

The Boleskine Bulletin



March 2009
Issue 46



Save Wade Bridge?

A public meeting was held at the Whitebridge Hotel, by kind permission of David & Sarah Murray, on Tuesday 13th January to discuss the future of the historically important Wade Bridge at Whitebridge, at present closed to the public.

The Chairman of the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council, Mr Mark Houston, invited Mr John Townshend, who has considerable experience of the situation, to present a comprehensive report of the current situation with regard to the ownership of the bridge, its national importance, its present conditions, the possibility of grants from Historic Scotland, the repairs that would be needed and the

need for local support in Whitebridge.

Among the 20 persons present were Mr William Gilfillan from the Highland Council, Mr Ian Cameron, Chairman of the South Loch Ness Heritage Group, Mr Graham Biggs, Chairman of the Fort Augustus Heritage Group, and local members of the Foyers and Stratherrick Community Council.

It was agreed to hold a further meeting to form a local support group, in consultation with the Community Council (which next met on Tuesday, 27th January). The Chairman asked for volunteers for that support group and subsequently the date of Tuesday 3rd March 2009 (7.30pm at the Whitebridge Hotel) was proposed when Mr John Townshend would be able to attend, having by then had further meetings with the case Officer from Historic Scotland.

At the further meeting on Tuesday 3rd March, John Townshend gave some updates on landownership and options for emergency repairs. Valuable technical sug-

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gestions were provided by Bob Main and John Duncan. Following agreement to set up a provisional Trust as the first step to get things moving, four potential 'directors' emerged from those present with others to be approached. Membership of the Trust would be open to all. The Trust will be known as 'The Wade Bridge at Whitebridge Trust'. The next meeting for all interested parties will be held on Tuesday 14th April at the Whitebridge Hotel at 7.30pm

This was passed to me for inclusion in the Bulletin and I have seen it as an email as well and think it makes a lot of sense Editor.

Message from the Ambulance Service

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this [ICE](#) (In [C](#)ase of [E](#)mergency) campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name **ICE**. The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as **ICE**.

For more than one contact name simply enter **ICE1**, **ICE2**, **ICE3**, etc...

PLEASE PASS THIS AROUND AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE AS THIS CAN HELP IN AN EMERGENCY

South Loch Ness Heritage Group

Our next open meeting will be held at Stratherrick Hall in Gorthleck on Tuesday 31st March at 7.30pm

Our speaker is Andrew Fraser, retired Principal History Teacher, IRA who will give a presentation entitled **"Plants of the Scottish Hills"**.

Admission is free as always although a collection bowl will be available for donations.

We are still looking for a new Secretary to join our small committee. The work load is small but access to the internet would be helpful.

If you might like to join us and would like further information, please contact any of the committee members at the open meeting.

www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk

Notice to Advertisers

We have said before that without our advertisers, there would be no Bulletin. Most advertisers respond promptly when their adverts come up for renewal. But there are a few to whom we have to send up to three or more letters before getting a reply. The Bulletin is run by volunteers and operates on a tight budget. Therefore, starting with the next issue, it will be our policy to send just one reminder after the original renewal request. If we have no response to this, the advert will not be published. Please help us by responding promptly when we contact you concerning your advert renewal.

Final opportunity to benefit from the Scottish Broadband Reach Project

The Scottish Government's Scottish Broadband Reach project will close on **30th April 2009**. From that date the special subsidy for the installation of Avanti Caledonian broadband will cease. The benefits of this project include:

- No installation costs
- No connection costs
- Affordable monthly charges (from £23.00 Per month)

In order to guarantee inclusion, you will need to return your completed order form and installation questionnaire by the **31st March 2009**. Registrants should contact Avanti asap if they wish for a new order form to be sent to them.

The Broadband Reach Project for Scotland must be completed by the **30th May 2009** and Avanti will be installing geographically and where possible, on a first come first serve basis.

If you have any questions regarding the service, please contact Avanti by e-mail at broadbandreach-sales@avantiplc.com, or by phone on **020 7749 8100**.

Shinty News

Season 2008 saw Boleskine hopes of a short stay in North Div 3 unfulfilled, as they ended in third place after leading the field at various times over the season.

Overall as in previous recent seasons if we could field our strongest team, we were capable of beating the best in the division. But work commitments and injuries saw us drop points in crucial games that would have ensured promotion.

Despite this, the spirit of the squad remained good with the younger players fulfilling a greater role within the club, gaining experience as the season progressed as player unavailability gave them the opportunities to show their talents. Some of these players have reached an age where University or further education beckons, which unfortunately probably means that they will be unavailable next season. But I am sure their respective University Shinty clubs will be enhanced by their presence within their Shinty team.

