

10th Anniversary Issue

The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue No. 1
Winter 1997

Welcome to the first edition of The Boleskine Bulletin. The newsletter has evolved from just an idea amongst a few people to a reality. Thanks to the Community Council, the funding for this first edition has come from Leader II project. Hereafter, we will have to find the cash to keep future editions going. It is the intention to have no charge and to produce a copy quarterly and so we will have to rely on donations, sponsorship and advertising.

We live in a very scattered community with many people from different backgrounds, with a wide variety of interests and concerns, and new people are moving in all the time. We are a vibrant community and with this newsletter, we hope to break down barriers, keep us all in touch, pass on information about things going on in the area, and hopefully stimulate participation and discussion about those things happening around us. What concerns **you** most, your needs and aspirations? We will not be afraid of being controversial! So put pen to paper and let's see if we can produce a really useful tool for the community.

Why Boleskine Bulletin?

Anyone who is interested in the history of the area we live in should try to get hold of a copy of the booklet *"An Account of the Kirk of Boleskine"* written by the late Alan Lawson who lived in Erroglie. Not for you, I hear you say? Not interested in church history? Too dry? Far from it. Alan Lawson dug into the parish records and took from them little gems of stories that give life to the long-dead ministers who tended the parishioners from the fourteenth century onwards, and they give a fascinating glimpse of the life of times past.

The people of this area, rich and poor alike, seem to have been an unruly lot, and the ministers of Boleskine had a lot to put up with, from being roused in the middle of the night to deal with wizards trying to raise the dead, to not being paid for eight years. One minister was murdered, probably by his parishioners. And we think we live in a violent society.

The boundaries of the parish changed from time to time, but always included Stratherrick, the valley of the Farigaig and Loch Ness side from Inverfarigaig to beyond Knockie Pier. So, when searching for an appropriate name for this newsletter, what better than one which, according to Alan Lawson, has covered our area from the thirteenth century.

Welcome to the first edition of *"The Boleskine Bulletin"*.



photo: Rose Fortune

Opening of Forest Walk Routes – Foyers and Inverfarigaig, 20th June 1997 – more walking news on PAGE 3

The Boleskine Bulletin



December 2007
Issue 41

B.B. Beginnings

Ten years ago Francis Abbot and I set up the Boleskine Bulletin. Francis had been the teacher at Foyers school and she had long felt that the separate communities of Stratherrick and Foyers needed an outlet for news and events. With a small grant of £250 to start us off, and along with Buddy Macdougall and Chris Smith, we set up an editorial team. Our first meeting was in the old school house at Whitebridge. At the time Buddy and Chris both served on the community council and we had all lived some time in the area. The aim of the newsletter was to keep people informed, especially the elderly, those that worked in Inverness all week and for those people who had moved away from the area. Many elderly folk have to leave the area for care homes in Inverness.

Up until then the community council was operating in virtual isolation - (one had to know the 'main players' to find out what was going on). Like now there was a need for the community council to keep the community that it served informed of the decisions it was making at its monthly meetings. It took three years to persuade them but eventually the community council agreed to print the minutes in each quarterly issue. The BB is an incredibly useful tool by which to get news across to the people. It goes to every household. It was important to keep the issues regular, have the same deadlines each quarter and print it on time. The same deadlines are being used now i.e. the middle of each month prior to the publication. March, June, September and December.

It is a community newsletter so we tried to involve as many people as possible. People helped with typing and page setting, proof reading was important and we were lucky to have Joyce Wills in Errogie. She taught me more about the English language than I had ever learnt at school. Buddy set up a team for stapling and another for distribution. Sandy MacLure organised the

distribution up in Stratherrick. The 1997 community council election had passed without a contest but in 2001 the BB was able to cover the election. We had fun interviewing each candidate and printing what they stood for.

The little newspaper has kept going through the enthusiasm of different individuals over the last ten years and long may it continue. Francis Abbot has moved into Inverness and sadly Chris has recently died. I am sure they would be delighted to see so many people standing for this year's elections, especially from Foyers. Soon large sums of money, through community benefit payments, will be forthcoming from the energy schemes in Stratherrick. I ask that both the newly elected community council and the newly formed community trust to fully support the BB by using these pages to keep us all informed. Without information misunderstanding arises which inevitably creates discontentment.

I wrote this with Chis in mind, my thoughts are with her family, she was a smashing person.

Jane O'Donovan

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Report from the Baxter's Loch Ness Festival of Running

Over 5,000 runners took part in the Baxters Loch Ness Festival of Running this year – and the weather was kind to the runners, many spectators and the new addition of camera crews which covered the events along the banks of Loch Ness and in Inverness.



Four of our local marathon runners (Back Left to Right) Lesley Gallagher, Morag Cameron and Graeme Ambrose (front) Wendy Bellaris **THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SPONSORED MORAG WHO RAISED £450 FOR THE SCHOOL/NURSEY XMAS PARTY. A BIG THANKS TO NEIL KIRKLAND AND BATH STORE STAFF FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION.**

The event has grown each year with competitors taking part in the 26 mile marathon from Whitebridge, a 10k road race from Torbreck and a 5k fun run in the centre of Inverness.

Local runners this year included Morag Cameron and Wendy Bellaris from Foyers and from Inverfarigaig Graeme Ambrose and Lesley Gallagher.

