

# The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue  
No.10  
Spring  
2000

## Hall guaranteed for the future

**It was relief and delight** all round for the Hall committee, when chairman Hugh Nicol heard recently that The National Lotteries Board for Scotland had awarded Stratherrick hall the sum of £155,850. The Lotteries Board felt that the grant would encourage a wider range of activities especially performing arts; meet the requirements of the public entertainment licence and avoid closure of the hall. Hugh told the Boleskine Bulletin that a great deal of hard work had gone into the application and that there had always been the fear of rejection. The hall's future had been in jeopardy but now it was secure for the foreseeable future. For a hall update turn to page 5.

## the captain's return

It's back!



Last year Boleskine Bulletin was the first 'newspaper' to review the Highland Festival's production of the Captain's Collection. It had its world premier at Gorthleck. Since then the story of Simon Fraser has received great reviews in all the national papers. There is a CD available and a radio programme has been broadcast. Now it's back. So don't miss out.

This is a return visit to Stratherrick Hall especially for those that missed it last time round. No entrance fee - just a donation to get out! Suitable for all ages. Be there by 8.p.m.

**Friday 21st April**

## FOYERS OUTREACH CENTRE

Ideas for the future use of the outreach centre in Lower Foyers are being asked for by the Police Board. In 1980 Northern Joint Police Board took ownership of Foyers Outreach Centre from the Church of Scotland and since then Northern Constabulary has used it for a variety of activities involving young people in the Highlands and Islands. These include outward bound holidays, courses, youth groups and Police probationer training. Now future options are being considered. A questionnaire regarding options for future use of the Centre is being circulated to Foyers and Inverfarigaig. The police have written to the community council asking if there is any way in which the community could use the centre.



andrew matheson, gavin butterworth and gordon rule  
Stratherrick School Blue Peter Sale

### Blue Peter Sale

On Friday 10th March we had a Blue Peter sale at school. I asked my mum to help me arrange it. It was a really good day and we raised £232. The money will be used to buy equipment for baby care units just like the one I was in when I was born. Thanks to all who came. Calum Martin, P5, age 9



## Democracy rules O.K.

In October of this year the present community councillors come to the end of their terms of office and a new Community Council will be elected.

This is how the process works:- The outgoing council will appoint a Returning Officer who will call for nominations 28 days before the election. Anyone on the current electoral roll can stand for election. Nomination forms must be in the hand of the Returning Officer 14 days before the election. Each nomination must be supported by the names of 2 people on the current electoral roll. Nominations received must be published no later than 7 days before the election. The number of councillors to be elected is 10. Only when nominations are published will it be known how many of the current council members are standing for re-election. If there are 10 or less nominations there will be no election and the nominees will be returned automatically. Only when the Returning Officer is appointed will it be known how and where news of the election will be published and where nomination forms are to be held.

The chance is there in October for each of us to decide whether we take the opportunity to help in decision making over the next 3 years, or whether we sit back and let someone else do it.

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**Mr Di Alexander of the Highlands Small Housing Trust has been given the go ahead by the community council to negotiate the purchase of ground in the centre of Gorthleck for future housing needs.**

### Community Council Meetings: OPEN TO ALL

**25th April** - Gorthleck; **23rd May** - Foyers;  
**27th June** - Gorthleck.

All on the last Tuesday of the month with a start time of 7.30pm. Chair: John Campbell - 486 240

**Local Highland Councillor -**  
Ella MacRae - 01463 751203

#### Planning Applications since last Bulletin:

Mr & Mrs M. Bateman, for erection of one and a half storey timber frame house with integral garage, site west of Moor of Knockchoilum, Whitebridge; D. Kelly, for new residential property on Croft 23, Lochgarthside, Gorthleck; David West, 93 High Street, Crieff, for amendment to house type, replacement house Heath Cottage, Errozie; Mr. A. Colville, erection of replacement house & garage, Ness View, Foyers.

## A BRIDGE TOO LONG

Confusion concerning the bridge at **Lower Foyers** was clarified recently by Malcolm Wield of Forest Enterprise. To enable them to extract timber from the Camus forest the bridge over the river Foyers has to be reinforced.

Highland Council's Roads Department has no provision in its budget for any improvements. Forest Enterprise is currently discussing the problem with the council and hopes to be able to conduct the work early in the summer. It is proposed to decrease the span of the panel bridge by 6 metres, thereby increasing the weight limit allowing vehicles up to 40 ton capacity. The bridge will be closed for limited periods of 3-4 hours. This is expected to happen 8 times over a period of 6 weeks.

