

# TheBoleskineBulletin

December 2011

The real Issue 57

## Errogie or Suburbia??????



Photo by Bob Howe

In Errogie, a development has sprung up that is more worthy of Tesco! The tarmac, pavements, kerbing and yellow brick edging look completely out of character with this rural location....

Turn to page 2 for the full Article.....

### Stagecoach wins bus contract.

D&E, after many years service on the Whitebridge and Foyers routes has lost the contract to Stagecoach. Both the services Whitebridge (service 18) and Foyers (service 16) have increased by two extra runs. You can now leave Foyers five times per day and Whitebridge four times per day. New time tables which will start the 4th January are included in this issue. See page 14

**“Ho, Ho, Ho”,  
it's the annual**

**Children's  
Community  
Christmas  
Party**

**Stratherrick  
Hall, Gorthleck  
Saturday  
December 17th,  
3pm - 5pm**

**See you there!**

## ..... Folly of the Yellow Brick Road

Over the past six weeks Errogie has been booming and beeping with the noise of heavy machinery, and the result? An over-engineered folly that would be more in keeping with the town centre.

The newly tarred and paved road is the entrance to two of three house plots. But the construction has riled local residents who believe that it contradicts principles laid out in both the Local Plan ( *"any traffic and pedestrian measures throughout our villages should be consistent with their rural character"*), and in Scottish Planning Policy documents (*"The application of urban standards and materials, such as tar macadam and concrete kerbs have resulted in development in the countryside looking too formal and over engineered.....Every effort must be made to adopt an approach which complies with safety standards and yet responds sensitively to the rural scene and local circumstances"*).

Jim Harbison, Principal Planner at Highland Council says "the Planning Authority has no grounds on which to take action in this case". Residents shocked by Highland Councils apparent acceptance of this insensitive construction wait to see what plans it originally approved.

Leaving aside local concerns, this is relevant in a wider context...

The Roads Department specify that a bell-mouth should be of minimum standard. To assume that developers will only build to a minimum or with due sympathy for location is clearly not safe! And what about any track leading from the mouth? Is there no planning requirement for upgrading to tarred and paved roads?

Planning permission has been granted for three house plots but the new road entrance smacks of a much bigger development. The developer, Mr Ballantyne from Banchory, has told residents he intends further building. "Errogie needs more houses" he says.

The Local Plan states that land out with the plots is for landscape and amenity, it currently lies outside the settlement boundary. With the 2006 Plan now up for review, there are concerns:- Priorities of planners and developers are normally economically driven. Will the developer apply for and obtain consent for more plots off the new access road in the future? Or will the Council and developer respect local feelings?

## Boleskine Seniors Lunch Club

The first of the Boleskine Seniors Lunch was held at the Whitebridge Hotel on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and from the comments received so far it seems that a good time was had by all. 27 people attended and there was a lovely atmosphere - with lots of chat , laughter and a lovely meal. The second Lunch took place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November and this time it was even more popular as we had a "full house".

With the pressures of the festivities in December the next luncheon will take place on **January 27<sup>th</sup> 2012**. Please be sure to put the date on your new calendars and remember to reserve your place . Details are on the village notice boards.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012**  
**(please do not book before New Year),**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

To reserve your place call Joyce Wills on 01456 486269 All bookings must be received by the Friday before the meal.

## **The BOLESKINE BULLETIN AGM**

The B.B. A.G.M. was held on Monday 14th November. It was strange that our chairman, Martyn Bateman, who had been so supportive for many years, was no longer with us. Although no 'new' faces attended, there was a quorum present. Both the existing treasurer, Frank Ellam and the editor Peter Craven, after serving for over five years decided it was time to resign. Finances were in good condition and the meeting concluded that there was a genuine need in the community for the paper. As no new help was forthcoming some of the existing committee decided to 'join up' jobs and keep going for a further year at least. Therefore on the committee for 2011/2012 are:-

Jane O'Donovan (chair, co-editor); Barbara Miller (co-editor), Johanna Schuster (treasurer), Fiona Bateman (secretary), Buddy MacDougal, Peter Craven, Roger Gleedgates and Susan Faller

Thanks go to both Peter and Frank for their tremendous work over the past years. The Bulletin is now in its 14th year and in that time many people have given their time to keep it on its feet. There are many who help with deliveries but also The Bulletin is always in need of roving reporters – things that are going on within the community by different groups and friends. Please tell us what's going on, where and when. The next issue is due out in March so if you know of anything which happens during December, January and February please send us a little article. If you have anything planned for April, May and June? ..... tell us so that we can tell everyone else!

email: boleskine\_bulletin@hotmail.co.uk Post: Boleskine Bulletin, Garradh Beith, Lochgarthside. Gorthleck IV2 6YP or phone Jane on 486355

<b>BOLESKINE BULLETIN</b>			
<b><u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u></b>			
<b><u>FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2011</u></b>			
<u>y/e 30.09.10</u>			
£		£	£
	<b>INCOME</b>		
1,302	Advertising	1,146.00	
250	Community Council Minutes	250.00	
250	Community Trust Information	250.00	
132	Subscriptions and Donations	115.50	
<b>1,934</b>			<b>1,761.50</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
1,386	Printing and Photocopying	1,449.00	
88	Postage and Stationery	102.52	
4	Hire of Hall	4.00	
<b>1,478</b>			<b>1,555.52</b>
<b>456</b>	<b>SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>205.98</b>
<b>2,507</b>	<b>BALANCE IN HAND</b> brought forward		<b>2,963.07</b>
<b>£ 2,963</b>	<b>BALANCE IN HAND</b> carried forward	<b>£</b>	<b>3,169.05</b>
	.....		
	Frank Ellam - Treasurer		

## **FOYERS CHURCH BUILDING REVIVED**

The owner of Foyers Church, a Dutch businessman, realised his hopes of using the building as a concert venue in September 2011 when the well known fiddler, Bruce MacGregor of Bogbain, staged a concert. Bruce played alongside Canadian-born cellist Christine Hanson. Let us hope that the 107 year old church building, along with its wonderful carved wooden ceiling, will come to life again soon and host other musical evenings in the future.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December Community Carol Evening for Everyone**

7.00pm Stratherrick Public Hall (Details from Ian & Fiona Bateman 01456 486646)

## **MARTYN BATEMAN**

### **1931 – 2011**

Martyn died unexpectedly at his Ardochy home on October 14<sup>th</sup> aged 80. He was active to the last – the previous week was typically busy and varied: he had danced Scottish Reels at a local rally until midnight, attended a heritage talk on Simon Fraser of Knockie, lifted his tatties for the winter, built a new woodshed, and cooked post-Church Sunday lunch for seven.



Martyn was born & grew up in Beccles on the Suffolk/ Norfolk border where his father ran a school. The family moved to Devon at the outbreak of WW2. After early education at Mount House, Tavistock, Martyn attended Felsted School in Essex and then did his stint of National Service before going up to Jesus College, Cambridge to read Engineering with a view to a career in Hydro-electric power generation. After a year he decided to become a Christian minister & switched degree course to theology. In July 1955 he married Jane Campbell, whose mother's family were from Knockie. Following a honeymoon at Ardochy, Martyn returned South to complete his theological training at Clifton College, Bristol. His first curacy was at Parkstone in Dorset, and then with two children he spent two years in Iran as Anglican chaplain to the oil industry. The family returned to Britain in 1962 with a third child and started a 20 year stint of vibrant rural parish ministry in Suffolk during which he was made a Canon in recognition of his work with youngsters in the region. In 1984 he moved back to Devon as team vicar for four villages on the edge of Dartmoor, under the patronage of Prince of Wales as part of the Duchy of Cornwall.

Aged 60 Martyn stepped down from paid parish work and returned to the family home at Ardochy with Jane. Jane died unexpectedly in 1993. Martyn remarried a family friend and cousin, Jancis, in 1994 and another 20 years of ministry ensued in the highlands. Free from the official ties of a parish Martyn involved himself in many avenues of Christian work: immediately in this area, within & without the local churches and far beyond supporting so many causes throughout Britain & overseas. Locally he served on the Community Council for many years and was a trustee of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. He chaired the Boleskine Bulletin team and was a Director of the Wade Bridge Trust.

He was very much part of the fabric of Whitebridge – always welcoming newcomers, and frequently dropping in on folk with produce from his garden and, often as not, having a wee prayer around the kitchen table. He opened his house and cottages to visitors from near and far – and loved the frequent visits from his immediate family and cousins. His many guests relished his simple hospitality, listening ear and wise words.

