

TheBoleskineBulletin



September 2007

Tragedy at Loch Mhor



A tragedy occurred this summer on Loch Mhor for a local family when Eric Law and his brother Ian went out fishing in a 16 foot Canadian Canoe.

Eric takes up the story. We had gone out fishing on Loch Mhor in the canoe, Ian was the better swimmer. Suddenly, as we were paddling the canoe capsized and we were both in the water. When I asked Ian if he was alright he said he had chest pains and I tried to get him to hold onto the canoe while I pulled it to the shore. He seemed to lose consciousness and slipped under the water. I just managed to get to shore myself when a party of tourists out on the loch realised there was a problem and came over to help.

They took me back out onto the loch to look for Ian, Unfortunately, we were unable to find him in the water. It took the

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rescue services from the Northern Constabulary, Coastguard and a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth 3 days and 2 nights to find Ian. When the water level was lowered in the loch by Scottish and Southern Energy to help with the search, Ian was finally found just outside the original search area from the shore.

My thanks Eric for this piece – Editor

The photographs were taken during the search for Ian Law by Bob How.



Eric Law and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kindness and support following the tragic death of Eric's brother, Ian on 24th July 2007.

The Loch Ness Express Sold

Folk in our area who have been using the “Loch Ness Express” for trips to Fort Augustus and Inverness from Foyers Pier and back are dismayed to find the service discontinued (especially those who could travel free on their bus passes). It was also possible to go from Foyers to Urquhart Castle and back. It is hoped that another operator will run the service with another boat as it was the only one calling at this side of the loch. It is reported that the Loch Ness Express has been sold and is in Kazakhstan to be refurbished for the country's president.

We attempted to contact the owners of the Loch Ness express to find out what had happened but got no response. If we get one we will publish it in the next issue.

Editor.

Flu vaccine

People entitled to the flu vaccine should keep an eye open on the Shop or Surgery for notice of when the flu vaccine will be available. It is due in at the end of September but notification will be posted as usual.

I understand PC John Rimmer is moving on to another position we wish him and his family all the best for the future in his new posting.

Rock M[N]ess



The two photographs above were taken from the road side on the 14th of June over a week after the “Rock Ness” concert had finished. Am I the only one that thought the clean up took a lot longer this year and rubbish left by the campers was much more visible for longer than last year?

I know we do not live in Dores but a lot of us have to travel through the village on a regular basis and tourists coming down this side of the loch all have to drive past the site and I am sure that this is not the image we want people to see when they get their first view of Loch Ness as they drop down Aldourie into Dores .



MacMillan Charity Walk

A big thank you to everyone who supported our charity walk – we collected £300.00 for the MacMillan Charity.

The walk from Foyers to Whitebridge and back took place on Saturday the 26/5/07 on what appears to have been our “summer “ for this year.

The successful walkers were:-

Rena Slater, Abbie and Fiona Kirkland, Catriona Fraser, Lesley Caskie, Shelia Chalmers, Theresa Tweedlie, and Emma McCallum .

Congratulations to all our readers who knew that the cottage shown in the last issue of the Bulletin is now the ruins on the right hand side of the road between Inverfarigaig and Dores opposite the first of the seven lay-bys. More than one person has, in the past, confused these ruins with those of General Wade's Change House which is situated on the loch-side of the road, about 400 metres back towards Inverfarigaig. A path leads from the lay-by and a useful information board awaits visitors so it is well worth the stop. But our ruin is a much later dwelling, pictured in the photograph around the 1960s.

The first correct answer received by the Bulletin was from Brian Yates in Foyers. Brian also advised us that the ruin is 7,966,252 mm from my front gate! If you need an explanation as to why Brian would have measured the distance in mm, please check the Bulletin of 2 issues back. Brian - I have not checked your measurement as I only have a 5 metre tape-measure and my car still registers distances in miles..

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Nominations are invited for the election of 10 Community Councillors to Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council.

Nomination papers will be available from **Mr Tim McCormack, Foyers Stores** from late September.

Any elector whose name appears in the Electoral Register as at 1 September 2007 which covers the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council area is entitled to stand for nomination.

