



## CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK AND MARY CRAVEN



on their wedding which took place on the 19th September, at the Church of Scotland, Drumtemple, Stratherrick. On a day when the rain that threatened was blown away by a stiff breeze that had friends and family gathering around any corner that offered shelter from the elements. Thank you to all who came on the Friday to help decorate the hall for the reception afterwards.

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The idea of this piece for the front page came from the editorial committee and the editor was persuaded that it was a good idea.

Editor

*Thanks*

*Morag would like to thank Sio-  
bhan, Paula, Carole Ann and  
Ger.*

*for organizing my surprise baby  
shower.*

*We really enjoyed the night*

*THANKS GIRLS*



*Verity and Isabella trying out  
some baby food.*

### **Reckless Speedsters**

We all know the hidden dangers of our winding narrow roads, these dangers come in many forms.... Including other vehicles, pedestrians (young and old) cyclists, pets, farm animals and various wildlife.

Our winding road is no different from others in the surrounding areas, except for the amount of wildlife that has needlessly been mowed down due to speed.

My young boy has recently come across the latest victim of a speedster whilst we were out walking one afternoon. Being almost 5 he was extremely upset at the large sika stag lying dead by the verge, it was almost certainly mowed down due to someone who doesn't care and basically can't drive.

My son now suffers from nightmares and is petrified of cars passing us whilst out walking.

That stag was about the 7th road kill this year alone, the others included, a pregnant doe, young doe, doe and her calf, a young buck and 2 stags (1 roe and 1 sika).

Please slow down motorists give the creatures A CHANCE.

It may not be a pheasant or a deer next time it may be yourself.

*This letter was received with no address or name so I cannot state which stretch of road the person is talking about. However I would like to make two points*

- 1) People do speed on our roads and not all of them are local drivers, delivery vans and tradesmen can be as bad.*
- 2) As a driver I also know you do not have to be travelling fast to hit a deer. I have seen deer run across the road in front of me and then turn back and recross the road even closer to me.*

*However I do agree with the point of the letter, that the roads would be safer if people travelled slightly slower, followed the guidance in the Highway code and were courteous to other drivers as well as to pedestrians who use the local roads.*

*Editor*

### **Christmas Sale**

Lorna, Pauline and Susan would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement at our recent Christmas sale. We feel heartened by this response and look forward to seeing you all again at our Spring sale [date to be confirmed]. If you have any special requests please phone Lorna, on 01456 486 292 and we'll be happy to try and help.

### **The Inaugural Meeting of Stratherrick Athletic (Runners Club)**

Saturday morning the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2009.

This initial outing was attended by the locally determined and undistinguished sporting personalities of G. Ambrose, E. Ley-Wilson and A. Sutherland with apologies received from other well wishers who could not be present on the day but who wished to become involved. There was a notable absence of game keepers, shepherds, lairds, and anyone clad in lycra but they are all welcome to attend future events particularly the latter category!

We met at the forest track entrance between Trinloist and Glenliath at 8.30 on a pleasant and sunny morning before the sadly customary rain and dreichness of the last month rolled in from the west. This track has a delightful mixed forest road na-



ture which then turns into a forest ride grass surface with the occasional tree root before a section of moss covered road drops into the Pass before we took the short cut into Allt na Goibhre and welcome cups of tea. The whole run is something over three miles with fairly easy ascent and descents (there are very few, if any, level running routes in our area). As well as a forgiving surface this is also a location which is well sheltered from the elements and can be a good outing in the very worst of winter weather. There is a lot of advice out there about how you should treat your running body and probably one of the most important, alongside gradually warming up and warming down, is "Choose your running surface wisely". Every running step can impose an impact of between three and eight times your body weight on your frame and all the support back up of joints, muscles and supporting systems so it can make an important difference to have a slightly yielding substance under foot!

Our intention is to remain as a very loosely organised group who enjoy running together and singly in the great variety of terrain which is available in Stratherrick and Foyers and to exchange light-hearted ideas on new routes and running matters with anyone who might care to join us.

Alex. Sutherland, Allt na Goibhre, Telephone 486711

## **South Loch Ness most definitely has got Talent**

A fantastic night was had by all. The atmosphere, in a very full hall, was electric. Neil Ferguson did an excellent job comparing the show alongside Russell Bain who managed all the music for the contestants. All the contestants performed extremely well to the delight of the audience. We would like to thank the performers: Kernow Karate Club, Charlotte and Jersey Page, Alan and Annalise Beith, Andrew Stocks, Pat and Spot the Dog, Mini Abba (Kayleigh MacMillan, Abi Kirkland, Jodie Reid and Jasmine Morrison), Halim Belly Dancers (Aileen Johnson, Wendy Bellaris and Liz Merther), Careane Genter, Verity and Isabella Cameron, Kelly and Courtney Tait, Ruben Smith, Owen Easter, Abby and Lily MacDonald.



The winners on stage

What talent we have in the Stratherrick area, Simon Cowell is missing out. The Judges, Rosie Kern, Alex Sutherland and Bill Skeoch had a difficult task to select a winner but after much discussion finally came to a decision. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place went to Kelly Tait who did a lovely rendition of Dusty Springfield's Preacher Man. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Courtney Tait who not only sang Stupid Cupid but also did a little dance routine.

The winners of South Loch Ness has got Talent are Ruben Smith and Owen Easter who did an excellent song routine to Hollywood Undead's song Young. They were presented with a trophy, winning certificates and the opportunity to visit MFR radio station to see how it all works and will sit in on a radio show, so keep tuned to MFR.

Finally I would like to thank everyone involved in the organising of this fantastic event. Special thanks to the Sub-committee Alistair Colquhoun, Carolann Steiner, Morag Cameron, Rosie Kern and myself who arranged the whole event. Thanks to the members of the Glenlia Residents Community Association who were all very willing to help, a special thanks to Sally Mcguire for all the time she spent in front of the computer and to Janette Colville who volunteered her time to help out on the night. A big Thank You to all the businesses and people who donated raffle prizes. Donations from Aspenwood Self Catering, The Bothy, Done 'n' Dusted, Foyers Shop, Great Glen Trading Centre, friends, family and members of Glenlia Residents Community Association, Glenlia Farm, Iceberg Glassblowers, Lovat Hotel, The Lock Inn, MacDougalls Butchers, Riverside Gallery, The Scots Kitchen, South Loch Ness Tourist Board, Wild Bird Food Scotland, Whitebridge Hotel.

Geraldine Stocks

### **Have the thrushes taken all the berries?**

You would have thought that after the huge numbers of thrushes passing through from Scandinavia this October (Fieldfares, Redwings, Song Thrushes with an occasional Brambling) there would be few berries left on the trees. But, if you are still in a mind to make one of the most delectable liqueurs for dark winter evenings - bit late for Christmas - the birds have left some berries for us. Sloe gin is easy to make but does takes a couple of months to mature.