This was a real family affair for Wendy (6.08)– who was competing in her 10th marathon. “It still hurts – but I really enjoyed it. I had entered with my two sons, Austin and Todd, and some of their friends who had come up from down south to take part. I had said this was my last marathon but as I entered them without telling them – it might just happen to me next year,” she said.

Morag Cameron (4.01) was running in her third Loch Ness Marathon. She had the added pressure this year of featuring

for one of the camera crews that was following the event.

“They came to film the family at the farm and then followed my progress during the marathon. It was a fabulous day and I’m sure all the coverage on the tv from Sky and from Channel 5 will raise the profile of the area,” she said.

Creating local interest is also important for B&B owner Graeme Ambrose from Evergreen in Inverfarigaig. “This is such a beautiful part of the world for people who want to get outdoors and I really enjoy being part of the Festival of Running. I will be back next year for my fifth shot at the marathon.”

Inverfarigaig’s Lesley Gallagher (4.49) was taking part in her second Loch Ness Marathon. “This is such a friendly event – the crowds of local people coming out to cheer runners on at Foyers, Inverfarigaig and Dores really keeps you going. When I started running three years ago I couldn’t make it to the end of the path – but the beautiful tracks round here gave me the motivation to keep run-



Fiona and Neil Kirkland on the podium after completing the 10K

ning – and I'd encourage anyone to give it a go," said Lesley.

In the 10k this year husband and wife duo Neil and Fiona Kirkland from Aberchalder managed to keep harmony in the home by coming in with exactly the same time – 53.53. This is despite Fiona's claim that Neil was trying to run ahead of her throughout the race – but she says a sprint finish put paid to his hopes of beating her to the finish.

Following a wee rest after the marathon training is going on for the local runners. On the day the above pic-

ture was taken Graeme was off on a 'short' run from Dore to Inverfargig. Plans are afoot to take part in next year's Festival of Running and also there may be a couple of local teams for the relay race round Loch Ness – The Monster Challenge in September. Pop your trainers on and join in the fun.

Carl At Fairy Glen also took part in the run as well unfortunately no information on his time is available but congratulations anyway Carl

The figures by the names in the article are the times taken for each runner to finish.

My congratulations to all the runners who took part in this festival (Editor)



Congratulations to Millie Ferguson (age 5) and Twinkle, from Whitebridge, who won her age group and the overall championship at the Inverness-shire Pony Club Gymkhana in September on her pony Twinkle.

Rainbow Music

Discos and theme night entertainment

01456 486 771

ADD SOME COLOR TO YOUR LIFE

INTERNET BROADBAND

A recent report on the community profile in Stratherrick and Foyers concluded that "at least part of the area is in the top 1.5% most deprived data zones in Scotland in terms of geographical and telecommunications access." Most households in Inverfarigaig are totally unable to get a broadband connection whilst those in Foyers and Glenlia are mostly limited to download speeds of about 500 kps (1/2 meg.). I am unsure about Gorthleck or Whitebridge but at least certain homes in Errogie are now able to enjoy a connection at the relative luxury of up to 6 meg. speeds due to the replacement of the main telephone cable in that area by a modern fibre-optics cable when the old cable broke beyond repair.

My understanding is that the connection depends on three main factors – the state of the equipment at the exchange in Gorthleck, the condition of the telephone cable bringing the signal around the area and the distance from the exchange.

Three years ago, before the exchange at Gorthleck was broadband enabled, internet dial-up was all that was on offer. Frustrating, but at least most web-sites were aimed at people with only dial-up speeds or the more common slower broadband speeds. Now that download speeds of up to 16 meg. have been made available by B.T. almost all over the U.K., web-site technology has progressed to the point where even those of us with modest broadband connections can not use many sites such as the BBC news or radio or U-Tube as downloading a video or audio clip will take so much time.

Everyday surfers such as me struggle but for businesses trying to sell on the internet and maintain a comprehensive and up-dated web-site, it is worse. However, our school children will suffer most of all and be left well behind others unless the problem is addressed soon.

I recently had a meeting with Helen Carmichael, one of our Highland Councillors. She has promised to put pressure on B.T. from the political perspective but needs more names than just mine. If the issue concerns you, please write to me at the address below or e-mail if you prefer (and are able to do so), simply stating that you are concerned about the poor or non-existent broadband available to you. Please include your name, address (including post code) and telephone number and advise me at what speed you can normally connect, if indeed you are able to get broadband. The more responses that I can get, the more pressure that Helen will be able to bring to bear. Thank you for your help.

Frank Ellam – Easter Boleskine, By Foyers, Inverness-shire IV2 6XT –
wurlitzer.home@virgin.net

Christian Comment

The concept of God is a delusion in the minds of some people, and one has to admit that, in our modern scientific age, along with all its strife and stress, it is sensible to question what we mean by God.

As we approach the Christmas holiday, the thoughts of very many people of all ages, and around the world, will be focussed on Jesus, as we sing the familiar carols and attend the special services. What is so appealing about this Jesus of Nazareth, born some 2,000 years ago? Is it the humble simplicity of that cattle shed at Bethlehem? Is it the remarkable teaching that He gave to the crowds that followed Him, giving new insights into the great wisdom of the Jewish faith? Is it the miracles that he worked – and still does in the experience of many people worldwide? Is it his cruel death on a cross outside Jerusalem, caused by human sin, and then his amazing restoration to a new dimension of life? Is it the transforming power of His Holy Spirit that gives a new meaning and purpose to individual lives? Is it that inner peace that we experience as we surrender our lives to Him who was described as the Prince of Peace?