Nomination papers, duly completed and signed by eligible electors, must be received by the Returning Officer, Mr McCormack, Foyers Stores, no later than 5.00pm on Tuesday 23rd October 2007.

If more than 10 valid nominations are received a postal ballot will take place to determine the successful candidates.

In the event of the number of candidates validly nominated being below 50% of the total number being sought, i.e. less than 5, the effect will be that no Community Council can be established.



Congratulations to local competitors in this year's Great Wilderness Challenge.

Colin Adamson, with his son Andrew and his son's fiancée Jayne (all pictured here), completed the Great Wilderness Challenge on a very wet and misty Saturday in August. Other years the views have been spectacular but this year it was heads down against the driving rain. They raised over £500 for the Highland Hospice and would like to thank all who supported them. Colin is a regular competitor, this year taking on the 13 mile walk.

Congratulations also to Lyn Forbes from Foyers who completed the arduous 25 mile trek also raising significant monies for the Hospice."

South Loch Ness Heritage Group

On Tuesday, June 26th, we were hosts to a very interesting talk at Dores by Kirsty Cameron, Archeologist at the Planning and Development Department of the Highland Council. The title of her talk was "Recording and Protection: The Work of the Highland Council Archaeology Unit". Kirsty brought with her an extensive slide show of photographs to illustrate her talk showing heritage sites often discovered quite fortuitously during excavations for new buildings. She also gave us many tips on looking for sites which could be under our feet but not visible from that view point.

The Highland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is a publicly accessible record of all known archaeological and historical sites in Highland. The SMR is used by Highland Council staff to inform planning decisions, by professional archaeological units, by researchers and also by interested members of the public.

Kirsty advised us that, by the end of 2007 the SMR will have been upgraded to a Historic Environment Record (HER). New features will include an online live, interactive and searchable database, which will include a searchable mapping facility. Access to the HER will be through the Am Baile website (www.ambaile.org.uk) and the Archaeology pages of the Highland Council website.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday, September 27th at Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck. The main business will be the Group's Annual General Meeting to discuss the usual business, including the achievements for the year, the group's financial position, plus consideration for any new projects and the general way forward for the group.

Our committee member, Bob Main, will be giving a short talk entitled "Aluminium - precious to common place. A history of aluminium production at Foyers."

Due to the retirement of committee members, we would like to recruit a new member, preferably with internet access, to deal with publicity and help out our overworked Secretary. Anyone willing to join should contact a committee member before the A.G.M.

Please visit our website - www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk

Christian Comment

Recent months have been remarkable for the amount of flooding in parts of the United Kingdom, as well as in China and Bangladesh. Some places are used to such deluges of water – for others it has been an unwelcome surprise. Ancient histories of the world record such floods in many places, some to even greater extent. Archaeological evidence in Mesopotamia – the land between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers in modern Iraq – shows a huge flood before the time of Abraham, like that recorded in the Bible at the time of Noah.

After that great catastrophe had ended, the people of those days were given an assurance by Almighty God that there would never be such an enormous tragedy again and the beautiful, colourful rainbow would be a certain sign that God's promise would be fulfilled (Genesis Ch.9 vs.8-17). At the same time, the promise was given that, "as long as the world exists there will be a time for planting and a time for harvest – there will always be cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night." (Genesis Ch.8 v.22)

Here, in the Highlands of Scotland, this has been our experience for countless generations, and we do well to thank God for this truth, as we do at our Autumn Harvest Festival Services.

A United Community Harvest Celebration is planned for the evening of ***Sunday, 7th October, in the Foyers Church, starting at 4.00 p.m.*** Everyone will be most welcome.

Martyn Bateman

Christian Aid

Thank you to all who gave, and collected for the annual appeal. Our Treasurer, Mal Hughes, has reported that the total amount is £1,590.

Summer Praise, at Foyers Church, was an enjoyable series on the theme of "Mountain Top Experiences". We are grateful for all who took part, and to Mr. Cur Turmaat, the new owner, for his permission to use this fine building. The future use of the building has yet to be decided – suggestions could be given to Martyn Bateman.

