



Stratherrick & Foyers News

Issue 15
September 2019

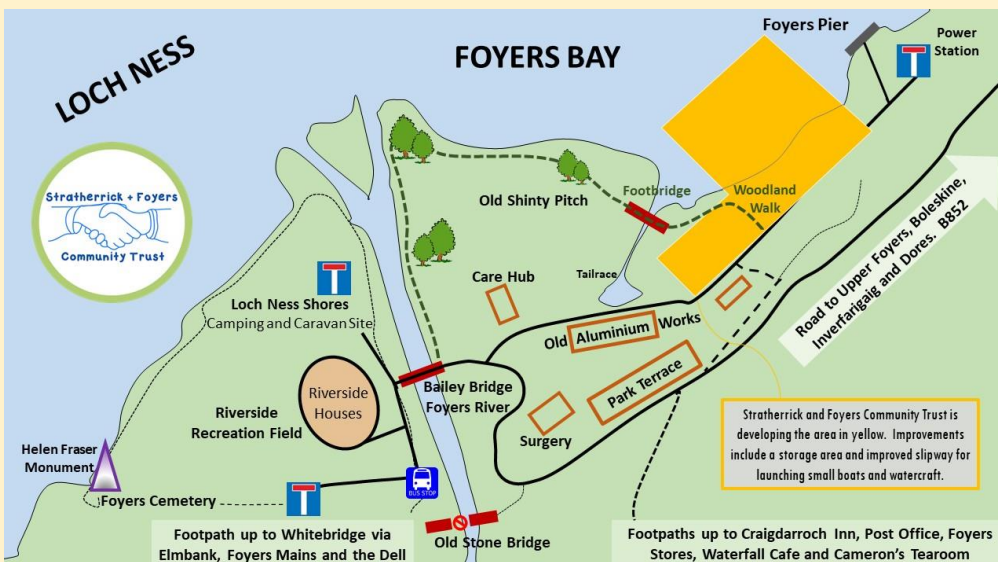


Community Trust's Barn Dance was a 'reel' night to remember.



Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust's big summer event this year was a dance held on Saturday 17th August at Stewart and Amy Macpherson's barn at Dell Farm. Huge thanks go to the Macphersons for once again making their venue available to the Trust, free of charge. The Barn Dance was open to all members of the community and their friends and funded entirely by Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust.

See page 4 for a full report and more photographs.



OPEN MEETING FOYERS BAY BOATING FACILITY CONSULTATION AND IDEAS

Stratherrick Public Hall
Saturday 21st September 2019
2.30pm

For all residents interested in boating or small watercraft activities in Foyers Bay

See page 18 for more details



Issue 15

This is our September 2019 issue. The next issue is planned for early December 2019 and will include news of the Trust AGM result. Please get your Christmas news in to us for 20th November 2019.



COMMUNITY TRUST

A.G.M.

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 30th October 2019, Stratherrick Public Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome, only members of the Community Trust are eligible to stand as directors or vote. There is still time to sign up!



New Trust Directors are needed this year. If you would like to volunteer, please make contact with the Chair, or any Director of the Trust or call 07525120966. There has never been a more important time to get involved. Trust income is guaranteed and rising. The opportunities to make significant long term improvements in Foyers and Stratherrick are exciting and progressive, but the Trust needs new Directors to stand for election at the AGM in October.

Boleskine Community Care

This issue of the NEWS incorporates the Boleskine Community Care Newsletter. Check out Pages 22 and 23 for all their news.

Changes at STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The new make-up of the Community Council is as follows – Chair – Paula Page, Glenlia, Vice Chair Catriona Fraser, Glebe, Treasurer Jim Cameron, Compass, Cllr. Phil Crowe, Foyers and Cllr. Martin Donnelly, Foyers. Sharon Ferguson, Wester Drummond is the new Administrator and Treasurer.

***'So when is the Boleskine Camanachd Shinty Sale this year?'
Saturday 30th November 2019 at Stratherrick Public Hall.***



Stratherrick and Foyers NEWS is published four times a year – on line and on paper. We print original material not seen anywhere else! We give information in good faith, but we can't be responsible if dates or times change. Opinions expressed are not the views of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. Businesses mentioned are not endorsed by the Trust. We always print corrections and apologise when we get things wrong. If you think any information or comments are incorrect or unfair, please let us know at strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk **We do not take paid advertising.** There is a fine line between publicity for commercial events, events which include charitable fundraising and alerting community members to other special opportunities for community get-togethers. We welcome letters, contributed items, photographs and comments about StrathNEWS.

Letter to the editor

Dear StrathNews

These past many years it's been with a heavy heart I've checked myself into a residential care home establishment for the month of July. This was for the sole purpose of enabling my husband and daughter, who I lovingly refer to as my Dynamic Duo, a chance to enjoy a well earned rest. With needs as great as mine it was presumed by everyone involved with my care that this was the only agreeable solution.

This year a handful of my nearest and dearest opened my eyes to the possibility of exploring the alternatives. With ease of access to a highly esteemed local home care agency, Boleskine Community Care, and surrounded by dedicated, attentive friends, these fortuitous factors combined meant a perfectly agreeable solution was on my doorstep. With the assistance of my Social Worker to implement matters I've been enabled to spend the sunniest month of the year in my own wee abode for the first time in nearly a decade. I've relished every last second.

I was a tad anxious at the prospect of staying home alone for the summer's duration. Confined to bed as I have been all these years, the concept of surviving day to day with a multitude of varied needs to be met within the confines of only three daily visits was daunting to say the least. It begged the question as to whether this challenge truly was surmountable.

With the adept proactivity and adaptability of our BCC ladies we soon established a functional routine. Always willing to go the extra mile at any time of day or night, and with ample reassurance provided to this effect, all inklings of anxiety were quickly abated. Against all the odds I easily settled into a comfortable regime with the carers. The transition was almost seamless.

