



## WINTER BROOD



On a very wet October day we lost one of our hens, despite a long search we could not find her and so presumed the worst. After three weeks of torrential rain and hard frosts she appeared from the undergrowth with 6 fluffy chicks. This is not a normal festive scene but thought it may bring you joy to think of Spring - despite the autumnal leaves ! It will be hard for this new Mum to keep her wee brood safe and warm throughout the coming winter months - but like us all she has good neighbours to look out for her especially when the snow is deep and the nights are cold !!

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## AGM - BOLESKINE BULLETIN

As advertised in the last Boleskine Bulletin the AGM was held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in Stratherick Hall

### THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011:

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>MARTYN BATEMAN</b>
<b>EDITOR</b>	<b>PETER CRAVEN</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>FRANK ELLAM</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>BARBARA MILLER</b>

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>FIONA BATEMAN</b>
	<b>ROGER GLEED-GATES</b>
	<b>JANE O'DONOVAN</b>

All of the above volunteered to carry on for a further year. Please see the article in this Bulletin asking for help, We need more people to become involved if the Bulletin is to continue in the future.

As required in the constitution the Accounts for the year are published below

<b><u>BOLESKINE BULLETIN</u></b>				
<b><u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u></b>				
<b><u>FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2010</u></b>				
<u>y/e 30.09.09</u>				
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>				
1,320	Advertising	1,302.00		
250	Community Council Minutes	250.00		
250	Community Trust Information	250.00		
113	Subscriptions and Donations	132.50		
1,933			1,934.50	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
1,398	Printing and Photocopying	1,386.00		
79	Postage and Stationery	87.62		
3	Hire of Hall	4.50		
1,480			1,478.12	
453	<b>SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD</b>		456.38	
2,054	<b>BALANCE IN HAND</b> brought forward		2,506.69	
£ 2,507	<b>BALANCE IN HAND</b> carried forward	£	2,963.07	
Frank Ellam - Treasurer				

Hi Peter

I have just started a new website called "Around Loch Ness" it is as the name suggests a site for business, visitors and communities in and around the Great Glen. It has a free classified ad section for buying, selling and recycling, that may interest your readers. The site address is <http://www.stratherrick.co.uk/> and the free ad section is <http://www.stratherrick.co.uk/free-ads>. I would be grateful if you could find some space to mention this free service in the Bulletin if you feel this would interest your readers. I would also be grateful for any content, images or ideas for the site, and would be happy to offer free easy to edit pages to any non profit groups.

regards

Eric Law

## **Glenlia Residents Association**

It has been another good year for Glenlia Residents Community Association. Continuing our fundraising for the refurbishment of the play park we have spent numerous hours completing application forms for grants. We hope to hear from the relevant organisations regarding the grants in the new year. I would like to thank Councillor Margaret Davidson for her time and enthusiasm for this project. A big thanks also to Paula, Bill and Alistair for their time and effort in completing the forms.

### **GLENLIA GALA**

We held our first Gala at the end of August and thankfully the weather held out. It took a lot of organising mainly done by the sub-committee but it involved all committee members, so thanks for all your effort and the time you spent making the day a great success. Not forgetting the partners for the committee members who, if they were not roped into the organising, did a lot of child minding on the weeks leading up to the Gala. I have to thank the non members of the committee who helped out, firstly Phil, our Housing Tenants Officer who opened the gala as the Hot Chick, but also was a huge help in the organising, Brian for his piping and Verity and Isabella for the amazing high-land dancing it was a great start to a great day.

A big thanks to the Fire Service for their help in organising the day and for their stall on the day. Thanks to Pete (Mark and Mary's friend) for keeping Asda on their toes and also helping with the food. Thanks to Pam and Helen for manning the baking stall amongst others and Garry for selling raffle tickets on the day. Wendy's stall needed skill and was great fun to try, thanks Wendy and of course Scott for his very successful stall of sliding money to hit the whisky bottle, this stall was a big hit with the adults and kids, well done Pete (Mark's friend) for winning it. Thanks to Parent and toddler group for keeping the children entertained on the craft stall. Craigdarroch House Hotel helped us with arranging food for the day so a big thanks to them and Foyers shop for selling our raffle tickets.

Another big thanks to all the people and businesses who donated raffle prizes including Landmark - Carrbridge, Ross County Football Club - Dingwall, Loch Ness Golf Club (Fairways) - Inverness, EWM at Holm mills - Inverness Lynn and Ray Cooper, Aspenwood, Foyers Shop, and all the neighbours and friends who donated items.

### **BAXTERS LOCH NESS MARATHON**

We organised the manning of the drinks stations and the road closures from Whitebridge to Inverfargaig, when I say we organised it I mean Morag Cameron organised the majority of it. Thanks to Morag for all the running around she had to do to ensure all stations were manned. Thanks to all the volunteers who manned the stations, it was hard work especially as it was so wet and cold however it was obvious that the runners really appreciated it. Well done to Wendy who successfully scooped a bottle of water from the station and finished the marathon.

### **BEETLE DRIVE**

We held a Beetle Drive (another first for us) in Stratherrick Hall on 25 September. Thanks for Pam for hosting the night and keeping us all right on how to play. Once explained it was simple and fun for both adults and children. The turn out on the night was not as many as we had hoped and I think it may have been because people did not know what a Beetle Drive was. If we hold another Beetle Drive do come and bring the kids it is similar to bingo but easier and great fun.

