

The Boleskine Bulletin

Issue No. 8
Autumn 1999

HEADING FOR THE TOP

So far, this season has been very encouraging for our local shinty team. They are currently lying at the top of Division 2 North after winning their first five games. They triumphed over Kingussie, the current division champions by 3 goals to 0, followed by 5-1 over Newtonmore, 3-2 away to Kincaig, 6-1 against Fort William, then against Skye 1-0. Two players have returned to the team after a two-season absence and, along with two new signings this season, they look like having a very capable team. Despite all this excitement on the field, the management team have found time to apply to various funding bodies (Lottery Sports Fund and Highland Council) for the two phase improvement project: the re-surfacing of the playing field at Lower Foyers (a priority to bring it into line with other Camanachd clubs) and the building of a club house. If all goes according to plan, work on the field will start next spring, at which time the club will be looking for a suitable temporary playing field. If any readers can help let us know! The improvements will be of enormous benefit to the community as a whole. The field is the only substantial area suitable for, and set aside for sport, in an area stretching from Fort Augustus in the West, to Inverarnie in the East.



Sandy Cameron of Glenlia and Tina Grant from Fort Augustus were married at Foyers Church on 18th September. In front are Craig and Liam Girvan of Boleskine Junior Shinty Team.

LOCH FRONTAGE UP FOR SALE

20 acres of loch shore croft land at Gorthleck is currently on the market. Two years ago the same land was the subject of a planning application for a seven bedroom house which was refused on appeal to the Secretary of State. The croft land, along with Larch Cottage, is now for sale at an asking price in excess of £95,000.

THE WELL OF THE PHANTOM HEAD

Do you know where this is? Councillor Ella MacRae does and she has found funding to spend on this and other projects around Loch Ness. Her list includes: a new sign, telescope and kissing gate at the Suidhe; a new plaque marking the

spot where Boswell and Johnson stayed on their Highland Journey; and the old ruined Toll House on the loch-side. Research continues on the graves of two highlanders fleeing from Culloden. More money will be available in the next two years and any ideas pinpointing sites of interest in the area are welcome.

SEPTIC TANKS

Concern has been voiced by householders in the Highlands who live some way off the main roads. In the days when septic tank emptying was done by the Council their small tankers were able to negotiate narrow tracks. Now NOSWA, who only operate large tankers, expect these householders to employ contractors with small tankers to empty their tanks at huge extra cost. Surely NOSWA could supply smaller tankers to operate in the Highlands?!!

COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME



Sheila Fletcher, spokeswoman for Highland Council's Rural Transport department, said at the Community Council meeting on September 28th that, due to lack of use, the subsidised taxi service is to be discontinued. She was keen to clarify the reasons for the failure and to sound out the Community Council members as to what was required. The main reasons for the taxi failing appeared to be the restricted hours, the area covered, the difficulty in booking, and the fact that many felt that a taxi service based in Culloden was not in the best interests of local employment or the environment. One solution, Ms. Fletcher explained, would be a Community Car Scheme, a form of car sharing. It would require volunteer drivers and volunteer telephonists. Most Highland schemes pay a 30p mileage to the driver with the customer paying at least 15p. Various funds are available and her department would be willing to assist. The meeting concluded that a local survey would be worthwhile and was happy to take up the offer from Torness resident Ros Rowell, who is willing to co-ordinate an initial survey. So, please contact Ros on 01463 751314 if you are interested in becoming a 'driver' or a 'user'.

HOUSING TRUST COMING TO GORTHLECK

On September 28th, Mr Di Alexander, the Secretary of The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust came to explain the work of his organisation to the Community Council and to seek their views. The Trust's remit is to provide practical housing help to small communities in the Highlands. It can acquire land and buildings for this purpose, hold it as a future "Land Bank" or pass the land onto a Housing Association such as Albyn for development. The meeting felt that there was a need for sheltered housing for the elderly and low cost housing for young couples. However, Mr Alexander pointed out that Highland Council is not at

present in favour of sheltered housing in small communities due to the cost of wardening such schemes, but if land was acquired preference to young local people could be built into the allocation rules. The right to buy could be excluded in order to maintain the availability of this specialised housing stock. The Housing Trust has been offered an area of land at Gorthleck opposite Balloch, and it agreed to commission a feasibility study and report back to the Community Council. The Community Council for its part would like to hear from prospective tenants or individuals who might wish to build homes for themselves on such an area.

