

The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue 60 September 2012

Email: boleskine_bulletin@hotmail.co.uk

CHAOS AND CONFUSION CAUSED BY SCOTTISH WATER ROAD CLOSURES

The road closures which are causing so much inconvenience are set to last for many more months - **AND** the bad news is that there are even more closures to come !

Scottish Water will be attending the Community Council Meeting on Tuesday September 25th at Foyers School - 6pm start to help explain Why? Where? When? and of course For How Long?



Photograph by S. Ferguson

(Do you remember the good old days when this was a "temporary road closure" ?)

THE LOTTERY IS COMING TO FOYERS

FOYERS STORES IS EAGERLY AWAITING THE INSTALLATION OF A NATIONAL LOTTERY TERMINAL IN SEPTEMBER 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TELEPHONE
01456 486233

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

THURSDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
WATERFALL CAFÉ, FOYERS

10AM-12 NOON

ALL WELCOME

Community Website www.stratherrick.net

In the midst of Olympic fervour and a wonderful warm day I look back over the past 3 months.

South Loch Ness has seen some significant lobbying and planning for road improvements...**the B851 and B852** from the A9 to Fort Augustus. This has been some time in coming but looks to be worth it. It will be drainage improvements, road widening in places, edge strengthening and village entrance improvements. The money is from wind farm planning gain, Highland Council capital programme and also over £1 million of timber transport fund money. I must thank the Community Council for their tireless lobbying and all the angry people who turned up at our timber transport meeting at Gorthleck. The message went home and TEC services put in a bid for the extra money. The work starts at Daviot end this autumn and into next year.

Scottish Water has become a constant presence in your life for the next 6 months or more. They are connecting all of South Loch Ness to Duntelchaig. Let me or the Community Council know if it is having an unacceptable impact on your life. The contractor and Scottish Water have been to see some folks and improved things somewhat and they have revised the signage.

We are progressing with the proposed **housing at Gorthleck**. The recent consultation has shown a need for housing for older people and some interest in self build plots. There is a report going to the Community Council soon and I'll keep on to this one, it has been a long time coming.

Finally I am working with a group investigating the possibility of **community owned/operated transport**. You will know about the missing link, the lack of public transport between Whitebridge and Fort Augustus. The group is made up of representatives from Stratherrick (Iain Brown and Liam McNally), Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston. It would be a great boon to those whose children go in each morning to Kilchuimen, to shoppers and those going to work, as well as having potential for Tourist use. I read the comments on the petition done by Iain Brown and they were interesting and encouraging. We'll keep you up to date.

Surgeries start again in September. Meanwhile here are my contact details.

Abriachan Nurseries Loch Ness Side; 01463861424 Mob: 07818015689

margaret.davidson@highland.gov.uk facebook page Margaret Davidson Highland Councillor

Care - - - - At Home

If you or a family member need help, either through illness, frailty or disability, then the first place to turn to is the Home Care service and the NHS.

Since April this year adult care services moved from the Highland Council into NHS Highlands. Now you will be dealing with just one organisation and that will be an improvement.

Home care has changed dramatically over the past 10 years. The rates of pay are much better and there is a proper promotion structure. The home carers now do a lot of personal care, helping people to eat, dress and get back on their feet after a spell in hospital, and very little "house work".

It has been very difficult to get care at home on South Loch Ness. The cure will be recruitment of home carers who even though they would need to work to the Inverness or Fort Augustus team, could work around the communities. If anyone is interested in becoming a home carer do get in touch and I will get someone to contact you.

I also believe on South Loch Ness that people will soon be able to ask for the money to employ someone privately to deliver their care. This will be a much more flexible approach.

Over the winter I believe we need to talk a lot more about how we can support people at home in the community. It is where most of us will want to be as we get older.

Margaret Davidson (Highland Councillor Aird and Loch Ness)

Tel. No. 01463861424 or 0718015689 margaret.davidson@highland.gov.uk

Dunmaglass Wind Farm Community Liaison Group.

The Wind farm at Dunmaglass will commence with road improvements to the B851 within the coming months and the Developers, RES are setting up a liaison group with the first meeting before the end of August. The group will be made up of:

1. Two representatives each from Stratherrick and Foyers, Strathdearn and Strathnairn Community Councils, plus three local Highland Councillors, with the Council TEC Services (Roads) and the Ward Manager (optional)
2. The objectives will be:
 - a) To provide a forum for discussion and the exchange of information.
 - b) To create and maintain channels of communication between representatives of the wind farm owner and the local community.
 - c) To receive progress updates on the construction off Dunmaglass Wind Farm (including the upgrade works to the B851
 - d) To consider any issues arising from the construction of Dunmaglass Wind Farm (including the upgrade works to the B851

All of the group members will receive copies of notices, minutes and presentations which will also be available on a Dunmaglass Wind Farm web site. This information will also be provided to the B.B.

