TheBoleskineBulletin

March 2011 Issue 54

Medical Practice goes 21st Century.

Not to worry the telephones still work!!!

New Website - www.foyersmedicalcentre.co.uk

Foyers Medical Centre has set up a new website for the Practice which they hope everyone will find useful and informative. From this you can order repeat medication by e-mail, keep them up to date with any change of your address or details. They would welcome any comments about it and hope it is a useful addition to the services they offer.



Drs Gregor and Lesley Mackintosh and Staff Loch Ness East & Strathnairn Medical Practice The Medical Centre, Foyers, IV2 6YB

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Foyers Primary School

Farewell Mrs Brown

Last summer marked the end of an era at Foyers Primary School. As the children began their summer holiday they said goodbye and thank you to Mrs Maureen Brown.

Seventeen years ago Mrs Brown moved from Skye to head the Loch Ness side school. Many former pupils will remember the study of Loch Bran in all seasons which has provided an extended record of the plants and animals found there. In particular they will remember the excitement of identifying an hitherto unknown type of newt

Mrs Brown's care of the children in her charge together with her success in leading the school including very positive HMIE reports and many projects and out-



ings leave an impressive legacy which has been hard to follow. Not only were the children enriched in their individual learning experiences, but staff alike gained inspiration. The challenge in teaching was made lighter by her support. Her colleagues wish to thank Mrs Brown for all her hard work and dedication during her years at Foyers Primary School and wish her a happy retirement.

A new era starts at Local Schools. With Mr Alan Graham as Head Teacher of both.

As Foyers Primary School looks forward to a new cluster arrangement with Stratherrick the events of the first half of the session come to mind.

In the autumn a series of netball lessons prepared the children for a tournament with Farr Primary School which unfortunately had to be postponed because of the severe weather conditions at the end of last year. It is hoped to reschedule in March. The Big Lottery Fund has financed the provision of badminton coaching for the remainder of the session as well as funding the purchase of equipment. Health and Wellbeing has been further strengthened by the attendance at swimming lessons this term. The children love the sessions and are already showing marked improvement. Grateful thanks are due to the Community Trust for their kind help with transport costs.

A Silver Eco Award was gained at the end of last term followed by an application to be considered for a Green Flag later this year. Mrs Cameron provides support in her role as parent member of the Eco committee.

The Parent Council have been most helpful in drawing up a Travel Plan which not only led to vast improvements in the Car Park with finance from the Community Fund but also ensured that all children received high visibility jackets and school bag covers.

The Carol Sing-a-long and Sale was another victim of the weather to be replaced by a short concert for families only at the end of term when the weather was slightly better. The Parent Council hope to have a fund raising event soon to which members of the community will be invited.

Stratherrick Primary School

We have been very busy as always here at Stratherrick. The pupils of P5-7 will fill you in on our news:

SWIMMING By Hamish P6 and Lachlan P5

After Easter this year, P1-7 is going to go swimming every Friday for about 8 weeks. We are going to learn how to swim and we will have lots of fun. We will swim in pairs for a length and be put in the first, second or third class on the first day. Most of us did it last year for several weeks.

THE EFFECTS OF SMOKING By Kyle P6 and Rhiannon P7

In class this term we were learning about substance misuse, and that teenage girls smoke more than teenage boys. We think this is because teenage girls chat to their friends all the time so they are more likely to smoke, where boys don't really smoke, they play football instead so they aren't bothered to smoke.

Smoking really affects you and others because the smoke goes around your body and this is called passive smoking and you can get all sorts of different cancers like lung cancer.

SAVE A LIFE!! By Amy P7 and Jordan P5

The P7s did a save a life course. They learnt CPR and what to do if someone is choking. They had a great time and had lots of fun. They learnt that you use two fingers for babies, one for children over 1, and two hands for an adult. They also learnt what position to be in if someone is choking, and how to approach someone for the first time when injured.

PANTO PANDEMONIUM By Kayleigh P5 and Phoebe P6

On the 16th of December, we did our Panto; it was very fun[©] and very entertaining. In our Panto, we had four children, a witch, and a good fairy, and many more characters. We all learnt to be confident and we know how to add a lot more expression. If you came to the Panto we all hope you enjoyed it.

OUR LIBRARY PROJECT By Ruben P7 and Brea P5

In the past few weeks we have been doing a project about our library. We want to make our library more attractive because our library is not that good because some of our bookcases and books are falling apart. We did a P3-7 survey and for what genre of books we wanted Animal novels got the most with 21 votes; for what furniture bookcase got the most with 14; and for what theme we wanted Animal got the most with 13. We have raised £500 from our enterprise afternoon and now we are looking to raise more money to buy the supplies we need like bookcases and books.

NEW EQUIPMENT By Lewis P7 and Millie P5

The new equipment we have got recently is an Ipad, just dance 2 and tennis rackets, tennis balls, tennis net and some playground equipment with Tesco vouchers. The Ipad is for Mrs Fraser, in the office for administration and also in the classroom for I.C.T. We used Just Dance 2 for Miss Tait's survey to see if physical activity improves our learning and concentration. Our tennis equipment is great because it has everything in it-the racket, the tennis balls and the net. Our new playground equipment is good because the younger ones love it.