The Children's Summer Holiday Club at the Stratherrick School was greatly enjoyed by all those who took part. Very many thanks to all who made this possible. The Friday Club, at the Stratherrick Hall, resumes this autumn.

Church Meetings

Church of Scotland

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

Mr. Ian King 01463 751293

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

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

Episcopal Church

Sunday: 11.00a.m. Croachy.

Rev. Peter Mosley 01808 521397

Free Church

Sunday: 6.00 p.m. Errogie.

Mr. J. Campbell 01456 486240

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

Mr. D. Fraser 01456 486408

Free Presbyterian Church

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

Mr. E. Fraser 01456 486282

Roman Catholic Church

Sunday: 12 Noon Whitebridge.

Mrs. Therese Finley 01456 486747

Inter-denominational Bible Study

Rev. Martyn Bateman 01456 486273

Nurse Retiring

Lesley Caskie District Nurse / Health Visitor is retiring after 15 years service in this area. A small presentation will be made at the Community Coffee Morning (Open to all age groups) on October 25th at the Red Squirrel Cafe in Foyers. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to a leaving gift can do so at the Foyers shop.

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Obituaries

It is with sadness that the deaths of three well known people of the district have to be reported this edition.

Firstly Doctor Margaret Conway who died in June. She lived at Craigniche, Glenlia and was a long time resident along with her husband Donald who died in 2001. She had trained as a doctor specialising in psychiatric medicine and served at the House of Daviot near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire until she retired. Here at Foyers she occasionally acted as locum for Doctor Bennett. She was an elder of Dores and Boleskine Church and was for many years the organist of Foyers church, she also gave many years devoted service to the Home Visiting Group.

Dogs were her passion in life, especially German Shepherds and it was a real loss to her when she had to be parted from her beloved "Bonnie" when she became too ill towards the end.

Margaret was a well loved member of the community.

Secondly Mrs Marjorie Stoddart who died on the 11th August. Marjorie lived all her life in Foyers. Born in Intake House, Foyers in 1929 to Jimmy and Elizabeth Grant she attended school in Foyers and then Inverness Royal Academy. After secretarial training she worked for a time with the British Aluminium Company in Foyers and the Forestry Commission at Inverfarigaig. She married Jack Stoddart and lived with him at the Intake Cottages. Their little son Stephen died age six and then her husband in 1990.

She excelled at a number of crafts; loved cooking and baking and her garden was a kaleidoscope of colour. She was the main driving force behind the beautiful flower displays at Foyers Church 100th Anniversary.

She was the organist at Erroglie, Foyers and Boleskine churches and received a 30 year long service certificate. She also led the church choir in Foyers. She was the President of both the church Guild and the W.R.I. She also followed her father as Registrar for Foyers for many years. She will be greatly missed by all her friends and family.

Thirdly Frank Grant who died on 13th August aged 62. He worked for the Hydro-Board in Foyers as Waterman and Plant Attendant at the 5 megawatt turbine there. He and his wife Ruby lived at Intake House where they brought up their children Marlene and George. He was very much a family man devoted to his children and grandchildren.

His principle hobby and relaxation was playing the accordion and he loved attending monthly meetings of the Accordion and Fiddle Club with Ruby. Another interest was steam engines and he delighted in making engines of any kind work. He was a friendly cheerful person who got on well with people both at work and in the community.

We sympathise with his family and friends at his untimely passing.

Our condolences also to Diana Harding whose husband Edmund died recently after a long illness. They had recently come to live at Elmbank Foyers.

Over £1,500 was collected at the funeral services of Marjorie Stoddart and Frank Grant for the Highland Hospice in recognition of the care given during their illnesses.

BEWARE..... if you live along the B862 get ready for more traffic, road closures, night time trucks and mad drivers.

WIND FACTORY
Application at Corriegarth
-20 turbines each 120 metres high - the top of each turbine will be between 2400 and 2800 feet up in the hills.
(Corriegarth is the glen leading up into the hills opposite Boleskine church.)

B.E.N. has written a letter of objection to the proposed development. We are deeply concerned about the proliferation of very large industrial sized wind turbines in the high mountain areas within the Monadhliaths, the cumulative impact of renewable energy developments in Stratherrick, and most disturbing of all the potential impact on golden eagles is nothing short of a national disgrace.

