

TheBoleskineBulletin



September 2009
Issue 48

MACBRAYNES BUS TRIP 20 June



I would like to thank the passengers who came on the trip – everybody expressed they enjoyed it and that it had brought back very special memories of days gone by.

For me it was an ambition realised. A special thanks to Sadie Hipkin, who was the inspiration behind this memorable day. Thanks to Lorraine who helped me to organ-



ize it and a big thanks to Helen our photographer who took amazing pictures of the day out, now forever captured.

For me it was, in my small way, to give something back to the village of Foyers.

Raymond Bus Driver.

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Refurbishment of the War Memorial

The Community Council is happy to report that the repainting of the lettering on our War Memorial has now been carried out by John Fraser & Son. We are indebted to the War Memorials Trust, who gave a grant of 75% for the work, and also to the Highland Council who covered the remaining 25% of the cost.

The Memorial carries the names of 34 local men, all soldiers, who died in the 1914-18 War, and a further 14 soldiers, sailors and airmen from the 1939-45 War, with many recognisable local names.



THE BRIDGE AT LOWER FOYERS

The saga of the bridge continues. Some of you may have seen the short piece which appeared in the Inverness Courier recently. As a result of this the CC was approached by BBC Alba (the Gaelic TV for their news programme), and our bridge was famous for five minutes on the TV. Alex Sutherland is our resident Gaelic speaker on the CC and very ably gave his interview in the correct language for the channel. Liz Merther also presented information on the situation - but definitely not in the Gaelic! Although this is a specialist channel reaching a smaller audience, every bit of publicity helps, and we are doing our best to keep up the pressure.

We understand that technical reports and recommendations for the priority to be placed on various works are being submitted in August, and final decisions on what is to be included in the capital programme will be made in September. We continue to hope that our case is strong enough to be included in the programme.

Liz Merther

CC Secretary

Sir,

Scar on the Hill

You cannot have failed to notice the new scar on the hillside above Loch Mhor this summer. The new track crosses the catchment for the Stratherrick and Foyers water supply and then continues west along the skyline. Constructing a road straight up a steep slope inevitably creates scarring but also as the road contours around the hillside peat recently excavated can be seen cascading down – and winter and further erosion has yet to come. This is a ghastly example of hill vandalism that can be seen by every resident and visitor alike. This type of track does not need planning permission as it comes within permitted development rights for agricultural use! Legislation should be changed – such ugliness and damage – seen by so many for the benefit of so few cannot be condoned. Our wild land is precious. I would urge anyone who cares about our hills to write to our local councillors and our MSPs.

Yours etc, Jane O'Donovan,

Lochgarthside.

THANK YOU

CAMHANAICH
LOWER FOYERS
16.8.09

I am writing this brief letter just to say I am deeply grateful to all my neighbours for being so considerate and helpful since my circumstances changed last year.

They bring papers and messages to my door, retrieve my dustbin when I am not quick enough to retrieve it first! They have also given me lifts to Inverness, and often do other things.

I have told my relatives and friends I have still got in Italy, how good it feels to know that people care, and they are very glad to know that they do.

A great many thanks to you all!

Anna Totty

FERGUS FORTUNE' 100TH BIRTHDAY

Fergus and Rose would like to thank the many friends who contributed towards making Fergus's 100th birthday celebrations such a happy day. There are too many for us to thank them in person. He received 140 cards, many gifts and a good supply of lovely goodies for the teas. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

We would like to express a special thank you to those who dropped in both in the days before and during the event itself.

Thanks are also due to the Rev. S Jeffrey and the Kirk Session for the lovely Bird Table which is being well used by our feathered friends. The supportive visits of the Rev. Stewart Jeffrey were also much appreciated.

Last but not least thank you to our good friend and neighbour Valerie and our niece Charmaine for acting as tea ladies during the day. May god bless you all.

Please accept our apologies for this late acknowledgement.

Fergus has written to Her Majesty thanking her for her card.

Rose



Highland Councillor News from Margaret Davidson

The story of my travails on South Loch Ness and Stratherrick and Foyers can be summed up in 6 words

Roads Roads Roads

Bridges Bridges Bridges

Not entirely true of course and I'll come to that, but they loom large

The Roads....all the roads on South Loch Ness are terrible. That is a given. But we have to change it. Over the last 6-9 months we have been raising the profile of the road conditions with the director of Tec services Neil Gilles, and indeed having him out for a drive round on very midgy evening in July. Quote from Neil "some bits are okay". However we made the points necessary and my hope is that there will be provision to invest in all South Loch Ness Roads in the new capital plan. I was pretty confident earlier this year, but as we hear that public sector finance will be severely squeezed over the next 5 years....then I am less sure. However we will keep up the pressure and fingers crossed

Anyway we helped the maintenance team find South Loch Ness this year and we have had a good few miles of surface dressing and some patching.

There has been a good deal of discussion about timber extraction and the problems it caused and leaves behind. Let me or your Community Council know when there is a problem. I think we need to have this as a topic at one of our ward forums and talk it out

Bridges..... Let's start with Lower Foyers. We have spent some time bringing this to the attention of Highland Council both bridge engineers and the director and chairman. John Laing the Chairman of Tec's came with me to receive the petition from the folks in Lower Foyers and I reckon every one of them had signed it. We now have to keep it on the agenda and again wait for the Council's new capital programme.

