

The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue No. 3
Summer 1998

LOCAL CHILDREN TO BENEFIT FROM GOVERNMENT CASH

The South Loch Ness Playschool is set to expand provision at the start of the new school term in August. It has been recognised by the local authority as provider of pre-school services for the area. This scheme replaces nursery vouchers with funding from the Scottish Office through the Local Education Department, and is free to children in the pre-school year. Two sessions are available to 3-4 year olds at a charge of £2.50 per session. This scheme of recognised providers is welcomed by Catriona Fraser, who was instrumental in setting up the Playschool. It will give children living in the country the same opportunities as those in towns, and is backed by the local schools. The Playschool will start the next session under the leadership of Mary Campbell who received her Scottish Vocational Qualification Level 11 in Childcare. She will be assisted by Belinda Sanderson.

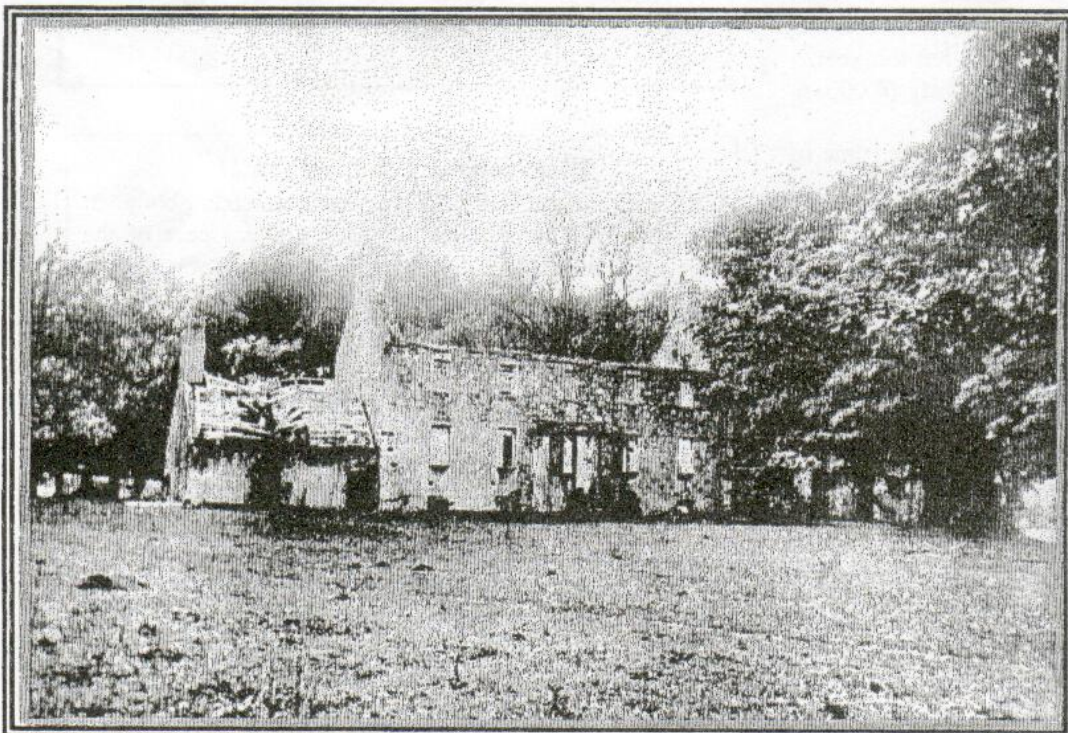
Registration, enrolment forms, timetables and any information is available from:- Jane Ricketts - Secretary 01456 486225; Catriona Fraser - Treasurer 01456 486287; or Elaine Hepburn - Chairperson 01808 521226

The playgroup will continue as usual for all pre-school children and their mothers on Wednesday mornings from 10am - 12am in the Village Hall, Gorthleck.

BIG CHANGES WITH OUR POSTMEN

After 39 years of working for the Royal Mail, Duncan "the Postie" Cameron, (The Intake, Foyers) is hanging up his postman's cap. We wish him a very happy retirement and will no doubt be seeing him out and about in the area.

Meanwhile up in Stratherrick Willie "the post" Godsman will no longer be doing the Gorthleck run. After 10 years delivering mail to the area he has decided to go onto night shifts at the Inverness sorting office. 9p.m. till 5.45 a.m. - and we thought he worked long hours before! Willie is to be replaced by Vick Warburton for 5 days a week with Davy Orr helping out on 6th day of delivery. These postmen on the Stratherrick run are averaging between 90 and 100 miles each day. Quite a different age to the time when letters in this area were delivered by bicycle, with several different postmen to cover the different glens and straths.