All these appeal to me – and because Jesus said He had come from God (John13v.3) and is described as Emmanuel (“God with us”, is the translation from the Hebrew), I am able to believe in the concept of Almighty God, creator of Heaven and Earth, and to thank Him for His creation – the marvellous Autumn colours we were able to enjoy. As that wonderful Jesus taught us, I can pray that God’s kingdom will come, that His will may be done on Earth as it is in Heaven, and that we might be delivered from the evil that is all too obvious today.

Martyn Bateman

Special **Community Christmas Carol Services** are planned:-

in Stratherrick Hall on ***Friday, 14th December***, starting at 7.00 p.m.

in Foyers School on ***Tuesday, 18th December***, starting at 7.00 p.m.

Everyone is most welcome. (Any donations will be given to charitable works in the Bible Lands.)

Dores and Boleskine Parish

Four new Elders were ordained and admitted at Boleskine Church, at the United Service on Sunday, 28th October:-

Fiona King, Dores; Jane MacLennan, Brin More; Louise Robertson, Dores and Roger Glede-Gates, Torness.

A new heating system has been installed at Boleskine Church.

Church Meetings

Church of Scotland

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

Mr. Ian King 01463 751293

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

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. Erroglie.

Mr. J. Campbell 01456 486240

Free Church (continuing)

Sunday: 10.30a.m. & 4.15p.m. Does. 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:

12.00 noon, alternate Sundays Whitebridge.

Mrs. Therese Finley 01456 486747

Inter-denominational Bible Study

Rev. Martyn Bateman 01456 486273

Alternate Thursdays, 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon

Bus Times

WHITEBRIDGE-INVERNESS

Mon-Sat

Whitebridge	07-35	12-30
Gorthleck	07-45	12-40
Erroglie	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	
Erroglie	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	—	—	
Erroglie	0937	—	1540	1525	
Torness	0947	—	1550	1535	
Farr shop	—	—	1619	—	
Does	0957	0958	—	1545	
Inverness	1014	1014	1634	1600	

SD

SH

MWF

T

Th

Inverness	0800	0830	1420	1420	
Does	—	0845	1435	1435	
Farr shop	0825	—	—	—	
Torness	0855	0900	1445	—	
Erroglie	0905	0910	1455	1459	
L. Foyers	—	—	—	1459	
Gorthleck	0920	0920	1501	1514	

SD-Schooldays, SH-holidays,

Above schedules are abbreviated

Apologies from the editor.

I have two apologies to make this edition

First to George Teep Macdonald who submitted the article on Peter Grant in the last issue. His name was omitted from the foot of the article in acknowledgement of his contribution.

Also to Johanna Schuster who's advert I accidentally trimmed by removing the last line of the advert which included her contact details.

To both I offer my apologies.

Peter Craven — Editor

A Bridge Too Far?

The Highland Council have found it necessary to “condemn” one of the finest military bridges in Scotland, the Wade bridge over the River Fechlin at Whitebridge. Lack of maintenance has led to decay and disintegration. But was it all necessary?

As early as November 2002, the President of the Inverness Field Club wrote to Mr Hepburn of the Planning Dept. of the Highland Council informing him of the state of the above structure



and expressing great concern. A report to the Council described the serious state of the bridge. The report included this statement “this rate of damage will increase disproportionately in the coming years”. There has now been another five years of weathering and decay of the Bridge.

In February 2004 The South Loch Ness Heritage Group (SLNHG) received a letter from the Field Club asking for assistance in pushing their attempts to get something done. This was raised at SLNHG committee and the Secretary was requested to write to Mr John Duncan, Conservation Architect at the Highland Council, expressing concern and asking what was being done. A letter was sent in June 2004 and passed on the pertinent parts of the architect’s detailed assessment. He replied that they had the matter in hand.

On 26 April 2005 another letter was sent to John Duncan again enquiring about the position with regard to the restoration of the bridge. A reply was received on 16 May saying that they have been attempting to ascertain the ownership of the Bridge.

On 28 August 2005 a letter went from SLNHG to Historic Scotland giving them all the information that SLNHG had and quoting the contents of letter from the Highland Council who appeared to find the problem of finding the ownership of the Bridge almost insurmountable! A letter from Mr John Greaves, Head of Planning and Building Control, Highland Council states “An extensive legal search by the planning authority identified that Dell Estate is one of two owners of the bridge. Garrogie Estate is arguably the other riparian landowner to whom the bridge would have transferred when it was by-passed following the construction of the present road bridge in the 1930s.” The letter finishes with “I can assure you that the planning authority is anxious to preserve this important listed building but it requires to have the ownership confirmed and the owners’ cooperation to achieve the short term works of consolidation and the longer term repairs.” A copy of the letter to Historic Scotland was sent to our MP Danny Alexander, who also contacted the Highland Council. No reply was received by SLNHG at this time from Historic Scotland,

