



## Congratulations to the Boleskine Camanachd team on winning the Challenge Cup



The winning team pictured above was

Back row Left to Right Lewis Smith, Graeme Black, Ramond Robertson, David Fraser, Sandy Fraser, Paddy Bryden, Kevin Hepburn, David Higham, Scott Ferguson, front row Left to Right John Fraser, Simon Fraser, Ben Macpherson, Keith Nicholson, James Fraser, Lawrence Parrot. (Andrew Young also played )

### Shinty News

Boleskine's season got off to a flier when on their first game they won their own challenge cup on penalties by two goals to one against Newtonmore, this is the first time they have held the trophy since 1999. The following week in the Brian Stoddart and Donald Macgruer Memorial Cup the normal season curtain raiser they went down by two goals to nil on penalties to the current cup holders the Boleskine Veterans.

The league campaign to date has been a slight improvement on last year, unfortunately with some key players out with injuries and work commitments such as lambing etc we have had to rely heavily on the younger inexperienced players, who have risen to the occasion and not let the team down. This was shown in the recent preliminary Strathdearn cup game

away to Lochaber where the team managed to progress to the next round by the best score of the season to date, with eight under seventeen's involved in the game.

Off the field Boleskine have secured new sponsorship deals, one with Macdonald From-work a local construction firm from Moy for new adult team strips, plus substitute track-suits and general Shinty equipment, this has been matched by Sports Scotland for equipment to assist with youth development. Strathnairn Community Benefit fund have donated monies towards running costs for the Club plus monies for park improvements such as dugouts and nets, the club are grateful towards these donators as the costs of running a Shinty team are increasing each year, before a ball is hit fees and costs to our governing body the Camanachd Association which includes competition entries, insurance and league referee fees are between £1500 -£2000 per annum.

The Boleskine Camanachd Club remaining 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 website 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 fixtures will be posted on the Junior team section of club website when available .

On the 29th of September the Strathdearn Cup Final the North of Scotland Junior Cup will be played at the Smith Park in Inverarnie, and it would be fantastic if the club featured in a role other than organising hosts.

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

#### Forthcoming fixtures

09/06/07	LOCHABER v BOLESKINE
16/06/07	BOLESKINE v CABERFIEDH
23/06/07	FORT WILLIAM v BOLESKINE
30/06/07	KILMALLIE v BOLESKINE
7/07/07	CABERFIEDH v BOLESKINE
14/07/07	BOLESKINE v SKYE
21/07/07	LOVAT v BOLESKINE or ( Suth cup SF)
28/07/07	BOLESKINE v KINGUSSIE
4/08/07	League Postponements
11/08/07	League Postponements
18/08/07	League Postponements (Sutherland & Balliemore Finals )
25/08/07	League Postponements (Str cup SF)
1/09/07	MARINE HARVEST FESTIVAL OF SHINTY
8/09/07	League Postponements
15/09/07	League Postponements
22/09/07	CAMANACHD Cup Final at Inverness
29/09/07	Strathdearn Cup Final at Inverarnie

*"CONGRATULATIONS TO EILIDH HOUSTON OF FOYERS, WHO RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM THE SCOTTISH POLICE COLLEGE AT TULLIALLAN CASTLE, KINCARDINE FIFE.*

*EILIDH, ORIGINALLY FROM TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL, HAS BEEN POSTED TO THE LOCHABER AREA COMMAND.*

*BEST WISHES FROM HER PARTNER RAJ AND ALL HER FRIENDS."*

# TIME FOR CHANGE AT STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL

Since the upgrade of the Hall a few years ago, there has been an increase in usage by both groups and private bookings – to continue this success new volunteers are needed from the Community.

The current hall committee, who have been doing the job for 10 years or more have decided that it's time for a rest and a change – so will be relinquishing their positions at the Hall AGM next March.

SO YOU ARE NEEDED!!

There must be at least six new members (*if this minimum is not achieved then the Hall will have to close but you can ensure that this does not happen*) including a new Secretary, Treasurer and people to take responsibility for Bookings and organising Maintenance. To maintain continuity the present Chairman will continue short-term but would like to pass the post to someone new.

Meetings are normally held quarterly.

Here is a chance for some fresh thinking, new ideas and another chapter in the Hall's long history.

PLEASE CONTACT: HUGH NICOL, CHAIRMAN ON 486350 (or Dave Bradwell, Secretary on 486377 or any Committee Member) to volunteer.

## South Loch Ness Heritage Group

On Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, a very well attended meeting at Dores heard an absorbing talk by Iain Cameron, our Chairman, entitled The Fraser-Tytlers of Aldourie. Liberally illustrated with photographs and paintings of people and buildings with quotes from letters and records of the time, the talk traced the Frasers and the Tytlers from the 16th Century to the present day. The informative story followed the individual families until they came together in the 18th Century when Ann Fraser from Stratherrick married Alexander Tytler from Edinburgh. Together they made their mark on Aldourie, Dores and the northern end of Stratherrick.

Iain drew on his personal knowledge of Aldourie and the family archives of photographs and documents to bring the story and characters to life.

This meeting also gave us our first opportunity to use our new audio system which successfully addressed the previous problems of carrying the sound to the extremities of the hall.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck. Kirsty Cameron, Archaeologist at the Planning and Development Department of the Highland Council will give a talk entitled "Recording and Protection: The Work of the Highland Council Archaeology Unit".

Admission is free as always but a collection will be taken.

Please visit our website - [www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk](http://www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk)

## The Trail of the Seven Lochs

The 50 mile walking and riding route in the South Loch Ness Area, known as the Trail of the 7 Lochs has now been mapped and we, The South Loch Ness Access Group, have a website up and running [www.southlochnessaccess.org.uk](http://www.southlochnessaccess.org.uk) There is a page of News and Views as well as the map and also a place for you to leave your Feedback.

The Fair Haired Lad's Pass is now open and those who have already ventured up there have thought the views to be absolutely stunning. We would really like to thank both the Forestry Commission and PRIN without whom this path would not have been possible. One final link to the Trail is a new bit of path to be made, as soon as we can access the funds, along the South side of Loch Ceo Glais, which will keep people away from the road.

At present we are marking the Trail with white stones but in some areas they are being vandalised, upturned or removed altogether. We don't know if this is being done as a serious effort to sabotage the Trail or just a lark by those who are not aware of what we are trying to achieve, but it is putting those using the route in jeopardy both of getting lost or ending up in unsafe places. We have had permission from landowners and managers to mark the Trail in this way and we would ask for everyone's cooperation to try to maintain this low impact way of signing the route rather than having to put way markers posts up along the length of it with the added cost and difficulty. We have had a lot of very positive support for this Trail, particularly from the Community Council, Highland Council and the South Loch Ness Tourist Group as well as individuals.

