

The Boleskine Bulletin



Issue No. 32
Autumn 2005

BRING OUT YOUR PHOTOS



The fank at Dalcrombie – 1899

See the Heritage group appeal on page 7.

Recycling Facilities

Many thanks to the Highland Council for paper and can collection facilities provided in addition to the bottle banks at Lower Foyers bus shelter and Stratherrick Hall car park in Gorthleck.

Flu Vaccination

Flu vaccination time is approaching yet again. The virus that causes influenza can change and yearly vaccination is required to improve immunity against the most likely strain of the virus that is expected to cause flu each winter.

Anyone over 65 is recommended to have the vaccine and anyone younger with a chronic illness, such as asthma or heart disease, (and now also liver disease) is also recommended to have the vaccine. There also has been recent advice that anyone who is the main carer for an elderly or disabled person should also receive the flu vaccine.

Normally the vaccine is available in the first week of October but a recent circular states that there could be a two-week delay in delivery due to the WHO providing vaccine strains late to the manufacturers. We will put up posters when the vaccine is available.

Drs Gregor & Lesley Mackintosh

LOCH NESS MARATHON

Malcolm Sutherland writes to the Boleskine Bulletin announcing this year's event on Sunday, 2nd October and hopes that the road closures and expected road delays featured on the map (see page 11) will not inconvenience us too much and thanks in advance for our ongoing support in making the event the success it is. Last year's Loch Ness Marathon and Festival of Running raised a total of £382,300 for over forty charities.

He also hopes the event will raise awareness of the South side of Loch Ness to the participants who are coming from outside the Highlands.

He says that if we have any queries concerning or enquiries regarding this year's events, to contact him as below:

Tel. 0845 838 2748
Mobile. 07765 254535
Email. malcolm@lochnessmarathon.com
Website. www.lochnessmarathon.com

Police Contribution

Just a brief note in this issue of the Bulletin regarding a couple of things I have mentioned in the past.

Firstly regarding driving, I would urge all members of the community to show patience when travelling on our roads at this busy time of the year. Aggressive and inconsiderate driving can never be acceptable no matter how frustrated a driver becomes through lack of progression or low speed of the vehicle in front for instances.

Should anyone wish to become the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for Foyers part of the beat, then please drop me a line or give me a call.

Best wishes,

John Rimmer,

Aberdeen University Talks

The talks in the Hall at Gorthleck this winter are:
25th October - **NIGEL TRANTER** – Storyteller & His Scotland. *Peter Gillies*

21st February – **NESSIE** – Sources and Speculation.
Norman Newton

Both start at 7-30 pm.

A chance to see Scottish Opera



Seven singers from Scottish Opera are touring Scotland to perform Verdi's *Macbeth* (in English) and will be coming to The Craigmonie Centre, Drumnadrochit on Thursday, 6th October 2005 at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are £10 (concessions £8) from The Craigmonie Centre, Glen Urquhart High School, Drumnadrochit, IV63 6XA (tel. 01456 459224) or online at www.scottishopera.org.uk

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 24 May

Correspondence: RES - letter in relation to CC objection to proposed Dunmaglass wind farm, noting their regret at objection but wishing to continue dialogue. HOL - copy of letter sent to RES regarding community benefit. Loch Ness Partnership - information leaflets about the Loch Ness area.

Treasurer: Copy of annual accounts were distributed for comments. Ord. acc. £59.20; project acc. £3201.25. The BB wish the CC contribution to increase from £225.00 to £250.00. This covers the cost of printing the minutes. It was agreed that it was important for the community to have access to the minutes and that the BB was the best way of distributing them, therefore the increase was agreed to. The outgoings from the CC accounts must be looked at as it is currently running at a deficit (money is being used from the project account). Therefore the giving of donations must be reviewed or fundraising must be done.

Roads and Road Signs: Miss A Rose enquired who was responsible for upkeep of the Vennel road as it is deteriorating. It was agreed that it was not the Roads Dept, but probably owned by Corriegarth, Donald Forbes and the Forestry Commission. There are minor landslides in wet weather on the Foyers road, just past the school, causing stones to be on the road. The work at Torness bridge has not been completed after the work carried out by BT. The secretary will notify the roads dept of the above points.

Water and Sewerage: Work has started in Foyers and a new site for the sewerage works is being looked at.

Community Project: It was agreed that the project group needs to be a separate entity from the CC and have a separate bank account. The CED grant is available until the 31 July 2005.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit: At a meeting with Mr Owen of HOL and the sub group, it was agreed that a lump sum of £22,000 should be paid directly into the bank account of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust in respect of the Garrogie hydro scheme, rather than take an annual payment of £2000. It was expected that there would be a similar amount from the River E project. The trustees need to be appointed before money can be distributed. It was agreed to give the process of appointing trustees some thought and it would be discussed more fully at the June meeting.