EILIDH TALKS ABOUT THE RAINFOREST By Ruari P7 and Kai P5

While we were learning about the Amazon Rainforest, Miss Tait got one of her friends called Eilidh, who had just came out of the Rainforest, to come to our school and teach us all about the Rainforest. She presented a slide show to us about the Rainforest so she could show us loads of amazing things that are in the Amazon. We learnt that their houses are on stilts to stop them flooding. We also learnt that there were boys that had monkeys as pets. The tree trunks were incredibly large! We all enjoyed learning about the Rainforest.

ABERNETHY TRIP By Isabel and Abi

This super piece of writing is about our school trip to Abernethy on the 23-27th of May 2011 for the P5-7s. Abernethy is an Adventure Centre in Nethybridge which is near the Cairngorms National Park. We will be staying in a 1970s country house which has a beautiful view of the countryside. Mr Graham will be taking us along with Mrs Slater. We will be doing water sports and ground sports as well. We can not wait till we go!

Christian Comment

EGYPT 5,000 years ago was a mighty civilization with the massive pyramids near Heliopolis (modern day Cairo) and the vast temples along the banks of the River Nile. This great river, flowing from central Africa was the provider of life for the nation since there is scarcely any rainfall except along the Mediterranean coast. The temples had no need of roofs since the sun shone all day: no wonder it was of great significance and considered to be the God of RA; there was an association with 'life after death' as the sun was seen to 'rise' day after day, and the Egyptians looked forward to life beyond the grave by providing for the departed in their tombs, like that of Tutankhamen. Heliopolis means 'City of the Sun' in Greek, and the arrangements for judgement, forgiveness and the afterlife are recorded in the beautifully illustrated 'Book of the Dead' made of papyrus reed paper.

In the Bible we have the original story of 'Joseph and his Technicolor Dream Coat'. He was sold to be a slave by his jealous brothers, but later became the chief official to the Egyptian Pharaoh, and married a daughter of the chief priest at Heliopolis. He provided store houses for grain beside the Temples (which may be seen by today's tourists) to meet the seven year famine that was to come. These were to be the means of relief for the Egyptian people, as well as his own family who moved into the country. Over four centuries later, Moses was adopted into the household of Pharaoh and was to lead the now enslaved Israelites back to the land that had been promised to their ancestor Abraham. On the way Moses was given the Ten Commandments which have been the basis of much national law worldwide.

When the life of the child Jesus, in the first century AD was threatened by the despotic Jewish King Herod, his mother Mary and her husband (another Joseph) fled to Egypt for safety, returning, when the King had died, to live in Nazareth in Israel. Following the death of Jesus (circa 33AD) the Good News of sins forgiven and life after death, which we celebrate at Easter, was readily accepted by the Egyptian people who had long cherished such hopes. There was a thriving Coptic Christian Church until the Islamic conquest in 642AD.

In this 21st Century Christians are a minority in Egypt, but we pray and trust that they may be able to share the Good News of Jesus, and be peacemakers in this remarkable country as a new chapter in its history develops.

Martyn Bateman

Christian Aid Week – The usual home to home collection will take place early in May. Any offers of help will be appreciated. *(Contact Martyn Bateman for further information)*.

Dores and Boleskine Church of Scotland

Dores and Boleskine Church of Scotland Congregational Board gratefully acknowledge receipt of a grant of £7,000 from the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust towards the installation of a toilet and kitchen in Boleskine Church.

This means there are now facilities for those in the community who use the church for services as well as for weddings, christenings and funerals.

Letters to the Boleskine Bulletin

Sadie and family would like to thank the community for all the kind expressions of sympathy and support they received following the sad loss of Jim. The many visits, phone calls and cards (too numerous to reply to) was of great comfort to them. A special thank you also to everyone who helped with the catering. This was greatly appreciated.

Thanking you
Alister Chisholm

Many Thanks from Janette

Janette Colville would like to express her heartfelt thanks to all of the friends and neighbours who have supported her and husband Archie through her recent illness. All of the visits, cards and kind wishes were much appreciated and a great comfort. Janette continues to make good progress.

May I please use the facilities of the 'B.B.' to thank all of those, from the Foyers Coffee Club and the Stratherrick Senior Citizens Lunch, for the cards and best wishes showered upon me during my recent stay in hospital. Thanks are also due to the many individuals who have sent personal messages, and to Doctors G and L Mackintosh for their ongoing care. All are very much appreciated.

My sincere thanks to you all.

Weston Robertson

Dear Editor,

SHOPPERS BUS - Service 303

Just wondered if you could put this letter in to see if there is any interest in trying to get D + E to extend the above service to include pick up and drop off at Whitebridge.

With the difficulty in parking and the price increases in fuel to go by bus now seems very sensible, however the 301 service is too early and the lunchtime service leaves too little time to complete your messages in Inverness.

Perhaps if anyone in Whitebridge is interested you could write to D+E to request that they consider serving Whitebridge – even if it is only on one or two days a week.

If you have to drive to the bus stop to get the bus it would still be so much easier. The costs for those of us without passes used to be prohibitive but with the hike in fuel bills it now makes much more sense. We would be helping the environment too and be reducing the number of vehicles using these narrow roads.