The Trail is not envisaged to have the high-density usage of the Great Glen Way or West Highland Way. It is a circular route and people will be able to access it from anywhere along the way and do walks within the walk. It will serve all the local settlements for both locals and visitors alike. In fact, Katy Martin will be leading an evening walk on part of the trail on Saturday 16th June and this will be a workshop for potential walk leaders, so anyone who is interested in coming in this capacity should get in touch with Katy Martin <mailto:katy.martin@highland.gov.uk>, Katie Ellam or Candy Cameron.

If you would like to be included on our emailing list and kept up to date with what is going on with the Trail please email [katie.easterboleskine@virgin.net](mailto:katie.easterboleskine@virgin.net)

The launch of the Trail will begin on the 10<sup>th</sup> July with a series of 4 guided walks (led by Katy Martin and other Highland Council Rangers) of about 20 km. each day but there is an option to stop earlier in the day if you can't manage the whole thing. There will be transport available (courtesy of Freda Rapson and Jacobite Cruises) to get people to the start and collect them from the finish each day.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July is an endurance ride over the whole length of the Trail with some shorter loops available as well. This will be run by the Scottish Endurance Riding Club and is again sponsored by Jacobite Cruises.

If we still have any energy left after all that, we are having a Barn Dance at Drummond Farm on the Saturday night to end the celebrations with a band (fronted by Craig Anderson of TV fame) that will play a mixture of rock and roll and ceilidh music according to what the audience demand. Tickets are £10 each and return transport available from Inverness for £5 (or book your own party minibus). There will be catering and a reasonably priced bar. This is our big fundraiser for the year so please come along and support us so that we can do more good works! The Summer Raffle will also be drawn on this night.

## FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL – A SCHOOL COPING WITH WAR

### Extracts from Head Teacher's Log, 4<sup>th</sup> September 1939 to 8<sup>th</sup> June 1946

#### 1939

- 4<sup>th</sup> September School remained closed today owing to outbreak of war with Germany. Foyers, being a receiving area, has a number of Edinburgh children, accompanied by their mothers, billeted in houses round about. There are 27 such children so far, 16 of whom are of school age, 11 under school age. There are 10 mothers & three helpers also in the evacuated party.
- 11<sup>th</sup> September School reopened today. Children, according to instructions, carried their gas-masks & received appropriate instruction on their use & what to do in the event of an air-raid warning. Twenty-two children enrolled today, one being from Glasgow & the others being Edinburgh children. The roll is thus 84.
- 12<sup>th</sup> September Another 4 evacuees enrolled today. Roll now is 88. Dr. Fraser accompanied by Nurse Sutherland examined all evacuees.
- 14<sup>th</sup> September Received 16 individual desks today for use of additional children now in school.

#### 1940

- 9<sup>th</sup> October All windows in rooms including glass in partitions now covered with anti-splinter net.
- 26<sup>th</sup> November Monthly inspection of children's gas-masks held today. The necessary adjustments were made & larger sizes recommended where necessary.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December Owing to the continuance of Summer Time throughout winter & the fact that the black-out extends till something after 9am (9.5am today), school will, as from today, open half an hour later in the mornings.

#### 1941

- 13<sup>th</sup> February In today's air-raid in which two workmen lost their lives & considerable damage was done to the factory, the school was not damaged in any way. With one or two exceptions, the children were remarkably cool. They had community singing until the excitement died down.
- 19<sup>th</sup> February During today's air-raid warning, the children had games together.
- 20<sup>th</sup> February During today's air-raid alert, pupils proceeded with their ordinary work.
- 24<sup>th</sup> April Visit from Mr. Robertson, Master of Works, & Mr. Graham in connection with the erection of three surface shelters.
- 29<sup>th</sup> August During War Weapons Week the school savings group collected £21.10s.6d.
- 20<sup>th</sup> November Monthly examination of respirators today. All pupils worked for twenty minutes wearing their masks.

#### 1942

- 19<sup>th</sup> January Monthly examination of respirators. Two exchanges recommended.
- 11<sup>th</sup> March School blacked-out today by tradesmen from Inverness.
- 18<sup>th</sup> March One lorry-load of bricks delivered in connection with the surface shelters to be erected here.
- 29<sup>th</sup> May "Warships Week" was held in Inverness-shire last week. The School Savings Group collected £9.11s.6d.
- 29<sup>th</sup> June All pupils tested their respirators today in the science room by means of a harmless but unpleasant smelling gas. All respirators were satisfactory.
- 30<sup>th</sup> June In the paper-salvage campaign the pupils of the school collected slightly over 30-cwt. waste paper.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September To mark the third anniversary of the outbreak of war, Mr. Holman conducted a children's service in the school this morning from 10am to 10.30am.
- 8<sup>th</sup> October All three surface shelters have now been completed and are ready for use. All pupils given practice in entering shelters. After a few attempts, it became possible to get all children inside the shelters in 30 seconds.

27 <sup>th</sup> November	There was no cookery lesson last Friday as the Cookery Teacher, Miss Bruce, was unable to come owing to petrol restrictions. Today Miss Fraser, Domestic Science Teacher, took her place.
<b>1943</b>	
15 <sup>th</sup> February	As the black-out period now ends at 8.30 in the morning, the school opens in the morning at 9.30 instead of 10 o'clock.
25 <sup>th</sup> June	In connection with the School Savings Group, "Wings for Victory" week was held this week. Savings for the week amounted to £48.11s.6d. All pupils are members of the School Group. The average weekly savings in ordinary weeks amount to about £9.
30 <sup>th</sup> June	School closed today for four-week summer holiday, the remainder of holiday being reserved till autumn so that children may help in farm-work then.
9 <sup>th</sup> August	As from this morning one third of a pint of milk served to school children. The milk is of the spray-process type in powder form. Over 50 children take the milk, the cost being ½d per glass.
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	The Canteen has now been supplied with a number of points with which tinned meat & fish of various kinds may be purchased in order to provide a variety of sandwich fillings.
<b>1944</b>	
21 <sup>st</sup> February	School reopens in mornings from today at 9.30am instead of 10am as the lengthening day now permits children to leave home after the blacked-out period ends & still be here at the earlier hour.
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Eight pairs of wellington boots received from the W.V.S. for the use of children coming long distances. The sizes supplied suit four of these children – but not the other four. The four pairs thus left over are to be issued to children in the village who have a medical certificate recommending their use. The boots are free of charge, but the appropriate number of clothing coupons have to be surrendered. The supply of powdered milk used in the canteen is at present exhausted although further supplies were ordered four months ago. In the meantime, permission has been received from the Milk Marketing Board to buy liquid milk from J.Forbes, Foyers Mains Farm. This licence is valid only until receipt of the powdered milk.
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	In the Savings Campaign a special effort was made this week in the School Savings Group for "Salute the Soldier Week". The School Group subscribed £58.10s.0d. for the week.
<b>1945</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> May	In the Book Drive for which the school was depot & the children were the collectors, 4,111 books were dealt with – an average of 62 books per child.
8 <sup>th</sup> May	School closed today & tomorrow to mark the occasion of the cessation of hostilities in Europe.
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	School closed today – the third day of Victory Holiday, VE-3.
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	School closed today (Friday) & next Monday for 2 day V.J. Holiday.
<b>1946</b>	
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Victory Day. Inter school sports today on Factory Playing field. Six schools took part. The sports were organised by the Foyers Boys' Club & many other helpers from Foyers & Stratherrick. The day was good & all enjoyed themselves. The Challenge Cup was won by Foyers School. The team selected to represent this school for the Cup competitions was as follows: - Christina Cameron, Billy Cameron, Charles Macdonell & Elizabeth Forbes.

