



COMING SOON TO A VENUE NEAR YOU....

Community Carols at Stratherrick Public Hall on Saturday 16th December 2017 at 2pm.
 Christmas Ceilidh at Stratherrick Public Hall on Friday 22 December 2017 – see pages 31 & 32
 Christmas Eve Service at Boleskine Church, Drumtemple on Sunday 24th December at 10am

New Chair and Directors for Community Trust



Eleven Directors serve on the new Trust Board.

Stewart Macpherson, Dell, Ken Sinclair, Whitebridge, Garry Page, Glenliath, Hugh Nicol, Ault an Goire, Jim Cameron, Compass (Community Council Liaison Director), Frank Ellam, Finance Director - Co-opted, Caroline Mortimore, Gorthleck, Zoe Iliffe, Whitebridge Peter Faye Whitebridge, Julie Murphy, Foyers and Sharon Ferguson of Wester Drummond (Vice Chair).

After a successful AGM at Stratherrick Public Hall on Wednesday 29th November 2017 attended by more than 50 residents the member directors chose Peter J Faye of Whitebridge (left) as the Chair of the Trust for the year ahead. Peter succeeds former Chair Zoe Iliffe who has stepped down after three years in the role. Zoe will now join the other ten directors who manage the affairs of the Trust. Peter Faye said 'I want to see membership of the Trust continuing to grow and for a positive, supportive attitude to be very apparent to our funders. This will ensure we continue to receive our community benefit funds so we can improve and maintain Stratherrick and Foyers as a wonderful place to live. I also firmly believe that the primary task of your Trust's Board is not to spend the monies, but to support our community groups to do so, within the parameters laid down by our funders.'

A seasonal message from your local Fire Crew

Have you checked your Smoke Detector recently?

A recent survey found that 40% of Smoke Detectors in the home are faulty.

Our Motto is "Once A Week Test The BEEP". If you have a faulty detector or would like a FREE Home Fire Safety Visit, please contact neil.kirkland@firescotland.gov.uk or Freephone 08000 731999 or Text 'FIRE' To 80800

We are Recruiting for Firefighters again in January, so anybody who is interested in joining up or finding out more please give us a call or pop along to the Station on a Monday night between 7- 9.30pm.

On behalf of the Foyers Fire Crew we thank you for your continued support and we wish you and your loved-ones 'Compliments of the Season' and have a Safe Christmas and New Year.

Neil Kirkland, Watch Manager, Foyers Station (S39 P6), Scottish Fire & Rescue Service





SOME HIGHLIGHTS IN ISSUE EIGHT –it is packed full!
Christmas Ceilidh Day – 22 December 2017 – Pages 31 & 32
Our recipe this time is ‘Doonhamer’ Bread – Page 11
Good news on the bus service from January – Page 24
How to make Anna’s paper Yuletide Wreath – Page 30

A Note from the Editor

Thanks for reading the NEWS. Strathnews is a hybrid publication. It is designed to be interesting in the paper format and also useful to readers on-line with added weblinks. The full version is always posted on line. Between issues of the NEWS we add local news on Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust’s website www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/whats-on . Steven



‘Use your hands’ to make this lovely paper Yuletide wreath.

Paper copies of the NEWS are available around Foyers and the Strath at the following places - Foyers Surgery, Foyers Stores, Cameron’s Tearoom, Whitebridge Hotel Public Bar, Stratherrick Public Hall Served Hatch, Whitebridge Bus Shelter, Errogie Phone Box and Inverfarigaig Toilets. If these places have run out of copies, please call 07525120966. We can deliver copies on request and post free of charge to Forces addresses. Primary pupils from Foyers and Stratherrick get copies in their school bags and Carers from Boleskine Community Care can also provide copies. Inverness exiles can collect a copy at the Riverside Gallery, Bank Street, Inverness.

Strathnews has been running for two years now and we could really do with some more feedback from readers on-line or on-paper.

What do you want to see in future issues of Strathnews?

1. What do you like least about the NEWS?
2. If we could make one improvement what would that be?
3. What type of article do you like best?



