

The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue 62 March 2013

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Welcome Home After 104 Years!

1909 School Medal returns to FOYERS.

Mr Arthur Alderdice from Glasgow recently contacted Frank Ellam of The South Loch Ness Heritage Group. Arthur had in his possession a medal, issued in 1909 by The Foyers Public School - now known as the Foyers Primary School of course.

The medal records that it was presented by E.E.Eccles Esq to **Catherine McFadyen** on being elected Dux Girl for 1909.

Mr Eccles was the manager of the British Aluminium factory in Foyers. It seems that they sponsored medals each year for the top boy and the top girl in the



school. The medal is hallmarked silver, assayed in Birmingham 1909 and measures just less than two inches in diameter with a scroll motif at the top and a ring for attaching to a ribbon.

Arthur very generously wanted the medal to be donated to the school so that it could be displayed for the pupils and parents to view and contemplate. Louise Robertson, head teacher at Foyers School, was delighted to hear this and has ordered a display case to show off the medal. Arthur acquired the medal at a car boot sale approximately thirty years ago for a few pounds.

Our grateful thanks go to Arthur. It is very touching to have this medal back in Foyers. It would be interesting to find out more about Catherine McFadyen - perhaps your grandparents were at school with her? Please let Frank Ellam or the BB know if you have heard of the McFadyen family.



Community Trust AGM

The AGM of the Community Trust was held on Thursday 27th February in Stratherrick Hall. It proved to be much more than a normal AGM and became a debate on the proposed new constitution and the future direction the Trust should take. An open meeting is to be arranged to take this discussion forward. The accounts required clarification and could not be approved by the Board at this time.

Watch the Noticeboards as the date for the open meeting is still to be arranged.

Community Website www.stratherrick.net

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST – Report March 2013

Fiona Ambrose, Secretary, Evergreen, Inverfarigaig, IV2 6XR - tel.no.486717: e mail ctsecretary@stratherrick.net

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust was held on 27 February in Stratherrick Hall. The Chair's report is on the Community website – www.stratherrick.net. There was a query on the annual accounts so they will be reviewed, submitted and approved at a future meeting. Helen Grainger and Andy Holt resigned as Directors of the Trust and we thank them for their time, hard work and their valuable contributions over the years.

The Trust welcomes new Directors, Liz Merther and Morag Cameron, appointed by the Community Council. The Trust wishes to appoint a further two Directors - six applications have been received.

At the AGM there was an open discussion about the Articles of Association and the lack of communication about the work of the trust. Therefore a number of actions will be taken forward.

1. The Trust will look at how it can improve its communication and use a variety of methods to ensure everyone is well informed
2. a survey will be sent to every member of the community seeking views on what type of projects should be considered for future funding and
3. the Trust will hold an open meeting and a lawyer will be present to answer questions about the Articles of Association

If you wish to apply for a grant, there are three application forms as follows:-

Grants up to £1,000; Grants over £1,000; Energy Saving Grant - up to £3,000

All the forms are on the website but if you are unable to access the web, please ask for the appropriate form from the secretary.

The Chair, Helen Grainger, presented her annual report and an extract is shown below:-

“The Community Trust has a mandate from the Community Council to act as the Negotiator for community benefits monies from various green energy schemes within the community. The Trust acknowledges the need to move forward with the times and to equip itself to meet future challenges. Among these is the ability to convert annual income into long term investments, appoint new directors and employ staff. Energy Efficiency still remains at the heart of the Trust's business and I am pleased to report that over the last year **£32,017** has been awarded to 14 individuals. Money can be awarded up to the value of 50% of the cost, not exceeding £3000 in total. These energy efficiencies for Green Technology improvements such as Solar Thermal; Photo Voltaic panels, replacing single to double glazing and Biomass heating. We do not pay retrospective grants so please make an application to the Trust first. Trust Directors will be happy to assist any resident to complete their application.

Over the last year, 15 organisations have applied to the Trust and **£23,527** in grants has been paid. Senior Lunch Club, Loch Ness Luvvies, St John's Cemetery Volunteer Group, Community Council Website, 3 young people awarded Grants, Stratherrick and Foyers Primary schools, Parent and Toddler Group, Jubilee Party, Olympic events, Rainbow and Brownies and Guides Pack and a Contribution towards a community defibrillator. We have received a lump sum of £100,000 from RES Renewable Energy Company as a first payment in respect of Dumnaglass Wind Farm”.

DIRECTORS:

Willie Fraser - Chair
Lyn Forbes - Vice Chair
Morag Cameron
Sharon Ferguson
Liz Merther
Fraser Ross
Justin Sharp
Alex Sutherland

Job Vacancy

Treasurer - Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

Duties include dealing with grant applications, paying invoices and keeping the accounts. The rate of pay is £12 per hour. At present duties average 5 hours per week but may rise as further funds are received and more grant applications made.

To apply, please send a brief CV to Fiona Ambrose, Secretary, Evergreen, Inverfarigaig or by e mail to ctsecretary@stratherrick.net

HUGE SUB STATION PROPOSED FOR TORNESS

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission PLC, part of SSE, owns and maintains the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. To enable the transmission of power generated from the two wind farm developments in the area. Dunmaglass and Corriegarth SSE are planning to build a new substation at Torness. **They are holding a Public Consultation on Monday 15th April 2013 – Stratherrick Public Hall 3pm -7pm**

Comments can be made to Liaison Manager, Lisa Marchi, at 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN. Email address: lisa.marchi@sse.com Comments made to Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission PLC are not representations to the planning authority. Once a planning application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make formal representations during the statutory consultation period conducted by the planning authority. The closing date for comments on the proposal is 30th April 2013. www.sse.com/farigaig

WIND FARM UPDATE

Stronelaig: The planning consultation has now ended. Highland Council has deferred their decision until they have had a site visit. It is the Scottish Government however who make the final decision on these larger schemes. There is considerable opposition to the development nationwide due to intrusion into wild land and the impact on the peatlands.