*Pick some Sloe berries (they must have had the frost) prick them all over with a fork, place them in a wide necked preserving jar which has a sealed lid, add some sugar (approx 4oz) pour over neat dry gin up to the neck of the jar. Turn the bottle daily to dissolve the sugar. Leave for a couple of months shaking fairly often. When the liquid is a deep rich red, strain off the gin through muslin or a fine cloth, bottle and enjoy – in small glasses!!! Could be served in a larger glass with lots of ice in the summer.*

## **Baxters Loch Ness Marathon**



Marshalls at Foyers Post Office drinks station

This year Morag Cameron took on the task of organising marshals to man the drink stands and the road closures from Stratherrick Catholic Church to Inverfargaig during the marathon. There was no shortage of helpers even though it was hard work opening all the bottles for the runners and very wet work handing them out.

Sunday 5th October was a very cold morning. Nevertheless the Glenlia residents along with helpers from Lower Foyers, Inverfargaig and Whitebridge were out in force from the early hours setting up the drink

stands and road closures for the marathon.

There was a good mix of ages from the young of age to the young at heart. A lot of children volunteered and to my amazement were very focused throughout the marathon, I don't think any runner was without a drink. The children who volunteered were Hamish, Craig, Verity, Isabella and Andrew who handed out water bottles along with their parents. Jersey and Charlotte manned the road closure at Glenlia Farm with the help of their parents. On the drinks stand at the Post Office were Andrew, Amy, Mason, Chloe, Olivia, with music and dancing from baby Julie. Our teenage helpers were Cameron and Natasha from Glenlia, Jack, Hannah and Emily from Inverfargaig.

Well done and thanks to everyone who helped out on the day it is much appreciated.

Because of your help Baxters will kindly make a donation to the Glenlia Residents Community Association's fund for the rejuvenation of the play park.

Our congratulations go to Wendy, Raymond and Graeme for again completing one of the most picturesque marathons.



Raymond on the road

## **Information point at Brin Herb Nursery**

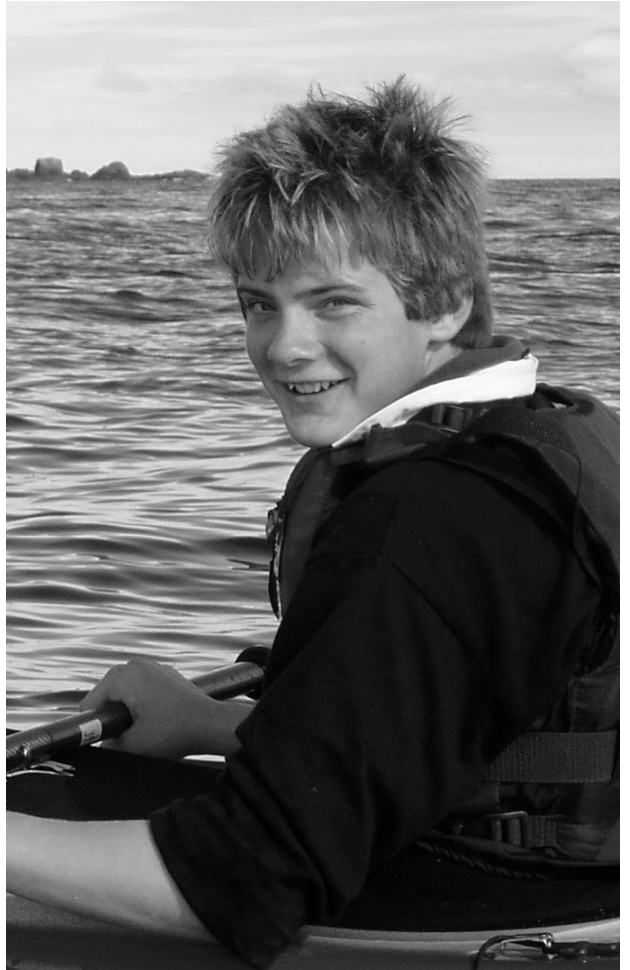
I am hoping to set up an information point at the nursery for the coming season. The aim is to include useful information mainly for visitors, but of course locals are welcome to come and use it too. I am looking for as much information as possible in the form of website links, advertising leaflets, things to do, places to go, routes to walk/cycle/paddle/climb etc. in the local area. If you have anything at all that you think would be of interest please let me know, preferably by email. I am happy to receive business cards, leaflets, etc. to display from March onwards and will include all suitable links on the website so please let me know what you think should be included. I am also happy to supply information about the nursery to you, whether you are an individual, a member of a club or group, or are involved in the tourist industry, and please be kind enough to add a link to [www.brinherbnursery.co.uk](http://www.brinherbnursery.co.uk) in return, if you have a website. As I hope to complete the online information in February I would be grateful if you could let me have any information as soon as possible.

Margaret Mackenzie, Brin Herb Nursery, [margaret@brinherbnursery.co.uk](mailto:margaret@brinherbnursery.co.uk)

## Laurence Parrott 1991 – 2009

Laurence Alasdair Chetwood Macleod Parrott was born in Shropshire on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1991. He moved to the Old School, Errogie, when he was 18 months old and enjoyed playgroup in the hall before starting at Stratherrick Primary where he was one of nine Primary Ones, the biggest intake for many years. He then went on to Inverness Royal Academy, completing his sixth year in June 2009.

Laurence had a short but happy life. He lived life to the full and had many interests: boats, mountain biking, monkey biking, kayaking, table tennis, pool, fishing, woodturning, archery, camping, travelling and the joys and woes of the annual Parrott holiday. One of his biggest joys was shinty, and playing for Boleskine Camanachd. But his greatest love was music: playing his drums, guitar, singing and composing. A self-taught drummer and guitarist, Laurence was part of the band 'The Soundtrack', formed with his brother Moteh and three others from school. The band went on to win four competitions and was featured in the local media. Laurence's singing took off this year when he starred as the Ugly Duckling in the school musical 'Honk', and gained the highest possible mark in the singing component of his Advanced Higher. He had hoped to study Applied Music at Strathclyde after travelling to New Zealand in his gap year. Sadly Laurence died in a drowning accident at Foyers on September 6<sup>th</sup>, just days before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Laurence loved where he came from – he loved the Strath, and the friends, families and people that he grew up with. You were all part of his life and helped him to grow into the happy young man that he was.

Over the last few weeks we have been overwhelmed by the love and support that you have shown us. It has helped us to bear this terrible loss and for that we shall always be grateful. Thank you for everything – so many thanks go to the emergency services, to all those who assisted in the first few days and gave so freely in so many ways, to those who have written and visited, provided food, gifts, labour and words of comfort. Thank you to those who continue to help. Thank you – two very small words, inadequate, but truly meant and which come straight from our hearts.