The house in the ruinous state pictured here was the home of the Frasers of Foyers who had owned the land for centuries. Mrs Scott, who kindly loaned the photograph, said that her mother and father-in-law along with other employees (and their wives) of the British Aluminium Company were housed here until houses were built for them. The roof then was corrugated iron. The garden ground of the house is now gardened by Ronnie McDonald and Ian and Lorraine Fraser (who built their house there). The terrace of houses named Elmbank was erected for the workers and built of the stones from the demolished old house.

"SPRINGTIME FOR THE GAMEKEEPER"

The Spring is a very busy time for the countryside. The farmers have their lambing season and the gamekeepers have the task of making sure the vermin is kept under control in order to have successful times for all concerned, whether it's the farming community or an Estate depending on its game.

A keeper is quite often thought of as a person who is out to destroy all animals. But that is not a true account of this type of job. We have a very demanding time trying to protect lambs, young chicks, hares etc. One of our biggest problems is the hooded crow, which causes a lot of damage to wildlife whether it is game birds or

song birds and it's capable of killing lambs that are just in the middle of being born. This year one farm had three lambs that had their tongues and eyes pecked out. And that was by just one crow. Another instance was a ewe in the middle of lambing and the crow was sitting on its back pecking a hole in the udder bag. Therefore the consequences were that the sheep and lamb died. Being a gamekeeper means we are really up against people who quite often come along past one of our Larsen cages (which are used along with a decoy to capture crows) and let out our decoy crow, not quite realising the real damage they can do to people's livelihoods.

Our other concern at this time is the fox. We spend many days and nights going around our hills checking fox dens and cairns to see

if there are any foxes in residence. This has been a quiet year for most estates in the area with most of them only having one or two dens. We have daily checks on our Tunnel Traps which are used to keep the stoats, rats and weasels under control as they also cause a lot of damage to wildlife.

Recordings this spring: Hatching of 1st mallard ducklings - 23rd April; 1st Leveret young hared - 4th May; Pheasant chicks - 23rd May; 1st Grouse chicks - 1st June; and 1st Lapwings - 2nd June. From June onwards our attention is turned onto estate maintenance which consists of the repairing of grouse butts, hill roads and the pheasant pens.

Iain Hepburn - Dumnaglass

STRATHERRICK CLAY TARGET CLUB

The club was founded over 100 years ago and is one of Britains longest running clubs. At present there are over 20 members, but we are always on the look out for new members (ladies, juniors & seniors). Juniors are made very welcome, and are always supervised by an adult when in possession of a gun. Cartridges and guns are provided and youngsters have the chance to compete in junior competitions at all the shoots. We hold approximately six shoots throughout the year at our ground at Abersky Torness. There are two left this year. Keepers & Farmers - **Wednesday 22nd July** (6.00p.m. start)

Christmas shoot - **Wednesday 23rd December** (time to be arranged)

We had a very successful Open 50 Bird shoot this year, with 52 guns taking part. The weather remained reasonably well for most of the day, providing us with a very high standard of shooting.

Results as follows:- Out of 150 shots 1st came John Coates (Newcastle) 149; 2nd Peter Mackay (Dingwall) 148; 3rd John Schiller (Alcaig Connon Bridge) 148; 4th Iain Hepburn (Stratherrick) 146; 5th Billy Bartlett 145.

The local open was held on Wednesday 20th May. Results as follows:- 1st Iain Hepburn; 2nd Kenny Macpherson; 3rd Willie Wilson; 4th Sandy Macpherson.

Junior Trophy winner was Rory Matheson with a magnificent score of 27 out of 30.

To join the club phone Iain or Elaine Hepburn on 01808 521226 or Ken Fraser 486220

BOLESKINE PROMOTED!

Boleskine celebrated finishing top of the Marine Harvest League North Division 3 at the end of season dance held in the Crown Court Hotel in Inverness last month and it was there that one of the youngest members of the team, Ewan Ferguson from Fort Augustus was announced as being Player of the Year.