Thanks to Maureen Brown, head teacher at the school, for loan of the log book.

A fuller extract can be accessed on the South Loch Ness Heritage Group website  
[www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk](http://www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk)

## **Christian Comment**

Choices were made last month, during the elections, for membership of the Parliament at Holyrood and for seats on the Highland Council. Some of our readers will be pleased with the choices that they made – others will be disappointed – and some will not have cast any vote at all; the selection method may have seemed too complex, or too much effort was required.

In the first century of this Christian era, people were being faced with a life-changing choice – to follow the Crucified and Risen Christ, or to continue with their present life pattern. It cannot have been an easy choice to make, but there was the evidence of lives that had been changed by the Holy Spirit of God, who came into those first Christians at the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, which is celebrated in our century as Whitsun. The name comes from “White Sunday” – the custom was for Christians to wear white clothes at their Baptism, to indicate that they had chosen a new lifestyle, in the strength, which the Holy Spirit gives. It is thanks to people like them that we have a remarkable Christian heritage that we are celebrating in this Year of Culture 2007. The people of Scotland were known as the “People of the Book” – the Bible – which records these truths that we celebrate, and provides guidelines for our future.

All of us are faced with a choice in our lifetime – to follow Jesus, who is the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14 v.6), or some other way, or not to vote at all. This choice will determine our own destiny and also have a great influence on our families, our community, our country and even the world. We thank God for those through the past centuries who have chosen to follow Jesus – may they encourage us to follow Him today.

Martyn Bateman

**Easter Praise:** Stratherrick Hall was well filled for this celebration, and Christians of various denominations were pleased to meet with each other for conversation afterwards. £50 was donated for Christian Aid – thank you.

**Summer Praise:** A series of Evening Services is planned at **Foyers Church** by kind permission of the new owner, Mr. Cur Termaat. Proposed evenings are 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 6.00 pm.

The theme will be “Mountain-top Experiences”. These are intended especially for the benefit of Summer visitors but everyone is most welcome, and volunteers to help will be much appreciated – please contact Martyn Bateman, telephone No. 01456 486273 or Buddy MacDougall, 01456 486366, who is acting as voluntary caretaker for the Church Building.

**Christian Aid Week:** 13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you to all who donated, collected and counted for this very worthy work, to bring relief to so many needy people worldwide.

### **Snippets from the “Highland Council Ranger News” (Inverness Team)**

Coming up this summer there's something for everyone.....

From “Hillwalking for Beginners” where you can learn how to use a map and compass properly, to “Butterflies at Ardersier” where you can explore the magical world of butterflies. For the young at heart the “Harry Potter Quest” at Abriachan or the “Wildlife Spotters Guided Canoe Trips” down the rivers Beaully and Ness.

For a more leisurely experience you may prefer “Cinema Under The Stars” a chance to see a wonderful wildlife film in the great outdoors at Farr.

The work at the Falls of Foyers is almost completed with new benches and picnic tables being installed. Tree planting and some tree management works have been carried out over the winter.

The Loch Bran panels created by Foyers Primary School have been installed and unveiled. It has been a long journey but the children are and should be very proud of their work.

The Inverness team has also been on tour with the “Know the Code Roadshow” designed to help children understand the new “Scottish Outdoor Access Code” Cameras have been installed in our red squirrel boxes at the Falls of Foyers (where young baby squirrels were seen last spring), you will hopefully be

able to see live pictures of squirrels at the cafe (aptly named “The Red Squirrel Cafe) across the road.

Walks and events are listed in the “Ranger Guided Walks and Events” booklet available at service points and local libraries.

Contact us at :- The Highland Council Countryside Rangers, North Tower, Inverness Castle, Inverness, IV2 3EG, tel. 01463 702933, [www.highland.gov.uk/lesuire/countryside/rangers](http://www.highland.gov.uk/lesuire/countryside/rangers)

## The Auld Pavilion

Yes, I’m the auld pavilion located down at Factory Field Foyers, better known as the Shinty pavilion for Shinty had been my main user for over eighty years. When was I built? Possibly in the nineteen twenties, as that’s the style of me, who alive knows now. Did I replace a former structure that was there for sporting and social events? I’ll leave that to your imagination to guess. Sure, at the turn of the auld century there was what loosely could be termed a grandstand close to the area where I now sit, on whose wooden benches the local dignitaries of the district sat and viewed the many sporting and social occasions that were held on the Factory Field. Yes, if I can cast my mind back to take you on a journey, relived in my minds eye of some of the events that have graced the green sward in front of me over the years.

Where to start. Ah! Possibly with the young. Weren’t we all young once? The local school sports where the children would gather at the green in Glenlia, then with either Cabers or Willie Bonus on the pipes at their vanguard they would walk down to the Factory Field. The sports would consist of the usual age group races, long and high jump, plus the three legged race and the sack race. Looking back I see some of the young children in the passing of time return to the Factory Field, firstly as proud parents competing in their genders race, then as grand parents in their twilight years. In more recent times the inter school sports were held here between Foyers, Boleskine, Stratherrick & Whitebridge. The outlying schools would have their own individual transport arrangements for the day, Boleskine relied on the back of Chisholm’s lorry to convey the children to Foyers Factory Field. On the return journey the Huffy Foyeracks were not adverse to a scud up to upper Foyers in the lorry alongside the Dirty Strathacks!.

On these sports days, teas, juices, a paper poke filled with food and occasionally ice cream cones, were distributed by the ladies from within my covered entrance, or to give it’s proper name the Veranda, to the participants and helpers of the sports. These events concluded with the winner’s prizes being handed out; nine pence for first, sixpence for second and a three penny bit for third.