Heather, John, Moteh, Eleanor and Izzy Parrott

## ***Margaret Campbell Mackintosh 1924-2009***

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Margaret Mackintosh was held at Dores Parish Church on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The Church was filled to capacity in appreciation of a lovely person who had been a member there for so many years and whose husband Donald had farmed in the parish and was Session Clerk for the United Parish of Dores and Boleskine for very many years.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Stewart Jeffrey, whose wife played the organ, including tunes of many of Margaret's favourite hymns. The former Minister, Jim Christie and his wife Anne were present and the eulogy was delivered by Dr Gregor Mackintosh. The hymns were 'Great is thy faithfulness' and 'Love Divine, all loves excelling' which is a most popular hymn inviting the love of Jesus into our lives. Our warm sympathy is expressed to Donald and all the members of his family.

### **Condolences**

Our condolences go to Dr Gregor Mackintosh and his family on the loss of his mother who died very suddenly on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Wade Bridge Update...**

John Townshend and Bob Main have done a lot of work on untangling the web of ownership, detailing a programme of remedial work, locating a suitable consulting engineer and identifying specialist contractors. Following informal discussions with Historic Scotland and anticipating the requirements of the National Heritage Lottery Fund, grant applications are being finalised to hopefully generate 75% of costs. Application will also be made for support from the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Benefit Fund.

The first phase of work on the bridge supports is planned for Spring 2010.

Thanks to those 70 folk who have already joined the Wade Bridge of Whitebridge Trust. We'd like to be able to back the grant applications with a list of over 100 members to demonstrate the widespread support to get the bridge reopened. Membership costs nothing - fill in a form at the Whitebridge Hotel or download one from [www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk](http://www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk).

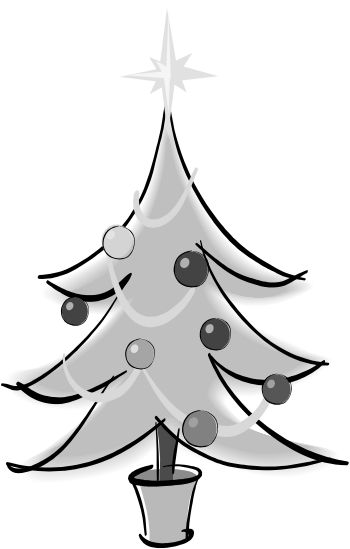
## **CHRISTMAS ON THE PARK**

Glenlia Residents Community Association

Would like to invite everyone to Christmas Carols on Glenlia Park as a 'Thank You' for all your help and support throughout year.

There will be Mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and lots of singing.

Children are invited to make a waterproof Christmas Decoration for the Christmas Tree.



**20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER on GLENLIA PARK from 6PM TO 7PM**

## **BOLESKINE BULLETIN**

### **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2009**

y/e 30.09.08

£		£	£
	<b>INCOME</b>		
1,143	Advertising	1,320.00	
250	Community Council Minutes	250.00	
250	Community Trust Information	250.00	
133	Subscriptions and Donations	113.25	
<u>1,776</u>			1,933.25
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
1,374	Printing and Photocopying	1,398.00	
134	Postage and Stationery	79.39	
6	Hire of Hall	3.00	
<u>1,514</u>			<u>1,480.39</u>
262	<b>SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD</b>		452.86
1,792	<b>BALANCE IN HAND</b> brought forward		2,053.83
£ 2,054	<b>BALANCE IN HAND</b> carried forward	£	2,506.69

### **2009/2010 COMMITTEE FOR THE BOLESKINE BULLETIN**

The AGM for the Boleskine Bulletin was held in Stratherrick Hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
Many thanks to all who attended.

#### **2009/2010 Committee**

**CHAIRMAN - Martyn Bateman**

**EDITOR - Peter Craven**

**TREASURER - Frank Ellam**

**SECRETARY- Barbara Miler**

**FINANCIAL REVIEWER – Judith Borup**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Fiona Bateman (Whitebridge) Roger Gleed-Gates (Torness/  
Corkscrew) Buddy MacDougall (Upper Foyers) Jane O'Donovan (Gorthleck/Errogie)  
Johanna Schuster (Lower Foyers)

If you wish to have any article included in the Boleskine Bulletin and are unable to contact the Editor or Treasurer direct then please approach one of the Committee Members who will ensure your item is passed on. We have a member from each area which should make it easier for you to know who to contact.

There was a typing error due to the spellchecker in the last issue in the Boleskine Bulletins email address. It should have read boleskine\_bulletin@hotmail.co.uk all in lower case.

Editor

## **FAREWELL TO DORES & BOLESKINE CHURCH MINISTER**

Around 70 people (Dores and Boleskine Church of Scotland members and friends from other denominations) attended a farewell evening in the Stratherrick Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> October for Reverend Stewart Jeffrey and his wife Margaret.

Stewart (who had actually retired 15 years ago) had been locum for over three years tending his flock with loving care; visiting the sick in hospital and at home as well as the elderly and getting to know every member of the church.



We all enjoyed his services and the warm fellowship we experienced each Sunday. Margaret took turns playing the organ on many occasions and was a familiar face at most services. Stewart's love of singing enlivened the hymns when he harmonised with great gusto.

After a delicious tea Margaret and Stewart were presented with a cheque, flowers and a signed card wishing them a happy retirement. We do hope they will stick to the words of the song "*We're no awa' tae bide awa', we'll aye come back an' see you!*" and that they will have fond memories of our part of the world.

***Buddy MacDougall***

The current interim Moderator for Dores & Boleskine Parish is the Reverend Edgar Ogston who has arranged for the services to be conducted by Dr Rob Barlow, a Minister in training; whom we warmly welcome. (Tel: 01381 629008.)

### ***New Piano for Boleskine Church***

A new Yamaha Clavinova was purchased for Boleskine Church with money left in her will to the Church by the late Mrs Marjory Stoddart who was organist for many years. A small plaque is placed on it to acknowledge her generosity.

### ***Wedding Congratulations!***

Congratulations to Andy Boyd and Nicky Pillat who were married in August in Dores Church and also to Mark Craven and Mary Ford who were married in September in Boleskine Church.

## STRATHERRICK & 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 23rd JUNE 2009

**Members present:** Mr M. Houston (Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mrs K. Fraser (Treasurer) Mr M. Bateman Mrs L. MacGregor Mr A. MacPherson

**Apologies:** Mr K. Fraser Mr A. Nicol Mr A. Sutherland Police Constable A. Mathieson Cllr. D. Hendry

**BBC Village SOS** - Mr Frank Ellam kindly presented information on this scheme. The BBC is looking for villages of less than 3000 residents to compete for funding of £40,000 each. Villages need to come forward with business ideas which will promote regeneration, employment, and possibly training opportunities for their village. It was agreed that the Chairman and any interested parties would attend a meeting to discuss this opportunity on Monday 29th June.

### Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) **Key Worker/Affordable Housing.** Anyone interested in the new affordable housing development in Gorthleck will be able to go along to Stratherrick Hall on 24th June to obtain further information on the options likely to be available. This has been advertised in the Boleskine Bulletin.

(b) **Community Web Site.** The Trust has approved funding for this. All being well the site should be up and running in two to three weeks. The Chairman and Mr A. Holt will look after the site for the first year.

(c) **War Memorial at Gorthleck.** The Secretary reported that work on repainting of the lettering is now complete. Highland Council TEC Services will pay the bill direct to John Fraser's, and will then invoice us for the amount of the grant from the War Memorials Trust. The Secretary has taken photographs as required by the Trust and will submit all the paperwork to claim the grant as soon as it is all available.

(d) **Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge.** Mr Bateman reported that a form had been included in the Boleskine Bulletin for people to indicate their support for the project. He hoped that as many people as possible would return these forms, as evidence of local support is crucial in obtaining funding.

(e) **Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers.** The Secretary had received information on the Aberdeen Kirkyards Project from the Highland Buildings Preservation Trust. As it is likely to be some time before a similar project is under way in the Highlands she offered to make enquiries with Historic Scotland to obtain advice about what needs to be done, and the likely costs, which may help to determine the next action. It was agreed that this should be done.

**Highland Council Correspondence.** Housing in the Countryside Interim Supplementary Guidance – Consultation. 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. David Stewart, MSP - Letter regarding Bill on victims of crime, and witnesses. Scottish Health Council - Spring Newsletter

### Letters sent

**Emails:** Les Houlker, Highland Council - Traffic surveys in Foyers; Stewart Eastaugh, Highland Council-Footpath diversion signs

**Letters:** Stratherrick Hall Committee (Photocopier), Forest Enterprise (Clearance after timber harvesting) Thanks to Community Trust for award of grant, Planning Department (Pedestrian safety adjacent to building site) John Fraser & Son – (Repainting of War Memorial lettering)

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported current balances as follows: Ordinary A/c £293.41 (including £124.03 held for Mr J. Campbell - Senior Citizens Fund), and Project A/c £3663.58p. The Secretary reported that copies of the audited accounts had been forwarded to Highland Council, who will be paying the CC annual grant shortly.

### Planning Applications

(a) **Applications** (i) House at land SW of Upper Cultie Gorthleck: It was agreed that a site visit will be carried out.

(ii) Erect workshop at Foyers House (retrospective): There were no objections

(b) **Other planning matters:** Drive Park, Foyers - change of use agricultural to housing development: A site visit had been carried out, and there were no objections.

### Roads & Signage

(a) **Meeting with TEC Services.** Several members of the CC met with Mr Neil Gillies, Mr Les Houlker of TEC Services, and Cllr. Davidson, following which site visits were arranged to look at some of the areas where ongoing problems have been raised over the past 18 months. Copies of all our letters over this period were supplied to Mr Gillies and Mr Houlker. Action has been promised on the following matters: Edge of road potholes - Regular repairs following safety patrols & inclusion in patching programmes if relevant. More resources to be devoted to routine maintenance of ditches and clearing roadside vegetation. Repair of collapsing culvert at the Callanour junction. Promotion of traffic order to reduce speed limit through Foyers from 40 to 30mph. Repairs and surface dressing to several sections of local roads, including part of the Foyers-Dores road. The scheduled widening of a section of the B862. Review of the winter gritting for 2009/10. Replacement of cattle grid on the Newlands road. More efforts to be made in getting clear up and road repair operations completed following timber extraction by private contractors in the area.

(b) *Bridge at Lower Foyers*. The Secretary pointed out that the old bridge carries the water main across the river, and also the BT cable which not only serves the various households, but also the communications mast. She wondered whether Scottish Water and BT should be notified about the reported dangerous state of the bridge. This was agreed.

(c) *Other roads issues* - Overhanging trees on the Killin road caused problems for snow clearing equipment last winter. The Chairman will enquire about responsibility for cutting these back. The Glenlia Residents' Association reported that the owner of the Church hall site has made land available for the provision of a footpath adjacent to the site, and believed this could be provided under the 'Safer Routes to School' scheme. Enquiries will be made.

**Community Project** - The Chairman reported that a meeting had taken place with a possible project manager to handle the paperwork. Costings should be available in the next week or so, following which an application can be made to the Community Trust.

**Renewable Energy & Community Benefit** - Cllr. Hendry had emailed us regarding the possible provision of solar panels for the school. It was not clear which school, so a reply has been sent requesting this information.

#### **Any Other Competent Business**

(a) There have been several reports of problems with access to the right of way through the Knockie Estate. A letter will be sent to Stewart Eastaugh to establish the current situation.

(b) The Glenlia Residents Association raised two items:

(i) Some residents felt that a community aerial was needed, as terrestrial reception is poor or non-existent in some areas, and wondered if the CC should deal with this. This is the situation in many places in this area, and Chairman suggested that they gather detailed information about the number of people affected in Glenlia before proceeding further. It was noted that many people now have access via satellite.

(ii) It is felt that a notice board is needed for Glenlia. Cllr. Davidson had suggested that the CC could apply to provide this. Enquiries will be made.

(c) A letter had been received from Mr Ellis enquiring about grass cutting on the shinty pitch, when it is no longer used for shinty. The CC felt that this is a useful amenity for the village, and the grass cutting takes place when the Council is carrying out other cutting in the village in any case. It was felt that the community would wish this continued. A reply will be sent.

(d) It was reported that the key has been removed from the notice board at Inverfarigaig. The Chairman will see about getting more spare keys cut. The Secretary will enquire whether it is possible to replace the locks with a simple turn catch.

(e) A letter was received from the Parent Council at Stratherrick School enquiring about support for a community minibus. This would need a specific organisation to be responsible for it, and the School could possibly do this, though the minibus would be generally available, and not solely for the School. There was some discussion about the pros and cons of a minibus, but the CC felt that a letter of support for the proposal should be sent.

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING - 1st SEPTEMBER 2009**

*Members present:* Mr M. Houston (Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer) Mr M. Bateman Mr K. Fraser Mr P. Higham Mrs L. MacGregor Mr A. Sutherland *Also present:* Cllr D. Hendry

*Apologies:* Mr A. MacPherson Mr A. Nicol Cllr H. Carmichael Cllr M. Davidson Mr N. Kirkland

#### **Steading Project Lower Foyers**

Mr Donald Forbes attended the meeting to report on the response to a meeting called by himself and his wife with regard to possible development of the old farm steadings as a community/visitor centre. The building would be given over, in some way to be determined, to the community. He reported that some concern had been expressed about the size of the building and possible running costs as a community centre. He emphasised that the vision was of a wider range of uses, with the community centre being just one part of it. Possible uses included provision of some wet weather facilities such as indoor sports; outdoor sports such as tennis courts, bowling green; a snack bar; craft workshops/retail outlets; agricultural and industrial (aluminium) heritage museum.