Just a thought – if you think you could use this service please write to D +E. Thanks

B Miller Whitebridge

Dear Editor,

I wanted to write to say how lovely it is to have the Foyers Café open again as we can now have a lovely walk for the papers and enjoy a social occasion over a steaming cup of coffee at the same time. You are always greeted with a warm welcome so many thanks to Jan, Simon and their friendly staff.

B.Miller, Whitebridge

FOYERS IN DAYS GONE BY

Foyers was a completely different community in the days of the British Aluminium Company when sole employment focussed on the aluminium smelting factory. Hoards of children lived and played in the village. Every house and flat was home to quite large families. (The green at Upper Foyers must have swarmed with children.) The housing consisted of flats at Glenlia on the green and the same type at Elmbank with a row of cottages at Park Terrace. The Manager's house was the present Foyers Bay House with the former Craigdarroch House being the Assistant Manager's.

A school was built which provided education from the age of five to fifteen. Ronnie McDonald who lives in the flat he was born in at Elmbank tells me that there was a headmaster (Johnnie McDonald) and three women teachers. Extra



classrooms were built to cope with the rising number of children. The women teachers had lodgings in the village. Discipline was controlled with the belt and the pointer. Ronnie tells me 'Knowledge was either hammered into you or drawn out of you!' He also recounts how one day the teacher went to get her belt out of her desk only to find it lying cut into tiny pieces but she was not deterred and borrowed one from the next door classroom. Another belt was stolen and hidden in a tree stump and was never discovered.

Ronnie's father drove the 'puggie', a small steam locomotive which pulled the bogies to and from the pier and the factory, loaded with alumina (bauxite powder) shipped from Larne in Northern Ireland to be smelted into molten aluminium which was poured into ingots which were then stacked in the metal shed. A sample of every ingot was tested in the laboratory at Kelvin Way (up from the salmon hatchery). The ingots were then transported by boat to Fort William and then down to the Mersey.

A Church of Scotland manse and church hall were built and everyone attended the Sunday sermons. The church hall was used nearly every night of the week for drama groups, Girl Guides, Boys Brigade, Women's Guild, Choir practise – a very busy venue! The road at that time went up a steep brae to get to the school and church and the road to Lower Foyers was down 'The Turns' (the present Craigdarroch Road). After church everyone in the village went on their Sunday walk (prams galore) along past Boleskine House and the cemetery. Some hardier ones did the round walk partly up the Pass and along the Glenlia road back to the village.

Where the present shop and cafe are now were a grocers, butchers & haberdashers. There would have been little need to shop in Inverness. Both the Forbes of Foyers Mains farm and the Camerons of Glenlia Farm supplied milk. (The Camerons made crowdie and butter to order.)

Ronnie and some of the older boys helped at the milk round, filling the customers' cans and jugs from a container with a tap, on a horse-drawn cart. One weekend Jock Forbes (the elder) had to go off for the weekend and left the round for Ronnie to do. He managed Lower Foyers fine and the managers' houses but at the small vennel at Glenlia he turned the horse the wrong way. It slipped on a rock, panicked and bolted but Ronnie managed to get onto the cart and control it with no damage done. Old Jock Forbes laughed heartily when he heard of the escapade.

Shinty was the game at that time and there was a keen Foyers team. Until fairly recently young boys practised shinty on the green at any opportunity. There used to be a tennis court with a pavilion where the Medical Centre is now. The doctor's surgery was attached to the present doctor's house up the road beside the shop.

The Falls of Foyers is now mainly an attraction for tourists and no longer a vital source of power for the British Aluminium factory. The important source of hydro power now is the pump storage scheme down on the loch side.

What changes are in store for the Foyers of the future? It is such a beautiful part of Loch Ness side.

Buddy MacDougall

GRUMPY OLD WOMAN!

I used to enjoy walking these country roads round here when cardrivers slowed down as they passed, giving me a friendly wave — not anymore! I fear for my life in the restricted space as vehicles hurtle by, leaving me tottering on the edge of the road — worse — drenching me with water should it have rained!! It seems that chivalry is indeed or is it?!



The Foyers and Inverfarigaig Christmas Lunch Thursday, 27th January 2011

There was a general feeling of dismay when it was realised that funds were not going to be available from the Knockie Trust to lay on the annual lunch.

However, help was at hand and donations were given – one from Foyers Coffee Morning funds represented by Lorraine Fraser and another from Baxter's Loch Ness Marathon stewards represented by Morag Cameron and the Community Trust. The rest was contributed by the W.R.V.S. local members who organised the lunch and also donated our presents. Our heartfelt thanks to all.

We all had an enjoyable meal provided by David and Kate Roberts in the comfortable surroundings of the Foyers Bay Country House conservatory.

Many thanks to the Knockie Trust who still managed to provide Christmas gifts to older members of whole community this year.

Buddy MacDougall

SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCH.

On Saturday 5th February 2011, thirty five senior members of Stratherrick Community, sat down to a sumptuous meal in Stratherrick Hall. Everybody enjoyed the opportunity to meet and chat. The mouth-watering menu was prepared by Graham Bain, who was accompanied by a wonderful team of helpers, organised by Lesley McAdam.