WANTED... home for bottle bank



The bottle bank is looking for a new home from its current location at Whitebridge. Ella MacRae, our local councillor, is asking for assistance within the community. Despite a real demand for more re-cycling facilities, (see the recent Planning for Real exercise in BB issue no 6) the Community Council has not yet managed to re-locate it. The Stratherrick Hall committee has discussed the possibility of siting the bank in the hall car park. However, they feel that there have been insufficient assurances from the Highland Council as to maintenance, etc. and feel that a site in Foyers would prove more central. Throughout the country Bottle Banks operate successfully without broken glass strewn around, children falling in or undue noise.

PHOTOCOPIER AVAILABLE

The Community Council now confirm that the photocopier in the Stratherrick Hall can be used by purchasing a card from their Treasurer, Lorraine Fraser 486427. These cards are in denominations of 1000 copies i.e. £50 @ 5p a copy. The key of the hall can be collected from Cathy Stoddart in Gorthleck after prior warning by telephone. Tel. 486329.

LEADER 11

Leader 11 is to be re-instated and re-named Leader Plus. £40,000 of funds including E.U. money is to be made available. Target groups for help could be anything from Youth Projects, Help for Pensioners, Community Ownership.

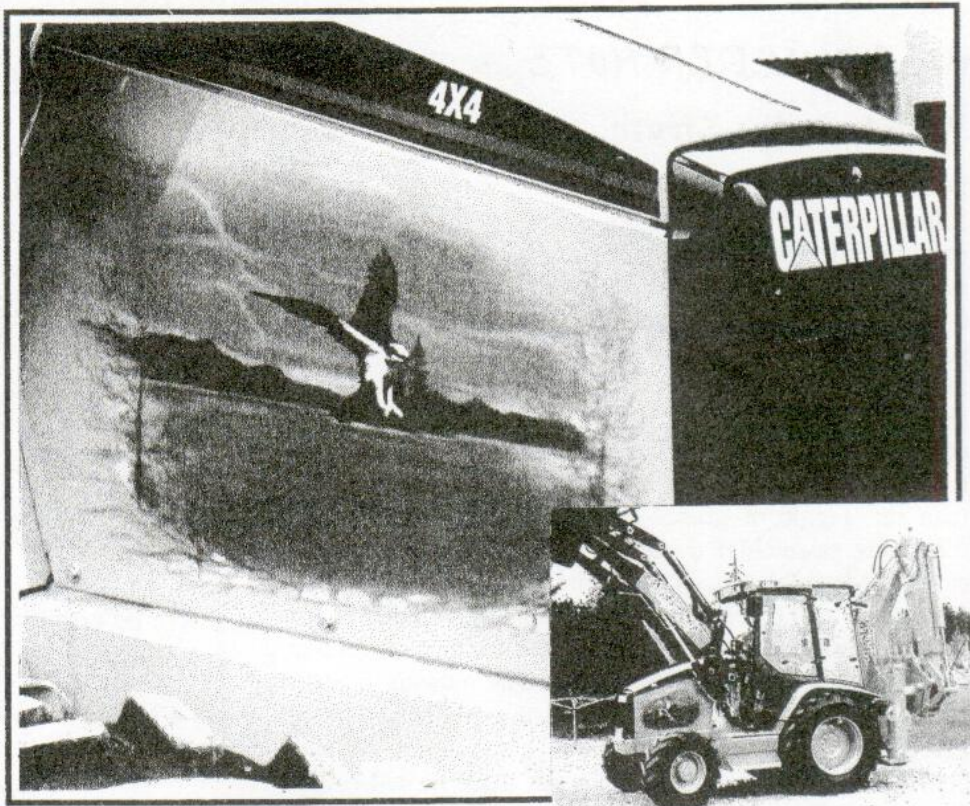
LETS TRADE

Following on from successful schemes in Forres and Nairn the Inverness Lets scheme has been set up. LETS, or Local Exchange Trading System, enables people to trade goods and services using little or no money but using a system of LETS points for the purchase or sale of goods instead. Points are gained when providing a service or goods, and in return can be used to buy other services or goods. Services covered are wide-ranging; painting, decorating, electrical work, dog walking, baking, etc. etc. The Inverness Lets scheme is thriving, with a few residents from Stratherrick already signed up. Of course informal 'trading' already exists in country areas but this scheme extends the idea so that more resources can be pooled. Some people may feel that they have little to offer but on reflection most people have something! Membership costs £10 and further details from Morag Drew, 8 Dunachton Road, Inverness, tel. 01463 711790 or from Ros Rowell on 01463 751314.