NOTE: THE 2 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM STRATHERICK AND FOYERS COMMUNICTY COUNCIL ARE ALEX SUTHERLAND AND SANDY MacPHERSON

Community Trust Update.

It is now eight years since the Community Trust was created as a company limited by guarantee with the principal shareholder being the Community Council. Much experience has been accumulated during that time and the Directors now believe that is necessary to review all of the organisation's founding documents so that it is equipped to meet future challenges. Among these are the ability to own property and to convert annual income into a longer term investment; whether charitable status would be of benefit; appointment of Directors; and employment of staff. This will be taking place with professional advice over the coming months and prior to next year's AGM.

A.Sutherland (Secretary to the Community Trust)

Fire Station News

A limited number of **Free Home Fire Safety Visits** are available in this area. If you would like a visit please call 08000 12 13 12 or visit www.hifrs.org

Foyers Station is currently looking for **old cars** that can be used to practice our extraction techniques, this is a vital part of our training. If you can help please call Neil on 486283, David on 486761 or Iain on 01808 521226. Your old car will be uplifted free of charge and any paperwork taken care of .

Our annual **Car Wash** is coming up in September so please look out for the posters. Come along to meet the Crew and support your local station, refreshments will be served. The times are usually 10am - 1pm .

A member of the Fire service normally attends the Community Council Meetings, so if there is anything you want to chat about in relation to Home Fire Safety then please come along - or contact any of the above telephone numbers.

Neil Kirkland Watch Manager Foyers Station

Extract from Community Trust Minutes - July 5th

The Community Trust is responsible for distributing the financial benefits from the renewable energy schemes. At present the Trust is exploring the possibilities of a community housing project, a large financial commitment, in Errogie.

For those unable to access the information off the internet the BB has decided to print an extract from the Community Trust Minutes as recorded on the community website.

Editor

EXTRACT (taken from Minutes of Community Trust Meeting 5th. July 2012)

4. Matters arising from last meeting.

Errogie Smiddy. The application to the Highland Council Ward Discretionary Budget for a grant towards the cost of going out to tender will be determined on 6th. August. In the meantime Mrs. Greenaway is comfortable in Elmbank Nursing home and has expressed an interest in remaining there rather than returning to occupy one of the proposed new houses. Some confusion has arisen within Social Services about whether the disposal of her property to the Trust would be held against the nursing home costs. Clarification is being sought but if Social Services does decide to claim the value of the property back from her it would inevitably make the project unviable. In the meantime the Trust is still the beneficiary under Mrs. Greenaway's will.

5. Regardless of whether the project proceeds two of the bills lodged so far should be lodged. These are a solicitor's bill for £1200 and an architect's bill for £4,390.12.

6. Approved Applications

Shinty Training £400; Stratherrick School Activities £4,500. Total £4,900

7. Ongoing applications

Drama Group - £800; Marathon Party - asked to seek support from Marathon

Organisers. - £512; Kernow Karate -£2,985.58. Total £3,407.58

8. Energy Efficiency – Approved but awaiting receipts.

Foyers Solar Panels £3,000; Errogie Solar Panels £3,000; Cultie Double Glazing £3,000; Foyers Double Glazing £3,000; Foyers Pellet Stove £2,244. Total £14,144

9. The Secretary had met with the new SSE Community Benefit Distribution team in Inverness to discuss their in house takeover of the Glendoe monies. An additional £33,301.35 is available for distribution for the year 2012/2013 and this will be added to by the generation income produced when Glendoe resumes production. The total available funds as at 5th. July before the agreed payments and outstanding commitments stands at £141, 020.86.

(The whole minutes can be viewed on the community web site. www.stratherrick.net The next meeting took place on 1st August but at the time of print no minutes of that meeting are available at the time of going to print – Ed.)

Next Community Council Meetings:

