



In Memoriam

Tragedy once again struck the area with the death of Colin and Stuart Stocks in a fire at their home in Glenlia Upper Foyers. It is reported that this is the first fatal fire in the Boleskine area in 50 years. The fire occurred on the 4th April 2008. They are survived by Geraldine and Andrew who managed to escape from the house, before the fire fighters ar-

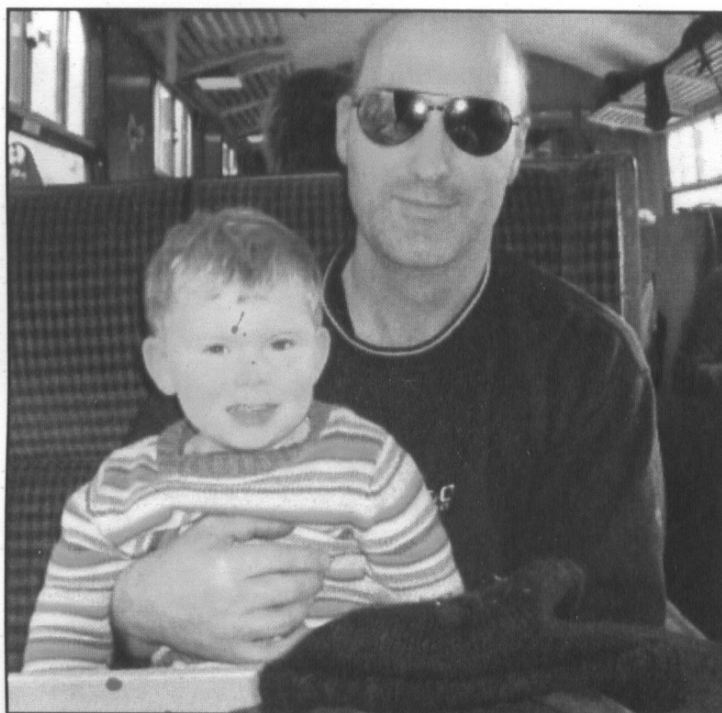
Colin Stocks

1962 – 2008

Stuart Ossian Stocks

2004 – 2008

R.I.P.



rived, as the fire took hold in the early hours of the morning. Neighbours could only look on as the fire fighters fought to put out and contain the blaze.

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A FATHER who had battled brain cancer twice, died with his young son in their blazing home. Colin Stocks, 45, and Stuart, three, died despite a courageous rescue bid by a local volunteer firefighter. Colin's wife Geraldine and their older son, Andrew, seven, who had managed to get out, could only look on in agony as Rob Mullin was beaten back by the heat and smoke. Geraldine said "Stuart woke first and woke Andrew whose shouts woke us in the early hours of the morning". Geraldine dialed 999 and managed to get out of the building while Colin raced to get Stuart from his bedroom. But the pair never emerged from the house. Volunteer firefighter Rob, who lives at nearby Inverarigaig, was the first on the scene. His bosses said he was too upset to speak about the incident. Chief Inspector Julian Innes said: "In the early hours of the morning, around 5am, we received an emergency call from a woman who said her house was on fire. The fire brigade, ambulance service and police all attended. First there was a local firefighter who attended almost immediately. We knew immediately the lady of the house and a seven-year-old boy had managed to make their escape. It was evident that there was still a man from the house and a three-year-old boy missing. The fireman made an effort to enter the house but was unsuccessful. Geraldine and Andrew were treated in hospital for the effects of smoke and were kept informed of what was happening at the house, where the bodies of Colin and Stuart lay unrecovered until the next day because of fears over the safety of the structure.

From Geraldine

In the space of a few hours Andrew and myself lost so much and without the support we got and are still getting this would have been unbearable. I would like to thank all my friends and neighbours who were so quick to come and offer help and support. Even though it is impossible to name everyone I would like to name a few. Firstly Marjorie and Alistair and the doctors who were there when we needed them most and Lesley, who made her home ours, for the support she gave me and particularly Andrew. I would like to thank Morag and her family for all their support and with the help they gave me in setting up home again. Everyone's help and support is evident in our "new" house which is now filled with all we need and it makes it much more a home. The cars were very important to me after the fire being one of the few possessions I had and I am grateful to Steven, Agie and Graham for sorting them out for me.

My praise goes out to the emergency services and I would especially like to thank Rob Mullin who, when he arrived that morning took the burden of the fire on to his shoulders and this allowed me to move away from the house and attend to Andrew. There are no words that can describe the relief when somebody comes to help, I will be eternally grateful to him and all who helped. Knowing your help and support is there has been a great comfort.

Thank You Geraldine and Andrew Stocks

Whitebridge Family hit out over crash driver

A Highland family have spoken of their anger at the fact that a man who caused a crash in which they were seriously injured could escape justice. Alan Hewitt was driving on the wrong side of the road when his Jeep Cherokee collided with a Vauxhall Astra on the south side of Loch Ness at 8.10am on October 22 last year. The car's four occupants, Ian and Julie Mitchell, their son Jamie and his 19-year-old friend Joe Ryles, all suffered significant injuries. Mrs Mitchell, 45, and her son were airlifted to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, while Mr Mitchell had to be cut out of the driver's seat by firefighters.

But despite admitting responsibility for the crash, Hewitt, who is believed to be in Holland, has never appeared in court. And although a warrant has been issued for his arrest it is understood that the hands of Northern Constabulary officers are effectively tied, as it applies only in the UK.