The new changing rooms at Smith Park, have now been completed, these excellent facilities containing two changing rooms and showers along with toilets were opened on 25th October prior to the home league match against Glenurquhart by David Henderson secretary of the Farr Community Hall. David was the main driving force in getting the project to fruition. Now that

they are complete they will be a great asset, which hopefully will greatly increase our chances of hosting more Shinty finals or perhaps the Camanachd cup semi finals.

In September the club was asked to host the Strathdearn Cup final again at Farr, this match in a very wet and windy day resulted in a victory to Fort William by four goals to one over Kin-gussie

In the Junior side of the club, the U12 Boleskine in winning the British Legion Cup, had several games this year while the U14 had only a couple of round robin competitions along with Tomatin & Strathglass.

The Boleskine Club would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed towards this year's Sale of Work on 29th November which raised £1400 towards club funds. As a donor or purchaser, your continuing support is much appreciated by all involved with the club. Prior to the opening of the sale by Bob Black the club Chieftain presented the Paul Smith Memorial Trophies for the club junior player of the year U12 & U14. Hamish Stoddart won the U12 trophy and Craig Hepburn the U14 trophy. Richard Michalek of Robertson Crop, donated two medals to the club for the most improved U12 and U14 player, which were presented to Reuben Smith and Conner Macintyre respectively by Bob Black.



Club Chieftain Bob Black, presenting Rueben with the U12 medal,

The new Shinty season starts in early March the scheduled fixtures are listed below including two friendlies at the end of February . These games are the curtain openers for the season, on the 21st Feb the current Boleskine team are challenged by a team of Boleskine Veterans for the Brian Stoddart & Donald Macgruer Memorial Cup. While a week later Boleskine play Kinlochshiel for the Boleskine Challenge cup . The Saturdays not listed, may well in future contain postponed games. For the latest information on fixtures, plus throw up times visit the Boleskine Camanachd club website at:- <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/shinty/index.htm> which also contains information about forthcoming events within the club.

U 12 Shinty training is on a Wed night at 7-8pm at Inverarnie hall while the U14 & U17 are along with the adults at 7pm the same evening, after the clock goes forward Shinty training will be held outside on Smith Park, Inverarnie.

Any one interested in playing Shinty or becoming a member of our monthly draw club, contact club secretary Liz Macdonald on 01463 791955



Club Chieftain Bob Black, presenting Conner Macintyre with the U14 medal



Peter Smith, presenting Craig Hepburn with the Paul Smith U14 trophy,



Peter Smith, presenting Hamish Stoddart with the Paul Smith U12 trophy.

Boleskine Fixture List

7 MARCH, ARDNAMURCHAN v BOLESKINE	27 JUNE, BOLESKINE v ARDNAMURCHAN
14 MARCH, BOLESKINE v BEAULY	11 JULY, BOLESKINE v ABERDEEN UNI
21 MARCH, BOLESKINE v LOCHABER	18 JULY, LOCHABER v BOLESKINE
28 MARCH, BOLESKINE v LOCHBROOM	25 JULY, LOCHBROOM v BOLESKINE
4 APRIL, INVERNESS v BOLESKINE	8 AUG, BOLESKINE v LOCHCARRON
11 APRIL, BOLESKINE v NEWTONMORE (SUTH CUP first round)	15 AUG, BOLESKINE v INVERNESS
18 APRIL, STRATHGLASS v BOLESKINE	29 AUG, LOCHCARRON v BOLESKINE
25 APRIL, KINCRAIG v BOLESKINE	5 SEPT, ABERDEEN UNI v BOLESKINE
2 MAY, BOLESKINE v KINCRAIG	12 SEPT, BOLESKINE v STRATHGLASS
23 MAY, BOLESKINE v KILMALLIE (STRATH CUP 2nd round)	26 SEPT, BEAULY v BOLESKINE
6 JUNE, KINL/INV/LOV v BOL/KILM (STRATH CUP 3rd round)	

APPEAL TO DRIVERS ON THE ROAD IN FOYERS

It is roughly a year now that a 20 mph speed limit has been introduced at primary schools in Scotland during drop-off and pick-up periods. In Foyers the speed limit applies from 8.45am till 9.15am and from 3.30pm till 4.00pm on school days between the Police House and the school road. During these periods flashing lights warn drivers both at the Police House and at entry to the village.

Lots of you on the road completely ignore the applicable speed limit. Some of you slow down “a bit”, others don’t even bother. Sadly, the serial offenders are not tourists, but locals going on their daily business (and the occasional builder).

Since the children walking to and from school have to cross the road at Ness View and then have to walk on the road at the Church Hall, it is especially important that you adhere to the 20 mph limit. Slowing down to 30 mph (if at all) is not good enough!

Please be more cautious and look out for the young ones! Thank you.

Worried Mums in Upper Foyers

As the Editor and a parent of a school aged child, I would ask all readers to obey the speed limit past all schools in the area. The last thing I want to have to report on in the Boleskine Bulletin is the injury or worse to a child however caused.