25th September **6.00pm** Foyers School,

23rd October 7.30pm Stratherrick Hall,

27th November 7.30pm Foyers School,

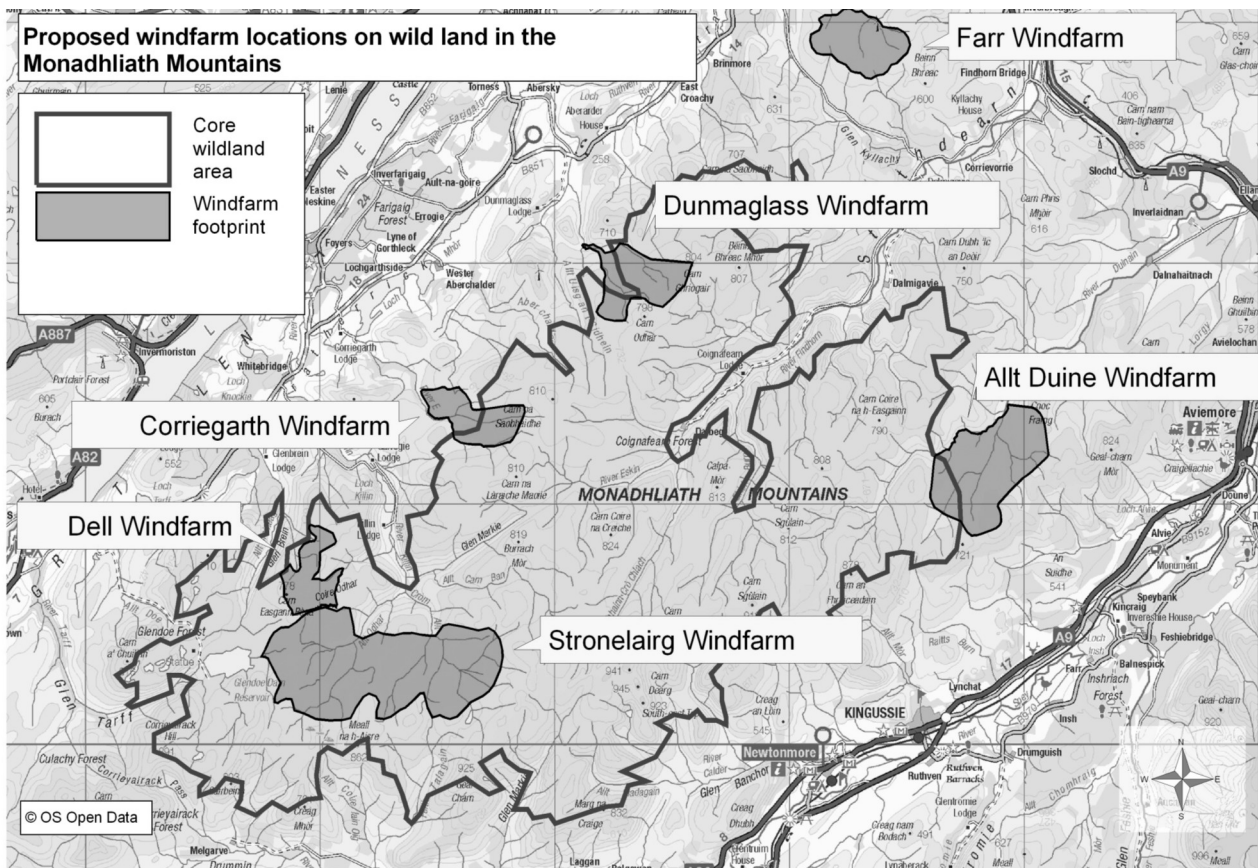
18th December 7.30pm Stratherrick Hall

Visit this community website to access information on the area. The site has the minutes/reports/contact details etc. for both The Community Trust, and The Community Council and also includes many other interesting items. Keep in touch with what is happening.

Community website: www.stratherrick.net

Windfarms in the Monadhliaths

The Monadhliath Mountains are an area of undulating upland plateaus and scattered hills, including seven Corbetts and one Munro, situated on the edge of Stratherrick. A map of wildness recently produced by Scottish Natural Heritage shows the Monadhliath to have the highest category of wild land – remote from roads and without modern artifacts. This is about to change. Five proposed windfarms involving 187 turbines are to be constructed on high altitude peatlands in the heart of this mountain area. The construction of hundreds of miles of new roads and the excavation of millions of tons of rock will forever change this wild and scenic area to an industrial landscape.



NON-NATIVE SPECIES - NEW LEGISLATION

Legislation on the control of non-native species came into force recently, making it an offence to:

- Release an animal, or allow it to escape, outwith its native range
- Place a plant in the wild outwith its native range
- Intentionally or otherwise place a non-native plant in the wild or allow a non-native plant to spread into the wild.

CODE OF PRACTICE ON NON-NATIVE SPECIES CAN BE FOUND AT <http://bit.ly/ScotCodeNNS>

REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

(for those of us who have lost the sheet of dates !!!)

2012	GREEN BIN	BLUE BIN
September	19th	26th
October	3rd, 17th, 31st	10th, 24th
November	14th, 28th	7th, 21st
December	5th, 19th	12th, 26th

Glendoe Power Station Tour

SSE has rescheduled the date of the proposed visit to Glendoe Power Station to **Saturday 20 October** to enable full preparation of the site for the tours. A booking system will be in operation as places are likely to be limited. A free phone booking number will be advertised nearer the time however if you would like to register your interest in the meantime please contact Susan Scobie on

THE MARATHON

NOTICE TO MOTORISTS

The Baxters Loch Ness Marathon will take place on **Sunday 30th September 2012**. The race starts at 10:00am.

The start is at the high ground between Fort Augustus and Foyers (B862) and drops down to the banks of Loch Ness at Foyers (B862). The route then follows the loch's south eastern shore, heading northeast towards Dores on the northern tip of the loch. From Dores, the race heads directly into the centre of Inverness, turning left over the main bridge in the city centre and left again for the last half mile along the River Ness to the finish at Bught Park.