Next season sees Boleskine promoted to Division 2. The Secretary, James Stoddart, puts the team's success down to consistently good performances particularly in the last few matches. The mood of confidence is encouraging the team to look to the future, not merely next season, but well into the millennium with a start to coaching youngsters at the shinty pitch every Friday from 20th June for as long as the numbers interested are there. *Ed. The Bulletin congratulates the team and will be rooting for Boleskine next season. Have we no budding sports reporters to give readers an account of some of the matches?*

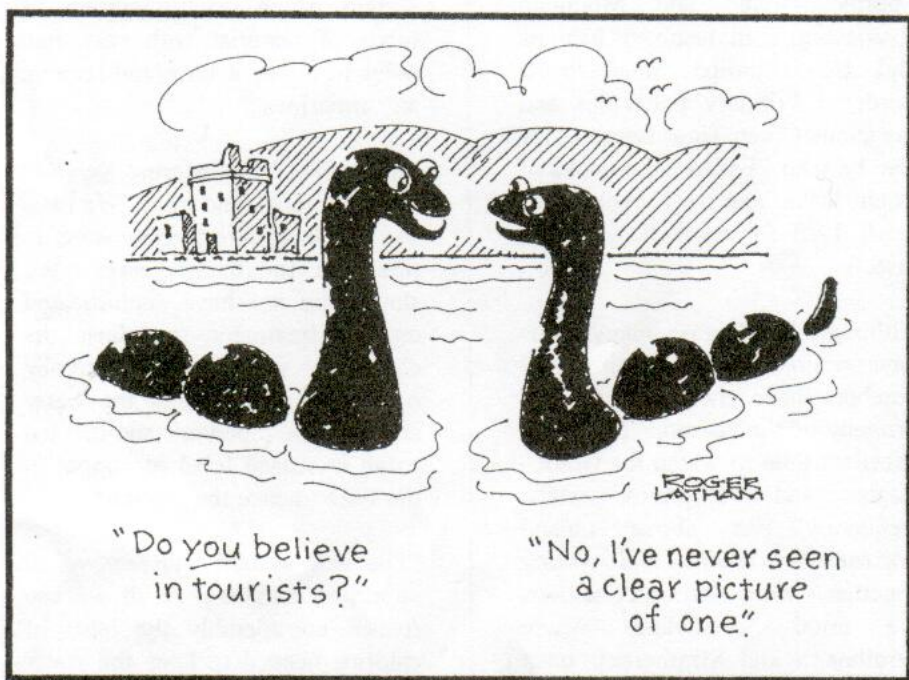
THE HEALTH COUNCIL

The Health Council is an independent watchdog body. It can give free, confidential advice on any aspect of the National Health Service. The aim of the Council is to obtain the best possible service for the people in its area, and to represent their interests in the NHS. If you would like to make a comment or complaint, or just find out some information contact:- Highland Health Council, 31 High St., Alness. IV17 0PT Tel. No. 01349 883444. The member in your area is Vivien Gilmore at Invergarry. She has lived here for 30 years, has 3 children, now grown up, has been a member of the WRVS for 25 years, driven for the Ambulance Service, has been a member of a succession of Local Health Councils over the last 14 years. She is very interested in Care in the Community and the health needs of local people. Always a willing listener. Phone her on 01809 511231

Editorial - One of the main reasons for starting the Boleskine Bulletin was for information to be distributed around the community. It is good therefore, to be able to report on the goings on of the community council. We hope that this will become a regular item with a brief outline of what our elected representatives are discussing on our behalf. Let's hope that some of the subjects mentioned will stimulate discussion through these pages. It should also be clarified that the minutes of the community council meetings are available for viewing at the Foyers shop. Do please write in with any comments and if anyone out there fancies themselves as a 'roving reporter' for the Boleskine Bulletin give Jane a ring on 486355 we could do with some help!

An important subject which should possibly have been 'explored' more fully amongst the community is the outcome of the new water filtration plant newly installed on the hill above Gorthleck. The new plant should be fully operational by the time this newsletter goes to print. The Water Authority have used a company called P.C.I.

Membrane Systems Ltd., who have engineered the plant and directed the construction firm of Tulloch in the building of this sophisticated installation. We have been assured by Mr Jeff Balko of P.C.I Ltd., that this is the most environmentally friendly process which uses the minimum amount of chemicals. The only thing added (apart from the statutory chlorine) is a very mild detergent, once a year, to clean the equipment, none of which will get into the main water supply. All organic material is removed through a system of filters. The result - colourless, tasteless and sterile. But - for those concerned about their whiter than white wash, rest assured you will never be so happy. No more brown marks in the bath, round the shower, brown sheets and pillowcases, no more PEAT to set us aside from others. NO more bugs but BEWARE, along with this there is a down side - the immunity which those bugs have given us over the years. Will we now be more susceptible to tummy upsets from other sources? Is this just another example of us getting further and further away from natural immunity and onto the reliance of chemists?