It is estimated by the developers themselves that one golden eagle will be killed by the blades every three years.

Golden eagles are already heavily persecuted: are they now also to be cut down by turbine blades?

As the scheme is under 50mw it is to be considered at local level rather than by the Scottish Executive. The consultation period of 28 days for objections to Highland Council is over but it is not too late to make your concerns heard. The application will have to go to the planning committee so now is the time to write to our four newly elected councillors. They will be making their own representations to the planning committee and so views from local people will be essential.

Helen Carmichael The Haven, Ferry Lane, Beauly IV4 7EB
Tel: (01463) 782555
helen.carmichael.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Margaret Davidson Abriachan Nurseries, Kilianan, Loch Ness Side, Inverness IV3 8LA Tel/Fax: (01463) 861424
margaret.davidson.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Drew Hendry Old Kilcoy House, Tore, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire IV6 7RZ Tel: (01463) 811480
drew.hendry.cllr@highland.gov.uk
Hamish Wood 14 Kennedy Drive, Scorguie, Inverness IV3 8QR Tel: (01463) 712530
hamish.wood.cllr@highland.gov.uk

20 industrial turbines at Corriegarth + 1,000 turbines in the Highlands will not stop Nuclear Power Stations from being built.

Onshore wind factories are inefficient and heavily subsidised by the taxpayer - which means household electricity will cost more while fuel poverty (already bad in Scotland) will become more widespread.

The payout by the developer to the community fund will be £100,000 per annum for the life of the project.

For more information contact B.E.N. chairman; Ken Brown 486 424
secretary: Jane O'Donovan 486355

Soggy summer for butterflies and moths

The wildlife recording group has recorded both butterflies and moths this summer although the numbers seen have been low. There was little activity during the first half of the summer in Stratherrick but in the third week in March Peacocks were recorded by Loch Ness. In May, Orange-tips were present in both areas and we were able to send our observations to Butterfly Conservation

who have been running a national survey on Orange-tips.

Orange-tips and Ringlets along with other species are moving further north as the climate changes. A butterfly in decline nationally is the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, but several were recorded in Stratherrick, in Gleann Liath and by Loch Cò Glais. We have three monitoring transects in place as part of a national pilot scheme run by Butterfly Conservation.

A large colony of Dark Green Fritillaries were recorded by Dell in July along with the

Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Green-vein White, and the Small Tortoiseshell. During late summer the Scotch Argus (a dark butterfly with orange markings) is common in the higher ground, the Speckled Wood (dark with creamy spots) can be seen along the woodland edges while the main emergence of Peacocks can be seen in our gardens and rough areas of pasture.

With so much rain, 2007 has been a sad year for moths, they have had difficulty getting out and about. Our records reflect this with far fewer moths recorded compared with 2006.

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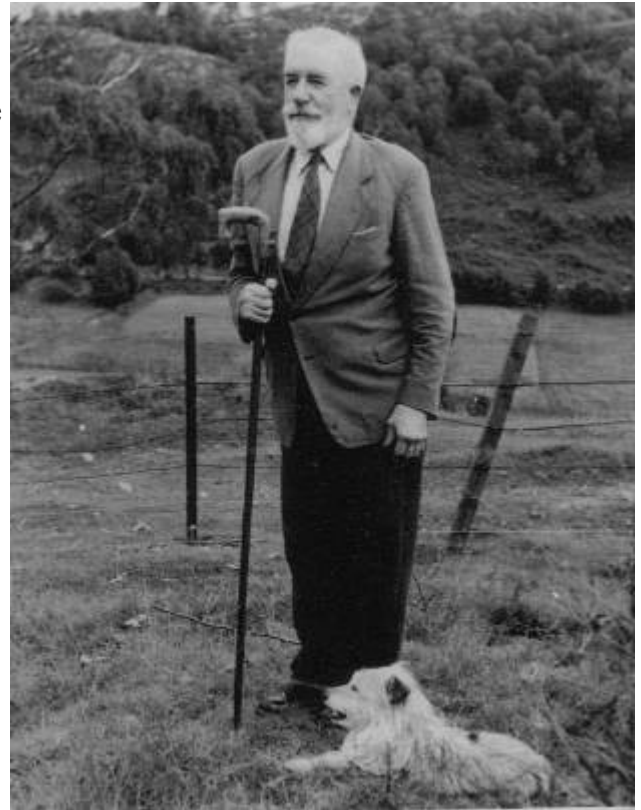
Local Hero Remembered

