



DOORS OPEN AGAIN AFTER 19 YEARS



The former Wildside Classroom building and site at Whitebridge is now in the ownership of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. Trust Chair Peter Faye said ‘Open Days are planned for March when everyone can see just how impressive the building is. There are many possible uses and we need locals to let the Trust know how the place should be used and developed to benefit our community.’ For more information and plans of the building see Page 5.

Boleskine Community Care’s Foyers Hub more than doubles in size!

Gillian Haston, Support and Development Officer at BCC reports ‘Work on the former Nursery part of the Hub is almost concluded and we are now busy kitting it out with furniture. We have a light, flexible space to meet a range of needs. Our thanks go to SFCT for their support in getting to this point. The regular ‘Coffee Morning’ has already moved to the Hub and the ‘Broth and Blether’ will be held at the Hub from March onwards.’ The Hub is easily accessible for all and boasts a new shower room and treatment room funded by the Trust and installed by local tradesmen.



Foyers Challenge Cup resurfaces after just 94 years.

After years in a cupboard, the Foyers Challenge Cup has made an appearance. Do you know what it was awarded for? It was presented by the British Aluminium Company and first won by their Accountant at Foyers factory in 1913. The winner – KJ Macpherson (pictured with his family in his motorcycle and side car in the banner above) was a keen shinty player, rifle shooter and a strong swimmer. ‘KJ’ was born in 1880 and saved a postie from drowning at Foyers Pier when he fell off the Steamer. After the First World War the cup was won three times by A J McKillop who is buried at Boleskine Cemetery. The cup has two ram’s heads and was made in London by the silversmith Lionel Alfred Crichton.



A Note from the Editor. Thanks for picking up – or clicking on - this copy of the NEWS. There is so much going on in the area now. Highlights in this issue must include the Chisholm wedding at Errogie in January, the purchase by the Community Trust of the impressive former Wildside Outdoor Centre and site at Whitebridge and the confirmation from energy firm SSE of the advantageous arrangements for the Stronelairg Windfarm Community Benefit Payments to our community. As the Editor I wish again to thank the usual suspects for supplying photographs and stories for this issue. These varied contributions are so important in creating a diverse content for the NEWS. Whilst social media has taken over as a method of transmitting up to the minute news and events for many people, I hope you agree there is still a place for this three-monthly publication. StrathNEWS may not be first with the news, but you might just find some information here that you would not have found otherwise. Ideas, draft articles, photographs and especially Graduation successes would be welcome for the June Issue – deadline 20 May 2019. Call me on 07525120966. Thanks, Steven

An Important Message about Grant Applications.

There has been some confusion over the new arrangements which SSE has implemented for grant applications for funds from the windfarms and hydro schemes. The Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust continues to manage the majority of the funding available for local projects and to offer grants on application, mainly for community groups and for some individual purposes. The Trust is open for applications which are considered on a two month rolling schedule. Full details are shown on Page 30. Larger grant applications from local community groups generally come to the Trust. Grants over £20,000 which come to the Trust follow a two-stage process with input from SSE. SSE also operates a regional fund called the Highland Sustainable Development Fund which looks to fund larger projects and is accessed when SSE open it. This particular fund is currently closed for applications but is due to open again in the Autumn. Applications are received and assessed by SSE and put before a National Panel of SSE appointees which includes Dr Jim Hunter, Kirkhill. The contact at SSE for this regional fund is Lindsay Dougan, Glasgow.

SSE has decided to allocate some community benefit funding through a new local panel appointed by SSE covering Stratherrick and Foyers. Application deadlines are detailed on the SSE Community Funds Page in this issue of the NEWS. SSE will receive and assess applications which will then be put to the local panel for decision. The contact at SSE is Eilidh Todd, Inverness. SSE has also decided to provide Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council with the means to fund grants for community benefit. The contact at SSE for this strand of funding is also Eilidh Todd, Inverness. There are also other sources of funding for community groups and individuals, such as the Knockie Trust or national and regional organisations and government. For help with any questions on grants, grants processes and possible sources of grant please contact Steven Watson, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust or the SSE contact shown above.

There is no Church News in this issue. Ash Wednesday falls on 6th March.

Please check with individual denominations for Lenten tide services.



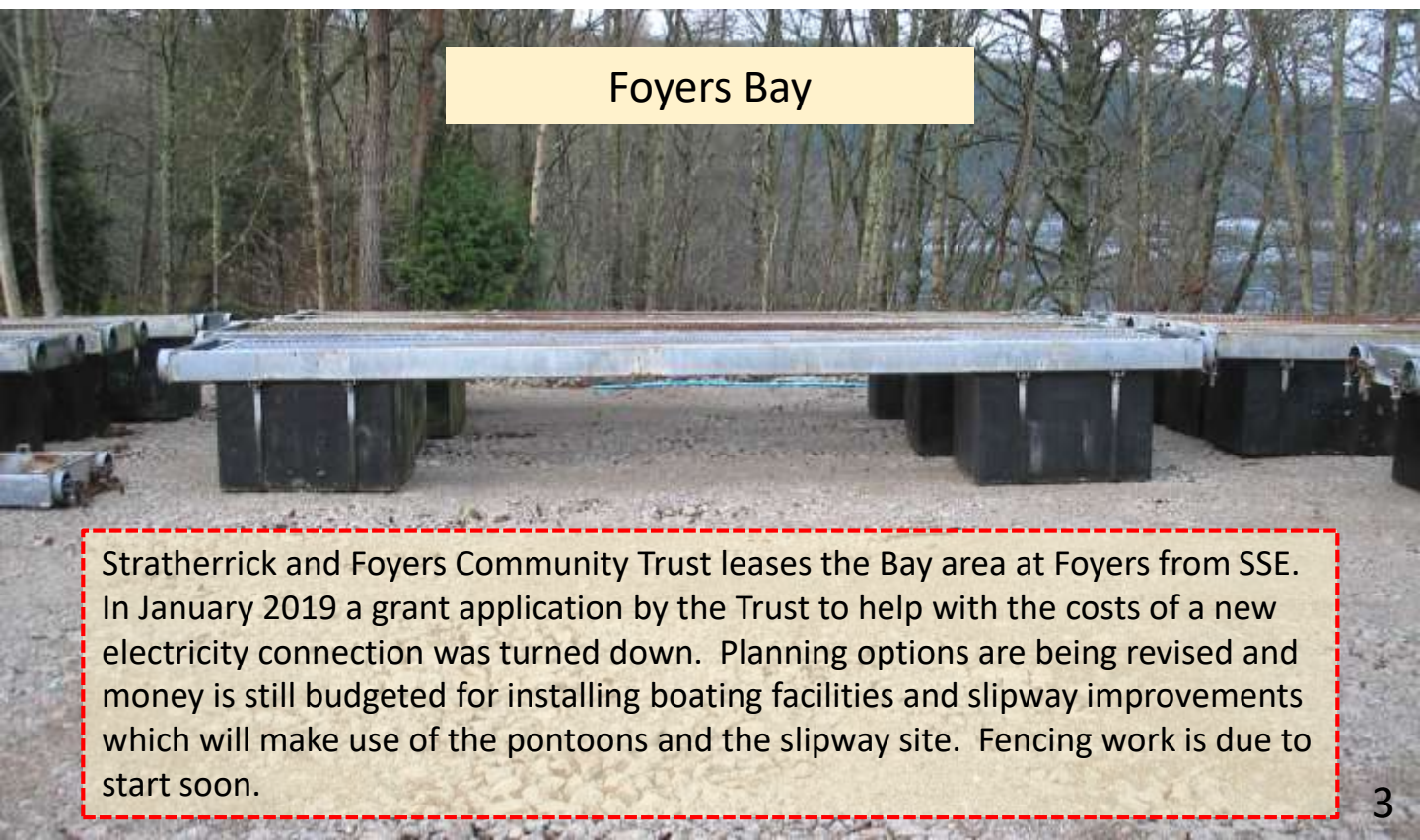
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Foyers – Riverside Field



The area in red is owned by Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. The Trust's new architect – Colin Armstrong Associates of Inverness is now producing a Masterplan which will be out for public consultation in March 2019. Please take the opportunity to visit the field anytime using the unlocked gate off the Riverside access road. An exhibition of the options is planned once the former Wildside Classroom building at Whitebridge is certified safe and can be open to the public.

