

# The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue No.5  
Winter 1999

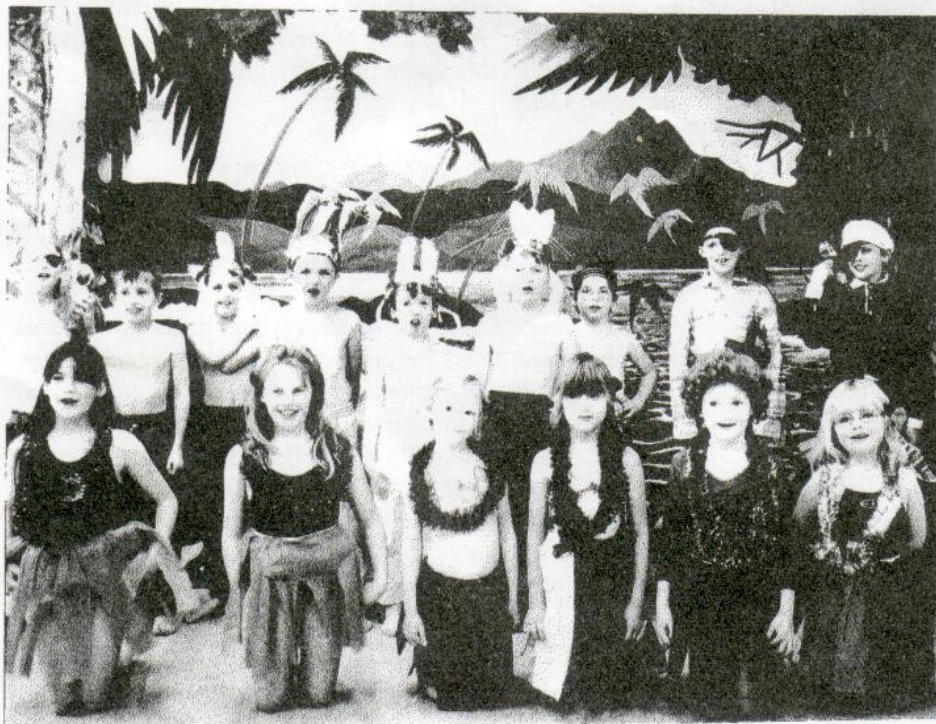
## MONTHLY CRIME REPORTS FOR STRATHERRICK & FOYERS

At the last Community Council meeting held at Foyers Power Station in December, a new initiative by The Northern Constabulary on policing in the Highlands was announced by P.C. Torquil Macleod. He said "the police hope that it will be proactive as opposed to reactive". In past years, twice yearly reports which covered large geographical areas were issued to community leaders. Starting in January 1999, a report will be presented each month at local Community Council meetings. It will become a regular item on the agenda. This report will highlight crimes that have taken place in the area over the past month and will identify any areas of concern that the police have in that particular area. At the start of every year, figures will be issued to the community, via the Community Council, relating to convictions and crime trends over the past year. The police are very keen to have community participation in this matter and will be looking to the Community Council for local feed back, so please contact you local representatives if you have any concerns.

## PLANNING OUR FUTURE - PLAYING THE GAME

Ever wanted to plan our community? 'Planning for Real' is your chance. Do we need more houses, new jobs, better facilities? Where should these go? What should we protect? Everybody has ideas. Everybody's ideas count. 'Planning for Real' gives each one of us the chance to have our say at evening workshops to be held at the Power Station Conference Room, Foyers on Thursday 28 January at 7.30pm, and at the Public Hall, Gorthleck on Tuesday 3 February at 7.30pm.

It couldn't be easier. You don't have to stand up and say anything, just choose cards showing what you think should go where, on a large model map of the area. The resulting map will influence planners for the next 10 year local plan which is about to start. It is vital that as many people as possible take part. Tell your neighbours and let your friends know. It promises to be an enjoyable event.