although they quite quickly replied to Mr Alexander on 5 September, again repeating that they were concerned over this Category A listed bridge and had been in discussion with Highland Council on this issue. In this letter to Mr Alexander they said that the Council has recently commissioned a condition report for the bridge from an experienced engineer. They further stated that ownership of the bridge has been difficult to identify and the council lawyers were endeavouring to clarify this so that a repair scheme can be developed and taken forward. SLNHG therefore sent another copy of their letter to Historic Scotland. A reply was received to this second letter from the Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings with copy to John Duncan. He stated in a letter to SLNHG that: "I have discussed this particular case with John Duncan who is the Highland Council's conservation architect. The Council is of the view that action on its part is required here, and as you know it has commissioned its own condition report on the bridge. The intention is of course that the report will be the basis for conservation programme". He went on to repeat exactly what SLNHG had already been told about finding the ownership of the bridge and suggested that SLNHG establish contact with John Duncan. They had already, of course, been in contact with John Duncan for about three years and had not been able to move the matter forward one iota.

On 8 August 2006 one of the SLNHG committee spoke to John Duncan who advised that he had been in touch with Dell and Garrogie Estates, but found it very time consuming as the correspondence was sent to their Solicitors who took ages to reply. He was anxious that SLNHG should know that it had not been just "pushed under the mat" and that he would continue to press for this to be sorted. This was relayed to the SLNHG Committee who agreed that their Chairman would himself write to Dell and The Wildside Lodges being the adjoining properties that had recently changed hands, to see if a direct approach from a local Heritage Group might produce anything at all.

Wildside Lodges are of the opinion that Dell, Garrogie and Wildside all own a third each but the Land Registry state that the whole bridge is owned by a company called Fechlin Properties. However, research suggests that it was just Dell's share of the bridge that was transferred to Fechlin when Dell changed hands recently.

The cost of repairing the bridge, if this is still possible, is not the main issue. Funds are, or certainly were, available. But the ownership question is threatening the continued existence of this bridge. If anyone can contribute any time to this campaign, or can throw any further light on this ownership question, please contact the SLNHG. In the meantime, the pile of SLNHG's correspondence grows so large that it may soon be used to prop up the bridge!

Help in tracing family wanted

The South Loch Ness Heritage Group have been contacted by someone wanting to trace the family of Catherine McFadyen who was the Dux medal winner in 1909 at Foyers School. The 1908 school photograph includes an Elsie MacFadyen who might have been her sister.

Can anyone help?

Please contact Frank Ellam on 01456 486691

New Year Ceilidh Dance

Wednesday

02 /01 /08

Gorthleck Hall

WITH

Ernie Randall

Acordian vanda

Band

Highland dancers

Piper

From 8pm

Admission £5.00

booking Contact 01456 486 771



BYO

Stratherrick Public Hall - What's On

Groups

Badminton	Monday	7.30 – 9.30pm	
	Contact	Alex Sutherland	01456 486711
Yoga	Tuesday	10.30 - 12.00pm	
	Contact:	Sylvia Young	01456 486434
Toddlers Group	Wednesday	10.30 – 12.30pm	
	Contact:	Jerry Stock	01456 486746
Scottish Country Dancing	Wednesday	7.30 – 9.30pm	
	Contact:	Hugh Nicol	01456 486350
Youth Club	Friday	6.30 – 8.30pm	
	Contact	Gordon Matheson	01463 241840

For forthcoming events see the notice board outside the Hall.

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

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

Letters to the Editor

Welcome Bus Route Changes

Now that Union Street is closed, it is so much more civilised to wait for the Foyers, Whitebridge or Gorthleck buses in the shelter at the Bus Station, where there is somewhere to sit and shelter from the weather. If you're early you can have a cuppa in a choice of nearby cafes.

Previously, the mainly elderly passengers were forced to wait in Union Street, with nowhere to sit and little shelter from the elements.

Also, the buses have no delays and can proceed straight into Academy Street without the interminable waiting for progress along Union Street, Church Street and Queensgate.

Let us hope this new regime will continue!
Buddy MacDougall

New Community Councillors

Following elections the following councillors have been elected to the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council.

Martyn Bateman

Kenneth Fraser

Katherine Grant

Paul Higham

Mark Houston

Lesley MacGregor

Alexander MacPherson

Elizabeth Merther

Alexander Nicol

Alexander Sutherland

Bishop Forbes Visit in 1770

As we approach Christmas with good food and drink to relish in 2007 it is interesting to read Bishop Forbes account of his visit to our locality in 1770.

"Captain MacGillavrie of Dumnaglass met us at Letterwheelin. We were 18 at table, dinner and supper. At Tordarroch, Elrigg and Letterwheelin – three farm houses - we were so sumptuously and even elegantly entertained – 8, 9 or 10 dishes on the table with desserts - at all three houses we had plenty of good wine, and punch, and variety of milks.

Mackintosh of Esseck explained to me the Deconomy of these entertainments."

"You and Mrs Forbes" said he, "are surprised at the way in which we entertain you, but we farmers in this country can more easily give a dinner to a friend, than a gentleman of 6 or 700 guineas a year can give one at Edingburgh, as every dish we put on the table, we have in our own farms, only must we give out a little money for wine, tea and sugar."