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

We held a quiz night on 19 November in the Craigdarroch House Hotel. Another successful and enjoyable night. Thanks to Paula, Garry, Bill and Alistair for arranging the night and the questions and everyone who supported it on the night.

Watch out for our posters advertising our organised events throughout 2011. Finally a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone in the area.

Ger Stocks

Chairperson

GRCA

## **Stratherrick and Foyers Community Website**

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### **Inland, Upland and Cold –Gardening on the Edge**

Evergreens – what better topic could there be for winter? Evergreens give a garden presence and structure when deciduous trees are bare and perennials are biding their time below ground. We can derive inspiration from the plants which green our surrounding landscape in the colder months and we could plant our gardens in keeping with it.

The roads are lined with whin (gorse) bushes and the occasional broom. Ivy clothes old stone walls, the floor of the woodland and its tree trunks. Juniper and Scots pine stand on our hillsides. Holly is found where deer and rabbits cannot reach.

There are many useful non-native plants too and I shall mention some of them. Beware, however, of garden centre experts peddling dreams. Plants that they guarantee evergreen in the city of Inverness may struggle in the strath. Two examples are Portugal laurel, *Prunus lusitanica* and *Berberis darwinii*. On a Garden Club visit to Inverewe we found the head gardener Kevin Ball lamenting the devastation caused by temperatures of -7°C last winter. I concede that this is severe for Inverewe but when I told him that it had been -20°C in the strath and that Portugal Laurel and *Berberis darwinii* were badly hit, he said that I was gardening on the edge – hence the title of these articles.

This is not to say you mustn't try plants like those. It is always worth experimenting. In your own micro climate you may succeed. The ordinary laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* is hardier than Portugal laurel and slow growing forms such as 'Etna' and 'Otto Luyken' are available for small gardens.

If you don't mind their spines and have no young children around, garden versions of whin, *Ulex europaeus* should prove indestructible and give you a good show of bright yellow flowers for much of the year.

Broom, *Cytisus* comes in good garden forms with a choice of many colours. Broom tends to be short-lived but you can always replace it.

I am very fond of holly, *Ilex* but some of my mature plants suffered badly in the winter of 2009/10. Strangely it was the native hollies that were blackened while *Ilex aquifolium* 'Silver Queen' and *Ilex x altaclerensis* 'Golden King' both variegated, did not suffer at all. Thornless holly, *Ilex* 'J C van Tol' in a north facing border was likewise untouched. Holly is one plant that I would be willing to mulch in order for it to thrive.

May I put in a plea for our native juniper, *Juniperus communis*. We are fortunate to have them in this area but they are becoming scarce nationally. If you have a large garden you could plant one. In a smaller space there is no reason that I know of why they cannot be used as a hedging plant. They provide a softer look than box, holly and yew and could be used with them. Curb your desire, however, to stroke the fluffy looking things. They have spines too!

Ground covering junipers do well here and will spread quite fast. Some are - silver blue *Juniperus squamata*, *Juniperus x pfitzeriana* 'Old Gold' and yellow-green *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Prince of Wales', all hardy to -23°C and not liked by deer or rabbits. They make a lovely carpet all merging into each other and there are many more named varieties. If you want to create a focal point or some height the equally hardy *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Sky Rocket' (up to 10 metres) would do.

Yew, *Taxus baccata* makes the most wonderful hedge and is extremely long-lived. Put in young plants, keep them fed and they will surprise you with their relative speed of growth. Yew is noted for its slow growth but the advantage is that it doesn't need cut very often. If starting with young plants, let the leaders grow to the height you want the hedge to reach and just clip the sides meantime. Keep it well watered until it establishes but don't let the soil form a crust on top which will keep the air from the roots. Fork the soil over gently to stop this happening. It is perhaps best used as an internal hedge in country areas as its bark and cut branches can be poisonous to farm animals. Deer seem to be able to browse on living yew to no ill effect. The yew hedge that I am trying to establish looks a bit ragged because the leaders of some of the plants have been eaten out by these creatures! Again if you want some height, the Irish yew, *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata' will grow in a broad column up to 10 metres.

Ivy, *Hedera helix* is good for wild life. I hope you have had some success with it. Neighbours in the strath seem to have no problems in growing ivy. Indeed I have seen them hacking it back. It is not always the best thing to grow on the walls of your house but elsewhere in the garden it is fine or I think it would be if it would grow for me. I should like to use it both as ground cover and vertically but either the deer eat it or it becomes brown and shrivelled. Perhaps I am growing the wrong kinds. There are many pretty variegated named varieties such as 'Goldheart' which in theory should grow here.

Have you a garden large enough to grow our native Scots pine, *Pinus sylvestris*? Obviously it will grow well here but if you haven't the space and yearn for a pine there are small hardy ones available that grow to one or two metres. *Pinus mugo* 'Mops' is one of the best known.

Box, *Buxus sempervirens* is a reliable evergreen that will even grow in dry situations. It makes a dense hedge and also regenerates well if cut back. For small hedges that you might use to edge flower or vegetable beds there is *Buxus microphylla*. Box also makes delightful balls or pyramids. You can buy small plants and gradually shape them yourself or (for a price) buy ready shaped ones at most garden centres.

A non-native tough edging plant or small hedge that can be used instead of box is the alpine germander, *Teucrium chamaedrys* which has tiny grey-green oval leaves. If you want to keep it in shape it is best not to let it produce its bright pink flower spikes. It is easy from cuttings.