The **Dell Wind Farm** developers have not submitted the planning application as yet. This scheme is still at a scoping stage. Keep an eye on the press as lodging your objections is time limited.

The proposed substation at Torness is a consequence of the wind factories. Power from the turbines on the hills has to be carried across the straths of the Highlands. In our case from – Dunmaglass, Corriegarth, and possibly Dell and Stronelaig. The projects don't stop with the turbines - they are just the start of development. Did we have an indication that a substation would have been so large or where it was to be?

CHLORAMINES IN DRINKING WATER

Scottish Water has sent a letter to all households recently with information on a change in the chemical treatment of tap water. Instead of chlorine, water will soon be treated with **chloramine** – a mixture of chlorine and ammonia. While chlorine evaporates into the air relatively quickly, chloramine is more stable and will persist in the water system; one of the reasons why it is toxic to fish and aquatic life. Chloramine is the easiest of the options available to treat water. However, though the use of chloramine is convenient and cheap, it may not be safe.

There is growing evidence that chloramine forms toxic byproducts as it disinfects and causes more rapid deterioration of valves and water pipe fittings. Unfortunately, there have been very few studies on its long-term impact on human health.

As Erin Brockovitch (yes, the real person portrayed by the film) has said in a 2010 report about the use of chloramines in the USA *"there are safer alternatives"* and *"we should stop cutting corners where health and safety are at stake"*.

(If you have concerns about the new treatment of drinking water write to your local councilor)

PROPOSED HYDRO SCHEME AT KNOCKIE

The lovely woodland walk down to the boathouse on the shores of Loch Ness at Knockie will shortly be closed to the public for the summer. Another hydro-scheme is to be constructed down through the gorge. A weir will be erected at the mouth of Loch nan an Lann by the old stepping stones with a pipe running down the route of the old track, a power station will be built by the waterfall near the shore. The woodland is a sight of European importance (SAC) and it is within the Easter Ness SSSI. The planning application will be submitted in the next few months.

LETTERS/POSTS

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY DELIVERY

It seems that regrettably American-style delivery systems have arrived in the Scottish Highlands. The new telephone directories have been found lying in deep snow, muddy puddles, seemingly just flung haphazardly onto driveways (probably from a vehicle which didn't even bother stopping!) Many households have not got one at all.

Thank heavens that the **Boleskine Bulletin** is still delivered in the old-fashioned way, with care, by hand, directly through the letter box (if there is one), and your distributors even take the opportunity for a wee chat if the householder is in. This is so much nicer. Thank you. M.M

LUNCH CLUB

The **Boleskine Seniors Lunch Club** has been up and running very successfully for a year now. At the January lunch everyone gave a big thank-you to the hard-working volunteers who look after us so well.

A new strategy of self-service coffee and tea after the meal has encouraged people to mix more and get to know each other - one of the main aims of the Lunch Club.

Anyone in the community (over the age of 60) would be very welcome to join. Lifts can be arranged if you do not have transport. Ring Joyce on 486269 in plenty of time to book your place.

The Lunch Club meets on the last Friday of each month and is currently at the Whitebridge Hotel; we will be moving back to Stratherrick Hall in May for the summer months.

Buddy MacDougall

Editorial Comment

At the recent Community Trust AGM a new constitution was proposed that would build on and expand the original **BUT** there would still be no provision for a democratic nomination and election process. A missed opportunity one may say. The community council set up the trust to manage the funds received from the renewable energy companies on behalf of the community. The ten trust directors consist of three community council members and seven others. Although any member of the community can apply to fill vacant posts, appointments are decided by the existing board and there is no election process. Other community trusts try to be open in all their activities including publishing details of recipients of grant aid. Hopefully the existing board will come to the conclusion that directors must have a mandate from the people to manage the community benefit by a fair and open election process.

Editor

Thank you from Foyers Primary School

On Saturday 8th December at Foyers Primary we held a wonderful Christmas craft fayre that would not have happened without the tremendous support of a number of people in the community. Our thanks to Katie Ellem who spent a number of Wednesdays cutting/ sewing with the children who ended up with beautiful cushions, scarves and Christmas decorations. Susan Fallows also spent time with us and showed us how to make birch hearts. Johnnie and Ruth Seaton, Croachy donated their time to cut blocks of wood that the children transformed by sanding and varnishing into tealight holders. A number of parents spent a snowy evening at the school making holly wreaths. On the morning Luke Pering's granny and auntie did a splendid job serving teas, coffees and mince pies to everyone who had kindly come out on a rather cold day with snow still lying from the day before. A number of parents donated baking and gave up their Saturday morning to help supervise stalls. Without this kind of help the school would not be able to hold these events. A number of businesses also supported the school by donating prizes for the raffle.

My final thanks to everyone who attended the event and helped make it such a success raising a very healthy total of £403 after expenses were deducted. What next I hear you ask?