Foyers Bay



Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust leases the Bay area at Foyers from SSE. In January 2019 a grant application by the Trust to help with the costs of a new electricity connection was turned down. Planning options are being revised and money is still budgeted for installing boating facilities and slipway improvements which will make use of the pontoons and the slipway site. Fencing work is due to start soon.

Getting to grips at Wildside Classroom site



The scrub which was taking hold around the Wildside Classroom is being dealt with. The car park and access track were disappearing rapidly beneath a thick carpet of bracken and gorse. The Trust called on Neil Kirkland, Easter Aberchalder and his mini digger to clear the accesses before the birds start to nest around the site. When work needs to be done, the Community Trust looks to support local business and employment wherever possible. Other remedial works are now underway to the external woodwork and windows to make the site safe and ready for a full community consultation on its future uses.

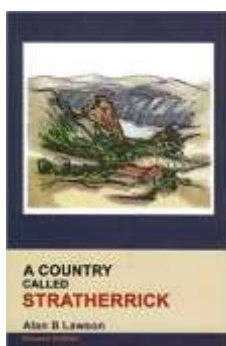
Here's a throwback to the 1980's - when the Wildside Outdoor Centre was constructed. A box of the original colour brochures was included in the sale of the site!



Stratherrick Primary Parent Council

The parents at Stratherrick Primary have been planning a shelter/outdoor learning space for some time. Last year, the children presented very well at the Highland Council's 'Your cash, your choice' ward event which was held across the loch at Drumnadrochit but unfortunately, they were unsuccessful. At the end of last year, we put together a funding application to the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust to allow us to purchase the shelter and we were all delighted when we were successful in getting a grant. Hopefully by the next edition of the NEWS, we will have 'before and after' pictures. The parents have also all agreed to do a playground/garden tidy up, including painting the fences at the front and getting a new sign made. We have also been working on a 'safe routes to school plan' which will hopefully result in better signage and road markings on either side of the school. We are also aiming high and will be pushing for a footpath from the school to the hall/park area in Gorthleck.

Alan Lawson's book is still available locally and from South Loch Ness Heritage Group





An update from Gillian Haston,
Support and Development Officer

Boleskine Community
Care

New Year, New Hub!

Building, upgrading and painting work on Unit 1 of the Hub is almost concluded and we are now busy kitting it out with furniture to get it ready for use. We have a light, flexible space to meet a range of needs. Our thanks go to SFC Trust for their support in getting to this point.

The regular Coffee Morning event has already moved venue to the Hub and the Broth and Blether will be held at the Hub from March onwards. The last afternoon tea of the winter will be held at Cameron's Tearoom on Friday 1st March. The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 13th March at the Hub and the next Broth and Blether will be on Monday 18th March, also at the Hub.

Over time we will be looking at expanding the range of services and events held at the Hub. For now, this is a work in progress so please watch this space. If you have any ideas you would like to discuss, please get in touch.

The Trustees of BCC held a strategy day in the middle of January when plans were discussed for the next 5 years. This has been used to create our development plan which has been posted on the BCC website. Julie Russell has now stepped down from her role as Care Manager but continues to be a Trustee. **Heather MacDonald has taken over from Julie and can be reached on 01456 486247.**

We are always on the lookout for new Trustees so please get in touch if you feel you have something to offer BCC at this exciting time. You don't need to have knowledge of the care sector, just an interest in supporting BCC as it moves into the next phase of its development. We continue to look for someone with an interest in taking over the role of Treasurer.

We also welcome new 'Friends of BCC' at any time. As a Friend you will receive updates on what's going on at BCC. It also increases our pool of volunteers and helps with funding applications where we need to demonstrate that BCC has the support of the community. If you feel you have something to offer BCC as a Friend, Volunteer or Trustee, please get in touch with me on 01456 486247 or at sdo@boleskine-communitycare.org.uk

The Great Wilderness Challenge participants from Stratherrick and Foyers raised an amazing £3,000 at the gruelling cross country event last August. The cheque was presented to Boleskine Community Care's Chair Kit Cameron by Morag Cameron, Glenliath.



Lunch Club Outing Destination Confirmed

The amazing Inverewe Gardens is the destination chosen by members for this spring's big day out. It is a National Trust for Scotland property which changes markedly by the season.



Here is an interesting and informative Twitter Account you might want to follow. BEAR Scotland who maintain and repair the trunk roads in North West Scotland post details of gritting, road works and road closures due to accidents or urgent repairs.



<https://twitter.com/NWTrunkRoads>

Scotland's GARDENS Scheme



There are three open days planned for this year. These are the only opportunities to visit our local very special garden.

- Friday 31 May 2019 (10am - 8pm),
- Saturday 1 June 2019 (2pm - 5pm)
- Sunday 2 June 2019 (2pm - 5pm)

Admission £5.00, children free.

GORTHLECK HOUSE GARDEN

'An unusual 20-acre woodland garden built in an unlikely place, on and around an exposed rocky ridge. The layout of the garden works with the natural features of the landscape rather than against them, with numerous paths, hedges and shelter belts creating clearly defined spaces that enable a large collection of plants and trees to thrive. It has extensive collections of rhododendrons and bamboos. The ridge offers long views of the surrounding countryside in the 'borrowed landscape' tradition of Japanese gardens. The garden didn't exist a dozen years ago and is very much a work in progress.'



Errogie Wedding makes national headlines



Michelle Macdonald and Michael Strachan married at Errogie Free Church on 5th January 2019. The event was picked up by the national newspapers which ran full page stories about the three Chisholm weddings which had been held in the Errogie Free Church. Although the church building had been closed it was reopened and spruced-up specially for the happy couple's ceremony who now live near Aberdeen. The wedding was conducted by Rev. Malcolm Maclean, Greyfriars Stratherrick.



Michelle's mother Catherine Chisholm married Ewen Macdonald in the same church in November 1983. (1983 was a great year for Aberdeen FC who won two European Cups under Alex Ferguson.)

Grandmother Sadie from Lochgarthside married Alexander Chisholm at the Errogie Free Church in the summer of 1953 – shortly after the Queen's coronation. As a teenager, Sadie worked in the Scotch Wool and Hosiery Stores in Glasgow and moved to Whitebridge in 1944 after she joined up for the Women's Land Army and Timber Corps to assist at Drummond Farm.

The move must have been quite a culture shock! Sadie ran the Gorthleck Post Office at Lochgarthside for over twenty years.



If you have wedding, graduation or other family photographs for inclusion in the June edition of the NEWS, please email strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk

New Faces at Foyers Medical Centre

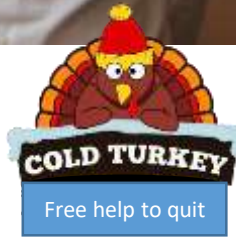
Jenny Garris has joined the team at the Foyers Surgery. Jenny is now the Practice Manager covering Cromarty as well as Foyers.

Local people will get used to hearing Andrew Thomas (right) when they call the surgery. He has joined the reception staff. Andrew previously worked at the Riverside Medical Centre in Inverness, which is part of the same group of medical practices.



**QUIT
YOUR
WAY**
with our
support
01463 704619

National No Smoking Day Wednesday 13th March 2019



'Quit Your Way' is the new slogan for the Smoking Cession Service. There is more free support to help you stop smoking than ever before. The services available here in Highland include a helpline and webchat, plus the benefit of a local advisor to buddy smokers through the difficulties of the initial 'cold turkey' period. Once your blood pressure and carbon monoxide levels are taken, you can discuss which products – such as nicotine patches or gum might help you to quit. All the services are free, and currently there is no delay to getting started. To kick off your journey to kicking the habit call 01463 704619. With 20 Benson and Hedges Gold King Size now costing over £12 for a packet of 20 there are large cash savings as well as the significant health benefits to consider.