Mr Mitchell, 47, said his family had suffered long-term problems as a result of the crash. 'My wife is absolutely terrified of being a passenger in a car and my son is so terrified of driving that he has stopped his driving lessons,' he said. 'Our injuries were substantial and the after-effects are quite severe. For Hewitt not to appear in court is adding to the anguish. It is preying on our minds, especially my wife's mind.'

On December 20 at Inverness Sheriff Court, Hewitt pleaded guilty by letter to dangerous driving on the B852 Dore to Foyers road at Inverfarigaig by driving on the wrong side of the road, colliding with an oncoming car, damaging both vehicles and injuring the occupants of the Astra. Hewitt, 48, understood to be representing himself, gave an address in Lemmer, Holland, to the court. Sentence was deferred for a personal appearance until January 17. Hewitt failed to appear and the case was deferred again until March 6, when he failed to attend court for a second time. When the case called on March 20, warrants were issued for his arrest. Mr Mitchell, who runs the bed and breakfast Deer View at Whitebridge, near Fort Augustus, said the family were going to Inverness to take Jamie, 26, to his first day of work at Highland Industrial Supplies when the accident happened. All four were injured and their pet dog died. Mr Mitchell said: 'He just ploughed into us. My wife broke her breastbone, smashed her little finger and broke her thumb. She also damaged layers of bone in her leg. My son fractured his cheekbone. A few weeks ago we found out that he had also broken his hip but it was not picked up at the time. The doctors say that he will have problems with it in the future because of the way it has healed.' Mr Mitchell, who suffered hand and neck injuries, said that his wife, Jamie and Mr Ryles suffered recurring nightmares about the crash. It is unclear what actions are being taken to trace Mr Hewitt. A police spokeswoman said: 'Attempts are continuing to trace this person, for whom warrants have been issued.' And a spokeswoman for the Crown Office added: 'Because it is a post-conviction warrant we do not have any locus in this matter. It is a matter for the sheriff and the police.'

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mark Houston (Chairman), Whitebridge 486729
Katherine Grant (Treasurer), Gorthleck 486221
Kenny Fraser, Gorthleck 486220
Lesley MacGregor, Whitebridge 486404
Alex Nicol 486307

Liz Merther (Secretary), Foyers 486382
Martyn Bateman, Whitebridge 486273
Paul Higham, Foyers 486633
Sandy MacPherson, Torness 01463 751213
Alex Sutherland, Errogie 486711

MINUTE OF MEETING ON 29th JANUARY 2008

Correspondence

(a) Telephone kiosk at Torness - A letter had been received from Mrs Pledger regarding removal of this telephone kiosk following damage to it (found lying on its side). She wished the Council to enquire whether BT intend to replace the box. If they do not intend to do so then she requested Council support in putting the case for its reinstatement. The Council felt that as it had originally opposed removal of this box, it is appropriate to give support to its replacement. A letter will be sent to BT.

(b) Boleskine Bulletin - A letter had been received from the Boleskine Bulletin requesting an increase in funding from the Council towards publication of the Council minutes. The Bulletin is currently operating at a loss. Members on the Council who are involved with the Community Trust felt that an approach to the Trust would be the best course. They felt that the Trust would almost certainly be willing to assist with funding for the Bulletin on a regular basis. A reply to the request for funding will be sent suggesting this course of action. If no funding from the Trust is available then the Council will consider the request again.

(c) Loch Ness Marathon - A reply to the Council's letter had been received indicating that the concerns expressed would be addressed next year. The Council felt it would be helpful to have a further discussion with Mr Sutherland on matters such as siting of toilets, and the clear up after the Marathon. A letter will be sent inviting him to attend a Council meeting.

(d) The Chairman reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the 'Destination Loch Ness' group. The group aims to bring communities around the Loch together to address tourism issues.

Planning

There were no new local planning applications.

Holiday lodges at Foyers church hall - No reply had been received as yet regarding the Council's enquiries. The Council will look at the proposed plans again at the next meeting.

Police Matters

The Chairman welcomed Constable Mathieson as our new local Police representative.

Constable Mathieson reported that the Foyers Station is now closed, and the house and station may eventually be sold. He is based at Fort Augustus at present, but there are currently major changes being planned in the organization of Police cover around Loch Ness. Areas of responsibility and staffing levels are all under review. There will be a new Chief Inspector for rural policing based at Aviemore. Once the situation has been finalised the Council felt it would be helpful to invite the Chief Inspector to a meeting in order to get more information about the new situation. A letter will be sent in due course. Constable Mathieson also reported that he is the Wildlife Crime Officer for this area. He will be involved in some educational work with the schools, and will be dealing with crime such as illegal poisoning of birds of prey, which has been a problem in the area.

Roads and Road Signs

(a) Reply to our letter to the Roads Department - Undulations after junction of B851 and B862, and the road around Newlands: still under review.

White lines at the Errogie corner have been provided.

(b) Concerns were expressed over a number of issues relating to road maintenance: large pot holes at road-sides; the churning up of roadside verges due to the need for more lay-bys; the lack of gritting in some areas in the recent very icy conditions; lack of simple regular maintenance such as clearing of drains and gulleys, and cutting back roadside vegetation. It was felt that since the loss of our local road man, maintenance now means crisis management when problems such as major road flooding occur. A letter had been received from

Mrs MacDougall drawing particular attention to the poor state of the lay-bys on the road to Lower Foyers. Mrs Davidson informed the meeting that if people have concerns about an urgent problem such as a dangerous pot hole, they should phone the Highland Council on 01463 702000 and report the problem under the CRM (Customer Response Mechanism) scheme. This commits the Council to dealing with the problem within a specified time frame. The customer should request a reference, and an estimated time scale for dealing with the problem, which can then be tracked. Highland Council is also considering the possibility of employing peripatetic road men to

deal with routine maintenance issues. She suggested the the CC should write to the Roads Department once again to voice their concerns. The funding from Glendoe for lay-by improvements is believed to be with the HC. Sites for the work have been identified, but as yet there is no report of any work being put in hand.