Mr Wield assured the Boleskine Bulletin that house holders would be informed of the days when work would be carried out. By using portable plates, Forest Enterprise will guarantee immediate access for Emergency vehicles at all times.

Further information from Forest Enterprise Area Civil Engineer Frank Macculloch on 01463 234 734

## What's needed in the way of Wheels?



**The Stratherrick and Foyers Transport Group** has obtained funding from The Partnership for Rural Inverness and Nairn. Following the example of Glen Moriston funds will be used to conduct a survey of local transport needs in our area.

Since Highland Council withdrew the subsidised taxi service which they acknowledge was inappropriate, they have been supportive of any local initiative. Details are still to be clarified but a local surveyor, Fiona MacDonald, has been appointed and she will be visiting as many houses as possible. The information gathered will be collated by Highland Council's Transport Officer along with representatives from the area who will assess the needs and determine possible solutions.

If you have any comments or would be keen to become involved please contact :- Ros Rowell, Torness.  
01463 751314



# FARRALINE SAWMILL

- Memories from Joan MacPherson

From 1946 until about 1954 a sawmill operated at a site opposite to the road to Croftdhu and Newlands, between the main road and Loch Farraline (now named Loch Mhor). Joan MacPherson from Foyers remembers that it was owned by Frank Sime, a big timber merchant, and was operated by her father William Leslie aided by John MacKinnon. Joan helped in the business with her father and there was a crew of single itinerant workers to man the saws and carry out other tasks. There were two big saws run on steam power with water from the loch and fuelled with wood - (larch was the most efficient). Hand-saws were also used to produce the end product of planks, boarding, fencing posts and railway sleepers which were sent off in lorries to customers in a wide area.

Trees were cut from the wood at Croftdhu and Domie wood at Farraline - mainly fir and larch. Carters worked the horses, dragging down the huge logs to the sawmill and the horses were stabled at Farraline stables. At that time Farraline Estate was owned by a Mr & Mrs Moore and Joan remembers their daughter Pat was asked not to swim in the loch so near the sawmill as the men sawing wood were cutting their fingers at the sight of her in her bikini! William Leslie's family lived in a temporary wooden building on the site so that the mill could be supervised at all times and theft prevented. Joan remembers those days as hard-working but happy times. Joan married game-keeper Kenny MacPherson and left the area for a time; then returned to Garrogie from where Kenny retired. They now live in Lower Foyers.



Joan in her boiler suit ready for work

## STEWART MALLIN

In January this year, we lost our beloved friend and priest, Stewart Mallin. Stewart came to our little church in Croachy in 1991 to fill the post of retired priest, having just moved from Dingwall where he had spent the past fourteen years.

Stewart was a very remarkable man - one whose compassion and generosity knew no bounds. We were privileged to have known Stewart for some forty years, first meeting him, as a young curate when he came to St. Andrew's Cathedral in Inverness where our two sons were choristers.

It was with such joy, when in 1991, we discovered that Stewart had accepted the post of retired priest at St Paul's Croachy. It is a measure of his personality and commitment that the congregation has grown from a handful to what it is today. He had a rare gift to unite in friendship people from all walks of life and all denominations. His home was never empty, open at all times to anybody who needed care, friendship or simply a holiday.

He had a great abiding love of children taking great delight in his visits to Stratherrick Primary School, where he knew all the children by name. Stewart will be so sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

*Margaret Greenlees, Errogie.*

## A LUNCH-TIME WALK

Park car at Foyers Hotel and then walk out of the gate and down a flight of steps just past the hotel rubbish bins to a stile over the hotel fence. The path meanders gradually down through pretty birch and oak woodland with views of the loch and mountain until it reaches the Power Station approach road. Progress up this until you reach the gate to the main road where there is another stile.

Turn back on this road towards the hotel and you will pass Boleskine House made famous by its former residents. Aleister Crowley - the Black Magic magician and recent owner pop star Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin. The old graveyard is worth visiting for its ancient Fraser gravestones and those of old Boleskine parishioners. There is a watch house here where, at the time of grave robbers, someone was posted to keep a look-out. From here a pleasant walk along the road leads back to the hotel where, if you have timed it right, you can have a pint and pleasant bar lunch.



