treasurer:** Project Account: £4283.21. Current Account: £364.41.

**Planning:** Erection of house on land opposite Myrtle Cottage, Whitebridge. Mr Bateman had queries on the positioning of services and will clarify the details with HC. Erection of house on land 200m north east of Easter Drummond, Whitebridge. No objections.

**Roads and Road Signs:** Inverfarigaig - road at the bottom of the hill is being washed away. There are 3 cones placed as a warning to drivers. Ault-na-Goire - there have been requests from residents for the small road leading to the houses to be gritted. Mr Fraser explained that it is priority 4 (which means that it could only be gritted every 3<sup>rd</sup> day) but he will take the comments into consideration. Aberchalder - the drains need to be cleared out to prevent water washing across the road and freezing at the bottom of the hill. It is feared that the large water tankers could lose control if they met something. 20's plenty - the signs will hopefully be in place by the end of March.

**Water and Sewerage:** The secretary spoke to Ms Sue Neild of Scottish Water regarding the capacity of the sewage works for the proposed housing at South Muirnich. The plans that went in were only for 6 houses and there will be sufficient capacity for these, however, the issue of water connections is still unresolved.

**Community Project:** Meeting with Mr Chapman, HIE, arranged for Thursday 25 January to discuss lottery application.

**Renewable Energy and Community Benefit:** SSE - Mrs Macrae will chase the money set aside for road improvements.

**AOB:** Whitebridge School Bus - D&E have taken over the contracts for the bus routes and have retained the drivers. The Whitebridge bus is still being taken to FA and concerns remain about children not getting to school in time for exams and for them not knowing when, or if, the bus will arrive, meaning that they have to stand out in the cold. Mr A C Fraser wrote to Mr Fyfe at the IRA stating his concerns and the secretary was instructed to do likewise. IRA School Board- Mrs Martin has recently become the rural member. She will raise any issues that parents make her aware of at the next meeting on 5 February, such as children being given late slips when it is the fault of the school bus that they are late. Information boards - most of the boards are now in a poor state of repair, many unusable. It was agreed that new ones were required and that the HC Rural Fund and the S&F Community Benefit Trust be approached for funding.

**Forthcoming Meetings** - February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, August 28, September 25. All meetings will be held in Stratherrick Public Hall at 7.30pm.



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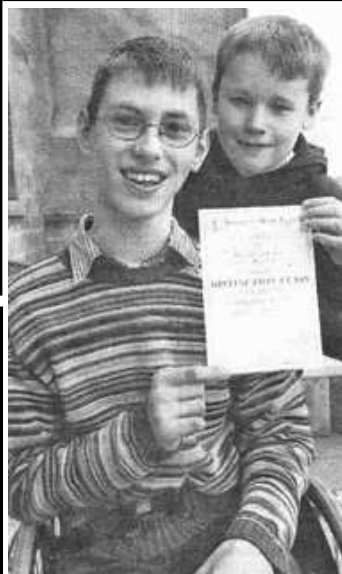
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Courier.

## **Wanted**

One or two people (or more) who plan on going to the  
ROCK NESS festival this year to do a piece about the  
acts on the different days. Does not have to be a long  
piece and we will type it up if required. It does not  
have to cover all the days. I hope by getting more  
than one person the different days would be covered  
as well as getting different perspectives on the acts.

Many thanks The Editor

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