"Here for instance, there are 40 milk cows consequently he must have plenty of good beef and veal, a great flock of sheep, consequently plenty of good mutton and lamb. Likewise a numerous flock of goats, consequently plenty of goats flesh and kid. Here we walk in a wood where Roe and Roebuck abound. Then in Loch Duntellchak plenty of good and large trout. Not far from this, we can have salmon at command, in the hills around here there is plenty of Game. At all three of the above Houses we saw plenty of Geese, Turkies, Ducks and Poultry."

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 21 August 2007

To discuss planning application for windfarm at Corriegarth

The application is for 20 turbines giving 49 magawatt. The top height will be 120m and it will have a life span of 25 years.

Mr Sutherland put forward the following points;

* The Scottish Office have set a target of 18% of energy to come from renewable sources by 2010 (met) and 40% by 2020 to combat climate change.

* The council is failing to reach national energy efficiency and energy saving targets

* The Dunmaglass scheme has stalled because of objections and questions about birds. However it is difficult to consider the schemes in isolation as the cumulative effect will impact roads, skyline, tourism wildlife etc.

* Considering the application without knowledge of the route of the power connection is also difficult (likely to be to Foyers via poles). The schemes would be unlikely to go ahead before 2015 because of the Beaully / Denny line

* There will be an effect on the mountain environment. The top height of the turbines will be 810 m. A Corbett (a mountain above 2500) is only 762m. Beinn Bhuraich, our highest skyline hill is 780m, Beinn Dubhcharaifh is 689m, Meall Donn is 492m and Carn na Saobhaidhe is 602m.

* Wildlife - they claim that the impact on wildlife will be negligible, however there will be a loss of a golden eagle every 3 years, which can be offset by feeding away from the site. This is untested and could attract more birds to the area.

* The soil disturbance will cause the release of CO₂ from the peat which will lead to more greenhouse gas emission. There is no detail of how this will be overcome.

* Roads - there is already increased traffic from other schemes, the impact of which is felt by regular users of the road. This will increase the problems further, especially if Dunmaglass is given the go-ahead too. The corner at Errogie will have to be bypassed.

* Tourism - this is the biggest industry in the area and could be severely impacted by the change in the skyline and the busier roads.

* Our area already has schemes in process - Glendoe Hydro, River E hydro, Garrogie Hydro, Farr wind farm at the other end of the Strath. These must be taken into consideration as nowhere else is there such a concentration of developments. The cumulative effect is significant.

It was unanimously agreed to OBJECT to the scheme.

The secretary was instructed to write to Highland Council.

Minute of Meeting 28 August 2007

Mr Ken Knott - Fort Augustus Forestry Commission - In 2005 there was massive wind blow in the west and it has taken two years to resolve the issue. They are now looking at some areas of South Loch Ness coming back on stream within the next 12-18 months. The timber haulage will be a potential issue. Mr Knott explained that the wood is sold by a merchant who arranges the haulage. However, there is a recognised code of practice and if this is contravened the Forestry Commission will not re-employ the contractor. On previous occasions they have co-operated with police to set up speed cameras and carry out spot checks to ensure that rules are being followed. Any concerns should be raised with the FC and they will investigate.

Mr Sutherland asked the following questions:

Q. How does one make use of the meeting room at the Farigaig centre?

A. It is available for use but not advertised as such, as the FC does not wish to take 'business' away from the local halls. However, call the Fort Augustus office to arrange for more details.

Q. Can the trees which are damaging and screening the Wade Bridge be removed pending its longer term joint restoration project by the Highland Historic Buildings Trust and Historic Scotland?

A. Steve has met with South Loch Ness Heritage and asked for copies of the report. A response will be made in due course.

Q. Can the trees at 45 degrees across the Inverfarigaig Pass be removed?

A. Yes, if they are flagged up as dangerous.

Q. What is being done to remove the self sown spruce on the roadsides and within the Farigaig Gorge?

A. There are limited resources, but Cameron Ross is surveying to be able to prioritise spending. Some is Highland Councils responsibility.

Q. How is the project to declare a Great Glen Forest Park progressing?

A. It is on hold. More money is needed to do a proper job.

Mr Bateman asked if Knockie will be replanted. Mr Knott confirmed that it will be planted as commercial woodland, the west side will be done shortly and the south side in about a year. Glenbrain will be replanted as native woodland.

The vennel is timetabled for cutting in April and into 2009 access will be cut from Farigaig to Glenlia. There are no plans for significant disposals of woodland within the South Loch Ness area.

Correspondence: Scottish Water - consultation meeting, 25th September 5.30pm, Town House. Mr A C Fraser agreed to attend. Mrs M Davidson had received some complaints about the water at Lower Foyers. There is a need for complete replacement of the system rather than repairs. She will attend the meeting also. Ault na Goire - letter received from Mr Taylor, HC roads, stating that he does not perceive the stones a hazard. Secretary instructed to write to Mr and Mrs Elgar. Highland Council - Core paths plan. Drafts are available in the service points and a consultation day will be held in Stratherrick Hall on 13th September. Danny Alexander MP - details regarding the digital switchover in 2010. Loch Ness Marathon - details of road closures on Sunday 7th October. Ward Forum - meeting to be held on Wednesday 29th August.