Boleskine Wetland Project

As stated in the previous issue of the Bulletin, the project has been left over winter and spring in order to give the area a chance to settle. A number of community events are planned for 2009. Many of these do not yet have precise dates but please watch out for information on the community notice boards, at the Post Office and on our website, www.boleskinewetland.co.uk, for further information.

In May, Katy Martin of the Highland Rangers will be bringing a party of school children from the Stratherrick School for a pond-dipping and bug watching session. In September she will be hosting a bat watching evening at the project and in the adjacent woods. During June Jonathan Willet will be giving a talk on identifying dragon flies and damsel flies. Limited spaces are available. To get more information and to book a place, please telephone using the contact details below.

There are three events planned for which we need volunteers. We need about 10 sturdy persons to help barrow 30 to 40 tons of stone and scalping along the disabled access path (about 90 metres) and to rake that level so that it can be compacted. The date is likely to be in May and plenty of refreshments and encouragement will be available.

Two selective and native plantings days are planned in order to give the project a kick start and provide cover and food sources for the wildlife already being attracted. The Forestry Commission will supervise and show us the best way of approaching this. The day should be perfect for families and any help will be appreciated. One day is likely to be in June and the other in October.

A small wooden jetty is in the plans so that, in particular, school children and any disabled visitors can get closer to the water without disturbing the life and foliage around the pond edge. We are very hopeful that a local Territorial Army barracks will rise to the challenge of the construction and this should make an interesting spectacle. This event is not likely before the autumn at earliest.

If you would be interested in further particulars of these events or could volunteer your services at any of them, please call Katie or Frank on 01456 486691.

Community Energy Audit Update

The Trust has now received the forms giving details of properties on which we hope to arrange individual energy audits. How this is to be carried out and by whom, will be discussed at a meeting with Scottish and Southern Energy holders of the Energy Efficiency Funds on the 3rd of March.

Alex Sutherland,
Secretary, Stratherrick and Foyers
Community Trust

Mrs Shona Main

Died 24th January 2009

Our deepest sympathies go to Bob, David, Fiona and all the family of Shona who passed away recently. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Shona was born in Galloway 57 years ago. As she was growing up, the family moved to Lanark where Shona attended Lanark Grammar School before going on to Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh where she trained as a teacher. She married Bob, who was a civil engineer, and their first child, David, was born. When Fiona was born they moved to Lochgilphead where Shona worked for the Argyll & Bute Council.

Bob, by this time, was working for the Forestry Commission and when his job brought him to Inverness, the family chose to settle in Foyers. Shona travelled daily to Fort Augustus where she worked first for the Abbey Gift Shop and then with the Forestry Commission. She transferred to the Smithton office where she worked until she became ill.

She had a very strong Christian faith and was actively involved in the church here – teaching Sunday School in Foyers and serving on the Congregational Board and acting as secretary of the Nominating Committee seeking a new minister. She brought to these tasks not only faith but a very caring attitude and good organising ability. A member of the Church Guild, she was pleased to read the lessons in church on occasion. She took an active part in the work of the “Rural” first in Forth and Carmichael and then when the family moved to Foyers.

When David returned north, she welcomed Deanne into the family along with her children Hannah and Luke. Shona and Bob were delighted when Jessica and Rowan were born. Through the stressful first year of Jessica’s life, most of which was spent in Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow, Shona was a source of strength and encouragement.

Shona and Bob joined the Stratherrick Country Dance Group for a time and latterly were keen members of the Inverness Social Dance Club.

On 5th January she was told that she had only a few months to live and she faced this with typical courage and strong conviction. Perhaps suspecting the worst, in the previous weeks she had done much to make life as easy as possible for Bob and the family. Her passing on 24th January after less than three weeks was truly a shock to all in the family, church and community of friends and neighbours.

A devoted and caring wife, mother and grandmother, she will be greatly missed by all her family as she will be in the church and community. Shona herself and Bob were most deeply grateful for the wonderful care which she had received, especially in the Highland Hospice. The family would like to thank all who have sent messages of sympathy and comfort.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mark Houston (Chairman), Whitebridge 486729 Liz Merther (Secretary), Foyers 486382
Katherine Grant (Treasurer), Gorthleck 486221 Martyn Bateman, Whitebridge 486273
Kenny Fraser, Gorthleck 486220 Paul Higham, Foyers 486633
Lesley MacGregor, Whitebridge 486404 Sandy MacPherson, Torness 01463 751213
Alex Nicol 486307 Alex Sutherland, Errogie 486711

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11th NOVEMBER 2008

Members present:

Mr M. Houston (Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer) Mr M. Bateman Mr K. Fraser Mrs L. MacGregor Mr A. MacPherson Mr A. Nicol Mr A. Sutherland