# Helping hands needed



Is there anyone good at financial projections, finding ideas and attracting advertising space? Would you like to be responsible for distribution, and think of new ways to circulate the newsletter? Is there anyone who would like to maintain a list of addresses where we could send the BB? Requests have come from people who have moved away and want to keep in touch. Is there a computer buff out there? Could you set up a web site?

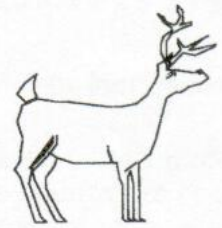
**Not gossip** - but we want any stories, and local news. The Boleskine Bulletin is to keep people in touch; the elderly who can't manage out or have to move away, young mothers stuck at home, and the newly bereaved - many of these people are lonely. Even those of us who are always charging about like to hear what's going on in the community.

Please send us some news so we can pass it on.

## Foyers WRI

held an Open House in March and welcomed the new policeman - Torquil MacLeod - to introduce himself to the community and talk about crime prevention in particular. The talk was interspersed with amusing anecdotes as well as some very useful information. The guest speaker in April will be Chris Moore from Inverfarigaig who will be sharing and showing her ideas for embroidery. The Inverness Courier has shown interest in taking a photograph of the WRI members for a feature it is currently running on local groups and associations and may be present at the April meeting. Details of this meeting and membership from Linda Cooper 486 415 Press Secretary.

This poem has been donated by 'Teepy' Macdonald of Inverness whose father Duncan, known as Dunc Birchfield, wrote the poem in the early 1940's to the tune  
- Where Gaudy Rins.



## At the back of Ardochy

I wish I were where Braneack runs  
Through wooded glens and grassy dunes  
I wish I were where Braneack runs  
At the back of Ardochy

Where my mate and I in wind and rain  
Would climb the hill to the top of Glenbrane  
And many's the hind that we did trace  
From the back of Ardochy

Where we climbed the Lee and the Mountain steep  
When stalking the deer and dodging the sheep  
And many's the stag we put to sleep  
At the back of Ardochy

When we crossed the burns when white with foam  
One slip and we're off to our last long home  
And down the Braneack our corpse would roll  
From the back of Ardochy

When we drank of dram of Ben Nevis dew  
Till one stag looked like three or two  
But we always pierced the right one through  
At the back of Ardochy

Where we travelled the face on treacherous ice  
One slip and we're over the precipice  
Then two merry widows would be weeping for us  
At the back of Ardochy

The keepers were always on our trail  
And the landlords often on our tail  
But they never got us into jail  
From the back of Ardochy

**Good luck to all on pleasure bent  
For you the hills and the deer are meant  
The Great Creator demands no rent  
From the back of Ardochy**

Now that I'm too old for the mountain steep  
And stalking on to my last long sleep  
I wish I could have it where we dodged the sheep  
At the back of Ardochy

D.A. MACDONALD, BIRCHFIELD



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sir,  
In this, the year 2000, the streets of large cities are full of homeless people begging, and sleeping in doorways. Elderly people who cannot afford to heat their homes die every winter. Sick people who need surgery die on waiting lists. Children in care are abused. And so on. If only people world wide would heed three words in the bible what a difference it would make. **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**  
Sincerely, A. Reader.

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Global warming

Dear Editors,

Has anyone checked the present annual rate of growth of the Scots Pine and Rowan, and compared it to pre-global warming growth? Does anyone know how far south and the maximum temperature in which these trees will flourish? Increasing temperatures mean more rapid growth which might have an adverse effect on the health of native trees. In a hundred years time, will the Scots pine still be a native tree, or will it be extinct? Yours faithfully,  
Victoria Parker - Gorthleck

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## People news

### FOYERS HYDRO

We welcome the new Group Manager of Foyers Hydro Electric Power Station - Tommy Gibson who once lived in Fort Augustus and so is not new to the area. We thank the departing Manager, Danny Finch, for his co-operation in village affairs, not least the prompt attention to the up keep of the popular woodland walk at Foyers bay.

**COLIN EVANS** is retiring from his post on the local Auxiliary Fire Brigade after twenty three years' service, and the Community Council, on behalf of the local community, is donating a subscription in recognition of his service.

### NEW PEOPLE ARRIVE

Part-time Community Nurse Julie Craven has presented her family with a baby girl - Amy Jane born on the 27th January 2000. Congratulations too to Brian and Elspeth Hall, Lower Foyers on becoming proud grandparents of baby James born to Karen and Campbell on 1st March 2000. And another baby girl was born to Sylvie and Rory Robinson, Inverfarigaig. Her name is Manon Eiligh. All very best wishes to the three new arrivals.