A CHOICE OF ROPES!

Has anyone seen a squirrel crossing a rope and if so which one?

At this time of year red squirrels are killed on the Dore's Foyers road as they cross to get at hazel nuts on the loch shore trees. For the last two years local people have erected warning signs to drivers but unfortunately the signs have been vandalised and stolen. Coming to the rescue, Forest



Digger's flight of fancy. A fine Osprey now adorns both sides of local digger.



NEWS ON THE HALLS

Since re-furbishment, the Church Hall at Foyers is now available for use by the local community. Full details regarding charges from Rev. J. Christie 486 206. (The recent Bring and Buy Church Sale raised £880 to help church funds).

Meanwhile Stratherrick Hall has submitted an application for funds for upgrading to the Lottery Funding Agency, but it could be up to five months before there is a decision. Copies of each hall committee meeting are posted up in the hall and further information can be had from Hugh Nicol, the Chairman, on 486 350.

Enterprise undertook an experiment earlier this year to hang ropes between trees, high above the road. Various thicknesses of rope have been used as bridges at several locations to see which squirrels prefer. We don't know if the squirrels are actually using the ropes, so if anyone sees a squirrel crossing then please contact - Katy Stirling, Loch Ness Ranger on 01463 724260 or Adele Beck, Forest Enterprise 01320 366322 (or let us know at the Boleskine Bulletin - ed.). *Late News - Three squirrels spotted.*

ON A WILDER NOTE

Wildlife in the Strath.

Despite the wet, overcast weather, this autumn has had its highlights. One day in late September particularly stands out. A day of blue skies, drying breezes and the startling clarity that sometimes follows days of rain.

Dozens of red admirals brought the garden to life, feeding and sunning themselves in sheltered spots. And as the last of the swallows headed off to warmer climes, so the geese arrived! Surely no sound better evokes a Highland autumn than the gaggle of geese. That day, hundreds, perhaps thousands, passed high overhead, most of them disappearing over the Monadhliath. Later in the day, a flock of 40 or so dropped in to Loch Mhor. A few greylag will likely stay with us over the winter. And with the coming of autumn, time to review the summer's events. The redwing reported in the last issue was seen and heard repeatedly between Errogie and Newlands into midsummer, and almost certainly bred. A more spectacular sighting was made in mid August by Theresa Tweedlie in her garden in Errogie - a male Scarlet Rosefinch. This brightly-coloured finch is sometimes seen on passage from the Continent, but in the 1980s a pair bred in the Highlands. A few now breed every year, and the date suggests that the Errogie bird may have bred locally.

John Parrott

If you have any interesting or unusual observations, please let John know on 486 426.



STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

No prizes for a snappy title but this is a new organisation, which has been granted sub committee status by your Community Council. For some time I have been aware of the vulnerability of our local environment to the effects of developments such as the unsuccessful and unapproved wind mill on Beinn Dubhcoire to the neglected lay-bys and viewing points on Loch Ness and the lack of signs and information about our local archaeology. There are people within our community but not necessarily on the council who possess environmental, fund raising, and organisational skills which I believe can be harnessed to articulate local views and to apply for the many sources of grant aid which are available to an independent organisation. I am therefore in the process of setting up the Group and am looking to you the Bulletin reader for any ideas and projects in which you have a concern or interest. The title is deliberately wide so don't feel constrained, and I'll let you know in the nicest possible way if your idea is too wacky.