The Old Wade Bridge at Whitebridge is powering along. John Townsend has been doing very well and the Highland Council solicitor Forbes Rennie has been outstanding. Do support the company. The next moves of course will be hunting the money to do the job.

And then someone said to me there was another old bridge at Inverfarigaig. Oh Help!!

Now what else has been on the go?

Glenlia. It has been a real treat to work with the new residents group at Glenlia. There is no shortage of ideas and it will be good to consult with residents and start getting things done this autumn/winter.

Again in Foyers, I hope to call a meeting in the autumn to discuss signage, parking, and other matters to improve the visitor and indeed local experience in Foyers. Let me have your ideas and help me identify all the problems. I will bring Destination Loch Ness and Graeme Ambrose (from Inverfarigaig) along to help us with this one.

Leader Money. This is European money that is to help community development. Bring out all of your best ideas. I hope to see it used for play areas in Foyers and Gorthleck.

There is fresh talk about the prospect of a village hall in Foyers. That could be the most important project we take forward. Let's not loose the discussion.

Housing. I am delighted to see Albyn Housing Association moving fast at last on a new social housing build in Gorthleck. I am sure those houses will be wonderful and improve life for the people who go into them. The next steps will be to discuss housing need in Foyers and Inverfarigaig.

You will see me around over the autumn and often with the new Ward 13 Manager, Louise McCaul who is a star.

All the best

Margaret Davidson Highland Councillor Aird and Loch Ness

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Stratherrick Hall Arts

Forthcoming Attraction

THE BONZO DOG DOO DAH BAND

Changed my Life Forever

From the Theatre Company that brought you 'The Hunters',
'Dracula – the Panto!' and 'Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde' comes a new
play with 60's Hits.

**Q: Is there anything more frustrating than being a
One Hit Wonder?**

A: Maybe being a One Hit Wonder Tribute Act.

But what goes on behind the wigs, costumes and shades?

This play tells the story of two Tribute Wannabees, Bob and Eric,
who meet at an audition which might be their last chance for fame.

Both are only a song away from making their dreams come true.....

but Rock n' Roll can break your heart.

Their dedication stands out, their history is uncovered and their future unfolds.....

A story driven along by songs from the sixties that might lead them to the promised land..... 'The Crying Game',
'Urban Spaceman', 'I'm The Pied Piper',

'San Francisco', 'Something In The Air', 'Spirit In The Sky', and many more.

Thursday 8th October - 7.30 p.m. - £6/£4

For further info. contact Hugh Nicol – 01456.486350

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

Surveyors from the Inverness offices of the Energy Saving Trust will be contacting those individuals who responded to the Bulletin's earlier invitation to have their houses surveyed for the purpose of a free energy audit.

If anyone who did not take up this invitation would now like to be included please get in touch with the Community Trust secretary, A. Sutherland at 1 Aultnagoire, Errogie. (486 711).

Questionnaires

We wish to thank everyone who participated in our annual Practice Questionnaire. Each year we usually ask a minimum of 50 people consecutively who attend for consultations but this year we asked nearly 100 people so we really appreciate the time people have taken to fill out the form and comment about our Practice.

We achieved well above average satisfaction scores compared to the National benchmark scores for other Practices and we received a lot of complimentary comments. A copy of the results is available at the Medical Centre and you are welcome to study it. We received a lot of comments and suggestions and we have summarised them, and we have also included them with the results of the study. You can get a copy of the study if you ask Lesley or Eileen at reception.

We received some comments about our opening hours and we felt we should inform everyone about them. A doctor from our Practice is available from 8 am to 6 pm from Monday to Friday and the Medical Centre is open from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm from Monday to Friday. In addition we have a late evening surgery on Wednesday from 6 pm to 6.30 pm for anyone who is working and cannot attend during our opening hours.

We would also like to thank everyone who returned the postal questionnaire sent out by the government on availability of appointments at our Practice. 452 out of the 842 adults in our Practice were sent a questionnaire and 295 replied which was the highest response rate in the South East area of the Highland Health Board. 99% of the responses were positive, again one of the highest levels in our area. We will endeavour to ensure that we maintain our ability to offer appointments within 2 working days to anyone who needs one and at the same time have appointments that can be booked ahead if needed.

A big thank you from the Medical Centre Team at Foyers.

Gregor and Lesley Mackintosh, Lesley MacGregor, Julie Craven and Eileen Bain

Seasonal FLU VACCINE

We have arranged Flu Vaccine Open Clinic days for you to visit us, at the Medical Centre, Foyers on;-

Wednesday 14th October between 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

Friday 16th October between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

There is no need to make an appointment, but if these dates and times are not convenient for you, then please phone for an appointment on another day.

If you are over 65 or have a chronic illness we recommend that you attend for 'flu immunisation . If you haven't had the Pneumococcal vaccine previously then we will be happy to give it to you also.

Swine flu vaccine is expected to be available around the middle of October and the first groups likely to be offered the vaccination will be pregnant women and anyone with a chronic illness. Healthy people over 65 are not expected to be vaccinated in this first group, but further information should be available by October.



**Drs G J & L E Mackintosh
The Medical Centre,
Foyers,
Inverness
IV2 6YB**

The open clinic dates are dependant on the delivery of the seasonal flu vaccine and at present no delays are expected.