Minute of Meeting 28 June

Correspondence: University of Aberdeen - questionnaire about the Out of Hours service provided by NHS24. Heart and Stroke Matters – newsletter. Canon - the price of a photocopy has increased to 1p. National Trust - Culloden Battlefield will be redeveloped and finished by April 2007.

Treasurer: Ord. acc. £59.20; project acc. £3201.25. The Highland Council grant of £914.67 was received (not yet banked). Knockie Trust has given £150.00, as requested, to cover the solicitors fees for the lease.

Policing: Mr JW Campbell and Mr Allen attended a meeting regarding Neighbourhood Watch. Although very interesting, a lot was not applicable to this area. Essentially, if someone sees anything suspicious, they should contact a Neighbourhood Watch representative and/or the police. The representatives are Mr Campbell for Gorthleck, and Mr Allen for Whitebridge. Representatives are required for other areas, especially Foyers and Errogie. An article will be put in the BB. Fly tipping is still a problem - contact PC Rimmer at Foyers if there is any information.

Fire Brigade: The local brigade is now retained status. The tender is temporarily at Aberchaldar but the planning for the container at the Vennel has been submitted. The group is concerned with community fire safety and will be carrying out a leaflet drop to local residents. If people require information, advice or a home visit Sub Officer Neil Kirkland should be contacted on 486 615 or 486 283. A representative will attend each CC meeting. Smoke detectors are available and can be fitted. Recruits are still required and they must be over 18, fit and healthy, able to attend training and call outs, and ideally should live within 5 minutes of the station.

Roads and Road Signs: Areas of concern to be highlighted to the HC roads dept: the first cattle grid on the Ardachy road (continued from previous page)

and the sign is still in the ditch; the cattle grid on the B862 at Torness/Bochruben requires attention; bushes and trees at the sides of the road require cutting back; the drains at Lalandia, Highfield have been dug but with the wrong gradient so that the water does not drain away and dirt has been left on the roadside, so narrowing the road (ideally a pipe should be put in and the ditch filled with aggregate); 'Children playing' signs are required in Gorthleck to warn drivers of the local children and those using the Hall i.e. toddlers group; 'Concealed entrance' or warning sign required at the Inverness end of Errogie where a school bus stops to pick up children (it was almost hit by a car coming around the bend); Errogie corner needs to be re-cambered; clarification of who owns the road to Killen Lodge as it badly needs attention.

Water and Sewerage: Work has started at Gorthleck

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit: Mr Campbell will speak to a member of Strathnairn CC to find out how they went about electing trustees. A meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 July for the CC to decide upon the constitution and the election of trustees.

AOB: Drumtemple Cemetery - the gate will not open, the fence is damaged and rubbish has been dumped. The secretary will inform TEC services.

Community Council Meetings

Tuesday 27th September - Stratherrick Hall 7.30pm
Monday 24th October - Stratherrick Hall, 7.00pm - joint CC and public meeting about Community Benefit
Tuesday 22 November - Waterfall Café, Foyers 7.30pm
Tuesday 13th December - Stratherrick Hall, 7.30pm

Highland Councillor

Mrs. Ella Macrae

01463 751 203

Ella.macrae@highland.gov.uk

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LTD

The above company has been set up to manage, invest and disperse community benefit funds from renewable energy companies with projects in our community council area.

In order to set the company up a director and secretary were required, Mr J W Campbell and Mrs F Kirkland were nominated to stand initially.

Highland Opportunity Ltd (HOL) have taken on the role of negotiators with the energy companies on our behalf. The first project to come on line was the River Fechlin hydro project at Garrogie. HOL negotiated a lump sum of £22,000 from RWE Npower and this has been deposited in the Community Trust account. A similar sum is expected from the River E project.

It is now time to make the Trust a community undertaking and for it to become independent of the Community Council. It has been agreed that there should be 7 members of the company, to be responsible for the management of the funds. Two of the places will be representatives from the CC, the other 5 from the

community.

A set of criteria for membership was determined at a special meeting of the CC on July 26th 2005. They are as follows; Members shall;

- have no criminal record
- have been full time resident in the community council catchment area for a minimum of 8 years
- have keen interest in the benefit and welfare of the community
- be at least 18 years of age
- serve for a maximum period of 3 years , at which time there will be elections of the new members
- attend at least 80% of the meetings or forfeit the position

There will be an informal information sharing evening – the date will be announced shortly.

Nomination and application forms will be distributed with the December issue of the Boleskine Bulletin. The list of nominees will be published in the March/April edition along with voting forms.



"Busted"

by Colin, a South African visitor.

Staying outside Inverness and not possessing a vehicle, I totally rely on the Rapson Bus Company to get to town, sorry - city! For the sake of this column and the driver of the bus, I shall call the said driver 'Ted'.