Roads Closures are expected to be :-

0700 - 1030 B862 Start - RC Chapel

0945 - 1130 B852 RC Chapel to Foyers

1015 - 1200 Foyers to Inverfarigaig

1030 - 1330 Inverfarigaig to Dores

1015 - 1400 hrs Northbound Lane Dores to Holm Roundabout

(Diversion Dores to Inverness is via Essich Road during this period)

Street Lights in Foyers - Democracy?

A survey was conducted by the Community Council to establish residents' views on the recent energy saving trial for turning the lights off between 12 midnight and 6 am.

The results revealed that out of the 60 questionnaires distributed, 41 were returned in favour; 17 wanted the street lights to remain on all night and 2 were not concerned either way.

Despite the majority of over 2 to 1 the Community Council decided to maintain the status quo of **keeping the lights on all night**, and will inform Highland Council. The Community Council members were concerned about elderly residents. Was this the right decision?

HIGHLAND COUNCIL 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

Dear Editor,

CLOSURE OF PLAY PARK – GORTHLECK

We would like to explain the decision to close the Play Park in Gorthleck for a few weeks during the summer.

Following on from the very successful opening of the Community Space in Gorthleck the play park was being well used and enjoyed by many in the community. Unfortunately, however, a member of the community filed a complaint to Highland Council about the equipment in the play area. Following on from this complaint a report was written up by Highland Council who reviewed the play equipment and who raised a few minor changes which required to be made to the equipment. As this issue had been raised by a member of the community it was felt by the Community Council that it would be best to close the play equipment until the points raised in the report were addressed. It was also felt the best approach to ensure the safety of all children and to ensure that the insurance for the play area was not invalidated by the report.

One of the key areas of repair work undertaken was surrounding the groundworks/paths, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking members of the Fire Brigade for their help with this work.

It is unfortunate that the community member who raised the initial concerns with the play equipment did not approach the Community Council directly with their concerns. These concerns could then have been addressed immediately and rectified so that the play equipment could have been kept open over the busy summer period.

A follow up inspection was carried out by the Highland Council on 15th August. He was happy with the work that had been carried out and agreed that the play area was safe to open and be enjoyed by the children.

We just wanted to make everyone in the community aware of the reasons behind the closure of the play park and to apologise for its closure over such a key period of time. We hope that in the future if there are any concerns within the community that these will be raised directly with the Community Council in the first instance.

MarkHouston

Fiona Kirkland

Chairman, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council

Dear Editor

GAELIC CONVERSATION GROUP

Is there anyone who might like to learn Gaelic?

Some people may prefer a more structured method of learning like formal classes. There may be funding we can access to help pay for a fluent speaker to lead this, but we need to get an idea of the level of interest first.

Our children (both fluent from primary medium education) and I are learners, and we need practice so we don't lose what we have now. As far as we know, Inverness is the closest for any groups but we would prefer something local. Any ideas or suggestions on this?

Contact us at whitebridge@uwclub.net or phone 01456

486714. Thank you! **Jane, Maire and Alexander Brown.**

LETTERS PAGE

Dear Editor,

It's good to talk – but can you?



There is much talk about the poor broadband quality in our area – but what about the phone lines?

We experience on a regular basis crackly noises so much so that it can be impossible to have a conversation. Hanging up and redialling helps sometimes but not always. Getting cut off is another common side effect of making phone calls. And following the recent thunderstorms we were without a phone connection altogether for about two weeks.

Do you have similar experiences? Or any other problems with your phone line?

If so, we would like to hear from you, initially to get an idea how widespread these problems are and also for possible campaigning regarding an upgrade of the Gorthleck Exchange. Please contact : Brian Yates and Johanna Schuster, 486628,

johannamts@yahoo.com

Johanna Schuster and Brian Yates

Dear Editor

Recent Street Light Switch Off - Foyers

Glenlia Residents Community Association would like to make it clear that they were not responsible for the street lights being switched off. It was a Highland Council initiative to save money and all rural areas are being considered.

GRCA put out a survey around Glenlia Residents which included a question about having the street lights switched off. The results were forwarded to the Community Council. The feedback included suggestions that residents had made- such as the Highland Council providing security lights for people who did not feel safe with the lights off.

We were never informed of the decision to have the lights switched off. We were not informed if it was for a trial period or for good. If Highland Council are telling you any different then this is incorrect. We will follow up with the Highland Council to see if the suggestions have been considered.

Glenlia Residents Community Association

Dear Editor

Summer Dance

We would like to thank everyone who attended the Summer Dance in Gorthleck Hall on 11th of August and made it such a great night. Also a big thanks to Whitebridge Hotel for providing the bar, Davie Shand and Neil Ferguson for the music and Foyers Shop for their donation to the raffle. All money raised will go to fund a future community event, details of which will follow shortly . **Iona and Tina**

BRIAN GREENLEES 1933 - 2012



Brian Greenlees passed away at Highview Nursing Home, Inverness in May. Brian had been cruelly struck down by a major stroke in September 2011 which had left him paralysed and unable to speak. He had been cared for in the Raigmore Hospital before moving into Highview just before Christmas. There was always a stream of visitors which was a great comfort to this much loved and respected gentle man.