(c) There are ongoing concerns relating to the age and safety of the bailey bridge at Lower Foyers. Mrs Davidson informed the CC that she is having a meeting with Technical Services staff at the bailey bridge at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 8th February to inspect the situation. She will also take the opportunity to show them damage to verges, which is making access to some cottages in Gorthleck very difficult for elderly residents.

(d) There was nothing further to report regarding closure of the Wade's bridge at Whitebridge, which was closed by HC for safety reasons. The situation regarding remedial/restoration work is complicated by the difficulty of establishing ownership. Mrs Davidson suggested that if the Heritage Group concerned made contact with Fiona Duffy, the Ward Manager, she should be able to look into this for them.

Water & Sewerage

No further information had been received from Scottish Water regarding the shortage in local supply, which is holding up any further building or development in the area. Mrs Davidson will make enquiries about this. She believes there are two options under consideration - extraction of additional water from the existing source; connection to the Inverness supply. It was reported that there are apparently similar problems in Aviemore, and it is believed that the drilling of bore-holes is being considered.

The provision of sewerage for any new development locally may also be a difficulty.

Community Project

The Chairman reported that quotations are awaited for the preparation of an application to the Lottery Fund for provision of a play park at Gorthleck. The CC was advised that this can be done at no cost to the Council if it is done through HIE. This will be investigated.

Renewable Energy

The questionnaire on renewable energy had produced 40 possible projects. A meeting will be held to prioritise the top ten of these, and a report sent to the Boleskine Bulletin. The Community Liaison meeting with the Glendoe Scheme had been informed that the Scheme will be operational by November this year. Some discussion had also take place with them regarding footpath access in the area of the Scheme.

Housing

Some concern was expressed about the apparent housing allocation policy in this area. Mrs Davidson explained some of the difficulties faced by the Housing Department due to their legal responsibilities. She emphasised that local people with housing needs must keep the Department up to date and informed of their needs and situation. She felt it would be worthwhile to gather some more information on local housing needs. The Council will look at the existing Housing Needs Survey at the next meeting. The need for some low cost housing/pensioners' housing for Whitebridge was mentioned. Some areas adjacent to Council properties were felt to be in need of tidying up, but in some of these the land ownership was again uncertain. Fiona Duffy should be able to help with this.

Any Other Competent Business

(a) Nikki Gilbert of the Partnership for Rural Inverness had made contact with CC members. The Partnership is looking at the Foyers area in particular for needs/potential development of facilities, and will welcome any comments. There will be further information from them in due course.

(b) The problem of dog fouling around children's play areas in both Upper and Lower Foyers was mentioned. The provision of prohibition signs was suggested. Enquiries will be made.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2008

Treasurer's Report

Mrs Butterworth attended the meeting to hand over the Treasurer's books. The Project Account has a current balance of £3859.18, and the Ordinary Account has a balance of £784.62. Forms will now be requested from the Bank to change the signatory details.

Access Path at Craigdarroch, Foyers

Mr and Mrs David Munro attended the meeting to raise concern over the access path going through their property. The Council agreed that before the matter was taken further it would be best for a site visit to be arranged.

Correspondence

(a) Community Council Information day on 15.03.08. Mr P. Higham and Mr A. MacPherson will attend.

(b) Planning Issues - Meeting at Croy Public Hall on 10.03.08. Mr P. Higham will attend.

(c) Two letters have been received regarding the bus service from Whitebridge to Inverness which used to run to the Knockie road end at Whitebridge. This service has apparently been discontinued, and residents have been told that they have to telephone to request the bus to pick up there. This arrangement has been reported as unreliable. Re-instatement of the previous service has been requested, and the Council will make enquiries

as to what the contracted route is for the service.

Police Matters

(a) Constable Mathieson informed the Council that Chief Inspector Walker was now taking retirement, and someone new will be appointed in due course. Councillor Wood recommended that the Council should write to Northern Constabulary requesting that Chief Inspector O'Connor attends a meeting to discuss the current changes.

(b) Neighbourhood Watch - Mr Bateman asked Constable Mathieson for his views on a Neighbourhood Watch scheme being set up in the area. Constable Mathieson advised that an Area Co-ordinator would need to be appointed, and there would be a substantial amount of administration required. It was suggested that Mr Bateman place an advertisement in the Boleskine Bulletin to look for volunteers and assess local views.

Roads

Councillor Davidson confirmed that she and a member of the Highland Council had visited the bailey bridge at Lower Foyers. It was confirmed that the bridge is inspected annually, and apart from the need at present for some decking panels to be secured, the bridge should have a life of a further 15 years. Lay-bys on the road to Lower Foyers had also been inspected, and it was agreed that these would be improved, using funds from the discretionary budget. The area outside County Cottages at Gorthleck had not been inspected, but Councillor Davidson said she would look at this area and speak to the residents concerned on 27th February.

B862 - Upgrade of Lay-bys: The funding of lay-by improvement is in the Highland Council's hands. However, Councillor Davidson had no report of any work being carried out. She will follow this up as a matter of urgency and ensure a programme of work is sent to Mrs Merther.