Understandably I got off on the wrong foot with Ted having proffered him a £20 note for the fare. I didn't realise that I would be about the only fare paying passenger on the bus trip as a series of school children and pensioners got on board. Ted must feel so good when a cash-paying punter boards! He is really proud of his bus and if he suspects the kids are harming it, will stop at will, walk up the aisle like a headmaster and utter something incomprehensible (to me anyway) to the giggling offenders.

Ted's main hassles though are drivers hurtling towards him on the single lane forcing him off the road at which he stops the bus and attempts to write down the registration number - or at least shake a fist. He never stops for a photo opportunity though mind you, doing four daily return trips along the same beautiful road could get boring! Country passengers, unlike those in town, can get dropped outside their own homes and one of Ted's perks is the fact that he can park outside his own house.

I'm impressed by the general standard of public transport which mainly runs on time. My admiration and heart-felt sympathy are still with Ted.

KNOCKIE TRUST FUND

ELECTRICITY STAMPS / COAL AT CHRISTMAS

It appears that some of those presently receiving Electricity Stamps at Christmas are unable to use them because they have a supplier that does not recognise the stamps. Because of this situation the Trustees agreed at a meeting held on the 17th August 2005 that any person presently receiving Electricity Stamps or Coal may instead opt for Boots vouchers to the value of £30.

Anyone wishing to change from Electricity Stamps or Coal to Boots Vouchers should let the Secretary know by 31st October 2005.

SECRETARY / TRUSTEE --

ANGUS C. FRASER
LYNEMHOR LODGE
GORTHLECK
INVERNESS IV2 6UJ
TEL. 01456 486242

"WATCHING BLUEBOTTLES"

Coming to Stratherrick Hall on Saturday 19th November is the play "Watching Bluebottles", the latest collaboration between Highland-based writers Euan Martin and Dave Smith who were responsible for the award-winning comedy ceilidh murder mystery show "The Accidental Death of an Accordionist" (2001) and the hugely popular "Who Bares Wins" (2004).

"Watching Bluebottles" is a one-man show based on the life of a village hall-keeper. Evoking the rich diversity of the village hall situated at the heart of the community, it centres on the personal story of a particular hall custodian on the eve of his retirement, and will appeal to all those with an affinity to Scotland's rural communities.



"Fantastic! A wonderfully crafted piece – poignant, powerful and full of compassion"
Claire, Miltonduff

"Excellent! Very amusing in parts and extremely moving in others. So convincing – great theatre"
Ken Smith, Editor, Forres Gazette

"Really enjoyable script and performance – the skateboard scene was truly fantastic"
Vivienne, Miltonduff

Another brilliant piece of modern theatre from Right Lines Productions.

KNOCKIE TRUST FUND

The AGM of The Knockie Trust Fund will be held on the 16th November 2005 in Stratherrick Public Hall at 8pm.

Christian Comment

Any farmer, gardener or person with any knowledge of the countryside knows the truth of the saying "No-one makes a fool of God - a person will reap exactly what he sows" (Galatians 6 v 7). Of course the harvest quality will depend on the condition of the soil, the kind of weather experienced and the care and effort of the grower. At our Harvest Festival, we thank God for every experience of His goodness and also the good effort that goes into producing the food we need and enjoy.

But what of the present state of terrorism and violence throughout many parts of the world? It seems clear that some evil seeds have been sown in a number of peoples' minds and we are experiencing the result. How important that the good seed of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control should be sown in our own minds and those of our children, that there should be a good harvest of these virtues - as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Galatia - but it could well have been Stratherrick.

Martyn Bateman

CHURCH MEETINGS

Church of Scotland

Sunday: 10 am Boleskine, 11-30 am Dore.

Rev. J. Buchan 01463 713114.

Episcopal Church

Sunday: 11 am Croachy.

Rev. Peter Mosley 01805 521397.

Free Church

Sunday: 12 noon Farr, 6 pm Errozie.

Mr. J. Campbell 01456 486240

Free Church (continuing)

Sunday: 10-30 am & 4-15 pm Dore. Wednesday: 7-30 pm.

Mr. D. Fraser 01456 486408.

Free Presbyterian Church

Sunday: 12 noon Farr, every 2nd Sunday: 7 pm Gorthleck.

Mr. E. Fraser 01456 486282.

Roman Catholic Church

Sunday: 12 noon Whitebridge.

Rev. P. Bonnici 01320 366451.

Inter-Denominational Bible Study

Christian Aid - 2005

The amount collected in respect of the above amounted to a grand total of £1,342.20 including some £200 for tax recovered from Gift Aid donations.










STRATHERRICK ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

A sub group of the Community Council have taken on a project to provide Gorthleck with an 'amenity area' that will be used by both locals and visitors to Stratherrick.

The area opposite the hall has been leased for 19 years. It has now been fenced and drainage put in at the bottom of the site. The borders will be defined by hedgerows to provide a natural habitat for birds and insects. It will be partially landscaped and there will be two three-sided wooden viewing shelters built to promote the enjoyment of the area. There will be an interpretation board detailing the birds that may be seen.