Sincere thanks go to Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council and Foyers Coffee Club, who provided the necessary finance for this function.

"WE MADE IT"

As you can see those little baby chicks are now nearly fully grown and as such are more difficult to photograph as they never keep still!!

Their "mum" did a terrific job and all survived the cold and the snow - but like us all they were pretty happy to see the green grass appear.



Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

AGM Minutes 22 2 11.

- 1. Apologies. W. Fraser. F. Ross. M. Bateman
- 2. Present. H. Grainger, A. Sutherland, F. Ellam, A. Holt, S. Ferguson

A.Sutherland attended as the Community Council's representative in their role as sole shareholder in the Trust company.

- 3. Approval of the minutes of last year's AGM was proposed by H. Granger and seconded by A. Holt
- 4. The Chairperson gave her annual report summarising the past years activities. Monies distributed over the past year have been as follows:

The Wade Bridge at Whitebridge	£9,000
Jane Fraser Memorial obelisk C. Council project	£212
Stratherrick Clay target Club	£700
South Loch Ness Trail	£9,999
Children's Christmas Party	£400
Stratherrick Public Hall	£1000
Community Project	£2,777
(Total £14,000 to this project from previous years)	
Community Fireworks Display	£1220
Boleskine Church Improvements (toilet/kitchen)	£7,000
Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch C. Council project	£1000
Foyers School Car Park extension	£992.88
Stratherrick Primary School Parent Council	
Swimming and activities	£2,500
Parent and Toddler Group Books	£300
Foyers School Swimming lessons	£480
Total	£37,580

- 5. Appointment of new Directors. Applications had been received from three individuals. Lewis Fraser from Inverness (formerly Knockie), Ian Brown, Whitebridge, and Justin Sharp, Drumtemple, Gorthleck. It was decided that as Lewis did not meet the constitutional requirement to live in the area he could not be offered a position as a Director, Justin was unable to attend due to a hospital appointment and his application was deferred until he could be present at the next meeting and provide some more background. Ian was present and after a short account of his career and interests was duly appointed as a Trustee.
- 6. The draft accounts for the year were approved. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have more detailed financial information on the Trust's activities available on the community web site and if possible in the local shop. The current situation is as follows :

Cash at bank	£92,541
Made up of Glendoe Monies (restricted)	£66,476
and unrestricted monies from any other contributor	£26,065
Energy Saving Fund	£129.708

- 7. It was agreed that all minutes, agendas and biannual reports should be made available on the Community Web Site and a copy of the AGM minutes would be available in the Foyers shop.
- 8. Appointment of office bearers. H. Grainger agreed to be chairperson for another year in the absence of any other applicants. Ian Brown offered to be the new treasurer taking over from Frank Ellam who stepped down with unanimous thanks for his skill and diligence in steering the Trust through its preliminary years. A. Sutherland agreed to carry on the secretarial duties in the absence of any other volunteers.
- 9. The meeting closed at 9.00.

A. Sutherland (Secretary)

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

Minutes of the ordinary meeting can be seen at

www.stratherrick.net

Community Trust Appliance Offer Update

I have now received all of the applications from members of the community who wish to be considered for this scheme.

Scottish and Southern Energy have said that they are prepared to offer their electrical showroom products at a discounted price and to deliver and install any goods chosen and will also take away old appliances which are being replaced. Householders will be charged the net price after deduction of the Trust grant. This is a similar arrangement to that carried out in the Fort Augustus area with their share of the Glendoe monies allocated by S.S.E. for energy efficiency.

You will all be receiving a letter and product list in due course. It is still not too late to apply for Trust help towards "A" appliances as per the earlier offer in the Boleskine Bulletin.

A. Sutherland, Secretary to Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust.

TANK THEFT

During an economic recession heating oil becomes more attractive to the thief who will actively target fuel tanks. Would you leave £1000 sitting out in garden?

The resounding answer is no but a domestic 2000 litre tank can contain up to £1000 worth of fuel. Do you have the money to replace this?

The following are a few suggestions on how to protect and prevent theft of oil from your tank. Modern oil tanks can be disguised. Contact your supplier for further advice.

ECONOMY

Regularly check your oil level gauge, check your tank for leaks and any damage.

If you think you're using too much fuel contact your supplier who can provide consumption history and arrange a boiler check.

Electronic oil level gauges can be sited remotely and will sound an audible alarm if the oil levels drop suddenly.

Don't purchase cheap fuel from unrecognised suppliers. It could cost you more than you think. It could be stolen and contaminated.

If you are offered a bargain price it should be reported it to the police immediately or to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

POSITION

Most tanks are positioned behind garages and secluded garden areas thus giving a would be thief a great opportunity to carry out a crime unseen.

Ideally the tank should be located where it can be overlooked.

OBSERVE

Security lighting, in the form of either low energy "Dawn to Dusk" lights or Motion sensor lighting, can act as great deterrent. After all thieves rarely want to be seen in the Spotlight

Together with your neighbours why not agree all to keep an eye on each others tanks.

Report any suspicious activity in your area to your local police station at the time.

SECURITY

A double skinned tank makes it more difficult for thieves to gain access to your fuel.

Good quality padlocks will deter an opportunistic thief who will not want to spend extra time trying to break it.