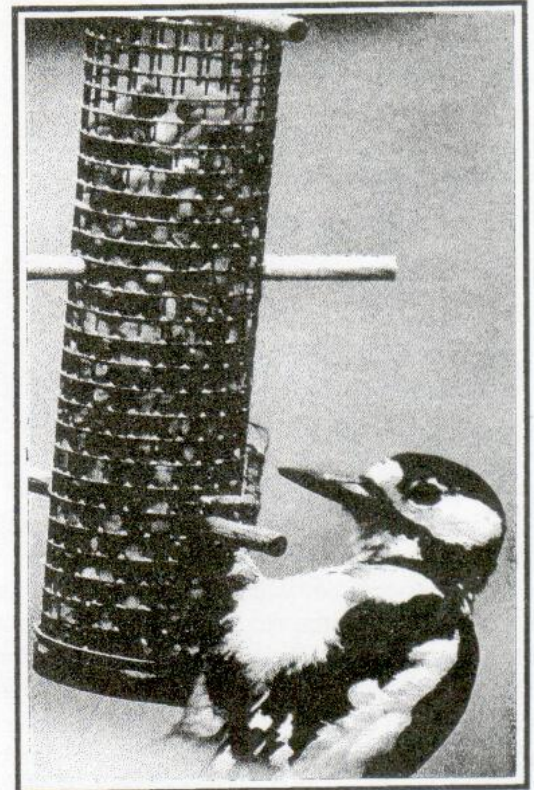
Get in touch with me personally or by phone at 486711.

Alex Sutherland - Altnagoire.

FOREST NEWS

The 1960's conifers are being removed from Inverfarigaig Gorge to restore the native woodland. Similar restoration will take place next year along the shores of Loch Ness, near Knockie, an SSSI extending for 7 miles. At Balnagarline, clearance of wind damaged sections of the forest will be completed before the spring while at Erchite, on the way to Dores, clearfelling has now finished until 2002 and several historically interesting sites, including an ancient chapel can now be seen. Thinning is being carried out at Errogie and at Trinloist and will be completed before Christmas. Forest Enterprise apologise for any disturbance.

A family of Great Spotted Woodpeckers was seen regularly in the Fortunes' garden in Errogie, this Summer.



Appeal Do you have any good quality photographs of local interest - past or present - places, people, events, wildlife, buildings - which could adorn the pages of this newsletter? Let's have them please! All will be returned.

Photos this issue - Joan Cameron, Susan Fraser, Fergus Fortune, Rose Fortune.

The following article follows on from a series reflecting views from different sectors within our community. This time Sandy Macpherson kindly gives his angle on the sheep crisis currently affecting us.

THE CRISIS FOR SHEEP FARMING



Breeding ewe lambs 60% down; Prime lambs 50% down; Cast Ewes 90% down. How many other industries would or could cope with such a reduction in prices for their produce? Not many I would hasten to add, but these are the harsh facts that have hit the UK sheep industry over the past two years. So what are the reasons for this drastic fall in prices:

1) The Government (on the back of the BSE crisis) has imposed high meat inspection charges in the abattoirs, which brings the cost of processing a carcass to approx. £12-£14. This is a cost which our competitors do not have to bear.

2) The collapse in the value of sheepskins, which up until 18 months ago were worth from £7-£9, and are now worth approx. £1.50.

3) The strength of UK sterling has made exporting lambs unattractive to exports, except at a discounted price.

4) The drop in the price of wool to levels that do not cover the cost of shearing.

These are the main factors. However, supermarkets (they control the price of lamb) are making far too much money at the producer's expense. If farmers are only receiving £1.50/kg carcass for the best lambs, how can M&S possibly justify a charge of up to £20/kg for a joint of lamb? Somebody is making massive profits and it's not me!

The cast ewe trade, one of the more worrying aspects of the crisis, results in many Black Faced ewes being unsaleable. Unless the Government can persuade Brussels to come up with a cull ewe scheme to dispose of these unwanted older (but perfectly healthy) ewes, they will have to be culled at home and disposed off in mass graves, causing environmental problems. To sum up, if the present situation continues it will have a tremendous knock-on effect on all the service industries associated with agriculture, and the rural economy could soon be in real poverty. If 'sheep farming' becomes unsustainable on the hills, the countryside would very soon become a wilderness of scrub, bracken and rank heather.

Sandy Macpherson

STRATHERRICK CLAY TARGET CLUB: Past and Present — Elaine Hepburn

Who would have thought that such a small community could achieve sporting history!!!! But.... That's exactly what Stratherrick's Gun Club has done. Founded over a hundred years ago in 1890 by the gamekeepers and farmers it was known as "The Stratherrick Glass Ball Club". The 'Glass Ball' was the first target used by shooters. It was full of feathers and when hit the feathers would "rain down"-therefore giving the shooter his points. In the late 1890's the Clay Target was invented. This gave the Club the option to shoot at either. It would have been interesting to know which they preferred to shoot at, or which was the easiest to shoot at! A Barrel of 200 Glass Balls cost 14 shillings - only 70p in today's money! A box of 200 Clay Targets was slightly cheaper at 9s (45p). Unfortunately, we do not know when Stratherrick stopped using the glass balls, but it would have been in the early 1900's. Traps used to be done by hand, someone would sit in the Traphouse and lay the target on, then at the back of the shooters would be someone working the 'Blairgowrie hand held Trap', which meant he had to push a lever backwards and forwards to release the target. These days the traps have got stackers and are filled up maybe twice a day. They are released by 'The buttoner' pressing a button!