Christmas pantomime – Foyers School

## RECORD TAKINGS

The Shinty Club report record takings from the recent Sale of Work. £1000 was raised from donations and sales to everyone's delight. Committee member James Stoddart can't remember a sale achieving such a high return and wishes to express enormous gratitude on behalf of the club to all those who attended and made the sale such a huge success. News of Boleskine Shinty Club can now be accessed through the Internet on [www.shinty.com](http://www.shinty.com) by looking at the club page



## WATER IMPROVEMENTS

The North of Scotland Water Authority has been working hard over the last few months to establish the correct chlorine levels in our water supply. Mike Dunlop, the Inverness Operation Unit engineer, told our reporter that regular weekly samples were being taken at random from households throughout the area. It is hoped that by monitoring the levels of chlorine the Water Authority can establish an acceptable level for customers whilst keeping within the EC directives. There is an inevitable time lag between the addition of the chlorine at the plant to the time that the customer fills their kettle. These teething problems as Mr Dunlop sees it, are slowly being reduced. It was also explained that lime is being added in small quantities to bring the acidic level of the water up to neutral. As to the rather "bland" taste which some of us have been experiencing, it is possible that in future years a different filtering material will be introduced to improve the taste of the water. If anyone has any queries, either Mike Dunlop or Dave Warren on 01463 228202 will be happy to assist.

## TAKING A LEAD

Stratherrick School is giving the community a lead by making plans to mark the millennium. Head teacher Valerie Weir hopes the school can undertake the development of the school grounds. Though plans are still in the early stages of estimating the cost and seeking possible funding, a start has been made to a project that will be to the benefit of pupils long after the millennium has come and gone.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW POLICEMAN

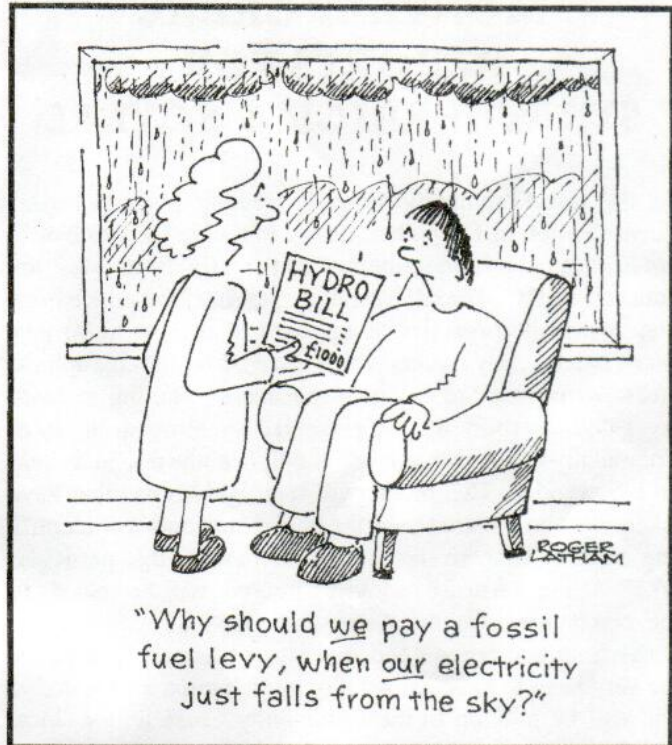
We have a new policeman patrolling our area. Torquil Macleod - a Lewis man, joined the police force in 1991 beginning his service in Kirkwall, Orkney, moving on to Lochinver before being stationed here. At the time of printing it is hoped that he will be in residence in the police house at Foyers. The house has needed considerable upgrading including a new heating system. Just as well, because Torquil is to be married in June to his girl friend Jacky.

## LAND REFORM - ONE OF ONLY THREE TO RESPOND

Stratherrick Community Council was one of only three Community Councils in Scotland to respond to the first Scottish Office Consultation Paper on Land Reform in Scotland. Land Reform will be one of the first issues that the new Scottish Parliament will be addressing. The first consultation paper concerned itself with identifying the problems and opportunities associated with Land Reform in Scotland. The results of this first paper can be seen in a second consultation paper published in September, which tries to identify the solutions associated with those problems and opportunities. Responses to this second paper were required by the end of November 1998.

## PHOTOCOPIER IN THE STRATH

At the end of 1998 the Community Council, with the assistance of Highland Council were able to purchase a photocopier for the use of the community. It is a card operated system with cards being available from Lorraine Fraser Tel No 486 427. (The cost per copy 5p.) Cards are in denominations of 1000 copies. The photocopier is in Stratherrick Public Hall and access is available by booking the hall through Cathy Stoddart on 486 329, although a card must be obtained from Lorraine in the first instance.