Of shrubs, that Victorian favourite the spotted laurel, *Aucuba japonica* is a real toughie and will grow in any situation. I find the variegated version, the one you most often see on sale, difficult to place. Sometimes I like it and other days I don't. Perhaps it comes into its own in winter and lights up dull spaces. There is a plain green version with glossy pointed leaves called *Aucuba japonica* 'Rozannie' that I planted recently. I think it will make a handsome plant and produce red berries too. The Christmas box, *Sarcococca*, should be hardy here. It is not much to look at but is grown for its perfumed white flowers that open in mid winter. So far it has struggled with me but I may have the wrong kind. Garden centres do not always label them properly. *Sarcococca confusa* is the one you want.

There are many small evergreen ground huggers. The following have proved their worth in my garden. *Bergenia*, *Cyclamen hederifolium* with its marbled leaves, *Dianthus*, *Euonymus*, *Euphorbia*, *Helleborus*, *Iberis*, *Saxifraga x urbium*, and *Vinca*. To describe their merits would need another article.

I'm sure you will have your own favourites to clothe your winter garden in many exciting shades of green.

Wee Gairdner

### **Community Trust Directors**

We are looking for new Directors for the Trust. It is a requirement that applicants must have been resident within the Foyers and Stratherrick area for at least 8 years in order to have voting rights for Trust business although individuals may take part as non voting Directors particularly if they have a useful background or skills to offer.

If you wish to put your name forward please get in touch to discuss further or contact me with a brief C.V. before the end of this calendar year.

A. Sutherland (Secretary)  
1 Allt na Goibhre, Errogie  
IV2 6UH  
Tel. 01456 486 711

## **STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION**

### **PUBLICATION OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED**

**10 nominations have been received for the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council. They are:**

Donald James Forbes	Kenneth Mackenzie Fraser	Katherine Grant
Julie Dawn Hunt	Stephen Anthony Hunt	Alexander Fraser Macpherson
Elizabeth Merther	Fraser William Ross	Justin Sharp
Alex Sutherland		

There are 10 vacancies and as there are only 10 nominations there is no need to conduct a postal ballot and these Candidates will be returned as the new Community Council at a date, after the 9 December 2010, to be arranged by the Returning Officer.

**Returning Officer: Alexander MacLure, Woodacre, Gorthleck, Inverness, IV2 6UJ**

### **Stratherrick and Foyers Community Website**

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## Stratherrick Primary School

It has been a very busy year so far at Stratherrick Primary. It never stops - just the way it should be!! ☺

August - Footie with Caley Thistle

Booked Abernethy Outdoor Centre for P5-7

September - P5/6 pupils went to Gleneagles to watch the Junior Ryder Cup

October - Feis started their Penny Whistle lessons in school

Went to Landmark for an end of term trip

December - 3<sup>rd</sup> Enterprise afternoon: The pupils raising money for new library books and developing their enterprise skills along the way. Stalls, games and competitions for all to enjoy!!

### Primary 5-7 Rainforest Topic

The pupils decided upon the topic, what they knew, what they wanted to find out and how they were going to do this.

**"It really makes learning fun and much more relevant"**

Curriculum for Excellence in action!



### Panto Pandemonium

*4 children, 1 fairy: On a mission without permission to save Panto Land!*

The wicked witch has hijacked pantos all over the world, can the children **and their comrades save the day!!** "Oh yes they can: Oh no they can't". You get the drift!!

Where: Gorthleck Hall

When: 7.00pm 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Starring: Everyone!!



Be there or be a stinking ugly sister!

### Aspen Survey by B.E.N.

Boleskine Environmental Network has published a short report about Aspen in Stratherrick. Sponsored by the Highland Biodiversity Partnership, the report - A Survey of Aspen in South Loch Ness - is the result of a two-year project run by the group and co-ordinated by John Parrott of Scottish Native Woods. During the spring and summer of 2009, after an initial training session, nine volunteers set about identifying and mapping the location of Aspen stands in the area. A total of 113 stands were recorded. Most are less than 0.2 hectare in extent with many stands comprising only a few trees on crags. However, at least two stands are larger: Fasnagruig (1.15ha) above Inverfarigaig and An Doirlinn (0.61ha) near the River Fechlin. The aspen tree is of great biodiversity value. Aspen supports many rare species such as the aspen hoverfly. If you would like to read the report it is on the Stratherrick and Foyers community web site. [www.stratherrick.net](http://www.stratherrick.net)

Over the winter B.E.N. will be putting the results of our annual survey of breeding waders (as reported in Sept. BB) on to the web site. Although no breeding pairs of golden plovers were confirmed we have learnt of several sightings of flocks of golden plovers that were seen in the area in the spring. A flock of 15 were seen near Ballindalloch on the south side of Loch Farraline and another flock on the high ground near Druim Teamphuill at the west end of Loch Garth. These may well have been young birds hatched last year and which had not yet established breeding territories.

Jane O'Donovan – secretary – 486355

### May Be You Could Help.....

Have you thought of giving a hand with the BB?

May be not but..... maybe you might!

Our little newsletter has been published four times every year for over ten years. The same people are struggling to get news items, stories and keeping it fresh and forward looking. We need help ..... all kinds of help. Writing ..... letters, articles, stories - things that matter to you living here. Our editor finds it hard to get articles in to make the BB interesting for every one. Do you have a club or group? Do you know what the community trust does? Why not write a letter. May be others in the area would like to hear all about your group. The occasional poem or recipe - as long as it's not too long! We also need a treasurer.... maybe you have some spare time and like adding up! Someone to secure advertising, this could be two separate jobs or just one.