Loch Ness Shores is sponsoring the Go Nuts Trail. In an event similar to the 'Penguin' sculptures around Dundee which raised funds for Maggie's Centre there. Highland Hospice will be locating twenty 5 foot high painted squirrels around the Highlands this summer for auction in the autumn. This view, taken in late February from the Craighdarroch shows that building work on the new reception building at Loch Ness Shores Caravan and Camping Park has commenced. www.highlandhospice.org



Sandy Fraser remembers farming at Migovie prior to the 1939 – 1945 War.

Example photographs in this article are not from Stratherrick.



Farm work was a lot different away back in my young days, as much as night is to day. Spring time, the same as today was a very busy time on a farm with the women also giving a helping hand. Statins were not heard of then that I can remember, and hard work with all the walking took good care of our cholesterol levels.

Horses were a necessity in those days before tractors came on the scene and transformed life enormously. A neighbour who had only one horse on his croft would borrow a horse to make a up a pair for ploughing his small patch. Following a plough pulled by two horses day after day would add up to many miles. When the ploughing was finished for the day the work did not stop. The horses had all their harnesses removed, then they were brushed down, watered, fed and bedded for the night and also attended to all through the weekend. Today farmers sit in a heated cab and after your tractor is switched off your time is free. After all the ploughing is finished then the harrowing begins which included walking behind the harrows to prepare the soil for the seed sowing. Oats were mostly if not all sowed in the Strath, I don't think that any barley was sown then.

My father sowed all the seed by hand. A broad "seed basket" held at his front slung from the shoulder straps loaded up with seed. Starting 10 feet or so out from the edge of the field he walked with a steady pace throwing out handfuls of seed to the left and to the right until all the field was covered. It was quite a strenuous task. The next job was the horse roller, again walking behind and picking up any large stones which he placed on a platform on the roller. I remember on one occasion being with my father when he spotted a Lapwing's "peewee's" nest with four eggs which he carefully set aside and replaced back in the nest after the roller had past. (cont.)



Peewee and graip



If you have missed any of Sandy Fraser's Migovie articles they are available on line at the StrathNEWS archive, www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

The National Museum of Rural Life at East Kilbride is a farm run on 1950's lines and has two Clydesdale horses, pigs, cows and sheep. <https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-rural-life/things-to-see-and-do/farm-matters/>

All crofts and farms grew "tatties" as they were always called and a lot of preparation was required with the women helping with selecting suitable seed from the potato pit. A large tattie was cut in half making sure that each half had a growing eye, this was good economics! Crops usually grown were Kerr's Pink and Golden Wonder (a late tattie).

Drills were opened and manured. This was hard work as the manure from the "dung" midden had all to be loaded onto the cart with a farm graip "a 4 pronged fork". We carted it out to the open drills to spread along the drills, again by graip. All was then ready for the planting by hand from a pail, real back breaking work. The horse plough later covered them over.

All farms kept two milking cows along with the other cows. Two milkers were needed so when one went dry the other one took over. They were hand-milked which was an ongoing chore and it was usually my mother who did the milking morning and evening. We had a cat who sat a few feet from my mother and it would open it's mouth wide and my mother would squirt the milk to it! After it had enough she would squirt the milk all over it's face which he had to lick off. What a clever cat. Some of the milk was made into butter and crowdie. Not having electricity the churn for butter making was worked by hand. There was never an idle moment back in those days.

Other Spring work was at the lambing season all done on foot, not with the luxury and speed of a quad bike as is the way today. Also protective clothing is much superior now to what my father wore as he very often came home soaked through. Then we must remember there was no central heating or drying facilities like we have today. Still they were very contented and there were happy times as I reflect back.

Sandy Fraser



Golden Wonder potatoes are very dry and floury. They were first grown by a Mr Brown in Arbroath in 1906. Do not boil them for too long or they fall to bits. Golden Wonders taste best when small tubers are lightly boiled just after pulling them from the ground.

Kerr's Pinks came originally from Cornhill, Banffshire where a Mr Hendry first grew the cultivar in 1907. Kerr's Pinks are generally rounder hard potatoes shaped like boulders, but with deep set eyes and pink tinges.



Here is a list of seed potatoes produced by Transition Black Isle for 2019, many are grown locally.

<https://www.transitionblackisle.org/userfiles/file/potato%20day/2019/potato-day-varieties-list-2019.pdf>



Do you know your onions?

There is a quiz night at the Whitebridge Hotel on Saturday 3rd March 2019 in aid of Prostate Cancer UK and Boleskine Community Care





The Hotel in Uki

Environment Centres in Australia - an experience I recall.

Australia was a most rewarding place because of its wildlife. But one of its most memorable qualities was its ability to identify strongly with the environment at a local level. Environment Centres were a local feature and an expression of this, giving a place a strong identity rooted in its environmental features. In the area I lived, **Uki**, our local environment centre was called the **Caldera Environment Centre** after the volcanic caldera (*cauldron*) in which Uki and other villages were located.

All sorts of uses are found for environment centres - from an 'eco-shop', to being a tourist attraction and centre point, a local venue for walk/outdoor events, schools' projects and even events for monitoring of local wildlife. The ecological qualities of an area of outstanding beauty were identified and celebrated.

Environment centres "branded" the area as ecologically aware with a strong permaculture. They were attractive visitor centres, with workshops and nurseries, play areas, all celebrating an area's natural advantages.

Margie Elgar-Bond, Ault-na-Goire.



Caldera Environment Centre remains very active. Water mining and endangered wildlife are current issues and with public meetings in Uki. Check out their website at this link.

<https://calderaenvironmentcentre.org/>



Hall's Babbler



Birds Queensland – the Queensland Ornithological Society - is celebrating 50 years since it was formed, but what does this have to do with Foyers? Well, The Society's first President was James (Jamie / Jim) David Macdonald. He was a Foyers boy who attended Foyers School and then the Inverness Royal Academy. Whilst a student in Aberdeen he met his wife-to-be. As a young man, he moved to London to take charge of the Bird Room at the Natural History Museum. Along with his wife Betty he led an expedition to Queensland in 1963 which discovered the rare Hall's Babbler. His work in recording bird species had a significant impact on nature conservation in Australia and is still very influential today. Jim retired to Brisbane and lived, appropriately enough at Gleneagle Street - until 2002. Here is a link to an appreciation with more details of his early life and achievements. <http://www.publish.csiro.au/MU/pdf/MU03901>

If you would like a printed copy please call 07525120966 and we can send one out.



Les Woods from Whitebridge passed away in January. Les was originally from Merseyside and loved living around Whitebridge. Our thoughts are with Lyn. The Whitebridge Hotel changed its menu to offer some of his favourite dishes as a sweet tribute to Les.

Ella Fraser, Gorthleck Mains passed away on 22 February 2019 aged 90. Ella was married to Ewen for over 55 years up to his death in 2010. Her funeral in Inverness will be followed by an interment at Dores Cemetery. Our thoughts are with all the Gorthleck Frasers at this time.





Sian
writes.....

Stretch your Horizons with Yoga at Stratherrick and Foyers Wellbeing Club

It had been quite literally around 40 years since I last tried Yoga before deciding to join Christiane's class in Gorthleck. Like a lot of people my thoughts were that many years of not doing stretching exercises have resulted in a body that is well-and-truly impervious to the idea of bending at the middle! However, I've now learned that flexibility (or lack of) need not be a limiting factor. On the contrary, it's a good reason for taking part. So, several weeks ago, I let Christiane know that 'one wooden plank' would be on its way at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning for the first class of 2019. I'd recently had treatment for an ongoing back condition caused by a rowing accident over 30 years ago, when I used to be a competitive sculler, so I was feeling a little trepidatious. However, the exercises are steady and controlled and you are able to work around any injuries or weaknesses.