STRATHERICK & FOYERS 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, Foyers 486307 Alex Sutherland, Errogie 486711

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2009

Members present: Mr M. Houston (Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mr M. Bateman

Mrs L. MacGregor Mr A. Nicol Mr A. Sutherland

Also present: Councillor M. Davidson Councillor H. Carmichael

Apologies received: Mr K. Fraser Mrs K. Grant Mr. P. Higham Police Constable A. Mathieson Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Brigade)

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker Housing: Mr Sutherland and Cllr. Davidson had a meeting with representatives of Albyn Housing and the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust regarding the sites at Gorthleck and Inverfarigaig. They had received a commitment that sketch designs would be prepared for the Gorthleck site by 26th May 2009, and that the project would go out to tender before Christmas this year. The site should provide eight units for Albyn and six or seven for HSCHT. At a later date the Inverfarigaig site could provide three or four units. It is proposed to hold meetings in the area to update the local Housing Needs Survey. Albyn are also looking at potential sites around Foyers.

(b) Community Web Site: An application for funding has been submitted to the Community Trust. The Trust is supportive in principle, and has asked for more information regarding maintenance of the site. They feel it may be necessary to pay someone to have responsibility for maintaining the site.

(c) Gorthleck War Memorial: The War Memorials Trust contacted the Secretary for more detailed information about the Memorial, which has now been supplied. A decision on the grant application is due at the beginning of May.

In discussions with the Ward Manager the Secretary has been informed that TEC Services carried out a survey of the Memorial in around 2003, and may be able to help with any costs not covered by the grant. She will keep them informed. A copy of the survey has been supplied for our records.

(d) Destination Loch Ness - Tourist Route Signs: The Chairman reported that Mr Ambrose had suggested that some signs might be provided, and he believed this might have been from some 'end of year' funds. Cllr. Carmichael had been meeting with DLN, and will make enquiries.

(e) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge: Mr. Bateman reported that following their last meeting, the Bridge Trust now has three directors. More will be needed, and as many volunteers as possible to be members. A notice will be placed in the Boleskine Bulletin inviting volunteers. Mr. Sutherland suggested that local land-owners would be ideal as directors.

(f) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers: The Secretary has provided photographs and historical information on the Monument to the Highland Buildings Preservation Trust. She has been invited to a meeting presenting information on a successful, ongoing kirkyards restoration project which was set up in Aberdeenshire. It is hoped to set up a similar project for Highland kirkyards, and the meeting will look at possible ways forward with this. It is hoped that restoration of the Monument may be included in this project.

Tabling of Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence: Rural Inverness Community Development Plan,

Scottish Government documents for Community Councils: Model for the Establishment of a Community Council,

Model Constitution, Model Code of Conduct, Model Standing Orders

(The Secretary will go over these documents and bring forward any matters for discussion to the next meeting. She will copy the 'Code of Conduct' for each member.)

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received:

Inverness Area Community Councils Forum - Notice of Meeting 12th May 2009 - circulated

Letter and Grant Acceptance Form from Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

NHS Highland - Update and Leaflets on Emergency Dental Service

BMA Scotland - General Practice in Scotland: The Way Ahead

Letters Sent: Foyers Power Station - re abandoned boat, Highland Buildings Preservation Trust - re Fraser Monument and Highland Kirkyards project, War Memorials Trust - re grant application

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was not present, but had send details of balances as follows:

Ordinary account: £718.41 (including £124.03 held for Mr J. Campbell) Project account: £3663.58

Planning Applications

(a) The only application was for an extension to the time for monitoring of a wind mast at Land at Carn Na Saobhaidhe, Gorthleck. There were no objections to this.

(b) A letter had been received from planning indicating that permission had been granted for the Church Hall site at Foyers. The Secretary reported that no mention had been made of our concerns about pedestrian safety, including the children's access to the Primary School, during work on the site. A letter had been written to Planning about this in December and acknowledgement received. The Secretary had contacted the local Police who had dealt with this as a road safety issue, getting the site fencing moved back from the road edge. Members felt that we should write to the Planning Department expressing our disappointment that our concerns over serious road safety issues had not been addressed. A letter will be sent.

(c) Application for trader's licence - Mandalay, Gorthleck. A site visit had been undertaken. Cllr. Carmichael informed the CC that the application had been refused, but the Chairman felt that the broader issue of whether the CC should write letters of sup-

port in such circumstances should be discussed by the full Council. This item will be carried forward to the next Agenda for discussion.

Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland was unable to attend but had given a report by phone. He informed the CC that the problem of the European Working Time Directive has been resolved, and that there is now no threat to the retained Fire Service.

Roads & Signage

(a) Response from TEC Services following meeting of 20.2.09: An email from Les Houliker giving a breakdown of spending of the Glendoe money was read out. It was felt that further detail was needed, and that a number of other issues raised at the meeting had still not been addressed. Cllr. Davidson will arrange a further meeting.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers: Mr Nicol had obtained some good publicity on this issue via the Highland News. Mrs MacGregor & the Secretary had been organising a petition, and it was felt that the next stage should be to arrange a formal handover of the petition, with more publicity, photographs etc. Cllr. Davidson will ask John Laing, Chairman of TEC Services to be present to receive the petition, and will discuss suitable dates. She is also trying to get David MacKenzie, who is carrying out the review of Highland bridge priorities, to come out to Foyers to see the situation on the ground. The Secretary noted that footpath diversion signs are needed, as the old bridge is included on many tourist walking guides and maps. Cllr. Davidson advised that Stewart Eastaugh, the Access Officer is the person to contact, and the Secretary will do this.