**Next Community Council meeting will be in the Gorthleck Hall on Tuesday 26th January at 7.30p.m.  
Chairman John Campbell 486 240**



## EDITORIAL

The Boleskine Bulletin has been running for a year now and we would like to thank all those who have helped. We are slowly forming a structure which should ensure that the little paper continues to provide a link within the community but we are a very small team and would dearly love some people to come forward to assist in two areas. Firstly, Ian Nesbit at Foyers is kindly keeping the financial records but to ensure the financial stability of the BB, we need someone to assist in raising funds. Secondly, we need reporters to ensure that the paper stays lively and interesting. If you enjoy a good story and like keeping your nose to the ground please let us know of any likely 'story'; the more people we have doing this the more worthwhile the paper will be. It is impossible for only a couple of people to know what's going on everywhere! The 'old news' of one area may well be 'new news' to those living somewhere else.

The millennium is almost upon us and 1999 should prove an exciting year with elections for the new Parliament and before long, the hope of seeing changes. One of the first tasks of our new Parliament is land reform and it is commendable that our Community Council should have responded to the debate. Among the many proposals put forward will be the establishment of a land register. This will allow information on land sales and land ownership to become more readily available giving local communities and individuals greater opportunities to acquire land. Other proposals include the availability of finance to enable local communities to purchase land. Creating more homes, jobs, opportunities and giving communities a sense of ownership and guardianship. If we wish future generations to take a pride in the area and to encourage its vitality we surely should be optimistic as we go into the next century. What about using the pages of the BB for any ideas as to how our community can celebrate and look forward to the 21st century?.

### SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

The last week of the pre-Christmas 'term' for the Stratherrick Country Dancing Club proved to be an exhausting time for some of its members. Jack Reid the local organiser explained why he ended the week happy but very stiff! On the Monday the club were invited to Barnchurch near Smithton to join in an evening of dancing with dancers from communities as far apart as Fortrose and Nairn. Then on the Wednesday of the same week Stratherrick was able to return the invitation and members of the Barnchurch Dancing Club came to the hall in Gorthleck. There was a good turn out and some of Rob Sergeant's more eccentric dances were included to entertain the visitors. Classes will resume again every Wednesday evening through to Easter.

## LETTERS

### Naughty but nice!

*Although I have had the privilege of living here for only 7 years, it never ceases to amaze me what a great variety of plants will grow this far north. One particular 'find' has been the pleasure of growing raspberries: while Scottish raspberries are very well known of course, their growing so well in Inverness-shire came as a pleasant surprise. What could be nicer than a bowl of them fresh from the garden, with the addition, of course, of a spoonful of fine sugar and a generous helping of cream! As the lady used to say 'naughty, but nice'. One particular variety 'Autumn Bliss' does exceptionally well, coming as a very late summer bonus. It does not throw up new shoots as it fruits, so that you prune out all the old fruited shoots to overwinter, then it starts afresh in the spring; quite unlike other varieties. Do try it.*

Maureen Evans

### TORNESS : MOSTLY ERASED FROM THE MAP!

*The people of Torness were startled recently to find that, in gaining new Post Codes most of us had also gained new addresses. Households to one side of Torness were placed in Dunmaglas and those on the other in Dore, leaving only three houses with a postal address in Torness!*

*After concerned calls and letters to the Post Office, our case was dealt with by Isobel Hendry, who is in charge of Post Code changes. Despite our early worries, she proved to be very helpful and was able to reinstate us all in Torness. If anyone else is having similar problems mention our case to Mrs Hendry on 01463 256246 or contact Ros Rowell, Torness on 01463 751314, who could do so on your behalf.*

Ros Rowell

#### Income

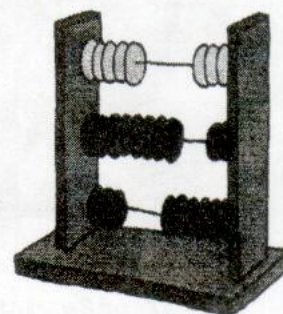
Community Council Grants (Leader 11)	£350.00
Trade Directory	
Advertising	£225.00
Other Advertising	£41.00
	£616.00

#### Expenditure

Printing	£102.00
Publishing Software	£136.18
Sundry Stationary	£23.95
	£262.13

Surplus £353.87

### Financial position of the Boleskine Bulletin (January 1999)





## LOOKING BACK ON A LONG ASSOCIATION

Although I was not born in Stratherrick I first got to know and love it in 1927. My uncle, Stanley Gordon Clark, was the shooting tenant of Wester Aberchalder Lodge for many years. It belonged, with much of the surrounding land to the British Aluminium Company. Sadly, the house was burnt down at a later date.

