

The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue No. 1
Winter 1997

Welcome to the first edition of The Boleskine Bulletin. The newsletter has evolved from just an idea amongst a few people to a reality. Thanks to the Community Council, the funding for this first edition has come from Leader II project. Hereafter, we will have to find the cash to keep future editions going. It is the intention to have no charge and to produce a copy quarterly and so we will have to rely on donations, sponsorship and advertising.

We live in a very scattered community with many people from different backgrounds, with a wide variety of interests and concerns, and new people are moving in all the time. We are a vibrant community and with this newsletter, we hope to break down barriers, keep us all in touch, pass on information about things going on in the area, and hopefully stimulate participation and discussion about those things happening around us. What concerns **you** most, your needs and aspirations? We will not be afraid of being controversial! So put pen to paper and let's see if we can produce a really useful tool for the community.

Why Boleskine Bulletin?

Anyone who is interested in the history of the area we live in should try to get hold of a copy of the booklet *"An Account of the Kirk of Boleskine"* written by the late Alan Lawson who lived in Errogie. Not for you, I hear you say? Not interested in church history? Too dry? Far from it. Alan Lawson dug into the parish records and took from them little gems of stories that give life to the long-dead ministers who tended the parishioners from the fourteenth century onwards, and they give a fascinating glimpse of the life of times past.

The people of this area, rich and poor alike, seem to have been an unruly lot, and the ministers of Boleskine had a lot to put up with, from being roused in the middle of the night to deal with wizards trying to raise the dead, to not being paid for eight years. One minister was murdered, probably by his parishioners. And we think we live in a violent society.

The boundaries of the parish changed from time to time, but always included Stratherrick, the valley of the Farigaig and Loch Ness side from Inverfarigaig to beyond Knockie Pier. So, when searching for an appropriate name for this newsletter, what better than one which, according to Alan Lawson, has covered our area from the thirteenth century.

Welcome to the first edition of *"The Boleskine Bulletin"*.



photo: Rose Fortune

Community Council

The Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council have had a busy year, dealing with various topics as they arose. An ongoing item on their agenda was the project to update the Foyers Shinty pitch and along with that a plan to build a changing rooms complex, featuring a Community Hall incorporated in it. This has gone as far as a feasibility study undertaken by Independent Northern Consultants of Nairn. They reported back to the Council at their September meeting with an estimated cost of £182,000. This item will be taken up by the new Council, elected this month, when they have their first meeting in December. The feasibility study also looked at the prospect of erecting a new Community Hall in Stratherrick and the cost of doing that was estimated at £365,000. The Hall Committee are having in-depth discussions on whether they put it into operation.

Further to many discussions and complaints about the water situation in our area, the Council are very pleased to see that the new filtration plant is now underway at Aberchalder and look forward to its use in 1998.

The Council are also grateful to Highland Council for providing seven new notice-boards in our area. These will be located at Errogie, Gorthleck, Whitebridge, Lower Foyers, Upper Foyers, Inverfarigaig and Torness and that is now under way.



NATIONAL
LOTTERY
CHARITIES
BOARD
Scotland

The National Lottery Board has made the following awards locally:

- ❑ South Loch Ness Playschool £4102 over 3 years.
- ❑ Stratherrick & Foyers Mother & Toddler Group: £1147 over 1 year.
- ❑ Stratherrick Public Hall - Storage Unit: £2260

HOORAY!



"Never in a million years!"

The following nine members of the Community Council have been returned unopposed for the next three year term:

- John W. Campbell, Gorthleck
- Angus C. Fraser, Gorthleck
- Alexander MacLure, Gorthleck
- John Joyce, Whitebridge
- Lorraine Fraser, Foyers
- Christine Smith, Foyers
- Elizabeth Macdougall, Foyers
- John MacPherson, Abersky
- Hugh Nicol, Ault na goibhre

There is still one vacant place on the Council due to Donald Campbell (Whitebridge) standing down.

NEWS FROM GARROGIE

The weather this year has been very favourable to hill farming in general. The ewes maintained good condition for lambing and the lambing percentage was very satisfactory. Likewise the cattle beasts and calves have thrived very well.