Since accessing BCC, I've drawn the conclusion that my own life doesn't have to be halted further than has already been dictated by the cruel hand of fate for the purpose of encouraging my Duo to live their own lives to the fullest. Having home care provision has allowed me to seize more than the occasional bit of summertime fun, like sharing a cheeky bottle of Prosecco with friends on a summer's evening.

I'm a lucky lass, to be ensconced in a community so willing to share their precious time, skillset and love so freely. With the competency and professionalism of the BCC carers combined with the infinite caring nature of this community generally, what was previously thought to be impossible has been accomplished. Community spirit of this fortitude and splendour is a rarity. I'm eternally grateful to every single person who has enabled me to embrace this independent summer.

I give you all my heartfelt thanks,
Siobhan Beith, Gorthleck



'The Value of Trees.' submitted by Margie Elgar-Bond, Errogie

Whatever has a tree done for us?

Absorb CO2,

Hold the soil together through its root system to prevent soil erosion. In climates of extremes of heat and wet, the heat cracks the land, water gets into the cracks and land subsequently erodes. Australia is renowned for this!

Trees absorb large amounts of water to prevent run off from hillsides, silting of rivers and flooding.

Tree diversity helps tree health.

Tree diversity helps the diversity and health of all forms of living organism.

And the value of walking amongst them: to quote

"The value of the journey, as well as the destination,

The value of slowing down, looking and listening,

The value of learning from the rhythms of nature."



The Shinty Report
appears on Page 21





Barn Dance report from the Community Trust Chair, Peter J. Faye.



The Barn Dance was attended by 232 members of the community and their guests and the night was a resounding success. 280 tickets were issued and the new approach by the Trust to have a ticketline worked well, although we did have a few people asking for more tickets than they required and then not using them. You (and we) know who you are!

The transformation of the barn by the Trust, the Macpherson family and Calum and Graham Martin was fantastic and the Trust was delighted that so many members of the community attended. The barn looked terrific and was enhanced by the lighting provided by local lads Calum and Graham, as their pictures show. Music was provided by the excellent Cask Strength Ceilidh Band and everyone enjoyed tasty food produced by Hog Roast Highlands washed down with a drink served by Bars'r'us. Thanks also go to the Village Hall Trustees for the loan of their furniture and to John for the loan of his scaffold tower – we couldn't have managed without it!

An auction and raffle took place in aid of Scottish Fire and Rescue Family Support Trust and over £2,200 was raised on the night. Thanks to all for their generosity in supporting such a good cause.

The question is what to do next year? Please give us your suggestions – or even better, step forward and help to organise another community event!

If you enjoyed the evening, can we ask that, if you are not already, please consider becoming a Member of the Trust – it costs nothing and you can influence the way the money we receive from our Funders is spent in the future - and no, sadly we can't just have a big party every week! However, there are lots of projects and ideas we can take forward so please consider helping out, even just a little, and support the folk who work hard for all our benefit and enjoyment.

PJF



Chair's note:

Trust Director Gillian McIntyre, Tom a'Mhòid put endless hours of work in to making this event such a success. All our thanks to Gillian for a superb job!



Stewart Macpherson, Dell with Jackie Mackenzie of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Family Support Trust.

Councillor Margaret Davidson writes to her Ward constituents

I'm pleased to have the chance to say a few words after our on-off, off-on summer. I hope some of you have a few flowers left and some to come. Crops are pretty good and astonishingly I have not seen any potato blight. *(Warm, humid and damp days around the Strath led to potato blight appearing at Lochgarthside at the very end of August. Ed)*

Eagles

Let's start with some good news. Since 2008 we have had academics working on South Loch Ness estates, studying the life and habits of Golden Eagles. There were always fears that the number of golden eagles would be reduced with the advent of wind farms. In fact, the reverse has happened. Eagles are smart, and they fly around the wind turbines. In addition, our South Loch Ness estates have very good environmental policies and they have seen excellent advances in biodiversity protection and enhancements.

Over recent years the number of eagles has increased steadily, and new territories have been taken up. We need to talk to folks about this success and I am pleased to say that we have begun a series of visits to schools and I hope that some of our keepers and others will be joining that work soon. I also hope that there will be a first talk this autumn for the wider community. We will let you know the date and venue soon.

Housing

I have been talking with the Community Trust and housing associations about moving faster on getting some new housing built, especially some affordable housing, to rent, joint ownership or rent to buy. I will hold a surgery, likely in late September and it will be aimed primarily at housing. I will advertise the event on Facebook.

Democracy

Unlike Government, I have been working with my colleagues on enhancing local democracy! We have instigated local community collaborative meetings, that involve the community councils and trusts across South Loch Ness and bringing in businesses and others as needed. That would mean Stratherrick and Foyers, Strathnairn and Dores. The idea is to involve our communities looking ahead and being involved in the decision making of your council. The first agenda is proposed to include winter maintenance, roads and waste issues. The collective can also look at ideas and good practice sharing, something we don't do often enough.

Always available for you, Cllr Margaret Davidson, 01463 702856, 07818015689. margaret.davidson@highland.gov.uk



Kate Forbes – one lump or two?

'Kate Forbes MSP held a surgery at Stratherrick Hall recently and was delighted to join in with the Boleskine Community Care's 'Broth and Blether'. Several of our guests were pleased to chat with her. She was very impressed by what happens in the community on a regular basis and thoroughly enjoyed the unexpected soup and cakes before dashing off to Fort Augustus for her next community surgery.'

Kate Forbes is the Scottish National Party Member of the Scottish Parliament for the constituency of Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch. She is seen as a 'rising star' and won this political award in 2018. Kate was appointed as Holyrood's Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy in June 2018.