There are a number of suitable electronic alarms which can be easily installed which will give an audible signal if there is a sudden drop in the oil level. These are competitively priced and further information can be obtained from your local Community Safety Officer.

In partnership with your fuel supplier, further information can be obtained from your local Crime Prevention Officer.

Taken from Northern Constabulary "Fuel Theft A Drain on your Resources"

Peter Coverdale Totty

Peter Totty who shared our home in Lower Foyers with me for 26 years before being taken ill with Alzheimer's passed away in his sleep on November 23 last. From the great number of letters and cards I received during the subsequent weeks I could tell he was well respected and admired for his outstanding qualities.

He had travelled a lot in his younger days; his favourite countries being Scotland, Italy and India.

He had many interests, including foreign languages and music, especially classical, and played the violin in his youth.

He was also very kind, especially to elderly ladies to whom he gave, throughout the years, hundreds of lifts to Inverness and the Foyers store.

Anna Totty

Alister Jim Chisholm 1956-2011

Jim was born at the family home in Lochgarthside, Gorthleck on 5 November 1956 to parents Alister and Sadie. Along with older brother Alister and younger siblings Catherine and David, Jim enjoyed a happy childhood at Lochgarthside. As well as chores there was plenty of time for play and fun which Jim's mischievous nature exploited to the full.

On leaving school at fifteen, Jim went to work with his father in the family haulage and contracting business along with working the croft. When his father retired, Jim was employed by Foyers Services and around the time of his father's death was working for O' Brien Construction refurbishing the Albyn flats at Foyers. Further contracts took him to the North West coast and later to Orkney. In 1995 Jim returned home to Stratherrick working with local builder Steve Ricketts before teaming up with Johnny Fraser, Balnabeeran in 2007 doing building work throughout the area.

Jim enjoyed sports of every type and was an avid follower of them all on TV. He played darts, badminton and even laid out a golf course with a couple of holes in the rough field at the house when he was in his teens. However, shinty was Jim's main sporting love, joining the local club Boleskine and making his first team debut at sixteen. He played forward and his strong skilful play was always a handful for the opposing defences. He was a member of the Boleskine double cup winning team of 1991 and had a lifelong affiliation with the club. In latter years he was a regular supporter at home games, often performing the task of goal judge which was greatly appreciated by the club.

He had an avid interest in nature and wildlife from an early age and loved to watch the wild birds come to the nut feeders at Lochgarthside. He also enjoyed taking the family up to see deer and other wildlife at Loch Bran and always had the binoculars in the jeep in case of a rare bird sighting.

Having spent many years working with his father, he had a great knowledge of local history and stories and was enthusiastic about old photos –just where they were taken and when.

In 2005 Jim took his first holiday abroad visiting Malta, an island which his mother Sadie had holidayed in numerous occasions. He enjoyed the visit - even discarding his wellies for the fortnight - but stuck with his long sleeved shirt and normal trousers and along with sun screen factor 60 managed to avoid getting too much of a tan.

Though a confirmed bachelor, Jim loved children and doted on his nieces & nephews. The family fondly remember him trying to watching TV with all the children sitting with him on the same chair and fighting each other to be the one who got to sit on his knee.

Jim, a gentle, generous, helpful and obliging kind hearted man will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him.

Inland, Upland and Cold Gardening on the Edge

By the time you read this both snowdrops and aconites may be over, daffodils and crocuses will be in flower and you will be looking forward to tulips.

If you want to increase your stock of snowdrops, lift and split them as soon as they have finished flowering and are still 'in the green'. If you have none at all you will find them in the classified ads. of most February gardening magazines where they are sold by the hundred and are relatively inexpensive You may find them on the internet though some at extortionate prices -so caveat emptor! Bought 'in the green' they establish more successfully than dry bulbs on sale in autumn. Make a note to order some next February.

The early snow in November put paid to my planting tulips in the garden so they are in pots instead. I love the sheer exuberance of fringed parrot tulips especially 'Flaming Parrot' but I'm inordinately fond too of elegant lily-flowered ones that have pointed petals. The tall May flowering Darwin tulips are always popular and are sold in some good mixes. Smaller species tulips flower earlier and are more likely to withstand gales. 'Red Riding Hood' from species tulip *Tulipa greigii* is a firm favourite. There are many to choose from and their bright colours light up our spring gardens. What's not to like? Resolve to plant more this autumn.

A scheme I have been meaning to carry out and haven't got round to is to under plant blocks of evergreen ground cover with bulbs. If the ground cover itself has flowers then so much the better. It will look good even in winter and won't need more than an annual tidy. The following are some I have thought of using:
Pachysandra terminalis a boring plant that could be spiced up by underplanting with tulips and perhaps autumn crocuses, Colchicum, for later.

Perennial candytuft, *Iberis sempervirens*, could be under planted with alliums such as *Allium cristophii*, *Allium hollandicum* 'Purple Sensation' or tulips.

Waldsteinia ternata is low growing with strawberry like leaves and yellow flowers. It could be underplanted with smaller bulbs such as Scilla, Chionodoxa or Crocus.

Native woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* could be under planted with another native, the bluebell, *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*.

You are limited only by what will grow here, like all mentioned above. Let your imagination run riot and create wonderful combinations.