Treasurer: Project account: £3857.58. Cheque paid to Miss L. Cameron for £200.00 as rent. Ordinary account: £1209.96, of which £500.00 is a grant for the notice boards and £36.10 is the OAP Christmas fund. The HC grant was received - £944.26, £250.00 was paid to the Boleskine Bulletin and £33.78 to Canon.

Planning: Erection of house at Lower Knockoilum, Whitebridge, 2 houses to the south west of Heath Cottage, Errogie. Approval of reserved matters for one house Tigh Na Coin Beagan South Muirnich farm, Gorthleck. Proposed house site NW of Bridge Cottage, Torness. No objections.

The proposed wind farm at Corriegarth was dealt with separately and an objection lodged with HC.

Policing: Thought there will be no replacement for PC Rimmer when he returns South. Mrs Davidson will ask for policing to be flagged up at the next Ward Forum meeting.

Fire Brigade: Cards are available at the shop and at the Doctors surgery and they will be in the BB, giving details of how a fire safety visit can be arranged. Mrs Sabrina Matheson is joining the Foyers Retained unit.

Roads and Road Signs: Money still not been received from SSE to carry out the agreed improvements. Secretary instructed to contact Les Houliker of HC and Ian Marchant of SSE

The roads department have requested that Mr Fraser carry out ditch work. He was asked by the CC to look at those by the medical centre.

Water and Sewerage: No update.

Community Project: Still awaiting HIE's response.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit: Mr Sutherland has been in contact with Jennifer McGregor of SSE and discussed the following: Energy efficiency package - it was agreed to contact an energy agency in South Ayrshire to discuss carrying out energy audits; Charitable status - SCF do not require the Trust to have Charitable status and it is thought that it would have more flexibility to deliver the best benefits to the community without it; Stratherrick Primary school - £2000 has been donated from SSE for their energy project; Foyers Power station - discussion about how the power station could be made to blend with its surroundings by repainting; Falls of Foyers - discussion over more water and the possibility of lighting.

AOB: Craigdarroch footpath - the path that was blocked by a driveway has been diverted, although it is now completely impassable and the diversion is not acceptable. Secretary instructed to contact Stuart Eastaugh, Access Officer to ask for a site meeting to discuss the situation. Community Council elections - a returning officer is required by 14th September 2007. 10 members will be sought. Nomination papers must be returned by 23rd October. If more than 10 apply there will be a postal election on the 27th November. A final meeting of the current community council was arranged for 22 October.

Minute of Meeting 25 September 2007

Correspondence: Dr Campbell, Dores - copy of objection to Corriegarth Wind Farm submitted to HC. Secretary instructed to write to confirm that similar objection had been sent from CC. Canon - price of photocopy increased to £0.0121 per copy. Highland Small Communities Housing Trust - AGM to be held on Saturday 29th September. Mr K Knott, Forestry Commission - confirmation of points raised at last meeting. Potentially 30,000 cubic metres for sale at Glen Liath, The Vennel, Dunmuglass and Erchite. Haulage options are being discussed with Highland Council and a copy of the Code of Practice was enclosed. Mr Hugh Elgar - re stones on verge at Ault na Goire - the points raised in the letter were fully discussed.

Treasurer: Ordinary account: £1209.96. Project account: £3857.58.

Policing: Agreed that a letter should be sent to the Chief Constable making clear the concerns of the community, should there be no replacement if our current police constable leaves. The area covered by Fort Augustus police is extensive, covering both sides of the loch. If there was no one in Foyers, this side would be totally without police presence. The house would presumably be sold off, meaning that should circumstances change, there would then be even more of a problem in getting an officer back in the area. No policeman would be a significant loss to the community and there would be a loss of local knowledge. There is a lot of construction in the area, energy schemes as well as housing which may throw up problems. We have been fortunate to have had some good community policemen in recent years who have been a valued part of the community.

Fire Brigade: Community Fire Safety is on-going. Cards to be put on the bus to the Telford Centre.

The issue of no water at the station was raised. It was decided that the temporary station should be built without water supply because to wait for planning permission for water would have delayed it even further. There is an agreement with the hall that the facilities can be used at any time.

Roads and Road Signs: Errogie corner - bushes need cutting back. Also noted that there are still no white lines in this area. SSE money for road improvements - Still no money released. Ditch at Ault na Goire - overflowing now, therefore will cause problems during the winter.

Water and Sewerage: No change

Community Project: A response from HIE was received. The application is on hold until the Lottery clarify the criteria for a project. It was agreed that the group could not take the application further themselves and would investigate the possibility of getting a grant to employ a professional body to put together the application.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit: A community profile has been drafted by Scottish Community Foundation. SSE to hold a presentation on Wed 26 September to give the community an update on the Glendoe hydro scheme.

AOB: Craigdarroch footpath - Mr Eastaugh referred the problem back to Mr Sutherland who has been dealing with it. Notice Boards - Mr Campbell approached three companies for quotes for notice boards and not one responded. Remembrance Sunday - 11 November, 3.00pm at the memorial. It was agreed that Mr Campbell would get a wreath to place at the memorial. Car on Loch Ness side, since July. Police were aware of it. A caravan with the same registration has been left at Dalcrag. Mrs Grainger will speak to the police again.

The Minutes of the October meeting have not been adopted yet.

