

The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue 58 March 2012

Email: boleskine_bulletin@hotmail.co.uk

LOWER FOYERS - Caravan park decision deferred

Mr & Mrs Forbes of Foyers Main Farm submitted the planning application for a caravan park at Lower Foyers last spring. The Highland Council planning committee turned down the application. An appeal was made to the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) in Edinburgh for separate consideration. On February 28th the reporter dealing with the case deferred a decision and requested further information on the environmental impact of the development. A new target date for a decision by the DPEA has been set for **24th April**.

Community Council letter leaked

During the appeal process a letter, which had been written to the Highland Council ward manager Mr. Charles Stephen by the previous Community Council, appeared on the DPEA website. The letter was written in response to a complaint received by Mr. Stephen regarding the conduct of the Community Council. In the letter the Community Council voiced disgust at the behaviour of those objecting to the caravan park stating that "misinformation and intimidation" had taken place. The letter was never intended to go further than the ward manager but somehow it appeared on the DPEA website and was referred to in supporting documents for the applicants case.

Despite repeated requests from objectors for an apology regarding the content of the letter none was forthcoming. It is estimated that over 50 local people wrote letters of objection regarding the caravan park.

Cutbacks for the elderly.....

**Telford Centre closes for day care at the end of March.
The D&E 'Shopping' bus has already gone.**

The Telford centre in Fort Augustus is transferring from Highland Council to the NHS. The centre will continue to cater for residents but will no longer be a day care facility. For many years elderly folk from our area have been visiting the centre once a week and have been able to shop in Fort Augustus.

In January Stagecoach took over the local bus contract from D&E. Although this increases our bus service to Inverness on both routes it does not help those who find shopping a difficulty. In the past the D&E "shopping bus" took the elderly every two weeks to the supermarket and then returned them and their shopping safely home.

What now for the Elderly? A Community Bus?

STOP PRESS: News from our Councillor Margaret Davidson - the Telford Centre may be re-thinking the Day Care Provision.

Rena has got a new job.



"We are sad. We put flowers in a pot and our faces on it.
(Rowan)

"We made up a song ourselves to sing to her. It's sad when someone goes." (Isla)

"I made a big cake, and I put candles and icing on it." (Lewis)

From all of us at the Foyers Medical Centre

Practice Web Site: - www.foyersmedicalcentre.co.uk Please remember it has a repeat prescription facility so you can order any repeat medicines you require. It also has a notice board on it to update you with Practice information and changes.

Posting Medication: - Please note that for our patients that find it very difficult to collect their repeat medication and ask for them to be posted, we now go to Foyers Post Office to get them franked for posting. We will be doing this on a Tuesday and Friday, so please allow plenty of time for us to dispense, check, wrap and post any medication.

Travel Vaccinations: - With holiday time just round the corner, please contact us in plenty of time to ask about vaccines that you may require. Also it would be helpful if you could tell the reception staff if you are booking an appointment for travel vaccines.

Nursery Visit

We had a well organized visit from the South Loch Ness Nursery on Friday 3rd February and it was good to see them when they were all well. They were well behaved and had a good tour of the Medical Centre. They enjoyed listening to their own heartbeat through a real stethoscope and they all went away with their own toy stethoscopes, smiley stickers and goodie bags.



from the nursery children - A very Big thank you to all at Foyers Medical Centre, especially Lesley McAdam for arranging the visit and the goodies that the children were given, and to the Doctors for allowing us in and trying out some of the equipment !! We really appreciated it and learnt lots.



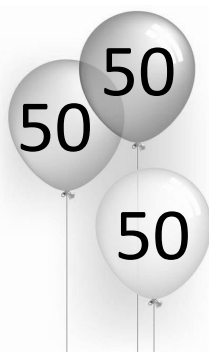
FOYERS SCHOOL FESTIVE FUN RUN



Thank you to all who came along and made the run such a great success. Foyers school raised £157. We are now able to buy tracksuits and gym wear for the school children a big thanks to Stratherrick running club for all their help, Alex for starting the race and to Edd and Graham for being hard to catch pace setters!!

Also thanks to Neil Kirkland and the fire brigade for making sure we all made it safely from the school to Glenlia where we would like to make a special **BIG** thanks to Glenlia residence community association who welcomed us all with complimentary mulled wine, mince pies, hot chocolate and lots of other wee treats. The run was such a success that we would like to make this an annual event so hope to see you next year.....

LOCAL COUPLE CELEBRATE



50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Janette and Archie Colville celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 4th January 2012.

Their daughter and son-in-law, Anne and Billy Brailsford, arranged a lovely party which was much enjoyed by family and old friends. The party took place in their lovely home at Foyers.



OLYMPIC/JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Anyone who would like to help organize an Olympic/Jubilee celebration for the community please contact Morag on 486475.

We hope to set up a sub committee and have a representative from all areas of the community. Thanks

POT HOLES !!!!!

If you find one please report it - don't presume someone else has done it.

Numbers:

Highland Council Tec Services

01349 886606

Richard Evans : 01463 703101

NEW REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

With effect from 2nd April 2012 The Highland Council is introducing a new refuse and recycling collection. You will still have a collection weekly but from April they will uplift the **GREEN** refuse bin one week, and the following week the **BLUE** recycling bin. The day of the week remains the same.

BUSES



Changes to Bus Timetable.

The Stratherrick Primary School daytime bus is now calling in at Torness for passengers on school days. It is still going to Inverness via Strathnairn but Stagecoach are aware that some people would like it to go via Torness and Dore. We will keep you posted if there are any changes to this service.

At Whitebridge the 7.25am bus extends to the Knockie Lodge Road end, and will return to Knockie Lodge Road end at 16.45pm

An up-to-date timetable for both Whitebridge and Foyers routes will be in the next BB

Bus to Fort Augustus? There has never been one, but with many local children attending Fort Augustus school, the new South Loch Ness Trail and the Telford Centre bus stopping - perhaps now is the time to ask for a bus to "join up the missing link". Let your councilors know if you could/would use it. Fort Augustus has lots to offer - surely we do not always need to go east to Inverness !!!!

Glenlia Residents Community Association

The Christmas period started with Alistair, Marjory, Dougie and Geri putting up the Christmas Tree on Glenlia Park and a lovely tree is was too. On 11th December Glenlia Residents Community Association welcomed local residents and the festive Fun Run participants to 'Carols on the Green'. It was a very enjoyable afternoon with hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies to keep everyone happy. Everyone was in fine voice for the Carol singing and the children finished the afternoon off with 'away in a manger'. Glenlia Residents Community Association would like to thank all the organisers and all those who attended. We would also like to congratulate the Foyers School Parents Council for the success of the Festive Fun Run.

Playpark Project Update



The GRCA Playpark Sub Committee have received 3 quotes and designs for the playpark and we are establishing which design best meets our requirements. We are waiting on some clarifications and when we receive this we and TEC services will be in a position to select which company will best meet our needs.