Quite a crowd gathered for the funeral on 24<sup>th</sup> October in Fort Augustus and the burial up at Drumtemple.

The family would like to thank folk for their many messages of sympathy, and kind offers of practical support.

“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord”  
Job 1:21

## **Anna Totty** **(1936- 2011)**

Anna Maria Spagnol was born in Milan, Italy, just before the Second World War.

Times were difficult but she had a close and happy family. As she grew up she developed a flair for languages, moving to London in the early 60s to work as a translator in one of the Embassies. She met and married Peter, who was working as journalist, and they lived in Hemel Hempstead. Anna and Peter moved to Grays Park on Peter's retirement, in the early 80s, possibly partly due to Peter being of Scots descent, and also due to a shared love of Scotland.



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They lived a quiet life and shared an enthusiasm for Scottish language and culture, being SNP supporters and Gaelic language learners, and travelling as much as possible. Peter's health deteriorated over the years and Anna was very loyal and caring to him. She was very independent and when he was unable to drive, and eventually went into Cradlehall she started using the bus. Anna was well known as a chatty cheery lady with a strong Italian accent, and will be missed by all the bus users. She was a very loyal friend to those who knew her.

She became ill with leukaemia in early June and with a lot of help from her neighbours and friends was able to die at home, as was her wish. Anna's niece and her husband came over from Italy for the funeral in September and would like to express their great thanks to all the local people and professionals who had cared for Anna.

## **Farewell to Good Friends**

The Boleskine Bulletin is sad to report that **Malcolm Dent**, a well-known local character, has recently died. Malcolm was a boyhood friend of Jimmy Page (guitarist of Led Zeppelin) and acted as caretaker at Boleskine House for over 20 years.

Malcolm lived at Boleskine House with his wife, Iris, and their two children Uraina and Malcolm. Malcolm and Iris created a warm hospitable home in spite of "mysterious happenings in the house" - which had once been owned by Alister Crowley, who is said to have performed black magic ceremonies there years before.

When the house was sold, Malcolm moved to Kilmuir and in recent years had worked as a volunteer, recording talking newspapers for the Highlands and Islands Tape Services for the Blind and Disabled.

**Jean Dodgson** also sadly died recently. Many will remember that Jean sold her own tapestry kits of local scenes from her home in Stratherrick; she also supplied her kits to Harrods in Knightsbridge and it is fun to think of the number of "Highland Scenes" which are probably still adorning the grand houses of London's elite !!

Jean taught needlework evening classes in the 1980's in Stratherrick School and used to become exasperated with her mature female pupils who also used the classes as an ideal opportunity for noisy chatter !!

Jean hailed from Yorkshire and returned there when her husband died.



## Letters to the editor

Dear Editor

I would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you to my dear friend Morag Cameron for running the Loch Ness Marathon 2011 in my aid. The fact that Morag thought of me when it came to choosing a worthwhile cause to share this massive personal achievement has touched me deeply. I will never forget this enormous gesture from such a special friend.

Having lived with the debilitating neurological condition of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (aka CRPS / RSD) for many years prior to moving to Inverness I felt confident I was strong enough to beat it. Unfortunately since 2009 this has not been the case. I underestimated just how progressive this beast of a disease could be. For the past 2 years it has continued to take a tighter grip leaving me mostly housebound, wheelchair dependant and partially bed ridden. With no cure, despite Drs G and L Mackintosh's on-going efforts for which I'm very grateful, all medics can offer is occasional palliative care to reduce my symptoms of limb pain, swelling and spasms to give me some infrequent periods of respite.

Throughout this time many people in the community have gone that extra mile to make my life more comfortable or easier in one way or other. For this I owe a great deal of thanks to the many special people who have contributed in any way whatsoever. However small those gestures may have seemed to you, for me it has been massive. The most recent example of this has been the financial generosity of money contributed to Morag's marathon sponsorship. For this alone I give immense thanks. I don't think we would have survived our recent trials and tribulations quite so well and intact if it wasn't for this most wonderful community which we are grateful to be a part of.

Three names in particular have stood by me even more closely than my family. Deanne Main, Paula Page and Morag Cameron of whom running the marathon has only been a small part of the friendship she has provided. Words cannot express enough thanks for the help, support and friendship these ladies have given us. The ways in which they have helped us is an endless list too numerous to mention. I remember and cherish each and every experience. They have been life savers many times over in more ways than one.

From the bottom of my heart my sincerest thank you to all.

Siobhan Beith

*For additional information on CRPS please visit [www.fightingrsd.com](http://www.fightingrsd.com)*

Dear Editor

Further to Mr Law's letter in the September Bulletin, the CC would like to clarify matters in relation to the setting up of the Community website. It is unfortunate that the CC was not approached for a response to this letter at the time, as the community could have been reassured that the chairman had met with Mr Law to discuss his concerns, and that Mr Law was satisfied the matter had been correctly handled. The Chairman was able to Mr Law that he had been asked for a quotation and had submitted one himself at the time. He had forgotten this, which is hardly surprising given that the Website has been up and running for over two years.

CC records show that several quotations were obtained for the set up, with a wide variation in costs – up to £7000. At that time it proved quite difficult to get quotations. Now there are many more choices and the prices more competitive. The CC favoured the local quotation from Mr. Holt, which was very detailed and met all the requirements. The figure quoted covered the set up, administration, plus three years maintenance. The CC applied to the community trust for funding and as a Director of the Trust, Mr. Holt was excluded from any discussions in relation to this application.

Mr. Law agreed with the chairman that this matter is now closed

Liz Merther

Secretary, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council.

### Editors Response

***I published the letter from Mr Law in good faith, however in reading the above I would point out that had I been informed that the Chairman and Mr Law had met and concluded the matter prior to publication, then the original letter could have been withdrawn prior to going to print. The Boleskine Bulletin endeavours to remain impartial in all matters.***

***Please note if you send a letter for inclusion and the facts change or the issues are resolved prior to publication please inform the editor that you no longer wish your letter to be published.***

**Stratherrick and Foyers Community Website**

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

Dear Editor

I feel compelled to write following the article published in the latest edition of the B.B. entitled '**Old Postcard from Inverfarigaig**'.

The first paragraph is, as far as I know, correct. However, from then on there are a number of glaring inaccuracies which need to be highlighted.

Firstly, after the bobbin mill was destroyed by fire in 1926, it was British Aluminium Company, who owned the land and most of the houses in the lower Farigaig valley, who rebuilt and ran the mill as a sawmill until the pier closed in 1932. The mill and railway also closed then. In the article it stated that the Forestry Commission purchased the land and built the mill in 1946!!!

The Forestry Commission purchased the land and houses in 1950 from B.A. The houses had sitting tenants in them and at no time were the houses used by the F.C. to accommodate forestry workers, as was wrongly stated in the article. The houses were sold to the sitting tenants in the 1960s.

Regards Elizabeth Howard

Mrs. Howard was born and brought up in Pier Cottage, Inverfarigaig. Her Grandfather was 'Pier Master' there from 1904 until the pier's closure in 1932

## **Messages from the Fire Station**

FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT IN THIS AREA  
FOR A FREE VISIT PLEASE CALL 08000 12 13 12  
YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS WILL BE CHECKED AND RENEWED IF FAULTY  
(BATTERY MODELS ONLY )

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ALSO WE ARE LOOKING FOR ANY OLD CARS OR VANS FOR TRAINING PURPOSES  
AT THE FIRE STATION .  
CONTACT NEIL ON 486283 , DAVID ON 486761 OR IAIN ON 01808 521226  
REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARMS REGULARLY .  
FROM ALL THE CREW AT FOYERS FIRE STATION  
WE WISH YOU A MERRY AND SAFE XMAS

### **Bulk Purchase of Firewood.**

I have recently asked the Forestry Commission if fire wood can be purchased directly from one of the many locations in our area which are currently being harvested. The following is the text of reply which I have received. It may be that several neighbours will want to buy a load together.

Lorry Loads of timber for firewood can be sourced via both the Private and Public forestry sectors. Regarding the latter and relevant to this locality, enquiries for 'bulk' firewood can be made via Inverness Ross and Skye Forest District (01463 791575 or 01463 791575). They will be able to advise on availability of supply, price, haulage and alternative contacts.