Farewell to Lesley Caskie

Lesley Caskie one of the District Nurses and the Health Visitor for the area retired on the 8th November. At the party on the 10th November at the Whitebridge Hotel, Lesley was given a rousing farewell when her friends, colleagues and patients got together to say goodbye. Amongst the gifts presented following a collection held in the nursing area, was a painting by local artist Brian Clarkson.

Thanks to all who contributed and to David and Sarah at the Whitebridge Hotel where a good night was had be all.



HIGHLAND COUNCIL COUNTRYSIDE RANGERS INVERNESS TEAM

RANGER NEWS (Condensed version)

Events This summer's poor weather did not dampen the spirits of the Rangers or those taking part in the events.

The team has completed over fifty guided walks and events.

Schools It has been working with schools throughout the area on curriculum related sessions, relating to the natural environment.

Three young people have also done a Work Experience programme this year. They were given experience in the varied job of a Ranger, including butterfly surveys, cutting back nettles and helping with events, as well as the more mundane things such as meetings and administration.

Wildlife A National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme has been carried out in Strathfarrar, where 804 palmate newts were found. Numbers of bat species were down, probably due to the cold, damp weather. Native red squirrel numbers continue to be monitored.

Katy Martin's Highlight of the Summer was watching badgers in Foyers in May.

Contact No. 01463 710786.

E-mail: katy.martin@highland.gov.uk.

Chris Smith 1948 – 2007

Deep shock and sorrow were felt by the community at the news of the sudden death of Chris Smith of Corbos, Grays Park, Lower Foyers on the 9th October.

Her absence is greatly felt as, as well as her role of Home Help she was always there when help was needed by anyone who required it – running errands for those without transport, helping out where extra hands were needed, collecting for and running the Huntington's Research Monthly Draw.

"If you want something done, ask a busy person" described Chris to a T. She was caring, calm, dependable, down to earth, cheery – one of the best.



Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal fundraiser

Many thanks to everyone who supported our ActionAid Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal fundraiser on Friday 30 November. We managed to raise £240, which is excellent!! A good afternoon was had by all, with Catherine Chattington winning the hamper. Thank you, thank you!!

Jak and Eleanor

Worlds biggest coffee morning

Thanks to a good attendance from locals and visitors, the sum of £200 was raised at the Red Squirrel Café for the MacMillan Nurses Appeal. Special thanks to Tim and Agi and also those who donated so generously

Changes to charges.

Owing to increasing costs mainly due to the increase in numbers of pages printed, and postage we are having to increase the charges to advertisers and subscribers. From the next renewal date the charges will be:-

Full Page advert	£60	Half Page advert	£30
Quarter page advert	£15	2 inch box advert	£ 6
Trade Directory	£12	Subscriptions	£6.50

Bynames of Bygone days

With such a diversity of surnames in the Strath, it is strange to recall a time when only a few surnames made up the majority in the district.

The Stratherrick area was the heartland of the Fraser clan, presided over by Lord Lovat, so that was the predominate surname in the district. Though the Grant's, Macgruer's, Mactavish's and Macgillivray's, also had a fair proportion of family members in the district at different times.

With such a profusion of people with the same surname and highland family naming conventions so strictly adhered to, the first boy named after husbands father, the second after the wifes father, the third after the father, whilst the first girl was named after wifes mother, the second after the fathers mother, the third after the mother. This system inevitably ended up with a lot of people of the identical forename and surname in the area. So to distinguish one person from another with the same name the byname came into use. There are four types of byname. A patronymic byname identifies you as your father's child, a locative byname identifies you by the place where you live, work, or were born, or by the land you own. An occupational and status bynames identify you by an occupation or rank, whilst nicknames are a grab-bag of all bynames that don't fit into any of the first three classes. The first choice local byname also followed Scottish and highland clan tradition, of adding the place of abode to a person or a family name. In the gentry of Stratherrick you had Jamie Fraser of Foyers, James Fraser of Knockie, John of Farraline and French Hugh after the place where he had stayed for many years. The commoners were also known by their place of abode. For example, the MacDonald's Birchfield, or sometimes even the surname was dropped and the first name along with abode came into play during conversation (father William along with sons Dunc & Bob Birchfield). This has held firm up to the present century for example, Ewen Migovie, Ewen Carnoch, Mary Balloch and Anne Trinloist. So a persons heritage could be addressed by;" he is one of the Macdonald's of Whitebridge Hotel, or one of the Macdonald's Birchfield or one of the Macdonald's Knock". Sometimes if you were originally from outwith the area, that would determine your family byname. Alex Mackenzie (Cabers from Strathpeffer), Jock MacInnes (Jock Fort from Fort Augustus). There was a family of Fraser whose byname was The Batties who originally came from Achnabatt.

Your profession or trade could determine your byname. Duncan Macdonald "Dad the shop" Whitebridge shop and PO. Donald Macintosh, "Baker" had a bakery at Lyne of Gorthleck. His sons also went with the byname Duncan, Willie, Donnie & Roddy Baker.

With the influx of people into Foyers along with the British Aluminium Company, this brought its own individual bye-name characteristics. Willie Cameron Glenlia farm "Willie Bonus" (named after his statement of working for bonus now), Jock Macdonald "Shawnie the blue" (worked on the blue shift in the factory).