My mantra is that it takes at least six weeks to start noticing the benefit of any new physical activity but I did notice an improvement in my back pain almost immediately. There's plenty of room in the Stratherrick Public Hall and the regulars are very welcoming. Thanks to support from the Community Trust the cost is minimal at £1 per class for locals and all equipment is supplied if you don't have your own. Both classes are on Wednesdays - one at 10:00, one at 19:00 (and the first Wednesday of the month at 17:00 due to hall bookings) and both last an hour and a half. So why not give it a go and see how you get on?

Sian Glanrid-Jones

Check out this Facebook page for more info on the yoga and singing classes
<https://www.facebook.com/stratherrickandfoyerswellbeingclub/>



The International Day of Yoga is on 21 June 2019. The London Yoga Festival runs on 12th and 13th October 2019. There is more info about Edinburgh Community Yoga on this site
<http://edinburghcommunityyoga.co.uk/>



The Scottish Yoga Conference takes place at the Dundee Apex Hotel, 27 – 29 September 2019.



SHINTY REPORT

The 2019 shinty season has started well for an on-form Boleskine. In February a friendly at Inverarnie against Kinlochshiel saw the Wasps win 3:1. Kinlochshiel's match report thanked Boleskine for a very close game. Other pre-season friendlies were victims of the cold weather when Smith Park was not playable. The North Division 2 League campaign begins away at the Bught when Boleskine plays Inverness with Jim Barr rostered as 'the man in black' on 2nd March. Inverness first team is having troubles and the second team was a poor performer last year. This could be good news for Boleskine who face Inverness in the first round of the Strathdearn Cup at home on 25 May. Seventeen teams are contesting the Strathdearn Cup (which made the draw a little problematic for the Ballifeary balaichs who had to go to Fort William with their balls to make the selections.) The draw makes it possible that Boleskine will meet and beat Glenurquhart in the final - and bring the cup home like they did in 1964. The Boleskine team last won the silverware when it beat Inverness to win the Mod Cup in 2014 at the Bught.

The Boleskine Camanachd Sale held at the Stratherrick Public Hall in December last year raised £1025 for club funds. Thanks to all who supported the club with donations or purchases.

New 'National Shinty Collection' Project to start soon

The old Shinty Clubhouse was relocated from Foyers to Kingussie many years ago and is a jewel in the crown of the shinty collection at the Highland Folk Museum. It is set to increase in importance following welcome news that an application for additional £28,000 of funding for the Museum's shinty project has been successful. The aim of the project will be to establish the Highland Folk Museum as 'the recognised repository for a National Collection of Shinty Memorabilia and Material Culture, with official endorsement from the Camanachd Association and Museums Galleries Scotland'.

Grant support from Museums Galleries Scotland's Museum Development Fund will fund a two-year project to develop and promote the collection of memorabilia and material culture relating the sport of shinty including the Boleskine bunnet pictured here. The project commences in early Spring 2019. It will be accompanied by engagement activities and outreach programmes designed to make contact with clubs, communities and individuals involved in shinty.



There have been many heart-felt tributes to John Willie Campbell.

Willie was the original voice of shinty on the BBC and died in December aged 84. Our thoughts are with his wife Margaret in Gorthleck and his family in Inverness and elsewhere. Many locals will remember him as a teacher encouraging the young in school and sports in Inverness for over 30 years, as a community councillor and director of the community trust. He was a leading light in the Camanachd Association and many readers will have fond personal memories of his lovely manner and enthusiasm, his faith and family. Last year he enjoyed a trip around Inverness on the new rickshaw bikes with the 'Cycling Without Age' volunteers. His travelling companion that day was the late Les Woods from Whitebridge.

Friends of the Inverness Royal Academy

A couple of years ago a group of parents of secondary children realised that educational school trips were becoming very expensive for pupils to participate in. Family budgets were creaking and if your family had two or three youngsters the costs really mounted up. Often Stratherrick and Foyers pupils miss out on some regular after-school activities and socialising because they must board the bus home at close of school. The Friends of the Inverness Royal Academy is a local group which makes applications to Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust for funds to allow secondary pupils to benefit from these confidence building opportunities. Here are some recent letters from pupils thanking the community for the funds which they have received. They give a flavour of what the grants are designed to achieve – confident, experienced, sociable and active young people positive about education and learning

Inverness Royal Academy Scuba Diving Trip to Malta



Dear Community Trust,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn how to scuba dive it was incredible, I would love to go again it was breath taking... literally. I would recommend scuba diving to anyone who is interested, I think the best part of the trip would be the blue hole dive we went 20m under water and it was magical. Thank you so much for helping my family fund this trip it was one of the best experiences of my life I would be ecstatic to go again next year and see all my underwater fish friends again. Yours sincerely, Joe McCarvill-Ellis



Visiting Whitebridge?
Be sure and say hello to Sam the
Horse just across the
road from the
hotel.

OUR FRIENDLY, HELPFUL & WELCOMING
SPIN & CHATTER GROUP



When I was 7 it was a spinning wheel I was asking Santa for after watching ladies demonstrate at a the vintage tractor rally at Daviot. On Christmas morning I unwrapped a traditional Ashford spinning wheel. With the help of YouTube and my Dad I practiced it every now and again but never did manage to make a ball of wool. It takes a lot of coordination to keep up the tapping action of your foot which turns the wheel, this controls how quickly the fleece needs to be fed into the wheel from your fingers. From here the fibres are twisted together and wound onto a bobbin. Even in all those years spinning a bit at a time I never did manage to fill a bobbin so I wasn't able to move on to the next stage, I don't even think I realised there was a next stage.

I was about ready to give up because I was fed up with the fleece snapping in my fingers all the time. Then I heard there was a local spinning group at the Stratherrick Hall straight after Guides. I was desperate to go. Everyone in the group is really friendly and helpful and we have a good laugh together. The ladies have helped solve my problems and have taught me about the other stages involved. A big part of the problems I was having was because my wheel desperately needed some maintenance work which was organised through the group. Without the groups help my wheel would have become an unused ornament in the home, but instead I have achieved my dream of creating my own homespun ball of wool. I enjoy knitting and crochet so I'm able to put it to good use.



My favourite thing about spinning your own wool is that by blending different fleeces you can choose the exact colours, textures and thicknesses you want, it becomes your own custom made yarn. I think the worst thing about spinning is a step at the beginning called carding. It's when you use heavy brushes to comb the wool to make all the fibres face the same way ready to feed into the spinning wheel and it takes aaaaggges and ages and hurts your arms. There is something called a drum carder which allows you to pass the fleece through 2 rollers instead which is much faster but this is an expensive piece of kit. I'm excited about the money the group has been given by the SFC Trust because a drum carder for the group to share is on the shopping list. I think I'll do a lot more spinning when I'm able to use one of these to card the fleece. I'll soon have more wool than I'll know what to do with.

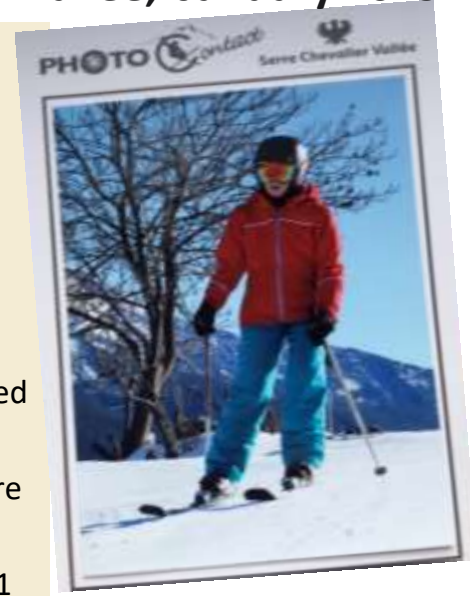
Annalise Beith, aged 13.