**SYBIL & BILLY ROSS** have retired after many years working the Knockie estate farm. They have moved to Fort Augustus where Billy helps with the green keeping of the Golf Course. Before moving to Knockie, Billy was the gardener at Garthbeg, but it was Sybil's life long interest in sheep that took them to Knockie. Bachelor son Fraser now has the farm's reins and we wish him and his parents good luck for the future.



## Stratherrick Hall update



The Hall AGM took place on March 18th. It was a chance to see the architect's plans which have been drawn up to meet the requirements for a Public Entertainment License. Only limited fund raising took place during 1999 due to the absence of the entertainment licence. However, the hall is being well used and is covering its running costs. Although the play-school has moved down temporarily to Lower Foyers the cleaner will be retained until early summer.

Since the A.G.M., news has come through that the National Lottery Charities Board has awarded most of the sum applied for. The funding package was drawn up and submitted by an architect who will oversee the alterations and refurbishing of the hall from start to finish. Work will commence after the necessary planning application has been approved and a building warrant obtained. It is hoped that work will have begun by the end of May and be finished by the end of September. The secretary will keep all user groups informed of progress. The architectural plans will be pinned up inside the hall and any further information can be obtained from Peter Westrick at Whitebridge who is co-ordinating with the architect, Doug Stuart from Avoch. Peter's telephone number is **486 464**

## ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16

Because transport is provided to Inverness, most children from Stratherrick and Foyers attend the Inverness Royal Academy for their secondary education. A few children from this area attend Kilchuimen Academy at Fort Augustus, where they benefit from the individual attention possible in a smaller school. Transport, however, is the responsibility of their parents. If there was more interest in Kilchuimen, we might have a case for securing some assistance with transport. This would at least give parents and pupils a choice. Anyone who may have an interest in their child attending Kilchuimen Academy for their secondary schooling, regardless of their age at present, please contact Lesley Ryalls on 486 404 or Jill Bryant on 486 348 or Margo Matheson on 486 202





# STRATHERRICK SCHOOL OPEN EVENING



On Wednesday 24th May Stratherrick School will be holding an "open evening". Everyone is invited. Come along and see what we've been doing to the school grounds. They have been a project for the last few years with parents, teachers and children all contributing labour. Recent grants (from Scottish Natural Heritage and the Highland Council Environmental Grants Scheme) and donations have enabled the work to continue apace recently, with Scottish Conservation Project staff and volunteers from the Corbett Centre clearing paths through the whins and installing benches and tables.

A tree nursery, vegetable and flower garden, and a compost bin (complete with worms!) have all been established, and to brighten up the tar, colourful hopscotch boards, snakes and ladders are planned! To mark the event and the millennium a TIME CAPSULE will be buried that evening to be dug up in 30 years' time. Each pupil has been asked to supply something for the capsule (anything from a hairslide to a millennium bug!) which will be buried alongside photos of the children and teachers. All the items will be on display at the open evening before being buried. So why not come along any time between 5 and 7 pm. Maybe the prospect of a barbecue (weather permitting) might tempt you!



## A GIRLS' EVENING IN FOYERS

Plenty of laughs were had at the Foyers Hotel one evening in March when lacey lingerie and fun products for every occasion were on the agenda.

It was a get together in aid of Foyers primary school. Lesley Ryles who organised the evening reported that over £70 was raised and that they hope to organise something similar next winter.



## Why did the squirrel cross the road.....?

**Squirrels** ..... reach the other side in safety. The rope experiment set up by Forest Enterprise to aid the red squirrel population on Loch Ness-side to reach their supplies of hazelnuts in the autumn has been a great success! There have been many sightings. Thanks to everyone who rang in. This summer we are hoping to undertake a squirrel survey and will be looking for volunteers to help record the sightings. Details in the next edition of the Boleskine Bulletin. Further information from Katy Stirling, Countryside Ranger for Inverness/Great Glen 01463 724 260

## KIDS' CORNER

### What a laugh!



**What** has T at the beginning, T at the end and T in it? ..... A teapot!

**What** do you call a flying policeman? A helicopter!

**What** is the difference between a man and a dog out for a walk? One wears trousers and the other pants!

**What** smells of fish and travels at 1000mph? A concord pilot's tuna sandwich!

Thanks to Sophie Chattington, Glenn Roe, Seamus Somerville, Moteh Parrott

## Our electricity project

Have you ever wondered how your light switches on? Well I'll give you the answer. As soon as you switch on the light extra small things called electrons rush down the wire and go into the bulb and rush into the tiny little wires inside the bulb and that takes energy out of the electrons and that's how the bulb lights up. It works with other things like motors and buzzers too!