Whitebridge Bridge: Councillor Davidson confirmed that the community would have responsibility for the rebuild of the bridge, with the help of Historic Scotland. She advised that Liz Proudlock of Historic Scotland would be the person to contact, as she has been assisting the community at Fort Augustus.

Water & Sewerage

There is no further information from Scottish Water regarding the shortage in the local supply. Councillor Davidson will contact Scottish Water.

Renewable Energy

Mr Higham confirmed that a flyer would be included in the Boleskine Bulletin for community members to register for free light bulbs.

Any Other Competent Business

It was reported that the walk around the Loch Ness shore at the shinty field in Lower Foyers is in a poor state, with litter being left and fires being lit. It was agreed that the Community Council would write to Scottish & Southern Energy highlighting the problems, perhaps requesting the placing of "No Litter" and "No Fires" signs.

Councillor Davidson requested that copies of the Council Agenda be forwarded to Fiona Duffy and Nikki Gilbert prior to meetings.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY 25th MARCH 2008

Loch Ness Marathon

Mr Sutherland first expressed his appreciation for the support of the local community, the Fire Service, and other organisations in supplying volunteers to help with the Marathon. The Marathon date for 2008 is Sunday 5th October. He reported that problems experienced at the start of the race in 2007 were due, in part, to the failure of two groups of promised volunteers (not from this area) to attend. As it is essential to have a reliable team of marshalls at the start to keep runners within the prescribed boundaries, this problem will be addressed. Constable Mathieson suggested that some Special Constables might be requested to aid with marshalling. Mr Sutherland felt that this was a good suggestion, and the Council expressed willingness to write in support of such a request. Mr Sutherland reported that toilet provision at the start - particularly male urinals - will be increased for 2008, which should help prevent a recurrence of the anti-social behaviour witnessed last year. The possibility was raised of moving the start line further up the hill away from the housing, with the finish line being altered accordingly. Mr Sutherland advised that various alternative options had been considered, and alteration of the current route would be difficult. The route as it stands has been inspected and granted International Marathon status.

It was noted that the local community benefits greatly from the funds raised by the Marathon, and the area as a whole receives publicity and an influx of visitors, which is good for tourism. Locally the Nursery, the Fire Brigade, and the Medical Centre at Foyers have all received donations.

Partnership for Rural Inverness (PRIN)

Nikki Gilbert of PRIN advised that this organisation is there to assist communities in identifying their needs and aspirations. She presented the Foyers Pilot Report - the results of a Community Participatory Appraisal, which

was recently followed up with informal Community Conversations, when she spoke with a number of local people. PRIN's intention at present is to focus on the Foyers area. The report was circulated to Council members and feedback requested. To achieve maximum community involvement a public meeting will be arranged for around the beginning of May, with the aim of prioritising community led suggestions. The Foyers Primary School was suggested as a suitable venue for the meeting, and a date will be announced.

Correspondence

(a) Mr Houston reported a communication from the Glendoe Energy Efficiency Fund. A presentation is proposed to a joint Fort Augustus CC and Stratherrick & Foyers CC group. Of the dates suggested 1st April 2008 was favoured, and Mr K. Fraser and Mr A. MacPherson will attend.

(b) Mr A. MacPherson had attended a meeting relating to planning issues. He felt that some very useful guidance had been given, and gave the meeting two useful web sites:

www.planning-aid-scotland.org.uk

www.scotland.gov.uk where information can be found under 'Planning & Building'.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs Grant had received the books from Mrs Butterworth at the last meeting, and confirmed the balances previously minuted as correct. Project Account: £3859.18 Ordinary Account: £784.62

Police Matters

It was reported that Mr Cowie will be taking over as Officer in charge in Inverness, date not yet known.

Constable Mathieson reported a recent successful raid by a wildlife policing operation near Grantown on Spey.

Roads & Signage

(a) Bus service to Knockie road end -The Secretary made enquiries about this, and a letter was sent to D & E Coaches. A telephone call has been received from D & E Coaches to say that the bus will now routinely go as far as the Knockie road end, rather than just to the bus shelter in Whitebridge. This should be in operation during the week following the Easter week-end. Mr Fraser and Mrs Deegan have been informed.

(b) Foyers bailey bridge -The loose and split plates on the bridge are still not dealt with. Mrs Davidson has sent a reminder, and suggested that we also log a call to the CRM.

(c) Site meeting with Mr Munro at Lower Foyers - The footpath across his land was inspected. It was found to be open and usable.

(d) Lower Foyers - There are a number of items needing attention: a large hole developing alongside a drain grid; maintenance relating to the footbridge; repairs to a fence alongside the gorge, which was damaged by a falling tree in the recent gales; vegetation beside the road obscuring vision for drivers and pedestrians; pedestrian access to the post box, which is in a sea of mud. Mrs Davidson suggested the CC should contact Alan Johnstone, the Roads Foreman, to arrange a site visit. The Secretary will arrange this.

(e) Road at Newlands - It was reported that forestry work appears to be complete in this area, and the road is in need of repair. The Secretary will write and request a date for this work.

(f) It was reported that the edge of the road at Trinloist was badly damaged when a lorry slid off the road in the recent snow. The Secretary will include this in her letter to the Roads Department.

(g) Access to County Cottages, Gorthleck - Mrs Davidson reported that the area has been inspected. It will be fenced to prevent cars driving over it in future. Residents will be notified.

(h) Mr Bateman reported that the window has fallen out of the wooden bus shelter at Whitebridge, and is in need of repair. A letter will be written.