You can feedback by text or voicemail on 07525120966 or by emailing strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk or drop us a line to SFCTRUST, Evergreen, Inverfarigaig, IV2 6XR

Stratherrick and Foyers NEWS is published on line and on paper four times a year. We print original material. We give information in good faith, but cannot be responsible if dates or times of events 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 or retractions 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

Correction

Lyne Mhor Croft’s telephone number is 01456 486738 and not as shown in previous issues of the NEWS. We apologise for the error.
Lyne Mhor Croft sells pork, lamb and eggs.





Foyers Primary School 'Rag Bag' Bin arrives

Your old clothes, bags and shoes can raise funds for Foyers Primary School. There is a new container situated in the car park outside Foyers Primary.

If you have any unwanted but reusable clothing, shoes, belts or handbags please deposit them there.

Thank you!

(Sorry, but no to towels, bedding, curtains or fabrics please)

Community Trust Ceilidh Day

Children's Afternoon Ceilidh

Friday 22 December 2017

Stratherrick Public Hall

4pm to 5pm

Free

Come along and have fun with a real ceilidh band.

See page 31 and 32



To all children aged 3 – P7
in the Stratherrick & Foyers Community
Did you know you are invited to the Annual
Community Christmas Party at Gorthleck Hall
Saturday 9th December 2pm – 4:30pm
If you haven't received an invite, email
gpwombles35@aol.com for more info.
Lots of fun, party games, music, and food and.....
Santa might stop for a visit too.



This is a Community event funded by the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust organised by volunteers with the help of the First Stratherrick Girl Guides Unit.

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Broadband Update

The infrastructure for Phase One of the Community Wireless project is now fully complete. Phase One takes a signal from the Stratherrick Hall to a property in Gorthleck. It is then bounced to a tower at Wester Drummond and one further mast to the South of Whitebridge. We currently have 22 households connected and enjoying speeds of around 40-50mbps (some have recorded over 70mbps!). This number of households is more than double that had originally signed up for connection in the Phase One area and the number is still rising! This is fantastic but all takes time and there have been some interesting installations - but the team from Cromarty Firth Wireless Networks is working hard to find solutions for each property that wants the service.

We are now working with CFWN on moving out further to other areas for Phase Two and have been travelling about looking at locations and contacting householders, whilst the installation work still continues in the Phase One area. CFWN is a small local company that is expanding. They also very busy so capacity is an issue but the progress we have made is the envy of many other rural communities. We are being talked about as an example of what is possible.

In other Broadband news, I have been told that the BT cabinet that is due to go in at Lower Foyers should be installed next month with a possibility of being live early next year.

Finally, for those that we haven't yet reached - Thank you all for your continued patience, we hope to be with you soon! *Sharon Ferguson, Trust Vice Chair.*



Pete Wishart MP, Chair of the Scottish Affairs Select Committee with Peter Faye discussed the continuing need for rural communities to have the best possible access to high speed Broadband.



Rhoda Grant MSP, who took up the issue of the continuation of the Better Broadband Scheme, pictured with Mike Hicks of CFWN at the Stratherrick Hall earlier this year.

The Community Trust lobbied hard for the extension of the UK Better Broadband scheme which was due to close at the end of 2017. On 28 November 2017 UK Minister for Digital Matt Hancock announced that the scheme was to be extended for a further 12 months. This is great news. MSP Rhoda Grant had written to the Minister on the Trust's behalf. Peter also took the opportunity of a visit to Inverness by the Scottish Affairs Select Committee to put the case for better rural connectivity and broadband at a meeting with four Westminster MPs at the Inverness Mercure Hotel in November. The new UK Government announcement is at this link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/better-broadband-scheme-extended-for-another-year>

Householders wishing to join the Trust Broadband scheme should email horseon5@aol.com or contact CFWN on 01349 805040 <http://www.cfwn.co.uk/>

The Friends of the Inverness Royal Academy

FIRA is the Friends of Inverness Royal Academy - a Constituted Voluntary Group of local parents established primarily to meet the needs of older children in our area who study at Academy level from S1 and above. FIRA's aims are -

- to provide professional tutoring near exam time that is both accessible and affordable locally to all studying for Nationals and Highers.
- to assist with funding through Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust so that each child who attends the IRA can get up to £500 paid towards a school Residential trip each year.
- to bring all of the children who attend at Academy level together socially at an Annual Christmas event. This year we hope to take them all Go Karting and enjoy a meal in town.
- FIRA also organises Skiing Days at the Nevis Range supporting and developing many skills most children in our community had learned through the SCFT-funded Primary School Ski sessions.