Wednesday 27th March Beetle Drive at 7pm in Foyers School (see page 12 for more details)

Stratherrick Primary School

Parent Council

Stratherrick Primary School has a very active Parent Council and we would like to thank all of you who attended the Bingo Event in November 2012. We had parents, children and members of Stratherrick Community helping us raise £215

The following are much appreciated in providing prizes for the Bingo: Fres Hair, Fort Augustus; Jacobite Experience Loch Ness; Landmark Forest Adventure Park; Inverness Ice Centre; Ross County Football Club; Holm Mills. Secretary, Margie.

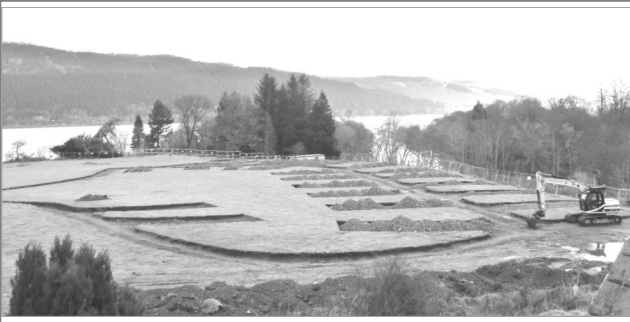
Children's Community Christmas Party 2012

This year about 40 children from the community came along to the party. They had a great time playing party games, dancing, eating and of course meeting the main man himself - Santa! A huge thank you to all those adults and S1's who volunteered their time if it were not for them and the Grant from the Community Trust this annual event would not be possible. So, on behalf of all the children - THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

THANK YOU

LOUISE MILLS would like to thank everyone in the Strathnairn and Stratherrick Community for all their good wishes, cards, gifts and flowers during her recent illness. A big thank you, to all who rallied round and helped my parents, **Jimmy and Maggie Mills**, through a difficult time. I hope to catch up with you all in the New Year.

Loise



BIG CHANGES IN LOWER FOYERS

Work has now started on the infrastructure
for the Caravan Park in the loch-side field.

◀ The view from an upstairs bedroom of a Riverside house



Canoe Trail Rest

Foyers Trailblazer Rest is nearing completion. A small area has been cleared and levelled to accommodate a few tents and there is a composting toilet housed in a beautiful log cabin as well as a fire pit surrounded by logs for seating. The canoe rack is in place but work has still to start on a three-sided shelter. The popular footpath along the shore below the Fraser Monument is to be improved as well.

The Great Glen Ways Partnership [British waterways Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Council and Scottish Natural Heritage] created the Great Glen Canoe Trail with financial support from the European Development Fund and the Foyers Trailblazer Rest is one of two such rest-stops along the loch. The other one is at Knockie. The log-cabin toilet was built by the Tsarina and Imperial Dacha Co. Ltd., a company based in southern Scotland using Scottish trees which are shaped using hydro power. They use linseed oil, a natural treatment, to preserve the buildings which can be expected to last around 150 years.

This site has been developed with care for the environment and has minimal impact on the views from the beach or from the water. An appropriately sized camp-site for our small village.

* **Inland,Upland and Cold – Gardening on the Edge** *
* Are you, as I am, madly catching up on those parts of the garden you didn't manage to tidy in the autumn? Now that wind-blown leaves *
* have been removed I can at last see emerging snowdrops. Tight globes of yellow aconite buds are on view as I write and if the sun *
* continues, they will open and very soon crocuses and daffodils will be on show. *
* Have you identified what has been looking really good in your garden over the winter? For me it is always evergreens and I dearly wish *
* that I had mature plants of these desirable things. From the direction of Dores going in to Inverness along Island Bank Road there is a *
* feast of evergreens for your eyes. Planted long ago they provide one of the most pleasant approaches to the city, even in winter. So let's *
* plant feathery chamaecyparis, shiny laurel and Portugal laurel, holly, box and above all yew to give our gardens substance for the future. *
* As to smaller evergreens, I have just now some handsome plants of stinking hellebore, *Helleborus foetidus*, a British native. Don't be *
* put off by the name. The smell is not too bad and only if you cut or bruise it. It grows about 60 cm tall, thrives in shade and has *
* palmate dark green shiny leaves. It comes into its own in spring with many yellow-green cup-shaped flowers edged with reddish-purple. *
* Unfortunately, it suffers from leaf-spot, first on the lower leaves, but I have found that if I cut those off, most of the leaves survive *
* unscathed. *
* Other evergreens looking good here are variegated saxifrage, *Saxifraga umbrosa variegata* and *Euonymus fortunei 'Emerald'n'Gold'*, *
* both providing a splash of yellow much needed on dull winter days. *
* **Wee Gairdner** *

BOLESKINE BIOLOGICAL RECORDING GROUP

ANNUAL BIRD SURVEY

If you enjoy bird watching and would like to take part in the Stratherrick annual count of breeding waders please get in touch with either Rosemary Holt 48631 or Jane O'Donovan 486355 We would welcome any assistance and will help anyone not sure of wader identification.

ROBERT CLARKE



Robert (better known as Rab or Horseon) was born in Dunphail in 1927 .

After finishing school he worked locally on farms before joining the Army. During duty in Malaysia Rab was badly injured and returned home .

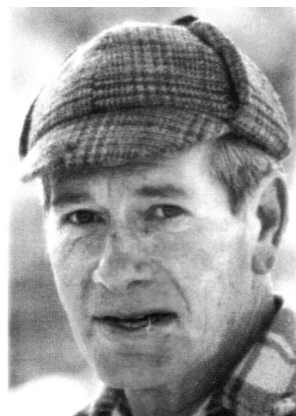
He came to Stratherrick over 40 years ago to work on the Hydro Scheme . In his line of work he travelled a lot but finally settled in Gorthleck and for many years enjoyed helping out wherever he could .