Articles large or small, sad or funny, passionate, serious or silly. Peter, the editor, will remain the editor for, at present, he loves doing it – if your articles are too long he will make them smaller but just send things in and maybe *our* little newsletter will continue for another ten years. We all live here; old, young, those working, those not, those who are lonely, those who are sad and many new people who have chosen to live here recently. The BB is for everyone so, if you can, please, give us a hand. The BB is delivered to over 400 households. Can you help to deliver them?

Get in touch on the BB email address or contact Jane on 486 355 if you would like to help.

With our thanks.

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## Christian Comment

The coming year marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a foundational contribution to British Literature. William Shakespeare who lived from 1564-1616 is widely considered the greatest dramatist the world has known. No other writer's plays have been produced so many times in so many countries – quotations from them are part of our everyday language, such as 'the devil is in the detail'. Shakespeare's works have been translated into more languages than any other book apart from the Bible.

In 1611, as the result of four years labours by 54 Scholars who had been called together at Hampton Court by King James VI of Scotland (I of England), an authorised version of the sacred scriptures was produced in contemporary (Shakespearean) English. The Bible was made available throughout our nation influencing our culture, and its message transforming individual lives. It could be said that this Good Book contributed to the formation of Great Britain, and like Shakespearean plays, contributed to the writing and language of the day. Now 400 years later, with the slogan 'BIBLE FRESH' a number of Christian organizations are working together to encourage us all to a fresh appreciation and understanding of this God-given revelation of the meaning and purpose of life, so clearly revealed by our Lord Jesus Christ.

At Christmas time we shall hear again those remarkable words at the beginning of the Good News told by the Apostle John:

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

*He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

*(John 1, vv1-4, 11-14. KJV)*

*Martyn Bateman*

### Dates for the diary!

#### Special Christmas Services

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 'Carols for Christmas'** - 10.00am at Boleskine Church, 11.30am at Dores Church

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December Community Carol Evening for Everyone** - 7.00pm Stratherrick Public Hall (*Details from Martyn Bateman 01456 486273*)

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December/Christmas Eve Carols & Readings** – 6.00pm St Paul's Church, Strathnairn

#### Advanced Notice

**World Day of Prayer** 3.00pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Whitebridge Roman Catholic Chapel. **All welcome**

#### Church Meetings

##### **Church of Scotland**

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

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

##### **Episcopal Church – St Paul's Strathnairn**

Sunday: 11.00am. The Very Reverend Gerald Stranraer-Mull 01463 870986

##### **Free Church**

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

##### **Free Church Continuing**

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

##### **Free Presbyterian Church**

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

##### **Roman Catholic Church**

12.30 pm, alternate Sundays, Whitebridge. Mrs Therese Finley 01456 486678

**Inter-denominational Bible Study** Thursdays 10.30 am Rev. Martyn Bateman 01456 486 273





# Accessory Swap Event

SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

START TIME 2.00PM AT STRATHERRICK HALL  
GORTHLECK

The simple idea being you can **exchange** your unwanted **accessories** with someone else's. Swap your way to a new wardrobe at **little cost** to you or the **environment**!

**Step 1.** Go through your wardrobe and drawers and dig out good condition jewelry, hats, bags, belts and scarves etc. (Not clothes or shoes).

**Step 2.** Bring along a minimum of **2 swaps** (ideally more if you can) to the event at 2.00pm on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Step 3.** You will receive a free raffle ticket as you enter and hand over your goods to the organisers.

**Step 4.** Whilst you are enjoying a cup of tea and a chat, your goods will be being sorted.

**Step 5.** The Swap begins and you can choose up to the same number of items that you brought in.

**Step 6.** The Raffle will be held at the end of the Swap.

Any items left over will be donated to the Highland Hospice Shop in Inverness

Please check your swaps before you bring them along and remember if they are too well worn/washed for you to wear, they will be for somebody else!



**What we do not accept at Swap Shop:** Plain jersey vests and t-shirts, Stained/moth-holed garments, Well-worn heels on shoes and boots, Fraying/marked hems on trousers/jeans, Bobbling knitwear and t-shirts, Garments that have shrunk in the wash, Lingerie/swimwear, Garments with broken zips .

The perfect way to spend a leisurely Saturday afternoon. Entrance to the Swap is a snip at £3 and £1 for under 16. All proceeds donated to the running and maintenance of the Hall.

So fling open your cupboards and drawers and bring all those accessories that you don't wear anymore (although please make sure they're clean and in good condition) and swap them for new ones!

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS...THE MORE THE MERRIER ☺**

## KNOCKIE TRUST FUND

This is the time of year when the Knockie Trust would historically hand out gifts and fund various activities. However, due to the economic situation and reduced income from investments, we have to make choices this year and if we continue to fund the Coal / M&S Vouchers at Christmas it is unlikely that we will be able to fund the Christmas Parties as in previous years.

Can we also remind recipients for the Coal / M&S Vouchers (per Household) that the criteria is

- 1) Over 65 years for men and women.
- 2) Living in the area for 4 years or more.

If anyone thinks that we have missed them out perhaps they could contact in writing

Mrs Susan Fraser, Secretary of the Knockie Trust, Lynemhor Lodge, Gorthleck, Inverness, IV2 6UJ

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24th AUGUST 2010 AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL, FOYERS

Members present: Mr M. Houston (Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer)

Mr M. Bateman Mr A. Nicol Mr A. Sutherland

Also present: Councillor M. Davidson Councillor D. Hendry

Apologies received: Mr K. Fraser Mrs L. McAdam Mr A. MacPherson Councillor H. Wood

### Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing - No further information has been received. Cllr. Davidson will enquire about progress with the Gorthleck scheme.