LEADER II LOCAL ACTION GROUP

The Leader II Programme is now half way through its term and continues to support local communities through different training events and grant funding for local projects. Approximately half of the Leader II funds have now been approved for a wide range of different projects and an Interim Report which covers many of these projects will soon be available from Leader Agents. Our Agent is SANDY MACLURE - 486435. He is able to advise on potential Leader support for new community project ideas and would welcome enquiries from local groups, businesses or individuals who have project ideas that would benefit the local community and be eligible for Leader grants.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Over the past few months the Community Council has been discussing a wide range of topics. The state of the local roads has been discussed often, issues including, the installation of traffic lights at the Dumnaglass bridge; the road surface at Loch Cleo Glas; pavements for Whitebridge and the provision and maintenance of snow clearing operations for the area. There has been much debate about whether the old bridge at Whitebridge is collapsing and therefore in need of repair/renovation work. Strathnairn Sports Association has been given a

small donation as requested. The provision of hand-rails outside Foyers shop has been considered. The C.C. has also viewed the new planning applications for both forestry schemes and private housing.

Sub committees have discussed and responded to the Governments consultation papers on 'Land Reform Policy', and 'Towards a Development Strategy for Rural Scotland', and the Highland Health Board consultation paper was discussed at the last meeting. The

possibility of public transport being provided to link all the communities in the area and to tie in with the doctor's consulting hours, chiropodist and pension day etc. is being discussed. If in the unlikely event, money was to be made available to the community, suggestions as to how it should be spent are requested. The Community Council meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Alternating meetings between Foyers and Gorthleck. Ring the Chairman John Campbell on 486240 for details.

LETTERS

CHLORINE IN WATER

Anyone who objects to the amount of chlorine in our water supply can remove it, according to a research chemist by boiling the water for a full minute.

Barbara Baker, Glenlia, Foyers.

WORLD RESOURCES

Experts in oil exploration and extraction, predict that cheap oil, that is, boring a hole in oil bearing rock and letting it gush out, will peak and decline early in the next century. The optimists say 2020, pessimists put the date at 2002. There is plenty of oil left in the earth's crust, in much deeper water than oil rigs operate in at present, and in tar sands in Canada, Australia and in other countries. Natural gas can also be converted to Diesel. Oil produced by these methods will be a very much more expensive and precious commodity. We could see a decline in the manufacture of many oil based products, man made fibres for clothing and carpets, for example. Perhaps sheep wool will be much in demand in future. Growing flax and reviving the linen weaving industry might be worth considering.

Victoria Parker, Gorthleck

PINE MARTENS - A MENACE OR A PLEASURE?

Pine Martens, the so-called "endangered species", plague us here. Nothing is safe, and the hungry pine marten family (or families) devastate the population of baby birds in the spring. The Foyers Hotel and Coach House area used to team with baby robins, chaffinches, blue tits, great tits, thrushes and blackbirds. Now it must be at least five years since the raucous squawks of fledgling blackbirds were heard. Could it happen that a predominance of pine martens could cause a vacuum and there will be a horribly silent spring? *Buddy MacDougall, Coach House, Foyers*

A QUIET PERIOD FOR WILDLIFE?

According to many naturalists, July represents a quiet period of the wildlife calendar, though life in the

wilds of south Loch Ness-side is seldom more eventful. Early during the month Pine Martens commence courtship, becoming active even by day and presenting the best opportunities of a daytime sighting. Roads around Inverfarigaig and Foyers often produce encounters with this elusive mammal. Towards the end of the month, especially if weather conditions are warm and humid, courtship activity is stimulated in another mammal - the Roe Deer. Forest clearings and scattered willow thickets around moorland fringe are good sites for observing rutting bucks chasing in circles after bleating does. Moorlands at this time reveal a plethora of notable wild flowers, among them the exquisite Bog Asphodel, Heath Spotted Orchid and Mountain Everlasting. In heathery habitats Oak Eggar moths, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies and rapacious Green Tiger Beetles may also be seen. Explore the banks of Loch Killin and surroundings to Loch Tarff for these flowers and insects.

Although by August many birds have stopped singing, their actual numbers have swelled with the progeny of the season. This is an excellent time to watch for Golden Eagles and Peregrines, which frequently rise above upland horizons - adults and young together - when soaring conditions are good. Skylines where Strathnairn and Stratherrick meet the Monadhliaths are worth watching. August sees Devils-bit Scabious in flower, which attracts the striking Scotch Argus butterfly, especially in birch woodlands where it often occurs in large numbers. Knapweeds and thistles similarly attract Peacock butterflies.