There were few modern comforts in the house. We went to bed, each with our candle. Electricity was supplied by a generator in the annexe. This was unreliable and was switched off at 8p.m. each night. No electric fires or blankets! The B.A. was a flourishing company at that time, the houses at Foyers all occupied by employees, lovely gardens on a slope to the road and there was always a Flower Show in the summer. Dr Gamble was our doctor.

I didn't visit Gorthleck again until 1941. By then I had married and we had two children. We, in the South of England were living in the constant fear of invasion by the Germans. Many of our friends sent their children to safety in Canada. When my aunt, who was at Wester Aberchalder at the time, offered to have them, we accepted and they went from us, for how long we couldn't bear to think.

I remember well driving to Bletchley to put them on the Inverness night train as London was being bombed. I went along country roads with no sign posts. All these had been removed for the fear of invasion. Our son went to his first school at Errogie. Under the command of Miss MacGillivray, he has later admitted there was more discipline there than he ever came across in later years!

We came to Farraline in 1957 and have spent the happiest days of our life. So little in Stratherrick has changed though there are now more houses, the roads are better, and electricity is in every dwelling. I get visitors from many different parts of the world. This is a Fraser house and members of the clan come to see it. I also get visits from former evacuees who were sent here during the war. Some were happy, some ran away but they all remember the bitter cold of winter!

To end this contribution I would like to add that this is a wonderful community and I can't think of any other place where I can live so happily in my old age!

*Barbara Sewell - Farraline*

## PEOPLE NEW TO THE AREA COME FORWARD

A gratifying number of volunteers, all fairly new to the area, have come to the rescue of the village hall. There have not been enough members for a management committee. The committee now stands at twelve with enough people to man sub-committees for repairs, finance, cleaning etc. The main thrust of the work however, will be to bring the hall up to the standards set by the Public Entertainment's Licence. Until this is obtained, the hall cannot charge for entry from the general public to events in the hall. Grant funding is being sought, but the hall will need to contribute funds of its own and Treasurer, Jane O'Donovan hopes that more

people will come forward to concentrate on fund-raising. "It is really good to see so many people willing to commit their time and effort," she said after the new members had been co-opted on to the committee, "but we still need to make up for lost time. The sum needed to meet the required standards is well into the thousands of pounds and our fund raising has been at a standstill for the last year or so. We need one or two people to concentrate on that alone". It is hoped that extra volunteers will come forward before the next meeting in the hall on February 9th.



**Stratherrick School Christmas Pantomime**

### **Planning applications received by Highland Council Nov/Dec '98**

Mr & Mrs A Fraser, Lynemhor Lodge, Gorthleck Outline planning permission for the erection of 6 timber frame lodges  
Mr & Mrs D. Munro, Craigdarroch House Hotel. Planning permission for the erection of 15 chalet/lodges  
Also received Woodland Grant Scheme application at Newlands  
Further details from Secretary of Community Council. John Joyce 486467