We are fortunate to have a few members who have been shooting at the club for many years. Kenny MacPherson from Foyers is our long serving member with an amazing 69 years, Ian MacDonald from Dunmaglass for 59 years and John MacPherson from Abersky for 49 years. All three were excellent shooters in their hey-day, and are still shooting to a high standard today. Eddie Fraser from Knockie was

"unexpectedly" presented with his 40 years service medal this year, he has been an inspiration to the club and his influence has been appreciated by us all for many years. In the 1920's Stratherrick had four members representing their Country at International level. Duncan Cameron of Garrogie was in Scotland's winning team in 1925. Today Iain Hepburn of Dunmaglass has been shooting for Scotland for the last 4 years. We have a couple of junior shooters who are becoming excellent shots and hopefully we will one day see them representing their Country and helping Stratherrick Clay Target Club remain on the Shooter's map.

Our season is nearing an end, but we have our Christmas shoot on Saturday 18th December at Abersky Farm, Torness. We are hoping to hold a day in the future for anyone to come along, have a shot, or just to watch. For further information contact:

Ken Fraser 01456 486220 or Iain and Elaine Hepburn 01808 521226.

Results for 1999: Keepers v Farmers (March): - 1st I. Hepburn; 2nd E. Fraser; 3rd S. MacPherson; 4th K. Fraser. Winning team - Farmers: Local Open (May): - 1st I. Hepburn; 2nd A. Reid; 3rd E. Fraser; 4th G. Matheson: Open 50 Bird Competition (May) 1st I. Hepburn; 2nd P.J. Mackay (Dingwall); 3rd D. Ferguson (Invergarry); 4th I. Robb (North Kessock); Three Straths Competition (June): - 1st Strathnairn 141pts; 2nd Stratherrick 140pts; 3rd Strathdearn 128pts: Inter-estate Shoot held at Easter Aberchelder: - 1st Knockie; 2nd Stratherrick Gun Club; 3rd equal Dunmaglass A & Flichity; High Gun for the day Neil Kirkland

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR OVER 65's

Hard luck if you are under 65 'cause you are not eligible to attend the annual Christmas dinner organised by the Home Visiting Group. If, however, you are over 65, you are new to the area or have missed out in the past give 486 663 a call and Rose will welcome you on board. Date and venue to be announced later. We will hear all about it in the next issue of the Bulletin!

Valerie Weir would like to thank all those who contributed to the Capability Scotland House to House collection in May this year. £54.95 was raised.

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU !

Well not quite the Country but the local area does need new Auxiliary Fire Fighters for the Foyers Fire Station. Some of the existing team have moved away or answered Torquil's request to become Special Constables for the police. There is training once a month in the old Hydro building in Foyers under the supervision of Colin Evans the Sub Officer. Contact Colin for more information. 486 285.

Meals on wheels



By the time the Bulletin gets to you there will be a service up and running in the area to provide a hot meal twice a week (Monday & Friday) for anyone identified by the WRVS on the recommendation of the local doctors. Rose Fortune is the local organiser and she is keen to hear from anyone in the Foyers area with a car who could help with holidays and any emergencies. Her phone number is 486 663.

OILS, CANDLES AND BIRDS

Two interesting meetings started off the new season for the Foyers WRI. A talk and demonstration by Alison Leichman of Forres on the use of essential oils in Aromatherapy and in October Cheryl Hardy from Evanton who gave an entertaining talk on visual effects of candles used in displays. The new President is Mary Campbell and she will be introducing Kenna Chisholm from the RSPB who will be giving a talk in Foyers Church Hall at 7.45 pm on Thursday 4th November. This is an open meeting with a sale of work. Everyone is welcome.