Also present:

Mr T. Hainey (Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust) Police Constable A. Mathieson Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Brigade)

Apologies received:

Mr P. Higham Councillor M. Davidson Councillor H. Carmichael Councillor D. Hendry

Mr Hainey had been invited to the meeting to give the CC some idea of the role of the HSCHT in the provision of affordable local housing. Mr Sutherland briefly outlined the background to this request: the availability of Community Trust funds; land locally owned by Albyn Housing and HSCHT; the possibility of providing some housing for key workers. Mr Hainey explained that HSCHT is not a housing association and operates under a different constitution. The Trust was formed ten years ago to meet the housing needs of small communities across the Highlands, for example in relation to local employment. This is done in a number of ways including land transfers to housing association partners such as Albyn, and making plots available for sale. They are also involved themselves, on a small scale, in house building. They work closely with land owners and the Highland Council Planning Department to achieve the required housing. They are funded through a variety of Government sponsored schemes. Funding should also be available through the Highland Housing Alliance - a major housing developer involving a number of relevant organisations. Mr Hainey felt that it would not be necessary for the Community Trust to buy property for key workers outright.

If the Trust indicates that it has funds available, this would almost certainly unlock additional funding through the Housing Alliance. Housing associations such as Albyn are more regulated as landlords and public money in a project can come with restrictions attached. HSCHT is not governed by the same regulations and can, therefore, be more flexible about rents, allocations policies, and other matters relating to tenancies. The CC emphasised that they are keen for the affordable housing developments to go ahead on the land at Gorthleck and Inverfarigaig. Mr Hainey said that HSCHT in partnership with Albyn are also keen to press ahead as soon as possible. Despite recent debates within Government regarding regulations on affordable housing developments, the Government is still keen on the provision of more affordable housing, and Albyn is confident it will be moving forward with its projects.

Mr Hainey noted that a Local Housing Needs study has already been undertaken, and that the next step is to get a feasibility study undertaken. He will carry this forward as soon as possible, and the availability of Community Trust money will expedite this. He will forward copies to Mr Sutherland of studies undertaken elsewhere, to give an idea of the cost of such a study. Mr Sutherland will write to the Housing Alliance to try to get them involved as soon as possible. Unfortunately they only meet on a six monthly basis, and a meeting has just taken place.

The CC was unanimously in favour of the actions proposed.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Notice Boards The Secretary reported that the new notice boards were delivered yesterday. The Chairman will contact the contractor to arrange for their installation.

(b) Community Web Site The Chairman has obtained the necessary forms to submit for funding and is dealing with them.

(c) Gorthleck War Memorial The Highland Council has not been able to clarify the position regarding ownership of the land. Mr MacPherson has given contact details for the owner of the adjacent land to Mr Bateman, who will try to confirm the ownership. The work required on the Memorial is believed to be simply repainting some of the lettering which has been most exposed to the weather. The carving is thought to be in good repair.

The Council expressed its thanks to Mr John Campbell for purchasing the Remembrance Wreath on their behalf, and the Treasurer will reimburse the cost of this. Mr Bateman conducted a service on Remembrance Sunday, and the Chairman laid the wreath at the Memorial.

(d) Loch Ness Marathon Everything went very well at this year's Marathon, and the only comments received have been favourable. A number of local residents took part in the Marathon or the shorter events in Inverness.

(e) Handy Person Scheme Cllr. Davidson was unable to attend the meeting, but has informed the CC by email that discussions on this are still ongoing. However, she says that Stratherrick & Foyers will get a service.

(f) Meeting re Destination Loch Ness The Chairman reported that the original date fixed for this had to be cancelled. A new date is being arranged.

Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence

Licensing applications (conversion of existing Licenses - new regulations): Whitebridge Hotel

(further information at: [www.highland.gov.uk/business information/ licensing/liquorlicensing/](http://www.highland.gov.uk/business%20information/licensing/liquorlicensing/))

Update - Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 - secondary legislation Follow up to meeting on Foyers - Notification that there will be more on this when our new Ward Manager is appointed.

Aird & Loch Ness Ward Forum Meeting on Public Transport. 17th November 2008

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received

Parent Council, Foyers Primary School - Request for a donation towards the children's outing to the Christmas pantomime. The CC agreed to a donation of £50.00

Public Exhibition 28th, 29th & 30th October 2008 - National Cycle Network Route Fort William to Inverness

Commission on Scottish Devolution - Meeting 28th October 2008 (further information:

www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk)

Inverness Area Community Councils Forum - Meeting 4th November 2008

ASCC National Conference - 22nd November 2008

Notice of Military Flying Activity 17th - 27th November 2008

NHS Highland - Team Update

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported account balances as follows: Ordinary Account: £2995.48p. Project Account: £3861.93p.

Planning

There were no new planning matters to report.

Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland reported that they are still doing a few fire safety visits when requested. He also reported that young people, mainly through Inverness Royal Academy, will be attending for instruction for their Duke of Edinburgh Award Fire Service qualification.

Police Matters

Constable Mathieson reported that Sergeant Blakey, who formerly covered Fort Augustus and Beauly, is now based solely at Fort Augustus, which should improve the staffing situation.

Roads and Signage

A letter dated 6th October was received from Mr Taylor of the Roads Department in response to some of our concerns:

Bailey bridge at Lower Foyers: Repairs are proving problematic, and they are trying to source specialist expertise in relation to this. He says that this is receiving a high priority, but is unable to give a timescale at present.

Road to Lower Foyers: The loose granular fill is the standard edge-repair material, but they will continue to monitor its use in this location.

Road around Newlands: They are in discussion with the forestry contractor regarding rectification of damage to the road.

Collapsed culvert B851 approx. 100m. from junction with B862: Replacement of the culvert programmed and should take place within the next few weeks.

The following matters relating to roads were raised at the meeting:

(a) The culvert described above has, so far, only received minor surface treatment. The culvert has not been repaired.

(b) Trinloist road - Forestry lorries are causing considerable damage to the road edges during the current timber extraction.

There have also been problems with falling trees across the roads (mainly the spindly birch which has been left after the conifer extraction).

(c) The area outside County Cottages at Gorthleck has still not been attended to.

(d) The drainage channels and pipes adjacent to the footbridge at Lower Foyers are not being cleared, and are constantly blocking. This area needs regular attention.

Cllr. Davidson has been pressing for more improvement work on the B851 and B861, and has suggested a joint letter from ourselves and the Strathnairn CC. The members agreed that a meeting between representatives of the two CCs would be helpful, and the Secretary will try to arrange this.

Water and Sewerage

There were no new matters to report.

Community Project

The Chairman has forms to submit for funding to assist with the paperwork in this matter.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

There were no new matters to report.

Any Other Competent Business

(a) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge Mr Bateman is attending a meeting about this in Inverness next week. He felt it would be helpful to have a group of local, interested people involved in assisting with this matter. Following the meeting he will look at ways of inviting volunteers.

(b) Firework Display It was reported that the recent excellent firework display, provided by Mr Houston, was well attended. £285 was taken on the night, and the CC agreed to a donation

of £450 towards the costs. The Community Trust had agreed to cover any shortfall in the cost, and Mr Sutherland will liaise with Mr Houston over this.

(c) National Cycle Network Exhibition Mr Sutherland attended the Exhibition, and reported that options are being considered for the route along Loch Ness. The current, off-road, Great Glen Way

route on the North side is not proving popular, and many cyclists are using the A82, which is obviously dangerous for both cyclists and motor traffic. A possible option of providing a purpose-built cycle way between the road and the Loch would run into millions of pounds. The members agreed that we should write to strongly support the option of taking the cycle route along the South side of the Loch. This route is already quite popular with cyclists.

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
Parents and Toddlers Group	Wednesday	10.30 – 12.30pm	
	Contact:	Siobhan Beith	01456 486255
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

The closing of the Lower Foyers Footbridge

Lower Foyers folk are very concerned about the closing of the footbridge over the River Foyers. It was a pleasant walk with views of the river in a sylvan setting used a great deal by walkers and tourists heading to and from the Foyers graveyard and the walk by the farm over to Whitebridge. Most importantly, it was a quick pedestrian route for those without transport to and from the bus shelter and the Medical Centre.

Suddenly ugly barriers were erected early this year with signs saying 'Footpath Closed'.

The Council tells us that it was declared unsafe after a recent survey showed pieces of rock face under the bridge had broken away.

Both the footbridge and the Bailey bridge lower down the river were supposed to be temporary structures until the old stone bridge could be repaired. At that time it was deemed too expensive due to the crumbling state of the stone supports and the archway. Hence the unchanged situation which has gone on for years with little maintenance on either bridge.

Meanwhile the Bailey bridge **does** flood occasionally and could be severely damaged by floating debris. When flooding was imminent in the past car owners left their vehicles on the far side of the river knowing they could access them by the footbridge. Now this will no longer be an option meaning **no** access at all for the considerable number of residents at Elmbank, Grays Park, Riverside and the farm. It could be a disaster if there was a fire or medical emergency. We do need a bridge that will serve everyone.

A new bridge has been built recently at Whitebridge for those using the Loch Killin road. Our need is every bit as essential!

Buddy MacDougall

Forgotten Byways

While a look at a standard road map will furnish you with the names of the main roads through the Stratherrick district, you cannot help to ponder on the numerous side roads not designated an A or B listing, just what was their common name or the names of any particular feature of the byway.