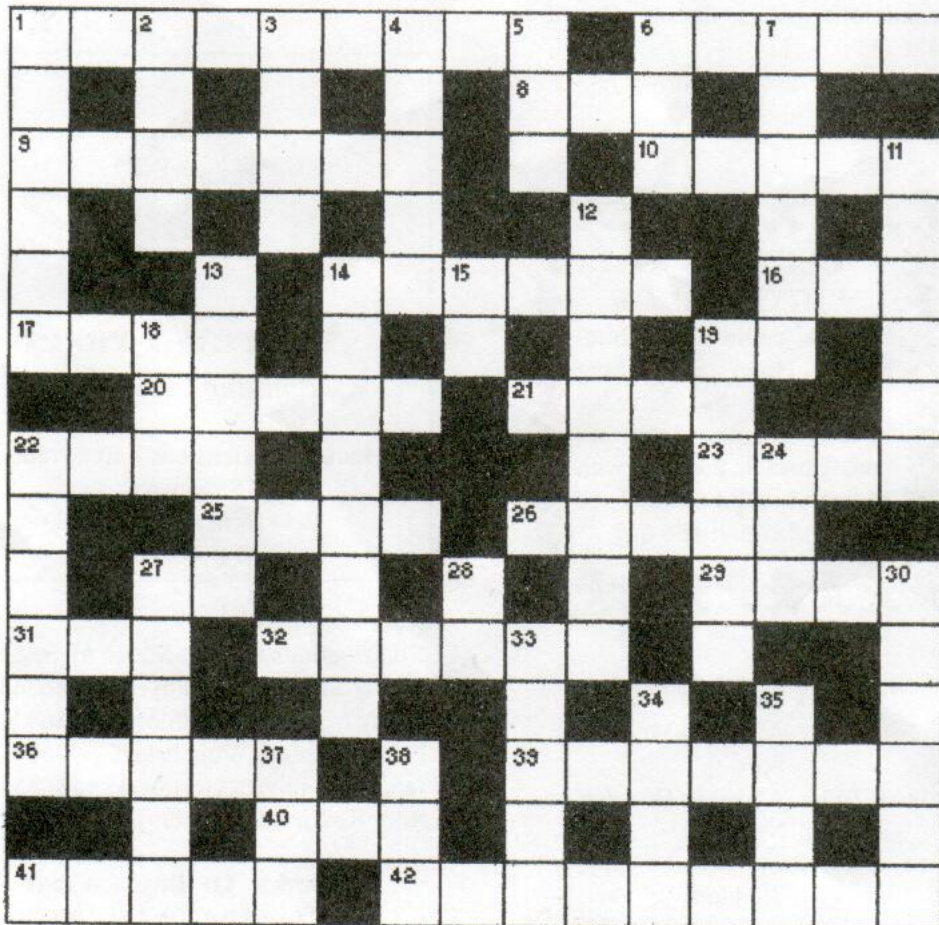
### ACROSS

1. English, in Scots (9)
6. Is this village in Poland or Essich? (5)
8. Bird in the bush (3)
9. Northern diesel agitated? No, but oil (7)
10. Cross beams reveal structure (1-4)
14. Herd north, or be herded (6)
16. Bumpkin is a pound short of a bloomer (3)
17. Level, but hardly odd (4)
19. What is, is left, when we leave wine (2)
20. I've got the answer - it makes makes! (3,2)
21. Confused, mate? Yes, though you'd need several (4)
22. Ritual sounds correct (4)
23. Request an advantage (4)
25. Every one is a topless beauty (4)
26. Spokes to a mathematician (5)
27. Not the one-and-only article (2)
29. Talk in a bomb laboratory (4)
31. Its cage is a chest (3)
32. I am in a spot - but flounder? No! (6)
36. 4 down's destination (5)
39. Homonymic problem and solution - bless you! (7)
40. European Monetary Union initially will not take off (3)
41. Weigh up on the bench (5)
42. ANC in purification process to raise extra money (9)

©Lysikrates

## DOWN

1. South African row is salty (6)
2. In it, you are out of it (4)
3. Garden in a valley south-east of Carlisle (4)
4. Calculating kind of serpent (5)
5. Sounds like a Scotsman (or a Welshman) will chop wood (3)
6. I hear waterfowl leading the school (3)
7. Why? Well, it's about a male child (6)
11. South, frequently, will become less rigid (6)
12. Hand over responsibility of French papal emissary (8)
13. Turn five directions to be invisible (6)
14. Home is here in France with a pound in the Millennium structure (8)
15. Conceal when he is outside, unconscious (2)
18. Consume the wrong tea (3)
19. Drink, in a rather bombastic way (6)
22. Remorse about the old King and an alien (6)
24. Animal, vegetable or mineral? Well, yes (3)
27. Ate bad mixture and died down (6)
28. 'Lo there! Up, up, up! (2)
30. Turn into - suit! (6)
33. Songbird loses an inch and is winnowed out (5)
34. Cat in a damaged floorcovering (4)
35. Non-fat heroin in a can (4)
37. Conger retreats into shelter (3)
38. Adding tail will shorten this dog (3)



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STILL PRIZE  
MONEY TO BE  
WON!

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A big surprise - no one sent  
 in a cartoon for our competi-  
 tion to win £10. Perhaps  
 no one reads the Boleskine  
 Bulletin after all! The offer  
 still stands for the best car-  
 toon sent in. You can be as  
 young or as old as you are.  
 The crossword above also  
 has a £10 prize attached.  
 This time donated by Ly-  
 sikrates. We will give £10  
 to the first correct answer  
 drawn out of a hat. Please  
 send either your cartoon or  
 your finished crossword to  
 Jane O'Donovan,  
 Lochgarthside. Entries in  
 by 10th March.