Sorry - Correction – The recent John o'Groats North Coast 500 run by the South Loch Ness Motorcycle Club members raised £1,462.61 and not what was stated in the June issue of the NEWS.

More details and photographs are on this 'Just Giving' page

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/south-loch-nessmotorcycle-club

The Scleroderma & Raynaud's UK website is at www.sruk.co.uk

Sandy Fraser recalls his days as a boy in the Strath during the days of the Second World War, 1939 – 1945.



Living during the war years meant that we had to “make-do and mend” for much of the campaign. Along with food rationing, passing clothes down to younger brothers and sisters was the normal practice. Ex-military clothing was sold in some shops, one in particular was MacMillans in Lombard Street where former service and old police uniforms could be purchased.

Go through your wardrobe



People were very thoughtful and kind. Even the local bobby P.C. Ross who was based at Foyers and travelled around on his motor cycle or on occasions his pedal cycle would pass his old uniform trousers and putties to our father, no doubt given eggs or tatties in return.

It was quite common to see khaki and blue tunics being worn particularly among those working on the land and industries like builders etc.

In 1941 each adult was given 66 clothes coupons for a year but this allocation was reduced to 48 in 1942. Clothing materials were needed to produce the uniforms that were worn by a quarter of the population. To give you some idea of the value of a coupon, 11 coupons were needed for a dress, 7 for a pair of shoes, 18 for an overcoat and a man's suit 26-29 depending on the size. Clothes were labelled "UTILITY BRAND GOVERNMENT APPROVED CLOTHING“.

Ration books were also issued for food and so you were allowed weekly 2 ounces of butter, cheese and tea, 4 ounces of margarine and cooking fat and 1 fresh egg. Other rations included 8 ozs of sugar, 12 ozs of sweets every 4 weeks and one pound of jam every 8 weeks. Sweet rationing was continued well after the end of the war.

A lot of folks kept bees and you could apply for a permit to get additional sugar for feeding the bees if honey stores were low, needless to say the extra sugar was most appreciated for the beekeeper's use. A story is told of two young bobbies who arrived at a certain lady's house to confirm that there were live bees in the four hives she claimed sugar for. “Come on down to the bottom of the garden.” she said and gave a kick to the first hive. Out flew the annoyed bees. “Now we'll check the rest.” she said, but the brave lads had fled and shouted “We will take your word for it.”

THE IRRAWADDI, SEPTEMBER 10, 1939

From War to Peace.

From the War to Peace and the British Puttee, and the Hunter in Home from the War to Peace.

The Allies have proved the value of the Puttee in the strenuous work of the War. From the Rhine to the Marne and from the Marne to the Rhine, the Puttee has helped them to win the war. It has been worn in all the battles of the War with the British Army, and the sands of Egypt and on the second Macedonian front.

Cooperating with the British Army, the Puttee has been adopted by the Allies. The French, Italian, Belgian, Canadian, American, and last, but not least, the Americans, have found the same in Puttees, and have issued by their several Governments to all the F.F.C.C.

Fox Brothers & Co., Ltd., are now adapting their world-famed Puttees for Shooting, Walking, Motoring, Golfing, Riding, and Cycling.

FOX'S F.I.P. PUTTEES

(F.I.P. - Fox's Improved Puttees) "Non-Fray Spiral."

Regulate Heavy Weight, 8/6 per pair. Extra Fine Light Weight, 10/- per pair.
Extra Fine Light Weight, 11/- per pair.

FOUR AND SIX SHOOTING PUTTEES

FOX BROS. & CO., Ltd., (Dept. O) - Wellington, SOMERSET.

Agents for Great Britain - Messrs. G. & J. Wood, 200, West Broadway, New York, U.S.A.

One good thing about the sweet rationing was that children's teeth were healthier and with less decayed teeth. It was an offence to sell eggs without a permit. A story is told of two government officials who came to see a farmer's wife suspected of selling eggs without a permit. They asked her, "Can we buy some eggs from you?" "No," she said "but I will give you some and if you are gentlemen you will pay for them" nevertheless she was charged for breaking the law.

In Stratherrick there was a family attitude and helping one another was encouraged. Farmers and crofters were very liberal by helping others with vegetables like potatoes and turnips and eggs.

Our father would kill a sheep (albeit you were required to get a government permit first) and of course rabbits were aplenty before the days of the mixy disease.

Growing your own vegetables was encouraged to supplement the rations even the local schools had their vegetable plots. Also we would pick fruit to take to the school for making into jam. We took our dry bread to school ready for the freshly made jam.

Such was life during the war as I remember it as a young lad.

Sandy Fraser

THANK YOU!

A note from the editor – Many thanks to Sandy Fraser who has written his series of memories about Migovie and Errogie in the 1940's. Sandy says he has run out of ideas for future articles, so please send some of yours.

Soil Association Scotland - Forthcoming Event at Stratherrick Public Hall



Making Woodland Work for You:
Creation, management and funding
Saturday 26 October, 1 - 4pm,
This will be a practical walk and talk event. Free to attend.
To book a place please contact jdillingwall@soilassociation.org



Errogie Bollards make the news.

Blackpool bollard maker Glasdon has chosen to feature Errogie as a case study for their website. Their Glenwood plastic posts cost around £130 each. They are vandal resistant and won't rot, but are not timber lorry proof. Errogie has about 40 bollards. Here is the link.

<https://uk.glasdon.com/news/village-road-scheme-a-first-for-errogie>



The World Bollard Association has a twitter page <https://twitter.com/WorldBollard>

Cleaning up on the Lochside

The Trust requests that the owners of these two small boats make contact with any Director of the Trust with a view to the removal of the boats from the Foyers Bay shoreline.



Derelict boat One



Derelict boat Two

To contact the Trust staff please use the following details

Steven Watson, Project Coordinator pc@sfctrust.org.uk

Laura Walker-Knowles, Administrator, admin@sfctrust.org.uk

Steven and Laura both work part time.