(c) The problem of roadside obstructions such as boulders was again mentioned. Dick Brown of the Highland Council deals with this, and Mr Sutherland offered to give him a guided tour of the problem areas. The Secretary will pass on contact details. The Secretary noted that there was still no programme of regular 'housekeeping' for ditches etc. around the district. For example, the ditch opposite the Medical Centre in Lower Foyers had been completely blocked since the winter snow, and was reported for clearance. However, a local resident had cleared this himself before TEC Services came out. When workmen did come, material cleared from roadside ditches is still being piled up beside the road, instead of being removed, despite this being reported as a problem. Ownership of the Dell Estate road is still unresolved, and it is in an extremely bad condition. Tenants have done some work themselves. Cllr. Davidson reported that the Unadopted Roads Fund is very limited, and priority goes to situations where elderly or disabled residents are affected. Enquiries are continuing. No action has yet been taken on the Foyers Cemetery road. Cllr. Davidson will arrange for Mr Fridge to meet with her and the Secretary at the Cemetery to look at this. Roadside trees left following forestry clearance are still a problem at Trinloist and Knockie. A further letter will be sent.

Water & Sewerage

Following last month's report the Secretary had made enquiries with Scottish Water. They have informed us that the only current work in the area is to upgrade the old water main at Lochmhor cottages in Gorthleck. They are also looking into options to improve water quality in the Gorthleck area, and have notified relevant land owners about this. Improvements are planned for the 2010 - 2014 period.

Community Project

The Chairman reported that he and Mrs Kirkland will be meeting with HIE next week to move this project forward. Cllrs. Carmichael and Davidson advised that if further funding is needed then Leader money could be applied for.

Renewable Energy & Community Benefit

The Secretary passed on the invitations received for the Inauguration of the River E Hydroelectric Scheme on 21st May. Mr Sutherland reported that the meeting with SSE to discuss allocation of funds for energy saving measures is still being re-scheduled.

Any Other Competent Business

(b) Cllr. Davidson reported that she and John Taylor had been to Foyers to look at possible options for parking solutions both at Glenlia and at the shop. Discussions are ongoing.

(c) Mrs MacGregor reported that a tree had been removed, which had improved visibility at the Medical Centre access.

(d) Mr Colquhoun reported a good response to the initial meeting on creation of a residents association for Glenlia. A further meeting is scheduled for this week to formalise the Association, and they will be getting further advice on organisation and funding.

(e) Cllr. Davidson indicated that with the start of the new financial year there are now funds in the Council Discretionary Budget.

(f) Mr Nicol felt that there might be a need to reduce the speed limit through Foyers, and possibly introduce a speed limit on the road to Lower Foyers. Cllr. Davidson advised that Les Houliker should be asked to arrange traffic surveys to assess this need. The Secretary will request this.

(g) An Invoice has been received from the Boleskine Bulletin for publication of the Minutes in the next four issues. It was felt that our funds are not sufficient to pay the full amount of this invoice at present, and that payment should be split. This will allow part of the payment to be made after receipt of our new grant. A letter will be sent.

(h) The Chairman reported that the photocopier has been unusable for many months now due to the damp in the room where it is housed. It was agreed to request that it be moved into the adjoining room so that Canon can be called in to get the machine working again. Enquiries should also be made about the situation with the Hall roof. A letter will be written to the Hall Committee.

(i) The next CC meeting will be the AGM on 26th May 2009. Final accounts will need to be prepared for auditing. The Secretary will obtain the final figures from the Treasurer to update the balance sheets. It was agreed to ask Mr J. Campbell to audit the accounts for us.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26th MAY 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members present: Mr P. Higham (Vice Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer) Mr M. Bateman Mr K. Fraser Mr A. MacPherson Mr A. Nicol

Also present: Councillor M. Davidson Mr Tom Hainey, Highland Small Communities Housing Trust
Helen Cameron and Lucy Fraser of Albyn Housing

Apologies received: Mr M. Houston Mr A. Sutherland Mrs L. MacGregor Police Constable A. Mathieson Councillor D. Hendry Councillor H. Carmichael

Affordable Housing Development at Gorthleck

The representatives from HSCHT and Albyn Housing presented an update on the situation regarding this development. Each organisation owns half of the land in question, but will fully co-operate to achieve the best lay-out for the development, and will not impose any 'hard' boundary between the areas. The aim will be to create a development in keeping with the rural situation. Initial discussions with Scottish Water had indicated capacity for six units, but it now seems that a larger number will be possible. Further information is awaited from Scottish Water confirming the actual number, but the planners are happy for an increase in numbers, as it is a large site. The Architects have suggested ten, or possibly up to fifteen units, with development being phased. CC members felt that if the planners are happy with the proposed development then there are unlikely to be any local objections. The initial intention is to obtain funding to get the necessary infrastructure for the site in place as soon as possible. This will allow any sites designated for self-build to be made available first. The previous Housing Needs Survey showed a demand for all types of property - a mixture of three, four, and five person housing. An update of the Survey to assess any changes or additional needs will be carried out, and a 'drop in' session at the Stratherrick Hall to provide information on options likely to be available (rental; self-build; shared equity) and how these will work. The possible inclusion of some housing for the elderly was suggested. It is hoped to obtain funding to make a start on the development next year.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker Housing: This matter was discussed under item 2 above. HSCHT is looking at the best way to provide this facility within the new development.