Inverness Royal Academy Trip to Serre Chevalier Vallée, January 2019

I would very much like to thank the Community Trust for funding most of my fees for the Inverness Royal Academy Ski trip to France. It was thrilling to think that I've been skiing for a whole week in the French Alps! We stayed at the Frejus Hotel with Ski-bound. We got four hours a day of skiing and we also had an evening activity every night. My favourite evening activity was outdoor ice skating. I had never done it before but it was really fun.

I really enjoyed the skiing. I was in Group C, second to top and I skied on a Black run! We went really high up and skied very close to the Italian Alps border! The views you could see from the chair lifts were breath taking. I was one of the youngest to go but I enjoyed it so much that I want to do it all over again! Thank you. **Jersey Page, S1**



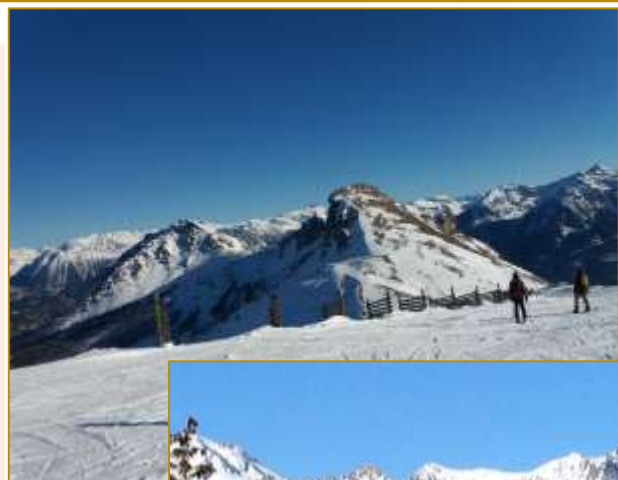
The skiing trip was really great as I haven't been to France or even out of the country before, it was also the first time I've been skiing. This was an amazing opportunity for me because I am thinking of doing it again next year and the skiing trip was good practice for me and means I will be doing better skiing next year.

Throughout the week we did many other activities as well as skiing such as ice skating, a movie night we also had a disco, a quiz and little walk around town. While skiing I got to do jumps and we went on a couple of green and blue runs and up a couple of ski lifts.

Edward Jones

This was my second school ski trip, I was lucky to have been selected to attend it again and get £500 to go towards it by the Trust, which made it possible to pay for everything before the deadline. During the course of the trip I advanced my parallel turning and had an amazing time learning how to do some of the things in the stunt park how to land the larger jumps and even did some off course trails. I also successfully completed my first black run!

We were staying in an amazing part of the French alps and had a large range of after dinner activities, such as Ice-skating quizzes and even a party night. **Sam Jones**



FIRA – Belgium, France and Fort William.....

I would like to say a big thank you to FIRA for giving me the opportunity to go on two school trips, the first was the Outward Bound at Loch Eil in Fort William. This trip really pushed me out of my comfort zone. I took part in canoeing, wild camping and many group activities. I must have done something right as I was given a recommendation for a funded place to return. I got home from that trip on the Thursday and on the Sunday I was off on my second trip. This was to Belgium. I went to Ypres and found it very humbling seeing all the graves, all those people that lost their lives protecting our country.

We went to the chocolate factory, which of course Belgium is famous for. We then finished our trip to Euro Disney in Paris and it was fantastic.

Thank you again for funding these trips FIRA. **Raine MacGruer**



Dear SFC Trust

Thank you very much for giving me the money to go on a skiing holiday to the French Alps. I had a very nice time, my favourite part was going on the chair lift, I hadn't been on a chair lift before and I did fall over when I was trying to get off the first time.

I have made many amazing memories on the ski trip, but I think my favourite was definitely when the toilet seat fell off. The toilet seat was always unstable when you sat on it, but on Monday I went to lift up the lid and the whole thing came off. But the hotel was very nice. In France there was very good chocolate. It was Oreo flavoured and you got two bars for two Euros.

On Wednesday we went ice skating which was a lot of fun. I had never been to an outdoor ice rink – they weren't penguins to steady me so I fell over but we laughed about it. The owners of the ice rink did have a lovely dog as well.

The skiing lessons were very good. My instructor was called TJ and he was funny and luckily he did speak English. The skiing lessons at Primary School and with FIRA helped with the lessons in France and with the skiing lessons I am getting with *sports Gaelic*. The snow was really nice. It was kind of like skiing on caster sugar. I would like to take the opportunity to say a final thank you. I am immensely grateful. It was really good and I am really glad that I went.

From Annalise





Do you have a great local project looking for funding? The Stronelairst Community Fund is now open!

After launching the Stronelairst Community Fund at Foyers Power Station in December, the SSE Community Investment team held a funding fair in the Stratherrick Hall in January. The fund will deliver over 25 years of community benefit payments aimed at helping develop rural infrastructure, community projects and skills and development opportunities in the area and is now open for applications from the Stratherrick and Foyers community.

SSE's Community Fund Manager, Eilidh Todd said "There is £50,000 per year for the next three years ringfenced for community projects in the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council area. We are keen to hear from projects which encourage community activity, promotes community spirit, and ensure access to services for all community members. Projects can improve local infrastructure, build community capacity, and involve heritage, culture, arts or sport."

"We are happy to discuss any potential projects. My door is always open, so if you have any questions about the Stronelairst fund please get in touch."

Main Grant Funding: Grants of between £501 and £10,000 are available for not for profit organisations by applying to SSE. All decisions are made by a panel of local people. The first deadline for applications is very soon, on 4th March, with another on 3rd September 2019.

Micro Grants can be up to £500 given to individuals or organisations for projects that benefit the community. Applications are via Community Council and if you wish to apply, please get in contact.

If you have any questions about the Stronelairst Community Funding, get in contact at Eilidh.todd@sse.com, or by visiting

www.sse.com/communities/fundlocations/stronelairst/



Above - SSE's Eilidh Todd (right) with local residents Paula Page, Margaret Cormack and Gillian McIntyre at Gorthleck in January 2019.
Below – Stronelairst Fund launch at Foyers Power Station with Drew Hendry MP.



Thank you to communities of the Great Glen from the Stronelairg Windfarm Project Team

Construction of SSE's Stronelairg wind farm reached the final milestone at the end of last year. The windfarm was completed and handed over to the SSE Operations Team on 17th December. The 66 turbine wind farm is located south-east of Fort Augustus and sits in the Monadhliath Mountains, over 600 meters above sea level.

David Sutton, Head of Projects at SSE said: "It's fantastic to see Stronelairg reach this important stage. Since construction began back in 2016, the project team has battled some unique challenges. These included prolonged periods of severe weather, the *Beast from the East*, difficult road conditions and the site's complex geography.'

'The construction team's ability to safely and responsibly deliver the project to this point shows their skills and expertise. Everyone involved should be immensely proud of what has been achieved.'

David Sutton added 'I'd like to thank the local community, Highland Council, Police Scotland and Transport Scotland for their support throughout the construction of the project. Without the supportive relationship built by the team the successful delivery of the Stronelairg project would not be possible.'

'The Stronelairg windfarm would not have been delivered without the support and collaboration of the local community. The Project Team consulted closely with local community representatives throughout the project and taking their feedback has proved invaluable. With community support we were able to amend the turbine delivery times from daytime to evening slots which helped to minimise any disruption to the bustling tourist season in the Loch Ness area.'

Stronelairg leaves a lasting legacy in the village of Fort Augustus. Over £3million of road, footpath and crossing upgrades are greatly improving road safety for the local community and visiting tourists alike. Most notably the Stronelairg Windfarm has also funded the construction of the final 'missing' section of the South Loch Ness cycle and walking trail which was completed and officially opened in August last year.



The final blade is fitted to the last of the 66 wind turbines at Stronelairg.