(b) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge - Mr Bateman reported that immediately necessary work is under way, and that parapets and buttresses are being repaired. This initial work is hoped to be complete by mid September. Some of the original cobbled road surface has been discovered, and it is hoped eventually to reveal all of this.

(c) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers - The Secretary reported that the Survey and Quotation for necessary work has now been received from Laing Traditional Masonry. Grant funding will now be sought for the amount required - £19,340.

(d) Right of Way through Knockie Estate - The Rights of Way Officer has requested that the cattle feeding station be re-sited if possible.

(e) Broadband Provision - The CC has finally received a response from BT, indicating that they have no plans to improve the current situation in this area. Cllr. Hendry has also been in touch with them and received a similar response, indicating that they do not regard improvements in this area as economically beneficial to them. Destination Loch Ness is involved in an application for funds to enable

broadband access for boats on the Loch, which may extend to properties around the shore, but will not benefit anyone away from the shoreline. The CC will continue to press the case with BT, and Cllrs. Davidson and Hendry are pursuing the matter further. It was felt that in an area so dependent on tourism, and with so much business now internet dependent, the attitude of BT is unacceptable.

### Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence

Notice of City Forum "Community Care Plan Consultation" 2.8.10

Notice of Kirking of the Council 12.9.10

Cllr Hendry - Copy of Forestry Commission Deer Management Operations

Poster & leaflets - HC history and culture website - [www.ambaile.org.uk](http://www.ambaile.org.uk)

### Other Correspondence & Circulars Received

SSE - Update on proposals for meteorological masts at Balmacaan

Graeme Ambrose DLN - Update on progress with South Loch Ness trail

Link for Highland Environmental Network newsletter

Notice of Inverness High School Community Gala 11.9.10

NHS Highland - Links for June and July Team Updates

Leaflet -SMP Playground equipment

### Treasurer's Report

This year's grant has been received from Highland Council. Account balances are as follows:

Project A/c - £4863.58 (Cheque for £800 to Project Manager written at the meeting)

Ordinary A/c -£1671.94 (including £362 in grant money for Fraser Monument and £11.73 held for Mr J. Campbell, Senior Citizens' Fund)

### Planning Matters

New applications:

House & granny flat - Land north of Bridge Cottage, Torness (Full)

House - Development site at Foyers Stores (In principle)

Site visits were arranged.

House at Land 150m East of Easter Drummond Whitebridge (reserved matters) No objections.

### Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters - The Secretary had made enquiries about replacement of the culvert at the Calanour junction. This has been delayed due to wet weather but is now scheduled to go ahead. Mr Angus Fraser was present at the meeting and indicated that this work is now due to start.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers - Cllr. Hendry reported that unfortunately he had not been able to secure any of the money from the cancelled Ness Hydro Scheme. However, Cllr. Davidson is continuing with the preliminary work required, in the hope that "slippage" money will become available from larger schemes. She emphasised that with a new Local Plan due we will need to stress the need for a new bridge, with all the economic and social benefits this will provide.

(c) Other Roads Items

(i) The Chairman attended a meeting with members of TEC Services organised by Cllr. Davidson, when South Loch Ness roads were discussed. Details of the work proposed in relation to the wind farm projects at Corriegarth and Dunmaglass were presented. There will be further wind farm funds available over a number of years for road improvements in the area, and members should forward to the Chairman details of problem areas where work is needed, so that bids for funding can be made.

(ii) It was noted that the road opposite the junction to Lower Foyers has still not been cleared, and half of the road is still closed. Cllr. Davidson will make enquiries.

(iii) The Forestry Commission indicated that they intended to start clearance along the roadside on the tunnel road in August.

There is no sign of this as yet, other than one or two paint marks. Mr Sutherland reported that they have started pushing in some new forestry roads in the Inverfarigaig gorge for major timber clearance, but have still not held the promised community consultation about the work required along roads in the area.

(iv) Mr Nicol enquired about the progress with the 30 mph speed limit through Foyers. The Secretary reported that this had been overlooked by TEC Services, but is now in hand.

(v) Mr Nicol also noted the need for trees/vegetation to be cut back along the school road in Foyers. It was also reported that the small parking area outside the school gates is to be extended.

(vi) Mr Sutherland reported that Errogie residents were concerned about the speed of traffic through the village, and had requested a speed limit. Cllr. Davidson will request speed monitoring with a view to getting a speed limit. Mr Sutherland also reported that discussions are continuing with a view to making improvements at the bad corner in Errogie.

(vii) It was noted that there has been some significant damage to road edges, and a lot of stone debris across the roads around Lower Foyers following the recent abnormally heavy rain. Cllr. Hendry has taken a note of problem areas and will ask TEC Services to deal with them.

#### Community Project - Gorthleck

The Chairman reported that the Project Manager has secured a grant of £22,394 from Leader funding, and the project can now go forward.

#### Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland reported that a further meeting is scheduled to continue discussion regarding the level of Community Benefit from the Dunmaglass scheme.

#### Any Other Competent Business

(a) Mr Forbes presented an update regarding the proposed caravan/camping site. He reported that a pre-planning meeting has taken place, and he and his wife are waiting to hear from the Planning Department regarding any problems.