I hope some of you will visit Scotland's premier garden show at the Royal Highland Centre at Ingliston near Edinburgh. Gardening Scotland runs from 3rd to 5th June 2011. It is possible to travel by train from Inverness to Haymarket. Lothian buses run an excellent shuttle service from outside the station to the show. It is probably too late to book with Spa Coaches for the Saturday but there's always next year. I always make a wish list and return home with too many plants. I thoroughly recommend Gardening Scotland for a great day out. www.gardeningscotland.com

Wee Gairdner

ACCESSORY SWAP

Thank you to all those who attended the Accessory Swap at the Stratherrick Hall in Gorthleck on Saturday 29th January. The event was a great success; a lovely social gathering, full of chat, where folk contributed good quality accessories, many of which were still brand new. Everyone used the event to have a good clear out and seemed determined to take away less than they had brought in. This resulted in a very happy Highland Hospice receiving a huge amount of items to be distributed amongst their shops.

All were keen that the event be held again so watch this space.....

Also a huge thank you to the ladies who gave up their valuable time to help on the day. Lorna MacDougall and Julie Brown who laid out all the accessories in such a wonderfully artistic way and Janet Sutherland, Jane O'Donovan and Pauline Berry, who arranged the teas and tables so that the atmosphere was more like a cosy cafe than a village hall.

Funds raised from the entrance fee will go towards the upkeep of the Hall and the Highland Hospice is very grateful for the goodies received.

Our next 'Swap' event at the Hall will be a 'Books, CD & DVD Swap' around November this year....so please don't have a clear out until then! We look forward to seeing you then.

Leah Ley-Wilson, member of the Hall Committee.

Spring Listen and then Watch

れれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれれ Bird song is an important part of learning more about birds. In early spring the songs heard in the morning and evenings are those of the resident birds i.e. those that remained with us throughout the winter. It is a good idea to learn those more familiar songs before the summer visitors begin to arrive. Then, when the willow warblers and all the other common migratory birds turn up in our gardens and woods, it is easier to identify their less familiar songs. The crossbill (they are with us all winter) is one bird easy to recognise both by sight and by song. Since the turn of the year crossbills have been calling all over the forest – sitting up high in the conifers - they are one of the first to nest and raise young. Also easy to recognise is the song thrush who repeats three notes in quick succession.

The B.E.N. Wildlife Recording group will begin its annual wader survey in March and as usual would be keen for anyone to join in. Although many waders breed up in the hills and records of these birds are important, our survey is only concerned with the low ground. Please check out our link on the community website were you will soon see details of other surveys which you can take part in during the summer. We hope to update the site in the next month.

For details contact either Rosemary 486 631 or Jane 486 355

New Community Councillors

Who are they ????

What area are they from ????

What do they stand for ????

The Boleskine Bulletin hopes to be able to publish a short profile on each of our new Councillors in forth coming issues.

> **Stratherrick and Foyers Community Website** www.stratherrick.net

STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mark Houston MH (Chairman), Whitebridge 486729; Liz Merther EM (Secretary) Foyers 486382; Katherine Grant KG (Treasurer) Gorthleck 486221; Martyn Bateman MB Whitebridge 486273; Kenny Fraser KF Gorthleck 486220; Paul Higham PH Foyers 486633; Lesley McAdam LMacA Whitebridge 486404; Sandy MacPherson AMacP Torness 751213; Alex Nicol AN Foyers 486307; Alex Sutherland AS Errogie 486711; (HC = Highland Council)

Minutes of meeting held on 23 November 2010

Members present: MH, EM, KG, MB, KF, AMacP, AS. Also present: PC A Mathieson, Cllr D Hendry, Mr J Taylor (HC TEC Services). Apologies received: Cllr M Davidson

 Adoption of Minutes Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2010 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: AS: seconded: KG

2. Matters Raised with TEC Services

Mr John Taylor had kindly come along to the meeting to answer some of the CC's questions.

Winter gritting MH requested clarification on arrangements for winter gritting this year. Mr Taylor reported that spreading rates will be the same as last winter, the difference being a closer adherence to the approved code of practice which dictates the spreading rate to be used according to the prevailing conditions - frost, ice, or snow. Drivers will be instructed on the spreading rate for the day, but if they find conditions to be worse than anticipated they will have discretion to increase the rate and notify the depot of this.

AMacP noted that snow blading sometimes simply packed the snow down, and requested that lower blading be used when possible. It was recognised that this is not always possible due to the road camber. However, Mr Taylor will pass the comment on. Mr Taylor reported that, due to the slow nature of the procurement procedure, the new contract for winter gritting was not due to be announced until the end of the week. In the meantime the service will continue as before. Members expressed great concern at the possibility of a contractor from outside the immediate area being appointed, and felt this could result in delays and a significant drop in the standard of service. PC Mathieson noted that Mr Fraser, our local contractor. had always been willing to help the Police in emergencies when vehicles were stuck or had gone off the road, and loss of this local assistance could potentially put lives at risk. Cllr. Hendry will make enquiries about the appointment policy.

The question of road clearance to allow access for medical treatment was raised. It was thought there may be residents who need to attend hospital for regular treatment, but do not necessarily have any contact with Social Services, so are not on any list as being in need of assistance when roads are bad. Enquiries will be made to see if a list of people requiring such help should be drawn up.