(i) Glendoe Financial Contribution - A Briefing Note relating to proposed road works has been received from TEC Services. Mrs Davidson has requested a map, and a schedule of the proposed works, and will pass this on to the CC.

(j) Dores to Foyers Road - Mrs Davidson reported that the Roads Department acknowledge that this road has been neglected in recent years. A joint meeting of the Dores CC and the Stratherrick & Foyers CC is to be arranged to discuss work required, siting of lay-bys, timescale for the work etc.

(k) Torness to Inverfarigaig Road - The 'corkscrew' road is reported to be in a very poor condition in some areas. This is currently an adopted road, and is an attractive route for tourists. Some of the problems appear to be due to the position of some cattle feeding sites, and the consequent use by farm traffic. Mrs Davidson will look into this and discuss the situation with the Roads Department.

(l) Water supply at Riverside, Foyers - Mr Nicol reported that Scottish Water are due to start replacing supply pipes at Riverside on 7th April 2008. This will obviously cause some disruption for local traffic while the work is under way.

(m) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge - Mrs Davidson had discovered that there are conflicting reports about the state of the bridge. It was closed off following a Council engineer's report that it was in imminent danger of collapse, and a programme for demolition was recommended. She had visited the bridge with another engineer, from Balfour Beatty, who felt that although a considerable amount of work was necessary, the bridge

could be restored. He felt that its condition was not as bad as previously indicated. The community naturally wishes the bridge restored if possible. Mrs Davidson will try to clarify the state of the bridge by getting the engineers to liaise, and produce a full report. If restoration is feasible then community funding options can be considered.

Water & Sewerage

Mrs Davidson reported that Scottish Water has not decided whether it will extract more water from Aberchalder. With regard to planning issues, evidence at present suggests they are not applying a cut off date for providing water supplies, and currently there seems to be a degree of flexibility. In the light of this Mrs Davidson said she would apply pressure to get the Gorthleck social housing scheme under way, as this has been on hold for some time.

Community Project

Mr Houston and Mrs Grant met with Marian Simpson for advice on an application for Lottery funding. There has been no progress with this as the Lottery Fund will not now consider projects using land which is leased. This appears to have changed since the application was first proposed. This means going back to the beginning to look for other sources of funding, and professional help may be sought for this. Some idea of the cost of this should be available by the next CC meeting.

Renewable Energy/Community Benefit

The AGM of the Community Trust was to follow the CC meeting. It was thought that there had been a slightly disappointing attendance at the Energy Efficiency day on 15th March.

Any Other Competent Business

(a) Stratherrick School - Mrs Grant reported ongoing problems in obtaining permanent teaching staff for the School. Mrs Davidson agreed that recruitment of staff for small, rural, primary schools is a widespread problem. Winter travelling difficulties and the lack of local accommodation were felt to be significant factors. She suggested that parents should write to Hector Robertson to voice their concerns.

(b) Telephone service - Continuing problems are reported with phone lines in Torness and Inverfarigaig. BT is unable to provide Broadband in these and several other areas, and the quality of phone lines is also poor. Under the 'Broadband for Scotland' scheme it is proposed that satellite or wireless connections will be provided by the Scottish Government for problem areas, but the timescale for this is not known. Another letter will be sent to BT, but none has so far produced either acknowledgement or response.

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As there is an unavoidable delay in the publication of the Council Minutes following our meetings, a copy of the full Minutes will be available in Foyers Stores, on request, and a copy will be posted beside Stratherrick Hall. Minutes will be available as soon as they have been approved as an accurate record of the meeting. We will, of course, continue to publish Minutes in the Boleskine Bulletin as usual. We hope this will give members of the community an opportunity to see the Council Minutes at an earlier stage, if they wish.

Liz Merther

Secretary to CC

MESSAGE FROM LIZ MERTHER

I would like to say a very sincere thank you to everyone in the community who so generously contributed to my beautiful retirement gift, and for all your very kind, good wishes.

For those of you who were able to come along to the Whitebridge Hotel on the 15th, thank you for being there, and for making it such a fun occasion. I certainly have some wonderful memories of my retirement "do"! I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

No doubt I shall still be seeing many of you, and I hope to continue to be a little bit useful through my work on the Community Council.

Thank you again.

Council for Voluntary Services Inverness

CVS Inverness stands for Council for Voluntary Services for Inverness, based in the city of Inverness, but serves voluntary organisations in all of Inverness-Shire. It is an independent charity organisation supporting the development of the community and voluntary sector locally.

CVS Inverness is committed to equal opportunities and to making the services relevant and accessible to all local organisations.

It is the newest CVS in Scotland as Anne Angus took on the office of Chief Executive Officer in March 2007. The operations of CVS Inverness are based at the Volunteering Highland HQ opposite Morrison's.

CVS role is to support the Voluntary sector in Inverness and Inverness-shire through practical and advisory services.

It provides training, guidance towards sources of funding, and information to help people set up and run their voluntary service.

CVS Inverness services are:

1. **REPRESENTATION** of the Voluntary Sector's view
2. A) **ADVICE ON GOOD PRACTISE** connected with management and employment in the Voluntary Sector
B) **AND SOURCES OF** funding and fundraising, constitutions, charitable status...
3. **SUPPORT** for emerging new groups, ranging from help with a business plan to guidance on how to set up an organisation and the role of a management committee
4. **TRAINING** programmes and workshops
5. **UPDATE INFORMATION** on funding, legal issues, government policy...
6. **NETWORKING** in partnership with other agencies for the benefit of the Voluntary Sector
7. **SURVEYS OF NEED** including collecting information about the sector in order to promote needs

So if you need any help please feel free and contact Anne on **01463 714303** to make an appointment.