To make an appointment to see Steven at Wildside,

Whitebridge on Tuesdays please call him on 07525120966. (EE)



Bus Timetable from 19 August 2019

Stagecoach has issued a new timetable with some minor revisions. It is now on a smaller, handy leaflet showing both the Foyers and Knockie / Whitebridge services. Copies are available at Farraline Park Bus Station or from the Trust – text 07525120966 with your address and we will send one out.



Stratherrick Public Hall

To make a booking please contact
Pam Simpson on 01456486364

GRADUATIONS



Dr. Ewen Fraser, Glebe has graduated MbChB from Aberdeen University. Ewen also won the Moira Waterston Prize for Musculoskeletal Research. He has now started work at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. Ewen benefitted from a Student Grant from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust to help him in his studies for five years. In 2018 Ewen was also awarded 'Player of the Year' in Shinty's North Division One and is part of the Newtonmore Shinty Team.

Please send in your graduation or other celebration photographs to strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk



Iona Macpherson from Dell Farm Whitebridge recently graduated from SRUC Aberdeen. Iona has since been awarded a bursary from Holland and Holland - the prestigious firearms and country clothing brand. The bursary will help her with running a 12 week trial on the Angus glens and moors to identify the best methods of tick control on ground nesting birds. Iona is also an accomplished singer. Rifles manufactured by Holland and Holland can sell for the same price as a comfortable house or a Range Rover.



Stratherrick and Foyers Community Facebook page now has over 900 followers – quite an amazing number. The Public Group is moderated by local volunteers and is not operated by the Community Trust. Here is the link.

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/420094451476149/>

Would you like to review a meal out at any of the local eateries? Whether your visit is just a treat or a murder mystery night please Send your review to strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk with a photo please.





Urgent!
Please vote
by 6pm on
Thursday
13th September

Errogie's Moteh Parrott is looking for your support - "Hello all! I'm thrilled to share that I've been shortlisted for the BBC Radio Scotland Singer-Songwriter Award alongside nine other brilliant singer-songwriters from around Scotland. Our live sessions are now online, and you have one vote for your favourite song. The lines are now open, and the closing time for voting is 6pm on the 13th Sept. The top four from this public vote will perform at a live final at the St Luke's venue in Glasgow on BBC Music Day, 26th September. The prize for the winner includes a recording session with BBC Scotland in Glasgow, an opportunity to play the King Tut's stage at the TRNSMT Festival and a promotional video. This is one of the biggest opportunities I've had with my original music, so if you would like to support me and my songwriting, this is the best way of doing so! Thank you to everyone in the community for supporting local music."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2gMY1PRwXJrNIJLvKfNkK/watch-the-videos-vote-for-your-favourite-artist-to-win-the-bbc-radio-scotland-singer-songwriter-award>

The South Loch Ness Heritage Group held a two day event in Gorthleck Hall on 14th and 15th June entitled Trees and Forests of South Loch Ness marking 100 years of the Forestry Commission. There were many interesting topics. Tables around the Hall were

- (a) Growing a tree from seed;
- (b) Identification of trees with samples;
- (c) The flora and fauna within the forest;
- (d) Uses of wood;
- (e) Harvesting of wood throughout the ages;
- (f) Hand tools past and present;
- (g) Conservation and recreation today; and
- (h) Tree growth shown on two tree rings, one a seed in 1779 (felled in 1969), the other lived from 1965 to 2017.

Two vintage tractors were outside the hall and demonstrations of a bandsaw in operation, "log to planks" ! In the Committee Room many old maps were on display and a DVD ran depicting forestry operations. Another interesting map had been put together marking the sawmills and nurseries used by the F.C. and private estates. In the main hall a 12 ft. long Timeline showed ownership of the land from the 11th century. Each decade from 1900 to the present day showed facts and figures of afforestation, various stages of the F.C. (started in 1919) as well as what was taking place nationally followed by facts and anecdotes recorded from local people. Many old and new related photos were appropriately attached making an impressive display.

As one of the aims of the SLNHG is to educate the younger generation, the local schools were invited and three were able to attend with approximately 80 pupils. On returning to school the challenge was for the children to write a story or poem using the information they had gathered on their visit to the hall. These creative writings were judged by adults not known to the pupils. SLNHG awarded a (book) first prize to each school and certificates of commendation. Friday evening was well supported when a lively talk was held "The Life of a Forester" which even ended with a song! There were other DVDs related to forest industry running, two tables laden with books and associated literature kindly loaned by various individuals with much information to be browsed and two large display boards all providing a wealth of knowledge. We thank everyone who supported our event. "Uncover the past and prepare for the future".

Exhibition Report – June 2019



RIVERSIDE FIELD UPDATE

The Riverside Field Project Directors have now reviewed all the feedback and comments received from the community following the recent consultation days. The Directors would like to thank everybody for taking the time to attend our consultation days and giving feedback. Overall, the comments on the draft Masterplan were very positive. Some suggested uses (like the multi-use games area) were very popular and some (like the allotments) were less so. We also received suggestions for some other alternative activities and these are also now being considered. Traffic and noise was of course a concern for some – especially the Riverside residents themselves as they will of course be the most affected. Some respondents voiced their concerns that the overall development was too urban for this area.

The next step will be for the Board to discuss amendments to the draft Masterplan and for the architect to make those changes. A revised masterplan will then be published and circulated throughout the community.

It is the intention of the board to cut a path through the grass, following the route of the proposed perimeter path to allow the community to walk the perimeter and view the entire site.

We will publish and circulate the revised masterplan once it is complete.