Rab loved to play darts and many would say he was one of the best . He loved his independence and liked nothing better than to jump in the car and head off .

He often revisited Forres and took the road from Dunphail to Duffes , where his family are buried . On his final day we took that journey with him one last time .

We would like to thank everyone who was able to take that journey with us , sent cards and offered words of sympathy. We would also like to thank all who visited him over the last year in New Craigs, Kingussie Nursing Home and the Grove Nursing Home, Elgin. He much appreciated and enjoyed those visits.

Robert , Caroline and Kayleigh



Weston Robertson, Struthan, Errogie.

16th July 1935 - 12th January 2013

Weston was born in Haddington on 16th July 1935 , the fifth of six boys. During World War 2 his family moved to Dumfries where his father had been sent to take up a foreman's position at the ICI factory. Weston attended Dumfries Academy until 1950. He enjoyed playing football and was scouted by Preston North End, but chose to enlist in the army rather than chance a life as a professional footballer! He continued to enjoy sports in the army playing rugby, football, hockey and badminton. Weston enjoyed army life and the traveling it involved. His first overseas posting was to Singapore and it was during a period of leave to Penang that he met Irene and a year later they were married in Singapore in April 1956. Their daughter Janet was born in 1963 whilst on a posting to Hampshire then off to Aden from 1966 - 1967. Westons favourite posting came next, off to the Falkland Islands to work with the Americans in South Georgia. This was in 1968, fourteen years before the Falklands conflict so many people had no idea where this was! On his return to the UK and a year spent on British soil off to Iran during the reign of the Shah, a peaceful time then! After over thirty years service Weston was ready to settle down and the family moved to Stratherrick early in 1983.

Mr & Mrs Bailey (Whitebridge Hotel) asked Weston and Irene to move into the Hotel whilst they took their annual holiday to look after it and, always up for a new challenge, they leapt at the offer. During their time here they met and formed long lasting friendships with the people of Stratherrick.. Bill Brailsford (keeper at Garrogie Estate) was asked by Weston if he could join in the "grouse shoot" as a beater and so began a new chapter of his life lasting 15years "up the hill ". Being a ponyman on the estate, among other things, was a very special time for him.

During his time spent in Errogie he was also a member of the Stratherrick Hall committee, kept busy and out of mischief, along with Janet Sutherland, Michael MacDonald and several other helpers who organised the annual Stratherrick Highland Games which involved playing five a side football with a five foot inflatable ball and various stalls and money making schemes! These were great fun and still fondly remembered by many- probably mainly by the tourists on buses diverted into the car park and held "Robin Hood style" until they had helped to boost funds!

Weston had a happy life in Errogie with many visits to and from his daughter and grandson in Kyle of Lochalsh where he died peacefully on 12th January surrounded by his family.

Janet and Irene Robertson

Article 2



Training to fight fires and search for anyone trapped inside smoke-filled buildings.

Fighting a fire and searching for people trapped in smoke filled buildings is the most dangerous part of our job. An accepted mantra is that we will take calculated risks to save savable lives but will not risk the lives of others to save those we know have perished. At any incident, the officer in charge is under extreme pressure to commit his/her firefighters even when lives are clearly already lost, so this mantra helps to manage the very high level of emotion that all of us experience when attending a building fire. It ensures that the operation is carried out thoughtfully and not just through an emotional 'red mist'.

Fighting a fire is both exciting and humbling. Exciting because there are high levels of danger and uncertainty and 'humbling' because the speed and ferocity with which a fire can grow demands respect. No building fire will be the same, however there are patterns of fire behaviour that we need to recognise. Two of them, you may have heard of: Backdraught and Flashover.

A 'Backdraught' is a potentially lethal situation, where hot gases suddenly explode out of a newly opened doorway engulfing those who have opened the door.

A 'Flashover' is when a 'fire in a room' rapidly becomes a 'room on fire'. Because of the extreme heat generated by a fire, Fire fighters can get caught out by furniture or carpets etc. spontaneously catching fire behind them and effectively

FOYERS FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

cutting off their escape route. Again, this is a lethal situation which we guard against through good training.

We practice fighting fires and searching for trapped persons in our Fire House at Aberarder and at the Invergordon training centre. Moving through an unfamiliar smoke-filled building is not easy. We team up as a pair, don our breathing apparatus and plunge into the blackness and the heat. As a pair, we are utterly reliant on each other. One of us is carrying the heavy 45mm hose and feeling her way along the wall, which acts as a main reference point in the pitch blackness. The other is at her side, holding on to the tunic of his partner and stretching out into the middle of the room. We 'feel' with our feet and with the back of our hands and move as quickly as we can through a room, searching under furniture and inside cupboards etc., hoping we will find the person who is trapped. All this is done in the pitch dark, mostly in a crouched position, while lugging a heavy hose and dealing with any hot gases or fires as they appear. The trick is to control the adrenalin and remember exactly which rooms we have searched and how to get back out the way we came.....not easy in unfamiliar surroundings in the dark. Our air tanks will last 30 minutes and, by judging things well, we should be leaving the building with just enough air left and quickly brief the next team who will continue the search from where we left off. On removing the breathing apparatus, our faces are red and hair and tunics soaking with sweat. It's hard work but of course ultimately rewarding if a life is saved as a result.