Brian was born in the borders area of Scotland where he grew up on his parents farm. Brian attended school in Edinburgh where he excelled in fencing and was also a keen horse rider. Brian did his National Service in the Royal Military Police and spent a considerable time in Singapore and Malaya during the Communist uprising - but as with many of that generation he never really spoke about it. Following his National Service the family moved to Inverness.

A keen driver and motorsport enthusiast Brian was a founder member of the Highland Car Club and was actually car Number One in the very first Snowman Rally - which he went on to win. Just days before he died he had been taken out on a trip to the Classic Car Rally in Inverness, followed by a wee dram in a pub - the outing had really cheered him up.

Brian met his wife Margaret and they were married in 1958, their 2 sons were born in 1961 and 1964. During his professional career he spent time in the motor trade before taking up what would be his true vocation - caring for others. He managed a half-way house for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts and was very highly thought of by the residents, many of whom became lifelong friends.

Everyone who knew Brian will say he was an absolute gentleman. He never got angry or raised his voice, an aura of calm hid his strength and resolve and he was always the calming voice during times of strife.

Upon retirement Brian and Margaret moved to Errogie but Brian did not seem to grasp the idea of retirement and seemed to be busier than ever. A keen DIY enthusiast he was always to be found knocking down walls, building walls, decorating or doing carpentry. There are many bird houses, bird tables, trinket boxes and picture frames in local houses which he had made and then sold on at craft fairs. His summer months were spent in the garden, tending the plants and lawn with loving care. In his words he had perfected the art of "pottering about".

Very much an outdoor man Brian could be seen walking his Labradors, whatever the weather. The weather was just another challenge to deal with and during snow he would dig out of his own drive so he could go out to help tow others out of snowdrifts.

Brian is survived by his widow Margaret, their two sons Colin and Gordon, daughters-in-law Jan and Sally and 4 wonderful grandchildren, Harry, James, Emma and Fraser. Brian is very much missed by family, friends and neighbours.

Margaret, Colin and Gordon Greenlees

ANTHONY (TONY) PHILIP WILLIAMS 1965 - 2012

Anthony Philip Williams(Tony) was born on 20th August 1965 at St Davids's Hospital, Cardiff to Nimrod and Christina Williams of Barry, South Wales, the youngest of five children.

Tony was educated at Cadoxton Juniors and Barry Boys' Comprehensive. He gained a Master's Degree in Petroleum Engineering from The Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, London in 1987 after 4 years of study. On leaving University, Tony spent several months travelling in North America and South East Asia with his best friend Roland Hamp. After several part time jobs he started work as a Petroleum Engineer in the Oil Industry in Aberdeen. After working in a number of technical disciplines in that field he specialised as a drilling engineer. He was a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers for over 25 years.



Working for Deminex and then Amerada Hess, he met Marjory in Aberdeen..We married in 1994 and built the family home in Foyers. In 1996 our son Cameron was born and we moved from Aberdeen to Foyers and Tony started to work off-shore.

Working month-on/month-off periods latterly as a Drilling Superintendent, Tony explored for oil in Denmark, Indonesia, Libya, Egypt and Ghana. He loved his work although there were many frustrations and difficulties such as being the second last person off a burning rig in off-shore Indonesia. With some minor repairs to him and major repairs to the rig, he was ready to go again. Witnessing the Egyptian uprising from his flat while he remained working there was an exciting but worrying time.

Tony had a unique sense of humour and was usually quick to smile and share a joke, especially when circumstances looked dire. It could be best described as dry or droll, and sometimes gruff or cutting, especially of people who he felt were not genuine. Underneath there was a genuine caring for people and a willingness to muck in and help out.

Tony recently became a Trustee of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust and was Chairperson of the Glenlia Residents Community Association which recently raised funds for the new children's play park in Foyers.

Tony died on Sunday 24th June while taking part on a community cycle ride he helped to organise from Whitebridge to Killin. He suffered a fatal heart attack and died instantly.

He has spent his time dedicated to his family and friends, unselfishly and good- humouredly and was especially proud of his son Cameron. It is a great comfort to his family that he knew nothing of his death, did not suffer, and had many thoughts and plans for his future.

Thank you to those who have helped us over the last few weeks and who continue to help and offer support. It has helped us to bear the loss of Tony and is very much appreciated.

Marjory and Cameron

JOAN MacPHERSON

90 YEARS YOUNG !!

Joan, a much loved resident of Lower Foyers, recently celebrated her 90th Birthday.

Joan was born Joan Patricia Leslie in Inverness in 1922 . The youngest of 6 , she spent her childhood in Darnaway, near Forres with her parents , 4 sisters and brother. Joan attended Forres Academy. After the war Joan and her parents moved to Errogie for work as her father was a Saw Mill Contractor.