EDITORIAL

To some the legislation on land reform about to go through the Scottish Parliament is an issue which holds certain fears. It is a subject which has seemingly appeared from no-where and yet, historically, it has been around since the break-up of the old clan loyalties. Scotland has the most concentrated pattern of land ownership in Europe - where 1% of the population own 80% of the land. Comparing the Highlands of Scotland with places like Norway, one can easily see the difference. Norway has small farm units and strong communities in the villages which create work for small service businesses. Here we have been unable to do this as the bulk of the land remains in large holdings and restricts the population from diversifying or creating employment. In the last couple of decades there has been a much stronger demand from the people of Scotland (both urban and rural) to access the land. Hence the desire for 'land reform'.

Recently our Community Council responded to the final consultation paper on Land Reform. The paper is a result of three previous consultation papers on the subject which have been widely circulated throughout rural Scotland over the last year. The White Paper has three parts: a) community right to buy - creating the mechanism by which communities could purchase land, b) responsible access - the right of responsible access to land is an issue which, in Scotland, has never been clarified in law, and c) information on land holdings. i.e. knowing who owns the land. In its response, the Community Council's sub group made an attempt to represent what it thought was the general feeling locally. The group - made up of five community councillors and two interested others found it difficult to agree, but eventually came up with a consensus response.

This response reflected a view of caution. This may well be the general

opinion of the local population but, like many other issues to which the Community Council has to respond, it is inappropriate for them to make a value judgement without exploring the views of residents in depth. In this edition of the Boleskine Bulletin there are several subjects which need more consideration from the population at large before decisions are made e.g. community car service, bottle bank, housing and care for the elderly. A recent example is the use of public funds to acquire a photocopier for community use. It is kept in the public hall and yet is proving useless for most people living here, because there are very few of us who wish to spend £50 on a card at any one time. With a bit of foresight and research this could have been avoided. Dates, times and venues of each Community Council meeting are published in the Bulletin. They are open to everyone but the agenda for these meetings are not displayed beforehand - maybe it's time they were!

The Importance of Names

In this computerised age of postal codes and changing populations place-names are more important than ever because they are strong links with our history, culture and identity, and are all too easily lost through omission, abbreviations, or misspellings. Midway between Whitebridge and Fort Augustus 'the Suidhe' is an example. The name Suidhe means a 'seat' or rest place. A common name on Highland maps which tells us nothing much. On the other hand the full name of 'an Cuimein Suidhe' relates to a very real story indeed. Around the year 640, Cuimein from Iona founded a church near the head of Loch Ness. One fine day he toiled up the long braes of Glen Doe to view the other side of the mountain - Stratherrick. He sat and rested by the view point and no doubt took refreshment; (as people still do today, but with much less toil.) The Celtic Christian missionaries habitually consecrated their church with a bronze bell, and Cuimein's bell was to remain in or on the site of his small church for hundreds of years. In 657 Cuimein returned to Iona as the 7th Abbot and died there in 669, seventy years after Columba. Fort Augustus is a colonialism, the old name being Cille-Chuimein until c.1740. Cuimein's bell remained a holy relic, long after the original church crumbled, until it was removed and lost in the year 1559 - but that is another story!

N.B. CILLE pronounced 'kil' means church. A common prefix throughout Scotland.

Hugh MacNally

THE FOYERS HOTEL

Enjoy a traditional Sunday Roast Lunch in our Lounge Bar from 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm

To reserve your table, telephone: 01456 486216

Like the Boleskine Bulletin?

We need feedback on how you view your local rag-mag.

Have we got the content right? or do you want something more radical?

Is there something for everyone?... or are there important local issues and events that we are not covering?

Are you pleased when it drops through your letterbox? ... or don't you bother reading it?

We eagerly await your comments ... or, better still, send in a contribution. If you do like it, do you need more than one copy?

Extra BBs for friends, family etc...are available for a small charge. Names can be added to our mailing list.

Contributions to the Editor, Norbu, Lochgarthside, Gorthleck, or drop in an envelope marked BB to the Foyers shop...or phone Buddy 486 366, Sandy 486 435, Jane 486 355, or Rory 486 669. **Next issue January. Deadline 20th December.**

HELP OR BE HELPED?

There appear to be many different organisations and groups offering assistance to the elderly that it could be confusing. Here are two schemes which may be of assistance:-

Help the Aged are running a **Home Safety Scheme** providing advice on safety in the home, fire, heating, etc. and they operate a HandyVan Service to carry out small household jobs. Local contact is Rose Fortune on 486 663.