Lest we forget and the passage of time robs us of our memories, our local hero in this instance is the late Peter Grant, who lived in the family home at no. 53 Upper Foyers.

It was 1953, at the time my father Duncan (Birchfield) MacDonald, retired furnaceman and living at No. 19 Upper Foyers had a little golden haired terrier called Frankie.

Frankie was a one-man-dog, a character in a doggy sort of way, always in attendance at his master's side.

At our shinty meetings, if there was a difficult decision to be made, "Old Birch", as he was better known locally, would ask Frankie's opinion on the matter. Like all wise dogs, Frankie remained non-committal. Such was the bond.



One day, during that summer, Frankie failed to return to his master's side. After days of searching and calling his name, all hope of his safe return seemed to have gone.

It was two weeks later when someone reported hearing faint barking coming from the depths of the gorge above the lower Falls of Foyers. It was Frankie, having slipped over the edge and had miraculously landed on a narrow ledge some 150 feet below, he could only be seen from the opposite side of the gorge.

The rescue attempt was planned for the following morning.

Pete and I were on the nightshift that week with the British Aluminium Co. We came off shift at 7am next morning with enough rope, a tree planting bag to contain Frankie; some helpers; a stout heart and nerves of steel, but they belonged to Pete; he had volunteered to carry out the rescue.

A stout pine tree on the edge of the gorge was a safe anchorage from which to play out the rope.

Pete tied himself on with his own knot. He knew how. He'd served in the Royal Navy, and also took part in the Naval assault on Anzio, in Italy, during World War II.

Once over the edge he was out of sight, listening to his instructions until he had Frankie in the planting bag, and were both ready to be hauled back to safety.

On the 1st December 1953, the Bronze Medal for Gallantry, one of the chief awards of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, was presented to Peter, at a gathering in the Sheriff Court, by the Vice President of the Inverness Branch of the Society, Lord Lovat, saying that "the Bronze Medal was awarded by the Society only for acts which took great courage". I second that, unreservedly.

Peter was 26 at the time.

Stratherrick Hall Arts

Forthcoming Attractions

“Dracula - The Panto!”

Tuesday 6th November - 7.30 p.m. - £8/£6

There's a vampire behind you! - OH NO THERE ISN'T!

The company that brought the very successful drama *The Hunters* to Stratherrick Hall last year have transformed Bram Stoker's chilling gothic masterpiece into a fast, furious and funny show.

Gothic meets Slapstick as Jolly Jonathan finds that his trip to Transylvania might turn out to be a pain in the neck. However things look like getting a lot worse for the good guys when Dracula (BOO! HISS!) arrives in England and decides to drive everyone bats.

Only the Dame and a song sheet stand between the arch-fiend and world domination!

“He's behind you! And he's come to suck your blood! This pastiche of Victorian high melodrama with the fond spoofing of traditional panto makes a warm, funny show, but it's Jonathan's hot-cross buns that save the day”

The Big Issue - Christmas Special

Tim Kliphuis - ‘The Swing Fiddle Concert’

Saturday 24th November - 8.00 p.m. - £10/£8

Following the success of his spectacular “Grapelli Tribute” at Stratherrick Hall last year, we are delighted to welcome back Dutch gypsy jazz violinist **Tim Kliphuis** with Scotland's premier Jazz, Folk and Rock guitarist **Nigel Clark** and bassist **Roy Percy**.

With a repertoire mixing Stephane Grapelli Gypsy Swing and Celtic tunes, and with a Stevie Wonder hit thrown in for good measure, this will be an evening of toe-tapping magic!

Stratherrick Hall has been chosen by Tim as the venue for the official launch of his new live CD, so come along and be in on a piece of history!