(b) Gorthleck War Memorial: The War Memorials Trust has awarded us a grant of £870 towards the work on the Memorial, and Highland Council TEC Services will cover the balance of £464.00. The Secretary has contacted John Fraser, the monumental mason, to accept their quotation, and to obtain proposed start and completion dates. They have also been sent a simple contract to confirm that they will undertake the work as quoted, which is required by the Trust.

(c) Destination Loch Ness - Tourist Route Signs: Cllr. Carmichael has obtained confirmation for us that new village welcome signs are to be provided for Foyers, Whitebridge, and Inverfarigaig. These will be in the same style as the Great Glen Way signs, and are currently being designed. A member enquired whether signs are also to be provided for Gorthleck and Errogie. The Secretary will make enquiries.

(d) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge: Mr Bateman reported that good progress had been made at the last meeting. A slip is being included in the next Boleskine Bulletin indicating support for the project. He urged people to return these, as evidence of local support will assist with applications for funding.

(e) Photocopier: The Secretary had written to the Hall Committee about moving the copier into the next room where it is dry. They have been in touch to say that this is quite acceptable.

(f) Boleskine Bulletin: The Secretary will write indicating that we will pay half now towards the cost of publication of the Minutes, and the other half when we have received our next grant from Highland Council. This was felt to be a suitable solution.

Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence: Housing in the Countryside Interim Supplementary Guidance - Consultation
Notice of Joint City Wide Forum - "Local Transport Strategy for the Highlands" Development Plan Scheme 2009

Draft Supplementary Guidance: Education & New Residential Development

Contact details for "First Responders Scheme" and "Heartstart"

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received: Inverness Area Community Councils Forum: Draft Minutes of Meeting 12th May 2009

Update on ASDA application enquiry

David Stewart, MSP - Letter regarding Bill on victims of crime, and witnesses.

Reply from Foyers Power Station re abandoned boat

Treasurer's Report

Mr John Campbell had kindly audited the CC Annual Accounts, and they were signed by him as correct. The Treasurer presented copies of the accounts to members. Balances at the year end on 31.03.09 were: Ordinary A/c £268.41p and Project A/c £3663.58p. Current balances are: Ordinary A/c £718.41p (including £124.03 held for Mr J. Campbell - Senior Citizens Fund) and Project A/c £3663.58p. Cheques written on the Ordinary A/c and still to be deducted are: Boleskine Bulletin - £125.00 Secretary - Annual honorarium - £250.00 Hire of Gorthleck Hall - £15.00 Annual fee for Data Protection Registration - £35.00 Total £425.00

Planning Applications

Cllr. Davidson took no part in discussion on planning matters.

(a) Applications

(i) Single room/conservatory extension at Mains Cottage Foyers There were no objections.

(ii) Land at Drive Park, Foyers - change of use agricultural to housing development. Representations were heard from adjoining property owners setting out their objections and some concerns about the application. Copies of two letters were presented to the CC. It was agreed that a site visit will be arranged.

(iii) North East of Lyne Cottage, Gorthleck - House and stables (reserved matters) There were no objections.

(b) Other Planning Matters

- (i) The Secretary reported that she had written a further letter regarding road safety issues at the Church Hall site in Foyers to express the CC's concern about the apparent inability of the planning system to safeguard pedestrians during work on the site.
- (ii) Several enquiries had been received about a building in progress at Foyers House. The Planning Department informed us that they had no prior knowledge of this. They have informed the owner that planning permission is required and have instructed him to make a retrospective application.

Roads & Signage

- (a) Response from TEC Services to list of road issues No further information has been received. Cllr. Davidson has arranged a further meeting for herself and CC members with Neil Gillies, Director of TEC Services, on Tuesday 2nd June to pursue these matters.
- (b) Bridge at Lower Foyers: Cllr. John Laing, Chairman of the TEC Services Committee, had come out to Foyers with Cllr. Davidson to receive the petition regarding replacement of the bridge. He was sympathetic to the local difficulties and stressed the importance of keeping up the pressure on this issue. The event was well supported by local residents. Cllr. Davidson had also arranged a site visit by David MacKenzie of TEC Services, who is carrying out the review of Highland bridges. The Secretary attended this meeting, and was grateful to Bob Main and John Townshend who came along to offer their expert civil engineering knowledge. Mr MacKenzie agreed that a new bridge is required, but replacement will depend on the resources available. Our bridge is not at the top of the list, but it is important to keep up the pressure to ensure that it stays a high priority and gets into the new Capital Programme. The results of the review should be known in the Autumn.
- (c) Traffic speed through Foyers: The Secretary has requested traffic surveys. A response is awaited.
- (d) Street lights – Glenlia: A resident reports that work has been done on the street lights behind Glenlia and the situation is now much improved.

Renewable Energy & Community Benefit

Several members had attended the inauguration of the River E project, and reported a most interesting and enjoyable event.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd June 2009 at the Foyers Primary School.