Roadside tree clearance - Mr Taylor reported that some clearance has been started on the Loch Bran and Dalcrag roads. Work has already been done on the Glenlia/tunnel road and the Ballagan road. The Farigaig pass road is still in need of more clearance. Mr Taylor has been in contact with the Forestry Commission and has been pressing for work to go ahead. He is informed that a contractor has now been appointed for the work, and he will make further enquiries to get dates for the work. It was agreed that road closures should not be required, as long as adequate warnings about possible delays are posted. It was agreed that the inclusion of roadside clearance in harvesting contracts is far from ideal. Inevitably the harvesting will take priority over the roadside work.

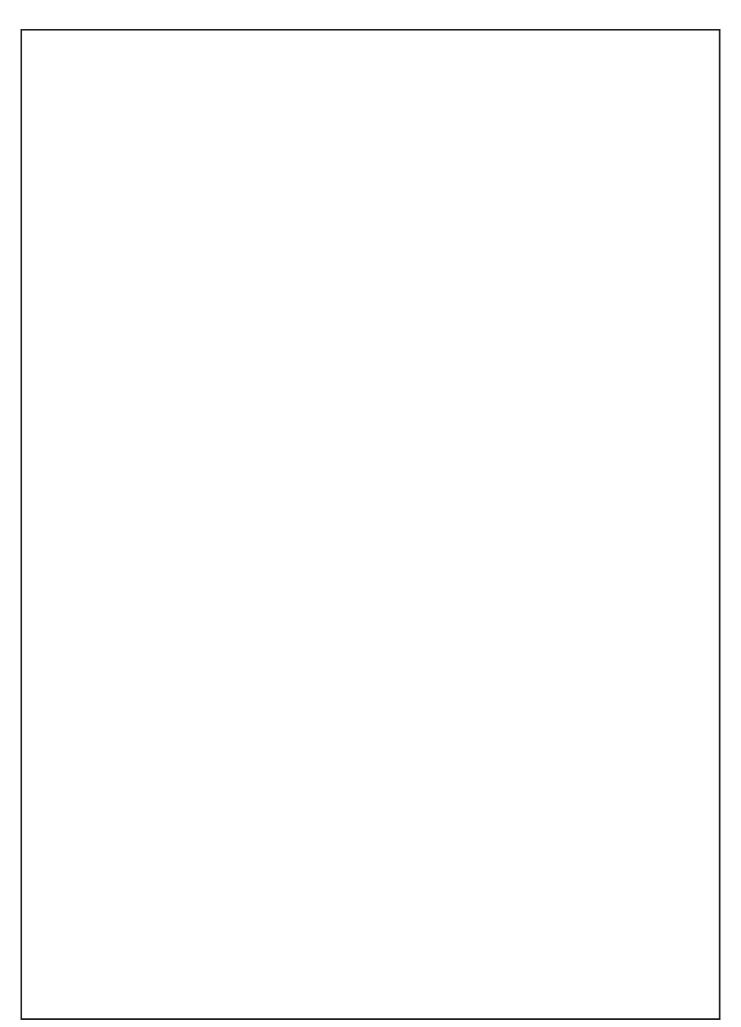
3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

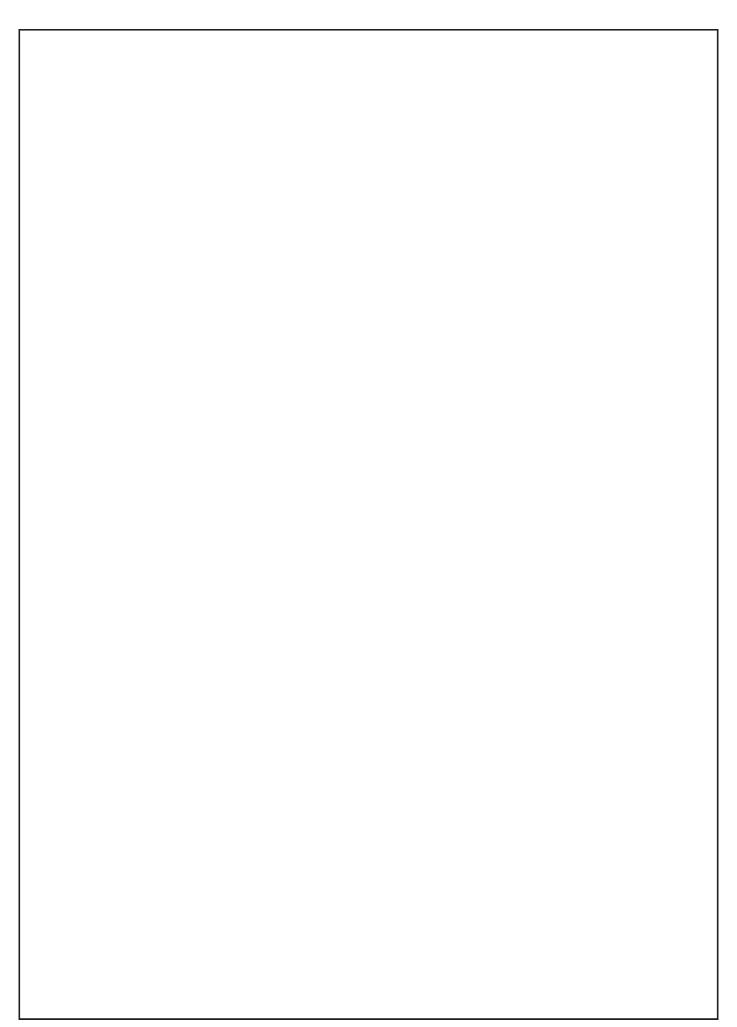
- (a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing No new information had been received.
- (b) <u>Wade's Bridge at Whitebridge</u> MB reported that the immediate work is complete. Further work on the SE and NW buttresses is planned for next year if funding can be obtained.
- (c) <u>Fraser Monument & Burial Ground at Foyers</u> Enquiries are ongoing.
- (d) <u>Broadband Provision</u> Nothing further has been heard from BT. MH reported that Avanti have informed satellite customers that they are upgrading their service.
- (e) <u>Care in Strathnaim</u> There was nothing new to report at present. MB noted that a monthly lunch club is held in Strathnaim, and there had been suggestions that this could also be done in Stratherrick. He wondered whether funding might be available through the Community Trust. AS felt this could well be the case and suggested an application should be made.
- (f) <u>CC Elections</u> Only ten nominations had been received for the new Community Council, so no election was required. MH informed the meeting of names of the new CC members.
- (g) <u>Bottle Banks Whitebridge</u> Information on land ownership was still awaited. MH will make enquiries.
- (h) Progress with Travel Plan Fovers School MH had been advised that a Travel Plan has been submitted. Cllr. Hendry reported that some further information is required on children travelling from L. Foyers, and this is being followed up. It was agreed that if a safe walking plan can be produced this will be most beneficial.