We hope our articles will persuade you to look around your own properties and make sure that you are 'fire safe'. We can help with this and.....for a FREE Home Fire Safety Check from our team call FREEphone 08000 12 13 12 or, for more information, visit www.hifrs.org and click on the "Community Safety" page link on the left hand side



MAN V. HORSE

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL, 2013

After a very successful inaugural Man V Horse competition on 6th May 2012, a small group (including runners and riders) have got together to carry this event on again next year under the South Loch Ness Access Group – hoping to make it bigger and better. The start time will be a little later – 11. a.m. with a compulsory briefing at 10.30. It is a linear route of approx. 26 km and finishes at Drummond Farm, Dores.

Static water stations will be provided at the Forestry centre in Inverfarigaig and also at the foot of the Fair Haired Lad's Pass.

In 2012 we had about 10 runners and 10 riders tackling the course which included several good climbs, including the Fair Haired Lad's Pass. The views were stunning from lots of locations on the route. The amount of hill evened out the times very well 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. £100 cash prize went to the winner, sponsored by the South Loch Ness Tourist Group (www.visitlochness.com). Small quaichs were presented to the fastest runner and the fastest rider. All competitors received either medals (for the runners) or rosettes for the riders.

50% of all profits (including sponsorship) will be donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust this year as our chosen charity and the other 50% will stay with the South Loch Ness Access Group. The entry fee for both runners and riders is £10 at the time of placing the entry plus a minimum of £20 in sponsorship to be paid on the day of the event. Horses must submit to veterinary inspections as a condition of entry. Horses must be shod or booted for the duration of the event.

This year the event will start at the Whitebridge Hotel. Parking for horses will be in and around the village so please obey the parking stewards. The hotel will have a special pasta meal on its menu the evening prior to the event and (depending on uptake) there will be a celebration ceilidh either in Dores or in Whitebridge on the Sunday night.

The event will be run under the auspices of the South Loch Ness Access Group which is affiliated to the British Horse Society's Bridleways Group. All enquiries for this year's event should go to Candy Cameron. candy@lochnessriding.co.uk or tel. 07973 815208



Congratulations to Alex

Over 65s National Cross-country champion

At the recent Scottish National Cross-country Championships held at Grant Park, Forres Alex Sutherland won the over 65's class.

"The route suited me because it covered terrain a lot like Stratherrick - hills and sometimes muddy woodland paths" he told the BB.

Since his retirement a couple of years ago Alex has been training extensively in the local hills and tracks. He now aims to run in the British national championship at Sunderland next month and if that goes well he hopes to be the Stratherrick representative at the next international race in Brazil! The Brazil event is a masters event not the main Olympics, they take place all over the world.



KITTY FRASER ON HER 90TH

Kitty Fraser, Rose Cottage, Lochgarthside celebrated her 90th birthday recently. Her four sons and their wives, her grandchildren, great grandchildren and close friends spent the afternoon together at the Boat House Restaurant in Fort Augustus.

Kitty with her "boys" Leslie, Andrew, Donald and Ian

F.C. news - Doug Earle-Mitchell, Planning Manager, Forestry Commission Scotland



Aspen. Work has been undertaken to strengthen the position of the aspen (*Populus tremula*) stand on the hill above the Farigaig visitor centre. Local contractor John Parrott, working through the charity organisation Coille Alba, took on the task. This stand of aspen is possibly one of the largest stands around the Inverness area, outside of Strathspey, which makes it both unusual and special. Aspen is a native tree and could be an important species to woodland management in the future, but it is very vulnerable to browsing by mammals when young. Look closer at the woodland around the Farigaig visitor centre, Dun Deardail and Hill head and you should notice quite a lot of young aspen in the woodland edge. FCS propose to survey this during 2013 and consider how this could be managed to secure it as a long term component of the local woodland. Aspen is home to several highly specialised species including the Aspen hoverfly (*Hammerschmidtia ferruginea*) and the very attractive yellow and brown bordered Dark Bordered Beauty moth (*Epione vespertaria*).

Juniper. Thank you to everyone who sent in records about where they had seen juniper in the local area. This was very helpful. Regretably, yet another tree disease has been confirmed in the UK recently and this one affects juniper. It is a fungal root infection caused by *Phytophthora austrocedrae* and there have been two sites confirmed with this disease close to Inverness; although not around Farigaig at present. We are still learning about this infection. If you are interested in knowing more about this and juniper in general, the charity organisation Plantlife Scotland are running a one day event near Strathpeffer on 14th March; contact Davie Black on 01786 469778 or davie.black@plantlife.org.uk.

Rhododendron. FCS will start to do more work to remove rhododendron from the forest estate along South Loch Ness over 2013 and 2014. This work supports the national initiative to control very invasive plant species that can threaten more important native habitats.

Planning and operations We will be commencing work on the review of our long term forest plan in the summer. This piece of work will take 9-12 months to complete and we are keen to work with the community as part of this. We will provide more information in the next edition. As part of this we have started a strategic review of timber haulage in the forest and will approach the community for their thoughts later this year. Last year's operations are all but complete and this year's programme of work will be starting shortly.

GOOD NEWS - SPRING IS ON ITS WAY

Walk in the woods by Foyers Falls. Saturday 18th May - 6am-8am

The Red Squirrel walk

With the days stretching out again, it's tempting to get outdoors and make the most of it. Plants are getting into gear for the growth season and buds are already swelling and bulbs beginning to bravely push through the soil. Animals are becoming more active and it's hard to miss the increase in birds song, the increase in the number of mole hills and even the first few brave insects. Red squirrels are also getting more active as they enjoy the longer days and start finding a mate for the summer ahead.