(b) The Secretary had received notification that the gentleman planning a Loch Ness ferry is to place an advert in the Boleskine Bulletin requesting letters of support for his scheme.

(c) Cllr. Davidson reported that British Waterways are now planning to go ahead with a survey of the pier at Foyers with a view to repairs/improvements.

#### Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th September 2010 at the Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck.

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2010 AT THE STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK

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

Also present: Councillor M. Davidson Councillor H. Wood

Apologies received: Mrs K. Grant Mr A. Sutherland Councillor H. Carmichael Councillor D. Hendry

#### Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing - Cllr. Davidson reported that there are likely to be further delays with the Gorthleck scheme into the next financial year, due to the current budget cuts. She will request some further discussion with HSCHT and Albyn Housing regarding the housing mix.

(b) Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge - Mr Bateman reported that the initial work on the bridge is almost complete.

(c) Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers - The Secretary is continuing with enquiries as to possible sources of funding for renovation.

(d) Broadband Provision - The Secretary has sent a further letter to the head of BT in Scotland (copied to other involved parties) expressing our concern about the very unsatisfactory situation in this area. An acknowledgement has been received from MSPs, but so far no response from BT. Cllr. Davidson reported that Graeme Ambrose for Destination Loch Ness is proceeding with an application for funding for wireless broadband around the Loch. This would benefit not just Loch side communities, but customers further 'inland'.

#### Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence:

Quality Awards 2010

Update on bus shelter for Lower Foyers - should be in place by the end of the year

Update on right of way through Knockie Estate -confirmation of previous correspondence

Leaflets and poster -Highland Archaeology Festival 2nd-17th October 2010

#### Other Correspondence & Circulars Received:

Inverness Area CC Forum - Minutes of Meeting of 24th August 2010 (circulated)

NHS Highland - Links for August Team Update (circulated)

NHS Highland - Patient survey results

Loch Ness Marathon - details of road closures for 3rd October 2010

Loch Ness Marathon -Invitation to Reception at finish

Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme - Newsletter

British Waterways - Newsletter

No Need for Nuclear - Newsletter.

#### Planning Matters

(a) New applications:

Alterations, extension, new garage - Old Chapel, Foyers (Full)

Change of previous outline permission for two houses to one house -Land at Cnoc An T-Sionnach, Whitebridge (PIP) Site visits had already been undertaken. There were no objections.

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Bookmark it, add to your favourites, and contribute whenever you have something to say!

[www.stratherrick.net](http://www.stratherrick.net)

(b) Other planning matters: Forestry Consultation re felling licence at Croftdhu, Errogie. Members were concerned that any damage to the road due to the timber extraction should be made good. The Chairman will take photographs of the road in its current state in case these are needed.

A copy of the Highland Wide Development Plan has been received. The Chairman will look through this for any items of which the CC needs to be aware.

#### Policing Matters

No Police representative was present. Enquiries will be made about the possibility of a Police representative attending some of our meetings. Members feel that Police contact with the CC can be very valuable.

#### Roads and Signage

##### (a) Outstanding Matters

Culvert, Calanour junction - Mr A. Fraser was present at the meeting. He reported that the culvert has now been replaced, and road surfacing should be completed shortly.

Junction to Lower Foyers - Concrete blocks have now been removed. Mr Fraser reported that the ditch at the foot of the rock face will be cleared shortly, to reduce the risk of falling rocks rolling into the road.

Surface damage/pot holes road to Lower Foyers - After further complaints by the Secretary and Mr Nicol, the two largest pot holes have been filled. However, the entire road surface in this area needs attention, and the ditch needs clearing to prevent the constant stream of water across the road at this point, which is the cause of the problem. A very large 'sink hole' at the edge of the tarmac slightly lower down also needs attention.

Tree clearance - It was noted that trees have still not been cleared back from the roadside after last winter. The Trinloist and Loch Bran roads were mentioned in particular, but the same problem applies to most roads in the area. Questions were raised about arrangements for road gritting and snow clearance this winter. Cllr. Davidson will try to arrange a meeting with Richard Evans to clarify matters. The forestry have done some clearance on the tunnel road, but it is not known if they have completed this or if they are working elsewhere in the area. Cllr. Davidson will make enquiries.

Cllr. Davidson is making enquiries about provision of a speed limit through Errogie.

(b) Bridge at Lower Foyers - Cllr. Davidson reported that although the bridge is on the list for replacement, it has a low priority, and we need to emphasise the importance of a replacement to maintain a viable community in Lower Foyers. She also pointed out that the only feasible land available for further housing in that area will not be developed as long as the community is without a permanent bridge. It was also suggested that a flood alert monitor should be provided for the bailey bridge. Cllr. Davidson will look into this.

##### (c) Other Roads Items

(i) A complaint about water running across the road adjacent to 'An Clachan' in Gorthleck had been received. This will be reported.

(ii) The Chairman reported that a section of culvert under the road about 350 yards below Bochruben Farm on the corkscrew road has badly collapsed and needs attention. This will be reported.

(iii) Cllr. Davidson reported that funds had been provided from the Ward budget to improve the Vennel road, where there had been serious problems last winter.

#### Water and Sewerage

Complaints were received about the disruption caused by Scottish Water in their handling of work on the water main. Customers received notices informing them that water would be cut off from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on three successive days, with no mention of provision of emergency supplies. This was done at very short notice, forcing businesses and other premises to close. People attempting to contact Scottish Water could get no information and no response to emails and phone messages. It was agreed that the CC will write expressing concern and dissatisfaction at the way this matter was handled.