A number of people had expressed interest in the project, and a willingness to be involved. Mr Forbes reported that Highlands & Islands Enterprise are due to look at the buildings to see if they will provide funding for a feasibility study. Assuming that a study is funded, and that the result is positive, then major funding would need to be accessed for the project. It is understood that there may be a limited time to apply for funding which is currently available to community groups. If the initial funding issues can be solved, then there will need to be support and enthusiasm from the community to take the project forward. Mr Forbes and his wife hope to provide some other tourist facilities locally to encourage tourists to spend more time and money in the area. They are currently looking at facilities for camping/caravanning, and additional facilities for tourists arriving by boat, possibly to include a new mooring jetty. They felt that the steadings project could complement this, as well as providing a much needed focus for village activities.

#### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

(a) *Key Worker/Affordable Housing*. An enquiry had been received from HSCHT regarding land ownership in relation to a surface water drainage issue at the Gorthleck site. The Chairman had supplied the information, and was told that work is continuing to move the scheme forward.

(b) *Community Web Site*. The Chairman reported that he is getting in touch with Mr Holt, and believes that the site is ready to go.

(c) *War Memorial at Gorthleck*. The Secretary reported that the grant has been received from the War Memorials Trust for the repainting of the lettering, and all bills have been paid. The CC is indebted to the Trust and to Highland

Council for their assistance. The Trust covered 75% of the cost and Highland Council the remaining 25%. We are grateful to Louise McCaul our Ward Manager, and Mr Iain Wallace of TEC Services for arranging the Council contribution. A letter of thanks has been sent to the Trust.

(d) *Tourist Route Signs*. The Secretary received an email indicating that signs are being prepared for Foyers, Whitebridge and Inverfarigaig. Cllr. Hendry reported that he believes signs for Gorthleck and Errogie are planned for the 'second wave' of signs.

(e) *Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge*. Mr Bateman reported that steady progress is being made. More support is always welcome.

(f) *Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers*. The Secretary is contacting Historic Scotland to discuss this.

(g) *Photocopier*. The Chairman has been in touch with Canon about servicing the photocopier. They declined to attempt a service, as they say it is now obsolete, and they would be unable to supply parts. They suggested a new machine, but the costs involved would be more than the CC could afford. There was some discussion about whether a new machine is necessary, and the possibility of obtaining a second hand machine, which would do all that is required. This matter will be held over for further discussion.

(h) *Right of Way through Knockie Estate*. The Secretary had received an email from Stewart Eastaugh, the Access Officer. He had been to see the estate owner, his agent, and the manager. Mr Eastaugh requested that anyone with knowledge of a right of way through the Knockie Estate should contact him. Several members indicated that they would get in touch with him, and also pass the request to other people who had concerns.

**Highland Council Correspondence.** Notice - Action for Planning Transparency. Highland Wide Local Development Plan - Highland Council has requested responses to the proposals. This will be considered at the next meeting.

**Other Correspondence & Circulars Received:** Energy Efficiency Fund Procedure (Circulated), Notice about Council for Voluntary Services, Inverness, Invitation from Highland Small Communities Housing Trust for the CC to join the Trust, and to nominate a representative. Mr Higham agreed to undertake this.

#### **Letters Sent**

*Letters:* Scottish Water regarding water main crossing old bridge in Lower Foyers; Thanks to War Memorials Trust for grant; Thanks to Lord Burton for information on bailey bridges; Highland Council Access Officer on right of way through Knockie Estate; Reply to Parent Council, Stratherrick School regarding community minibus

#### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported account balances as follows: Ordinary A/c £1286.89 (including £124.03 held for Mr J. Campbell - Senior Citizens Fund), and Project A/c £3663.58. Since the last meeting the following amounts have been received: Highland Council grant: £993.48, War Memorials Trust: £870.00. The following cheques have been written: For the War Memorial: £870.00, Boleskine Bulletin: £125.00

#### **Planning Matters**

(a) *Applications* - Note - Cllr. Hendry left the meeting during discussion of planning matters.

(i) Since the CC meeting in June the following applications were received. Site visits were made and responses sent: Erect sun room/bedroom at Migovie Cottage, Gorthleck - No objections; House & garage, Easter Drummond Lodge, Whitebridge (outline) - No objections; 2 house plots NW of Heatherly, Errogie (outline) - The CC expressed concern about the dangerous access onto the road due to very poor visibility. Concern was also expressed as to whether the proposed site was large enough for two properties. 2 house plots, South Muirnich Farm, Gorthleck (outline) - There were no objections to the plans as such, but the CC noted that it was planned to use the public system for foul water drainage. A

concern was raised that the public system was believed to have capacity only for the planned affordable housing development, and that allowing other properties to access the system might jeopardise this development.

(ii) Erection of 80m. high meteorological monitoring equipment at Sidhean Dubh, Whitebridge, and at Meallan Odhar, Whitebridge (two applications). There were no objections.

(iii) Forestry consultation documents (forwarded via our local Councillors): Planting at Ardochy, Whitebridge (Areas of native woodland planting, native woodland regeneration, and conifer planting - A comment had been sent from the CC requesting a clear access corridor to the hill top in the area concerned, and no planting within 100m. of the summit. A meeting is to take place regarding the preferred access corridor. Planting at Gorthleck and Farraline (Native woodland planting) - There were no objections.

It was noted that Forestry Consultation documents are not sent to the CC through the usual planning channels as they come under different regulations. Some concern was expressed about situations where new road accesses might be constructed for these schemes. Cllr. Hendry indicated that responsibility for these would fall to the Roads Department. CC members felt that the CC should have an opportunity to have some input where road matters are concerned in these applications, not just for construction of new access roads, but also in relation to repairs to existing roads following forestry operations. Cllr. Hendry will make enquiries.

(b) *Other planning matters* - The CC has been notified that the following applications have been granted: House at land 170m. SW Upper Cultie, Gorthleck, Workshop at Foyers House Sun room/bedroom at Migovie Cottage, Gorthleck, Change of use from agricultural to residential development, Drive Park, Foyers

#### **Fire Brigade Report**

A new Fire Station is planned adjacent to the current site, but the timing of this will depend on when funding becomes available. The fire appliance has been fitted with a new high tech Firelink radio system. This has an on-board

computer system with touch screen and gps locator. It is similar to the system used by the Police. Mr Kirkland has been training other stations in its use.

### **Roads & Signage**

#### **(a) Progress on Outstanding Matters**

Following the on-site meeting with TEC Services in June, a letter has been received detailing the intended work. B862 Collapsed culvert 900m. beyond Newlands junction - If this cannot be repaired it will be replaced this year, probably in October. Meantime depression in the road will be monitored and patched if required. B851 Collapsed culvert 200m. beyond B862 junction - It will be replaced this year, probably in October. Meantime depression in the road will be monitored and patched if required. B862/B851 junction - It is intended to reconfigure this as a simple T junction and change priorities so that traffic to and from Farr has priority. Possibly before this winter, but if not, then will be done next spring. B862 Narrow section south of Torness - Improvements to signing and road marking, and cut back vegetation to improve safety. By 31st October 2009. B862 Loch Ceo Glais - Improvements to signing and road marking to improve safety. By 31st October 2009.