All of this is only made possible by the funding provided by the Community Trust and the support of our volunteer parent team. If you would like to know more about FIRA or be added to our mailing list please contact Morag Cameron, Chair Person at Alimoglenliafarm@aol.com , or Sharon Ferguson, Secretary at horseon5@aol.co.uk

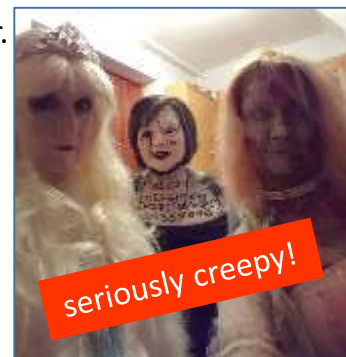
--- FIRA's HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER AT THE WHITEBRIDGE HOTEL ---



Hoteliers Gail and Andrew Tilbrook (left) put on an impressive fundraising evening and Halloween disco in aid of the Friends of the Inverness Royal Academy. Locals had a great night of fun and dodgy dancing with Neil Ferguson on his "decks". There was some amazing and creepy fancy dress on show, and food was provided free by the hotel. The auction was supported by donations from individuals, estates and businesses. Neil, along with his assistants Sharon Ferguson and Stewart Macpherson charmed bids from those attending for 25 lots.

The auction included fabulous hampers, a day's skiing at Nevis Range, tickets for Belladrum and some splendid malt whiskies, not to mention a fine Stornoway Black Pudding and a healthy, if extremely prickly, Monkey Puzzle tree. The event raised over £900 for FIRA which will add to the funds available for the tutoring and other activities planned for this winter.

In association with Gail and Andrew, the FIRA Committee worked really hard to stage this event. They would all no doubt love to see more parents attending future events to support them in their efforts to provide some fabulous additional activities for all our local youngsters. A final huge thank you to Gail & Andrew of the Whitebridge Hotel who not only put on the night and allowed us to run the auction but also donated five items to the auction which fetched £322!



FIRA would like to thank the following for their very kind donations - Margie Elgar-Bond, Caroline MacMillan, Katherine Grant, Stewart MacPherson, Davie MacPherson, Caroline Mortimore, William Fraser Haulage, Lyne Mhor Croft, Cameron's Tearoom, Dunmaglass Estate, Foyers Stores, Craigdarroch Inn, Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival, Nevis Range, The Lovat Hotel, Inverness Leisure, Brandon Hire and BSS Group.



Local teenagers Charlotte, Davie and Willow helping out at the recent Art and Craft sale at the Stratherrick Hall raising funds for the Friends of Inverness Royal Academy.

Our thanks go out to all those who donated the yummy cakes, tray bakes and biscuits, to Robert for making some lovely crafts and to Caroline who made the Christmas cake for 'Guess the weight'. The lucky winner was Lorna Fraser. (We'll all be round for a slice!) **We raised an amazing £118!**



Graduation



Angus Macpherson, Dell Farm, Whitebridge, graduated in July from SRUC in Aberdeen with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. Angus is currently widening his experience by working in Australia - driving a combine harvester. Like many students from Foyers and Stratherrick Angus was a recipient of an annual Student Grant from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust during the four years of his studies.



Strathnews is always happy to carry graduation, wedding or celebration photographs. Appreciations are also welcome.

Stratherrick + Foyers



Community Trust

If you want to know more about the Community Trust's Student Grant Scheme— now £500 per year – please visit www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/grants-system or call 07525 120 966

Six new Community Noticeboards have now arrived!



Look out for new noticeboards at Inverfarigaig Post Box, Torness Junction, Errogie Post Box, Whitebridge Bus Shelter and Lower Foyers Phone Box. A replacement cabinet for Stratherrick Public Hall has also been installed.

Noticeboards are well-used around Foyers and the Strath, but some have fallen into disrepair due to age and weather. New Community noticeboards have just been installed as the NEWS goes to press around Foyers and Stratherrick. The Community Trust was alerted to a new noticeboard which has been purchased in Fort Augustus and decided to follow suit. Consultation notices were displayed in the Autumn and the Community Council and Highland Council were involved. Only positive feedback was received for the plan which is being fully funded by Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust.