David Kent, c/o Craigdarroch



"Apparently pine martens only attack people who write about them."

NEWS RELEASE

NORTH OF SCOTLAND WATER AUTHORITY

Gorthleck Water Supply Full Membrane Treatment

Residents of Gorthleck and Foyers should enjoy a much cleaner and more reliable water supply as the North of Scotland Water Authority's new £1.2 million water treatment works comes on stream.

The new membrane treatment works replaces the previous system which had a tendency to turn people's hair green because of the chemical composition of the water in the area. The problem will be resolved by the sophisticated new system which uses a system of tubes of material with very fine holes to act as a filter and remove any impurities.

Sandy Ellen, Engineering Services Manager, Highland said: "We have had problems with the raw water in this area for many years. We simply did not have sophisticated enough treatment to adjust the chemicals which were naturally occurring. As a result the water attacked the pipework and this led to an increased level of copper in the water, hence the green hair.

"The new system will remove all impurities and as a result we can reduce considerably the level of chlorine needed to keep the water clean as it travels down the pipes to people's taps. Membrane filtration allows us to clean up the water without having to add any chemicals and is similar to the system used to purify water for kidney dialysis patients."

The water treatment works was built by Tulloch Construction and Paterson Candy Membranes. It is the first of its type constructed by Paterson Candy in the Highlands and will supply water to around 300 customers in the Gorthleck and Foyers areas.

Jane Cumming - Head of Public Relations. 01463 245406

CHILDRENS CORNER !!

CROSSWORD

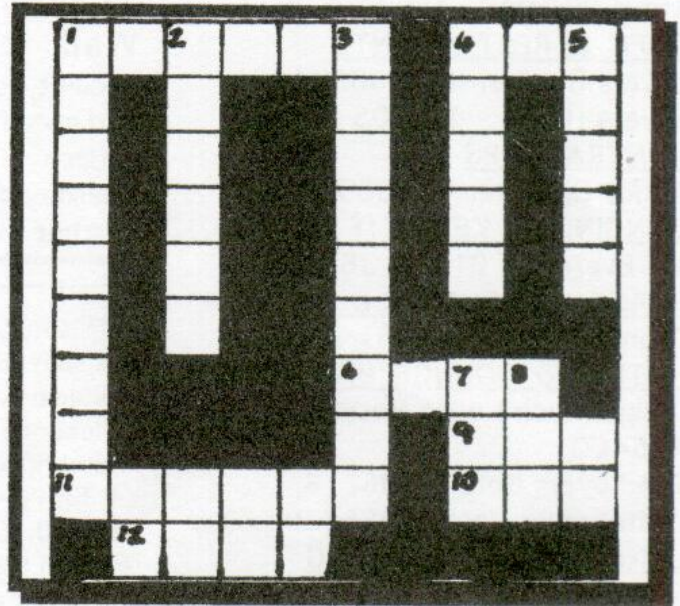
Across:

1. An imaginary Scottish animal that walks on hills (6)
4. Just bought. (3)
6. To act out someone's voice (4)
9. First in the number line. (3)
10. Different. (3)
11. Wooden frame criminals were put in to be punished (6)
12. Three plus two. (4)

Down:

1. Another word for the North of Scotland. (9)
2. Someone in the huff?(6)
3. Not always. (9)
4. A town North East of Inverness.(5)
5. The girl out of Peter Pan. (5)
7. A cow sound. (3)
8. Final. (3)

Answers : 



Compiled by Simon Allan, Aged 10

THE MONDAY CLUB

A big thank you to everyone involved in any way. Thanks to all for such a successful fancy dress disco when £87 was raised for the Raigmore Heart Scanner. We look forward to meeting again on 7th September and hope you all have a good summer break. Jane Ricketts

AS WE SEE OURSELVES

I am a tree
My bark clothes are rough,
My two branch-arms are long
With five twisted twig fingers on the end,
Dancing, waving leaves.
My crooked, root-feet keep me safe.

Calum Cook P5 Foyers

FOYERS PLAY SCHOOL HELD THEIR ANNUAL SALE OF WORK ON SATURDAY 30TH MAY AND RAISED £219 FOR SCHOOL FUNDS.

ARE YOUR SCONES SOMETIMES A LITTLE DISAPPOINTING?