The long-term plan will be to make the site multi-functional. There are no parking places between Fort-Augustus and Dore on the B852 for visitors, so picnic tables will be placed to encourage visitors to linger in the area longer. A clear area will be left that can be used for ball games or for local fun-days, sales of work etc which may also use the facilities provided by the hall. It will be accessible to all members of the community, young and old alike, as well as those who are physically less able. In time it is hoped to provide facilities for children also. This would require local fundraising to buy equipment. Funding has been granted for the initial stages of the project from CED and SNH. There have been a number of factors delaying the start of the project and so our getting the community involved.

We now hope that the planting and the building of the shelters will start in the near future. Anyone wishing to get involved in the project would be most welcome. For more information, please contact either Mr John Campbell or Fiona Kirkland. Notices of proposed working days will be displayed on the notice boards at Foyers shop and outside



OUT AND ABOUT

Our congratulations and best wishes go to David & Sarah Grant of Whitebridge Hotel who married recently.

Welcome to any newcomers to the area.

For all those who have started a new year at School or moved on to College or University, our very best wishes.

South Loch Ness Heritage Group



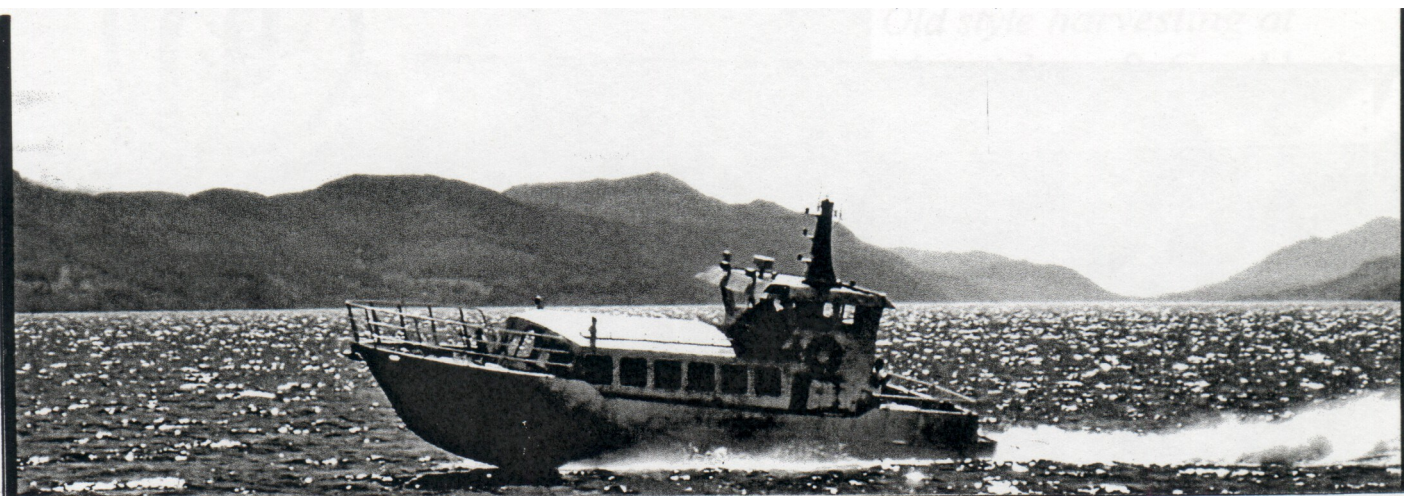
The Group continues to attract a lot of interest, with more suggestions for public meetings or projects than there is time to fulfil them, so if you are interested in lending a hand, please get in touch. The next meeting after the publication of this BB will be on December 5th, probably at Dores. The speaker will be Norman Newton, and the topic will be Roads.

The two pictures are from the northern extremity of the BB area. The one on the front page that looks as if it is suffering from a serious printing error serves as an example of what we can do by way of restoring faded and damaged prints. The Heritage Group are anxious to see any of your pictures, in whatever condition, and may well be able to offer you a much enhanced version for your own use, while hopefully you will allow us to add a copy to the archive which we are building up. Even relatively modern colour photographs can suffer badly from fading. Please don't allow a fascinating pictorial record of the area's heritage to languish in a drawer or dusty album.

Anyway, back to these photographs. The group scene is at the fank at Dalcrombie, during clipping in 1899. Some of the individuals are thought to be Johnstones, whose descendants are a stone's throw away at Achnabat today. The incongruous figure on the left is G.F.Watts, the famous English artist, who spent time in this area around the turn of the 20th century. He married Mary Fraser-Tytler of Aldourie in 1866, a more than competent artist in her own right, who established a pottery in Dores in the early 1900's.