However, all is not well! Like most hill farm units we have certainly had our troubles trying to compete in the livestock markets this year. With the Government's tunnel vision approach to B.S.E. coupled with the high valued pound sucking in imports and the green pound cutting our market prices it has not been easy to uphold profit margins. None the less with a bit of luck, some withdrawal from and re-entry into sales (swings and roundabouts!) we have managed to maintain last years' prices.

Thankfully, hill farming is not all doom and gloom - we do get some pleasure out of life! So on to the Garrogie social life.

This year sees us into the eighth year of the Garrogie Sheepdog Trials and the third of our Stockjudging Competition. The results of this year's events being:

SPRING SHEEPDOG TRIAL - 12th April 1997. Held at Killiechoilum. Judge - Mr. Robbie Campbell, Loch Treigh 38 dogs ran.

LOCAL 1. Robin McGregor (Meg) 2. Ian McAskill (Moss) 3. Brian Johnston (Jen)
OPEN 1. K.C. McKinnon (Corrie) 2. Ian McConnell (Vic) 3. Robin Watson (Tye)
£186 was raised on the day: £100 was donated to Stratherrick Primary School; £86 donated to Stratherrick Playgroup.

HILL SHEEPDOG TRIAL - 8th November 1997. Held at Meallagie. Judge - Mr. Ewan Cameron, Fort William. 22 dogs ran.

LOCAL 1. Ian McAskill (Moss) 2. Ian McAskill (Glen) 3. Robin McGregor (Meg) **OPEN** 1. Alan MacDonald (Spot)

2. Ali McGregor (Jude) 3. John Campbell (Rab)

£145 was raised; £110 was donated to Stratherrick Senior Citizens Christmas Fund; £35 donated to Stratherrick Children's Monday Club.

STOCK-JUDGING COMPETITION - 13th November 1997. Held at Garrogie. Judge - Mrs. Rachel Hunter, Killin.

LOCAL 1. E. Paterson (Carnoch) 2. Fraser Ross 3. Brian Johnston
OPEN 1. Peter Kennedy 2. Christine McDonald 3. Robbie Campbell
JUNIOR 1. Thomas McDonald (Tulloch)

TUP LAMB COMPETITION

LOCAL 1. Sandy McPherson (Abersky) 2. Peter Junior (Ballachraggan) 3. Peter Junior (Ballachraggan) **OPEN** 1. David McLeod (Glengloy) 2. David McDonald (Tulloch) 3. Sandy McPherson (Abersky)

The £100 raised by this event was donated to The Malcolm Sargeant Cancer Relief Fund for Children (Scotland).



Local Walking Group

This comprises a small group of ladies from Stratherrick and Foyers area who meet weekly to enjoy a 2-3 hour walk into the hills and glens around our homes, occasionally venturing further afield for a whole day outing.

Anyone wishing to join our walks on a Wednesday (most weeks) will be given a warm welcome to take to the hills and see the Strath at its best.

Any enquiries to Mrs. Rose Fortune - 01456 486663.

Countryside Ranger

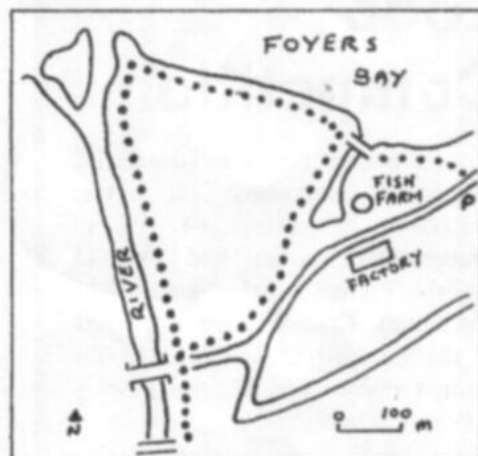
There is a new countryside ranger working in this area. Katy Stirling is employed by Highland Council to cover the Great Glen between Inverness and Fort Augustus. She will be organising countryside events, such as walks and talks, for young and old; contacting school groups to offer support in teaching 'green topics' as well as keeping an eye on wildlife. So if you have any good ideas for countryside activities you would like to see in your area, then get in touch! You can contact Katy on 01463-724260.

Foyers Woodland Walk

Drive down the Lower Foyers Road and then right, past the old British Aluminium Factory until you see the tanks of the Salmon Hatchery. Park at the notice saying "Woodland Walk".