Stratherrick Clay Target Club, 2019

The following are the dates for the Stratherrick Clay Target Club for the coming year:

Maintenance Night - Friday 21 March from 4pm

Practice Sessions will resume at the Torness shoot ground, Abersky Farm, (photo above).

Thursday 16th May from 6.30pm

Thursday 23rd May – special date for Juniors and Newcomers to ‘have a go’ everything including coaching supplied, from 6.30pm

Thursday 30th May practice from 6.30pm

Friday 31st May – 3 Straths Competition Strathnairn vs Stratherrick vs Strathdearn – teams will be organised on the night!

Thursday 13th June – LOCAL Shoot Competition after practice from 6.30pm

Saturday 15th June – OPEN Competition from 11am

Thursday 27th June practice from 6.30pm

Thursday 11th July practice from 6.30pm

Thursday 25th July practice from 6.30pm

Thursday 8th August practice from 6.30pm

Saturday 10th August ALL ROUNDER (Open Competition) from 11am

Thursday 22nd August practice from 6.30pm

Thursday 5th September practice from 6.30pm

Thursday 12th September practice and KEEPERS vs FARMER vs OTHERS competition from 6pm

Friday 27th December FESTIVE (Open Competition) from 11am



Contact Jenny, Stratherrick Clay Target Club Secretary jenny@mccallumagri.co.uk

????????????



Your opinion matters!

Summer Fun Day 2019?

Should the Trust hold another Fun Day this summer?

Please let the Trust know what you think.

E-mail strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk

????????????



MOBILE LIBRARY DATES AND TIMES 2019



Wednesdays (Route 3)

Aldourie - Torness - Errogie - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores
 Dates: 20 Mar, 10 Apr, 01 May, 22 May, 12 Jun, 03 Jul, 24 Jul,
 14 Aug, 04 Sep, 25 Sep, 16 Oct, 06 Nov, 27 Nov, 18 Dec 2019.
 09.30 – 10.10 Aldourie Primary School
 10.30 – 10.40 Torness, Artists Studio
 11.00 – 11.15 Errogie Church
 11.40 – 12.20 Lower Foyers Riverside
 12.30 – 13.00 Park Terrace house bound
 13.00 – 13:30 Lunch!
 13.35 – 13.55 Foyers, Glenlia Road
 14.05 – 14.40 Foyers Primary School
 14.50 – 15.05 Foyers Coach House
 15.15 – 15.40 Inverfarigaig Forestry Houses / Hillhead
 16.00 – 16.40 Dores, by the Dores Inn

Thursdays (Route 12)

Daviot Primary School - Gorthleck -
 Stratherrick Primary School - Whitebridge -
 Errogie - Farr
 Dates: 14 Mar, 04 Apr, 25 Apr, 16 May,
 06 Jun, 27 Jun, 18 Jul, 08 Aug, 29 Aug,
 19 Sep, 10 Oct, 31 Oct, 21 Nov, 12 Dec 2019.
 09.25 – 10.05 Daviot Primary School
 10.35 – 11.25 Invernarnie, Farr Hall
 12.00 – 12.15 Gorthleck Public Hall
 13.15 – 13.55 Stratherrick Primary School
 14.00 – 14.25 Whitebridge Old Post Office
 15.00 – 15.35 Errogie Bridge (The Ark)
 16.00 – 16.20 Farr Crofts
 16.25 – 16.50 Farr Community Hall

In this issue the Boleskine Bookworm introduces you to two rather unusual books from the Boleskine Bookworm



Mrs Gibson Recommends

The Marriage Pact by Michelle Richmond.

Michelle Richmond has written a number of psychological novels. 'The Marriage Pact' is set in San Francisco where Alice and Jake get married and receive a 'special' gift. They sign up for 'The Pact' – an agreement to show just how committed they are to each other and join the club. There are four simple rules, but what happens when Alice or Jake breaks the rules? The story sends chills up your spine as you read – maybe you will stay up late to read it right through!



David Levante – your guide to a Fairyland near you.....



Local author David Levante launched his book in February at Inverness Town House. 'Dust Wars' is the first volume of what might just become the new 'Harry Potter'. Levante recounts his journey into the Fairy world which runs alongside our own day-to-day existence. His book reveals how fairies operate worldwide and even in Canada! Watch out for the local Loch Ness references and take a second look the next time your pet cat stares at you for a few moments longer than usual.

----- **Murder Mystery at the Whitebridge** -----



Any similarities between Fawcety Towers and the Whitebridge Hotel were purely intentional on 22 February when Basil, Sybil and the crew joined diners for an evening of fun and a bit of mayhem! The event was sold out and much appreciated by those attending. Word is that the troubadours had the accents off to a tee! The next special event is a Wine Tasting Evening on 16 March.



Errogie's **Moteh Parrott and friends with Nicky Murray** will also play at The Whitebridge on 13 April as part of a national tour which includes gigs in Elgin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Dundee.

Moteh has a distinctive modern indie-folk-rock sound, complementing reflective, uplifting lyrics with raw electric guitar and cello. Born in Cameroon and given the local name Mnkongmoteh, his music has been described as comparable with "a Highland wilderness with all the sweeping colour and spirit which that encompasses".



After the break up of his London-based band, Red Kites, Moteh returned to the Scottish Highlands, where he began working on new music with cellist Kathleen Rollins-McKie and drummer Marc Rollins-McKie, both previously members of Revere. With Blair Young completing the line up on bass, the 'Afterglow' Acoustic EP was released in late 2018.



Mothering Sunday this year falls on 31 March 2019. Most local eateries have special menus that week and booking your table might be best. Simon and Jan also have first class stamps ready at the Post Office if you need them!



Will BREXIT bring us more visitors on 'Staycations'?

Will we see a drop in tourists from Germany or France? Will Outlander Tourism gather pace this summer? Only time will tell.

Scottish Bank Holiday Dates 2019

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Friday 19 April | Good Friday |
| Monday 6 May | Early May Bank Holiday |
| Monday 27 May | Spring Bank Holiday |
| Monday 5 August | Summer Bank Holiday |
| Monday 2 December | St. Andrew's Day |
| Wed 25 December | Christmas Day |
| Thurs 26 December | Boxing Day |



Stratherrick Public Hall

Boleskine Community Care

Carers Wanted

We are looking to recruit carers to join our successful team based in the Stratherrick and Foyers area.

Must be flexible and willing to work some weekends and evenings.

No previous experience required as training is provided.

Good rates of pay.

For more details and an application form please contact Heather on 01456 486247

The Hall is open during the current improvement and repair work. Some rectification of the drainage problem is also underway. Please use the alternative entrance closer to the bus shelter.

The dishwasher is now operative. There is an internal heater on the machine so you may wish to look at the operating instructions and switch it on some while ahead of using it. The community gas barbeque and flip chart holder and stand is also located at the Hall.

Local community groups using the Hall do not generally incur a hire charge. The Hall Committee can raise charges for private or commercial events.

**For all Hall bookings please call Pam on
01456 486364**

Gorthleck Waterworks refreshed!

Scottish Water's
Development Centre at
Gorthleck has a new look.

Scottish Water's website states....

'To support innovation in potable water treatment, we offer Gorthleck Development Centre, near Inverness. Transformed from a membrane Water Treatment Works, the Centre benefits from a varied raw water quality, typical to that of many rural areas in Scotland.'

'As the Centre is no longer connected to the distribution network, users have a unique opportunity to trial new equipment on full scale assets in a low risk environment. The Centre also offers welfare facilities, a meeting room, on-site laboratory space and site security.'



This issue we're making a Qwerky Crustless Quiche

This crustless quiche is low fat, extremely easy to make and super tasty. You can experiment with different combinations of vegetables, various flavours of Cottage Cheese and Batchelor's Pasta Mixes. At the heart of this recipe is genuine Stratherrick eggs which are available from a number of local poultry keepers.