Inverfarigaig Pass - Vegetation to be cut back in next few months. Leadclune road - Sections looked at have been included in this year's resurfacing programme. Defective cattle grid will be replaced by 30th September 2009. B862 Improvement from Glendoe money - Land owner has been contacted and meeting will be arranged to discuss land acquisition. It is hoped road widening could start later this year.

CC members reported that work has started on a number of these projects.

**(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers** - The Secretary reported that a short article had appeared in the Inverness Courier, following which the BBC Alba Gaelic news programme came out to record a short piece. Mr Sutherland (our resident Gaelic speaker) and the Secretary presented information on the bridge problem. The Secretary has written to Scottish Water to make sure they are aware of the risk to the water main in the event of a collapse of the old bridge. In the meantime contractors have been out to Lower Foyers to firm up the deck plates on the bailey bridge and reduce the noise. They have tack welded the plates together and have patched the splits in some plates. At least for now the bridge is quiet.

#### **(c) Other roads issues**

**(i)** The Secretary noted that the approach to the old bridge in Lower Foyers had a 'No through road' sign, and requested that a sign should be placed at the approach to the bailey bridge. This year in particular there has been a steady stream of tourist traffic crossing the river, driving around Riverside, and even as far as the forestry gate behind Foyers Mains, looking for a route through to Whitebridge or Upper Foyers. Cllr. Hendry said that he would request a sign.

**(ii)** Several members reported areas where verges have either not been cut at all this year, or where new growth required further cutting. Two mentioned particularly were the Trinloist road and the Loch Bran road. It was also noted that cutting back of vegetation along the lochside between Foyers and Dores was not as good this year as previously, and visibility in a number of places is very poor. Letters will be sent.

**(iii)** The issue of surfacing of bell mouth entrances at new properties was raised. The CC understands that the Planning Department is in the process of checking where this work has not been done, and enforcement notices will be issued where necessary. There was also some discussion about the dangers presented by rocks and other solid obstructions being placed at the roadside adjacent to property entrances on our narrow rural roads.

### **Renewable Energy & Community Benefit**

**(a)** Mr Sutherland reported that the Forestry Commission are looking at the potential for a small scale hydro-electric scheme in the Inverfarigaig gorge. It was noted that such schemes have been very successful in other areas.

**(b)** He reported that there had been further discussion with SSE regarding energy efficiency monies. Unfortunately a further layer of bureaucracy in the accessing of funds has been imposed in the form of the Scottish Charities Foundation, but he is hopeful that this problem can be resolved. Residents who requested home energy audits should be hearing about this shortly.

### **Any Other Competent Business**

Mr Sutherland had circulated details regarding the construction of an unsightly hill track on Beinn Bhuraich in Stratherrick, and the possible damage this might cause. He had established that projects like this are not subject to the usual planning regulations as they come under the heading of agricultural use. He felt that this is an unsatisfactory situation where projects on this scale can potentially have significant scenic and environmental implications. Further enquiries are ongoing.

### **MINUTES OF MEETING - 22nd SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Members present:** Mr M. Houston (Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer) Mr M. Bateman Mr K. Fraser Mr P. Higham Mr A. MacPherson Mr A. Nicol Mr A. Sutherland **Also present:** Councillor M. Davidson Mr N. Kirkland

**Apologies:** Mrs L. MacGregor Cllr. H. Carmichael Cllr. D. Hendry

### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

**(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing.** Mr Higham has submitted the nomination form to become the CC representative on the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.

**(b) Community Web Site.** The web site is now in operation and Mr Frank Ellam and Mr Andy Holt are in the process of adding information to it. The CC Minutes will be forwarded for inclusion on the web site as they are approved, and

it was agreed that they will continue to be published in the Boleskine Bulletin for people who do not have access to the web site. The site can be accessed at: [www.stratherrick.net](http://www.stratherrick.net).

(c) *Tourist Route Signs*. Cllr. Drew Hendry had forwarded details of the proposed welcome signs for local villages, with photographic mock-ups of the different options. It is proposed to erect the Whitebridge sign first. CC members wished to know what materials would be used for the different types of sign, the durability and maintenance implications, and the comparative costs. The Secretary will make enquiries with Mr Colin Simpson, the Tourism Co-ordinator.

(d) *Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge* Mr Bateman reported that progress is being made, and Mr John Townshend is in the process of preparing grant applications.

(e) *Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers*

The Secretary has written to Historic Scotland and supplied them with photographs, for advice/guidance on what action would be needed, and how best to go about it. Cllr. Davidson advised the CC of the existence of the Inverness Burial Ground Commutation Fund. She will enquire whether the Monument and/or burial plot would qualify for any money from this fund. She felt that there might be money available from the fund for work needed in the Foyers Cemetery, such as the additional fencing.

(f) *Right of Way through Knockie Estate*

There has been no further feedback on this matter. It is known that some local residents have contacted Stewart Eastaugh with information. Further enquiries will be made.

**Highland Council Correspondence:** Copy of updated Ward/CC map

**Other Correspondence & Circulars Received.**

Inverness Area Community Councils Forum: Minutes of AGM and Meeting held on 15.09.09.

Forestry Commission Scotland: Initial Notification of Proposed sale of land at Inverfarigaig. NBW Wind Energy Ltd.: Notification of trial run of transporter lorry to Corriegarh It was reported that this trial run caused considerable delays and inconvenience to other road users, much of which was avoidable. The lorry and escort failed to pull over to allow built up traffic to pass, although it would have been possible to do so on several occasions. A letter will be sent.

Paths for All: Letter and questionnaire - Mr Sutherland agreed to look at this. Highland Environmental Network Newsletter. Crossroads Newsletter

**Letters Sent:**

*Letters:* Mr N. Gillies, TEC Services, Roads matters discussed at last meeting. Historic Scotland: Fraser Monument

**Treasurer's Report**

Account balances were not available at the meeting. Received since last meeting: From the Community Trust for the Community Web Site £4190.00 Cheques issued since last meeting: Mr A. Holt for Community Web Site: £4190.00 Mrs E. Merther, Secretarial expenses 27.1.09 to 21.9.09 £41.73

**Planning Matters**

*Applications* - Erection of house at West Drummond, Whitebridge - It was agreed that a site visit will be undertaken.

**Fire Brigade report**

Mr Kirkland reported that the new Assistant Chief Fire Officer had been visiting all the outlying stations. As previously reported, plans are ongoing for a new local Fire Station. A new, larger appliance is also needed, although not a full sized appliance, as this would be unsuitable for our local roads. These improvements are dependent on funding, and will wait until after improvements at other, worse off stations.