On Saturday 18 May, the Red Squirrel walk will take place early in the morning from 6 to 8am. Early morning is a great time to spot wildlife, most mammals are just settling down to sleep after a busy night and birds are waking up for the day. We'll be trying to spot some of these charismatic animals and enjoying the feast of bird song. If you are interested in coming along, please let Katy Martin know (01463 255291 or katy.martin@highland.gov.uk). There is a charge of £3 for adults and £2 for concessions.

Before the end of March small trees and *Rhododendron ponticum* are being cleared from the Foyers falls and gorge viewpoints to open up the views.

Katy Martin - Senior Ranger Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey

From the Acting Head Teacher Foyers Primary

"Hello, my name is Louise Robertson and I am acting Head Teacher at Foyers Primary. I have been in post since August 2012 and have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the school. Prior to starting at Foyers Primary I was the infant teacher at Aldourie Primary School, having taught there since August 2004. Preceding that, I taught at Duncan Forbes Primary as a senior teacher for a number of years. I live just outside Dores with my husband David and two daughters. Catriona is in third year at Inverness Royal Academy and Kirsty is in Primary 3 at Aldourie Primary. I am a member of Dores and Boleskine church though recently I have been attending St.Columbas church at Holm Primary School so the children can attend Sunday School . I look forward to meeting more members of the community as the lighter and hopefully warmer days come in",

Don't forget to come along to our Beetle Drive on Wednesday 27th March at 7pm in Foyers School!

POST FESTIVE MEAL - FOYERS

On Monday 04 February 32 Senior Citizens resident in Foyers and Inverfarigaig assembled at the Lochardil Hotel, Inverness, for their annual "Post Festive" luncheon, made possible this year by a by a grant received from the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. The hotel staff served an excellent meal from a multiple choice three course menu. The annual luncheon is the only time that the older members of the community can sit around a table together. The function was organised by the committee of the Foyers Senior Citizens Benevolent Fund.

Harry Joyce, Secretary.

Mrs Grace McGillivray

It is with great sadness that the BB has learnt that Mrs Grace McGillivray died peacefully in St Olaf nursing home in Nairn on Sunday 17th February.

The funeral in Inverness on Thursday 21st was followed by her interment at Boleskine Church. Our condolences go to Grace's two daughters Fiona and Ruth and to her granddaughter.



LOCH NESS LUVVIES

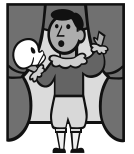
What next?

The Luvvies are all well rested after the triumph of their first production and now feel strong enough to contemplate their next challenge.

The script department have been busy searching for the perfect vehicle to suit our varied talents and we think they've found it.

So we are just about to start the "process" of putting on a play and plan to be ready to perform it to our adoring public, hopefully in June. Look out for details of performance dates at Foyers Shop, The Whitebridge Hotel local notice boards or contact Jan 01456 486233.

We have a Facebook page - 'Loch Ness Luvvies' where details will also be posted. Now I must go and get into the 'zone' to prepare myself. Until next time "dahlings", cheerio.



SINGING For Fun

Would you like to

- learn songs from all over the world
- surprise your partner or your family with a new skill
- have fun with friendly likeminded people
- experiencing the enjoyment of a group achievement

Then you should join the singing group in Stratherrick

Everyone is welcome

No musical experience is necessary

It is free of charge

We meet every second Monday at 7 pm

Contact Christiane on 01456 486649

Or send an email to: maketodaycount@web.de

FOYERS MEDICAL CENTRE - OPENING HOURS :

MONDAY - FRIDAY

9.00am - 1.00pm AND 2.00pm - 6.00pm

Consultation by appointment

Wednesday - late evening appointments 6.00pm - 6.30pm

01456 486224

www.foyersmedicalcentre.co.uk

Repeat prescriptions available from our dispensary either by telephone or via the website

A FEW SCOTTISH WORDS

COUP - To upset or overturn . Rubbish tip

BIDE - to stay, reside

BIDIE-IN - a person who stays with another of the opposite sex without being married

GREESHACH - shivery, shuddery, chilly

GREET - cry, lament, grumble ineffectually

The Voice

Local forum where everyone can have their say.

<http://www.stratherrick.org.uk/>

Ski Boots For Sale

Size 4/5 Nordica £10;

Size 8/9 Salomon £25:

tel.486355

HIGHLAND COUNCIL CONTACTS

Our Highland Council Ward is Ward 13 - Aird and Loch Ness

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

REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

2013	GREEN BIN	BLUE BIN
March	6th, 20th	13th, 27th
April	3rd, 17th	10th, 24th
May	1st, 15th, 29th	8th, 22nd
June	12th, 26th	5th, 19th

MOBILE LIBRARY

Route 12 – Gorthleck -Whitebridge – Errogie

THURSDAYS

(March 28th; April 18th; May 9th; May 30th).