Joan met her husband, Kenny MacPherson (Killiechoilum) at a local dance and they married in 1948. They had 2 sons, Leslie and Kenneth, and 2 daughters Patricia and Joan Pearl. Joan also has 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Joan and Kenny moved to Lower Foyers in 1982.



The family arranged a party held in Stratherrick Hall so that Joan could celebrate her milestone birthday with her many friends and family.

Family members all the way from France even attended. Joan's sister Inez was married to Claude Humbert and they lived in Paris for many years. Inez's sons Ronald, Max and Barry were there with their wives and also Joan's great-nephew Alexander, and great-niece Lindsay.

A lovely evening of singing and dancing was enjoyed by all. Joan did not want presents but received over 100 cards and of course some lovely flowers and gifts - there was even a mouth organ - how we all remember Joan and her musical tunes in the past !!

Joan's secret for her longevity is :

"A loving family, hard work and a ready smile "

Glenlia Residents Community Association

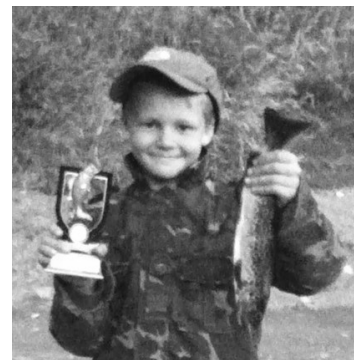


Glenlia play park was officially opened on the 17 June 2012 and we would like to thank everyone who attended on the day. A special thanks to Cllr Margaret Davidson and Charles Stephens -Ward Manager - for making time out of their busy schedules to attend. It was a very successful day, starting with the children of the area each carrying the 'olympic' torch around the green with Alan Beith leading them on his bagpipes. A special thanks to Morag Cameron for organising this. The torch was used to break the ribbon and the park announced as open. All equipment was extremely busy on the day and the play park has continued to be busy with children of all ages. Thanks to all the children who play in the park and take good care of it. With the sudden death of our Chairperson, Tony Williams, the committee would like to acknowledge all the work carried out by Tony on our behalf, our thoughts are with his family, always.

Olympic fishing competition

Andrew Cameron , aged 8 , from Foyers was the overall winner of the Olympic fishing competition coming 1st for the most fish caught and the biggest catch. He received a trophy and a medal.

Jamie Scobbie ,aged 15, also got a trophy and medal for the over 12's. There was a great turn out but not many fish caught! The rain and wind just kept coming all day; we finished off with a BBQ and presentation of trophies in a lovely dry marquee. Thanks to James Scobbie for organising the event. Event funded by **Highland Council** thanks to them and all the local support at the events.



FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS A NEW HEAD TEACHER

Foyers school children, parents and staff welcome Mrs **Louise Robertson** to Foyers Primary School.

We all wish her the best in her new post.

SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP

THE SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP

OLD STRATHERRICK & FOYERS CALENDAR 2013

Wall Calendar, double A4 size landscape, Spiral bound, one page photo, one page per month block view. Selection of local B & W topographical scenes of the area, see below for some of the proposed scenes.



Cost £8.50 each Pre-orders only with monies paid in full at order. To order contact Alister Chisholm 01463715713, or Frank Ellam 01456486691. Last order date 31 October 2012 to ensure delivery for Christmas

Also available "OLD DORES CALENDAR 2013"

FIELD DAY

A dozen of us went on Graeme Ambroses's Field Day in July despite somewhat moist conditions! We started where the Dirichurachan track crosses the River Farigaig and headed down the right bank of the river, viewing the remains of an old mill complete with grindstone. The views of the river with its many falls were spectacular, these widened to a panorama including Dun Dearduil, as we passed an old settlement and crossed the Corkscrew road to the remains of St Moluag's chapel, with one or two slab gravestones still in situ. We then climbed up to Castle Kitchie which started its career as a 'dun' – an iron age fort. The site was used by a couple of Victorian young ladies to build a fantasy castle – but all they managed to build was the kitchen, hence its name.

We proceeded down the road towards the 'corkscrew', deviating to see some further fine falls on the river, and then followed the corkscrew bends down to the Forestry Visitor Centre. One or two of us had to leave the group at this stage but the remainder had a packed lunch at the centre before viewing the old Wade bridge and Telford's Pier, finishing off with a visit to the Black Rock about three quarters of a mile NE of Inverfarigaig where Wade's road took a higher – and more spectacularly precipitous – route than today's loch-side road.

Many thanks to Graeme for being our genial very knowledgeable leader and igniting our interest, despite

THE SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP

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Also available "OLD STRATHERRICK & FOYERS CALENDAR 2013"

AGM

Tuesday 2nd October, 7.30pm,

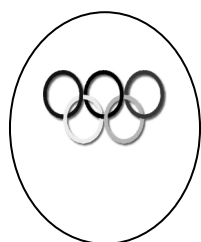
Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck

The AGM will be followed by 'The Monster Canal' by Stephen Wiseman.