Walk along the fence and then fork left at the bottom and you will see the opening down to the wooden bridge. The fish farm has a huge outfall pipe which projects out into Foyers Bay which is a popular feeding place for all kinds of wintering duck - goldeneye being the predominant species. In the water from the tailrace of the factory can be seen, if you are lucky, otters.

A path leads from the bridge through trees planted as a screen over a hundred years ago by The British Aluminium Company. These provide a lovely woodland setting for all kinds of migrating birds as well as for resident species. In spring, this area is blanketed with wood anemones, primroses and wild hyacinths and in autumn, red squirrels can be seen scampering through the hazel trees. On the left are two marshy ponds where ducks nest in the grassy edges and a pair of herons wade and fly off with a screeching cry when disturbed.



This path reaches the river Foyers where there is a wooded island at its mouth. Walk down alongside the river to the Bailey Bridge. From it can be seen the old crumbling sandstone bridge which it has temporarily replaced. From there, go back to the road which passes the old factory, which now houses tanks for rearing salmon roe and a glass fibre business. House martins nest in the eaves and swoop in seemingly ceaseless flight on summer days.

An interesting walk all year round.

Buddy Macdougall



Gun Club

If you haven't seen mention of the Gun Club recently, it's not surprising, because it has changed its name to one that reflects its activities more accurately. It is now **Stratherrick Clay Target Club**. If you want to know details of date, time and place of its Xmas Shoot, phone Elaine, the Secretary, nearer the time on 01808-521226.

Foyers W.R.I.

The Foyers W.R.I. meets usually on the first Thursday of the month in the Church Hall at Foyers at 7.45pm. The next meeting will be held on 5th February, 1998 when Vicki Strachan will give a talk on quilting. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For further information telephone: 01456-486427.

Logo Competition

A logo competition for Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council was undertaken by classes P4 -P7 of Stratherrick (10 pupils), and Foyers (5 pupils) Primary Schools. The Community Council were impressed by the standard of entrants and the outright winner was Charles Paveley of Foyers School.

The winner was presented with a cheque for £10 and his school received £20 for the winning entry. Each school was awarded £20 for competing.

All entries are now on display at Stratherrick Public Hall.



Stratherrick Monday Club

The 'Monday Club' has been organised for a fun sporting evening for 5-12 year olds, in Stratherrick Public Hall. The main activities are badminton, pool, table tennis, skittles and organised team games. For the amazing success of this venture, we would like to thank everyone who has participated and to stress that help is always welcome! Hopefully our range of activities will expand along with our experience.

If anyone has any equipment they could donate, i.e. unused bats, cues, racquets etc., we would love to hear from you.

For information, please contact Jane Ricketts on 01456-486225 or Joan Fraser on 01456-486220

Articles or letters to:

Buddy Macdougall, Coach House, Foyers

Sandy MacLure, Woodacre, Gorthleck

Frances Abbot, Schoolhouse, Whitebridge

Tilting at Windmills

There once was a laird with a hill,
Who thought it deserved a windmill,
But never has power
From this ill-fated tower,
Cooked a meal, lit a bulb
Or paid his bill.



The Tree of Knowledge

The Tree of Knowledge is bright, colourful, flashy.

The Tree of Knowledge has juicy, plump fruit.

Every second the tree changes colour.

The leaves and bark are glossy and silky smooth.

Behind the bark are some of God's secrets. If you take off the bark, you will be able to read them.

Adam and Eve had to have some fruit
Because they were plump and juicy.
When they took a bite they saw the evil side of the tree
But they never got to know about the secrets!

Fearghas Cook

Children's Corner

How Places Got Their Names

Foyers - means a shelving slope.

Gorthleck - means hollow.

Ault na goire - Ault means a burn and goire means goats which gives you burn of the goats.

Errogie - could mean height of rushing or it could be part of a Gaelic word for Farigaig.

Heather Summers

CUSTOMER

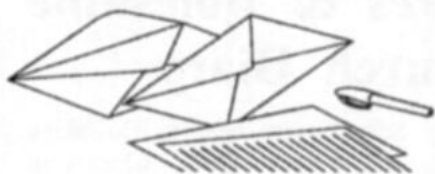
Waiter, waiter, my egg's too hard.