The new boards are double the size of the existing aluminium notice boards. The noticeboards will have double doors and two panels – each capable of displaying nine 'A4' notices. This is a significant improvement on the existing capacity. The new boards will also be much more weather resistant. One side of the new boards will be locked and one side will be unlocked. The locked side will be mainly for notices from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council and Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. Keys are held by the Secretary of the Community Council and the Project Coordinator at the Community Trust. Notices in this section will include the Community Council's announcements and meeting schedule, and mobile library and bus times. Trust Grant Deadline notices and lists of grants awarded will also be displayed there.

This means that the other section of each of the new noticeboards will have plenty space available for any other community groups advertising their events and activities, or for individuals to use, for example when dogs or cats are missing. Additional magnets will also be provided.

Look out for notices about forthcoming Community Council meetings which will include talks on Glenliath Forestry Extraction and the Etape / Marathon.



Community Trust stresses Governance as the ‘big issue’.

Trust Directors agreed in September 2017 to highlight the need for ongoing Good Governance to keep future grant funding decisions local.

Good management and governance must be a priority for Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. If we are to retain the confidence of the energy companies that fund the Trust and the support of our members and the wider community, there is no alternative for directors but to invest time and effort in ongoing good governance with clear grant procedures and openness in all decision-making.

Governance does not end there. Making sure cash already received from our funders is wisely safeguarded and being used for appropriate community purposes is also part of the exemplary governance the Trust must display. **Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust is fortunate. The Trust receives direct payments from the windfarm and hydro companies. Other areas are not so fortunate, they have to go ‘cap-in-hand’ to green energy generators or other funders every time they want a grant.** Here in Stratherrick and Foyers, SSE and other wind and hydro firms have the confidence in our Trust to manage our community benefit funds and make payments to us regularly. They trust us to manage the funds and keep proper financial records that they are free to inspect at any time. Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust also needs to meet the legal requirements of a Limited Company, monitored by Companies House. Individual volunteer directors have a legal duty to look after the interests of the company as detailed in our Memorandum and Articles of Association. Of equal importance is the way Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust is perceived by local residents. **All residents need to know what the Trust is and what it does.** Our website and the Stratherrick and Foyers NEWS are tools to help keep everyone informed. Other than the need for residency in our area, there are no barriers to membership. The Trust needs members to stand for election as Directors – and keep the decisions on how our funds are used in the hands of local people. If the Trust cannot continue to show a wide local membership with volunteer directors willing to serve on the Board then we are risking the thing we value most – the local decision making on the use of the substantial funds which flow from the local windfarms and hydro schemes.

There have been recent improvements in the way grant applications are dealt with by the Trust. There is now a Grant Application round every two months. Grant applications can now be considered in around eight weeks. Good governance also needs to extend to the local community groups and individuals who apply to the Trust for grants. Our funders “trust the Trust” because we have agreed our grant procedures with them. The Board stressed that grant applications have to be submitted with all supporting information that backs up every application. Local groups must keep good financial records and supply annual accounts. The Trust’s funders have the right to see all grant documents. If supporting documentation is not provided, agreed procedures will have been breached and community funds could be removed. **The Directors will not risk the Trust’s future by accepting incomplete grant applications or by funding ineligible projects.** Applications are collated by the Trust Administrator and will not be passed for assessment by Directors unless they are complete. Please ask the Project Coordinator for guidance if you are in any doubt.

**In conclusion, if the Trust slips up on good governance the whole future of local grant decision-making is at stake.
There is simply no alternative to getting the governance right every time!**





Sergeant Julie Connor and PC William Jones were attending the recent Highland Council Communities Convention in Drumnadrochit. Pictured here with Sharon Ferguson (L), Wester Drummond and Morag Cameron (R), Glenlia. Morag addressed the convention with an informative talk on tourism trends and the essential elements of success for her business at Camerons' Tearoom.