Stephen is the Heritage Officer for the Caledonian Canal and will talk with pictures about the canal's heritage, history, archives, conservation and community involvement.

Please come along and support our speakers and the work of your local heritage group.

OUR VERY OWN OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY



Foyers and Stratherrick Schools, along with South Loch Ness Nursery and the local playgroup, joined forces to take our very own Olympic torch around the community. Starting at the Nursery - Craigdarroch House Hotel(Playgroup) - Foyers School - Upper Foyers - Lower Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Alt na Goire - Errogie - Aberchalder - Gorthleck - Trynloist - along to Whitbridge - up to Knockie - back along the Killin road then through Dell estate and back to Foyers where the torch was used to open the new play park in Foyers by Margaret Davidson, Gerry and Paula.

The gold medal went to Daisy Bell who walked around 11 miles in total. The most unusual mode of transport for the torch was Millie, Daisy and Pippa riding their pony from Knockie to Foyers and the fastest miles were covered by Verity, Ishy, Andrew, Jay and Liam, who ran from Foyers to Inverfarigaig in 23 minutes.

Morag Cameron



Inland, Upland and Cold –Gardening on the Edge

You surely don't want to know about my failed vegetable crops and the weather -related lowest yield of soft fruit ever. Instead I'll tell you about this year's successful project. - a wild life pond and small bog garden.

If you are a weakling like me, first find a muscular young man who is keen to make a pond and instruct him to dig it out. If it is shelved make sure the shelves are level for the pond baskets to sit on. Not all of mine are so I've had to put gravel under baskets to level them. Make at least one deep part, a metre if possible, and a gently shelving beach so that any animal that falls in can get out. Then buy the cheapest carpet underlay to place beneath the pond liner (or use sand). Place your pond liner on top. (Reference books from the library will tell you easy ways to calculate how much you need). Fill with water. Since it is a wildlife pond you can put some soil in. Bury the edge of the liner in the earth and place stones round. The connected bog garden is shallower, the liner punctured at intervals, some gravel put in with a good layer of soil on top and surrounded with small stones to remind you where it is.

My pond is oval and about 5m.x2.5m. Pond skaters and water beetles arrived amazingly quickly but so did the dreaded algae. You can twirl that round a garden cane and lift some of it out but you really need oxygenating plants from the garden centre. I suspect I don't have enough of them but the pond water has cleared to some extent. The aim is to have a third of the surface covered in leaves but it will take a while for plants like Frog Bit, Water Lily and Water Hawthorn to bulk up. You need trailing plants like water forget-me-not and water speedwell to hide the pond liner at the edges.

After all that you can go wild planting up the pond, the bog garden and its surrounds. Native plants such as Yellow flag iris, Mimulus, Purple Loosetrife, Ragged robin and Marsh –marigold are all suitable. Non-natives such as Candelabra primula will result in a colourful spring display. Add other moisture loving plants such as hostas, astilbes, filipendulas, rodgersias and ligularias along with some shrubs and trees and that's it sorted.

This summer it has been soothing to watch the ever changing circular patterns the rain makes on the pond's surface. It has been hard work but should be a lasting pleasure. Now I am looking forward to seeing frog spawn in spring.

Wee Gairdner

Man V. Horse – Sunday 5th May 2013

After a successful inaugural Man V Horse competition on 6th May 2012, a small group have got together to carry this event on again next year. The start time will be a little later – 11. a.m. - to give more time for folk to travel to the venue in Foyers. It is a linear route of 26 km and finishes at Drummond Farm, Dores. There will be static water stations provided at the Forestry centre at Inverfarigaig and also at the foot of the Fair Haired Lad's Pass.

This year we had about 10 runners and 10 riders tackling the course which included several good climbs, including the Fair Haired Lad's Pass. The amount of hill evened out the times between the club runners and riders. Just one "elite" horse managed to get a fair distance ahead of the nearest runner to win the beautiful Jacobite Warrior Perpetual Quaich, which goes to the winner, either runner or rider. Small quaichs were presented as keepsakes to the fastest runner and the fastest rider. All competitors received either medals (for the runners) or rosettes for the riders. Fastest time by a runner was 2 hrs and 2 mins but the slowest runner was not that slow at all and managed to finish in 2 hrs 30 mins. A fantastic effort from everyone. At the finish there was an array of sandwiches and cakes that had been donated for competitors and helpers alike. This was a chance for runners and riders to get to know each other and find out about each other's disciplines.

Enquiries for next year's event should go to Candy Cameron – candy@lochnessriding.co.uk or tel. 07973 815208.

The event will be run under the auspices of the South Loch Ness Access Group which is affiliated the British Horse Society's Bridleways Group and insured through them. All profits will be donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust this year as our chosen charity. If you raise £100 for the charity then the entry fee is £10 – if not you will need to pay an entry fee of £15. Sponsor forms available with entry forms from Candy Cameron.