#### Community Project - Gorthleck

The Chairman reported that two funding sources are now guaranteed. The final application to the Trust is now going in, and if this funding is secured then the first work should go ahead before Christmas.

#### Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland had reported by phone that negotiations on Dunmaglass and Corriegarth are ongoing.

Cllr. Davidson reported that a meeting between communities has been suggested to agree some standard procedures to deal with these situations.

#### Any Other Competent Business

(a) Mrs McAdam reported that Scottish & Southern Energy had received a formal complaint about the state of the footbridge adjacent to the fish farm in Lower Foyers. This had resulted in a full survey, and the bridge is now closed. It will be replaced at some time in the future, but it is not known when this will be done.

(b) Mr Bateman noted that Remembrance Sunday this year is on 14th November. The Chairman agreed to lay the wreath at the War Memorial in Gorthleck on behalf of the CC. Mr Bateman will ask Mr John Campbell to obtain the wreath as usual.

(c) The Secretary reported that she had been contacted by Mr Bruce Ferguson of the Forestry Commission asking for suggestions on how to improve visitor experience on the Forest Estate. They would like suggestions about additional facilities for the area. If members send her any ideas they have she will forward them to Mr Ferguson. He has already spoken with Graeme Ambrose of DLN.

(d) Cllr. Davidson reported that the Glenlia residents hope to obtain Leader funding for their park/recreational area.

(e) The Chairman reported that arrangements for the next Community Council election are in hand. The election will take place in November, on a date to be fixed. The final meeting of the current CC will be in October.

#### Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th October 2010 at the Primary School in Foyers.



## 'Paddling with Ghosts in Patagonia'



An illustrated talk by Ed Ley-Wilson

Ed describes an adventurous two man 400km sea kayaking journey into the Magellan Strait, revisiting the ancient sea routes and homelands of the now extinct Alacaluf and Yamana Indians of remote southern Patagonia. Driven



by a need for adventure and a deep interest in exploring this most wild of places, he and his pal Robert paddled in this place of ghosts and encountered the risks and journeying spirit demonstrated by those original Indian canoe people to whom the harsh environment of Southern Patagonia was home.



7.30pm Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan

Stratherrick Village Hall

£3 per person, £1 for under 16's

For more detail, contact

Janet Sutherland on 01456 486711



## STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL,

### Gorthleck

19<sup>th</sup> February 2011

7.30 p.m.

Admission: £3.00 Children under 16 £1.00

### ***The Isles of Scilly: a "Mediterranean" climate on a "Hebridean" island.***

**An illustrated excursion to a necklace of tiny islands off the coast of Cornwall – archaeology, history, landscape and tourism.**

This promises to be a fascinating illustrated talk by Norman Newton who has lectured widely throughout the Highlands and Islands.

If you would like to come but don't have transport we may be able to arrange a lift - please ring Janet Sutherland 01456 486711.

### Halloween Party

A very big thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and to those who attended the Halloween party at the Whitebridge hotel.

The night was a great success thanks to the great music by Neil Ferguson also thanks to Lesley/ Duncan Macadam for making the place look so scary (with the great decorations).

Also thanks to David and Sarah once again for being very accommodating.

We raised over £300 this will go towards the children's community Christmas party on the 12th December 3 till 5 at the Stratherrick hall.

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## EWEN FRASER

(1926 – 2010)

Ewen Fraser was born in Oldtown, Stratherrick in 1926, the third of eight children born to John and Marjory Fraser. He started farming at the age of fourteen in Migovie, and also latterly in Gorthleck Mains. In 1955 he married Ella MacKenzie and they were blessed with a family of three sons and one daughter. A quiet family man Ewen especially enjoyed being surrounded by his grand- children in his latter years. As a result of deteriorating health, his last two years were spent in Highview House Care Home where he was lovingly cared for by the devoted staff. Farming in Stratherrick all his life, he particularly enjoyed lambing seasons for over sixty years.

He was a well respected farmer in the Strath and the wider farming community. His knowledge and advice was often sought by others and his expertise in sheep shearing has been mentioned frequently since his passing.

Farming was not his only contribution to the life of the Strath. He served as a member of the Community Council for a number of years where he always sought to do his best for the community he so loved.

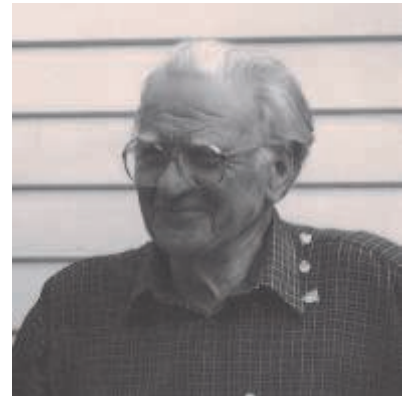
However first and foremost in his life was his desire to serve the Lord. He served as an elder in Stratherrick Free Presbyterian Church for many years and as he put it himself “kept the door of the church open”. He had a particular love of the Psalms and even when his illness had progressed to the stage where he could communicate very little, he was still able to recall some of the words which had been a comfort to him for so many years.

He passed away peacefully on 17<sup>th</sup> September and was buried in Dores Cemetery. The large turn out at his funeral bore testimony to the high regard in which he was held.

## *David Marshall*

*1927-2010*

It is with much sadness that we report the death of David Marshall of Comeraich along the Vennal. David had been in frail health for some months and finally succumbed to cancer of the liver. He was nursed at home until he died which was what both he and Jean wished and was with Jean and his animals until the end. His children were able to come up and spend time with him which he much enjoyed.