Zoe Iliffe (Lead Director) and Garry Page (Depute)

WILDSIDE UPDATE

How much longer will it be called Wildside? Hopefully most folks will have seen that there is an online survey to choose a new name for the centre at 'Wildside'. The three most popular names from the consultation were selected for the survey. These are Wade Bridge, Fechlin and Thain. There is also the option of keeping the name unchanged i.e. Wildside. The survey can be found by following the link on the Trust website. The new name will be announced at the AGM in October.

Sometime in the next couple of months the ground around the buildings should be transformed with a decent car park, good paths to walk around the site with access to the riverside and level grassed areas for seating. A popular choice from the consultation for the use of the land around Wildside was for an area to sit in, walk around and play in. Hopefully next year's plans can be set in motion for some play facilities.

One of the popular choices from the consultation was to have a community shop and monthly craft market. Is there anyone out there interested in organising a monthly market selling local goods? If so, please get in touch with myself or any other Director.

The building, in its current state, is a useful venue for meetings and classes. The Trust has moved its regular meetings there now that WiFi is installed and the building is a great venue for the Wednesday morning yoga class. The kitchen is still basic with a kettle/urn and a fridge so allowing teas and coffees to be served. Over the next year it will be upgraded to include an oven and hob.

The building is there to be used by the Community – so if you want to hold a meeting / have classes or clubs there please get in touch.

Margaret Cormack, Lead Director

The Trust has set up an on-line survey using 'SurveyMonkey'
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MZRCXX8>

Library Opens at Stratherrick Hall

Stratherrick Hall at Gorthleck now boasts a free-to-use Library in the West Entrance Porch - here you will find a good (and expanding!) range of books covering a wide range of subjects.

All of these are available for anyone to borrow (no time limit) and return when read, exchange books, or donate additional books to the collection - and courtesy of the Luvvies there is even a comfortable couch for you to sit and peruse any books you may be contemplating borrowing! The Porch will be open for anyone from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and outwith these hours the facility is also available for anyone attending the regular group meetings and functions.



Titles available on the shelves include Linwood Barclay's 'Far from True' – the second book in the Promise Falls Trilogy and Karen Campbell's novel set in Glasgow 'After the Fire'.

A plea for help :- The current Hall Management Committee currently comprises six very capable members of our Community, but we would love to have one or two more members to assist with the Management and Operation of the Hall. There are four Office Bearers - Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Bookings, with other Committee Members assisting on an ad hoc basis when necessary. New blood always brings new ideas, and it would be good to see some volunteers from the groups that benefit from the use of the Hall, the running costs of which are funded by the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. Duties are not onerous, and you would be helping to run and maintain what is an extremely important asset in the Community, and ensure it's future for the benefit of both current and future users of the Hall.

If you are interested in joining the Hall Management Committee please contact Chair Hugh Nicol or any member of the current committee.



The Neil Mackenzie Trust is running a grand raffle with some amazing prizes. The raffle will be drawn on 28th September. Tickets are £1 each. Available online at <https://theneilmackenzie.com/grand-raffle/>

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GRAND RAFFLE

in aid of

The Neil Mackenzie Trust (SC046080)

to be drawn at the Ceilidh at Glenmore Lodge on 28th September, 2019

Amazing prizes including:

2 Day Glenmore Lodge Course (your choice)

1:1 Climbing Session with Robbie Phillips

Cullin Photography with Adrian Trendall

SUP2SUMMIT Vouchers

Accommodation and meal vouchers, whisky and many more!

Ticket Price £1

oter: Angus Mackenzie, Trustee, The Neil Mackenzie Trust, The Old School, Flichity, Inverne
Registered with the Highland Council under the Gambling Act 2005 Licence No: GA/232
No ticket to be sold to persons under 16 years of age.



Community Trust continues to invest in better broadband

It's been a long time coming but finally we have work underway on the phase of the Community Broadband that will take the coverage to Errogie and Torness and will also make it possible for the signals to go over Loch Ness and back to Inverfarigaig. There have been many hurdles thrown in our way but we are looking at starting to connect customers in these areas from October 2019 onwards 😊. We have many patient folk in these areas that have registered an interest already but we will also put flyers out round the areas that the scheme will now cover to let residents know how to register an interest if they haven't already.

More good news is that the fibre line from BT's Gorthleck exchange to the Trust's server at the Stratherrick Public Hall is now live and should be starting to be trialled to the masts by the time you read this. Not only will this fibre connection future proof the scheme but it will also make it more than capable of taking on all the new properties.

Alongside all this work, there are also plans for back up batteries at all of the main masts so as to avoid loss of broadband should any property have a power outage but as you will appreciate, the work to further the areas covered by the scheme is taking priority at the moment.

Sharon Ferguson, Broadband team, SFCT



Stacie and Kerry from the Trust's partners Cromarty Firth Wireless Networks staffed their stand at the Black Isle Show.

Please remember the Community Trust is looking for new volunteer Directors to stand for election in October. Please visit www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk for more information.

Visit to Inverness of the Relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Father Andrew from Stratherrick Catholic Church advises that the Relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux are coming to the Diocese.

Wednesday 11th September

- 5.00pm: Arrival at St. Mary's, Inverness
 - 7.00pm: Mass with the Relics
 - Overnight Vigil with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, and other devotions.
 - Thursday 12th September: 10.00am Mass with the school children
 - 12 noon: Angelus and departure of the relics
- It is expected the relics will then proceed by road via Fort Augustus to Oban.

STRATHERRICK SPIN AND CHATTER GROUP ARE GOING PLACES!

Spring and summer has been a busy and exciting time for the Stratherrick Spin and Chatter Group.