Ingredients

- Three Stratherrick Eggs
- 300g tub of cottage cheese (try different flavours like chive or pineapple).
- One packet of Batchelor's Pasta'n'Sauce this recipe works well with the Mac'n'Cheese flavour and the Cheese'n'Broccoli and Pesto versions.
- Vegetables – choose your favourite combo - of leek, onion, sweet corn, tomato and broccoli.

Preparation

Use a non stick loose bottom round ovenproof tin and spray it lightly with oil and line with greaseproof paper. Pre-heat the oven to 200 degrees.

Method

Place the Batchelor's sauce mix in a non-stick pot with 400ml of boiling water. Simmer until most of the water has evaporated or taken-up by the Pasta. (about 10 minutes)

Dry-fry the onion, leek or whatever you are using. You can even try adding a packet of ham chopped-up. Pour the mixture into the tin and level it off. Bake in the oven for 30 to 35 minutes. Ensure the quiche looks slightly browned on-top and it is nicely set.

Sin agad e! Tha e deiseil!





Forthcoming

TALK

"Land Legacies - the enduring impact of the First World War on Highland land issues."

By Dr Iain Robertson, Reader in History at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck,

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 at 7.30pm, All Welcome.

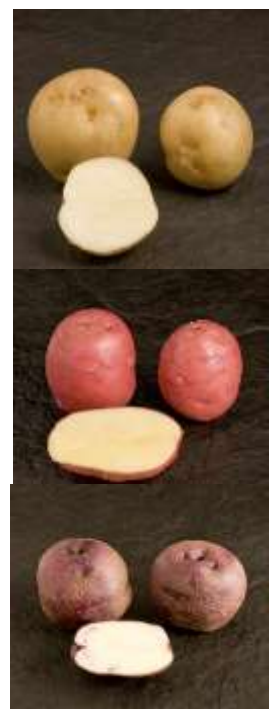


The impact of the First World War on Highland land issues can still be seen and felt today. Starting with a background to Highland land ownership and the changes in the 18th and 19th Centuries including the crofters' land raids and uncontested occupations, Dr Iain will go on to cover the period following the First World War. Dr Robertson is expected to take questions after his talk.

Howk the Potato Varieties

B F R E D N O W N E D L O G B
 B M D S Y I X R C T L S K E B
 U A R A C U I E F N L S J K M
 D X A Q R F K T S A E E L J Q
 E K U V E K I S Y S D R P V Y
 E X G E P X N O X F D P E A Q
 T A E P I G G O X C N X U R O
 T J M I P A E R K U A E L R G
 O L O C S M D X J L L S B A I
 L I H U I I W F D T T E L N N
 R W K R R T A A R R N P L P P
 A B A E A S R X O A E R E I M
 H F X Y M E D L C O P A Z L U
 C Y C M Y E U D E D V H D O L
 Z G D U T E Q C R Z M S E T H

SHARPESEXPRESS SANTE
 EDZELLBLUE WILJA
 GOLDENWONDER
 ESTIMA
 KINGEDWARD
 CARA
 ROOSTER
 PENTLANDDELL
 ARRANPILOT
 CHARLOTTE
 CULTRA
 EPICURE
 HOMEGUARD
 MARISPIPER
 RECORD



The large female Monkey Puzzle tree close to Grays Park, Foyers is growing a large crop of seed pods this year. The squirrels will be hoping for a good feed when the tasty seeds eventually ripen and drop to the ground.



Inverness • Foyers

16

MONDAY TO FRIDAY (WHEN INVERNESS ROYAL ACADEMY IS OPEN)

Service No.	16	16	16	16	16	16
		NF	F	F	NF	
Inverness Bus Station	0900	1220	1220	1525	1525	1750
Holm Park Bus Terminal	0910	1230	1230	1535	1535	1758
Inverness Royal Academy			1240		1545	▼
Ness Castle Estate	▼	▼	1245	▼	1550	1801
Scanport	0914	1234	1249	1539	1554	1806
Dores Inn	0921	1241	1256	1546	1601	1813
Inverfargaig Cottages	0938	1258	1313	1603	1618	1830
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	0945	1305	1320	1610	1625	1837
Upper Foyers Phone Box	0950	1310	1325	1615	1630	1842

(WHEN INVERNESS ROYAL ACADEMY IS CLOSED)

Service No.	16	16	16	16
Inverness Bus Station	0900	1220	1525	1750
Holm Park Bus Terminal	0910	1230	1535	1758
Inverness Royal Academy				▼
Ness Castle Estate	▼	▼	▼	1801
Scanport	0914	1234	1539	1806
Dores Inn	0921	1241	1546	1813
Inverfargaig Cottages	0938	1258	1603	1830
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	0945	1305	1610	1837
Upper Foyers Phone Box	0950	1310	1615	1842

Foyers • Inverness

16

MONDAY TO FRIDAY (WHEN INVERNESS ROYAL ACADEMY IS OPEN)

Service No.	16	16	16	16
Upper Foyers Phone Box	0745	0955	1330	1630
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	0750	1000	1335	▼
Inverfargaig Cottages	0757	1007	1342	1637
Dores Inn	0814	1024	1359	1654
Scanport	0820	1031	1406	1700
Ness Castle Estate	0825	1036	1411	
Inverness Royal Academy	0835	▼	▼	▼
Holm Park Bus Terminal	0840	1039	1414	1705
Inverness Bus Station	0849	1042	1421	1715

(WHEN INVERNESS ROYAL ACADEMY IS CLOSED)

Service No.	16	16	16	16
Upper Foyers Phone Box	0750	0955	1330	1630
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	0755	1000	1335	▼
Inverfargaig Cottages	0802	1007	1342	1637
Dores Inn	0819	1024	1359	1654
Scanport	0825	1031	1406	1700
Ness Castle Estate	0830	1036	1411	
Inverness Royal Academy	▼	▼	▼	▼
Holm Park Bus Terminal	0833	1039	1414	1705
Inverness Bus Station	0840	1042	1421	1715

There is no Sunday Service

F Operates Fridays. NF Does not operate Fridays.

Times shown in italics are for guidance only. Buses may pass a few minutes earlier than shown.

For additional buses between City and Ness Castle, see Services 6, 7 in the Inverness City Guide.

For additional buses between Inverness and Dores, see Service 14A.

Inverness • Foyers

16

SATURDAY

Service No.	16	16
Inverness Bus Station	1230	1750
Holm Park Bus Terminal	1237	1757
Ness Castle Estate	1240	1800
Scanport	1245	1805
Dores Inn	1252	1812
Inverfargaig Cottages	1309	1829
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	1316	1836
Upper Foyers Phone Box	1321	1840

Foyers • Inverness

16

SATURDAY

Service No.	16	16
Upper Foyers Phone Box	0900	1330
Lower Foyers Bus Shelter	0905	1335
Inverfargaig Cottages	0912	1342
Dores Inn	0929	1359
Scanport	0936	1406
Ness Castle Estate	0941	1411
Holm Park Bus Terminal	0944	1413
Inverness Bus Station	0951	1420

Here is the current Foyers – Inverness Bus Timetable. It has been extracted from the Stagecoach Booklet 'Inverness South Travel Guide' which became operative on 7th January 2019. The Guide also includes the Whitebridge – Inverness services (Service 14) and can be picked up at the Bus Station at Farraline Park, Inverness.

School Easter holidays run from 8th to 22nd April and summer holidays run from 6th July to 19th August 2019.



Highland Omnibuses ran the service during the 1960's with buses like this.

Note – whilst the service always leaves from Inverness Bus Station and is expected to run out of Inverness via the riverside (Castle Road), some services seem to operate via High Street and Castle Street.

The Knockie, Whitebridge – Inverness (Service 14) timetable is complex, especially on Fridays. For a paper copy please call at the Inverness Bus Station at Farraline Park.