The village of Foyers established in 1896 has the highest amount of named roads in the area. In upper Foyers, the named roads were Glenlia, incorporating the Intake. Lower Foyers with Park Terrace, Elmbank, Grays Park and Riverside, the latter locally christened Chinatown. This came about when one of the earliest residents whilst moving into her new abode, commented to the person doing the flitting "mind that box its got China in it". Other road names in Lower Foyers that do not appear on any road map include Kelvin Way, which goes from the bus stop down along the front of the old British Aluminium factory. The road named after Lord Kelvin the electrical/thermal engineer and inventor, who was involved with the design of the equipment in the factory.

Coronation Road:- starting from road down to Lower Foyers at the old bus garage, round the east side of the BA factory, joining up with Kelvin Way.

The Uchdach :- the road that was built by Italian prisoners of war in First World War, from the rear of Foyers Mains round Craeg Bhreac hill coming out at Glenlia intake. In the late eighties it was the only road for vehicles to reach Elmbank, Grays Park and Riverside when the stone bridge across the river Foyers was closed after being declared unsafe to vehicular traffic. This was due to masonry becoming detached from the bridge and until the present Bailey bridge was fitted lower down the river bank, the Uchdach was used for about 2 months for vehicular access. Then the bridge had a pedestrian walkway fitted to provide access. This walkway now has been deemed unsafe and closed in recent months.

Bungalow Brae:- was an exceptional steep part of the old B852 road that used to go up round the back of the former chapel, to merge with the present side road just about where it starts its final ascent towards Foyers School. The old road then followed the present side road down past the former manse & church, to the main road at the old church hall.

The Bungalow Brae was taken away to the great relief of the area in the forties, when the present main road was routed below the church.

The Turns :- short cut down to Lower Foyers from the old Church Hall ,

The Back Road :- the road from Glenlia past the garages to Craigniche crossroads,

The Cross Road :- from the B852 heading east to Craigniche crossroads

The Pass Road :- from Craigniche crossroads eastward towards the Pass of Inverfarigaig.

Enuck's Brae :- the first hill on the B852 after leaving Foyers heading for Stratherrick named after a woman who used to come down to Foyers for milk.

In Stratherrick,

The Trinloist Road :- from the B862 near the hamlet of Lochmore up past Tyndrum the Machack and Trinloist coming out at the Craigniche crossroads.

The Loch Bran Road:- leading from the B852 road at Fairyburn, up past Drumtemple church and Bailebeag to the main B 862 at the Garthbeg/Corriegarth crossroads.

The Strath Road :- part of the B852 road from Fairyburn to the Chapel Bridge.

The Druim :- (Gaelic for ridge) otherwise known as the Vennal, is the road between the Loch Bran and Trinloist roads to Foyers, running parallel to the main road (B862), some believe it was part of the original road through the area.

Dell Road :- The estate road which leaves Foyers by crossing the bridge at the Intake, going along past Dell farm to Whitebridge, joining the B862 just west of Wades bridge.

The Corkscrew :- the road from Ballaggan down to Inverfarigaig coming out on to the main road B852 adjacent to the former Forestry houses at Hillhead . In the sixties a touring bus went down the Corkscrew. The bus drivers contract of employment was terminated when he arrived back in Inverness with his traumatised passengers.

The Callaounour :- the road from the junction of the B862 and B861 following the Strathnairn road over to Dunmaglass.

Conagleann :- The estate road from Easter Aberchalder to Dunmaglass

Murdo's Motorway :- At Torness during the early seventies the resulting widening of the B862 from single track to double track and removal of the narrow bridge across the river Farigiag along with its resulting chicane was dubbed Murdo's Motorway. This was called after the local councillor who lived nearby at Torness Post Office.

Other features of the roads/bridges not mentioned in maps include

Murray's corner:- junction of Coronation Road and lower Foyers road, named after an early police constable of the area.

Foyers Park:- the area where the water fountain and small play park is located. In the early years of last century after the houses of Glenlia were built, the park went under the grand title of the Victoria Square, but the name never lasted and it vanished from use in the district.

The Parapet Brae:- name given to the hill from the Police Station to the Foyers shop.

Mackay's Lane :- was the name of the alley leading to Glenlia between house numbers 20-24.

Valley of Aultmore :- prior to ordinance survey maps around 1855, the Pass of Inverfarigaig was called Valley of Aultmore after the burn that flows down it.

The Gaik :- (Gaelic for hollow) dip on the B862 road the west side of Errogie



The Chapel Bridge :- the bridge over the river Gourag/Allt nan Loin at the crossroads of the B852 and the B862

The Allt Chearc Bridge :- bridge over the Allt Chearc burn carrying the road down the Pass of Inverfarigaig

Another feature of the roads was that if instructions for a task were given, the direction was also given as a matter of course. Go east to the shop and buy some bread or are you going west to the dance at White-bridge tonight ?