- *Then try this method:* -

SWITCH OVEN ON! - **most important**, and set to Reg 8 or 200/400. Combine 8oz. S.R. flour (**YES - self-raising!**) with 1 tbsp. sugar, pinch of salt, 1/2 tsp. Bicarb of Soda and 1 tsp. Cream of Tartar. Rub 2oz margarine into this dry mixture.

When the oven is hot, and **not before**, and working as swiftly as you can make the mixture into a soft dough with a little milk, roll out on a floured board and cut into rounds. Place these on a greased baking sheet and put them into the hot oven, **AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT**. Approximately ten minutes later, you **should** have the best scones you have ever made.

Old Scots word
TRAUCHLED =
Harassed



Down 1 Highlands, 2 Grumpy, 3 Sometimes, 4 Nairn, 5 Wendy, 7 Moo, 8 End

Across 1. Haggis, 4. New, 9. Mime, 10. One, 11. Odd, 12. Stocks, 12. Five,



TRADE DIRECTORY

ALL JOBS

Dab Hands - 486416/430

BUILDER & JOINER

Steve Ricketts - 486225

CAFE & RESTAURANTS

Foyers Bay House - 486624

Foyers House - 486405

CONTRACTORS

Angus C. Fraser - 486650

DANCING & KEEP FIT

Iris Everett - 01320 36623

GLASS FIBRE MOULDING

Colin Evans - 486285

HOTELS & LOUNGE BARS

Craigdarroch House Hotel -

486400

The Foyers Hotel - 486216

Whitebridge Hotel - 486226

LANDSCAPE GARDENING

Ian Munro - 01463 240413

or 01456 486400

MUSICAL INST. REPAIRS

Bruce Dickson - 486696

NATIVE TREE NURSERY

Jane O'Donovan - 486355

PATCHWORK

Victoria Dickson - 486696

PICTURE FRAMING

Hugh Nicol - 486350

PLANTS FOR SALE

Sandy McLure - 486435

SHOP & POST OFFICE

The Foyers Store - 486233

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 you would like your trade or business name to be included, please telephone Dave Munro on 01456 486400 or fax 486444

ADVERTISING

£15 for four issues if you would like to be put on the Trade

Directory

Display advertising: £2 per cm column; one line adverts £1

FOR SALE

GEESE Alex still has geese 486641

FLIPPERS (size 9) 486355

Countryside Ranger events for summer

Explore Foyers - its history, wildlife & footpaths. Meet at car park at shop. Thursdays: 16 July 6.30-8.30pm; 23 July 2-4.30pm; 30 July 6.30-8.30pm; 6 Aug 2-4.30pm; 13 Aug 6.30-8.30pm

Walk the Corrieyairack Pass - explore the ancient woodland of Glen Tarff. Return by General Wade's road and see life through the soldiers' eyes. Meet just off the Ardachy Road, Fort Augustus. Grid ref. NH 377 074.

Tuesday 4 Aug 2-4pm.

Further information from Katy Stirling 01463 724260

RED CROSS WEEK

The sum collected in the area this year was - House Collections £294.44; Whitebridge Hotel 97/98 box £4.33; Foyers Shop 97/98 box £10.15. TOTAL £308.92. Grateful thanks to all collectors and contributions.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHAPEL SERVICES**
11am every Sunday



SENIOR CITIZENS BUS OUTING

This will take place on Wednesday 22 July to Dornoch. High tea will be served at Morangie House Hotel, Tain.

Rose Fortune

BUS SERVICE

WHITEBRIDGE - INVERNESS

Knockie Road End	07.30	-	Sat
Whitebridge	07.36	12.40	12.40
Gorthleck	07.45	12.50	12.50
Errogie	07.49	12.54	12.54
Torness	07.58	-	-
Inverness	08.50	13.45	13.45

INVERNESS - WHITEBRIDGE

Inverness	10.30	15.20	17.10
Torness	-	-	-
Errogie	11.21	16.16	18.01
Gorthleck	11.25	16.20	18.05
Whitebridge	11.35	16.30	18.15
Knockie Road End	-	16.35	-

REQUIRED Cleaner

Stratherrick
Public Hall
Start August

Approx. one day per week

Telephone
Jane 486355

Apologies for production delay.

Next issue October

Contributions by Sept. to:
Buddy MacDougal, Foyers
Sandy McLure, Gorthleck
Frances Abbot, W/bridge
Jane O'Donovan, Gorthleck

Thanks to Ray Cooper
for the printing



Andrew Fraser
Building Contractor

*Houses - Extensions - Renovations
Stonework*

Bein Sgurrach, Errogie
tel 486408