Don't blame me sir, I only laid the table.

WAITER

Simon Allan

LETTERS



BRAIN WAVE 1

On the weekend of 24th and 25th October, we attended a Young Adults and Community Development "Gathering", which was held at the Altonburn Hotel in Nairn.

This gathering was run by a group of young adults called "Tangents". Tangents work with young people and promote them to take action within their community. We feel that they have given us the confidence to speak up about what we believe in. Out of the original forty participants who were supposed to attend, only eleven of us did, in fact, appear. This set back did not, however, put a dampener on the event. Over the two days we discussed the local issues, good and bad, we feel strongly about and the issues we would be willing to tackle. We thought of a few bad to say the least! There were quite a lot of issues raised during the weekend, two of them being, there are no facilities for young people and lack of transportation.

The lack of transportation is the main issue for us as we feel there is nothing going for our area to keep our age group interested. We feel strongly that organisations within the area cannot go further afield to take part in activities without relying on the local bus service.

In the future, we would like to see a community mini-bus up and running for specific use by local organisations. We would like to gain support from the locals of the whole of the Stratherrick area. Any ideas are welcome.

We gained a lot from the Brain Wave weekend and we feel that it has given us enough motivation to see this project through to the end.

Fiona Randall & Kelly Matheson

Pub Nights

On Tuesday 18th November a Scrabble Evening took place at The Foyers Hotel. These evenings, together with a darts and dominoes get-together, will be held throughout the winter months - watch for notices. All proceeds are to a charity chosen on the evening by the players.



Bowling The First Night of The Season

Bowling is always enjoyable but when faced with the first game of the season, one suddenly wonders how much skill one has retained from the year before. Fortunately, the 'pros' at Gorthleck are always very welcoming and for this the first night there were 10 of us, which is a good number. Onwards: carpet down, teams picked, first game. It became very apparent that although the right 'line', my bowls were somewhat speedily advancing

to the further end of the hall.... and out of the game. Into the next game and just as my bowl again rocketed with some speed, Neil dashed out of the locker room with a set of ten-pin bowling skittles especially for me!

Pat Allen

N.B. New members are always welcome even if you have never played before. Tuesday nights - 7.30pm, Stratherrick Hall.

Lecture Night

If you were a fifty-something year old doctor who wanted a break from general practice, what would you do? Dr. John McDonald from Nairn, who gave the November University of Aberdeen lecture at Stratherrick Hall found an answer. He signed on for a six month tour of duty with the Swan Hellenic shipping line, cruising from Venice to Istanbul.

As ship's doctor of the 5000 ton 'Orpheus' his duties were fairly light which left plenty of time for sightseeing

and photographing the many historic sites at each port of call. From each slide he showed of the canals of Venice, Greek temples, Byzantine mosaics, the Blue Mosque and white-walled villages, the sun shone brightly, bringing the warmth of the Mediterranean to a dark winter night in Gorthleck.

Frances Abbot

NEXT LECTURE: 5th March 1998
"Lichens, Ling & Lousewort" Murdo MacDonald

Coming Soon to a cinema near You

It is welcome news that The Screen Machine, a travelling cinema capable of seating 110 people, will be bringing newly released films to the towns, villages and rural areas of the Highlands from May next year. At least it is welcome to this writer.

I spent my formative years as a picture-goer. In the town where I grew up there were five cinemas within five minutes walk and they showed double features and they changed their programme twice a week. Now I have to make a round trip of nearly fifty miles if I want to go to the pictures.

My fear is that the powers that be might consider this area as being too near Inverness to send the cinema here. I fret about where they could site the articulated lorry that opens up to three times its size, complete with access for the disabled. How often will it come - once a month, once a year? And most importantly, will it sell Butterkist? Keep your cokes and ice-cream and hot-dogs. Give me a big bag of candied popcorn. Now wouldn't it be nice if they could send a van along with the lorry so that I could end the evening with fish and chips.

Bring the town into the country, Screen Machine. Come as often as you can. I'll be first in the queue.