The second photograph shows Watts in his portable studio, in this case near Torness. Other photographs show him wrapped in a makeshift midge-net: I can imagine that outdoor painting in the Highlands has always suffered from this problem, and may account for the fact that his Highland landscapes are not amongst his most memorable works! One work which is more highly regarded is 'Death Crowning Innocence', the theme of which was inspired by the tragic death of his wife's 3 year old niece, following a pony-and-

LOCH NESS EXPRESS



125 years ago there were pleasure boat sailings on Loch Ness (see extract from the Inverness Courier).

Now the 'Spirit of Skye' operated by Bill Grant is cruising Loch Ness at 18 knots covering the 30 miles from Dochgarroch to Fort Augustus inside an hour and twenty minutes. It has airline style seating for 27 in the cabin and a further 9 passengers can be accommodated in the open air on the after deck. Passengers making the South to North journey can take a free mini-bus service to the city centre and have three hours to shop and lunch. 'Oldies' who hold a

Highland Travel Pass can make the whole journey for free.

There is an arrangement negotiated through Craigdarroch House Hotel that the 'Spirit of Skye' will pick up passengers from Foyers. Phone there to book on 486 400. For more details phone 0800 3286 6426 (Freephone).

The boat originally operated a service to Skye from Gairloch but sea conditions led to its withdrawal.

It is planned to install a series of interpretive panels describing various features of interest along the loch. It is a much needed venture and deserves to be a success.

Glendoe Hydro Scheme

Update on Progress

18th August 2005

Following the granting of consent by Scottish Ministers for the Glendoe Hydro scheme, the decision to proceed with the project was taken by SSE Board on 28th July.

It has been confirmed that Hochtief are the preferred bidder for the contract to construct the scheme and negotiations are continuing towards finalising the construction contract before the end of 2005. The main construction works are scheduled to commence in Spring 2006 with some preparatory works starting in late 2005. The scheme should be generating electricity by the winter of 2008.

Prior to Spring 2006 SSE and Hochtief will be carrying out a large variety of tasks including the refinement of the design and carrying out surveys and producing documentation to satisfy conditions of consent. During this time a planning application will be made for a site camp within a few kilometres of Fort Augustus. The target is for this camp to be ready for occupation by Spring 2006.

Work that may occur on Glendoe Estate prior to Spring 2006 (assuming that all the relevant conditions of consent are satisfied) include ground clearance and preparation works in lower Glendoe Estate, provision of services to site compound and camp areas and some access track construction work.

BB A.G.M.

The annual
general meeting of
the Boleskine
Bulletin will be
held in
Stratherrick Hall,
Gorthleck on
Tuesday 8th
November at 7-30.

UPPER FOYERS TELEVISION ASSOCIATION

When the present public liability insurance runs out on 9th November 2005 the TV mast which has served the residents in Glenlia since 1981 will be disconnected and dismantled.

Because of its age it has not been possible to insure the mast against engineering faults for some years. At the beginning every house from No. 1 Glenlia onwards belonged to the scheme and contributed towards the cost of insurance, electricity, BBC licence, etc. With the advent of Sky TV more and more households have

COME (Scottish Country) DANCING

The Scottish Country Dance group, which meets at Stratherrick Hall on Wednesday nights during the autumn/winter/spring season, starts again on the 14th September. All the regulars then make the final preparations for their annual dance on Friday the 7th October when Marian Anderson will play live music and it is hoped that a large number of dancers from other groups, near and far, will come and join in.

Over the last season our group has steadily grown in numbers, but there is still plenty of room for more. From Wednesday the 12th October at 7.30 pm new members will be made especially welcome. The very mixed ability classes are led alternately by Hugh Nicol and Judith Borup, who do their best to teach steps, formations and dances, always making sure that the dancing is really

Extracts from 'From Our Files'

with kind permission of the Inverness Courier – Tuesday 12th July 2005

150 YEARS AGO

- A comfortable-looking "Spirit of the Mountain".

A correspondent of the John O'Groat Journal, who was lately rambling in the neighbourhood of Inverfarigaig, gives the following account of the spirit of Dunjardel:- "When the sun sets down in the far west, the peasantry at times are greatly annoyed, if not terrified, at what seems the wailing and bitter crying of a sorrowing being, emanating from the rugged crags at the foot of Dunjardel, termed in the district Bodach-na-h-eughachd, or crying old man.

Having inquired of honest Donald Grant, the innkeeper, if he himself had ever heard the said Bodach - his reply was, 'Often wi' my own ears.'

This troublesome being appears to have been seen by many, who describe him to be of low stature but very corpulent, which must greatly account for the strength and power of his lungs, as at times he is incessant in his wailings, particularly when there is any of the name of Shaw about taking their

flight to the world of spirits.

In this he is looked upon as a sure harbinger. The surname of Shaw being now not very rife in Stratherrick, likely the Bodach, after crying that ilk out of the land of the living, will cease from disturbing, with his doleful lamentations, the innocent but credulous folks living in the neighbourhood of Dunjardel.