The Volunteer Centre, 28 Queensgate, Inverness, also offers a **'Handy Person' scheme**, providing small repairs and assistance with everyday chores that present a problem for the less able. Anyone requiring help to access this scheme will need to ask their GP, District Nurse, or Day Centre Manager to contact the Volunteer Centre. The Volunteer Centre also requires volunteers to be able to run the scheme - contact 01463 711393 if you can help in any small way.

The Telford Day Care Centre in Fort Augustus is looking for **Home Carers**, especially in the Errogie/Gorthleck area. The work is varied, tasks including assisting with personal care, lighting fires, and other practical tasks as necessary. The rate of pay is £4.97 per hour + weekend rates. Contact Brenda Codd on 01320 366511 for an informal chat.



HAPPY HOGMANAY?

It has been seriously suggested that there may be a number of dangerous malfunctions at midnight on New Years Eve, due to computer problems. For myself, I hope to be having a peaceful family celebration with a large, computer-free, bonfire. And there will be those who will be having a more noisy celebration in Inverness, or wherever. But what is so special about this Hogmanay? We are celebrating some 2,000 years since the coming of Jesus Christ into our world to show us the way that Almighty God would want us to live in peace and harmony with each other, and himself. To emphasise this truth the churches in Inverness and District have come together to deliver a copy of this Good News told by Luke to every house during November; and to invite as many as can get there to a grand United 'Songs of Praise through the Ages' in the Old High Church, Inverness at 3pm on 2nd January 2000.

Martyn Bateman

P.S. It is reliably stated that the word 'Hogmanay' comes from the French for 'Lead me to the Mistletoe' - 'An gui menez.'

(or 'a gift at the New Year' -ed.)



THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

Stuck for ideas this Christmas? Stratherrick School are producing a **MILLENNIUM TEA TOWEL**, which will be on sale during December. Contact Eileen Martin 486 661 or Heather Parrott 486 426.

Guided Walks

Katy Stirling's programme starts again on February 27th 2000.

Taped extracts from local and National Scottish newspapers and also books can be provided by post. This service is free for those registered blind/with reading difficulties - a doctors referral is required.

Contact Highland Society for the Blind, 38 Ardconnel St. Inverness. Telephone 01463 233663.

advertisement

TREES TREES - Plant

a tree for the millenium.
Variety of native trees (oak, elm, holly, pine, hazel, sloe etc). Put something back!

Plant locally, with trees raised from local seed.
New year, new parliament, new millenium - celebrate with a tree! Also available:

small pine trees in pots ready for Christmas. See

Jane O'Donovan or telephone Gorthleck

486355.

MORE MILLENIUM THOUGHTS!

Corinne Roberts from Errogie has suggested a millenium cookery book. She would like recipes from readers; favourites, unusual, strange or interesting. Somehow, (any suggestions) it could then be put into a simple book form and sold locally, proceeds going somewhere suitable. Get in touch with Corinne on 486 358 with your recipes. Does anyone have a recipe for heather ale?



Andrew Fraser
Building Contractor

Houses - Extensions - Renovations
Stonework
Bein Sgurrach, Errogie

Four local ladies Win 1st Round of Competition



Two residents from Stratherrick, Evelyn Bailey and Joan Roberts travelled up to Broadford in Skye recently as part of a team of four from the Telford Centre. They took part in a general knowledge competition named after the one time Highland Councillor Tom MacKenzie and managed to beat the local team 42-17. Best of luck in the 2nd round. Watch this space!

FIRST YEARS SUCCESS

Thanks to Mary Campbell and Belinda Sanderson, the South Loch Ness Playschool have had a very satisfactory H.M.I. assessment to be published later this year. The Playschool is free of charge to all children in their pre-school year for five half-day sessions per week and is open for 3 yr. olds on a Tuesday and Thursday morning at £2.50 per session. There is a possibility that the Playschool might move premises to Foyers but this is still in the hands of the Planning Authority. Further information from the Secretary - Mrs Susan Fraser 486242.

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS BECOME PARENTS AND TODDLERS!

The Mother and Toddlers group now have a father in regular attendance. Rory Robinson from Inverfarigaig comes along with his daughter Natasha on Wednesday mornings from 10am-12pm during school terms. It is a great opportunity for the children to make new friends. The atmosphere is informal, the children can try their hand at various activities including painting, play dough and puzzles or just let off steam on a range of toys. For further information call Marjory Williams 486 354.