We were absolutely delighted to have received grants towards equipment for the Group from both Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust and Stratherrick Community Council Micro Grants Scheme. This has enabled us to buy equipment to both teach newcomers to hand spinning and to aid our existing members to process fleece and blend fibres ready for spinning. We also purchased an E-Spinner which will help any spinners who cannot treadle, to be able to continue to enjoy the craft. Alongside this we have started a small library of reference books on spinning, dyeing, weaving and other textile crafts following a fortunate purchase and the gift of some second hand books. Some of our members have now been spinning a while and have successfully finished some ambitious projects. This includes Pam Simpson who has knitted an amazing circular shrug jacket and Angela Hardiman who is one of most recent beginners who is using her yarn to make a pair of tapestry pillows



A couple of members were spotted sitting with their spinning wheels in a pigsty in early June at Lyne Mhor Croft's Open Farm Sunday. We love going out and about demonstrating, so please do invite us if you are organising a special event that is relevant. We have already booked this gig for 2020!

Some of the members enjoyed a really good day out at the Highland Folk Museum, Newtonmore, attending their Woolly Weekend – from lamb to loom! We met one of our members there who was demonstrating spinning and had a stall so some shopping was done. A couple of members joined in with the ladies demonstrating 'Waulking the Tweed', in practice a very long length of hessian sacking for the purpose and without the fixant (stale urine was historically used), and joining in singing a Gaelic waulking song. The Old Post Office sweet shop was another popular stopping off point and at the end of the day, down in the Township, we had a very interesting demonstration and discussion about dyeing wool with natural materials. So a couple of members are now inspired to learn more about natural dyeing of fleece and finished yarns.

Stratherrick Spin & Chatter Group featured in the most recent edition of British Fibre Art Magazine with a whole page article and photograph of our Christmas Party.

We are looking forward to a busy autumn, starting with a visit on Thursday 22nd by a German camera crew who are spending a day filming one of our crofting members about her life on the croft and she is bringing them along in the evening to film some hand spinning.

Soon after we have arranged for another day out, this time to the Wool at Portsoy event on 24th August.



worldwide SPIN IN PUBLIC day



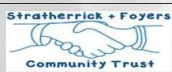
**SATURDAY
21ST SEPTEMBER
2019**

STRATHERRICK SPIN AND CHATTER GROUP

WILL BE HAND-SPINNING AT:

LOCH NESS SHORES, LOWER FOYERS (Camping and Caravanning Club Site)	10am to 12noon
FOYERS STORES & WATERFALL CAFE UPPER FOYERS	12noon to 2pm
CAMERONS TEA ROOM & FARM SHOP UPPER FOYERS	2pm to 4pm
STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK Tea and Coffee available!	3pm to 5pm

Funded and supported by
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust Limited
Stratherrick Community Council



We are currently busy organising our own event for Worldwide Spin in Public Day on Saturday 21st September. We have put together a 'spinning trail' around the Strath and some of us will be spinning at various venues where we can engage with members of the public.

In October some of us will be attending Loch Ness Knit Fest in Inverness, where this year there are a few spinning and fleece related workshops.

Those of us that are Crofters have been busy shearing during the summer and are looking forward to sorting, picking, washing and carding fleece for use during our winter meetings.

If anyone would like to join us and have a go at hand spinning or find out more about making the most of your fleeces if you are a Crofter, please do come along to Stratherrick Hall on a Thursday evening at 7.00pm, where our members will be really happy to get you started.

The autumn schedule will be posted up on the Community FB group as a reminder along with updated posters on the noticeboards locally shortly.

It is totally FREE (not much else is these days) and we also usually have a cuppa and biscuits or cake (however, since most of us have joined Stratherrick's new healthy living group we are taking it easy on the cake!) GB



If you enjoyed Adam Sutherland and his band 'Cask Strength' at the recent barn dance and want to hear him with Hamish Napier in a more intimate venue then here is your chance.

A proportion of the ticket price goes to the Hall for providing the venue, so everyone benefits. The last visit of 'Nae Plans' to Gorthleck was such a success you can expect an appreciative and attentive audience.

Just a wee reminder of the date

Loch Ness Marathon 2019

Sunday 6th October

<https://www.lochnessmarathon.com/event-info/marathon-race-info/>





Another letter has arrived at StrathNEWS!

Dear StrathNEWS

What next for the Gorthleck Playpark?

When my grandchildren were visiting in August last year we had found the swing broken and the slide cracked in the Gorthleck playpark and had reported it to the Community Council and had hoped Highland Council would have repaired it by Easter this year or definitely by the summer holidays.

We were disappointed to discover that the swing seat has been removed, leaving just a frame and the slide was boarded up and the football pitch a mole hill haven. I understand Highland Council has declared the rest of the equipment unsafe and will remove it from the park.

The park has been part of the village for over 20 years with no upgrade. I understand the lease on the land will soon expire and not be renewed. Do you think that the time might be right for the Trust to take the opportunity to look towards establishing a new play park? If there was land suitable at Wildside a play park might be well-used (with visitors to the lodges and hotel as well as locals and passing visitors). My grandchildren only use the park two or three weeks a year but I'm sure a well equipped play park with facilities for all ages would be an asset to the community. I am wondering if the Community Trust would look favourably on such an opportunity and if we have any people in the Strath who might be willing to work together to put forward a plan to apply for a community trust grant for a new playground.

Mary Speight, Gorthleck.

What do you think of Mary's letter? Responses please to strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk

Wanted – Old photographs of Foyers and the Strath



This is an appeal for local photographs from years gone by. Alister Chisholm is looking for photographs to include in his 2020 Calendar. Any photographs from before 2000 would be welcome. Please contact Alister or Strathnews. Your photos will be digitised and all originals will be returned to you with a digital file of your snaps. Please don't let your old photos disappear.

Inverfarigaig - the village emerges from the bracken



The Inverfarigaig Residents Group has been successful in reclaiming the land around the Hillhead Forestry Houses from the advance of the dreaded bracken. The group received a grant from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. The re-fencing work at Hillhead in Inverfarigaig was a great success. Mike Gibson's team worked at an impressive pace during the heatwave in July; both fields are now looking much tidier and are well-secured with brand new gates. During the preparatory work, an old granite roller was discovered amidst the long-established undergrowth. This will be put back into use to - quite literally - keep on top of the bracken.



Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust has approved the following grants in June, July and August 2019.

Student Grants (£500 each) Hannah Kelly Tay, Luke Burgess, Jessica Main, Isabel Slater and Amy Craven.

Energy Saving Grant (£500 each) Jill Bryant and Carolyn E Grant.

Stratherrick and Foyers Wellbeing Group Grant £8,245

The Trust also approved a grant to Boleskine Community Care of £75,755. This grant will support BCC's operating and running costs.

**TRUST
GRANTS
over £87,000**





Foyers Bay Boating Facility Open Meeting Stratherrick Public Hall from 2.30pm Saturday 21st September 2019

The Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust has arrived at a stage of re-generating and developing the small craft access to Loch Ness in Foyers Bay and seeks your views and opinions towards gaining local community interest and information that may be incorporated in future planning.

Until now, the Foyers Bay land, leased on behalf of the community, has been fenced and connected with an electricity supply point. The fencing includes an area that may be employed as a secure boat storage yard. Some waterside equipment such as small craft pontoons, wave attenuation boom and an outline of a small boat haven are in readiness to be developed further.

Care has been taken and will continue to be taken to provide public pedestrian access through the leased area to the woodland walk to the west of the site.



With several aspects being considered, there is an intention to grade the boat trailer access to the water at a 1 in 10 gradient to allow car driven boat delivery and recovery to and from the water's edge. From the water's edge into Loch Ness, at the intended boat slipway, there is a distance from zero to 25 or 30 metres before finding an average depth of one metre. This shallow inclination continues another 25 metres out into the loch before finding two metres water depth and thereafter a shelf precipice to much deeper soundings.

This bay shallowness is remarkably changeable depending on hill run off of water, specially after snow melt or heavy rain and at times when power station and /or canal activities dictate. Within this shallow bay area we may develop a relatively safe lagoon that would include a 60 metre long floating boom or wave attenuator to lie approximately east-west about 45 metres out from the shore, sheltering both the intended slipway and small craft activity in the lagoon. It is thought this lagoon would suit the encouragement of less experienced participants to get afloat and allow boat setting up of those who intend to venture further out to the loch.

Some aspects of an intended slipway and parallel pedestrian pontoon would be to allow safe launching and, more importantly, safe recovery of boats to and from the water, and to provide a barrier against entry to the west of the slipway where a water current from the tail race could disturb and indeed carry persons away to deep water.

In time, an existing groyne could be rebuilt and act as a southerly solid anchorage to a string of floating pontoons leading approximately north east from there, allowing small craft to berth alongside, though not be overnight berthed. A pedestrian walkway could be built just north of the existing anglers' huts, down to this pontoon from the currently fenced line adjacent to the road.

Also in keeping with a drive to make a community boating facility, a north facing clubhouse and deck can be erected, with access through the facility onto the area previously known as a small car park. It is probable that such a clubhouse or pavilion would give a welcome to community and visiting sailors and their friends.

In presenting this commentary it is felt that now is the time for open suggestions by the Stratherrick and Foyers Community and a questionnaire will be provided at the open meeting on 21 September 2019. It will be requested that the questionnaire will be used as a single person response rather than that of a group, a club or an association.

Under GDPR regulations, the directors of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust will safeguard any and all information that you give. With such information, it is hoped that development plans and expenditure will be best guided towards a suitable and sensible small craft facility with a wide interest capability for the community of Stratherrick and Foyers.

As the boating facility progresses, it is anticipated that further meetings and guidance will be convened. Meantime, input from bodies such as SSE, Scottish Canals, Highland Council, SEPA, RNLI and RYA Scotland is recognised and will continue to be of joint interest.

As an ongoing and everlasting condition of all our efforts, a Code of Conduct will be progressively formed as a foundation to maintaining an enjoyable, clean and tidy facility on our shore of Loch Ness and the community's input to this is welcome at all times.

As with all projects in which the Trust is involved, SFCT cannot support any development that could be of statutory or of commercial interest. This community project must operate within legislative boundaries and our lease conditions with SSE.

During our get together we shall view some examples of other venues and boating activities that may inspire our development. Web sites that could be included are listed here:-



<https://scottishcoastalrowing.org/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Ayles_Skiff
<http://www.staylesrc.org.uk/>
<https://www.chanonry.org.uk/>
https://m.facebook.com/canvassails/videos/?ref=page_internal&mt_nav=0

**Please come along to the meeting at
Stratherrick Public Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 21st September 2019**



CLAN MACGILLIVRAY GATHERING 2020 SCOTLAND

SUMMER



Clan Commander Iain MacGillivray from Calarossie, Tain is calling his clan to a gathering in Inverness next summer. This event will include visits to the graves at Dunlichity and to the ancestral lands above Dunmaglass. The MacGillivrays were associated with Dunmaglass for many centuries and 'Dunmaghlas!' remains the clan's war-cry. The event is due to run from July 15th to July 19th 2020 - to find out more and contact: MacGillivray2020@btinternet.com You can check out Iain MacGillivray's videos on You Tube.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YD3Jg1szcqQ>

Volunteer Directors to serve on the Trust Board are needed. If you have served before, or thought about joining the Board please make contact with the Chair, Peter Faye, Whitebridge.
peter-dir@sfctrust.org.uk

Boleskine Camanachd Report

The 2019 Season was one of consolidation and optimism. The Wasps have ended up in 5th place in North Division 2 – and only a few points separate them from the winners of the league, the on-form Lochcarron side. Most successful shinty clubs run two teams – a senior side to play in the higher divisions and a second or colt side. Boleskine, as a single team side can be at a disadvantage as a result. One constant benefit is the excellent ground and facilities at Smith Park, Inverarnie. On Saturday 31st August the weather across the Highlands was abysmal with all other fixtures called off. The Boleskine match against Lewis Camanachd (Dubh is gorm) still went ahead on the well-drained field and ended with a 5 – 0 victory for the home side. The lack of other games that Saturday meant that the Oban Times and the West Highland Free Press both featured Neil Paterson’s photographs of Boleskine players.