DETAILS OF PROPOSED GORTHLECK MICRO DISTILLERY MADE PUBLIC



Planning – Application Map

18/05921/FUL | Erection of a house and a micro distillery with storage shed and warehouse | Land 330M NE Of Purple Loch Gorthleck

<https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=PK1HWFIIHJ6T00>



An application for planning consent for a new micro distillery near the corner of the B862 and the Aberchalder road is currently 'under consideration' by Highland Council planners. (Link above)

Grants from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

The Trust is open to applications from individuals and community groups for the range of grants detailed in our schemes. Application forms appear on the Grant System page of the Trust website. Applicants wishing paper application forms can request these be sent in the mail by calling Steven on 07525120966.

For most application types the Trust gathers applications and processes these in Rounds. There is a grant Round every two months. On the dates shown below all completed applications received since the last Round closed are batched together and allocated for assessment. Satisfactory applications are put to the Trust Board for decision around six weeks after the Round closing date. This means that the earliest you can expect to get a decision on a grant application is usually as shown below.

The Trust is not able to provide grants retrospectively so do not incur any expenditure until your application is decided.

Here are the 2019 Deadlines For Applications to the following schemes.

Student Grant, Energy Saving Grant, Constituted Group Grant of up to £20,000, Un-Constituted Group for Community Benefit Grant and Sporting Excellence Grant*

21 April 2019 Completed applications received by this date will be assessed during May 2019 and considered by the Trust Board in June 2019.

•21 June 2019 Completed applications received by this date will be assessed during July 2019 and considered by the Trust Board in August 2019.

•21 August 2019 Completed applications received by this date will be assessed during September 2019 and considered by the Trust Board in October 2019.

•21 September 2019 Completed applications received by this date will be assessed during October 2019 and considered by the Trust Board in November 2019.

Hardship Grant applications may be shared or actioned by the Knockie Trust which operates a Hardship Grant Scheme. Contact 07525120966 in confidence if you have an urgent need or want to refer someone who has.

*If your Sporting Excellence grant application relates to an event or course happening shortly, please telephone 07525120966. Do not delay.

Apprentice Grant applications may be submitted at any time. The Trust will prioritise these types of grant for an early action and decision. Remember you must provide full information on the proposed qualifications, finances and work arrangements. These are best started off by a discussion with the Apprenticeship Scheme Administrator, Sharon Ferguson.

Applications for large grants for community groups (over £20k – a two part process) have a different timescale as they may be subject to additional assessment by the Trust and our funders including SSE. Grants using funds from certain funders may require the Trust to provide the funder with basic information to allow them to run an identity check.

If you want to find out more and to apply under the Trust's Medical Adaptation Grant and Loan Award Scheme – for households in medical distress – Please contact the Project Coordinator on 07525120966 or the Trust Administrator at any time. There are funds unallocated in the scheme (as at 27 February 2019) e Mail - pc@sfctrust.org.uk and admin@sfctrust.org.uk

Recent Grant Approvals from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust

Total £44,352.69

Grants are awarded from the following funds.

Glendoe Hydro Fund (SSE)
Dunmaglass Windfarm Fund (SSE)
Corriegarth Windfarm Fund (Greencoat UK Wind)
Green Highland Allt Luidhe Hydro Fund
Easter Aberchalder Partnership Fund

For details of which fund was used for each grant offer please refer to the Trust's Board Minutes which are posted on the Documents page of the Trust website www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

The following grants were approved by the Board Meetings held in December 2018, January and February 2019. Offers were made as follows –

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council £19,538 (confirmed in full) for toilet design, administration costs and fencing at Foyers Cemetery.

The Knockie Trust £970 for annual management costs.

Stratherrick Primary School Parent Council £9,332.47 for transport to swimming lessons, skiing lessons, a pantomime trip and an outdoor learning project.

Stratherrick and Foyers Lunch Club £2,200 for annual running costs and outing to Inverewe Gardens.

Friends of the Inverness Royal Academy £3,326.25 for pupil tutoring.

Student grants of £500 each have been offered to the following - Christopher Gehrke, Duncan Macpherson, Cameron Simpson, Andrew Stocks, Luke Burgess, Angus Grant MacGruer, Gavin Gilchrist, Gavin Greer, Chris Finlay, Anna Yeats, Hannah Burgess, Iona Macpherson, Lisa Haston and Roma Yeats.

Spin and Chatter Group £1,000 for equipment.

Kilchuimen Academy £52 for an extra curricular trip (Stratherrick and Foyers pupil).

Foyers Primary School £433.97 for the Loch Insh Trip for final year pupils.

Foyers Primary School Parent Council £1000 for bus transport to swimming lessons.

Energy Saving Grant of £500 to Mrs E MacDougall for a replacement heater.

New applications received by 21 February are being assessed during March and a decision made in early April. Applications received by 21 April will be assessed during May and a decision made in early June. Incomplete application forms will be returned.

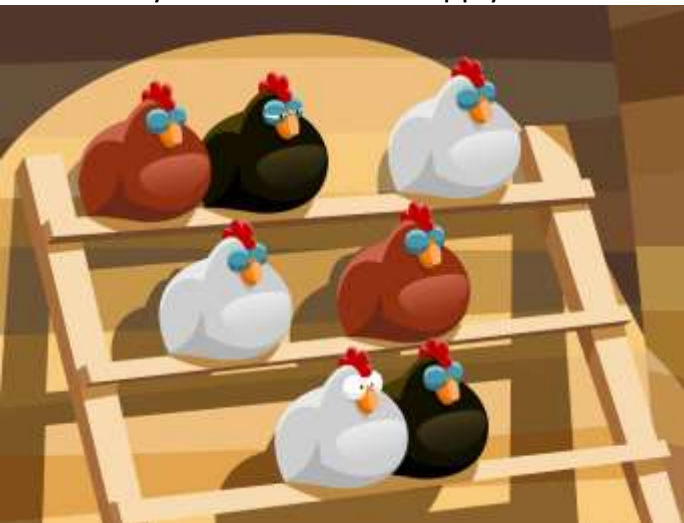
‘Where did you get your hens, Mrs McCluckie?’

In Issue 9 of the NEWS we advertised for a Chook Correspondent. The position is still vacant, so here are some details of how to find a hen or two to start off your flock. It is to the credit of two men that many people around the Highlands still keep poultry. Both have been responsible for maintaining and improving the availability of laying hens in the Highlands.

Donald the Hen MacDonald from Struan in Skye has spend nearly sixty years raising poultry and delivering pullets around the Highlands. Donald the Hen offers a range of poultry including Light Sussex and Lohmann Brown hens and Khaki Campbell ducks, whilst Alisdair Fraser from the Black Isle concentrates on Hi Point hens which are noted for their productivity. There is also a large auction sale of poultry including rare breeds at Dingwall Mart on Saturday 16th March 2019. These sales can include fertilised eggs for hatching at home under a broody hen or in an incubator. AK Poultry of Inverurie also supply hens.



Light Sussex Hen (top)
and Lohmann Brown Hen.



‘The therapeutic value of tending chickens far outweighs the value of your labour.’
Alisdair Fraser, Flowerburn, Fortrose.

‘I started breeding poultry on a small scale in 1961 when I was 12 years old and have been doing it ever since. My birds are docile and quiet due to having music played to them all day.’
Donald the Hen, Struthan, Skye.

<http://www.flowerburn.co.uk/index.asp>
<https://geoff996.wixsite.com/skypoultry>

The modern surname of McLuckie has some links with Dunmaglass, way back and even before the last of the McGillivray Chiefs – if you know more, please write in with details of the McLuckie links with Stratherrick and we’ll include your reply in the next issue

Community Broadband Network Expansion

An update from the Community Trust’s Broadband Team



“We are in the final stages and currently agreeing legal documents for the site of the main mast for Phase Two of the Community Broadband scheme. The Trust is very frustrated this has taken so long but we have an agreement in principle now so once the legals are sorted, we will be able to forge ahead and start to cover Errogie, Torness and the surrounding areas. This new phase will also allow us to go over Loch Ness and back again to locations on the Loch side that have requested this service. We know many of you have been very patiently waiting and we very much hope your wait is over soon!!!”