Mussady

BUS SERVICES TO LOWER FOYERS

The recent closure of the footbridge in Lower Foyers was discussed at our last Community Council meeting. Following this meeting I made contact with the bus operators - D & E Coaches, and the Transport Department at Highland Council. Representatives came out to look at the situation on Monday 9th February, and very quickly put an alteration to the bus route into effect. The bus now runs across the bailey bridge to pick up and set down passengers at Riverside, which we hope will help at least some of the problems associated with the footbridge closure. I am sure everyone is very grateful to the bus operators and Council Department for their prompt response to our request.

Liz Merther (Secretary to the Community Council)

Stratherrick Hall Arts

Forthcoming Attractions

Auroras: The Science, Myth and Magic of The Northern Lights

Illustrated Talk by Dr. Kenny Taylor

University of Aberdeen Centre for Lifelong Learning

Tuesday 17th March - 7.30 p.m. - Admission £3.00

Duncan Chisholm & Ivan Drever

We are delighted to welcome back one of Scotland's top duos, with their dynamic performance of fiddle, guitar and song - this highly successful partnership has been thrilling audiences since they first performed together in Wolfestone, and their music has been described as "an expression of the deep wells of the Scottish people".

Saturday 18th April - 8.00 p.m. - Tickets £6/£4

Experiences of 30 Years of Travelling

Illustrated Talk by Author & Photographer

Alastair Scott

Having travelled in many parts of the globe, including The Arctic, China, New Zealand and Patagonia, Alastair Scott brings the unusual and the eccentric vividly before our eyes - giving many an unforgettable portrait of people with whom he shared, for brief moments or extended periods, his own delight in humanity in all its forms.

Thursday 30th April - 8.00 p.m. - Admission £3.00

The Tannahill Weavers

The Tannahill Weavers' diverse repertoire reflects the duality of Scotland's musical heritage. It embraces both the mystical quality of the Highlander's Celtic Music, and the rollicking, sometimes even brawling, qualities of the Lowlander's Anglo-Scots tunes. The Tannahill Weaver's arrangements blend the beauty of the traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms. The penetrating sound of the Highland bagpipes is a thread of ancient memory running through it all.

Tuesday 2nd June - 7.30 p.m. - Tickets £6/£4

The Anna Massie Band

Winners of the "Best Folk Band" Award at the 2006 Scots Trad Music Awards, The Anna Massie Band is a young, dynamic trio finding a very warm welcome amongst Scotland's top bands. Featuring Anna Massie (Young Trad Musician of the Year 2003) on fiddle, mandolin, tenor banjo and flat-picking guitar, Jenn Butterworth on guitar and vocals and Mairead Green on accordion and border pipes, the band has made a considerable impression on the international folk scene

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"It should be illegal to be so young and so talented" Dirty Linen

Saturday 27th June - 8.00 p.m. - Tickets £6/£4

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

Christian Comment

Bridges are a necessary part of our daily life, as anyone living in Foyers, Inverfarigaig or Whitebridge will know well - they are often taken for granted until there is some doubt about their safety!

Is there a bridge which links our human race with the remarkable animals that inhabit this earth? This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Naturalist, Charles Darwin, the son of a Christian Minister. He is well-known for his theory of the evolution of mankind from the most primitive of forms to the present age, set out in his book, "The Origin of Species".

Recent discoveries of DNA sequences that govern the development of everything that grows, have shown parallel sequences for humans, chimpanzees, gorillas, orang-utans and gibbons, which go back some six million years to a shared ancestor, according to the renowned Professor of Bio-chemistry, Denis Alexander, himself a committed Christian and serious Bible scholar.

The Biblical Book of Genesis, meaning "Beginnings", while not a scientific textbook, does show the purpose of God for the human race, and allows for an evolutionary understanding of the creation process. In Genesis, Chapter 2 verse 7, we read "God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life". The Apostle Paul, who helped to spread the Christian message throughout the Roman world in the First Century, wrote to the Church in Corinth – a Greek city – about the evidence of life, (I Corinthians, Ch.15 – implying spiritual life). This is a concept not usually associated with animals but which is central to the teaching of Jesus, the Messiah of the Jews. Its truth was demonstrated by His own death and resurrection, which we celebrate at Easter. It has often been said that Jesus is the bridge between God and man, enabling us to journey from this life on earth to life with Him in Heaven. One need have no doubt about the safety of *this* bridge, which has been demonstrated for almost 2,000 years! As one hymn-writer has put it, "O, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary".

p.s. A visit to any ancient burial ground will emphasise the reality that the physical part of human beings returns to the dust from which it was formed but by a rather speedier process.

Martyn Bateman

Thank you to all who made our Community Carol Service in December such an enjoyable occasion.

Martyn.