Some useful points to note are:

1. Lorry loads can range from 12 - 25 tonnes depending on type of lorry. You will need a reasonable, but not excessive area of ground to store this kind of weight / volume.
2. Lorry access could be an issue, so worth making sure that it is safe to do so (overhead wires, tight corners etc). The haulier will advise you on this.
3. Lorry loads may be too much for one person, but you can speak to your neighbours etc and share a load.
4. Forestry Commission do not sell firewood based on a guaranteed species type (will be mainly softwood), length and diameter, (will be random) and moisture content. This is the responsibility of the purchaser to make ready the firewood for burning.

However, buying firewood in this way is a good option, as you can control the quality and nature of the firewood itself prior to burning.

Over to you, Alex Sutherland

## Foyers Primary School

### **Foyers Fitness Fun**

The pupils at Foyers Primary School are as Fit as Athletes.

Our active schools coordinator came to test us on how fit we were. It turns out that we are fitter than your average school child!

In the summer term she is coming back to see if we have improved our fitness. What do you think? Of course we will as we know how important it is to keep healthy ☺

### **Foyers Stores Canvas Challenge**

Following a plea from the shop we have accepted the challenge of designing some canvases to display to make the shop look fabbie!

Due to the sales of books in the shop we were given some money to buy resources to help us on this task. It is very complex but we are well on the way to completing the challenge.

Keep your eyes peeled for the finished articles which should be up soon!

### **The Super Singing Stars**

Doe rae me fa so la tee doe.....♪♪♪

Fabulous Feis on a Friday! Feis Rois have been coming to our school on a Friday to teach us traditional Scottish songs and Gaelic!

Our favourite song is about a bald lady (hehehehe) who makes marmalade, loses her hair, has a glass eye and a sunken chin - beautiful! ♥

## Stratherrick Primary School

**Stop the Press we have a WINNER!**

Our very own design extraordinaire **Phoebe Drummond** came second overall in Simpsons Garden Centre design a Christmas card competition and her winning card will be on sale for us all to buy over the festive period!

The design was a winter wonderland and it impressed the judges due to the colourfulness of it and quality of its images. The winner of the competition was very happy - she said:

"It's really cool, I get to have breakfast with Santa and the school gets a £50 voucher".

### **Fire in the Sky**

Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November! We certainly will!

This year at the fireworks night it was extra special as it was also the opening of the play park and the unveiling of the winner of the park sign!

Once again - **Phoebe Drummonds** design was chosen! We are in the midst of greatness - well done Phoebe! Thank you to everyone who organised the event it was great fun and we especially liked lighting the lanterns and letting them go free!

### **Pupil Council Elections**

Our pupils take control!

At Stratherrick the pupil council had their elections for Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary! It was very competitive and the quality of the candidates were very high - watch out Councillors, you have some serious competition!

The results were: Chair - Phoebe Drummond; Treasurer - James Anderson; Secretary - Roxy Elgar. They will represent the school with wisdom and confidence!



### Joint Projects

Christmas Concert: **Cinderella Rockerfella**

This year there is a joint Christmas pantomime in Gorthleck Hall.

There are 2 performances - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 1.00pm for members of the community. All welcome.

And - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December for close friends and family at 6.00pm

### **Sponsored Walk**

A HUGE thank you to everyone in the area who sponsored us on our walk. This was to raise funds for our trip to Glencoe Outdoor Centre in May.

It was a great help - we raised lots.





### **News on the Book Club**

It seems a while since we last put anything in the Boleskine Bulletin and thought the readers might care to know what and how we are doing.

We meet usually about every six weeks (give or take) and it works very well. We select between us what is the next book we are going to read. At the meeting we all talk for as long or short a while as we need, about the book. When we have all had a bite at the apple we then have a general discussion on what we have read. This can become quite energetic and very interesting. We have also an "outer circle" of people interested who, for instance have moved away but still want to be involved, and also overseas members who read the book and send us their overviews of it. Obviously not so good for them as actually being at the meeting and joining in a free for all, but it does seem to work quite well.

It is often quite surprising how these meetings turn out. You go with some idea of what the members will have to say, but can get it quite wrong at times when the reactions are not remotely what you anticipate. This of course makes for a very lively and interesting meeting. Some of the recent books read, (in all since 2005 we have ploughed through nearly 60 of many and varied types) are *To a Mountain in Tibet* by Colin Thubron, *One Day* by David Nicholls, *As I walked out one Midsummer Morning* by Laurie Lee and *Did you really shoot the Television* by Max Hastings. Some of our books have produced high scores of 9 to 10 and some (my choice) *The Life of Pi* by Yan Martel well and truly got the thumbs down, but then you cannot win them all!! We do attempt to keep the choice varied and to suit all tastes and the main comment from our members is that they have read and enjoyed books which they would not in a thousand years have gone into a book shop and selected.

Hope this little article proves of interest to the readers and will report again at some time in the future.  
Jean Marshall

### **Christian Comment**

I imagine you know exactly how many weeks it is until Christmas and the children will soon be counting the days. We maybe trying to ignore it or planning frantically but we are in no doubt about when Christmas Day is. This is where we differ from the people who were involved when Jesus was born. They didn't have a count down or any way of being completely ready for the birth of Jesus. Mary and Joseph knew they were going to have a baby who would be a special gift from God and they would have a vague idea of when the baby would come but without scans they didn't know the precise time. The wise men knew, from what was written, that there would be a special birth but they had had to spend a lot of time reading, travelling and searching, even having to ask for directions from King Herod. The inn keeper would have been far too busy to even think about it. Because of the census many people were having to travel which meant that business was good for him and he would have hardly had time to sit down let alone consider the significance of the young couple for whom there was no room. And the shepherds – they were just having a routine night, out keeping the sheep safe, nothing unusual, until the angels appeared.

It is wonderful how each of these people were part of Jesus arrival on earth as a baby. They hadn't been able to plan for it, they weren't wearing their best clothes or had their hair done and I imagine the shepherds hadn't even had a wash for quite a while, but God knew exactly when His Son would come as a baby and live with us and He had it all planned. Thankfully God still knows what is happening even though we often don't understand the significance of what is going on. We might, like the innkeeper, be busier than ever or the shepherds, just getting on with our usual routine. We could be searching like the wise men but finding it difficult getting the directions right or like Mary and Joseph, who trusted God but were having to live through a situation that they hadn't planned or expected. The most amazing thing is that God loves us as much as He loved all these people and loves to involve us in His perfect plan even when we don't understand it.

Iain King

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

This November we have been blessed by good dry weather and much longed for sunshine. It has been unseasonably mild too in contrast to last year's early snow and we've had only one sharp frost. This has allowed me to plant tulip bulbs and to work my way round the garden weeding, tidying and cutting back.

In reading garden articles and magazines I often come across advice not to cut back herbaceous plants in autumn but to wait until spring. The reasoning goes something like this:-

1. Beneficial insects hibernate among the stems and leaves.
2. Seed heads will feed garden birds.
3. Various forms of seed head look stunning in low winter sun, when rimed with frost .
4. The top growth will protect the roots.

Beneficial insects may be hibernating in the spent growth but slugs are lurking there too. Somehow they are never mentioned. No doubt seed heads will feed birds to some extent. In our damp and windy climate I find that stems tend to collapse, lie flat on the ground and rot to a brown mush or if it is drier and they don't collapse the top growth can lead to plants rocking in the wind , exposing roots to rain and snow and eventually to expiry.

I once followed the advice to wait until spring before cutting back. Never again! As you will know spring can be along time in arriving here. By the time the weather is clement enough to allow outside work, everything has sprouted and new green shoots have overtaken the dead stems you were supposed to have cut down in spring!

Clearly the people who dish out this advice do not live in the Scottish Highlands but in some winter neverland where low sun shines forever on frosted teasels. They have the photographs to prove it folks!

So I have been cutting back in autumn. I spent one very fragrant day cutting back in the herb garden, ending up with great bundles of sweet smelling marjoram, lemon balm, southernwood and fennel, all destined to be composted.

It has been a good time to split up and replant herbaceous clumps too. Unfortunately, I forgot to label all the congested monkshoods that I intended to split up so I fear I have hoicked out a particularly lovely blue and white one and perhaps re-sited bits of it among plain blue ones. I won't know until next summer. I looked at the overcrowded perennial geraniums with a view to splitting them up too but at this time of year, without labels, I couldn't tell one from t'other . When they flower next year I shall either label them for autumn division or tear them asunder there and then. Labelling may be more important than I thought.

Whichever way you chose I hope you managed to prepare your garden for winter and that you are looking forward to a floriferous spring. Wee Gairdner

## **LOCH NESS MARATHON 2011**

Morag Cameron would like to thank everyone who sponsored her for this years loch ness marathon. Thanks to you all i raised over £900 for Siobhan she hopes to improve her access in to the garden or something that will help make life easier for her.