**Roads and Signage**

(a) *Bridge at Lower Foyers* - Projects for the capital list are currently being reviewed. A letter will be sent to Cllr. John Laing, with a copy to Mr David MacKenzie, the Structures Engineer, to remind them of our case. Enquiries will be made to clear any obstacles to the project, so that if funding becomes available there will be no delays.

(b) *Other roads items* (i) Concern was expressed about the speed of traffic approaching the Whitebridge Hotel, particularly from the Fort Augustus direction, as there is poor visibility at the Hotel entrance. A speed monitoring exercise will be requested, with a view to the possible provision of warning signs. (ii) Cllr. Hendry reported by email that he has requested a No Through Road sign at the bailey bridge in Lower Foyers, but has not heard back about this yet. It was also noted that there are a number of young children at Riverside, and a sign such as 'Slow - children' would help to improve safety for them. A request will be made.

**Renewable Energy & Community Benefit**

(a) It was reported that the home energy audits, which residents were able to request some time ago, are now under way.

(b) The Chairman had seen information about grant funding being available under an energy efficiency scheme for heating community halls, and thought that the Hall Committee at Gorthleck might wish to look at this.

(c) It was reported that some of the energy efficiency money at Fort Augustus had been used to provide grant assistance for people wishing to buy more energy efficient fridges or freezers.

**Any Other Competent Business**

(a) Mr Sutherland reported that site visits and meetings had taken place regarding the proposed Forestry plantings at Ardochy. Mr Patton in the Planning Department had requested a note from the CC confirming the issues to be dealt with, which are chiefly in relation to protection of water supplies and identification of archaeology. An email will be sent.

(b) Mr Bateman noted that Remembrance Sunday this year is on 8th November. It was agreed that, as in previous years, Mr John Campbell will be asked to obtain a suitable wreath and the CC will pay for this. The Chairman agreed to lay the wreath.

(c) Mr Kirkland reported that marshalls are being recruited for the Loch Ness Marathon, which is on Sunday 4th October. It was noted that the 'Monster Challenge' took place earlier in the month, with some local teams participating. Mr Nicol felt that there was a shortage of toilet facilities at the changeover point at Foyers, and also a delay in clearing the rubbish bags afterwards. The organisers will be advised about this.

(d) A local resident voiced concerns about proposed changes in regulations relating to burial lairs, and felt there might be legal implications surrounding the changes. Enquiries will be made to get the full details of the proposed changes.

(e) Cllr. Davidson reported the launch of the Handy Person Scheme in this area. She will arrange a supply of information leaflets to be placed in the Medical Centre at Foyers.

(f) There was a public meeting in Foyers on 19th June 2008 to try to identify local needs and priorities. Cllr. Davidson felt that a follow up meeting is needed, and will speak to our Ward Manager, Louise McCaul, about this.

(g) The Secretary asked if members had looked at the proposed minor amendments to the CC Constitution. It was agreed that this can now be forwarded to Highland Council.

(h) A letter was received from the Glenlia Residents' Association raising two matters: They feel that a new sign is needed for the Foyers School. Cllr. Davidson will request this from the Education Department. They would like a notice board at Glenlia, and this was discussed. The CC does not have funds to cover this, and grants will need to be applied for. A letter will be sent asking the Association to obtain details and costings so that the necessary applications can be made

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING - TUESDAY 27th OCTOBER 2009**

*Members present:* Mr M. Houston (Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mr M. Bateman Mr K. Fraser Mrs L. MacGregor Mr A. MacPherson Mr A. Nicol *Also present:* Councillor M. Davidson Councillor D. Hendry Mr J. Taylor (TEC Services) Mr N. Kirkland

*Apologies:* Mrs K. Grant Mr P. Higham Mr A. Sutherland

**Adoption of Minutes** - Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2009 were adopted as a true record.

*Proposed:* Mr A. Nicol *Seconded:* Mr K. Fraser

#### **Winter Gritting Schedule**

Mr John Taylor of TEC Services kindly came along to the meeting to outline the gritting policy for this winter. He explained that although there are no changes to the policy, discussions have taken place to ensure that guidelines are followed more closely.

Following discussion with the contractor there has been some rationalisation of the areas, and also a review of the road priorities. He explained that there are target times for gritting, and also target lengths of road to achieve. The use of larger gritters on some routes will reduce the need for frequent refills, which are sometimes necessary to maintain weight in the vehicle in icy conditions. Mr Angus Fraser, the Contractor, was present at the meeting, and outlined some of the difficulties experienced last winter, and the reasons for them. Members expressed concern about the lack of blading in some areas after heavy snowfall last winter. Mr Fraser explained that in some cases this was due to machinery being unable to get access to roads due to obstruction with overhanging branches. These were causing damage to the vehicle. Much of the land concerned is Forestry owned. Cllr. Davidson will contact Forestry to arrange a meeting with the Chairman and Mr Taylor to look at the problem areas with a view to getting the growth cut back. Also, after heavy snowfall, members were concerned that access to the Fire Station needs to be cleared as soon as possible. School parking areas are another problem, schools having to be closed if heavy snowfall prevents access to car parking. After some discussion it was agreed that blading of roads should take priority on these occasions, and school car parks could be dealt with later in the day. This should ensure access for school opening on the following day.

#### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

(a) *Key Worker/Affordable Housing* - Nothing new to report at present.

(b) *Community Web Site* CC Minutes are being forwarded to the web site when approved. Mr Holt and Mr Ellam are continuing to add information to the site.

(c) *Tourist Route Signs* Some more detailed information has been received about the alternative signs from Mr Simpson, and circulated to members. It was agreed that members prefer the stone sign and a letter will be sent to Mr Simpson indicating this. No details of costings are available as yet.

(d) *Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge* Mr Bateman reported that there has been an encouraging response from the meeting with the Consulting Engineer. There is due to be a further meeting and discussion in one week.

(e) *Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers* The Secretary has been advised by Historic Scotland to get in touch with Laing

Traditional Masonry with a view to getting an assessment of what work should be done, and the likely costs. The Secretary will make contact to find out what the cost of an initial inspection/survey would be.

(f) *Right of Way through Knockie Estate* - Further information is awaited from Mr Stewart Eastaugh.

(g) *Photocopier* - Nothing further at present.

(h) *Review of Community Council Boundaries* - Maps and information on the first phase have been circulated to members. No

changes were suggested.