Sports days to celebrate royal milestones were held here also. The Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 and later during the Coronation of his son George VI in 1937 which included a display of animal balloons drifting across the Factory Field from the loch side. The balloons must have been filled with some type of combustible gas as a couple of them went on fire in mid air. Our present Queen Elizabeth’s coronation was also marked with a sports day, whilst her silver jubilee in 1977 held a sports day and pet parade.

Yes, Galas or Fetes were held here too. The last I recall was in 1996 as part of British Aluminium Foyers Centenary Celebrations, incorporating a sports day and tug of war. It also included various stalls, one of which sold over 600 pancakes during the event, which was followed by fireworks and a barbeque and music by a group in my veranda in the evening.

What titanic battles were produced here by the tug of war event. On my right hand side was the training equipment, two A frames joined at their apex by a bar. A rope went over the bar which was attached to a metal container filled with scrap metal acting as weights, on which the team practiced their pull. Week nights during the summer training was held towards entry to the numerous highland games and sports gatherings of the day. Oh how the lads of 1933 eclipsed that good squad of 1912 in trophy gathering. On the summer days, the Foyers Cricket Club, lead by the old Swallow would take the field against the local Inverness club. I only caught the end of that era though they were still going till the early thirties.

But before my time even, there was the inter factory competitions between the British Aluminium against the Acetylene company.

The game of football was sporadically played here over the years. The Woodpeckers (lads who worked in the BA wood squad) would play the BA factory workers. There were matches between other BA factories of Kinlochleven and Fort William, I recall a game against Fort William on the factory field. In the late thirties a team called Renton played Foyers here. Over the years games against neighbouring villages of Dores and Fort Augustus were contested along with matches with Inverness teams. In the mid fifties these were fairly frequent to the extent of possibly a Foyers team competing in the Inverness welfare league. Some of the local players even graced the grounds of the Highland league clubs with great success, the last one being a ginger haired laddie from up in Stratherrick. In the early seventies the fairer sex participated in a game of football against their male counterparts. After half time the ladies took to the field adorned in the bandages impregnated with tomato sauce, gaining sympathy from spectators and leniency from their opponents!

The crack shots of the district or so I'm told, would practice small bore rifle shooting on their range here, targets within a wooden structure reinforced with inch steel plate, which was situated adjacent to the tail race .

I also bear the scars of war when the Heinkel flew over in 41 and bombed the factory, some of the debris from the bomb blast landed on my corrugated iron roof. That's the dent you see on the front side of my roof and never repaired as it was still watertight. So, to protect us from Hitler's war machine, the army was then stationed here between the factory field and Loch Ness shore line billeted in Nissan huts with strategically positioned machine gun posts.

During the Second World War, high up on my right hand side gable, a projecting wooden target with painted hoops on was attached to me. The purpose of this was for the local fire service to practice fire drill with hoses, (Stirrup pump or mains fed). The success of this training enabled the Local Fire service group to win the Scottish Fire Drill championship during WW2 and go on to compete in the National final in London.

Shinty, my main user since I was built, has had its ups and down over the years. After the first war competitive shinty returned to the Factory Field. First the pitch was extended and the Pugs rail lines were removed from going over the park. Before I existed the workman's refreshment room next to the factory was used for changing facilities.

Ah! the Ledingham cup games, where the non Mac (the Crops) played the people with the surname containing Mac. How the taunts flowed in the week prior to the game of how each team would turn over the other with ease. Aye, in nineteen fifty-five, one of the last time it was played for, on New Years Day they held that match here. Opponents greeted each other warmly shaking hands and wishing the complements of the season prior to entering the fray. These games always depended on the prevalence of able shinty playing Macs in the district at the one time, whilst the real games of blood and thunder were the Hussey Cup matches between Foyers & Stratherrick. Once again, the halcyon days of these epic battles were just before my time but I saw a few before the Foyers and Stratherrick clubs merged to form Boleskine. One noted local referee, fearing for the players and his own well being, refused to officiate at any more of these matches after one rather turbulent encounter.

How the crowds would line the pitch cheering on their favourites every move. All the able bodied people in the district would endeavour to attend these games. Was not the pride of ones area at stake?

The days when the British Aluminium was to the fore, if a game was scheduled at the Factory Field a couple of the workers would be down at the field on the Friday afternoon, getting it prepared for the match on Saturday. In these cold winter days, a fire was lit in the grate for the bodachs to warm themselves at half time. Many was the gillack who's seal was broken and dispensed around to warm the inner, as well as the outer self.

Aye, there were photo-calls for the successful local teams held here over the years. The Scottish Junior Shinty championship sides of 1964 & 1966 posed proudly with their trophies. The latter not knowing that within twelve months the catalyst bringing stable employment to the district would close and with it their aspirations for possible senior glory as well.

In the eighties, I recall the inaugural Boleskine Challenge cup. That was the last time I was adorned with a lick of paint inside and out. My pillars at the front were renewed and my flag pole was once again brought into use. A five team 12 a side league competition held on the same day, the first event of its kind in the shinty world held here at the factory field. What a hustle and bustle that day providing changing facilities for the teams, with the organisers table and an improvised kitchen serving hot food and teas in the veranda.

Aye, the old crocks games spring to mind, played intermittently over the years but more frequent just prior to the inception in 1983 of the Brian Stoddart & Donald Macgruer Memorial Cup, when the veritable older players threw down the gauntlet challenging the present team for the honour of holding the cup for the year. From the early eighties till the games went into abeyance in 1993 the veterans would muster their former players from the four corners of the shinty world to meet their adversaries on the Factory Field. With the closure of the Foyers Club in 1991, the after match function was held here, with a barbeque for catering, music provided by a group using my veranda as a band stand, a horse box rigged out as licensed bar and straw square bales laid out for seating. A pleasant August evening in congenial company was held by one and all from all reports, with the midgies well sated also.

The latest hour of the day a shinty match was played at the factory field was in 1984 when the Glenurquhart team arrived by speed boat just prior to eleven pm, to play the penultimate match of their sponsored attempt to play a six a side game on all of the 18 grounds in the North of Scotland district (ranging from Skye to Aberdeen) in a twenty four hour period.

Aye the ladies also challenged the men at shinty. I recall an occasion in the early seventies in which I had suspicions that one member of the ladies team was not all she seemed! In August 1984, there was a joint women's and men's team that challenged the current Boleskine team, the result being a win for the composite side

Aye, during some shinty matches that the outcome at halftime fell well short of expectations. The team trooped back to the Boleskine changing room and the door was shut firmly behind them. As the saying goes, if these walls could only talk they would relate the frank, open earthy debate that emanated from within, as positional changes were discussed to turn the game round, but on second thoughts perhaps it would be more prudent if the fly on the wall remains silent on this occasion

Forgive me if by some perchance I have overlooked some event that has occurred here over the years, but age is definitely a duller of memory, as the older residents and even some of the younger ones will verify.