PC William Jones of the Aird and Loch Ness Policing Team said 'Police Scotland has been carrying out sheep worrying awareness during the month of November to raise awareness among dog owners about the effects of livestock worrying. Although there have been no recent incidents locally, Police Scotland would like to remind all dog owners to ensure that they have their dogs on a lead at all times when near livestock.' There is more information on the Police Scotland website.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2017/november/police-scotland-launches-month-long-livestock-worrying-campaign>

Nasty Scams in the Post at Gorthleck

You do not have to leave the house to be a target for scammers. A Gorthleck resident received a letter in the post last month. It looked like good news – a letter saying that she had won a tidy sum of money on the People's Postcode Lottery. There was a snag. She had never signed-up for the Peoples Postcode Lottery. This is just one of many scams that try and trick you into parting with your money.

It could be a scam if ...

- The phone call, letter, email or text has arrived unexpectedly
- If you have never heard of the lottery or competition or you did not buy a ticket
- If they are asking you to send money in advance
- If they are telling you that you must respond quickly or must keep it a secret meantime.

Trading Standards in Inverness may be able to send you a copy of 'The Little Book of Big Scams'. This is a helpful publication designed to alert consumers to the numerous types of scams. Contact - Trading Standards in Inverness 01463 228700 or, if you have been scammed call the Police on 101 or Action Fraud 0300 123 2040. Help is also available from Citizens' Advice Inverness 01463 237664 or Citizens' Advice Consumer Service Phoneline on 03454 040506. 'The Little Book of Big Scams' Third Edition can be downloaded from many UK police websites but the link on the Police Scotland website does not work. Try these instead.

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/fraud-and-scams/the-little-book-of-big-scams/> or
<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/about-us/publications-and-documents/little-book-big-scams/>



Granny's 'Doonhamer' Brown Bread



Here is a recipe from Dumfries. When Granny makes this bread it always gets eaten within a day or two. Versatile and firm, you can enjoy it as a damper with soup. Best toasted with butter, it is a satisfying snack. It is equally at home with a layer of jam or some grilled cheddar.

Ingredients

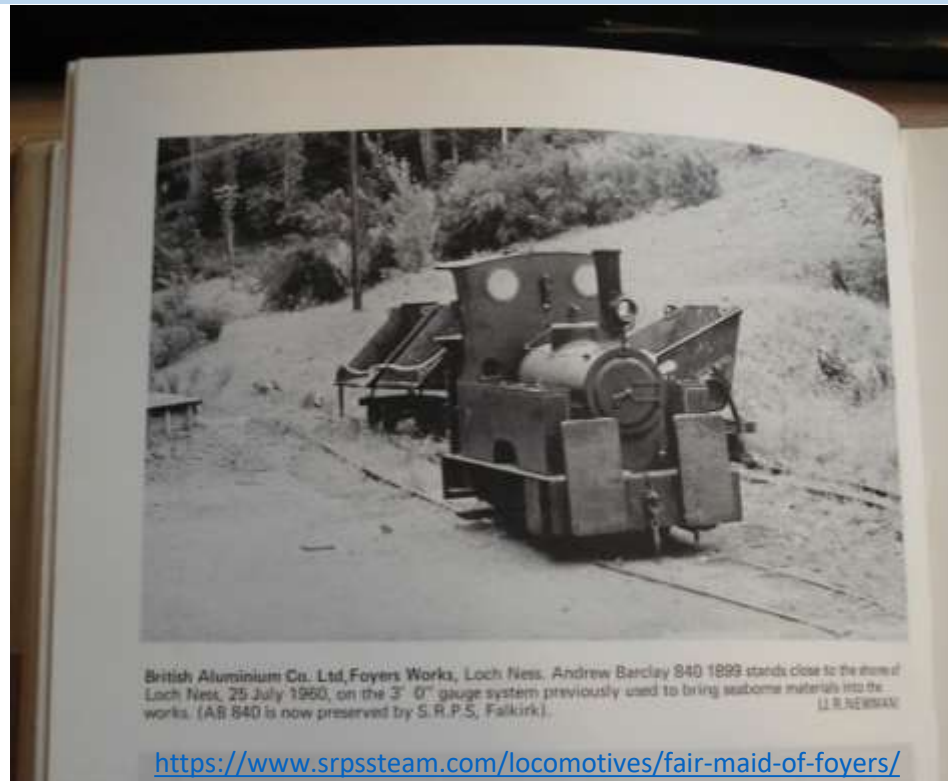
450g Wholewheat /Wholemeal Flour
One half teaspoonful of salt
1 level teaspoonful of Bicarbonate of Soda
1 level teaspoonful of Cream of Tartar
At least 2 tablespoons of syrup
335ml of Milk

Method

Put the flour into a bowl, add the salt, Bicarbonate of Soda and Cream of Tartar. Make a hole in the middle of the flour mix and add the syrup. Mix together with the milk to make a thick claggy dough. Put the mixture into a well-greased 2lb loaf tin. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes at 140 to 150 degrees. Leave to cool and dry out. Toast thin or thick slices as required.