Straths Athletic – A Revival

For some time the possibility of forming an organisation /group for local runners and joggers and anyone who enjoys non mechanised movement above walking pace has been talked about in this community. There are already a number of individuals who run together and on their own using the great variety of the tracks, paths and minor roads in the South Loch Ness area and it would be good to provide an opportunity to meet each other for say, a weekly outing and to exchange routes, views and ideas about our activity

Straths Athletic was the name of the combined Stratherrick and Strathnairn shinty club until the formation of the current Boleskine Shinty Club in the 1953/54 season.

I would like to suggest that it would be worthwhile to form a new group to be called, say, "Stratherrick Athletic" for interested runners and joggers of all ages and experience with a view to having regular meetings and outings.

I would therefore look forward to hearing from anyone who would be interested in attending a preliminary meeting and suggest that they either ring me on 486711 or e mail at Erogiealex@yahoo.com to arrange an initial get together. Overweight and unfit land owners and their staff who might have become increasingly dependent on their vehicles and new roads through the mountains will be particularly welcome!

Alex. Sutherland

Shinty Update

Season 2009 warm up games saw the current Boleskine team retain the Brian Stoddart & Donald Macgruer Memorial Cup with a win of five goals to nil over the Veterans. The game was not as one sided as score line suggests, in the first half the veterans had by far the best of the play but could not convert there pressure into goals . While the youngsters made the most of their opportunities after half time to win the trophy. James Stoddart, Brian Stoddart's nephew presented the cup to 2009 captain Lewis Smith and medals to each team. The winners of the best player medals chosen by Jim Chisholm & James Stoddart, were presented to Mike Pirrie for 2008 and Allan Sumner for the Veterans. The following week the team lost to Kinlochshiel by four goals to two in the annual Boleskine Challenge Cup game, in which the team full back Graham Black suffered a broken arm . Graham it later transpired will be out for the whole season, which is a setback for the club as he is one of our most experienced players and generally available each week.

The league season did not start well seeing us only pick up one point from the first four games, hardly championship winning form. Though the following week we had a good win against Inverness away, our next game saw us knocked out of the Scottish Junior Championship the Sutherland Cup by Newtonmore. Our league form improved after this, with three good victories against Kinraig twice and Strathglass away. The next two games resulted in another league defeat to Beaully and eliminated from the Strathdearn Cup by Kilmallie . Injuries and player availability due to work and other commitments have hit the team hard this year, however some of the younger players are benefiting from the experience of having regular games. To date we have used twenty seven players in the eleven competitive games we have played this season, this does not reflect a settled team which is essential to win trophy's. In the second part of the season we would hope with players coming back from injury and better consistent availability, that we will be up near the top of the league table at the end of the season.

One of our players, fifteen year old Annie Butterworth who has been playing for the team for the last year, had the honour to be selected for the Scotland Woman's international squad training. But unfortunately Annie incurred a serious knee injury whilst playing football for her school, which means she will miss out on this opportunity due to the injury and it could be some time till she takes part in active sport again.

The Boleskine juvenile teams of U12 and U14 level have been playing regularly in local competitions. The U14 have several matches as they are in a league along with Kingussie and Newtonmore and also in the Development Trophy along with Strathglass, Inverness, Tomatin and Glenurquhart. The youngsters have given a good display in these games against more experienced players as we have several primary age players in our team.



Boleskine under 14 June 09

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.

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

South Loch Ness Heritage Group

Did you know that in World War 2 the local bus drivers were not allowed to tell potential passengers where their service was going? Can't have that sort of information getting into jerry's hands, can we!

The Heritage Group's meeting in Dores on July 2nd was a fascinating trip back into the 1930s, 40s and 50s, through the eyes of two elders of the area who remember those times, Hugh Fraser and Alistair Mackintosh. As chairman of the meeting, introducing a new format without a speaker giving an illustrated presentation, I was concerned that there might be awkward silences, with not enough feedback from the audience, but of course I should not have worried. Hugh and Alistair took as through the years with humour and insight and, from time to time, with a thought-provoking show of respect for long-gone characters of the area, and for equally long-gone lifestyles.

In a single lifetime, huge changes have taken place, and not just in the obvious areas of technology, transport and employment, but also in the very basis of the community, which was then almost entirely centred around the farms and villages with little need, or opportunity, to look outside for entertainment or "social networking". What a difference now, when neighbours may lead diverse and essentially separate lives, and only a handful actually work in the area where they live.

Many thanks to Hugh and Alistair for this enthralling evening, and Lets hope that someone from the Stratherrick end of our area could do the same in Gorthleck sometime soon.

The next open meeting is at 7.30 pm on 1st October at Stratherrick Hall when the speaker will be Forestry Commission archaeologist Mathew Ritchie. With a break in our normal tradition, our Annual General Meeting this year will be on 1st December at Dores Hall.

THANK YOU NOTE

The pupils of Foyers Primary School would like to thank everybody who sponsored them on their walk from Foyers to Whitebridge in June. Your generous donations raised £ 516, which will be used for a school trip to the Dundee Science Centre, to supplement the school library and to fund other outings in line with the school curriculum.

Also, special thanks to Sarah and David at the Whitebridge Hotel, who contributed with food and drink for the tired troops at their destination!