Scottish Country Dancing

Want to get fit? Have fun? Make friends?

Come and join your local Scottish Country Dancing group.

We are a friendly bunch of mixed ability, age and sex and will give all newcomers (even those with two left feet!)

a warm welcome.

Classes start in Stratherrick Public Hall on

Wednesday 17th October at 7.30pm

If you would like some more information ring Hugh Nicol on 486350 or Judith Borup on 486464



Singing for Fun - New Singing group in Stratherrick

The Stratherrick singing group came into existence in June 2012. We are meeting every second Monday at 7 pm. We have been singing traditional songs mixed with modern folk songs some of which are of our own composition. We are a group of mixed ages who enjoy the pleasure to be found in singing in a relaxed welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

With the approach Christmas we will be singing songs for the festive season around a roaring log fire and making the most of the long, dark nights ahead.

Everyone is welcome. No musical experience is necessary.

Contact Christiane on 01456 486403 or send an email: maketodaycount@web.de

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

Boleskine Seniors

Lunch Club

Held on the last Friday of the month

12.30 pm £2.00 per person

Ring Joyce Wills to book (by previous Friday)

01456 486 269

Dates of the next 3 Lunches:-

Friday 28th September (Stratherrick Hall)

Friday 26th October (Whitebridge Hotel)

Friday 30th November (Whitebridge Hotel)

REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

Foyers and Stratherrick Coffee Club

Held on the **second Thursday** of the month

At the Waterfall Café, Foyers

10am - 12 noon All Welcome

FOYERS AND STRATHERRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Next Meeting: Foyers School on

Tuesday 25th September

6.00 pm Open to All

N.B. Scottish Water attending re : Road Closures

MACMILLAN COFFEE

MORNING

THURSDAY

27TH SEPTEMBER

**WATERFALL CAFÉ,
FOYERS**

10AM-12 NOON

ALL WELCOME

Community Websites:

www.stratherrick.net

www.stratherick.org.uk

Stratherrick Hall



Regular Groups

- Mondays** - **Drama Group 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.**
- Wednesdays** - **Parent, Baby & Toddler Group 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**
Contact Susan Denoon 01456 486411
- Wednesdays** - **Scottish Country Dancing** Contact J Borup 01456 486464
- Saturdays** - **Karate 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.** Contact Nicholas Walker 01456 486205

The Hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates. It is well equipped and ideal for a family party, group bookings, meetings etc. For further information and bookings please contact Pam Simpson, Beechwood, Gorthleck. 01456 486364. Emergency keyholder. Kathy Stoddart 01456 486329

Stratherrick & Foyers Parent, Baby & Toddler Group

Stratherrick Public Hall,
Gorthleck

Wednesdays 10.30am-12.30pm
£2 per family per session

Come along and
meet other children and
parents in the area.

Organised
activities
include:

Arts and crafts
Music & dance

Eden Court theatre visit

Sponsored bounce (watch this space!)

Kids' Xmas party

All families welcome, every Wednesday, just come along.

Contact Susan 01456 486411 or Elinor 01456486 400

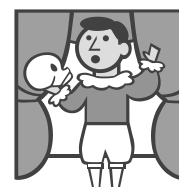
if you require further info.

We look forward to seeing you!



LOCH NESS LUVVIES UPDATE

Things are progressing well with our weekly rehearsals. We are very fortunate to have Francis Abbot on board as our 'Director' – so at least we have someone who knows what they're doing! We are all having great fun getting into our roles and planning costumes and scenery.



There will be two performances of 'Two Weddings and a Conference', a light hearted comedy written by Karen Dolling, on **16th & 17th November at Stratherrick Hall**. Tickets will be on sale at Foyers Stores from October and available on the night.

We hope that you will all want to come along and enjoy our thespian efforts. For any more information please contact Wendy – 486727 or Jan – 486233.

BOLESKINE BULLETIN - AGM

TUESDAY 6th November 2012 at 7.30 pm

Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck

Please come to see us. We need to know if you are happy with the Bulletin or if you would like any changes so that it is better for you.

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<p>Acupuncture & Chinese Herbal Medicine</p> <p>If you would like more information or make an appointment please contact:</p> <p>Johanna Schuster MAOM, Lic.Ac., MATCM Riverside, Lower Foyers</p> <p>01456 486628 (House visits available)</p>	<p> 01456 486226</p> <p>Whitebridge Hotel</p> <p>Home cooked bar meals</p> <p>Served</p> <p>12-2pm and 6-8.30pm</p> <p>Real Ale</p> <p>www.whitebridgehotel.co.uk</p>	<p>BAGPIPE TUITION</p> <p>BY EXPERIENCED TEACHER</p> <p>Piobaireachd & Light Music</p> <p>All ages welcome</p> <p>Please contact</p> <p>Brian Yates</p> <p>01456 486628</p>

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DEADLINE - 15th November 2012**

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