Siobhan suffers from a rare condition called complex regional pain syndrome which unfortunately there is no cure for at this time, she is in constant pain but still seems to put others first and remain friendly, welcoming and positive she is a great mum to Annalise wife to Alan and once in a life time friend to have.

A huge big thanks to our dear friend Isabell, Patrick, Hamish and Eloise for there very generous contribution and also to Susan Kenny and Aimee,

Ray and Lynn Cooper and Fiona Kirkland .Also to all the other very kind sponsors it is much appreciated and will help out so much .And if anyone would like too donate they can by calling Morag on 486475



## Autumn/Winter 2011

- Needing help...if you have concerned about an older or disabled person then ring social work services.
- Make sure your house is warm. Stratherrick and Foyers community has done very well improving the energy efficiency of many local homes, using the Glendoe funds.
- But don't sit in the cold. Ask for help and ring the Energy Advice Centre.**0800512012**

- All harvesting and thinning will be notified directly to the community council also with a note on the transport route and an estimate of the number of lorries.
- We have also asked for a direct contact person for each job.
- This gives us the chance to contact Tec services and to be sure that they have an agreement in place to repair any damage to the roads. That has not always been the case
- There is also a study underway now of all South Loch Ness roads to ensure that timber lorries are using the best routes and

There is half a million pounds which combined with planning gain monies from the wind farms and Glendoe, we will have around a million pounds. I am convening a community meeting to make sure that TECs and the communities of south Loch Ness are agreed on priorities.

There are some key issues around small settlement policies, the hinterland boundary and the housing in the country side policies that will be of interest and relevance to many of you

## THE 2011 LOCH NESS MARATHON (A FAMILY AFFAIR)

Next year we are planning to enter again , and lots of friends are coming to run with us. It has become a family tradition. We all love running, we enjoy the parties afterwards, and the added bonus is that we get to raise money for our chosen charities.

[illegible]

# **Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust**

## **Recent Grants : -**

On October 26th the Trust approved three Phase 3 Energy Efficiency grants for Solar Thermal and Photo Voltaic panels, a small grant for tables for the Playgroup and a grant towards the Children's Christmas party.

## **Energy Efficiency : -**

The Energy Efficiency Fund of £135,000 awarded from the Glendoe scheme is almost exhausted but we are still accepting applications for Phase 3 improvements in the hope that either we can transfer funding from the main Glendoe fund or one of the other Wind Farms or hydro schemes will provide monies to maintain investment in energy saving measures. The Energy Saving initiative has gone down well with our sponsors Scottish and Southern Energy and it would be good to continue promotion of our area as one which is leading the way in this field.

Home insulation is ongoing and nationally 26% of CO2 loss is from domestic properties. A large part through solid walls and partial cavity walls, coombe ceilings and dormer windows with hard to insulate spaces under the slates or tiles. The U.K. Government has started a short consultation process on a "Green Deal" initiative where improvements to home insulation are carried out and paid off by means of an agreed tariff on electricity bills over 25 years. Details are available on [www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk). This scheme may be of assistance if a "Green Deal Provider", the organisational link between customer and energy provider, can be persuaded to take on some of the logistical and technical problems in our area.

## **Community Benefit Negotiations : -**

The Community Trust has recently been given a renewed mandate from the Community Council to act as the negotiator for community benefit monies from the various green energy schemes in our area. There is obviously a delicate balance between such negotiations and involvement in the planning application process but the Government has given the green light to these developments whether we like it or not. As the person fronting these negotiations I take no active part in any planning response.

Community Benefit terms have recently been agreed for the approved Dunmaglass wind farm. This may become operational in 2016 and will pay a total of £6,873,581 in annual payments linked to the Retail Price Index over 25 years assuming annual inflation of 2.5% and including an initial payment of £1,237,500. These sums will be split equally between Stratherrick and Foyers C. C., and Strathdearn and Strathnairn C. C. There will be a further £500,000 payable as compensation for construction traffic disruption on the Strathnairn access route from which our Community will receive £100,000 during this phase of the operation.

Corriegarth Wind Farm community benefit terms remain to be agreed. Scottish and Southern Energy will be mounting a public exhibition in the new year for a very large wind farm adjoining their Glendoe hydro development. Further information from SSE will appear on the local notice boards in due course. Similarly a planning application for a small hydro scheme on the Aberchalder burn will be lodged with Highland Council in the new year and the developer will mount a public exhibition.

A. Sutherland (Secretary), 1 Aultnagoire, Errogie.

## **Community Trust Annual General Meeting** **Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup>. of February 2012. - 7 p.m. Foyers School**

There are currently 9 Directors of the Trust, 2 of whom are non-voting and to date one new applicant. Voting members must have been resident in the area for at least 5 years. Any other person resident within the Community Council area who wishes to apply to be a Director should contact the Secretary. The Trust is an independent body but is obliged to have one third of its appointees from the Community Council.

The current Directors are:-

**Helen Grainger**, Inverfarigaig (Chairperson)  
**A. Sutherland** Aulnagoire (Secretary)  
**F. Ellam** Easter Boleskine (Treasurer) (non-voting)  
**W. Fraser** Gorthleck  
**M. Houston** Balnebeeran  
**F. Ross** Easter Aberchalder  
**A. Holt** Inverfarigaig  
**S. Ferguson** Knockie (non-voting)  
**J. Sharpe** Gorthleck

The A.G.M. will be followed by the Community Council meeting and when that finishes an ordinary meeting of the Trust will take place.  
A. Sutherland (Secretary)

### **Missing Trophies?? from the 70's & 80's**

Were you a past winner of either of the following.....?

Ben Sgurrach Hill Race. The Cup was last competed for at the Stratherrick Highland Games at Compass in the mid 80's.

Stratherrick General Knowledge Trophy last competed for in the late 70's possibly won by the Foyers team on that occasion.

### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

On 16th November votes cast by the postal ballot were counted. With an electorate of 562; 399 returned. that's 71% of us voted. our community this year was only one of 25 to hold an election in Highland Region. There are 156 community councils in the highlands. We were asked to elect 8 candidates rather than the 10 as in the past. Number of members required on each community council reflects the population. The results are as follows:-

	<b>Name of Candidate</b>	<b>Elected (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Total No. of Votes</b>
1	Mark Houston	Yes	220
2	Elizabeth Merther	Yes	220
3	Morag Cameron	Yes	215
4	Liam MacNally	Yes	207
5	Alex Sutherland	Yes	207
6	Ken Fraser	Yes	194
7	Sandy MacPherson	Yes	187
8	Fraser Ross	Yes	185
9	Katherine Grant	No	161
10	Marjory Williams	No	140
11	Frank Ellam	No	118
12	Katie Ellam	No	105
13	Donald Forbes	No	96
14	Geri Stocks	No	96
15	Justin Sharp	No	70



# New Bus time tables starting from 4th January 2012

Service Number **16**  
Service Description **Inverness - Foyers**

## MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS

Service No.	16	16	16	16	16	16
				Sch	NSch	
City Centre Queensgate Stop A	0900	1100	1300	1515	1530	1750
Holm Park Bus Terminal	0910	1110	1310	1525	1540	1800
Inverness Royal Academy	-	-	-	1535	-	-
Dores Scanipoint	0914	1114	1314	1544	1544	1804
Dores Inn	0921	1121	1321	1551	1551	1811
Inverfarigaig Cottages	0938	1138	1338	1608	1608	1828
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	0945	1145	1345	1615	1615	1835
Upper Foyers Phone Box	0950	1150	1350	1620	1620	1840

Service No.	16	16	16	16	16	16
	Sch	NSch				
Upper Foyers Phone Box	0755	0804	0955	1155	1355	1620
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	0800	0809	1000	1200	1400	-
Inverfarigaig Cottages	0807	0816	1007	1207	1407	1627
Dores Inn	0824	0833	1024	1224	1424	1644
Dores Scanipoint	0831	0840	1031	1231	1431	1651
Inverness Royal Academy	0840	-	-	-	-	-
Holm Park Bus Terminal	0844	0844	1035	1235	1435	1655
City Centre Queensgate Stop A	0854	0854	1045	1245	1445	1705

Sch - Schooldays NSch - School Holidays

Times in italics are approximate only.