## **Trade Directory**

### **ALL JOBS**

**Dab Hands - 486416/430**

### **BUILDER & JOINER**

**Steve Ricketts - 486225**

### **CAFES & 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**

**Dores Inn - 01463 751203**

### **LANDSCAPE**

### **GARDENING**

**Ian Munro - 01463 240413**

**or 01456 486400**

### **MUSICAL INSTRUMENT**

### **REPAIRS**

**Bruce Dickson - 486696**

### **NATIVE TREE NURSERY**

**Jane O'Donovan - 486355**

### **PATCHWORK**

**Victoria Dickson - 486696**

### **PICTURE FRAMING**

**Hugh Nicol - 486350**

### **SHOP & POST OFFICE**

**The Foyers Store - 486233**

### **WAX PICTURES**

**Betty Brailsford - 486254**

### **WOODTURNING &**

### **GIFTS**

**Peter Tyler - 01808 521414**

### **UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

Dores Inn is under the new management of Mrs Ella MacRae. It will be open seven days a week at normal bar hours plus all day on Saturday and Sunday.

### **Advertising**

£15 for four issues if you would like to be put in the Trade Directory.  
Display Advertising: £2 per column cm: one line adverts £1

### **WATERCOLOUR CLASSES**

Painting for fun. Starting in Feb/March, small classes, from absolute beginners onwards, at the Artists Studio, Torness. Flexible times, reasonable charges. For details contact Ros Rowell on 01463 751314

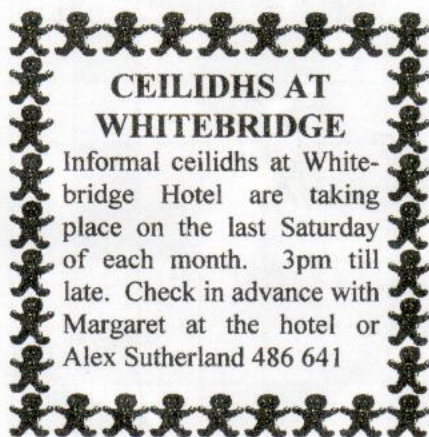
### **WINTER GRITTING ROUTES 1998/99**

The following routes, all B Class routes, are treated first.

1. Gorthleck to Brin B862 leading to B851
2. Gorthleck to Dores B862 & Dores to Inverfarigaig B852
3. Gorthleck to Whitebridge B862 & Whitebridge to Inverfarigaig B852 via the Strath Road & Foyers (Chapel Bridge Junction)

These routes are treated at the same time by different vehicles starting at 6 am. Next, Whitebridge to Fort Augustus B862 and interconnecting roads e.g. Loch Bran, Trinloist, & the Pass are treated along with school bus routes. Finally other minor roads are gritted. In times of heavy snowfalls and continuous blizzard conditions, these routes may be changed as conditions dictate. If you are doubtful about road conditions phone us on 486650 or 486242

Angus C. Fraser - Contractors, Gorthleck



### **CEILIDHS AT WHITEBRIDGE**

Informal ceilidhs at Whitebridge Hotel are taking place on the last Saturday of each month. 3pm till late. Check in advance with Margaret at the hotel or Alex Sutherland 486 641

### **FOYERS WRI**

Feb 4th A talk by Mr John Forsyth  
March 10th A visit to Howden's Nursery  
April 1st Craftwood - Marjory Stoddart  
Contact Lorraine Fraser 486 427

### **NEW TAXI SERVICE**

Mr Raymond Munro of Culloden Taxis has been awarded a contract to operate a subsidised taxi service in the Stratherrick-Foyers area. The service will operate on Monday and Thursday mornings between 0900 and 1230. Bookings can be taken up to 0800 on the morning of operation. To book phone either 0800 402010 or 01463 790000. The single fare will be 50p up to 3 miles and 10p per mile or part mile thereafter.

### **LOST**

Ginger Cat. Missing since mid October from Edinuanagan Croft, Torness, large neutered male cat. If anyone has any idea what's happened to him, please get in touch with Ros on 01463 751314.

Margaret's missing jelly pan is now home safe and sound and Margaret wishes to thank whoever returned it.

### **Stratherrick Hall Events**

Mondays: Monday Club 6.00- 8.00  
Tuesdays: Bowls 7.30  
Wednesdays: Country Dancing 7.30  
Thursdays: Badminton 7.30  
Bookings through Cathy Stoddart 486329



### **Andrew Fraser**

*Building Contractor*

Houses - Extensions - Renovations  
Stonework  
Bein Sgurrach, Errogie  
Tel 486408

Next Issue April

Contributions by 14th March to:

Buddy MacDougal, Foyers 486366  
Sandy MacLure, Gorthleck 486435  
Frances Abbot, Whitebridge 486645  
Jane O'Donovan, Gorthleck 486355  
Rory Robinson, Inverfarigaig 486669

**Thanks to Ray Cooper  
for the printing**