So, spare a thought as you pass me by, this forlorn derelict timber structure is now the last public amenity building left in Foyers apart from the school. I have seen so many institutions and buildings go The Chapel, The Foyers Club, The Outreach Centre, The Church, and The Church Hall, yet I remain here, a neglected relic to the sporting prowess of the district.

*Mussady*

## 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 27 February 2007**

**Correspondence:** Waste Awareness - enquiry as to whether the community would like a talk in the area. Secretary to respond giving details. Strathnairn Community Council - invitation to a meeting on Monday 26 March, 7.15pm, Strathnairn Village Hall, Daviot, where Mr David Polson will talk about planning matters. Mr K Fraser and Mr A C Fraser will attend. Mrs S Chisholm - with thanks to those who organised the Christmas lunch. North British Windpower - thanking CC for meeting with them. Mr J Forsyth - re Foyers Burial Ground. Enclosed was a photo showing the terrible state of the sign. Mrs Macrae had been told that a new sign would be erected, so she will speak directly to those concerned and secretary will write and forward the photo. Peter Peacock MSP - questionnaire about post offices. Mr Fyfe, IRA - re Whitebridge bus service - in response to letter from CC, he wished to have a contact name and number for use in situations when the bus is late. It was agreed that the onus should be passed to D&E to set up a chain for notifying parents of delay.

**Treasurer:** Ordinary acc't: £304.41. £60.00 cheque raised for hall rental. Project acc't: £4283.21.

**Planning:** Balvonie of Inshes - Mrs Macrae, having listened to the comments made by Mr MacGregor at the last meeting, informed CC that they had been misled and not given all the facts. Tulloch's are not building the houses themselves but own the land which will be sold to developers.

**Policing:** PC Rimmer had nothing to report.

**Fire Brigade:** The community fire safety visits are continuing. There are three new recruits hopefully coming on board soon. There will be a car wash at Foyers pier, Saturday 17 March.

**Roads and Road Signs:** Mrs Macrae gave update on road works requested: Inverfarigaig - repairs have been made. Aberchalder - on list of works to be carried out soon. Ault-na-goire - the present gritting situation will not alter. Inverfarigaig Pass and Lower Foyers road - many trees are in a precarious state and will fall soon. Secretary to inform HC. SSE money - a solicitor is presently working on a Minute of Agreement which is holding up work. Secretary will write to Mr Les Houlker inviting him to next CC meeting to discuss what improvements will be carried out, such as: Pot holes - many roads are badly affected by pot holes and eroded verges. The corner at Errogie still has not been completed and there are no white lines, so that people unfamiliar with the roads have no indication as to who has right of way. The single track warning signs need replaced at B851/B862 junction. Water is flowing down track behind the shop and flowing over and down the main road past the police station, which will cause problems in freezing conditions. Mr A C Fraser notified CC that snow clearing services are due to be cut next winter, reducing the number of vehicles from 132 to 114, which could equate to a reduction of 2 in this region.

**Water and Sewerage:** Scottish Water have applied for the new extraction licence but it will take time to be granted.

**Community Project:** A letter was passed to Mr A Sutherland, Chairman of the Community Trust requesting a grant for the amenity area.

**Renewable Energy and Community Benefit:** Highland Opportunities - letter giving notification of offer from RWE Npower of £15,000 community benefit, payable as a lump sum when the scheme starts selling power. CC agreed to accept this offer. Glendoe - Mr Sutherland attended a meeting with members of Fort Augustus CC, SSE and Scottish Community Foundation to discuss the formula for handing over the money. A simplified version has been produced but a couple of points still need clarification. A signing ceremony has been suggested but no confirmation of date and place. A split with Fort Augustus has still not been agreed and it looks likely to go to arbitration.

**AOB:** Council Grants - Mr Campbell contacted HC with regards to donations for the schools and for new notice boards. No money is available for schools but a decision will be made about the notice boards on Monday - £500 has been applied for. Inverfarigaig Bridge - the Heritage group would like the condition of the bridge highlighted. Mr Sutherland informed the CC that it belonged to the Forestry Commission and is listed as a category B structure. He has been in contact with Historic Scotland and with Jack McConnell, First Minister, about its poor condition. The secretary was instructed to write to the Forestry Commission. Foyers Footpaths - the path between lower and upper Foyers has been blocked by a driveway that has been built across it. The signs have been removed.

The secretary was instructed to write to HC as the path is regularly used by locals and potentially by people berthing their boat at Foyers.

Council elections - Mrs Macrae informed CC of her intention to stand down at the next election. Mr Campbell thanked her for all her hard work on behalf of the community and stressed that she would be badly missed.

## **Minute of Meeting 27 March 2007**

Mr Les Houlker, TEC Services, HC. Owing to the work on the hydro scheme and the increase in traffic as a result, SSE have allocated £125,000 for use by HC to upgrade roads between Glendoe and junction of the B851. This money should not be used for road maintenance but could be used to change the drivers perception of the roads, making traffic calming measures, extra signage etc. There was much discussion regarding the visual impact of signs and their effectiveness, 'smiling face' signs the use of white lines, traffic speed and ways of reducing it. It was finally agreed that passing places should be made official and longer on the stretch of road between Whitebridge and B851 junction, to try to reduce verge damage and potentially the number of accidents. Mr A C Fraser will liaise with Mr Houlker to decide where the work will be carried out.

Many other points were raised: Mr S Reid - concerns were that the signs at Errogie corner had taken too long to be replaced; there are not enough passing places through Gorthleck; scalplings are being used to fill potholes instead of tarmac. A planned programme should be installed. Mr Houlker explained that the finances were not available. Mr McPherson - the road between Inverarnie and Daviot has been tarred and widened and will last for many years, instead of replacing the scalplings annually. Mr Houlker agreed that this would be the ideal situation but for the edge filling to be done properly, including the drain construction, it costs a lot of money. Mr Sutherland - has been campaigning for white lines at Ceo Glais for many years to warn people that the width of the road is reducing. Mr Gillis was aware of the issue and Mrs Macrae thought that it was on the list to do. Mr Houlker agreed to check. Rocks placed by home owners on verges are a hazard, i.e. at Croachy and Ault-na-Goire. Mr Houlker said that some residents had been approached about their removal. Mr Sutherland was also concerned by the cairns along the Inverfarigaig Pass, as well as the number of trees and branches ready to fall and the spruce growing in the ditches. Mr Houlker agreed that nor-

mal tree cutting will be carried out by HC maintenance but he will contact the Forestry concerning the falling trees and spruce. Mr Bateman - informed Mr Houlker there were about 20 large potholes on the Killen - Ardoch road. Mr Houlker informed CC that the Inverfarigaig Pier road will be resurfaced within the month.