“Singing warmth of tone, luxuriant melodies, richly inventive harmonies and pointed swinging rhythms”
Inverness Courier

For further info contact Hugh Nicol – 01456.486350 or Janet Sutherland - 01456.486711

Foyers Bay House



Conservatory Restaurant

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Congratulations to the Pupils and Staff at Stratherrick School

Congratulations are again in order to the staff and pupils at Stratherrick Primary School who have added another award to their growing collection. This time as Young Campaigners of the Year for their reuse of plastic drinking bottles to build a 6ft greenhouse made from 1,500 used bottles, the photograph along side shows the greenhouse in the early stages of building (photograph courtesy of Katy Martin). As there are no plastic recycling facilities in the Highlands the children wrote to the council expressing their concern and collected the bottles from the 300 houses in the local area to build the 6 ft tall greenhouse. This year it has been home to young tomato, onion and pumpkin plants. Some of the produce being used in the school canteen the rest being divided between the children to take home.

Another recent addition to the school grounds has been a living willow fort designed with the children's help and which serves as an outdoor classroom, and a willow throne for quiet reading. Together with the prize money from the Young Campaigners the children have received £6,000 in the last three years, the children have won a WWF competition worth £1,000 this will go towards their future energy project, they want to green the schools use of energy by exploring renewable alternatives such as solar or wind power. They want to acknowledge the support of their funders SNH and Awards for All as well as BEN's assistance.

Since this most recent award Angela Cryans has moved on and is now at Inshes Primary School. We wish her all the best for the future, as well as welcoming the new teaching staff to the school.

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



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 22 May 2007

Correspondence: BEN - statement of their position regarding the dispersal of community benefit. They would be willing to take a back seat and offer information on where to get advice and support on energy efficiency programmes but will not get directly involved in the actual distribution. Beautiful Scotland - new scheme for community groups wishing to 'green-up' their local area. It was decided not to take this forward. Forestry Commission - re General Wade's Bridge, Inverfarigaig. Concerns have been raised with the Forest District manager in Fort Augustus who will contact us in the near future. Highland Council re amendment to restrictions on Killen road - update of position.

Treasurer: Ordinary account: £539.41. Two cheques were raised: £15.00 ASSC membership fee and £250.00 secretarial fees. The £500.00 for the notice boards is included in this amount. Mr Campbell will contact Mr Cameron re the notice board in Dores. Project account: £4283.21.

Planning: Erection of house 150m west of Druimtemple Croft, Gorthleck. Erection of house at The Bungalow, Ault na Goibhre, Errogie. Erect first floor extension with pitched roof at the Old School-house, Whitebridge. Erect house and garage 200m SW of Rowan Cottage, Whitebridge. Erect 4 houses at Drummond View, Whitebridge. Extension to house and replacement garage at the Manse, Foyers. General purpose agricultural shop, Toad Hall, Torness. Erection of house SW of Martinet, Gorthleck. There were no objections. Bogbain - by a vote of 7:2 it was decided not to back Mr MacGregor's objection to the proposed house and agricultural buildings.

Policing: PC McColl reported that the reason for the accident at Gorthleck, where there were two fatalities, has not been determined. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal and they are awaiting toxicology and post-mortem reports.

Fire Brigade: There were 4 call-outs in the past week: a lorry fire at Glendoe, the accident at Gorthleck, a RTC on the A82 and a RTC at Farr. The tender was turned back before reaching the last two incidents. Community Fire Safety is ongoing.

Roads and Road Signs: Mr Fraser had a meeting and highlighted 6 points for improvement between the Cal-an-Odhar and the FP Church in Gorthleck. There will be 4 full size passing places and there will be road widening at the junction of the B851 and B862, and at the bottom of the Gaick. Miss Rose, representing the residents of the Vennel, voiced concerns about the new Seven Lochs Trail which will make use of the Vennel. The road is in a very bad state of repair and they feel that any extra traffic will have an adverse affect. They are also concerned about the horses on the road. There is a large hole in the verge opposite The Phoenix and two at the Smiddy, Errogie. The secretary will contact HC.