Stratherrick Public Hall 12.35 -12.50

Stratherrick Primary School 13.15 – 13.55

Whitebridge Old Post Office 14.00 -14.25

Errogie Bridge before 'Ark' 15.00 – 15.35

Visits every third week

Route 3 – Torness – Errogie –Foyers – Inverfarigaig

WEDNESDAYS

(March 13th; April 3rd; April 24th; May 15th; June 5th)

Torness 10.30 – 10.40

Errogie Church 11.00 – 11.15

Lower Foyers Riverside 11.40 – 12.20

Park Terrace H/B 13.20 – 13.30

Foyers Glenlia Road 13.30 – 13.55

Primary School 14.05 – 14.40

Coach House 14.50 – 15.05

Inverfarigaig 15.15 – 15.40

BOOK SWAP at the Waterfall Café, Foyers

Since the café's re-opening in August 2010 there has been a book swap scheme operating. People can swap a book for a book or donate money to 'buy' a book. Any money raised goes to local causes. To date over £800 has been given to local groups and for one off events. A huge thanks to everyone who has donated books; you have all helped to raise this fantastic amount of money. Please continue to support the scheme by donating and swapping books; also by sending people to buy them.

Locals and holidaymakers alike enjoy being able to find a book to read and support local schemes at the same time. We have just taken in a large amount of hardback novels and autobiography's; worth coming to take a look at. Once again, thank you.

Jan Hargreaves



Beetle Drive at Foyers Primary School

Wednesday 27th March

Do you fancy an evening of fun and laughter?

Join us at 7pm in the school hall

Entry £1 Refreshments during the interval.



STRATHERRICK CLAY TARGET CLUB

After some maintenance to be carried out in early May practice shoots will resume on 16 May 2013, 6-30 pm and will be held fortnightly to end Sept, all welcome.

During the Summer /Autumn, 3 local shoots including Junior competitions will be held with a fourth one around Christmas time, dates for those to be arranged. The annual open 50 bird shoot will take place on Sat 15 June 2013.

The Club can, by prior arrangement, cater for small private functions, also special Junior evenings.

For further details contact Eddie
Tel. 01456 486372

SOUTH LOCH NESS HERITAGE GROUP

Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck

Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm

Illustrated Talk on

HIGHLAND DROVING

by David Henderson

David hails from Inverness, and is a retired economist, having been a university lecturer, manager at HIDB/HIE, and most recently a Highland Councillor. He is Past Chairman of the Highland Livestock Heritage Society, creators of the Drover Exhibition at Dingwall.

Admission free, but donations gratefully received for our on-going work.

CHRISTIAN COMMENT

I have friends locally who rent out a lovely cottage and have never had a problem finding tenants, but for months now, try as they might, there has been nobody to take the cottage. They are now reluctantly coming to the conclusion that they may need to change plans completely and sell the house which was their first home in the area.

We were praying about this one morning and asking if God could either provide someone to rent the house or if it could be clear that selling was the way forward. That afternoon someone came to view the house for rent and whilst they were looking round someone else knocked on the door asking my friend if they would consider selling. We smiled – God loves to hear our prayers and to answer them but He also knows the best plan and timing for every situation.

Jeremiah chapter 29, verse 11

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.'

Iain King

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. Contact : 01463 232136



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girls in the lead

Brownies

GUIDES

Rainbows



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NEW TO STRATHERRICK

STRATHERRICK IS GAINING THREE GIRL GUIDING UNITS WHICH WILL ALL BE MEETING ON A THURSDAY NIGHT IN STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK.

OUR FIRST MEETINGS WILL BE COMING TO YOUR AREA IN MARCH.

RAINBOWS, BROWNIES AND GUIDES ALL HAVE FUN. THEY PLAY GAMES, MAKE FOOD, CRAFT, WORK TOWARDS BADGES, LEARN NEW SKILLS, MEET NEW FRIENDS AND GO ON TRIPS.

IF YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN JOINING EITHER OF THE ABOVE GIRL GUIDING GROUPS THEN PLEASE RING JANE ON 01456 486738 FOR MORE DETAILS

PLEASE HELP US MAKE THESE GROUPS SUCCESSFUL FOR OUR AREA.



Stratherrick Hall - Regular Groups

- Mondays** - **After School Sports Club 3.15 p.m. - 4.15 p.m.**
- Wednesdays** - **Parent, Baby & Toddler Playgroup 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**
Contact Susan Denoon 01456 86411
- Wednesdays** - **Scottish Country Dancing** Contact J Borup 01456 486464
- Thursdays** - **Guides/Brownies/Rainbows** Contact Jane 01456 486738 for details
- 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

After School Sports Club

Athletics -Tennis – Zumba – Kung-fu - Shinty

For all primary age children

Stratherrick Hall

Mondays 3.15pm – 4.15pm

£1 per week

Contact:sarah.liebnitz@highlifehighland.com
or

Morag 486475 /Sharon 486771.

Local Playgroup

Stratherrick Hall

Gorthleck

every Wednesday

10.30am-12.30pm

£2 per family per session

Contact Susan 01456 486411
or Elinor 01456 486400 for info



The playgroup would like to thank
Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust
for their very kind grant of £790 that will fund new
equipment, toys, craft sundries and movement and
dance exercise classes for the group.