We have required 3 quotes to replace the fencing on Glenlia Green, these have been passed to Highland Leader and Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust for their information. Work is anticipated to commence on the new Glenlia Playpark in Q1 2012.

GRCA committee.

STREET LIGHTING - DO WE WANT TO BE 'GREENER'?

Some Community Council areas in Highland have opted to save the costs of their street lighting by having a switch-off period each night from midnight till 6.00 a.m. Apparently this has worked well. How does the community feel about trying this in our area? Let us have your views and comments. Liz Merther - Secretary, Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council
email: merther_foyers@hotmail.com Phone: 01456 486382

PROPOSED LOCAL CARE PROJECT

So far the CC has only received a small number of responses to the Questionnaire in the last B.B. If you have forgotten all about it, it is not too late to let us know whether you think such a project could help you, or if you might be able to help other people.

Please let us know your views by returning the Questionnaire, or email/ phone to any member of the CC (their contact details are to be found elsewhere in this Bulletin).

Running out of water in the summer? —

Scottish Water is proposing to construct an underground water pipe from the Inverness supply at Loch Ashie to the Gorthleck treatment works on the Aberchalder burn. There is insufficient water available to meet demand for treated water in the area. During 2007 water had to be tanked into the area and along with growth predictions an alternative source of water has to be found. The proposed 23km route of the pipe will be along the verges of the B862, laid under the road or in the road verges/adjacent rough ground.

It will be an underground 188mm diameter pipe connecting the two existing water treatment works. A decision is to be made in March.

ROAD **CLOSURE**

Boleskine Bridge

Due to concerns about the damage on the ancient Medieval Bridge at Boleskine the road will be closed for 2-3 weeks from 12th March for repairs.

At the time of issue the BB are unaware of alternative routes so look out for the diversion signs.

Check with Stagecoach or your local community council regarding changes in the bus times/route .

Dear Editor

First, allow me to welcome you to the job as our Editor of the Boleskine Bulletin.

There appears to be an ongoing problem in and around the village of Glenlia at the moment with dog owners failing to clean up their dogs mess and this is not good enough. With so many children now playing in and around the village there is a danger to their health. One clear message to dog owners, they should at all times have their animals on the lead when out for walks and have poop bags on themselves to clean up their dogs mess.

Duggie

Dear Editor

We would like to draw the attention of your readers to a statement written by our Community Council that was discovered on the DPEA (Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals) website. The statement describes those members of the community who objected to the proposed caravan site in Lower Foyers as being intimidating bullies who 'believe the CC is there to represent only them'. The statement accuses objectors, among others, of 'a campaign of poisonous misinformation and intimidation' and of circulating 'misinformation and scare stories'.

While the CC openly admits to having written this statement they explained that it was sent anonymously to the DPEA. It had originally been written to the HC Ward Manager in response to a complaint about the CC.

Planning applications such as the caravan site have the potential to create rifts in communities. However, one would expect the Community Council to do its utmost to keep the community united. It was therefore shocking to read this biased and offensive statement.

We have written to the CC to express our concerns about this statement and asked for a public apology – after all, this statement affects around 70 local residents. To date we have not had a satisfactory response from the CC. All we received is a letter acknowledging receipt of our letter and expressing the CC's dismay that the statement had been 'leaked' to the DPEA.

At the January CC meeting, which was attended by a number of local residents, the Chairman gave a hesitant apology. However, this he withdrew when asked to apologise in public.

A further serious concern is that the CC minutes of the January meeting do not mention any of the letters sent regarding the statement.

The CC seems to be concerned only that the document was leaked and completely unconcerned that it vilifies a good proportion of the community.

Given the inflammatory and insulting nature of the document we feel it is only reasonable to request an apology. We sincerely hope that the Community Council will reconsider their position.

Susan Faller, Johanna Schuster, Brian Yates

SO PLEASED TO BE HOME AGAIN

I would like to say a big **Thank You** to family, friends and neighbours for the lovely Get Well cards sent to me during my recent spell in hospital (48 in total). Many thanks too for the visitors, gifts and phone calls.

A special thanks to Dr, Gregor for getting me to hospital so quickly and for the home visits when I came home.

Anne McMillan

Christmas Party

A great **BIG** thank you to everyone involved with the annual Community Children's Christmas party and well done to the parents for braving the weather to get their children there. Fortunately Santa made it through the snow and all the children had a great time meeting him and receiving a fab gift. Thank you also to the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust for the grant towards making this happen.

Paula Page

Destination Loch Ness –

Current projects – what are they?

Destination Loch Ness (DLN) is a destination management organisation – a private not for profit limited company, that aims to work in partnership with the public sector for the benefit of tourism and the communities around Loch Ness. Established in 2006 today it has a 110 member businesses each of whom pay a fee to be part of the organisation. In return, DLN markets and promotes Loch Ness and works to improve ‘the product’ on the ground.

In August 2011 DLN launched the South Loch Ness Trail. This project took two years to complete and was funded by DLN, Highland Council, Leader, Scottish Natural Heritage, Stratherrick Community Trust and South Loch Ness Tourist Group. The two projects DLN hope to take forward and complete in 2012 – 2013 are the Foyers Pier Project and the Broadband Project.

The Foyers Pier Project aims to strengthen the pier by installing new sheet piled face and a new fendering system and once complete will allow the mooring of any vessel which can use the Caledonian canal. Funding towards the project has been secured from Highland Council but ultimately is dependent on securing funding from the Highland Leader Programme.

The Broadband Project aims to address the very poor levels of broadband in communities/areas close to Loch Ness, specifically, Inverfarigaig, Foyers & Glenlia, Easter Boleskine, Kindrummond, Brackla and Abriachan. This project has to date secured funding from the Highland Council and Stratherrick Community Trust but ultimately is also dependent on securing funding from Leader and sufficient support from householders to make the system viable.

For further information on the technical detail of either of these projects,

Please contact Graeme@visitlochness.com

Graeme Ambrose - Destination Loch Ness

Go wild on the canal!

Canal Heritage Officer, Stephen Wiseman, is developing a programme of events and activities to help people living in the Great Glen area discover and care for the famous Caledonian Canal.



Stephen is building up a vast archive of images about the canal. Through his ‘Slice of History’ project individuals from the community can share their photographs and stories of the waterway. Public events planned include a series of Tow-path Trails – guided walks and cycle rides, photographic workshops, wildlife and rural past workshops, boat trips (schools and public in May), interpretation days, dawn chorus walks and a ‘Wild about the canal’ family fun day which will take place in and around Seaport Marina, Inverness on Saturday 18 August.