Community Project: The application form has been altered and is ready to be sent to HIE.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit: The result of the arbitration was that the annual fixed sum, the annual variable payments and the energy efficiency package should be allocated as follows: Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston - 55%, Stratherrick and Foyers - 45%.

Thanks was given to Mr Sutherland for all his work in achieving this result and to Mr Fraser for his contribution at the arbitration meeting. Mr Sutherland is to meet with Mr Nick Addington of SCF to discuss how to publicise the availability of the Community Benefit and how to get ideas for projects.

AOB: It was agreed that the four new councillors should be invited to the forthcoming meetings to allow them to introduce themselves.

A bus comes from town to Croachy in the early evenings. It was suggested that this service could be extended to Whitebridge. The secretary will investigate.

Minute of Meeting 19 June 2007

Correspondence: Aird and Loch Ness Ward Forum - 27 June 7.00pm, Town House. SNH - Area Open Event - 23 June at Great Glen House. Mr and Mrs Elgar Bond - re stones on verges at Ault Na Goire. Mr and Mrs Bond are of the opinion that the issue relating to stones on the verges has been resolved by HC and that they were not deemed to be a hazard. Secretary instructed to write to HC to clarify the situation. Fort Augustus Community Council - request for £10.00 to cover our share of costs for use of Invergarry Hall for Community Benefit negotiations. Agreed to arrange cheque. South Loch Ness Forestry update - it was agreed to invite Mr Ken Knott to next meeting.

Planning: House on land 100m NE of Myrtle Cottage - the CC did not object to the plans, however concerns were raised that there have been flooding and drainage problems, which could also possibly cause contamination of water supplies to houses in the vicinity. The secretary was instructed to write to HC about the matter. House and garage on land 150m NE of Upper Cultie - no objections. Erection of 6 houses at Gorthleck - no objections. Erection of house and garage at Four Acres, Whitebridge - CC wished clarification of position.

Fire Brigade: The Fire Brigade would welcome any old cars that could be donated to enable them to practice cutting and rescue techniques. Please contact Mr N Kirkland on 01456 486283.

Roads and Road Signs: Mr A C Fraser is waiting for the release of funds before starting the road upgrades. The secretary was instructed to write to Mr G Strachan. The verges in the area are desperately needing cut. HC to be contacted.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit: SSE offered Foyers and Kilchumin schools a windmill worth £2000, but not Stratherrick. Mr Sutherland will investigate.

Two open meetings have been arranged, on 21 and 22 June, for people to come forward and speak to Scottish Community Foundation regarding possible uses for the funds.

AOB: Mr S MacPhearson is very concerned that the bus stops at the Abersky road end and the children have to get off into the middle of the road. It is a blind corner and traffic does not slow down. The secretary will contact D&E coaches. CC Elections - the existing Council will be standing down in the autumn. The secretary was instructed to find details of when and what the procedures will be, so that information can be put out in the BB. Signs - people are getting off boats at Foyers pier and there are no signs to direct them to the falls or shop/café. The secretary was instructed to check whether the sign at the cemetery has been replaced. Notice Boards - the sign at Dores cost £300.00. The grant received was £500, so it was agreed to contact the S&F community trust to ascertain whether there would be money available to make up the balance.

Next meeting on Tuesday 22 May , Stratherrick Public Hall, 7.30pm. Tuesday 28th August 2007, 7.30pm

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Belly Dancing

Is back after a summer break

Wednesday 12th September

7.30pm

At Foyers Primary School

Baxters Loch Ness Marathon

Once again the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon is here, this year taking place on Sunday 7th October. Below is printed the list of road closures and restrictions that affect the roads between the Start above Whitebridge and Inverness.

This year the marathon is to be filmed and highlights televised on Channel 5 later on in October.

Last year the total raised for charity by the event was over £408,311 shared between 40 charities.

I would urge all of us to support the runners and to give a special cheer for the local runners taking part as they go by.

Road Closures/Restrictions

B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road closed at its junction with the U53 Knockie Road to its junction with the B852 Dalcrag Bridge -Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road, from 7.30am to 10.30am on Sunday 7 October 2007.