The secret of the singular sound is no doubt to be found in the peculiar formation of some part of the rock, which may be acted on by the wind, or which may echo some distant sounds." (Courier 12.7.1855)

125 YEARS AGO

- Pleasure Sailings on Loch Ness

We have pleasure in drawing attention to an advertisement announcing special attractions, in the way of pleasure excursions on Loch Ness by Mr MacBrayne's steamers.

Return tickets at reduced fares are issued daily for the swift steamers, and on Saturdays the "Fingal" leaves Inverness at 9.45am with passengers for Aldourie, Temple Pier and

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS FIRE SERVICE

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY NEWS

ANY HOUSEHOLDER IN THE AREA CAN REQUEST A FREE COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY VISIT FROM YOUR LOCAL (FOYERS) FIRE SAFETY TEAM WHO NOW HAVE AN APPLIANCE LOCATED NEAR GORTHLECK.

ADVICE ON FIRE PREVENTION, SMOKE DETECTOR LOCATION AND ESCAPE ROUTES ARE SOME OF THE POINTS WE WILL CHECK.

ENQUIRE IF YOUR PROPERTY IS SAFE BY CONTACTING THE COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY OFFICER GRAEME ROBERTSON ON 01463 227000.....

.....OR BY COMING ALONG TO THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH WHERE A MEMBER OF THE FOYERS RETAINED CREW WILL BE ON HAND TO OFFER ADVICE AND ARRANGE A VISIT .

NEIL KIRKLAND

SUB OFFICER (A27) FOYERS

Wildlife Monitoring Group

A small group, under the umbrella of the Boleskine Environmental Network, decided to pursue a wildlife project this year, continuing into next year, involving training by wildlife specialists, followed by monitoring of various species in our local area. Training days on waders, mammals, native flowers, grasses and butterflies have already been held and were very interesting and successful. Another day on fungi is planned for 16th October 2005.

Monitoring of waders is very important due to their recent decline in numbers. Those that attended the meeting with Stuart Benn of the RSPB, spent time over the following month counting the maximum number of each species seen, especially noting how many of those were in definite pairs, how many were single individuals and, from the breeding pairs, how many fledglings were produced. The main species monitored were curlew, oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe and common sandpiper. Results are being sent to the RSPB for their database.

On the mammal day with Ro Scott, signs of badger, pine marten, squirrel, deer and voles were found. In addition, much more was learnt on what to look for and where, for these and many other species. Ro brought with her a comprehensive selection of skulls and skins and covered aspects of mammal law and health and safety issues of mammal surveying. Observations on mammals seen this summer will be sent to the Mammal Society.

Tessa Jones gave us training on both flowers and grasses during 2 days in mid summer – we are all far more knowledgeable now than we were! We had a wonderful day exploring the hidden corners of Jane's (O'Donovan) woodland acres, learning the complexities of the grasses growing there. What a great selection we found, from masses of tufted hair grass to sweet vernal grass and everything in between! Neither could we ignore the other treasures we saw there – 3 kinds of orchid: the heath spotted, the common spotted and, best of all, the fragrant orchid. Rushes, horsetails and sedges were also under our scrutiny, including a mound of hair moss that must be at least 10 feet across and a foot high and growing !