For more information about these activities contact visit <http://www.thecaledoniancanal.org.uk/> or

Contact Stephen directly on 01463 725561 or stephen.wiseman@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk

Countryside Ranger – News from Katy

Bat Survey at Falls of Foyers -

This spring I hope to carry out a bat survey at Foyers Falls to find out the best places to put up bat roost boxes. These survey evenings will possibly be **Monday 2 April or Tuesday 3 April** between 8-9.30pm. If you are keen to come along and try and count bats using bat detectors, then please contact me on 01463 710786 or at katy.martin@highland.gov.uk

The scourge of *Rhododendron ponticum*! -

Our efforts to free Falls of Foyers from the curse of Rhoddy continue. We're keeping up our efforts because *R. ponticum* is a very invasive plant on our peaty soils. It grows vigorously from suckers and from seed and pushes out all other ground plants as it grows. Additionally, a fungus works in partnership with the rhoddy roots to poison the soil to other plants, to reduce rhoddy competition. This fungus can exist even when the rhoddy is cut down and that is why areas cleared of rhoddy take 10-20 years to be able to grow other plants again. We need these other plants to hold the soil on to the slopes of Foyers.

So rhoddy is bad news.

I'll be hand pulling rhoddy seedlings from the peaty soils at Foyers Falls. Please contact me if you'd be keen to do some gentle weeding in the spring.

More things to do for wildlife

Guide to Red Squirrels:



12 of the best sites to see reds in the Highlands have been highlighted by the Highland Red Squirrel Project.

The selection has relied on the work of local volunteers. Here, the Boleskine Environmental Recording Group (B.E.N.) has several cone counting transects in the forest which are monitored throughout the year. If you would like to help or want to record your sightings of squirrels please contact :- Jane on 486 355 or Rosemary on 486 631 or www.redsquirrelsofthehighlands.co.uk

B.E.N.'s Wader Survey –

“no not wellies, but birds with long legs and bills!”

In the spring every year a handful of local people monitor the pairs of wading birds that are likely to breed in the lowland areas of the strath. Data on the breeding success rates are sent to the RSPB to join similar data collected throughout the country. Populations of wading birds are in decline and only by monitoring year after year can trends be identified. If you enjoy watching birds and you would like to help please phone Jane or Rosemary.

We can give you some training if you are unsure of identifying those legs and bills!

Scottish Wildcat: An area north and west of the great glen has been identified as a stronghold for wildcats. In an attempt to save the Wildcat from extinction it is hoped that the feral and domestic cats within this area can be neutered to prevent cross breeding with the true wildcat.

Muir burn - during dry weather in March & April fires can be seen on the hills. It is a practice by farmers and grouse moor managers to stimulate new growth of grass and heather. The muir burn season is 1st Oct. to the 15th April but can be extended to 30th April with permission.

Inland,Upland and Cold – Gardening on The Edge

Wee Gairdner

I don't usually write about vegetables and yet I expend most of my energy on them. This garden has always been cultivated without herbicides or pesticides. Instead I try to prevent nasty things from happening rather than cure them when they happen.

I know that some of you grow early potatoes and I'm sure that is very worthwhile. Main crop potatoes are what I grow. Most main crops seem to suffer from blight here. Lately, I have grown organic blight resistant varieties. Alan Romans, Scotland's own potato guru recommends '*Sarpo Mira*' (pronounced Sharpo) and says that it is 'bullet proof'. I have grown it successfully. '*Sarpo Mira*' was originally a Hungarian variety but Scottish seed is available now. It is a red skinned tattie with good sized tubers. If blight strikes it is usually late and not too bad. The organic solution to blighted potatoes is to cut off the shaw and wait three weeks before harvesting. This has worked for me over twenty-one years.

Our short growing season means that I use onion sets rather than seed. The globe shaped '*Sturon*' has been reliable over the years. Some rot on the bulbs occurs in our wetter summers For 2012 I'm trying '*Centurion*' that is supposed to be 'dependable when the weather is poor'. This may guarantee you a sunny summer! Although advice is to plant garlic in February, results are better from a March or early April planting. You need a variety that can be planted in early spring. Leeks have proved problematic. I tried that old standby '*Musselburgh*' but it succumbed to exceptionally low temperatures in 2009 and 2010. Also, leeks need copious feeding to produce decent sized plants. In 2011 the leek bed had four bags of home made compost and an extra feed of chicken manure pellets. The results are better with the variety '*Atlanta*' but it has yet to prove itself in a severe winter.

Broad beans are a reliable crop – seeds planted straight into the soil in March or April. '*Aquadulce Claudia*' or '*Super Aquadulce*' are excellent varieties. When I came here in the 1980s I was told that I would never get a crop of peas in the strath. Well they do need a bit of cossetting and it takes a while for them to get going but they crop well. I start them off indoors in root trainers then plant them out under cloches in late April. For years I sowed '*Kelvedon Wonder*' but I've recently tried '*Karina*' and find that the peas stay sweeter longer and don't mature too quickly as '*Kelvedon Wonder*' did. I like to eat peas outside straight from the vine but that doesn't leave a lot for the freezer!

I hope that those of you who grow vegetables have got off to a better start than I and that your 2012 crops will be a great success.

Man Versus Horse Competition

(20 km)

Saturday 5th May. Start 10.00 am at Inverfarigaig

First prize for fastest time by either horse or human £100

(sponsored by the South Loch Ness Tourist Group)

Trophies for fastest runner and fastest horse.

Medals or rosettes and certificates for all entrants.

The route will start with a loop from Inverfarigaig (Grid ref. 521 241) of 5 km and then uphill (the corkscrew) and follow the Trail of the 7 Lochs from the Farigaig valley to Loch Ness side, finishing at Loch Ness Riding, Dores. (grid ref 590 319). Any enquiries to Candy Cameron, Drummond Farm, Dores, Inverness IV2 6TX candy@lochnessriding.co.uk 01463 751251 or 07973815208

The competition takes the form of a timed trial and competitors will have a staggered start, singly or in pairs. Horse and runners will be on the course at the same time and it is up to competitors to behave in a sportsmanlike manner to permit overtaking.

Free cake, teas, coffee and juice will be available at the finish of the competition.

Your Local Community Council Members – how to contact them

Mark Houston - Chair	01463 751 757	mark@greentreeheating.co.uk
Liz Mether - Secretary	01456 486 382	merther_foyers@hotmail.com
Fraser Ross - Treasurer	01456 486707	fraser@lochmhorlimousins.co.uk
Morag Cameron	01456 486475	alimoglenliafarm@aol.co
Kenny Fraser	01456 486220	kenfraser59@tiscali.co.uk
Liam MacNally	01456 486605	liammacnally@ymail.com
Sandy MacPherson	01463 751213	sandy@aberskyfarm.co.uk
Alex Sutherland	01456 486711	errogiealex@yahoo.com

HIGHLAND CONTACTS

Our Highland Council Ward is Ward 13 - Aird and Loch Ness and we have four councilors representing us.