THE KNOCKIE TRUST FUND

As far as we can ascertain the Knockie Trust Fund was set up by the Fraser family who owned Knockie Estate in the early 1800's. Its purpose was to help the poor of the area bounded by Whitebridge, Foyers and Stratherrick. It was historically administered by the local Church of Scotland Minister and one of his elders who would give a small amount each year to families in hardship and individuals in poverty or distress. The money came from the interest or other income from the capital of the Trust. The capital was untouched and sometimes added to because not all the income was distributed in any one year. Because it was administered by the Church of Scotland, the perception was that it was a fund only for those belonging to the Church of Scotland but this was not the case.

In 1986 the then minister of the local Church of Scotland, Rev. N. Archer felt unhappy with the way that the Knockie Fund income was distributed and called a public meeting to get a view on the situation. The result of this was that a new Deed of Trust was drawn up with 6 local trustees appointed which were:-

- 1) The Minister of the local Parish – Rev. N. Archer.
 - 2) The local Medical Practitioner – Dr A. Bennett.
 - 3) The Chairman of the Community Council – Mr W. Halliday.
- And their successors in office.

Local Trustees who resided in the area for their lifetime or unless they resigned

- 4) Mr W. Batchen, Foyers.
- 5) Mr H. MacNally, Stratherrick.
- 6) Mr A. Fraser, Stratherrick.

The capital of the fund on the date of the signing of the trust deed on 4th April 1986 was £29,979 and the policy continued to use the interest only as the disbursement.

The new trustees agreed that as the general living conditions had changed since the original trust deed was drawn up we should look at the distribution of the income in a different way. As there were no cases of downright poverty it was agreed that to prevent embarrassment in applying for grants or assistance it would be better to spend some of the income in a way that was of benefit to the community as a whole.

It was agreed that all the households with a senior citizen resident would receive either coal or electricity vouchers at Christmas. There was a proviso that you had to have resided in the area for 4 years. It was agreed to fund a summer outing for senior citizens. It was agreed to give donations to Stratherrick School and Foyers School for Christmas Parties. Grants were also given to the local nursery, and from time to time individuals were helped who had fallen on hard times for one reason or another.

The Trustees in 2009 are as follows:-

Mr J. W. Campbell – Chairman/Trustee Mr A. Colquhoun – Trustee
Mr A. C. Fraser – Trustee Mr M. Houston – Trustee Rev. S. Jeffreys – Trustee
Dr G. Mackintosh – Trustee Mrs E. Martin – Trustee Miss A. Rose – Trustee

The Secretary/Treasurer is Mrs Susan Fraser, Lynemhor Lodge, Gorthleck, Inverness. IV2 6UJ.
Tel 01456 486242.

To whom any application for assistance in special circumstances should be made. Any applications received will then be discussed at the next meeting.

The capital of the fund at 5th April 2008 was £108,836. From time to time those who receive Coal / Hydro-Electric Vouchers / Boots Vouchers at Christmas may wish to change what they get. In this case it is important to contact Mrs Susan Fraser by mid November in time for lists to be changed.

Angus C. Fraser

Wedding



Arron Bell (formerly of "Craigview", Gorthleck) and Claire Ramsay were married on 1st August 2009 in St Matthews Church, Perth.

Stratherrick Holiday Club

Earlier this year Greyfriars/Stratherrick Free church decided to organise a Holiday club for children, aged five to eleven years, starting on Monday 27th July and ending on Friday, 31st July. The club took place each afternoon in Gorthleck Hall, from 2.00 p.m. until 3.45 p.m.

Twelve children, aged between 5 & 9, attended each day. A team of seven adults, all drawn from the local community, volunteered as helpers, and three teenage boys, Euan Fraser, Craig Hepburn and Fraser Macpherson, who had been regular attenders at the Friday 'Klub', also came along to help with games. The team was very pleased to have this youthful assistance, as the boys delivered the games with great enthusiasm. The daily programme started with games in the Community field, where rounders, team races and the "parachute" proved very popular. Then it was back to the Hall for refreshments, followed by the memory verse and the story. Finally, a craft activity rounded off each day.

On the final afternoon, parents and local people were invited in to see the displays of craftwork and to enjoy a cup of tea. The children sang one of their new songs for the assembled company before they collected their craftwork and headed home.

The team would like to thank all those in the community who contributed in any way to the success of this event.

The New Community Website
www.stratherrick.net

At last Stratherrick and Foyers has a community website built by community members for the community.

It is embryonic now and it is up to you, the community of Stratherrick and Foyers, to turn it into a website that others will envy and we can be proud of.

It is hoped that it will become a one stop shop for all local information, for all groups and for all organisations in the area to own a little piece of it by having their own page or section on the site to display their news, views and data.

We have contacted all the people we think will be interested in contributing but any group or organisation who have not yet been invited to participate, please e-mail us at admin@stratherrick.net to register your group or indeed your person.

For anyone holding an event, no matter how small, you can now advertise it on our all new community website.

Just contact us. Remember the address for the website is www.stratherrick.net and the e-mail address for the administrator is admin@stratherrick.net

Anyone interested in helping with the administration please contact us. We can train anyone with aptitude! And a small hourly rate of pay can be given to the right person

Two unexpected deaths occurred this summer and caused great sorrow amongst their friends and families.

Stuart Macdonald aged 27 grew up in Foyers and was the grandson of Nancy Stoddart of Riverside. He died as the result of an accident while diving in Aberdeenshire.