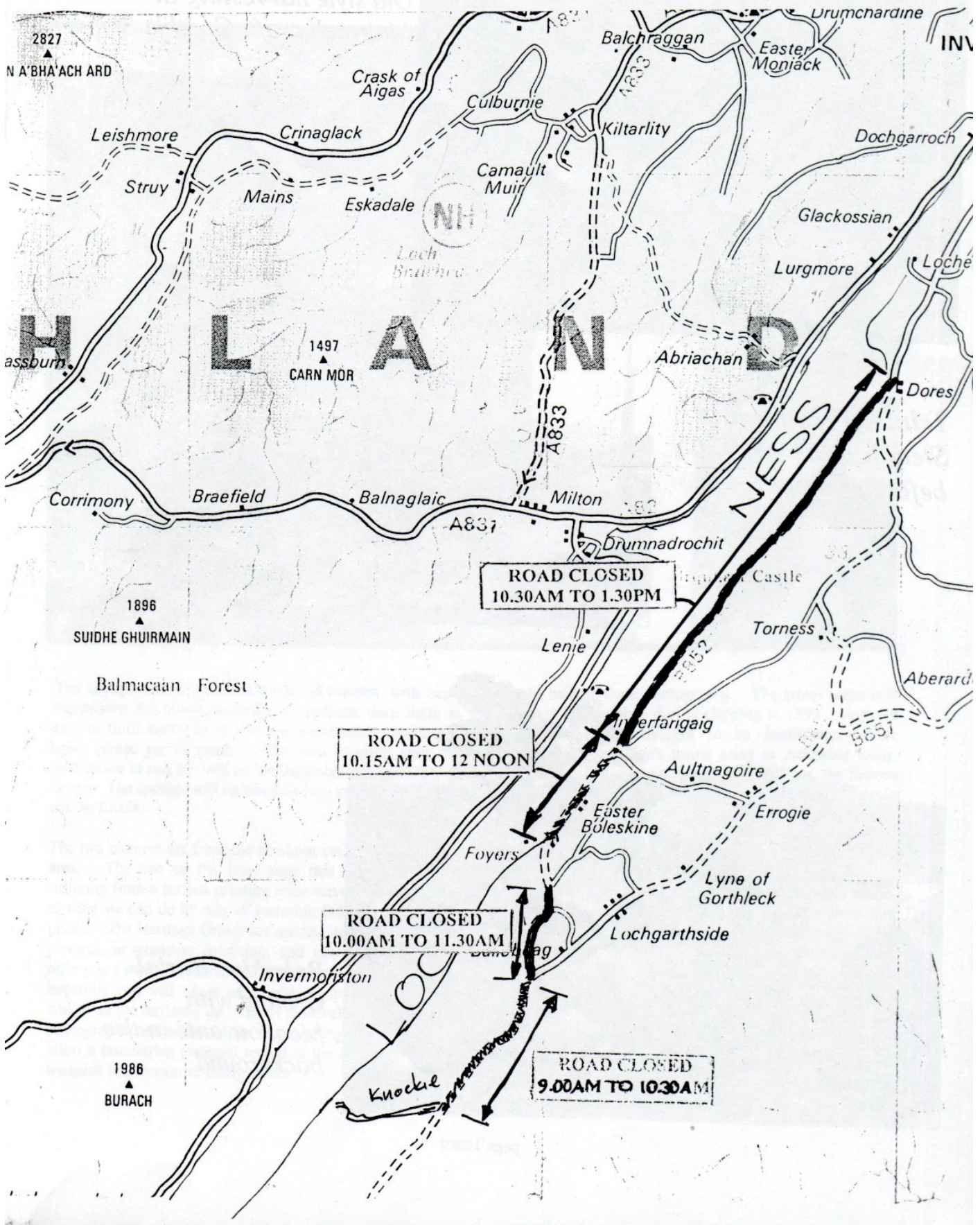
The day we spent with butterflies and Tom Prescott was very rewarding, ensuring we could confidently identify all the butterflies we are likely to see in South Loch Ness. Tom asked us to pay particular attention to looking for the priority species: the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, the Northern Brown Argus and the Chequered Skipper. He also asked us to watch for the Mountain Ringlet, which is spreading northwards and has reached the Cairngorms.

Anyone interested in fungi would be welcome to join us on our Fungi Day in October. Ask for details on 486631. We hope to arrange more activities later on. For anyone outside the wildlife group wishing to be notified of them, please give me your contact details.

Rosemary Holt

NOTICE TO MOTORISTS

The Baxter's Loch Ness Marathon will take place on Sunday 2nd October 2005. The race starts at 10.00am, North of the Knockie Lodge Road, and the 1,000 plus runners will follow the 26 miles course along the B862 to Chapel Bridge, the B852 through Foyers, Inverfarigaig and to Dores and then along the B862 to Inverness, finishing in the Queens Park Stadium. During the course of the event various restrictions will be put in place as shown below.