**Correspondence:** HC - a grant has been awarded for five new notice boards at Torness, Errogie, Inverfarigaig, Lower Foyers and Whitebridge. Mr Campbell will reply. It was suggested that a subcommittee look at this. Mrs Macrae suggested speaking to Mr Cameron at Dores first as they have just put one up. Inverfarigaig Bridge - a reply from the Forestry Commission states that they know of no plans for work to the bridge. Mr Sutherland said that the Historic Building Trust are looking for projects to refurbish and may be interested in the bridge. He will correspond with them.

**Treasurer:** No change in the accounts: Ordinary acc't: £304.41 and Project acc't: £4283.21.

**Planning:** Erection of house, Toad Hall, Torness. Proposed garage and new access at Tigh na Bruaich, Gorthleck. Erection of house at West Drummond farm, Whitebridge. Alterations and reinstatement to 2 buildings at Glenlia, Foyers. There were no objections.

**Water and Sewerage:** Albyn Housing - still being held up by water supply.

**Community Project:** Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust have agreed to fund the balance of the project, assuming the Big Lottery make the grant. Still awaiting comment from HIE.

**Renewable Energy and Community Benefit:** Mr John Hutchison, Lochaber Area Manager of HC, has been appointed as arbiter in the dispute between SFCC and Fort Augustus CC over percentage split of community benefit. Preliminary meeting on 3 April, 5.30pm, and the main arbitration meeting on the 10 April. There could be up to £150,000 (assuming 50% split) for community energy efficiency. Mr Sutherland recommends that a subcommittee be set up with 2 members of the CC, 2 from SFCT and 2 from BEN. It would look at the many options available, from buying energy efficient light bulbs to buying into energy schemes.

**AOB:** Foyers Church - there will be a meeting at the shop on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30pm. A Dutch man has bought the church to use for concerts about 4 times a year. When he is not using it he would welcome the community to use it but would like local people to look after the building.

Easter Praise - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, Stratherrick Hall. Foyers Footpath - an agreement has been made that it will be reconstructed with a dog leg. Mr Munro has also been asked to tidy up the trees.

#### **Minute of Meeting 24 April**

**Correspondence:** Mr P Peacock, Scottish Parliament - update on his findings from the questionnaire Friends of the Earth Scotland. Offer of free training regarding planning Scottish Community Foundation re play area grant application

**Treasurer:** Ordinary acc't: £804.41. A deposit of £500 was made from HC. Project acc't: £4283.21. Invoice from Boleskine Bulletin for £250.00. Decided that the minutes should still be put in the BB and therefore invoice should be paid. Discussion about whether minutes should be published before being adopted at the next CC meeting: agreed that this should not be the case.

**Planning:** Erection of house and garage on land 200m north east of Boleskine House, Foyers. Erection of log house at Lodges at Loch Ness, Foyers. There were no objections.

**Roads and Road Signs:** SSE have contacted Mr Colin Ross and Mr Houlker at HC to ask for restrictions on Loch Killen road to be removed. They have requested that light vehicles be allowed travel for surveying purposes for a limited period. They have said that they will repair the potholes in the road. Mr Houlker wants to remain cautious and wants it clarified why they need the restrictions lifted. The secretary was instructed to write to HC to stress that we want to know more and to be kept informed. Mr Sutherland noted that the CC have just negotiated a split of the community benefit with FA, without the knowledge of this. Therefore, SSE could be asked for something in return e.g. the roads over the top of the hills are to be destroyed after construction but a request could be made that a path network could be left for walkers etc. Mr Fraser has had a meeting with Mr Houlker. Pot holes in the Killen road have been filled and signposts put up at Errogie. 20's plenty - the posts are in place and awaiting the contractors putting up signs.

**Fire Brigade:** A new budget has been released for community fire safety, so they are open to requests for visits. Houses in Lower Foyers have been given new smoke detectors (existing ones found to be faulty). Two new members of Fire Brigade successfully completed the initial training course, however, there is still a need for people who live/work in the area for day time cover.

**Water and Sewerage:** Mrs Macrae has spoken to Mr D Lockhart of Albyn Housing about a start date for the houses at South Muirnich but it is still water dependant.

**Community Project:** Mr L Chapman, HIE, eventually got back to Mrs Kirkland and has asked that the application be altered again.

**Renewable Energy and Community Benefit:** The meeting with the arbiter was held on 10 April but the decision, which is final, has not been declared yet.

**AOB:** Mr John Martin - standing as an independent in the local election. He lives in Torbreck and has been a member of Dores CC for the past 5 years. He has helped to set up a body to disperse funds from Rockness. He is aware of the increase in traffic in this area and of the concerns of the community. Mr Brian Macgregor - application by Mr Sutherland to build a house and stead-ing near Bogbain. He withdrew his last application as it was against the local plan but has reapplied having identified agricultural needs which would now comply with the plan. Mr Macgregor is objecting to the proposal as it would have a negative visual impact on the view across to the Black Isle when travelling down the A9. He urged the CC to back his objection but it was agreed that the CC would look at the position themselves and take time to make an informed decision. Community Trust AGM - Mr Sutherland asked Mr Campbell to waive the 21 day notification period so that the meeting could be held after the CC meeting. Mr Campbell agreed. A subgroup is required to distribute the energy efficient part of the community benefit. Mr P Higham, Mrs L MacGregor and Mr Sam Reid (co-opted) agreed take on the task. HC changes: Corporate Manager - Mr Willie Gilfinan, Inverness City Manager - Mr David Haas, Ward Manager - Mr Graham Stachan.

Next meeting on Tuesday 22 May, Stratherrick Public Hall, 7.30pm.



The Marriage of Sheona Elaine Brailsford to Carl Gary Whitfield took place at The Church of St Catherine, Manston on Saturday the 10th of March, Sheona is the granddaughter of Archie and Janette Colville also of Bill and Betty Brailsford.



Where is or was this building? Please send your guesses to the editor. One clue - most people reading the Bulletin will have passed it many times. The answer will be revealed in the next issue of the Bulletin.  
(photograph courtesy of Davie Matheson)

## 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

### FOYERS BAY HOUSE

Welcome to David and Kate Roberts who have taken over the guest house and restaurant and holiday home business from Otto and Carol Panceroli.  
We wish Otto and Carol a happy retirement.