**BANK HOLIDAY SERVICES:** Normal services will operate on Good Friday and Easter Monday. A Saturday service will operate on May Day

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:** Schools will be closed 13/14 February 2012, 02 - 16 April 2012, 7 May 2012, 01 July until 12 August 2012, 08 - 19 October 2012

**For other buses between the City and Holm Park, see Services 6A, 6C**

Services commence 04 January 2012

Leaflet: Services 16, 18, 118

Cross Check: Nil

## SATURDAYS

Service No.	16	16
City Centre Queensgate Stop A	1230	1810
Holm Park Bus Terminal	1240	1820
Dores Scanipoint	1244	1824
Dores Inn	1251	1831
Inverfarigaig Cottages	1308	1848
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	1315	1855
Upper Foyers Phone Box	1320	1900

Service No.	16	16
Upper Foyers Phone Box	0900	1330
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	0905	1335
Inverfarigaig Cottages	0912	1342
Dores Inn	0929	1359
Dores Scanipoint	0936	1406
Holm Park Bus Terminal	0940	1410
City Centre Queensgate Stop A	0950	1420

Service Number **18**  
Service Description **Inverness - Croachy - Whitebridge**

## MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS

Service No.	18	118	18	18	18	18
		Sch	NSch			
Inverness Retail Park Tesco	-	-	-	1345	-	-
Raigmore Hospital	-	-	-	1350	-	-
Inverness Bus Station Stance 4	-	-	-	1400	-	-
Inverness Bus Station Stance 4	0625	0805	0815	-	1405	1510
Bun-Sgoil Ghaidlaig	-	-	-	-	-	1525
Inverness Royal Academy	0635	0815	0825	-	1415	1535
Farr School	0650	0830	0840	-	1430	1550
Croachy Telephone Box	0700	0840	0850	-	1440	1600
Dumnaglass R.E	-	0845	-	-	-	-
Abersky Farm R.E	-	0850	-	-	-	-
Torness Coulanour Junction	-	-	-	-	-	1612
Torness Telephone Box	-	0855	-	-	-	1617
Torness Coulanour Junction	0712	-	0902	-	1452	1622
Erroglie Telephone Box	0716	0905	0906	-	1456	1626
Gorthleck Primary School	-	0910	-	-	-	-
Gorthleck Loch Mhor Cottages	0720	-	0910	-	1500	1630
Whitebridge	0730	0920	0920	-	1510	1640

Service No.	18	18	18	18	118	18
				NSch	Sch	
Whitebridge	0735	0925	-	1515	1515	1640
Gorthleck Loch Mhor Cottages	0745	0935	-	1525	-	1650
Gorthleck Primary School	-	-	-	-	1535	-
Erroglie Telephone Box	0749	0939	-	1529	1540	1654
Torness Coulanour	0753	0943	-	1533	-	1658
Torness Telephone Box	0758	-	-	-	1550	-
Torness Coulanour Junction	0803	-	-	-	-	-
Abersky Farm R.E	-	-	-	-	1555	-
Dumnaglass Road End	-	-	-	-	1600	-
Croachy Telephone Box	0815	0955	-	1545	1605	1710
Farr School	0825	1000	-	1555	1615	1720
Inverness Royal Academy	0840	1020	-	1610	1630	1735
Bun-Sgoil Ghaidlaig	0843	-	-	-	-	-
Inverness Bus Station Stance 4	0853	1025	-	1620	1640	1745
Inverness Bus Station Stance 4	-	-	1025	-	-	-
Raigmore Hospital	-	-	1035	-	-	-
Inverness Retail Park Tesco	-	-	1040	-	-	-

Service No.	18	18
Inverness Bus Station Stance 4	1000	1620
Inverness Royal Academy	1010	1630
Farr School	1025	1645
Croachy Telephone Box	1035	1655
Torness Coulanour Junction	1047	1707
Erroglie Telephone Box	1051	1711
Gorthleck Loch Mhor Cottages	1055	1715
Whitebridge	1105	1725

Service No.	18
Whitebridge	1110
Gorthleck Loch Mhor Cottages	1120
Erroglie Telephone Box	1124
Torness Coulanour	1128
Croachy Telephone Box	1140
Farr School	1150
Inverness Royal Academy	1205
Inverness Bus Station Stance 4	1215

Services commence 04 January 2012

Leaflet: Services 16, 18, 118

Cross Check: Nil

## **Glenlia Residents Community Association**

Another interesting year for Glenlia Residents Community Association with lots of fundraising and activities organised. This week we held the Talent Show, manned the water stations and road closures for the marathon, had an Easter egg hunt on the green and now, after 2 ½ years of fundraising, we have raised enough funds to remove the old fence and equipment in the Glenlia play park and install a new surface, equipment and fence (in partnership with Highland Council TEC Services). As (ex) Chairperson I would like to thank all the committee (and sub-committees) for all their time and hard work during this year and since the Association was established. Thank you also to their families, including mine, who supported us throughout this time. A big Thank You to all who donated raffle and talent prizes during the years. Many thanks to neighbours (Stratherrick and Foyers area mainly) and friends who supported us by attending our fundraising and social events throughout the year. The year ahead will hold plenty of challenges in relation to the play park installation and other organised events and we hope of continued support from everyone who can give it. Best of luck to Tony as Chair for the coming year.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Total money raised less expenses / donations made</u>
7/10/0	Quiz Night	£51.10
18/11/09	Baxters Marathon	£240.00
9/12/09	South Loch Ness Talent Show	£552.69
2/09/10	Gala Day	£507.28
6/10/10	Beetle Drive	£124.90
1/12/10	Quiz Night	£25.00
13/12/10	Baxters Marathon	£350.00
20/12/10	Christmas Carols on the Green	non-fundraising event
17/05/11	Easter Egg Hunt	non-fundraising event
24/09/11	South Loch Ness Talent Show	£568.82
02/10/11	Baxters Marathon	£400.00
	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>£2819.79</b>
<u>Other Funding</u>	Highland Leader	£55,000
	Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust	£ 5,000
	Ward Grant	£ 5,000
	Albyn Housing	£ 2,500

All funds are allocated to the Glenlia Play Park Project. Weather permitting we hope work will start on the Glenlia Play park in early 2012 with the aim to host an open day in June.

## **South Loch Ness Talent Show 2011**

Back by popular demand on 24<sup>th</sup> September GRCA opened the doors at the Stratherrick Hall for the South Loch Ness Talent Show 2011. It was a great night of entertainment and fun. The performers had been very busy rehearsing and their acts were varied ranging from Ballroom dancing to the comical Brave Tarts in the adult section and solo dancing / singing acts and group performances in the children's category. This year we added a twist with the three Judges – John Sinclair, Brian Yates and Margaret Davidson giving feedback at the end of each act. During the interval everyone enjoyed the refreshments and home bakes that were kindly donated. At the end of the second half whilst the judges deliberated about the winning act we held a raffle that helped to raise even more money.

At the end of the show, all the performers were asked to come back on stage to receive a huge round of applause and each were given a medal for competing. Wendy Bellaris and Raymond Kerrigan won the adult competition and received a bottle of Champagne, two tickets for the Loch Ness RIB boat and a trophy for dancing a fantastic, technical, faultless and entertaining Pasa Doble.

The winning children's act was Verity Cameron for choreographing and performing Highland Dancing to an Adele song. Verity's performance was incredibly capturing and inspiring and reflected her natural talent and technical skills superbly. She won a £10 voucher, a tour of MFR radio station and to sit in on one of their live shows and a trophy for first place.

The children's runner's up act was Tall and Small – Verity Cameron, Ishy Cameron, Phoebe Drummond and Millie Ferguson. They choreographed dance moves and sang to a Glee number 'Don't stop believing'. Their costumes were bright and colourful and they all performed with an amazing amount of energy and talent. They also won a trophy and to join Verity on the MFR tour.

Glenlia Residents Community Association would like to thank all the performers who were amazing and all very talented. The show was closed by a lovely violin duet performed by Sarah and David, proprietors of the White-bridge Hotel.

It was a great night that brought all ages of the community together to entertain, enjoy and raise funds. We raised a total of **£568.82 profit!**

**THANK YOU** to everyone involved.

Geraldine Stocks

# Community Council Minutes

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd AUGUST 2011**

Members present: Mr A. Sutherland (Chairman), Mrs E. Merther (Secretary), Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer), Mr D. Forbes, Mr K. Fraser, Mr M. Houston, Mr J. Sharp  
Also present: Cllr M. Davidson, Mr N. Kirkland, PC A. Mathieson, Mr Paul Davies (Care in Strathnairn)  
Apologies received: Mr A. MacPherson, Cllr D. Hendry

### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2011 were adopted as a true record. Proposed: Mr M Houston Seconded: Mr J. Sharp

### **2. Care in Strathnairn**

Representatives from Care in Strathnairn attended to advise on setting up a similar scheme in this area. Mr Davies had already had some discussion about this with Mrs Grant. In Strathnairn they had found best way to get things started was to hold a public meeting to inform the community about what such a scheme could offer. At the same time information could be collected about the sort of help people might need, and volunteers could put their names forward. They advised that the scheme is totally dependent on finding a small number of reliable volunteers who can make a commitment to offer a few hours each month. They have found that six to eight volunteers is an adequate number. They will be happy to come along to any meeting to offer their advice and experience. Members will discuss suitable dates and get in touch with them.