The bynames given as a individual characteristic included, John Fraser "The Swallow" named after the bird for his fleetness of foot on the shinty park. This byname has followed the family down through the generations; two of his sons were called Dickie Bird and the Bullar. Another John Fraser originally from Stratherrick was called "Jock Brisk" and his sister "Kate Brisk" possibly due to their lack of haste. Jimmy Fraser "Jimmy the Hare" originally from Tomvoit Stratherrick possibly because he was a bit of an athlete in his day

A family of MacKays who stayed in Glenlia, the father Alex's byname was "Inch", his brother who stayed in Inverness was "Half Inch", while Alex's sons were Willie and Jackie Inch,

One family of Frasers at Trinloist were known as "The Bann's" so named because of the colour of their hair. Bann, Gaelic for fair, the name has followed the family down through the years, as has the distinctive hair colouring on some members of the descendants. One of the family, Angus Alex Fraser was also called "Dorando Bann", after the famous Italian runner Dorando Pietr. Dorando was disqualified from Olympic marathon gold in the 1908 games in London after he was helped over the finishing line. Another family of Frasers at Trinloist this time at the farm, one of whom was called "Lovely Kate" (possibly due to the fact that she never seemed to show her age much, even though she was around 104 when she died). At Lochgarthside, Stratherrick, there were two families of Chisholm's not related to each other. One was called the "Clackers" (Gaelic for stone) and the other "Whub's" (from the saying by one of its family, more Whub, meaning more speed).

The Mackintosh's who stayed at Wester Aberhauler were called "The Mulach's". According to one of the family their father gained the name for presenting in the church (leading the singing)

Pre and after the first world war bynames were very prevalent. The reason for some of the names are forgotten but the recipients still live on in the memory of the older generation. Duncan Macdonald (Dunc Slash), Jackie Fraser (Bonar), Jock Fraser (Fishal), Hugh Gray (Horner), Dan Maclean (Popper) Duncan Maclean (Tofa), Malcom MacIennan (Tuggie), Dave Maclaren (Yulack), Murdo Stewart (Freil) , Tommy Cooper (The Doc), Ronald Macmillian (The Bant) Donald Mackenzie (The Rabbit).

In the fifties and sixties bynames were still used extensively to distinguish people and the name could be given for some reason. Billy Stoddart (Scoop) played in goals at Shinty and was so named after his expression a “wee scoop” a way to get the ball out of the danger area. John Maclean the local policeman around this time, was called “ The Shadow” for his uncanny ability to appear on the scene without being heard if some ploy was afoot . Peter Grant (The Diver) whilst playing a fish, stood up in the boat and as it rocked from side to side he fell overboard. Hamish Fraser (Keyhole) named after being caught looking through a keyhole as a child. Other bynames the origin of is unclear include John Kennedy (Steptoe), Jock Mackay (Snark), Angie Maclaren (Gabby), George Macdonald (Teep) Hugh Fraser (Toots), Ian Fraser (Soapy), John Murray (Corky).

Nowadays the giving of a byname or nickname is generally frowned upon by the politically correct brigade. In its own way if not maliciously bestowed, the byname will give the bearer a distinctive identity not only in the surrounding district but further a-field throughout the country. A characteristic, which is seized upon by marketing and promotional people, to promote the latest celebrity or product.

Mussady

Shinty News

Season 2007 after an encouraging start, concluded with the Boleskine team being relegated to North Div 3. Many factors contributed to the disappointing results that led to our relegation, but the inability to field the same team consistently due to work commitments and injuries ended our spell in the top div of reserve team standard league. The only consolation was that the younger players within the club gained some experience of playing junior shinty which should benefit them next season. So next season though playing in a lower league, we will still be able to enter all the junior cup competitions that we competed in this year. We hosted for the second time in Sep 2007, the Strathdearn Cup final at Inverarnie between Kilmallie and Kingussie, which Kilmallie won by two goals to one. Once the purpose built changing facilities are built there, the venue will stand a good chance of hosting other Shinty finals and semi-finals. On the juvenile side Ian Hope has been coaching the U12 at Inverarnie on a Wed night. The U12 have entered local area competitions for their age group, both indoor and outdoor and have acquitted themselves well over the season. The U14 who were predominantly made up of the older players of the U12 along with three players in secondary school, entered in a nine a side development league round robin competition with Tomatin and Kincaig. Due unfortunately to the Kincaig club folding, only two rounds were played, but players enjoyed their limited competition. The Boleskine U17 team only managed to enter the Strathdearn six a sides at the Bught Park Inverness. The Boleskine Club would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed towards this year's Sale of Work on 1st Dec which raised £1600 towards club funds. As a donators or purchaser, your continuing support is much appreciated by all involved with the club. Prior to the opening of the sale by Ella Macrae, the Paul Smith Memorial Trophy's for the club junior player of the year U12 & U14 were presented by Ella. Donnie Forbes won the U12 trophy and to Annie Butterworth the U14 trophy. Ella also presented a medal to the most improved U12 player, donated by club chieftain Bob Black to Finlay Coll. For information about the Boleskine Camanachd club and any of our forthcoming events visit our web site at:-

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/shinty/index.htm>



Annie Butterworth (Under 14) Donnie Forbes (Under 12) and Finlay Coll receiving their trophies from Ella Macrae.

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