Contact details

CVS Inverness

The Gateway

1a Millburn Road

Inverness

IV2 3PX

Tel: 01463 714 303

Mob: 07747 449 446

E-mail: anne@cvsinverness.org.uk

Web: www.cvsinverness.org.uk

STRATHERRICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Another energetic and fun-filled season. We started in September with two classes - a four week beginners / refreshers class and our regular Wednesday class. The beginner's class was a great success which I thoroughly enjoyed and going by the laughter and smiling faces, the class did too. While this was going on the main class were busy practising for our dance on 5th October. Some forty dancers from other groups joined us for another superb evening dancing to the live music of Marian Anderson.

We were very happy to welcome several new members to our group last autumn and seeing them enjoying themselves at our end of term party on 30th April was great. The photo below is of most of our group, taken on the 7th May, the last class before our Summer break.



So, to the coming September - the regular Wednesday classes, which are taken alternate weeks by Hugh Nicol and myself, will start again on 17th September 2008 when the existing group will be practising for our Dance on 10th October.

Would you like to dance? Are you a beginner? Just want to have a go? Do you know how but haven't danced for a while? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes" please come and join our group on **Wednesday 15th October 2008 7.30pm** when you will find a warm and friendly welcome waiting for you.

Judith Borup

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:	Siobhan Beith	01456 486255
Scottish Country	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

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Website: www.ambercomputersolutions.co.uk

INVERNESS - FOYERS SERVICE 302

Monday to Friday Saturday

Upper Foyers	0755 0755 1310 1623 0900 1320
Lower Foyers	0800 0800 1315 ----- 0905 1325
Inverfarigaig Ctgs	0807 0807 1322 1630 0912 1332
Dores Inn	0824 0824 1339 1647 0929 1349
Scaniport	0831 0831 1346 1654 0936 1356
Royal Academy	0840 -----
Holm Park Road End	0844 0835 1350 1658 0940 1400
Inverness Bus Station	0852 0845 1400 1708 0950 1410

Inverness Bus Station	1215 1515 1515 1743 1230 1743
Holm Park Road End	1225 1525 1525 1753 1240 1753
Royal Academy	----- 1535 -----
Scaniport	1229 1529 1544 1757 1244 1757
Dores Inn	1236 1536 1551 1804 1251 1804
Inverfarigaig Ctgs	1253 1553 1608 1821 1308 1821
Lower Foyers	1300 1600 1615 1828 1315 1828
Upper Foyers	1305 1605 1620 1833 1320 1833

Shinty News

Season 2008 curtain opener for Boleskine was the The Brian Stoddart & Donald Macgruer Memorial cup which the current team take on the former club players (Veterans) for custody of the trophy. This year saw the 2008 team regain the cup after two years by three goals to nil, all the goals coming in the last twenty minutes of the game. Unfortunately a couple of weeks later we failed to retain the Boleskine Challenge cup losing to Kinlochshiel by two goals to nil. The league season to date has been a mixed bag, with the weather disrupting the early fixtures in March. In our first three games, including an away trip to one of the league favourites Aberdeen Uni, we only gained two points of a possible six. However in our last two league games have resulted in two good wins that finds up on top of the league albeit with more games played than our rivals. In the cup competitions the Sutherland saw us exiting in the first round away to Skye by five goals to nil on a field that was virtually unplayable due to the wet conditions. The Strathdearn Cup at home against new club Naver Athletic at Farr, saw Boleskine progress to the second round by a club record score of eighteen goals to nil.

As with previous seasons, the unavailability of older players due to work commitments has led to the younger players having a more active role and they have benefited from the experience.

In the Junior side of the club, the U12 Boleskine are to be congratulated on winning the British Legion Cup, the first time we have won a trophy at this age group in living memory. The competition was to have been played on a round robin league basis with each team playing host on one round. Unfortunately due to early throw up at Smith park for the adult game on the Saturday we were to play hosts, the boys had to play all their games away, which makes their achievement even greater. The club would like to thank Ian Hope for all the sterling work he had done with the U12 over the last few years.

Work has commenced on providing the changing rooms at Smith Park, though delayed at the start, hopes are high they will be completed fairly close to their original finish date of July. When complete they will provide an asset, which will greatly increase our chances of hosting Shinty finals or perhaps the Ca-manachd cup semi finals.

The Club play their home games at Smith Park Inverarnie, matches commencing at 2:30pm generally, but check local press for details of any changes.

The club website at :-

[http://](http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/shinty/index.htm)

myweb.tiscali.co.uk/shinty/index.htm will give updates in Fixtures & results section , also details of any events organised by the club in the club news section .

U 12 Shinty training is on a Wed night at 7-8pm at Smith Park, while the U14 & U17 are along with the adults at 7pm the same evening.