### **3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Key Worker/Affordable Housing:- Albyn Housing has reported that progress is being made towards the sale of affordable plots in the Gorthleck scheme. A detailed timetable is now awaited.

Public Toilets - Foyers:- Cllr. Davidson reported that Charles Stephen is taking the necessary procedures through the Committees concerned in order to allow a community take-over. A number of other communities are also involved. When all the procedures have been completed the best way for the take-over to proceed will be considered. Cllr. Davidson advised that if improvements are required then that will be the best time to apply to the Ward Budget for funding.  
Firework Display - Gorthleck:- The Secretary had made enquiries about public liability insurance. If the CC takes on responsibility for the display then it has the necessary insurance already provided through Highland Council. Mr Houston will obtain costings so that an application can be made for funding. He is willing to set up the display and asked for some CC volunteers to help with the set up and with the bonfire. Mr Fraser, Mr Sharp and Mrs Grant offered to help. The intention is to tie-in the official opening of the new play area in Gorthleck, earlier the same day, and Mrs Grant suggested that the school children might be asked to create some posters for the events.

Home Care in Stratherrick & Foyers:- The Secretary had made enquiries about proposed changes in this service. She had received assurances that the intention is to maintain a high standard of home care of the rural areas. There are changes to the shift patterns being offered to Care Workers, and it is hoped that this will not cause too many problems locally.

### **4. Correspondence**

Highland Council Correspondence  
Notice - Kirling of the Council; Planning Dept. Documents: Draft - Houses in Multiple Occupancy,  
Draft - Supplementary guidance on Statutorily Protected Species;  
Notice - Ward Forum 22.09.11 on  
Timber extraction & transport; Notice - Workshop Highland Community Development Strategy  
02.09.11; Information on CC elections and CC grants; Enquiry - Community Development Officer re  
over 50s lunches  
Other Correspondence and Circulars received  
Kiltarity CC - Information on Druim Ba Windfarm; Loch Ness Marathon - Road closures and event  
information; Rt. Hon. Danny Alexander MP - Notice of Advice Surgeries; Highlands Small  
Communities Housing Trust - Newsletter July 2011; Stagecoach - Offer of email notification of service  
changes; Information on Britain in Bloom; Guide Dogs - Appeal for volunteers

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Account balances were reported as follows:  
Ordinary A/c - £4540.18 (including £362 in grant money for Fraser Monument) It was noted that the CC grant has been received and seems to be an unusually large amount. The Treasurer will query this.

Project A/c - £23464.05.

### **6. Planning Matters**

New applications: Erect house S of Suilven, Gorthleck (PIP)  
Replace chalet with house Easter Drummond Lodge, Whitebridge (PIP)

New House NE of Lyne, Gorthleck (Full):- Members studied the documentation and there were no objections. It was agreed to make a comment in relation to the application at Lyne, Gorthleck that members are slightly concerned at the unusual/non traditional design of this property in such a prominent location, and hope that suitable screening will be provided.

### **7. Policing Matters**

PC Mathieson updated the CC on recent staff changes at Beaully and Drumnadrochit. Members again raised the problem of hazardous parking at the Dores/Foyers junction, which is a particular problem on summer week-ends. PC Mathieson suggested that the Police could put traffic cones in place as a temporary measure, and it was felt that this would help. Cllr. Davidson will approach TEC Services to see if a more permanent solution can be found.

### **8. Roads and Signage**

(a) Outstanding Matters:- Roadside tree clearance - The Chairman informed the meeting that a further period of road closure in the Inverfarigaig pass had been agreed following meetings with Forestry officials. This could be up to ten weeks from 5th September. It was agreed that this whole process has been very badly handled by contractors and the Forestry Commission, and that the community has been badly let down. It was noted that the Ward Forum meeting in September will be in the Gorthleck Hall, and is about the whole problem of timber extraction and transport. The aim will be to get as many of the involved parties as possible to attend.  
Bus shelter Lower Foyers - The Secretary reported that installation of the new shelter has been promised for the week of 29th August.  
Timber lorries on Trinloist road - The severe damage to the edges of this road is still an issue.

Pot-holes on Garthbeg road - Mr Sharp reported that these are worse. It was suggested that he should put in a phone call to the Council to report these so that at least some temporary repairs will be made.

Traffic priorities at Calanour junction - TEC Services now said that they had not made a decision on this matter, and were linking it to twin tracking of the road to Errogie. Members who had been present on site when this was discussed agreed that an absolute assurance had been given that the reprioritisation would be done, and was not a big job - just a matter of paint. Cllr. Davidson is making further enquiries.

Damage to Torness road by Chisholm's lorry. Mr Houston reported that no further work has been done on this, and it seems unlikely that anything will ever be done.

Access road to Foyers burial ground - TEC Services have looked at the road and have agreed to make improvements (remove centre vegetation, cut offlets to allow water to drain, lay and compact some scalplings). No date has been given for this as yet.

(b) Other Roads Matters:- Some large pot-holes on verges were reported near to Errogie, due to vehicle over-runs. It was felt that an additional passing place is needed. There are deep drops to the verges at the Calanour junction. This is a long term problem and warning signs are buried in vegetation. There is some damage to the bridge into Aberchalder which needs attention. Cllr. Davidson will raise these issues with TEC Services. With the start of the school term it was noted that there had been some problems with the capacity on the school/public buses. Provision of a 40 seater bus still did not solve the capacity problem, and meant that the bus could not access the stop in Lower Foyers adjacent to Riverside. Cllrs. Davidson and Hendry had taken up this matter, and at present there are two small buses operating - the original Foyers bus, plus a small bus from Dores to Inverness to cope with the extra numbers. This is being monitored for a month to assess usage.

Mr Kirkland raised the problem of arrangements for winter access to the local Fire Station. Enquiries will be made. TEC Services representatives will be at the Ward Forum meeting on 22nd September. Cllr. Davidson will arrange for them to come early so that CC members will have an opportunity to show them some of the roads problem areas.

### **9. Community Project - Gorthleck**

The Secretary had made enquiries about public liability insurance for the area. This was dependent on a number of factors. She had

put Mr MacKenzie of Highland Council in touch with the Project Manager direct so that the situation could be clarified. The outcome of their discussions is not known. Mr Houston will make enquiries. In order to obtain the final grant awarded by Leader, the Project Manager had requested that the CC formally adopt the Highland Council Child Protection Policy. The Secretary having previously circulated details to members, this Policy was adopted. The question of ongoing costs of maintenance was raised, and the possibility of Highland Council taking on responsibility for the site. Enquiries will be made.

#### **10. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit**

The Chairman reported that one final point is still to be resolved in the Dunmaglass negotiations. Charles Stephen is continuing negotiations on the Corriegarth project.

#### **11. Any Other Competent Business**

Mr Forbes reported that he had been in touch with SSE regarding the old right of way in Lower Foyers. He is hopeful that this will be re-opened, and is waiting to hear from them. Cllr. Davidson reported that she is due to have a meeting to discuss the creation of additional parking adjacent to the Shop in Foyers.

Mr Kirkland enquired about the provision of 'smiley faces' speed warnings in Gorthleck. Cllr. Davidson reported that a bid is about to go in for Safe Routes to Schools money, and the smiley faces may be included in this. The Secretary informed members that notices had been received regarding the CC elections to be held in November. She distributed timetables to members. The Chairman will send information to the Boleskine Bulletin.

#### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th September 2011 at the Stratherrick Hall in Gorthleck.

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2011**

Members present: Mr A. Sutherland (Chairman), Mrs E. Merther (Secretary), Mrs K. Grant (Treasurer), Mr D. Forbes, Mr K. Fraser, Mr M. Houston, Mr A. MacPherson, Mr J. Sharp

Apologies received: Cllr H. Carmichael, Cllr M. Davidson, Cllr D. Hendry, PC A. Mathieson

#### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2011 were adopted as a true record. Proposed: Mr D. Forbes Seconded: Mr K Fraser

#### **2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Key Worker/Affordable Housing:- Cllr. Davidson notified the meeting by email that she had heard nothing new from Albyn Housing for three weeks. She will be in touch with them.