Jim M^cAuley died suddenly while staying with his mother in Glasgow. His was the familiar smiling face in Foyers shop when his sister Margaret Hill and her husband owned the business; and who opted to stay on when they left and helped out Tim and Agie M^cCormack when they took over.

Our condolences go to both families.

Christian Comment

All of us must be sickened by the continuing warfare in so many parts of the world, and saddened by the tragic loss of young lives, and the suffering of the wounded and bereaved! 'Where can we find hope?' is a question in many people's minds. Recently I was given a copy of the Order of Service for the Funeral of Henry John "Harry" Patch, who was born on 17th June 1898 and died on 25th July 2009, having survived the horrors of the battlefield trenches of the 1st World War.

In the introduction were printed these words:

'Harry Patch was a man of peace. By virtue of his great age, he became a spokesman for the generation which fell in Flanders Fields. His message was that we should remember with gratitude and respect those who served on ALL sides in the Great War, and that we should settle disputes by discussion and compromise, not by conflict.'

His coffin was borne by soldiers of the 1st Battalion The Rifles, with two soldiers of each of the armed forces of Belgium, France and Germany acting as Pall Bearers. The first reading was from 'The Last Fighting Tommy' by a representative of the Belgian Government:

'We came across a lad from A Company. He was ripped open from his shoulder to his waist by shrapnel, and lying in a pool of blood. When we got to him, he looked at us and said 'shoot me'. He was beyond all human help, and before we could draw a revolver he was dead. And the final word he uttered was 'Mother!' I was with him in the last seconds of his life. It wasn't a cry of despair; it was a cry of purpose and joy. I think – although I wasn't allowed to see her, I am sure – his mother was in the next world to welcome him and he knew it. I was allowed to see that much and no more.'

After a chorister of Wells Cathedral had sung 'Where have all the flowers gone' by Pete Seeger, a representative of the German Government read from Paul's second letter to the Church at Corinth in the 1st Century:

'If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation . . . So we are ambassadors for Christ since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.'

My friend at the Service found it to be most inspiring – as I did upon reading it – may we all find this hope that is offered to us in Jesus Christ.

Martyn Bateman

There will be a special **Service of Remembrance** at 3.00pm on 8th November at the recently refurbished Stratherrick War Memorial – as well as the usual Church Services – to which all are invited.

Harvest Supper Following the enjoyable gathering last year, a buffet supper will be provided in the Stratherrick Hall on Friday, 16th October at 7.00pm. Tickets will be available at £6.00 from various Church members. Details from Martyn Bateman, 486273.

HYDRO SCHEMES

Two contrasting local Hydro-electric schemes have been officially opened in recent months. The one centred on the River E took place on Thursday 21st May and was performed by Mr Andrew Fraser, the owner of the Corriegarth estate, where it is located. This was followed by a buffet luncheon in the Stratherrick Hall, provided by the RWE organisation that had the overall responsibility for the installation.

The civil works, the main components of which are the intake weir, the buried pipe line and the power house, have an expected life of 75 years, according to the designers Matt Macdonald W from Glasgow. They were constructed by Tulloch Civil Engineering Ltd (now Rok civil Engineering Ltd, Inverness) between August 2006 and August 2008. The electrical generation equipment was designed, manufactured, and installed by Vorth Hydro of Heidenheim, Germany. It is capable of producing between 100KW and 300KW of power depending on the flow of water available in the river. The output is delivered to Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distributions network via an underground 33KV cable. The total cost was just over £4m. A similar scheme had been commissioned earlier on the Fechlin River on the Garragie Estate.

The very much larger scheme on the Glendoe Estate was opened by HRH Queen Elizabeth II on Monday 29th June. Pupils from Kilchiumen and Foyers primary schools were among the official guests. The main contractor Hochtief, from Germany, employed the Inverness based HQC as the leading civil engineering contractor. The work started in January 2006, and was completed in April 2009. A total of 3,300 people worked on the scheme during its construction, which has cost Scottish and Southern Energy £160m. The water from the 75square kilometre area that supplies the reservoir 600 metres above Loch Ness passes through an excavated tunnel, 5m in diameter, for over 5 miles, down to the underground generators that are capable of producing 100MW of electricity due to the height of the 'head'. The giant tunnel- boring machine (TBM) was given the name Eliza Jane after a competition involving local school children.

The SSE chairman, Lord Smith of Kelvin, said that this is a long term project that could be operating for well over 50 years. Unfortunately on Monday 17th August SSE reported a serious rock fall near the top of the tunnel which has caused the closure of the scheme until Hochtief can repair the damage.

Both of these schemes are making a financial contribution to the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust that was established by the Community Council to administer this income over the coming years.

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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	-----	-----
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TTH - Tuesday & Thursday.									
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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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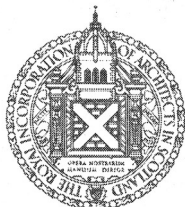


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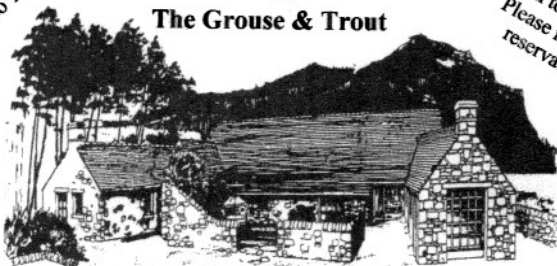
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