### **Maureen Evans**

It is with great sadness that news of the sudden death of Maureen reached our community. She died in Hexham, Northumberland, where she had gone to live beside her daughter Gillian and family after her husband Dick died. They had made their home for some years at Easter Boleskine, Foyers.

She was a very keen gardener and wrote a gardening column for the Boleskine Bulletin when it first started.

She was also fond of walking and spent many happy hours walking locally with the other members of the Ladies Walking Group. It was a great shock to them when they heard of her death and their sympathy goes out to her family.

### **Patient Satisfaction Survey 2006/2007**



Each year the Practice undertakes a patient satisfaction survey. We use a company called CFEP-UK Surveys Ltd who supply a standard questionnaire that is used nationally and they independently analyse the results for us. They also produce national average figures for us to compare our results with other UK Practices.

We are very grateful to everyone who participated and overleaf we have copied the results of the survey.

We have scored well above the national average in all areas and we will try our best to maintain and if possible improve your satisfaction with our Practice.

We also had a lot of positive comments about our Practice, the doctors and all the staff. We had a variety of other comments such as "more musical variation" and one asking us to "go back to 24/7 practice hours". NHS 24 and the Out of Hour's system is a national change in the way General Practice is organised and is here to stay but we will support anyone who experiences any problems.

Any further suggestions about our Practice can be made to Dr G J Mackintosh.

A full copy of the patient satisfaction survey is available in the waiting room.

### **Loch Ness East and Strathnairn Medical Practice**

Dr G J MACKINTOSH \* Dr L E MACKINTOSH  
The Medical Centre, Foyers, Inverness. IV2 6YB  
Tel : 01 456 486 224 Fax : 01 456 486 425  
e-mail : [administrator@GP55747.hIGHLAND-HB.SCOT.NHS.UK](mailto:administrator@GP55747.hIGHLAND-HB.SCOT.NHS.UK)

Unfortunately the attached table showing the survey results did not copy very well so could not be inserted into the Bulletin. As stated above this can be seen at the surgery  
Editor

## DUNCAN SHAW - 1922 - 2007.

Boleskine Church was full to capacity as friends and family gathered to pay their last respects to

Duncan Shaw of Foyers on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April. The unaccompanied singing of psalms was quite moving at the service conducted by Rev John Ross, Greyfriars Stratherrick Free Church of Scotland, assisted by Rev Donald K. MacLeod and Rev Gordon Matheson.

Duncan Shaw was born in 1922 and brought up in Croachy where his father was farming. When he was 18, he obtained work at the British Aluminium smelter at Lower Foyers. In 1942, he was called up for military service and served with the Royal Engineers in Greece and North Africa. When he was demobbed he returned to Stratherrick where his sister Mary kept house for him and he went back to work with B.A. until he was made redundant by the sudden closure of the smelter in 1967. He then obtained employment as an estate worker until he retired in 1981. When he could be persuaded he told some very interesting tales from here and overseas.

His health was failing for some time and some thought he should be in care but he did not want to leave his own home. He got his wish and passed away there quite suddenly on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March. He is survived by his sister Mary, his nephews Alexander and Donald and his nieces Monica, Margaret, Jean and Florence to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

Dunc was a quiet, highly respected man who will be greatly missed by his neighbours, who were so good to him and by the Free Church congregation, which he served so faithfully as Deacon, Precentor and Church Officer.

Duncan Shaw's interment took place at Foyers Cemetery after the service.

### Loch Ness Express Time Table

(May June, September, October)

Inverness Bridge Street	
(Tourist Information Centre) Minibus	10.15
Dochgarroch	10.30
Urquhart Castle (arrive)	11.10
Urquhart Castle (depart)	11.15
Inverfarigaig	11.30
Foyers	11.35
Fort Augustus (arrive)	12.15
Fort Augustus (depart)	13.30
Foyers	14.10
Inverfarigaig	14.15
Urquhart Castle (arrive)	14.40
Urquhart Castle (depart)	14.45
Dochgarroch	15.20
Inverness castle (minibus)	15.40

For July and August timetables see separate leaflets or visit [www.lochnessexpress.com](http://www.lochnessexpress.com)

### South Loch Ness Access Group



are celebrating the opening of the Trail of the 7 Lochs  
with a

Barn Dance

on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July at Drummond Farm, Dores  
8.00 p.m. – 12.30 a.m.

Dancing to the Crisis Brothers

Summer Raffle Draw.

Catering and Bar.

Regret no under 18's or carry-outs.

Tickets £10 available from Katie Ellam at Easter  
Boleskine on 01456 486691

# Stratherrick Hall Arts

## Forthcoming Attractions

### ***"The Voice of The Sea"***

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July - 8.00 p.m. - £8/£6

Written and performed by Macdara Vallely  
Traditional music arranged and composed by Ivan Goff

"The Voice of The Sea" is a unique and entertaining Irish Show that uses a magical mix of powerful live theatre and music to explore the island clearances which devastated Irish and Scottish communities in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This stunning show combines the talents of award winning writer/performer **Macdara Vallely**, who won the Edinburgh International Fringe First in 2004 and was shortlisted for the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award, and traditional Irish musician **Ivan Goff**, a previous All-Ireland champion from Dublin who plays uilleann pipes (Irish bellows-blown pipes), whistles and Irish concert flute. Ivan has had extended engagements with Riverdance (US tour and on Broadway), Michael Flatley's Lord of The Dance, and has featured in several film scores.

*"Macdara Vallely has breathtaking power.....he casts a spell when he animates myth with the skill of a real storyteller"*

**Irish Times**

For further information contact Hugh Nicol – 01456.486350

## Notes from a Large Loch 2

Dear Dad,

There was an election here recently.

They say Highland Hospitality is among the best in the world and I must say with this last election, the Scots sure do know how to make an American feel right at home. If America is "leading the way for democracy" (as some like to think), the Scots are certainly following the model. Not right down to the last hanging chad but almost. It felt like Florida 2000 all over again – minus the skullduggery – I think. To be fair, there were some differences; Florida is hopelessly flat, unbearably hot, and unabashedly corrupt. Scotland hasn't yet exhibited evidence of any of the above.

On Election Day we used to say, "vote early vote often". Well over here you actually can and it's on the up and up. There were two ballots on the same day one for local representation and one for the Scottish Parliament

One hundred and forty four thousand was the count I heard on the radio of the number of "disenfranchised" voters; seven percent. I'm not sure if that number included those who never got to vote at all. Unlike Florida, where people who showed up at the polls suddenly found their names had magically disappeared from the rolls (especially if they were unlikely to vote Republican), those who couldn't vote here were those who had applied for postal ballots (what we call absentee ballots) but didn't receive them. My wife's came but many did not.