Any one interested in playing shinty or becoming a member of our monthly draw club, contact club secretary Michelle Fraser on 01463 718380

Boleskine Season 2008 remaining Fixture list

Adult games throw up at 2:30 pm unless specified , missing Saturday dates in fixture list will be used for postponements, check web site as it will be updated with Saturdays fixture generally a week ahead

DATE	Adult North League Div 3
5 JULY	BOLESKINE v ABERDEEN UNI
11 JULY	BEAULY v BOLESKINE (FRIDAY NIGHT GAME)
19 JULY	STRATHGLASS V BOLESKINE
9 AUG	BOLESKINE v GLENURQUHART
16 AUG	LOHCARRON v BOLESKINE
30 AUG	BOLESKINE v KINCRAIG
6 SEPT	INVERNESS v BOLESKINE
4 OCT	BOLESKINE v LOCHBROOM

Christian Comment

The Eden Court Theatre in Inverness was filled to capacity on one Wednesday last April, to listen to a lecture by Professor Richard Dawkins, a biologist, well known as the author of the book, "The God Delusion". Those attending were fellow atheists, like the Professor, Christians (who strongly disagree with his views) and many who were not convinced either way, who may be called agnostics – those who don't know.

What is the evidence for the existence of God? Is the concept just to meet the needs of human beings around the world, and throughout the ages, who look for a meaning and purpose to life, as well as a source of help in the many crises that surround us? The German Emperor, Frederick the Great, once asked his Christian Chaplain for evidence of the truth of the Bible in a couple of words. The answer was given, "The Jews". The Jewish Bible (the Christian "Old Testament") begins by stating, "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth" This has been the conviction of both Jews and Christians down the centuries and enables us, not only to enjoy the wonders of Creation, but also to have the pleasure of thanking the Creator for that enjoyment. In the "New Testament", the second part of the Bible, John, a close follower of Jesus the Jewish Messiah in the 1st Century, writes in his Life of Jesus that, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". (John Ch.1 vs1-2). John and his Jewish

friends were convinced that this Jesus from Nazareth, Israel, was revealing to them the truth about the one Creator God. They marvelled at His teaching (now admired all over the world), they observed His healing miracles (that have inspired medical work throughout the centuries) and were convinced that He who suffered on a cruel cross outside Jerusalem, on the orders of the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, who gave Him the title of "King of the Jews", had come alive again on the first day of the week, our Sunday. They were further convinced that He had then given the Holy Spirit to all who would receive Him, to continue this work of God around the world. This was the subsequent experience of that early persecutor of the Christians, Saul of Tarsus, who became the best known Christian evangelist, St. Paul, of the 1st Century.

The Christian Church in all its many varied expressions, has been endeavouring to fulfil this responsibility for the last two millennia and, in spite of great persecution, has achieved remarkable success. The Jews, in spite of great opposition, remain a distinct people, re-established in the State of Israel for the past sixty years. The Bible, that claims to be the record of the revelation of Almighty God to all humanity, is being translated into every known language by countless God believers. Can so many billions of people be deluded?

Martyn Bateman

Christian Aid Week: Thank you to all who donated, helped to collect, and counted the contributions for this vital relief work around the world.

Foyers Church: A series of Summer Praise evenings is being planned for the month of August on Sundays at 6.00 p.m. Anyone who would like to help, please contact Martyn Bateman Tel.486273.

Church Meetings

Church of Scotland

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

Mr. Ian King 01463 751293

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

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

Episcopal Church

Sunday: 11.00a.m. Croachy.

Rev. Peter Mosley 01808 521397

Free Church

Sunday: 6.00 p.m. Errogie.

Mr. J. Campbell 01456 486240

Free Church (continuing)

Sunday: 11.00a.m. & 6.30 p.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:

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

Visit to the Glendoe Hydro project

A group of local residents were invited to attend a Glendoe Hydro Project presentation on 8th May. The presentation was a full afternoon starting with a slide show and concise but comprehensive detailing of the Engineering and Environmental consid-



erations. The group was then taken by mini-bus around the vast site, some 8 Kilometres in, to view the Aqueduct Pipeline and Tunnel, the Reservoir and Dam, the Power Tunnel, the Power Station, the Main Access Tunnel and the water outlet area at Borland Bay. Many thanks go to the Management and staff of the Glendoe Hydro Project for this presentation. It proved very reassuring to go into the site and see the responsible attitude that is prevalent throughout all aspects of the work especially the re-landscaping. Information and literature about the project is readily available from the Fort Augustus site or via the Glendoe websites, www.glendoe.co.uk www.htglendoe2.com www.republicpov.com/SSE/GlendoeScreenGrabs

South Loch Ness Heritage Group

The next open meeting will be at the Stratherrick Hall in Gorthleck at 7.30pm on Thursday 3rd July 2008.

Our speaker will be Stratherrick resident Alex Sutherland and the topic is "Rights of Way - What does it mean"

Alex will be explaining the story behind Scotland's new Laws of Access, freedom to roam and rights of way.

As usual, admission will be free and open to all but there will be a collection plate for donations which are our only source of income.

FORESTRY NEWS

Forestry Update - Volatile timber markets are starting to react to credit crunch and associated housing market. Already tight margins get squeezed further creating a knock on effect for operations that the Forest District has to deliver through timber income

There is never enough money to do all that we would like to do or which you would like us to do.

With this in mind we are looking to arrange a meeting between all interested parties with projects to understand how these could be linked if possible to provide maximum benefit with the little resources available. We would hope to have representation from the Community Councils, Community Trust and local environmental groups. If you feel that you are a group not yet in discussion with the District then please let us know (contact at the bottom of page)

The date provisionally agreed for this is the 17th June at 6pm Gorthleck Hall finishing at 8pm prompt (the community Trust meets immediately after)

Operations - The recent tendering exercise completed saw timber sold at various locations through the South Loch Ness area. Currently active sites are Dumnglass and Balnagarline

With sites due to become active later this year at Knockie and Glen Liath

Other recent points to note

Dun Dearduil has recently been scheduled by Historic Scotland as a nationally important site.