Helen Carmichael ☐ Tel: (01463) 782555 ☐ Email helen.carmichael@highland.gov.uk

Margaret Davidson Tel/Fax: (01463) 861424 ☐ Email margaret.davidson@highland.gov.uk

Drew Hendry Tel: (01463) 811480 ☐ Email drew.hendry@highland.gov.uk

Hamish Wood ☐ Tel: (01463) 712530 Email Cllr Hamish.Wood@highland.gov.uk

The ward manager is Charles Stephen Tel: 01463 724246 ☐ Email Charles.Stephen@highland.gov.uk

FOYERS AND STRATHERRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL DATES/VENUES OF NEXT 4 MEETINGS

29th March 2012 - Stratherrick Hall (Thursday) : 24th April 2012 - Foyers School :
22nd May 2012 - Stratherrick Hall: 26th June 2012 - Foyers School : 7.30 pm Open to All

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN

Route 3 – Wednesdays.		Route 12 - Thursdays	
March 21	April 11	March 15	April 5 & 26
May 02 & 23	June 13	May 17	June 7 & 28
July 4 & 25	Aug 15	July 19	Aug 9 & 30
Sept. 5 & 26	ct. 17	Sept 20	Oct 11
Nov. 7 & 28	Dec. 19	Nov 1 & 22	Dec 13
Torness/Layby	10.30 – 10.40	Stratherrick Hall	12.35 – 12.50
Errogie church	11.00 – 11.15	Stratherrick Sch.	1.15 – 1.55
L. Foyers/Riverside	11.40 – 12.20	(pupils only)	
Foyers/Glenlia road	1.30 – 1.55	Whitebridge	2.00 – 2.25
Foyers Sch. (pupils only)	2.05 -2.40	Errogie Bridge	3.00 – 3.35
Foyers Coach House	2.50 – 3.05		
Inverfarigaig	3.15 – 3.40		
Dores Inn	4.00 – 4.30		

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST

Community Trust News

Energy Efficiency Initiative

The Glendoe hydro scheme had awarded the Community £135,000 to spend on home Energy Efficiency projects. This has now been spent on a programme of home insulation, double glazing, upgraded white goods and solar energy and bio fuel installations and are restricted to owner occupied houses.

SSE have now confirmed that we can transfer money from the general community benefit fund towards a continuing energy efficiency programme.

We are therefore open to new applications and to recap these are as follows:

1. Home insulation – lofts and cavity walls.
2. White Goods. SSE will issue a new catalogue. Applications through the Trust to the value of £400 per household.
3. Bio fuel heating, PV panels, Solar Thermal panels, hydro, ground and air source heat pumps, single to double glazing. Up to 50% of the cost to a maximum of £3,000.

The Trust meets regularly and is currently involved in negotiations for Community Benefit from the approved Dunmaglass and Corriegarth Wind Farms and will become engaged with the developers of the proposed Aberchalder hydro scheme and Stronlairig wind farm.

Launch of Highland Council New Community Benefit Policy

Highland Council have recently balanced their duty as a planning authority with becoming more proactive in extracting the maximum amount of community benefit from developers. Their negotiating stance has pushed the annual rate per megawatt of installed capacity from the original £1000 per megawatt per annum of the Farr wind farm settlement to the current £5000. The Council has offered to carry out negotiations in consultation with the communities.

The deal is as follows: The first £100,000 per annum goes to the local community; 55% of the remainder goes to the local community; 30% of the remainder goes to the wider area communities; 15% of the remainder is available to the wider Highland Community via a Trust fund held by the Council with its own independent Board.

Within our area we have already received benefit from three local hydro schemes Glendoe, Rivers E and Fechlin and have two planning approved wind farms to follow Dunmaglass and Corriegarth and the prospect of another wind farm at Stronlairig and hydro schemes for Aberchalder, Farigaig, and Knockie. Per head of population we probably have more green power activity than many other Highland communities. The proposed contribution to adjoining communities and to the Council wide Trust fund will still provide serious funding to the area particularly taking into account the improvement which the Council's politicians have achieved. Fergus Ewing the Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism was in attendance and announced that his government will set up a public register of community benefits by April

In conclusion I believe that the strategy of recognition by Highland Council of Community benefit payments is the best way to regularise the somewhat unusual source of funding for good works in our area.

Alex Sutherland (Secretary to Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust)

Tel: 01456 486 711 E.mail Errogiealex@yahoo.com

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY

22nd NOVEMBER 2011

(Inaugural Meeting of New Community Council)

Present: Mr A. MacLure (Local Returning Officer); Mrs M. Cameron; Mr K. Fraser; Mr M. Houston; Mr L. MacNally; Mr A. MacPherson; Mrs E. Merther; Mr F. Ross; Mr A. Sutherland

Also present: Cllr. M. Davidson; Cllr. D. Hendry; Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Officer)

Election of Office Bearers

Mr MacLure opened the meeting and welcomed the new Community Council members. He thanked the retiring members and all those who had put their names forward for election. He noted the excellent return of 71% of voting papers, and that the new CC has a clear mandate from the community. He then invited nominations for Chairman. Mr M. Houston was unanimously appointed as **Chairman**. Proposed: Mrs E. Merther Seconded: Mr A. Sutherland. Mr MacLure then handed the meeting over to Mr Houston, who thanked him for presiding over the launch of the new CC.

The Chairman then invited nominations for the other offices.

Secretary: Mrs E. Merther Proposed: Mr A. MacPherson; Seconded: Mr K. Fraser; **Treasurer:** Mr F. Ross Proposed: Mr A. MacPherson Seconded: Mr M. Houston; **Deputy Chairman:** Mr K. Fraser Proposed: Mr A. MacPherson, Seconded: Mr M. Houston. All Officers were appointed unopposed.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th October 2011 were adopted as a true record. Proposed: Mr A. Sutherland Seconded: Mr K. Fraser

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Cllr. Davidson confirmed that funding for these schemes is not available at present due to the difficult financial climate. The developers in Gorthleck hope to place two plots on the market for private sale to provide funding for the infrastructure required to develop more of the site. Mr Ronnie MacRae of the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust is arranging to meet with the original seller of the land to explain the reasons for the proposed course of action. Mr Sutherland agreed to go along with him. Following this a public meeting will be arranged to explain the proposals to the community. Mr Sutherland said that the Community Trust will almost certainly wish to invest in the scheme when funds allow, but must complete their current building project first.

(b) Care in Strathnairn

The Secretary has drawn up a simple questionnaire for inclusion in the next Boleskine Bulletin to gauge interest in setting up a similar scheme in this area.

(c) Car Parking - Foyers Shop and Café

Cllr. Davidson reported that Highland Council is proceeding with the necessary land searches.

(d) Foyers Public Toilets

The toilets have now been closed for the winter and water drained down. Cllr. Davidson is making enquiries about a payment from the Highland Comfort Scheme for use of the Foyers Café toilets. She is also awaiting quotations from HC for the required work on the public toilets. The toilets have not yet been passed to the community. Mr Charles Stephen, the Ward Manager, is progressing the necessary steps through the various committees concerned to allow this. The Secretary will enquire about progress.

(e) Street Lighting - Energy Saving Measures

It was agreed to put a brief notice in the Boleskine Bulletin to gauge local feeling about a switch-off period from midnight till 6.00 a.m. each night. The Secretary will prepare this.

(f) Snow Clearance - Gorthleck Fire Station

The Secretary reported that the Fire Service is now in contact with TECS to try to make a formal arrangement for clearance.