#### **Highland Council Correspondence**

Review of Community Councils - First phase (circulated) A Guide to the Planning System in Scotland (circulated) Notice of Winter Payments Scheme (circulated) Notice of Ward Forum meeting - 18th November 2009 regarding TECS issues(circulated) - The Chairman and Mr K. Fraser hope to attend. Licensing Application - Whitebridge Hotel (new regulations)

#### **Other Correspondence & Circulars Received**

Scottish Government - Changes in the Scottish Planning System (circulated) Notice of ASCC Conference 2009 - 14th November (circulated) Community Woodlands Association - Roots of Health Seminar (circulated). Copy letter from Mr H. Nicol on behalf of the Stratherrick Hall Management Committee regarding anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Hall. Letter from Mrs M. Campbell regarding bus timetable. Dogs Trust Newsletter

#### **Letters Sent**

To Education Department - concerns re possible sale of Foyer Schoolhouse. Email requesting further detail on proposed tourist route signs. Reply to letter from Glenlia Residents' Ass'n regarding notice board etc. Letter to NBW Wind Energy re abnormal load trial run. Letters on roads matters arising from last meeting plus letter regarding proposed winter gritting schedule

#### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer had sent apologies. Account balances were not available at the meeting.

#### **Planning Matters**

(a) *Applications*. There were no new applications. As arranged at the last meeting, a site visit was undertaken at West Drummond, Whitebridge. There were no objections.

(b) *Other Planning Matters*. Letters received notifying the following applications granted: 2 house plots NW of Heatherly, Errogie (outline) with access and other conditions. Erection of meteorological monitoring equipment at Sidhean Dubh and Meallan Odhar, Whitebridge

### **'Talking lift' in the new Telford centre**

The Telford Centre, run by Highland Council in Fort Augustus, has recently opened again after a year of refurbishment. Improved facilities have been provided for the ten permanent residents in the care home although not much has changed on the outside of the building. For the ten elderly folk from Stratherrick and Foyers, who are able to attend once a week for day care, it has been an interesting time. Their weekly visits have been temporarily located in the Church of Scotland hall in Fort Augustus. Meals were provided by the school meals service during term time and local hotels and cafes during the holidays. Kitty Fraser from Lochgarthside, herself a dinner lady in Stratherrick school during the 70s, is complimentary about the standard of the school meals cooking. Now, back again in the Telford Centre, Kitty says the provision for day care is a little more cramped but tells of a new talking lift that is causing some amusement and more than a little frustration!

Foyers Primary School would like to invite you to their

### *Christmas Concert & Carols*

Foyers School, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 7.00pm

All very welcome!!

## ***Christian Comment – December 2009***

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus the Messiah into our world as a baby at Bethlehem, we might well wonder with the shepherds on the hillside what on earth were those angels talking about: ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom He is pleased’. (Luke 2 v14). Where is peace to be found in Israel and Palestine today?

At the Community Carol Service in the Stratherrick Hall at 7.00pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, our donations are given to the Bible Lands organisation that exists to bring an experience of God’s peace in that part of the World. At Bethlehem there is a school to help 70 children with learning difficulties and there is a waiting list of 200. There is also a Day-Care Centre, *The Sheepfold*, for children with very special needs. In Nazareth there is a School of Nursing. In Jerusalem, the Helen Keller Centre provides specialised education for 60 visually impaired children between 3-13 years. It works closely with the St John’s Eye Hospital, and the Princess Basma Centre for disabled children in East Jerusalem. There is also the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza where there is a programme targeting malnutrition in children, through the distribution of food packages and vitamins. There are many other centres in the Lands of the Bible where the love of God is shared with both Arabs and Jews. There are Christian churches and a Bible College both in Bethlehem and Nazareth, where anyone who wishes to may discover that peace with God through Jesus about which the angels spoke.

*Martyn Bateman*

PS. In addition to the Community Carol Service there will be special Christmas Services in our churches including *Carols by Candlelight* at St Paul’s Strathnairn on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm

Thank you to everyone who made the ***Harvest Supper*** in the Stratherrick Hall such a happy occasion. A cheque for just over £200 was sent to the *Barnabas Aid* organisation that helps to promote relief for the many Christians around the world who, sadly, are being persecuted for being followers of Jesus ~ The Prince of Peace.

***St Paul’s Episcopal Church in Strathnairn*** have welcomed a retired clergyman in the place of the Reverend Peter Mosley, who is now living in Inverness with his wife Sheelagh. The Very Reverend Gerald Stranraer-Mull was formerly the Dean of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, and lives with his wife Glynis at 75 The Cairns, Muir of Ord, IV6 7AT, and may be contacted on 01463 870986. Gerald’s early career was in journalism; but, impressed by the caring nature of Christian ministers involved with the Samaritan organisation, he became ordained in 1970, having been taught the Christian faith in childhood, and realising the love of Christ through the Billy Graham mission at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow. He was appointed Rector of St Mary’s, Ellon, with St James, Cruden, in Aberdeenshire in 1972 from which he retired in 2008. He is a recognised authority on the history of the Christian Faith in Scotland, having written a number of most interesting articles on this subject. He has taken several tours to the Holy Land and is currently arranging a tour for any interested parties in 2010.

### **Church Meetings**

#### **Church of Scotland**

Sunday: Boleskine 10.00am, Dores 11.30am. Mr Ian King 01463 751 293

***The Church of Scotland United Services for Boleskine and Dores are at 11.00 a.m. on the last Sunday of each month at alternate venues.***

### Episcopal Church

Sunday: 11.00am. Lt Col . James Murray 01808 521205

### Free Church

Sunday: 4.30pm Errogie. Mr S. MacLure 01456 486435

Sunday: 11.00am & 6.30pm Wednesday: 7.30pm. Does Mr D. Fraser 01456 486408

### Free Presbyterian Church

6.00pm Gorthleck, every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Mrs E. Fraser 01456 486282

### Roman Catholic Church

12.00 noon, alternate Sundays, Whitebridge. Mrs Therese Finley 01456 486747

### Inter-denominational Bible Study

Thursdays 7.30 pm Rev. Martyn Bateman 01456 486 273

**World Day of Prayer** – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 3.00pm in the R.C. Chapel

## NEW MINISTER FOR STRATHERRICK

On September 4th, 2009, a new minister, the Rev. Dr. Malcolm Maclean, was inducted to the joined charge of Greyfriars — Stratherrick Free Church of Scotland. Since his arrival, Dr. Maclean has decided to change the service time in Errogie Free Church to 4.30.p.m. each Sunday. This will enable him to preach every Sunday in Stratherrick, as well as his other services at Greyfriars Free Church, Inverness, at 11a.m. and 6.30 p.m. A warm welcome is extended to all.

For further information, contact Sandy MacLure on 01456 486435.



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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			
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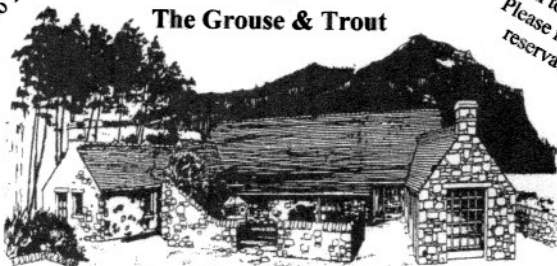
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