B852 Dalcrag Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road closed at its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge — Torness - Dores - Inverness Road to its junction with the C21 Inverfarigaig- GlenliaRoad, from 09.45am to 11.30am on Sunday 7 October 2007.

B852 Dalcaig Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road closed at its junction with the U44 Foyers Road to its junction with the C20 Inverfarigaig - Errogie Road, from 10.15am to 12 noon on Sunday 7 October 2007.

B852 Dalcrag Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road closed at its junction with the C20 Inverfarigaig - Errogie Road to its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road, from 10.30am to 1.30pm on Sunday 7 October 2007.

C16 Inverness - Ashie Moor Road closed at its junction with Holm Road, Inverness to its junction with the C10 Torbreck Road, from 9.30am to 11.05am on Sunday 7 October 2007.

C10 Torbreck Road closed at its junction with the C16 Inverness - Ashie Moor Road to its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores -Inverness Road, from 10.50am to 11.10am on Sunday 7 October 2007.

B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road closed at its junction with the C10 Torbreck Road to its junction with the Holm roundabout, from 10.55am to 11.20am on Sunday 7 October 2007.

B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road closed to northbound traffic between its junction with Holm roundabout and its junction with the Ness Bank and Cavell Gardens Road, from 11.00am to 3.00pm on Sunday 7 October 2007. Vehicular access for southbound traffic will be maintained at all times.

Stories or photographs of the day from runners or helpers welcome for inclusion in later BB's.

Save Christmas – A Quick Guide for Paying for Christmas

Saving for Christmas can be a daunting task as food bills and gift lists appears to become larger and longer every year. Some highly organised consumers start their Christmas shopping in the January sales or spread the cost of Christmas, by buying a few items every month.

The rest of us however may struggle to control the cost of Christmas which may spiral out of control before even the festive season has begun.

Highland Council Trading Standards are pleased to highlight a useful tool to consumers which may help them decide how to save for Christmas and hopefully avoid the boom and bust spending sensation felt by most of us around this seasonal time.

Low income families have in the past relied upon savings clubs or hamper companies but following the collapse of Farepak Hamper Company, these clubs have suffered from a loss of confidence by consumers.

Help is on hand, however, and the Office of Fair Trading who has launched a saving awareness campaign for Christmas to help consumers understand the options available to them. Highland Council Trading Standards welcomes this new initiative.

The campaign, which is already underway, was launched in Scotland, on 27th July 2007.

The Office of Fair Trading has planned a programme of meetings with community groups and partners across Scotland, in a bid to inform consumers of the most secure and convenient way to save for Christmas.

The campaign programme – called **'Save Xmas'** equips consumers:

- with the necessary skills to assess the options available to them;

- Assists consumers in budgeting realistically for Christmas based on what they can afford.

- Compares the advantages and disadvantages of all saving schemes and deposit accounts;

- And highlights the benefits of low cost saving schemes for families on a restricted or persons on a low income.

The Office of Fair Trading has published a 'Comparison Chart' which is linked to their website for all consumers. This chart compares information between savings accounts for banks, building societies, credit unions and other savings clubs. By following the questions on the chart, consumers can make a clear choice of which sort of saving scheme best suits their needs.

For instance, some local shops and supermarkets offer a savings stamp scheme to their customers. A customer can buy a savings stamp to put on a savings stamp card from a particular local shop or supermarket. This way of saving is easy to understand and shows a gradual increase in saving stamps accumulated by the customer. Most saving stamp card schemes also can give bonus stamps to the holder, if the card is fully completed on time. These bonus stamps can act as an incentive for customers to complete their saving stamps card.

The disadvantage of the saving stamps card scheme is that it ties the customer one particular store or chain of shops. Choices for gifts and presents may be limited as a result, but it might also help the consumer budget for food and drink expenditure over the Christmas period.

The tabled information shown on the Comparison Chart is easy to read and is accompanied by further information which explains certain banking or saving terms and lists all saving initiatives available to the consumer.

For more information on 'Save Xmas' campaign go to the Consumer Direct Scotland website at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk and search for 'Save Xmas' or telephone Consumer Direct Scotland on 08454 04 05 06

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