(g) Shinty Pavilion - Lower Foyers

The Secretary had written to SSE Estates Office regarding possible removal of this building on safety grounds and is awaiting a reply.

Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence: Community Council election results; New timetables for local bus routes

Other Correspondence and Circulars received: Highland Small Communities Housing Trust - November Newsletter

Treasurer's Report

Mr Ross will liaise with the outgoing Treasurer for hand-over. She had informed the meeting of current balances as follows:

Ordinary A/c: £1667.02 Project A/c: £12,573.52

Planning Matters

(a) New applications:

Old Brackashie, Whitebridge - Replace existing extension with similar (Planning permission granted on this application in the interval between CCs)

Former Errogie Church - Change of use to dwelling (Full) A site visit will be made.

(b) Any other planning matter:

Members had received complaints about the site road and access which has been created to the site for three house plots in Errogie adjacent to 'Phoenix'. A site visit will be made.

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland reported there is a meeting this week to look at the future structure of the Service in Scotland, and funding. Gorthleck is in line for a new Station building, but this is not expected immediately as some other areas are in greater need than Gorthleck. New 'Midi' appliances have been ordered and Gorthleck will receive one of these. These are larger than the present appliance, but not full size, but will mean an increase in stand-by duties for the Station. A successful bid has been made for two new crew members, despite recent cutbacks, which will bring the crew to 11.

Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

Roadside tree clearance - The Chairman reported the Inverfarigaig pass is now open, and a very good job of clearance has been done.

Damage to Trinloist road - A temporary repair has been done. It was agreed this will soon break down and a permanent repair is required.

Pot-holes on Garthbeg road - Cllr. Davidson reported this is on the list for action.

Drops on verges East of Calanour junction - Mr Fraser reported work has started on this.

Errogie - need for additional passing place - HC has agreed this will be dealt with when the road is re-aligned at the Errogie corner. Mr Sutherland noted that there is still no word of planning permission for this development, despite application having been made in April. Cllr. Davidson will enquire.

Damage to bridge at Aberchalder - This work has not yet been scheduled.

Access road to Foyers Burial Ground - The Secretary reported a good job has now been done on the second section of this road.

(b) Other Roads Items

Cllr. Davidson reported that there is a meeting on 25.11.11 with TEC Services to look at the proposed strategy for spending on South Loch Ness roads. It was agreed that as many CC members as possible will attend. One of the issues was the temporary nature of the patching work being done. It was felt that this is a waste of resources and that permanent repairs should be done in the first place.

Cllr. Davidson reported a meeting had taken place with Forestry staff regarding timber transport, and a number of commitments had been made to improve communications and other transport issues. She will ask Charles Stephen to send us details of the agreements reached at the meeting.

Mr Colin MacKenzie, one of the Forestry Managers is preparing a report on the timber extraction routes strategy for the next ten years. Cllr. Davidson will keep us informed.

Mr MacPherson reported a bad pot-hole adjacent to the first cattle grid on the Bochruben road. This will be reported.

British Waterways is about to present the report on the Foyers Pier. Cllr. Davidson will forward this when available.

Community Project - Gorthleck

The Chairman reported this is now almost complete. The final funding application has been made. He thanked all those involved in helping with the opening event, and members thanked him for the excellent firework display.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland reported the following:

The Dunmaglass agreement is about to be signed.

Discussions have started on the Stronlairig scheme. SSE plan a public exhibition and planning application next year. An opportunity for possible investment in a wind turbine was noted.

A meeting regarding Corriegarth is scheduled for next week. Mr Ross declared an interest in this area.

With the commencement of the new CC Mr Sutherland requested a fresh mandate to continue as negotiator for community benefit. Members agreed this unanimously.

Cllr. Davidson noted that SSE is going to be a huge investor in the local economy over the coming years, and that some discussions had taken place regarding the possibilities for employment and apprenticeships in the area.

Any Other Competent Business

Mr Kirkland reported a new fire hydrant has been installed at the house sites in Errogie.

The Secretary had received an enquiry about the problems with TV reception for some residents in Inverfarigaig, and the need for a community aerial had been suggested. Mrs Cameron reported that Glenlia residents were looking at this option to provide Freeview access. It was suggested that the technical people doing the survey might be asked to also look at Inverfarigaig. Mr Sutherland confirmed that the Trust should be able to help with funding such schemes.

Cllr. Davidson reported an appraisal of the Foyers Schoolhouse is being carried out to look at long term options.

NOTE FROM THE BOLESKINE BULLETIN

For readers with internet access these minutes can also be read on the Community Website:

www.stratherrick.net

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY

13th DECEMBER 2011

Members present: Mr M. Houston (Chairman); Mrs E. Merther (Secretary); Mr F. Ross (Treasurer); Mrs M. Cameron; Mr K. Fraser; Mr L. MacNally; Mr A. MacPherson; Mr A. Sutherland

Apologies received: Cllr. M. Davidson; Cllr. D. Hendry; Cllr. H. Wood; Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Brigade); PC A. Mathieson

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2011 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr A. MacPherson Seconded: Mr A. Sutherland

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Mr Sutherland and Mr Ronnie MacRae of the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust visited the seller of the land for the Gorthleck scheme. They explained the reasons for the need to sell two of the plots, to fund further development of the site, and the seller is happy with their explanation.

(b) Care in Strathnairn

A brief questionnaire, based on advice from the Strathnairn organiser, has been sent for inclusion as a flyer in the Boleskine Bulletin. This is to assess the possible demand for such a service, and to seek possible volunteers. Feedback is awaited.

(c) Foyers Public Toilets

The Chairman felt that the CC needs to know any legal requirements for the facility so that the cost of any necessary work can be assessed. There was some discussion on whether ownership should be with the Community Trust or the CC. It was agreed that it seems appropriate for the CC to take ownership, as long as suitable insurance is taken out.

(d) Street Lighting - Energy Saving Measures

The Secretary had sent a brief notice to the Boleskine Bulletin to gauge community opinion about a period of switch-off for street lighting. Unfortunately this has not been published in the December Bulletin so no further action can be taken at present. Mrs Cameron reported that a number of people she had spoken to in Glenlia were in favour of the suggestion.

(e) Shinty Pavilion - Lower Foyers

The Secretary had enquired with SSE as to whether they felt this building should be removed on safety grounds. They have agreed that removal is desirable, and the CC has confirmed that they have no objection.

(f) TV Reception - Glenlia and Inverfarigaig

Mr Tony Williams, Chairman of the Glenlia Residents, has sent the CC a copy of his letter of complaint to Ofcom regarding the lack of freeview and digital services in these areas, and also the mis-selling of broadband in this area by BT. He is awaiting a reply.

Correspondence

Reply from Editor of Boleskine Bulletin. It was agreed to invite the new Committee to the next CC meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Current balances are reported as follows:

Ordinary A/c: £1641.32 Project A/c: £11,613.52

Planning Matters

(a) New applications:

Convert existing building to dwelling, Larkfield, Gorthleck (Full)

Erect house & site for garage, SW of Martinet, Gorthleck (Full. Outline already granted)

Erect one 500kW turbine, Easter Aberchalder, Gorthleck (Full)(Mr Ross declared an interest.)