Bottle Banks - Whitebridge:- Cllr. Davidson had been in touch with Richmond Clements of Waste Management (Recycling). He responded that provision of a further recycling point at or near Whitebridge would not be economical, and that the Gorthleck and Foyers sites both lose money. However, he reported that the area will be getting kerbside collection for recycling from next April, and in the meantime encouraged the Whitebridge residents to use the existing recycling points. Members welcomed the news about kerbside collection.

Care in Strathnairn:- Following the attendance of Mr Paul Davies and his colleague from Care in Strathnairn at the last meeting, further discussion took place. Members recalled that Mr Davies had previously indicated willingness to extend the Care in Strathnairn scheme to cover this area, provided that we gave funds to cover the work in our own area. It was agreed that it seems sensible to join with an existing scheme where the infrastructure and expertise already exists. With winter approaching it was felt that this would not be a good time to try to organise a public meeting. Members agreed that a good first step would be to send out a suitable questionnaire in the next issue of the Boleskine Bulletin to try to gauge community response to the proposals, and the possible level of demand. The Secretary will draft a questionnaire. She will approach Mr Davies for suggestions on the right questions to ask, and will also enquire whether the option of joining their Scheme is still available.

Firework Display - Gorthleck:- Mr Houston reported that the opening of the Gorthleck Play Park/Community Space will be linked with the firework display on Saturday 5th November. There is money in the Project Fund for an opening event. Pupils at Stratherrick School are making some posters. There will be a marquee, hopefully some music, and food will be supplied by the Whitebridge Hotel. A display of photographs showing development of the site is planned. The Chairman suggested we might have a piper for the official opening. The evening will conclude with the firework display. Mr Houston has

costed this at £1850. It was agreed that as many members of the CC as possible will attend to help with the set up on the day.

CC Elections November 2011 Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Highland Council web site. Members wishing to stand for re-election were reminded that forms must be submitted by 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday 4th October. No late forms will be accepted.

Old Right of Way Footpath - Lower Foyers:- Mr Forbes had been in further contact with SSE and had shown them the route of the old footpath. They were quite happy for this to be reinstated, and indicated that the work will be carried out once the work on the new pipeline allows.

#### **3. Correspondence**

Highland Council Correspondence:

Notice - Cessation of ASCC; Notice - Invitation for tenders for Standby Snow Clearing Services (enquiries will be made about proposed arrangements for clearance at Schools and the Fire Station); Contract recommendations - Local bus routes

Other Correspondence and Circulars received:

Inverness Area CC Forum - Draft Minutes etc. (circulated); Highland Small Communities Housing Trust

- Notice of AGM (circulated); Equality & Diversity Group Newsletter; Beinneun Windfarm proposal - opportunity for community participation; Notices/Leaflet - Zero waste Scotland

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Account balances were reported as follows:

Ordinary A/c - £1666.02 (including £362 grant for Fraser Monument)

The Treasurer had queried the unusually large balance noted at the last meeting. Apparently the Project Manager had paid a project cheque into this account in error. This has now been corrected.

Project A/c - £4842.75.

#### **5. Planning Matters**

New application: House and garage 250m. SW of Cuil na Sith, Errogie (MSC)

Mr Houston declared an interest.

Members had already carried out a site visit at the PIP stage of this application. The detailed plans were studied and there were no objections.

#### **6. Roads and Signage**

(a) Outstanding Matters:- Bus shelter Lower Foyers - This has now been successfully installed and is very welcome.

Access road to Foyers Burial Ground - Work has been done to remove grass and earth build up in the centre of the road. Unfortunately the process of scraping this away with a digger has left new depressions for water to gather. Very small amounts of stone scalplings have been put down in a few places, but a lot more surface work is needed to provide an acceptable surface. Enquiries will be made as to whether further work is planned.

Ward Forum meeting 22nd September - Timber extraction & transportation. Our other outstanding roads items all came under the remit of this meeting. As well as Forestry officials, Mr Mike Stephens of HC TEC Services attended, and members took the opportunity of showing him some of the problem road areas. The meeting was very well attended by community members, indicating the strength of feeling about a number of items. The ongoing closure of the Inverfarigaig pass is a major cause for concern locally. Cllr. Davidson chaired the meeting on the 22nd, and members agreed with her closing comments that we had not received satisfactory answers to many of the issues raised. The Chairman will draft a letter to Mr Julian Fryer of the Forestry Commission to attempt to get some more helpful information from FC. Members agreed that on the broader roads issues a further meeting with Neil Gillies of TEC Services should be arranged. Many of the issues raised at the earlier meetings with him in 2009 have still not been resolved, notably liaison between HC and FC regarding responsibility for damage to HC roads. It was noted that there are significant amounts of money coming from wind farm developers for road works. Members felt that CCs in the relevant areas should have more control of this money, rather than HC having total control.

#### **7. Community Project - Gorthleck**

Mr Houston reported that Sarah Hartley, the Project Manager, had resigned from her post before completion of the project, which has caused some difficulty. Mr Houston and Mrs Fiona Kirkland will manage the remainder of the work. He reported that insurance is being arranged and will cost around £120 per annum. Project funds will cover this for a year or so, after which the CC will cover the cost. The site is not adopted by HC at present, although this situation may change in future. In the meantime the CC will be responsible for maintenance, which may require some fund-raising in future. He also re-

ported that there has been some vandalism at the site, and he is looking at the best way of monitoring the site to put a stop to this.

#### **8. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit**

The Chairman reported that the rate of community benefit from Dunmaglass will be set shortly. He noted that if the Stronlarig scheme goes ahead there will need to be further negotiations on community benefit. The possibility of investment in one of the turbines was mentioned.

#### **9. Any Other Competent Business**

Mr Fraser reported that warning signs for a recent charity, sporting event passing through the area had not been removed after the event. While members agreed they were happy to see these events, they felt organisers should be reminded about clearing up notices etc. afterwards. The Secretary will contact HC about this. Mrs Grant reported that the Safe Routes to School application for Stratherrick School is about to go in. Money is available to provide a pavement/cycle way for children, and a new cycle shed will be provided at the School. Members agreed they would like to see plans of the proposed route when available. The Secretary reported local concern about Mr Eric Law's letter in the Boleskine Bulletin regarding the cost of setting up the Community Web Site. It was felt to be unfortunate that the CC had not been approached for its response before this letter was published. The Chairman had met with Mr Law to discuss his concerns long before publication of the Bulletin, and Mr Law was satisfied that matters had been handled properly. A letter will be sent to the Bulletin for the next issue. Another matter raised was the publication of apparently official items in the Bulletin with no name or attribution attached. It was felt to be inappropriate to publish items anonymously unless there was a very strong reason for doing so. A letter will be sent to the editorial team.

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th October 2011 at the Foyers Primary School

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER 2011**

Members present: Mr A Sutherland (Chairman), Mrs E. Merther (Secretary), Mr D. Forbes, Mr K.

Fraser, Mr M. Houston, Mr A. MacPherson, Mr F. Ross, Mr J. Sharp. Also present: Cllr M. Davidson, Cllr D. Hendry, Mr N. Kirkland, P.C. A. Mathieson

Apologies received: Mrs K. Grant, Cllr H. Carmichael

#### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Mr Houston requested that item 10 be amended to record that completion of the Community Project is being jointly managed by himself and Mrs Fiona Kirkland. With this amendment the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2011 were adopted as a true record. Proposed: Mr M. Houston Seconded: Mr A. MacPherson

#### **2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing:- Albyn Housing have indicated that in the current, difficult financial climate they propose the sale of two plots to finance the infrastructure for further development on the Gorthleck site. Cllr. Davidson felt there should be a further public meeting locally so that Albyn can update the community on the proposed changes in the development plans. She will enquire about a suitable date for a meeting, which can be advertised in the Boleskine Bulletin.

(b) Broadband Provision:- Cllr. Davidson reported that Destination Loch Ness intend to make a further bid for Leader funding.

(c) Care in Strathnairn:- The Secretary reported she had made further contact with Mr Paul Davies. The Trust running Care in Strathnairn feel it will not be possible to include our area under their own Scheme, so it will be necessary to set up our own organisation for this area.

They are, however, happy to offer as much help and advice as required to assist with our own set up. A questionnaire is being drawn up for the December Boleskine Bulletin to gauge likely demand, types of jobs needed, and numbers of possible volunteers.