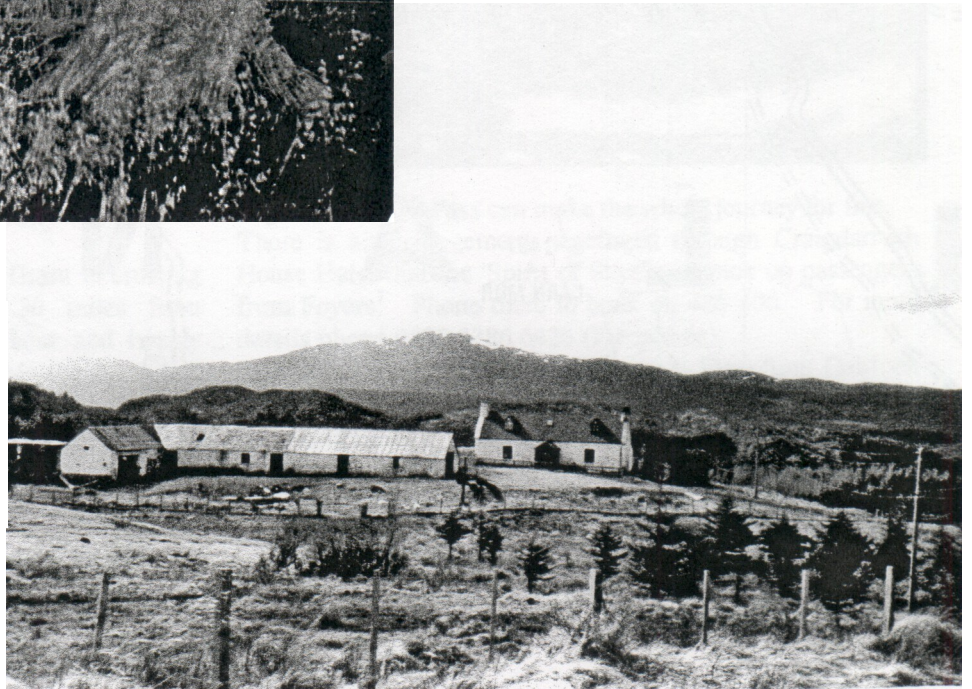




Oaks in Stooks 1976

Old style harvesting at Muirnich croft, Gorthleck

Trinloist House and Steading in the 1970's before renovatiojn



Boleskine Burial Ground with Mealfouvanie in the background

Contributors please note.....

Would contributors and advertisers please have regard to the 'Deadline Date' indicated in each issue. There is much work required between this date and publication - late contributions and advertisements only exacerbate the position.

If you have something that must be prepared at the last minute, please remember that there are potential delays. No computer manufacturer became rich at our expense. Our ancient PCs (which serve us well enough) will probably laugh at your fancy email attachment. Allow time for experiment. Alternatively our typist has to find time to enter your notes into our system. We love photographs but, again, we don't have high-tech equipment. The BB is photocopied and a good print is required. With only an ancient laser printer we cannot print photos, and a trip down the Strath, is required to those with better facilities if any pictures need special attention. If you use a digital camera please produce your prints at maximum resolution on good quality paper. All prints are returned in good condition.

Remember, too that the Christmas issue is printed early giving us less time between the closing date and publication of the next issue.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

AIDS HELPLINE: Freephone 0800 567123. Open 24 hours.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA): Open 24 hours, confidential service, charged at local rate.

Tel. 08457 697555 Scottish Service Office. For information on meetings, etc. Tel. 01412 262214.

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

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

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

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

CITIZENS ADVICE (Inverness): Tel. 01463 235 345.

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE: Tel. 01463 713741.

DEPRESSION ALLIANCE: Tel. 0131 467305. Mon. to Fri. 10.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. Offers information and support for those with depression, their family and friends.

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

FAMILY MEDIATION HIGHLAND: Tel. 01463 712100.

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

HELP THE AGED: Tel. 01315 516331. Seniorline: Tel. 0808 800 6565.

KIDSCAPE BULLYING HELPLINE FOR PARENTS:

Tel. 01717 303300. Mon. to Fri. 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m.

MARRIAGE COUNSELLING (HIGHLAND): Tel. 01463 712888 for appointment. Professional individual and couple

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PARENTLINE: Tel. 0345 567800. Helpline for parents under stress. Mon. to Sat. 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. Answer phone service outside office hours.

RAPE AND ABUSE LINE: Free, confidential, listening support. Call free on 08088 000123, every evening 7.00p.m. to 10.00p.m. This line is answered by women.

Call free on 08088 000122, Mon. and Wed. 7.00p.m. to 10.00p.m. This line is answered by men.

REACH OUT HIGHLAND: 34, Waterloo Place, Inverness. Tel. 01463 711585. Confidential information on sexual health. HIV counselling and testing.

SAMARITANS: 66, Tomnahurich Street, Inverness. Tel. 01463 713456. Also Tel. 0345 909090, charged at local rate. All branches offer 24 hour service.

SEXUAL HEALTH: Highland Sexual Health, outpatients Raigmore Hospital - Tel. 01463 704202. All ages - free - confidential - no appointment necessary. Contraception including emergency, pregnancy testing, diagnosis/treatment of infections and HIV, postal condom service.

SOCIAL WORK HOTLINE: Tel. 08457 697284. Calls charged at local rate. 24 hour service.

VICTIM SUPPORT: Tel. 01463 710806

WOMEN'S AID, INVERNESS: Tel. 01463 220719. Offers information, support and temporary accommodation for abused women and their children.

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Stratherrick Hall

Toddlers Group - Wednesdays 10.30 - 12.30 am

Yoga classes - Thursdays 7.00 - 8.30 pm ring Sylvia on 486434

Scottish Country Dancing - see article on page 9

Bowls - We are restarting 7-30 Tuesday evening sessions. Phone 486377

Sunday 2nd October, 3pm - Harvest Praise

Tuesday 25th October, 7-30 - Nigel Tranter, storyteller & his Scotland. Talk by Peter Gillies

Saturday 19th November, 8pm - Watching Bluebottles. See p5

Watch the notice boards for details of the Community Trust meeting

11th December, 3pm - Christmas Carol Service

To book the Hall 'phone Judith Borup on 01456 486464

See the notice board outside the hall for other local events.

See also local website <http://www.scottish-cottages.co.uk/hall.htm> and click on Stratherrick Public Hall

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