John Fraser (8) P4 Stratherrick

# TRADE DIRECTORY

## ALL JOBS

Dab Hands - 486 416/430

## BUILDER & JOINER

Steve Ricketts - 486 225

## CAFE & RESTAURANTS

Foyers Bay House - 486 624

Foyers House - 486 405

## CONTRACTORS

Angus C. Fraser - 486 650

## EMBROIDERY CLASSES

Chris Moore - 486 255

## GLASS FIBRE MOULDING

Colin Evans - 486 285

## HOTEL & LOUNGE BARS

Craigdarroch House Hotel - 486 400

Foyers Hotel - 486 216

Whitebridge Hotel - 486 226

Dores Inn - 01463 751203

## LANDSCAPE GARDENING

Ian Munro - 486 400 or 01463 240413

## NATIVE TREE NURSERY

Jane O'Donovan - 486 355

## PICTURE FRAMING

Hugh Nicol - 486 350

## SHOP & POST OFFICE

The Foyers Store - 486 233

## WATERCOLOURS & ART

## CLASSES

Ros Rowell - 01463 751314

**Trade Directory, £10 for four  
Issues**

If you have a small business or can offer a  
service why not advertise in the BB

## next Issue of the BB July

Contributions by **20th June** to:

Editor, Norbu, Lochgarthside, Gorthleck

or leave at the Foyers shop marking envelope BB

Please send with name and address - names can

be withheld from publication if requested.

## Advertising

For advertisements like  
Andrew's we have a new  
rate

**£1 per cm column.**

Columns being based on  
three to a page. The BB  
comes out regularly and  
drops over every doorstep  
in the Foyers and  
Stratherrick area.

What an opportunity!!!

**Thanks to Ray Cooper  
for the printing**



## Andrew Fraser

Building Contractor

Houses - Extensions -  
Renovations  
Stonework

**Bein Sgurrach, Errogie  
tel 486408**

**Maureen Evans** thanked the BB recently for advertising her Fiat Panda tyres, which she sold, she got hold of the Knitting Machine which she was after in the last issue. So---- why not have a selling, trading, swopping frenzy. All small ads for items below the value of £100 are now free so call **Chris Smith on 486 625** by the end of June for next issue.

## For Sale:

Cannon Bubble jet printer, good condition, £50 ono ... 486 355

## Wanted:

Old corrugated iron for garden raised beds... 486 355

Drake for lonely ducks... 486 426

Point of lay hens wanted 3or 4 ....486 625

## Captain's Collection - Friday 21st April

**KEEP FIT** - Starts **Monday 8th May**, 8pm Stratherrick Hall (until further notice), for 8 weeks £2.50 per class or £16 session. Please bring floor mat / blanket and hand weights (two food tins will do!) Phone Heather 486 426 for further information.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14TH - 21ST MAY

## Stratherrick School Open evening - 24th May Summer Sale - 17th June

**Environmental group meeting, June 7th -**  
whitebridge. 7.30pm

**Community Council meetings - last Tuesday of month.**

## Ranger - Guided Walks

Highland Walking Festival. Book on 01456 450826

**Sat. 20th May 9.30 - 4.30pm** Meall Fuarhnaidh

**Sun. 21st May 2-4 pm** Ancient woodland walk at  
Drumnadrochit.

**Sat. 10th June. 2-4 - Wild Food Walk.** Meet in Foyers shop car park. ; **Tues. 4th July. 6.30-8.30pm - River Oich.** Meet in Forest Enterprise car park (grid ref: NH351 072). **Thurs. 6th July. 2-5pm - Abriachan.** Explore new footpath. Meet in Clansman hotel car park. **Tues. 11th July. 6.30-8.30pm - Geological Gems, Dores.** Meet in Dores Inn car park.

## Inverness- Gorthleck Bus Service

(Wednesday and Friday)

New Timetable introduced in February

Gorthleck	09.42	Raigmore Hospital	13.50
Errogie	09.45	Inv. Union Street	14.00
Tomess	09.55	Dores Inn	14.15
Dores Inn	10.05	Tomess	14.25
Inv. Queensgate	10.20	Errogie	14.35
Inv. Raigmore	10.30	Gorthleck	14.40