(d) Firework Display:- Mr Houston reported that the marquee for the joint firework display and launch of the community space in Gorthleck will be delivered on Friday 4th November. He requested as many volunteers as possible for the Friday evening so that the bulk of the setting up can be done before the event on the 5th. There will be various events on the 5th from 5.30 p.m. onwards, culminating in the firework display.

(e) CC Elections November 2011:- The Secretary confirmed that ballot papers are being sent out by Highland Council today (25th), and that the current CC will be officially disbanded at 23.59 on 15th November. The new CC will consist of eight rather than ten members.

(f) Parking - Foyers Shop & Cafe:- Cllr. Davidson reported that Highland Council is currently in the process of confirming ownership of

the land in question.

(g) Charity Event Signage:- The Secretary had been in contact with Mr Charles Stephen, Ward Manager, about this matter. She has requested that a note be included in the consent for these events to encourage organisers to remove signage after events.

(h) Community Web Site:- The Secretary confirmed that a letter has been sent to the Boleskine Bulletin in response to Mr Law's letter published in the last issue, in order to clarify the facts of this matter.

#### **3. Correspondence**

Highland Council correspondence:

Information on winter 'self help' kits for communities adjacent to trunk roads.

Cllr. Hendry will enquire about the provision of such kits to other communities, and the cost.

Other correspondence and circulars received:

'Paths for All' Leaflet

Forestry Commission Scotland - Felling Licence Application, Losbaban, Whitebridge. The Chairman presented this letter and, after discussion, it was agreed that clarification should be sought on several matters to try to avoid problems encountered previously with timber extraction in the area.

The Secretary will write to request details of exactly when the extraction is planned, the proposed extraction route, and the number of lorries expected to be travelling the route each day.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting.

#### **5. Planning Matters**

(a) New application: Meteorological mast in connection with wind-farm application, Stronlairig. Additional period of 5 years for existing permission. No objections.

(b) Other planning matters: There was discussion regarding the possible route of power lines from the Dunmaglass and Corriegarth schemes. It was agreed that it is important to engage in discussion on routes at an early stage in order to achieve any adjustments, such as areas where underground routing might be desirable.

#### **6. Fire Brigade Report**

Mr Kirkland had nothing new to report.

#### **7. Policing Matters**

P.C. Mathieson had nothing new to report.

#### **8. Roads and Signage**

(a) Outstanding Matters:- Roadside tree clearance - The Chairman reported that work in the Inverfarigaig pass is progressing. It is hoped this will be completed on time. There are still concerns about the stability of some slopes after timber is removed, and how the Forestry Commission intend to deal with any problems arising from this. It was agreed that CC members should be present when FC hand over the road to TEC Services. The Secretary will write to Julian Fryer requesting confirmation that the work is expected to be completed on time, and also requesting that CC members attend the final hand-over.

Access road to Foyers Burial Ground - Vegetation has been scraped from the centre of the road, and work is ongoing to lay scalplings to improve the surface.

Damage to Trinloist road by timber lorries - the damaged culvert under the road has been repaired, but damaged road edges have still to be repaired.

The following items have not yet been dealt with, and Cllr. Davidson has raised these with TECAS again: Pot holes on the Garthbeg road; Traffic priorities at the Calanour junction; Drops on verges east of Calanour junction; Need for additional passing places, Errogie; Damage to bridge at Aberchalder.

Cllr. Davidson reported that HC intend putting some money into the South Loch Ness roads. This will be HC money, some wind farm road improvement money, and the remainder of the Glendoe money earmarked for this use. She is waiting to hear details of the proposals, which should be available at the end of November.

#### **9. Water and Sewerage**

It was reported that Scottish Water intend to lay pipes to bring in additional water to Aberchalder, which will be pumped from Loch Ashie. It was agreed that this seems a very expensive way of bringing in a further supply, and members wondered if this might be due to limitations on an extraction licence. Cllr. Davidson will make enquiries.

#### **10. Community Project - Gorthleck**

Mr Houston reported that the Project is now nearing its conclusion. HC has advanced a loan to cover some of the invoices until the final grant is received. Insurance has been obtained through HC. Cllr. Davidson said that HC has adopted a number of play areas to carry



out equipment inspections, and that this might be considered as an option in future.

#### **11. Renewable Energy and Community Benefit**

The Chairman reported that the Dunmaglass negotiations are almost complete, and there is a meeting regarding Corriegarth in the near future. First steps in relation to the Stronlaigirg application will be taken. It was reported that SSE would prefer to leave community benefit negotiations until after the grant of planning permission. However, it was agreed that this is not a desirable course of action.

#### **12. Any Other Competent Business**

Foyers public toilets - Cllr. Davidson presented a survey of the minor repair work required if the CC or Community Trust take them over. She will enquire with HC about the likely cost, and suggested that it would also be sensible to obtain local quotes. The Chairman wondered about possible energy saving measures with street lighting. Cllr. Hendry reported that a switch-off period from 12 midnight till 6.00 a.m. had been implemented in some areas and had been very successful. It was agreed that the new CC might wish to enquire about this option.

Cllr. Davidson reported that there are to be Energy Efficiency Workshops held in Fort Augustus on 10th November and Farr on 17th November. The Secretary had enquired about arrangements for snow clearing/gritting at the access to the local Fire Station. She has been advised that the Fire Service need to make a formal arrangement with

TEC Services for this. She will write to the Chief Fire Officer to advise him of this. Cllr. Davidson reported that the British Waterways survey of the Foyers Pier should be available in early November. Destination Loch Ness is involved in looking at what can be done there.

The Secretary had received a complaint about the dangerous state of the old shinty pavilion in Lower Foyers, largely due to vandalism. Members agreed that we should write to SSE requesting them to look at possible removal of the building on safety grounds. The Chairman wished the death of a former, long-serving member of the CC, Rev. Martyn Bateman, to be noted, and to record that the CC were grateful for his valuable contribution over the years. At this final meeting of the current CC, the Chairman thanked members for their work over the past year. Cllr. Hendry also wished to record the thanks of our Highland Councillors to members.

#### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

The inaugural meeting of the new CC will be on Tuesday 22nd November at the Stratherrick Hall in Gorthleck

## **From the Editor**

As this is my last Boleskine Bulletin for the present, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every body who has contributed pieces of work both large and small to the BB both recently and in the past, many of whom preferred to do so anonymously, it is this input that keeps the B.B. alive and relevant to the local area.

To the advertisers a very large thanks I hope you get enough out of it, as well as enjoying the contents, it is your input that allows us to continue to print the B.B. as a free local sheet as with out the adverts we would have to charge to cover our printing costs.

Last but not least and to too people many to mention but you know who you are (as they say in all the best books) are those people who give their time to help in finding articles, proof reading and distributing the end product. Without your help the BB would have died a long time ago.

I would also like to take this chance to wish Jane and Barbara continued success when they take over for the next edition in March.

My thanks to you all

Peter Craven Ex editor.

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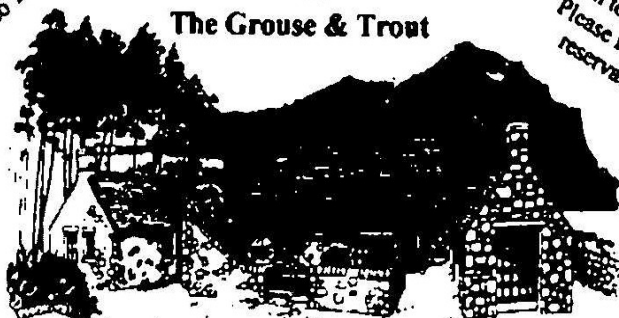
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**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December Family Christmas Service** - 10.00am Boleskine Church, 11.30am Dores Church

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

### **Church Meetings**

**Church of Scotland:** Sunday - Boleskine 10.00am, Dores 11.30am. Mr Ian King 01463 751 293

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

**Episcopal Church:** St Paul's Strathnairn – Sunday 11.00am.

**Free Church:** Sunday 5.00pm Errozie. 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:** 12 noon, Gorthleck, every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Mrs E. Fraser 01456 486282

**Roman Catholic Church:** 12.30 pm, alternate Sundays, Whitebridge. Mrs Therese Finley 01456 486678

### **Stratherrick Hall — Regular Groups**

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**Wednesdays** - Parent, Baby & Toddler Group 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Contact Susan Denoon 01456 486411

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**Fridays** - Youth Club (P5's – P7's) 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

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