The Lewis Camanachd Club website explains their team’s black and blue strip colours

Dubh – Black represents the peat soil of the island upon which shinty is played now, as well as the losses suffered by the Island in the Great War and Iolaire disaster, which subsequently led to many cultural changes including the disappearance of shinty from island life for at least 70 years.
Gorm – Blue represents the sea and ocean which encircles Lewis and Harris, and the island’s relationship with it, both provider and bereaver, the method of returning or emigrating, and also the way upon which the team must travel to play games on the Scottish mainland.0

Shinty photograph – Thanks to Neil Paterson for the use of this photograph. Many other action shots from the match are available to view and purchase from Neil’s website. www.neilqpaterson.com



The Loch Ness

LUVVIES

Advance Notice
Next Production

‘Fondly Remembered’

by Gareth Armstrong



15th and 16th November 2019
Stratherrick Public Hall
A Comedy - suitable for all audiences

So what happens when the Directors of the Community Trust meet each month?

Everything discussed is included in the minutes of the Trust. A full set of minutes is produced and is available on the Trust’s website. We also send out emails to members and provide paper copies of the approved minutes on request.

Boleskine Community Care News

Grant Funding

BCC is delighted to announce that we have been successful in securing grant funding from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust for a 4-year period up to Spring 2023.

This continued support enables BCC to make concrete plans for the development of additional services and a bright future! We are very grateful for the Community Trust's ongoing commitment to Boleskine Community Care which includes the provision of our premises at the Hub.

Hub Events


The Hub is now becoming a well-used space which is great to see. We have regular groups and activities taking place Tuesday – Wednesday with monthly events also happening Monday – Wednesday. Why not come along to try one of them out?

Here is a timetable of our regular events.

	Time	Event	Frequency
Monday	11.00	<u>Movin' About</u>	1 st Monday of every month
Tuesday	10.00 – 15.00	Drop-in day	Every week
	10.00	Music Group	Every week
	14.00	Hub Walk	Monthly
Wednesday	10.00	Coffee Morning	Monthly
	14.00	Stitch and Save	Weekly
Thursday	10.00 – 15.00	Drop-in day	Weekly
	14.00	Art Therapy Group	Weekly
Friday			




Seagull Trust Cruises



Royal Power 1981 The Princess Royal

Highland Branch
2019 Cruising Season Monday 1st April to Friday
27th September



Booking Information & Conditions obtainable from:

Seagull Trust Cruises Highland Branch,
Caggenini UK PLC,
Cowan House,
Inverness Business &
Retail Park,
Inverness,
IV2 7GF

Booking Office opens 4th March.
Telephone: 03701 951 012 between
10am and 5pm Monday to Friday & ask
for Seagull Trust Cruises Booking Office.
Booking Office closes 27th Sept.

Free Cruising on the Caledonian Canal for people with Special
Needs & the Elderly.

See www.seagulltrustcruises.org.uk for STC Privacy policy
Scottish Charity No SC027163
January 2019

In June this year Boleskine Community Care organised a trip on the Caledonian Canal with the Seagull Trust barge.

If you have ideas for other groups and activities please get in touch. (Contact details below)

Services

We now have a foot care practitioner visiting the Hub, which has proven popular. If you're interested in using this service please contact me and I can add your name to the list for the next visit, once arranged.



Care At Home

The Care at Home Service, provided in partnership with Highland Home Carers, goes from strength to strength and Highland Home Carers have made some new appointments to the team recently. If you are interested in becoming a carer, please contact Heather MacDonald at the hub for an informal chat.

Befriending

BCC is still looking into the possibility of setting up a befriending service. Befrienders are people who volunteer to keep in touch with local people who have asked to be part of the service, through telephone or face-to-face contact, to help break down social isolation.

If you are interested in becoming a befriender, please let me know.



Trustees and Friends

We continue to look for new Trustees. No previous care or Trustee experience is necessary. All of our current Trustees have come from very different walks of life and this diversity of backgrounds provides a strong mix of experience. One thing they all have in common, though, is an interest in helping to take BCC through the next phase of its development and that is the main prerequisite for becoming a Trustee.

If you would like to have an informal chat please contact me or speak to any of the current Trustees. We are always keen to hear from people who would like to become Friends of BCC, to help support us.

Gillian Haston, Support and Development Officer sdo@boleskine-communitycare.org.uk



From our chook correspondent

Crushed oyster shell is a useful and wise supplement for laying hens, especially for free range birds foraging on acidic or peaty areas. Whilst hen grit will help your birds digest their food, calcium from crushed oyster shells will help birds produce the shells for their eggs and also allow healthy bone development. If you want a small free bag of edulis oyster shells to try, please contact strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk











This issue's puzzle is all about monkeys!

Fill in the answers and reveal the name of a local settlement.



Clues

1. Impudent
2. Adjustable Spanner
3. Big plant
4. 500 makes a monkey
5. Disease like Ebola
6. Western Australian resort
7. Explosive

1.								
2.								
3.		?						
		4.						
			5.					
		6.						
7.								



South Loch Ness Heritage Group - Forthcoming Talk 'The Great North Road'

Everyone is welcome to attend the next talk in the interesting programme delivered by the South Loch Ness heritage Group 'The Great North Road' will be presented on 15th October at 7:30 in Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck. The meeting will also incorporate a short AGM. Our speaker is James Miller (pictured below right), the local historian and author based in Inverness. James will speak about the transport links in the Highlands and the improvements in them over the years.