Farigaig Old Bridge and its restoration has been reviewed by engineering staff. This consisted of reviewing existing report and updating costs and more recent reinstatement techniques. Unfortunately the most conservation estimates are for six figure sums to carry out repairs.

The recreation team have been involved in a number of local projects assisting with re-doing

The Foyers walk leaflet, Salmon in the classroom, Bat days and upcoming badger watching

As always if you have an interest in any particular area and want to know more, please do not hesitate to contact the District – Telephone 01320 366322; Email: fort@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Jock Stoddart
Died 8th April 2008

William John, known as Billy or Jock (or his shinty nick-name "Scoopie") was born 70 years ago one of a family of ten born to James and Annie Stoddart who were farming at Gartbeg at that time. On the Stoddart side he is survived by Hamish, Sybil, Christine, Betty Ally, Heather and Leslie. Allan and Brian having sadly passed away in earlier years.

He attended school first at Boleskine and then at Foyers which was a secondary school at that time.

Following school he worked for the Forestry Commission which was then planting the Dell Estate before being called up for National Service in the Royal Engineers. Then it was back to forestry before becoming tractor-man on Garthbeg Farm. After his fathers retirement's the family moved to Lower Foyers. At this time he got the job of roadman with the council following in the steps of his uncle Jocky.

Jock enjoyed playing shinty and for a number of years was goalie for the Boleskine team. Another interest was Scottish dance music and he was a great fan of Jimmy Shand and other well known bands.

When his widowed mother was in need of help in the house they were fortunate that Nancy and her daughter Morag were staying just around the corner. Nancy became home help and she and Jock got to know one another. By this time Jock was a confirmed bachelor so it was a huge surprise to everyone when he and Nancy were married about 13 years ago. He took to his new married life with great delight and was so happy to have gathered an instant family with Nancy's children and grandchildren.

Jock was a very cheerful, good natured and generous man, a good workman who took his duties seriously and was always pleased to be helping a neighbour or friend.

He became ill about three years ago but after a big operation he made a good recovery and was enjoying a good quality of life until the disease recurred and he began to decline quite quickly.

He went into Highland Hospice to have his drugs balanced but went downhill very quickly and passed away there very peacefully after a week.

The funeral was in Boleskine Church on Saturday 12th April conducted by the Rev Stewart Jeffry and was attended by a very large gathering of family and friends. Nancy Stoddart wishes to thank Tim McCormack and local helpers who donated the food Mrs Annette MacGillivray who donated the refreshments after the service in a specially erected marquee at the Foyers shop.

She and all her family are extremely grateful to the local doctors and nurses and to all those who cared for him at the end in the hospice and are appreciative of all the cards and messages of sympathy received at this sad time.

The collection at the funeral service for the Highland Hospice raised £677.28

Highland Council Ranger Events for July — September in our area

These are selected events taken from the full table that are occurring in or near our area

Wednesday 16 July 2-4pm	Treasure Hunt at Farr	Help hunt for the lost treasure of School Wood. A fun family adventure for families with younger children (aged 8years and under). Meet at School Wood, Farr (Grid ref NH 685 336)	Katy Martin, Inverness Ranger. Tel. 01463 702933 or katy.martin@highland.gov.uk
Saturday 19 July 10am- 5pm	Hill walking for Beginners	Always wanted to learn to use a map and compass? Come along and find out on this introduction to hill walking. Views from the top and ridge of Meall Fuar mhonaidh make the effort worthwhile. Honest! This walk is 9km/6miles long, up to 699m and is weather dependent. Cost £5. More information given out on booking.	Katy Martin, Inverness Ranger. Tel. 01463 702933 or katy.martin@highland.gov.uk
Saturday 16 August 8- 10pm	Things that go bump in the night, Abriachan	If you go down to the woods tonight....Come along on this evening walk and find what's out and about in the forest at night. There's much more than you think! Meeting place details given out on booking. A free event but donations are most welcome.	Katy Martin, Inverness Ranger. Tel. 01463 702933 or katy.martin@highland.gov.uk
Friday 12 September 8- 10pm	Inverness Bat Walk	Meet the night time midgy hunters – bats! A short talk followed by a bat spotting walk using bat detectors. Bring a torch and dress warmly. Most suitable for families with children aged 8years and above. Cost £2 adults/£1 children. Meeting place will be given out on booking	Katy Martin, Inverness Ranger. Tel. 01463 702933 or katy.martin@highland.gov.uk
Saturday 13 September 8- 10pm	Outdoor Cinema, Farr	Experience something a bit different in the outdoors. Come along and view the Eagle Odyssey, an amazing film by the RSPB, under a canopy of stars. Further details and meeting place will be given out on booking. A free event but donations are most welcome.	Katy Martin, Inverness Ranger. Tel. 01463 702933 or katy.martin@highland.gov.uk

Boleskine Bulletin on the Internet

I apologise to everybody who read the last edition, and worried about losing the paper copy of the Boleskine Bulletin. May I stress that there are **NO PLANS** to stop printing the Bulletin as a paper publication. The suggestion was made, and has been followed up, about placing the Bulletin on the internet to increase the exposure of the area and make it easier for visitors and people who had moved away to access the bulletin and keep up with what is happening in our area. As well as making it possible to upload the colour photographs which unfortunately can only be printed in Black and White due to printing costs. The hope is we could also upload all the back issues in the future as well.

Peter Craven

Editor Boleskine Bulletin

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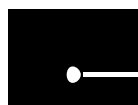
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