Frances Abbot



TRADE DIRECTORY

BUILDER & JOINER

Steve Ricketts - 486225

CAFE & RESTAURANTS

Foyers Bay House - 486624

Otto & Carol Pancerolli

Foyers House - 486405

Neil Ellis

CONTRACTORS

Angus C. Fraser - 486650

DANCING & KEEP FIT

Iris Everett - 01320-366235

GLASS FIBRE MOULDING

Colin Evans - 486285

HOTELS & LOUNGE BARS

Craigdarroch House Hotel -

486400 - Kate & David Munro

The Foyers Hotel - 486216

Valerie Turnbull

Whitebridge Hotel - 486226

Donald & Margaret Campbell

LANDSCAPE GARDENING

Ian Munro - 01463-240413 or

01456-486400

PICTURE FRAMING

Hugh Nicol - 486350

SHOP & POST OFFICE

The Foyers Store - 486233

Ian & Fiona Nisbet

TREE NURSERY

Jane O'Donovan - 486355

WAX PICTURES

Betty Brailsford - 486254

WOODTURNING & GIFTS

Peter Tyler - 01808-521414

This trade directory is compiled to assist the residents of the Boleskine Bulletin readership area to place their business locally. If your trade or business name does not appear on this listing and you would like it to be included, please telephone Dave Munro on 01456-486400 or fax 486444.

FOR SALE Red Panda 4 x 4, 1990 G Reg., 3 months Tax and MOT, F.I.R.E. Engine. Offers over £990. tel: 01456-486645

GEESSE phone Alex on 486641

Dores & Boleskine Church Diary

Sunday Services are held in Boleskine Church at 10.00am, Dores Church at 11.30am and Foyers Church at 4.00pm (6.00pm in Summer).

Sunday Schools meet in Boleskine and Dores Churches at the above times. The '425' Club - a fun time for children aged 7-13 years meets in Dores Public Hall every Wednesday from 4.00pm to 5.00pm (hence the title!).

Branch of Church of Scotland Guild meets monthly during winter, alternating between Foyers and Dores - all ladies welcome. Prayer and Bible Study Meetings are held regularly.

Special Services are being arranged for the Christmas and New Year period.

Full details of all our activities are to be found in our Parish Newsletter - next edition due out soon.

Would you like to join us? Can we be of help to you? Might you be able to help us? Come along to any of the activities mentioned, or contact The Rev. James Christie at Foyers Manse tel 01456 486206.

Fireworks Display

Craigdarroch House Hotel will be holding its annual Hogmanay fireworks display again this year. Any persons wishing to see and enjoy what will be predominantly an aerial display, should congregate at Lower Foyers area about 12.15 on Hogmanay night when they will see a commercial fireworks display which will last about 20 to 25 minutes.

What's On in the Hall

MORNINGS 9-12:

Tuesday Playschool

Wednesdays Mothers & Toddlers

EVENINGS

Monday Monday Club

Tuesday Bowls

Wednesday Country Dancing

Thursday Badminton

Boleskine Shinty Club Results

13/09/97 Boleskine v Lochaber - postponed (no referee)

20/09/97 Marine Harvest - North Division Three League

Boleskine 4 Kinlochshiel 0

Neil Cairney 2, Lewis Smith 2

27/09/97 League:

Strathglass 1 Boleskine 0

4/10/97 League:

Beaully 2 Boleskine 0

11/10/97 League:

Boleskine 1 Inverness 3

Willie Swanson

18/10/97 League:

Lochbroom 1 Boleskine 4

Neil Cairney 3, Lewis Smith

25/10/97 League:

Caberfeidh P Boleskine P (no referee)

1/11/97 Aberdeiw Considine Sutherland Cup First Round

Boleskine 4 Kincaig 3

Steven Munro, Neil Cairney 3

BUS TIMES

SERVICE 16

GORTHLECK - INVERNESS

Wednesdays and Fridays only

GORTHLECK (Str'errick School)	0900
ERROGIE	0910
TORNESS	0920
DORES INN	0930
INVERNESS (Queensgate)	0945
Raigmore Hospital	0955

INVERNESS (Raigmore Hospital)	1350
Union Street	1400
DORES INN	1421
TORNESS	1430
ERROGIE	1438
GORTHLECK (Str'errick School)	1442



THIS NEWSLETTER IS BEING PART-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND UNDER THE RURAL INVERNESS AND NAIRN LEADER II PROGRAMME