BOLESKINE SENIORS LUNCH CLUB

Held on the **last Friday** of the month

12.30 pm All over 60's Welcome £2.00 each

To reserve your place telephone Joyce Wills
01456 486 269

Next 3 Lunches:-

29th March (Whitebridge Hotel)	Book by Friday 22nd March
26th April (Whitebridge Hotel)	Book by Friday 19th April
31st May (Stratherrick Hall)	Book by Friday 24th May

**TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT PLEASE REMEMBER TO
BOOK YOUR PLACE AS NUMBERS ARE LIMITED**

Community Website: www.stratherrick.net

FOYERS and STRATHERRICK COFFEE CLUB

Held on the **2ND THURSDAY** of the month

The Waterfall Café, Foyers

10am - 12 noon

All Welcome

SERVICE 16 INVERNESS-FOYERS	MONDAY TO FRIDAYS						SATURDAYS	
	Sch.	NSch.						
Upper Foyers	07.55	08.04	09.55	11.55	13.55	16.20	09.00	13.30
Lower Foyers	08.00	08.09	10.00	12.00	14.00	-----	09.05	13.35
Inverfarigaig	08.07	08.16	10.07	12.07	14.07	16.27	09.12	13.42
City Centre	08.45	08.54	10.45	12.45	14.45	17.05	09.50	14.20
				Sch.	NSch.			
City Centre	09.00	11.00	13.00	15.15	15.30	17.50	12.30	18.10
Inverfarigaig	09.38	11.38	13.38	16.08	16.08	18.28	13.08	18.48
Lower Foyers	09.45	11.45	13.45	16.15	16.15	18.35	13.15	18.55
Upper Foyers	09.50	11.50	13.50	16.20	16.20	18.40	13.20	19.00

SERVICE 18 WHITEBRIDGE - INVERNESS	MONDAY TO FRIDAYS					SATURDAYS	
		Sch.	NSch.				
Raigmore Hospital				13.35			
Retail Park Tesco				13.45			
Inverness Bus Station	06.10	08.05	08.10	13.50	15.10	10.00	16.20
Inverness Royal Acad.	06.20	08.14	08.20	13.59	15.35	10.10	16.30
Torness – Coulanour Jct.	06.57		08.55		16.12	10.47	17.07
Torness		08.50		14.35	16.17		
Torness – Coulanour Jct	06.57	08.55	08.55	14.40	16.22		
Errogie	07.01	09.00	09.00	14.44	16.26	10.51	17.11
Gorthleck	07.05		09.05	14.48	16.30	10.55	17.15
Whitebridge	07.15	09.12	09.12	14.55	16.40	11.05	17.25
Knockie Road End	07.20	09.17	09.12	15.00	16.45		
			NSch.	Sch.			
Knockie Road End	07.25	09.17	15.00	15.00	16.45		
Whitebridge	07.30	09.22	15.05	15.05	16.50	11.10	
Gorthleck	07.40	09.30	15.12		17.00	11.20	
Errogie	07.44	09.35	15.17	15.25	17.04	11.24	
Torness – Coulanour Jct.	07.48	09.40	15.22	15.30	17.08		
Torness	07.53	09.45		15.35		11.28	
Torness – Coulanour Jct.	07.58		15.22		17.08		
Inverness Royal Acad.	08.40	10.26	15.53	16.16	17.45	12.05	
Inverness Bus Station	08.53	10.35	16.04	16.25	17.55	12.15	
Retail Park Tesco		10.45					
Raigmore Hospital		10.50					

DUE TO THE ONGOING ROAD CLOSURES PLEASE CHECK WITH STAGECOACH BEFORE SETTING OUT.

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The Café has local artist's works, photography and crafts on display and for sale.

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Foyers Stores and Post Office is also open daily and offers a traditional Village Store that is well stocked with all your household needs at competitive prices. We also stock Daily Newspapers, Souvenir's, Fishing Tackle and our Off Licence has a good selection of wine and beers. There are regular deliveries of Fruit & Vegetables and good quality meats from 'Grants of Speyside'; an ordering facility is available for these products. We use local companies and suppliers wherever possible.

Your Custom is Valued - Please Support Your Local Store

Opening Times:

Shop	Mon-Sat	9.00 am – 5.30 pm
	Sunday	10.00 am – 1.30 pm
Post Office	Mon-Sat	9.30 am – 4.30 pm
	Sunday	
Café	Mon-Thurs	9.00 am – 5.30 pm
	Fri/Sat	9.00 am – 8.00 pm
	Sunday	10.00 am – 3.00 pm



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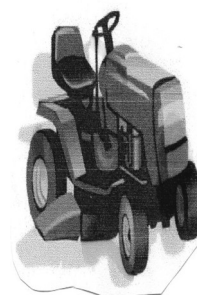
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Stratherrick Hall

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Please contact Hugh Nicol on 486350.

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BB

NEXT ISSUE - JUNE 2013
DEADLINE - 15th May 2013

For articles, adverts or items to be included
within the Boleskine Bulletin please send to :

boleskine_bulletin@hotmail.co.uk

OR

Contact Jane : 01456 486355

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ITEMS FOR INCLUSION

Please send all text as a Word Document (250 - 300 words max) and photos as JPEG. We will always seek permission to shorten articles if space is limited and will check the final draft with you before printing.

We are of course happy to receive photos, typed text and hand-written words in paper form too.!

Continued thanks to our loyal Advertisers and everyone who contributes articles, stories, photos etc.

BB Team

TRADE DIRECTORY

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Dates for your Diary

Tues. 19th March SLNH Highland Droving (P.12)

Wed. 27th March Beetle Drive (P.12)

Mon. 15th April Public Consultation (P.3)
Re Torness Sub Station

Sun. 21st April Man v Horse (P.8)

Sat. 18th May Squirrel Walk(P.10)

REMEMBER TO LOOK OUT FOR BOTH OF THE FISH VANS
THEY ARE IN OUR AREA ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

The Boleskine Bulletin accepts no legal liability for adverts or the personal views expressed by contributors