Easter Praise

We hope to have a Community "Easter Praise" gathering on Sunday, 12th April at 6.00 p.m. in the Stratherrick Hall, to which everyone is most welcome. Any donations will be put towards the Christian Aid Week collection in May; volunteers to help with this, 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

Sunday: 10.30a.m. & 4.15p.m. Dores. Wednesday: 7.30p.m. Mr. D. Fraser 01456 486408

Free Presbyterian Church

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

Mr. E. Fraser 01456 486282

Roman Catholic Church:

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

INVERNESS - GORTHLECK SERVICE 303									
	SD	SH	MWF	TTH		MWF	TTH	SD	SH
Inshes Retail Park	-----	-----	1355D	1355D	Gorthleck	0932	0920	1504	1515
Raigmore Hospital	-----	-----	1400D	1400D	Stratherrick Pri- mary School	-----	-----	1520	-----
Inverness Bus Station	0810	0830	1410	1410	Upper Foyers	-----	0930	- -----	-----
Dores Post Office	-----	0845	1425	1425	Lower Foyers	-----	0934	-----	-----
Farr Shop	0825	-----	-----	-----	Inverfarigaig	-----	0941	-----	-----
The Steadings	0835	-----	-----	-----	Errogie Telephone Kiosk	0937	-----	1525	1525
Dumnaglass Road End	0845	-----	-----	-----	Torness	0947	-----	1535	1535
Abersky	0850	-----	-----	-----	Abersky	0952D	-----	1544	-----
Torness	0855	0900	1435	-----	Dumnaglass Road End	0957D	-----	1549	-----
Errogie Telephone Ki- osk	0905	0910	1445	-----	The Steadings	-----	-----	1559	-----
Inverfarigaig	-----	-----	-----	1442	Farr Shop	-----	-----	1610	1610
Lower Foyers	-----	-----	-----	1449	Dores Post Office	0957	0958	-----	1545
Upper Foyer	-----	-----	-----	1453	Inverness Bus Sta- tion	1012	1012	1624	1600
Stratherrick Primary School	0910	-----	-----	-----	Raigmore Hospital	1022D	1022D	-----	-----
Gorthleck	0920	0920	1451	1504	Inshes Retail Park	1025D	1025D	-----	-----
MWF - Monday, Wednesday & Friday.									
TTH - Tuesday & Thursday.									
SD - Monday - Friday when schools are open.									
SH - Monday - Friday when schools are closed.									
D - Operates via these points on request. Passengers must telephone 01463 222444 by 1700 on last working day before travel									

INVERNESS -WHITEBRIDGE SERVICE 301				FOYERS - INVERNESS SERVICE 302			
	Mon to Friday		Sat		Monday to Friday		Saturday
Knockie Lodge Road End	0730	1225	-----	1225	Upper Foyers	0755 0755 1310 1623	0900 1320
Whitebridge Bus Shelter	0735	1230	-----	1230	Lower Foyers	0800 0800 1315	----- 0905 1325
Gorthleck Old Shop	0745	1240	-----	1240	Inverfarigaig Ctgs	0807 0807 1322 1630	0912 1332
Errogie Telephone Kiosk	0749	1244	-----	1244	Dores Inn	0824 0824 1339 1647	0929 1349
Torness	0758	1253r	-----	1253r	Scaniport	0831 0831 1346 1654	0936 1356
Coulanour Junction	0803	1248	-----	1248	Royal Academy	0840	-----
Croachy	0815	1300 1815		1300	Holm Park Road End	0844 0835 1350 1658	0940 1400
Farr Post Office	0825	1310 1825		1310	Inverness Bus Station	0852 0845 1400 1708	0950 1410
Inverness Royal Academy	0840	1325 1840		1325	Inverness Bus Station	1215 1515 1515 1743	1230 1743
Inverness Bus Station	0850	1335 1850		1335	Holm Park Road End	1225 1525 1525 1753	1240 1753
Inverness Bus Station	1030	1515 1740		1725	Royal Academy	-----	----- 1535
Inverness Royal Academy	1040	1535 1750		1740	Scaniport	1229 1529 1544 1757	1244 1757
Farr School	1055	1550 1805		1750	Dores Inn	1236 1536 1551 1804	1251 1804
Croachy	1105	1600 1815		1800	Inverfarigaig Ctgs	1253 1553 1608 1821	1308 1821
Coulanour Junction	1117	1612	-----	1812	Lower Foyers	1300 1600 1615 1828	1315 1828
Torness	-----	1617B	-----	-----	Upper Foyers	1305 1605 1620 1833	1320 1833
Errogie Telephone Kiosk	1121	1616	-----	1816	The bus service only stops at the Royal Academy during term times and only school start and finish.		
Gorthleck Old Shop	1125	1620	-----	1820			
Whitebridge Bus Shelter	1135	1630	-----	1830			
Knockie Lodge Road End	1140	1635	-----	1835			

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