BOLESKINE ANCIENT GRAVESTONES

Mr. Fridge of Protective Services, Highland Council, agrees that moss could be removed from these gravestones if desired but in fact, this moss does protect the stones from the elements. The long grass will, however, be cut back thus reducing the likelihood of the stones disappearing altogether.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

since the last Bulletin: Coirriearth estate, construction of new entrance way to Corriearth Lodge; Mr & Mrs F. Sandham, erection of house and garage at Killiechoilum, Whitebridge; Mr & Mrs E. Paterson, erection of house at Carnoch, Errogie; Mr & Mrs S. Martin, erection of house at Plot 2 Tom a'Mhoid, Gorthleck; Mr Fraser, Gorthleck Mains Farm, alter and extend existing cattle court; Ian Brailesford, dwelling house at Knockchoilum, Whitebridge.



TWO OBJECTIONS have been received in response to the Playschool's application for change of use of one of the industrial units at Foyers. The first, from the adjoining unit who are concerned about danger from their lorries coming to and fro, and a second from the Roads Department. Mr Gibson of the Planning Department stipulated that there would need to be a separate car park and entrance to the play school and that the courtyard should be fenced. Signs would also be required. When the period of occupation ends the property would have to revert to its original condition.

Late news - the application has now been approved.



A trip to Loch Linnhe by the Senior Citizens on their annual outing a few years ago.

Sadly, on this years trip, the meal in Ullapool was disappointing and prompted a letter of complaint from Rose Fortune - unfortunately no reply has been forthcoming from the restaurant.

ALOE VERA PRODUCTS

100% organic.

Natural Health Care for people,
pets, horses and farm animals.

Janet Sutherland
Tel/Fax 01456 486641

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

EMBROIDERY CLASSES

Chris Moore 486255

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

NATIVE TREE NURSERY

Jane O'Donovan - 486355

PICTURE FRAMING

Hugh Nicol - 486350

SHOP & POST OFFICE

The Foyers Store - 486233

WATERCOLOURS & ART CLASSES

Ros Rowell 01463 751314

WAX PICTURES

Betty Brailsford - 486254

*This Trade Directory allows readers to
place their business locally and gives
vital financial sponsorship to the BB.*

To advertise, contact Jim Cameron on 486 293. Current charges:

£15 for four issues in the Trade Directory.

Display Advertising: £1-50 per column cm.

**Free for items under £100 (not trade) eg For Sale,
Wanted, Lost, etc.**

Thanks to Ray Cooper for the printing

WINTER EVENTS IN STRATHERRICK HALL

Monday

Monday Club starts after the October school break 6-8 pm.

Tuesday

Bowls 7.30 pm.

Wednesday

Country Dancing 7.30 pm.

Thursday

Badminton start date not yet confirmed.

Friday

Awaits something interesting!

FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 7.30 pm. WHIST DRIVE

Competition entry £1, children 50p. Tea & Biscuits.

SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER 3 pm. SHINTY SALE

Foyers Church Hall

THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 7.45 pm. Kenna Chisholm from the **R.S.P.B** will be giving a talk for the WRI in Foyers Church Hall. This is an open meeting with a sale of work. Everyone is welcome.

MONDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 7.30 pm. Presentation by Forest Enterprise of the results of the **Forest for Real** meeting held in Foyers last May and a chance to take part in initial discussions about the new environmental group starting up in the area. (See A. Sutherlands letter-ed).

Forthcoming **Community Council Meetings** (3rd Tuesday of the month) 26th October, Stratherrick Hall, 23rd November, Foyers Power Station. All meetings are open to the public, Chairman John Campbell, 01456 486 240.

FEIS

Lessons in Music, Gaelic and Dance recommence in the new **Strathnairn Village Hall** in December. Contact Alastair Forbes on 01808 521333 for further details.

KEEP-FIT starts again in Fort Augustus on 1st November. Phone Christine Everett on 01320 366235 for details.

NO TALKS THIS YEAR

Due to low turnouts, there will be no evening talks from Aberdeen University in Stratherrick Hall this year. Given sufficient demand they could start again next year. Suggestions please.

THE FOYERS HOTEL

Following a successful season in our fully licensed restaurant our A la Carte menu will be available throughout the winter months.

Please make your reservations
on:

01456 486216