All plans were studied and discussed. There were no objections. There was some general discussion about wind turbines and community benefit payments.

(b) Any other planning matters

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from HC indicating that an appeal is being made against the rejection of the application for a caravan/camping site in Lower Foyers. The CC was informed that their comments will be forwarded to the Scottish Government along with all other responses made.

Mrs Cameron had received an enquiry as to whether a new submission would be made by the new CC. The Chairman indicated that this will only be necessary if a new application is submitted.

Fire Brigade Report

Access to the local Fire Station had been gritted in the recent snow, and it is believed that a formal arrangement is now in place.

Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

Damage to Trinloist Road - No further work has been done.

The Chairman reported that, against regulations, three timber lorries had been seen leaving Knockie in convoy. The Chairman has details of the contractor concerned and the registration numbers and will pass details on.

Problems caused by timber extraction continue to cause concern.

The Timber Extraction Routes Strategy report from Colin MacKenzie of the Forestry Commission is awaited.

Drops on verges east of Calanour junction - work is ongoing.

Pot hole by first cattle grid, Bochruben road - Reported, but work not yet done. Pot holes on the Garthbeg road and damage to the bridge at Aberchalder are still outstanding.

British Waterways report on Foyers Pier - Awaited

FOYERS AND STRATHERRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Traffic priorities at Calanour junction - Should be dealt with next year

(b) Other Roads Items

There was a meeting in the Town House on 25th November with members of TEC Services, attended on behalf of the CC by the Chairman, Secretary, and Mr Ross. This was to look at work proposed on South Loch Ness roads during the next year. The Chairman presented the plans given by TEC Services. It was agreed that CC members should consider these proposals further and discuss them at the January meeting with a view to presenting a list of priorities to TECS. It was agreed that a further meeting with TECS would be appropriate at that stage.

Mr Fraser reported that roads through the Strath on 12th December had been sheets of ice, and three cars had been seen to go off the road. It was felt that rates of salt spread in these conditions are inadequate, and the means of monitoring spread rates was queried. This will be passed to TECS.

Mrs Cameron enquired whether the entry signs to Foyers could be improved. It was noted that CC members attended a meeting in March regarding Loch Ness signage. The aim had been to achieve consistent signage for communities all around the Loch. Mr Ambrose for Destination Loch Ness was involved in this and further enquires will be made about progress.

Mr Sutherland reported that ditches down the Inverfarigaig pass badly need clearing, and a pot hole has developed where water appears to be undermining the road. It was noted that blocked drains and ditches are an issue throughout the area. A report will be made.

Mr Ross had received a complaint from a resident of Thain Road in Whitebridge about long grass and vegetation overgrowing onto the pavement. A report will be sent.

Community Project

The Chairman reported application has been made to Leader for the final grant payment. There are currently two small problems with items of equipment, and he is waiting for the suppliers to rectify these. Mrs Cameron had received an enquiry about the Project. The Chairman confirmed that once the Project is complete a brief report will be prepared.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

Mr Sutherland reported that the Dunmaglass agreement is finalised and will be signed shortly.

There had been a recent meeting with North British Windpower regarding Corriegarth, and negotiations are ongoing. SSE have recently published a prospectus giving details of their intended future payments per mW.

Any Other Competent Business

Mr Sutherland reported that the door is off the telephone box at Errogie. He has reported this to BT.

Mrs Cameron had received an enquiry about a reduction in speed limit through Errogie. Members thought arrangements may already be in hand for speed monitoring in this area, but enquiries will be made.

It was noted that with the new Stagecoach bus timetables the afternoon bus at Stratherrick School is 20 minutes later. This was felt to be a long time for young children to have to wait, especially during the Winter. Enquiries will be made about a change to the old time.

Dates for Future Meetings

Dates were noted as follows: 27th March 2012 - Stratherrick Hall; 24th April 2012 - Foyers School; 22nd May 2012 - Stratherrick Hall; 26th June 2012 - Foyers School

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY 24th JANUARY 2012

Members present: Mr M. Houston (Chairman) Mrs E. Merther (Secretary) Mr F. Ross (Treasurer) Mrs M. Cameron Mr K. Fraser Mr L. MacNally Mr A. MacPherson Mr A. Sutherland

Also present: Councillor D. Hendry Mr N. Kirkland (Fire Brigade) PC A. Mathieson

Apologies received: Cllr. H. Carmichael Cllr. M. Davidson

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2011 were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Mr A. Sutherland Seconded: Mr A. MacPherson

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Boleskine Bulletin

Chairman, Jane O'Donovan, and Committee members of the Boleskine Bulletin attended. Details of the new Committee and Editorial Team were outlined. She indicated a problem with printing the Community Council Minutes owing to the increasing length, and asked if they could be made shorter. The present payment by the CC does not cover the total cost of printing. Their Committee also felt that Minutes are out of date when printed, the oldest possibly up to four months old. Mr Houston responded that additional funds could be provided to cover costs if necessary. The Minutes are now much longer because of the increasing number of issues the CC deals with, and it is not possible to pick and choose which items should be included. Minutes are posted on the Web site and placed in Foyers shop when approved, but the BB is the only access many community members have to full information. Arrangements can be made to place Minutes in local notice boards also. A notice will be placed in the next Bulletin to ask the community their views on reporting of the Minutes..

FOYERS AND STRATHERRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(b) Broadband Provision

Mr Graeme Ambrose (Destination Loch Ness) reported that a survey around Loch Ness had been carried out late last year. The full report should be available shortly. The plan is to bring a feed in at Dores. The signal will bounce back and forth across the Loch, hopefully providing broadband access for those areas where provision is currently poor or totally absent. The company doing this will only go ahead if there is sufficient demand, so the likely uptake will be investigated once full details and costs are known.

(c) Foyers Pier

Mr Ambrose reported that British Waterways had carried out a survey, and indicates that, while basically stable, some work is desirable to make the pier fully accessible in the long term. This will make the pier usable for vessels of any size currently using the Caledonian Canal. £165,000 is needed and he is hopeful that this can be jointly sourced through Highland Council, SSE, and Leader. The possibility of water access for companies installing renewable energy equipment was noted.

(d) Key Worker/Affordable Housing

Cllr. Davidson has suggested that we request a public, drop-in session to update the community on the Gorthleck proposals, and has offered to arrange this. This was agreed and she will be asked to go ahead.

(e) Local Care Project

The Secretary reported only a small number of responses have so far been received to the flyer in the BB. A brief notice to encourage further replies will be placed in the next issue. Mrs O'Donovan suggested a talk at the Lunch Club might help. The Secretary will contact Paul Davies of Care in Strathnairn to ask if he could do this, accompanied by a CC member.

(f) Street Lighting - Energy Saving Measures

The notice for the BB missed the last issue so will appear in March. Initial feedback from Glenlia residents seems to be largely in favour of some reduction in lighting.