The party who fared best was the SNP. There is no real equivalent to the SNP in America unless you consider those who want Texas out of the US. Like the mess in Florida, there were challenges and some recounts which yielded different results. I wonder if the first count had been done by machine and I wonder if the company who made the machines was the same as the one

in America. You remember. The one that reportedly counted way more votes than registered voters in one county on Ohio? The one whose chairman and CEO publicly promised to deliver the state of Ohio to his friend (He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named) in 2004. And did – apparently. Unlike the Buckeyes and the Floridiots, however, the Scots voters do not seem to be the victims of such skullduggery. The problems here seem to stem from the implementation of a relatively new system. Still, the election has caused as much conversation as the weather. Speaking of which, there has been a change of seasons.

In Maine they have four seasons; Winter, Mud, Black Flies, and Tourist. In the Highlands there seem to be four as well; Rain, Tourist, More Tourists, and Autumn. The rain season has ended and we have had one of the most glorious Aprils in recent memory. One local said it was the best he could remember in twenty-five years. There was an explosion of flowers and blossoms on flowering trees and then the weather turned just cold enough to delay a rapid loss of blooms. Even some experienced locals have said they've rarely seen such a profusion of gorse. Thus begins the Tourist season.

Tourists. A double edged sword. Many locals make their living from them so we need them and they're welcome. Many locals who have to use the same roads may take a different view. There was a recent sighting of a particular kind of tourist a short time ago – the Lesser Spotted Right Side Driver. Unfortunately it does happen from time to time that they come into close contact with some of the locals – too close. As one who grew up driving on the right hand side but has practiced long and hard on the other, I hope that when I'm mistaken for a tourist it will be because of my accent only.

There is a plethora of signs along the roads here that read "passing place". I was biding my time behind a tourist last week who seemed to view the signs as a verb (not command imperative) rather than a noun. In other words, a description of what they were doing at that moment rather than a place to be utilized so that the local, driving behind at 20mph can get around. I can just hear one tourist saying to the other "Why do you think they waste money on all these signs telling us we are passing a place? Isn't it obvious that's what we're doing? What a strange custom."

There are those who don't use the passing places and those who can't. They're way too big. I've seen some equipment being trucked on our road as large or larger than some of the "extra wide loads" on the highways in the US. They're too big to get around even at wide sections so one usually winds up backing up to some driveway or passing place to get completely off the road. I have to chuckle once I'm on my way again because I know what's coming for them between Foyers and Whitebridge. No, the squiggly line on the map doesn't mean the cartographer had a nervous tick in his hand.

Tourists and huge equipment truckers aside, the commute along the south side of Loch Ness has to be one of the most stunning in the world. One of the treats of living this side of Inverness is the lack of miles of suburbia. When I hit the Holm roundabout coming home, I go from town immediately to country and my shoulders drop an inch or two. Still, I can't relax completely. There are cyclists and walkers in the road and not much shoulder for them to use when traffic has to pass. Some view them as obstacles but I like to see them as things that make the pace of life here delightfully slower than my country of origin.

The long decline into Dores is the zenith of the trip. At this point one has a clear view of the length of the loch being guarded by its sentinels Creag Dhearg (rocky red hill) and that sometimes brooding lump, Meall Fuar Mhonaidh (cold moor hill). One evening at sunset the loch was a bright steely blue, the mountains deep purple, the sky orange, the clouds a bright lavender rimmed with shining gold, and the sun crimson. The things you see when you don't have your camera. If you painted it you'd be chuckled out of the Royal Scottish Academy for producing bad hotel art.

I think of all my friends stuck on Blue Hill Avenue, I 93 south into Boston, the Southeast "distressway" or Rte 128 going nowhere and I marvel at the stunning beauty of my commute. Here I am, driving along one of the most famous lochs in the world and sometimes I'm the only one on the road. What joy. I hope I never tire of it.

I hope you're not stuck somewhere on the West Side Highway.

All the best, --Brian

## **News and an Update from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust**

The Trust held a Director's meeting on the evening 24th April followed by it's AGM attended by the Chairman of the Community Council representing the Council as a member of the Trust.

One of the main items to occupy the directors during the year has been completion of the Trust's application for charitable status. This is an important matter as charitable status will help us avoid the payment of corporation tax to the Inland Revenue from any income but the down side is that we have to focus on "charitable" activities and this may affect the distribution of funds to individuals or organisations if the project is not of a purely charitable nature. If it is thought that an application for assistance would threaten charitable status then it is prudent to refer it to OSCR (The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) for an opinion rather than risk the loss of that protection from the taxman.

As part of the same process we have amended the original articles of memorandum and association to try and gain recognition of expenditure which might lead to environmental benefits and energy saving in the community. That is currently in train but in the meantime the only award which has been approved in the past year has been limited to the one project which has been felt to be within our current guidelines, the Community Project at Gorthleck which will in due course provide an amenity and play area in Stratherrick.

At present our funds stand at just over £19,400 less the amount to be claimed by the Community Project. However we have the promise of a further £15,000 capital from the River E hydro scheme plus a further £27,000 per annum per annum adjusted for output from Glendoe but subject to strict criteria from the Scottish Community Foundation (SCF), Scottish and Southern's intermediary. Glendoe has also made available £135,000 of capital monies specifically for energy saving projects and this is not subject to SCF approval.

So there are really three fronts on which we need to focus in the months ahead.

First we have to clarify the general parameters within which we can operate.

Secondly we need to produce a fair and equitable scheme to allocate the energy efficiency money from Glendoe and any other allocation from the annual or reserve funds. For this purpose we have decided to set up an energy sub group made up of members of the Trust and the Community Council about which there will be more anon.

Thirdly we need to bring forward more applications from the community for good schemes. The Trust is there to help and to process these but is not the main instigator. We propose to enlist the help of SCF to organise an open day/road show/ brain storming type event for this purpose. This is likely to take place during the third week in June in Stratherrick Hall and details will be advertised in the near future.

Finally I am pleased to report that we have now had the Arbiter's decision on the Community Benefit split between our Community Council and Fort Augustus and Invermoriston Community Council. Some of you will know that we initially proposed a 50:50 split and that Fort Augustus responded with a 90:10 ratio later improved to 85:15 in their favour. The allocation will now be 45% to Stratherrick and 55% to Fort Augustus which we feel has justified the decision to go to arbitration.

Alex Sutherland. (Chairman Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust)

1 Allt na Goibhre

Errogie

Paul Higham (Secretary)

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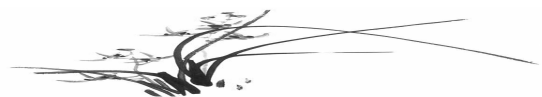
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## **Wanted**

### **LAST CALL IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO NOT HAVE THIS EVENT COVERED**

**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**

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