4. Correspondence

HC Correspondence: Notice - results of CC election.

Other Correspondence & Circulars Received





Church Services

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 ven-

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, 4th 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

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Website www.stratherrick.net

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Foyers, Inverness. IV2 6XU 01456 486233

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	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 Kiosk	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 Station	1012	1012	1624	1600
Stratherrick Primary School	0910				Raigmore Hospital	1022D	1022D		
Gorthleck	0920	0920	1451	1504	Inshes Retail Park	1025D	1025D		
MWF - Monday, Wedneso	lay & Frid	ay.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>					
TTH - Tuesday & Thursd	ау.								
SD - Monday - Friday wh	en school	s are op	en.						
SH - Monday - Friday wh	en school	s are cl	osed.						

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Whitebridge Bus Shelter	0735 1230	1230
Gorthleck Old Shop	0745 1240	1240
Errogie Telephone Kiosk	0749 1244	1244
Torness	0758 1253r	1253r
Coulanour Junction	0803 1248	1248
Croachy	0815 1300 1815	1300
Farr Post Office	0825 1310 1825	1310
Inverness Royal Academy	0840 1325 1840	1325
Inverness Bus Station	0850 1335 1850	1335
Inverness Bus Station	1030 1515 1740	1725
Inverness Royal Academy	1040 1535 1750	1740
Farr School	1055 1550 1805	1750
Croachy	1105 1600 1815	1800
Coulanour Junction	1117 1612	1812
Torness	1617B	
Errogie Telephone Kiosk	1121 1616	1816
Gorthleck Old Shop	1125 1620	1820
Whitebridge Bus Shelter	1135 1630	1830
Knockie Lodge Road End	1140 1635	1835

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Monday to Friday

Saturday

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Lower Foyers	0800 0800 1315	0905 1325
Inverfarigaig Ctgs	0807 0807 1322 1630	0912 1332
Dores Inn	0824 0824 1339 1647	0929 1349
Scaniport	0831 0831 1346 1654	0936 1356
Royal Academy	0840	
Holm Park Road End	0844 0835 1350 1658	0940 1400
Inverness Bus Station	0852 0845 1400 1708	0950 1410
Inverness Bus Station	1215 1515 1515 1743	1230 1743
Holm Park Road End	1225 1525 1525 1753	1240 1753
Royal Academy	1535	
Scaniport	1229 1529 1544 1757	1244 1757
Dores Inn	1236 1536 1551 1804	1251 1804
Inverfarigaig Ctgs	1253 1553 1608 1821	1308 1821
Inverfarigaig Ctgs Lower Foyers	1253 1553 1608 1821 1300 1600 1615 1828	1308 1821 1315 1828

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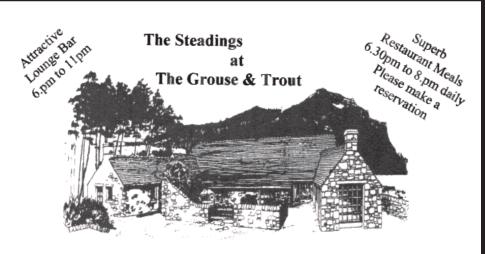
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<u>Photographs</u> can be submitted in colour or black and white and will be converted to grey scale prior to printing as this seems to give the best reproduction results. The possibility of the BB going to at least part colour is being investigated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

Thank you,

Peter, Editor.

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