David and Jean bought their much loved cottage 30 years ago and spent every moment that they and their children could, up here. After David retired they decided to take the plunge and move permanently to Gorthleck. David's grandparents on both sides were Scots and he felt that he had finally come home when he settled finally in Comeraich. A quiet and observant man with a fund of stories about his time in Covent Garden Market and, as so many friends have remarked since his death, a man you could count on always, who knew simply that what is right is right. He was a man of wide and varied interests, but particularly he enjoyed wildlife, about which he was very knowledgeable. As he became less mobile his bird watching was a great comfort to him. He loved Scotland and died where he would have wanted to. The most often term used by his many friends at his funeral was that he was “an honourable man”. He leaves two daughters and a son and six grandchildren. Much loved and very sorely missed.

## **Giving the Community Space – new project in Gorthleck**

**A number of years in the planning.....but finally the project to provide a play park, kick area and meeting space for the community of Stratherrick and Foyers is finally underway.**

The Stratherrick Environmental Enhancement Group (SEEG for short) has managed to secure funding in the region of £50,000 to develop a space near to Stratherrick Hall in Gorthleck.

The project has received funding from the Community Trust, Awards for All, The Highland Council and Highland LEADER to enable the community to turn the land into useable space for the benefit of local people. The funding will allow the purchase of equipment such as swings, a climbing frame and picnic benches and some of the costs of installing these, however we need some of the other work such as landscaping, planting and making teas (all so important) to be undertaken by the community.

There will be an **Open Day at Stratherrick Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 11-8**, for the community to come and view the ideas we have, help us to make decisions and contribute to the whole process. All members of the community are invited to drop in and have a look at what we are trying to achieve. We are hoping that there will be a number of activities throughout the day for children and adults alike, along with refreshments.

Children, parents, grandparents, residents, diggers, grass-cutters, tea-makers, organisers, admin people are all welcome, indeed necessary, to help get this project off the ground. If you would like to volunteer some time, or a skill, or indeed learn a new skill, please contact **Sarah Hartley on Tel: 486291 or by email to SEEGad-min@googlemail.com**

**Please keep an eye on [www.stratherrick.net](http://www.stratherrick.net) for further updates and information.**

## **LOCH NESS - PHENOMENON**

I wonder how many others were lucky enough to see the strange water formations all along Loch Ness on Wednesday afternoon 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Perhaps we, on the bus heading for Inverness, had a better and clearer view than car occupants.

The wind was very strong, and probably combined with cross-winds, resulted in the tops of the waves being whipped up into high plumes of spray, some of which were almost the whole width of the Loch. What made it even more magical was the sun catching the spray and converting it into beautiful rainbow colours.

Calum Martin was on board the bus and with his phone was able to capture the most eye-catching one – which although can only be reproduced in this Bulletin in black and white is still quite amazing.

We were all so pleased that he was able to photograph that rare and wonderful sight. A real phenomenon.

**Buddy MacDougall**

**Photo by Calum Martin**



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01456 486233

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Other goods available include: Chilled & Frozen foods, Confectionery, Off Licence, Fishing Tackle, Souvenirs, Postcards, over the counter Medicines, Toiletries and household cleaning products. We can't compete with the 'big boys' but we do offer a friendly, welcoming local shop that might just surprise you with prices and variety.

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Monday to Saturday - 9am to 5.30pm  
Sunday - 10am to 1.30pm

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Orders taken by phone.  
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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			
Whitebridge Bus Shelter	1135	1630	-----	1830			
Knockie Lodge Road End	1140	1635	-----	1835			

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SUET PELLETS	6KG	£18.35
BUDGIE 50/50 MIX	6KG	£9.50
CANARY MIX	6KG	£10.55
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RICH LAYER PELS	25 KG	£9.60

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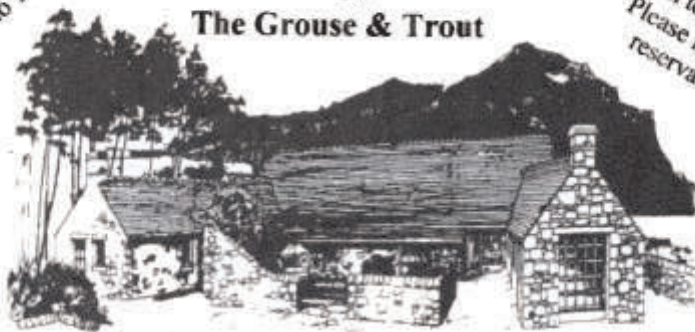
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### **Notes for contributors**

For submissions to the BB an A4 page has about 400-500 words, half a page has about 200. Pieces should be of no more than one page. Obviously the Community Council Minutes need to be longer. As a rule an article of approximately 200/250 words is ideal as smaller pieces are easier to fit in when page setting. As editor I may need to shorten any article sent or, if it lends itself to splitting, use it over two quarters this has to be at my discretion but I would contact you to inform you of what I intended to do. The BB cannot go beyond 24 pages due to cost and time sensitive pieces will go in first. I will always give the authors name for pieces used if desired, pieces should not be offensive and the editor retains the right to refuse to use any piece submitted.

**Photographs** can be submitted in colour or black and white and will be converted to grey scale prior to printing as this seems to give the best reproduction results. The possibility of the BB going to at least part colour is being investigated at the present.

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