(g) Parking - Foyers Shop and Cafe

Cllr. Hendry reported that Land Registry searches are ongoing.

(h) TV Reception - Glenlia and Inverfarigaig

Mr Tony Williams (Glenlia Residents Assn.) had sent a copy of the Ofcom response, which is not at all helpful. Cllr. Hendry noted that if the broadband access project is successful this may also help with TV access.

(i) Foyers Schoolhouse Appraisal

There was further discussion on the problems of letting the property in close proximity to the School. Cllr. Hendry noted that the suggestion of conversion for use as a Nursery could be a good alternative.

Correspondence

Highland Council Correspondence:

Letter from Trading Standards - Doorstep Crime (circulated)
Other Correspondence and Circulars received
Letters and emails re new Whitebridge bus service
Letter from Boleskine Bulletin Committee
Letter advising of Community Trust grant for firework display email and Ofcom response to Glenlia Residents re TV reception
Copy of GRCA Letter of support to DLN re internet access
Letters re Foyers Planning Appeal website (circulated)
Scottish Water - Drawing of first proposal for new water main
email from Iain Cameron re proposed Dunmaglass grid connection
Forestry Commission - information re Forest Renewables scheme
SSE - Notice of Public Event re Balmacaan Hydro Electric Scheme

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported receipt of £1850 from the Community Trust for the firework display, and a payment of £21 for a flyer in the BB. Account balances are as follows:

Ordinary A/c: £1383.00 Project A/c: £7227.66

Planning Matters

(a) Caravan Park Appeal - Foyers

A number of people attended to complain about a document posted on the Appeals Website, apparently from the CC. The CC did not send this document and have been unable to establish who did. Enquiries with the Case Officer revealed that it was sent anonymously, and it is not possible to remove a document once posted. The CC has sent a letter explaining the context of the document and stating that it should be disregarded in relation to the Appeal, on which it has no bearing. The document was produced last May in response to an official allegation to Highland Council that the CC had been biased and undemocratic in reaching its response to the Planning Application. Mrs Ellam was present at the meeting and stated that she had made the official complaint which led to production of this document. The document was sent only to our Ward Manager, Highland Councillors, and CC members at the time. The complaint had been discussed by the CC, and the response agreed, in private. Cllr. Hendry noted that this is normal procedure, and documents of complaint and response are not normally made public unless a complaint is upheld. This complaint was not upheld.

The Chairman apologised if people had been upset by the tone of the document, but could not apologise for the content, which was agreed by the then CC in response to the situation at that time. He noted that the CC had done its best for the community at the time. He wondered if any future major development could be put to a full postal ballot of the electoral register, and Cllr. Hendry confirmed that this could be arranged if the CC wished. This was agreed to be an excellent suggestion.

FOYERS AND STRATHERRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(b) New Applications

House & Garage, Land E of Larchview, Whitebridge (MSC)
House, Land NE of Lyne Cottage, Gorthleck (FUL)(PIP already granted)
Alt Na Craidhleig, Stronelairg, Whitebridge, 70m. monitoring mast for 5 yrs. (FULL)
Allt Luaidhe, Knockie, Whitebridge, Screening application for HEP generation station

All plans and documents were studied and there were no objections. Members will be interested to see the details of the proposed hydro project at Knockie when full application is made.

Fire Brigade Report

Mr Kirkland reported a budget meeting is due next month to make decisions on the future of the service.

Policing Matters

PC Mathieson reported there have been some thefts of copper from radio antennae, and asked people to watch for unauthorised vehicles. He noted the Christmas/ New Year period had been very quiet. Cllr. Hendry was pleased to say that reported crime locally had been below average.

Roads and Signage

(a) Outstanding Matters

The following items have been reported but still await attention:

Pot holes on Garthbeg road - Cllr. Hendry will pursue this; Pot hole by cattle grid - Bochruben road; Clearance of ditches/drains; Grass etc. - pavement at Thain Road.

No response to enquiry about salt/spreading rates, but noted that this seems to have improved.

Bridge by Boleskine Cemetery - was to have been done last Autumn. Further enquiry to be made as dip in road getting worse.

Movement of timber lorries and consequent damage - Cllr. Davidson reports timber transport due to be discussed at next Ward business meeting in February.

Erroglie speed limit - 40 mph limit already in place, but reduction to 30 mph is requested.

(b) Discussion of Road Improvements Proposed by TECS

Members would like a further meeting with Richard Evans to go over these. A request will be made.

(c) Other Roads Items

Mr Sutherland reported a new culvert has been run under the road on the Inverfarigaig pass where a drainage problem was causing subsidence.

There is some recent damage to the parapet of the Altkirk bridge on the pass.

Pot holes: Glenlia Road, Foyers; Dell Road, Whitebridge. Roads throughout the area noted to be in a poor condition, with major pot holes on many of them.

Cllr. Hendry offered to go round the district with a member of TECS to look at the problem areas. This was agreed. He informed the CC that there is currently some additional money available for road work, but this is limited.

Trees on the Foyers/Dores road adjacent to Easter Boleskine were reported to be overhanging and impairing visibility.

Water and Sewerage

The plan of the proposed new water supply pipe line has been received. Members feel the proposals are likely to be hugely expensive, and not the best solution. It is thought the problems relate to extraction licences. A representative of Scottish Water will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss this.

Community Project - Gorthleck

The final grant is awaited from Leader, when the loan from Highland Council can be repaid. The Project will then be wound up and a report prepared.

Renewable Energy and Community Benefit

The proposed Dunmaglass grid connection involves installation of a large sub-station in proximity to houses with no mains power. The possibility of connection to the grid could be explored for people wishing it. Mr Sutherland wondered if we should be enquiring about community benefit for installation of this equipment. He will write to raise this on behalf of the Community Trust.

Forest Renewables have carried out a survey of sites suitable for small hydro schemes in Scotland. Details of sites identified can be found on the Forestry Commission website.

Any Other Competent Business

After a very unsatisfactory first week, it was reported that the new Stagecoach bus service to Whitebridge seems to be operating as it should.

Mrs Cameron raised the problem of cars parking on the road in front of Glenlia, where visibility is poor on the approaches. Though not illegal this is undoubtedly hazardous, and it was suggested, in the first instance, car owners should be approached by the Residents' Association and asked to use alternative parking. Additional car park, or a suitable lay-by is unlikely to be provided in the present financial situation, but enquiries will be made with TECS.

Mrs Cameron also noted that, in the year of the Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee, some sort of community event would be nice. Members will think about possible events.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 28th February 2012 at the Foyers Primary School. The meeting was closed at 9.25 p.m.

MARCH MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED to THURSDAY 29TH MARCH 2012 7.30pm STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK

CHRISTIAN COMMENT

How were you in January? I felt tired, lacking in energy and unable to shake it off. I imagine it was the combination of dark, damp and windy days that caused it. It was such a relief to read in the bible that God understands that we are weak at times and not able to do what we feel we should do. God understands, accepts and loves us.

Now that the sun has started to come out occasionally and the mornings are getting lighter I have started to come out of my hibernation and feel that maybe I do have some energy which is great. It is very easy to then start to think that I don't need God's understanding any longer because I can get on with it myself again. But God wishes us to accept His help and encouragement when we feel tired and when we feel on top of the world.

Jesus says in the bible "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll

recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Matthew 11, The Message)

In a more traditional version it reads,

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt 12 v28-30)

God doesn't want us to try and earn our way into His good books because He knows we can't without Him. He wants us to trust Him and accept that we need His help. He doesn't say there will be no burdens, He says that He will help us with life's burdens, we just need to ask and accept His help and love.

Iain King - Dores

Church Meetings

Church of Scotland: Sunday - Boleskine 10.00am, Dores 11.30am. Mr I. King 01463 751293

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 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: 12 noon, Gorthleck, every 4th Sunday. Mrs E. Fraser 01456 486282

Roman Catholic Church: 12.30 pm, alternate Sundays, Whitebridge. Father Stuart Chalmers, 01463 232136

APOCALYPSES

The word 'apocalypse' will bring to mind the highly acclaimed Vietnamese war film – "Apocalypse Now" (1979 directed by Francis Coppola). For others, it will bring to mind numerous films and novels that portray a cataclysmic end of the civilisation as we know, and in some cases, the total destruction of the planet. These are very much the images that many have of apocalypse.

At 19.30 hrs on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of April, May, June, July and August in **Boleskine Church, Drumtemple**, there will be a short series of lectures on apocalypses. We shall begin with an introduction and, thereafter, briefly explore some of the Old Testament apocalyptic passages. The meetings are open - you do not need to be a member of the Church to attend.

Fraser Turner, Interim Moderator, Dores & Boleskine Parish Church

Remember :

Foyers and Stratherrick Coffee Club

Held on the second Tuesday of the month

At the Waterfall Café, Foyers 10am - 12 noon

All Welcome

Boleskine Seniors Lunch Club

Held on the last Friday of the month

12.30 pm £2.00 per person

Currently at Whitebridge Hotel
(Moving to Stratherrick Hall in April)

Ring Joyce Wills to book (by previous Friday)

01456 486 269

Stratherrick and Foyers

Parent, Baby & Toddler Group

Playgroup held in Stratherrick Village Hall, Gorthleck

Every Wednesday morning 10.30-12.30

£2 per family per session

Contact Susan 486411 or Elinor 486400 for info

The playgroup would like to thank the Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council for the financial grant assistance which we used to buy 2 nursery tables for playgroup craft activities

Stratherrick Clay Target Club

Shoot dates for 2012

All Rounder open shoot Sat. 31.03.12

Three Straths shoot Frid. 25.05.12

Local Summer shoot Thurs. 14.06.12

Open shoot Sat. 16.06.12

Keepers and Farmers shoot - date to be arranged

Christmas shoot - date to be arranged

Practice starts Thu. 14.05.12. Thereafter every 2 weeks

All welcome. Eddie Fraser Secretary 01456 486 372



LOCH NESS LUVIES

Ever felt that there is a budding actor in you?

Do you feel that you could give Brad or Angelina a run for their money?

Do you have a secret ambition to get up on a stage and 'strutt' your stuff?

Now is your chance to fulfil your secret longings!

The newly formed 'Loch Ness Luvies' are a group of people who have got together to put on a light hearted play to perform in front of a local audience. We are looking for people to join us. There are many different roles available and help needed with all aspects of putting on a play. Anyone that would like to join us (adults only please) should contact Wendy – 486727 or Jan – 486233 for further details; we will be holding a get together in March.

Watch out for more news about the 'Luvies', performance and ticket information.

We hope that some of you will want to join us and many more of you will come and watch the fruits of our labours.

TODAY LOCH NESS –

TOMORROW HOLLYWOOD!



FUN LITTER PICK-UP

Help us to keep South Loch Ness tidy

Please join our fun Litter Pick Up (you never know what interesting things you might find!!!)

Sunday 25th March

at 11.00 a.m.

Start at Foyers Shop Car Park

or Whitebridge Hotel

**Litter pickers, bags,
gloves and refreshments
provided in both locations**

Tel: 01456 486717

for more information

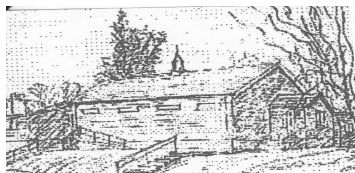
"Stratherrick Music Club"

Myself, Alan, Ernie Randall and Alex Sutherland had a get together recently and we've decided to try and get a group of people together to meet weekly in Stratherrick Hall. This is for anyone interested in any kind of music- perhaps to learn a few tunes, songs, learn about different instruments etc. This is not solely for traditional music- any music! We have between us a lot of musical instruments and enthusiasm so we are hoping people will come along. Anyone interested please contact myself on: 01463 751314 or Alex 01456 486711.

Thanks.

Ros Rowell, Edinuanagan Croft, Torness. email artist@highlandart.com

Stratherrick Hall



Regular Groups

- Mondays** - **Badminton 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.** Contact Fraser Ross 01456 486707
- Wednesdays** - **Parent, Baby & Toddler Group 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**
Contact Susan Denoon 01456 486411
- Wednesdays** - **Scottish Country Dancing 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.** Contact Judith Borup 01456 486464
- Fridays** - **Youth Club (P5's – P7's) 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.**
Contact Sandy or Ishbel MacLure 01456 486435
- Saturdays** - **Karate 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.** Contact Nicholas Walker 01456 486205

Community Sale of Work & Coffee Afternoon

Stratherrick Hall

Saturday 24th March

2pm

Lots of local groups running stalls

**Home baking, tombola, knitting
and much, much more!**

All welcome

For more info or to book a table
phone 486771

Culloden to Affric

The work of the
National Trust for Scotland
in the Highlands

talk by

Alexander Bennett

Countryside & Islands Group Manager (North)

In an illustrated talk, Alex will describe heritage conservation
in relation to nearby properties

Thursday 22nd March

Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck

7:30pm

A collection will be taken during the meeting, to help with
the Group's running costs.

South Loch Ness Heritage Group

Scottish Country Dancing

Want to get fit? Have fun? Make friends?

Why not come and join your local Scottish Country Dancing group.

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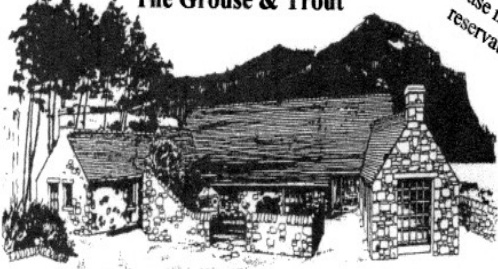
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For those without computers or the internet then we are of course more than happy to receive photos , typed text and hand-written words in paper form too.! Thanks so much to everyone who contributes articles, stories, photos etc - we couldn't do this without you. A very special thanks to all of our loyal Advertisers and also to the Community Council and Community Trust for their continued financial support . BB Team

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