'Fair Maid of Foyers' Locomotive may move to Ireland



The 'Fair Maid of Foyers' was the last little steam locomotive to work along the shore railway at Foyers. It pulled wagons from the pier to the Aluminium Works. The three foot gauge engine was taken by road for preservation near Edinburgh in 1964 and has been on display at the Scottish Railway Preservation Society's Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway for many years. The Fintown Railway in the west of Ireland has shown interest in acquiring the engine to run in Donegal.

<https://www.srpssteam.com/locomotives/fair-maid-of-foyers/>

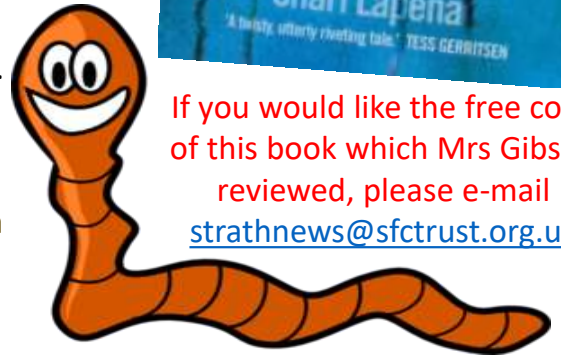
The Boleskine Bookworm

Mrs Gibson recommends.....

What would you be capable of when pushed past your limit?

The Couple Next Door, is a twisty, utterly riveting tale. The story is about Ann and Marco and what happens when they go to a dinner party next door, leaving their baby asleep at home. When they come back they find the baby gone. The tale gallops along at a fair pace with bombs going off at regular intervals designed to shock the reader and veer you off-course. Quite a bit of time is spent with Ann, pondering each new development, just as someone would in real life. Could it be this... or that? Or him... or her? Or then? The tension stays high throughout and the book has a humdinger of an ending. If you like psychological thrillers, this book won't disappoint you!

The Couple Next Door, a debut thriller by **Shari Lapena**
ISBN 978-0-5521-7314-8 Penguin £7.99



If you would like the free copy of this book which Mrs Gibson reviewed, please e-mail strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk

Scott's View from the Van

Here's a recommendation from Scott, our mobile librarian

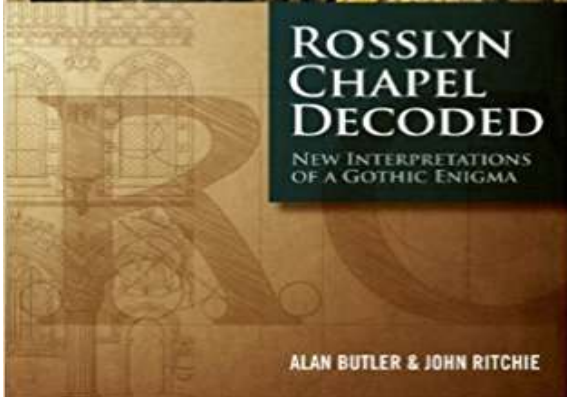
Rosslyn Chapel Decoded

New Interpretations of a Gothic Enigma

by Alan Butler and John Ritchie ISBN 1780284926

Rosslyn Chapel near Edinburgh is steeped in history. In this book is a serious study of the symbols and history of this remarkable building which dates from 1456. Scott said 'I read this book cover to cover twice! Whilst Dan Brown has successfully publicised the chapel in largely fictional Di Vinci Code, this book is a real eye-opener. Rosslyn Chapel Decoded explains the roots of pre-renaissance Christianity and the impact on religious observance in Scotland today.'

Rosslyn Chapel, EH25 9PU, (Gorthleck 167 miles) is open to the public - £9. www.rosslynchapel.com
Here is the Mobile Library website link - <https://www.highlifehighland.com/libraries/moray-firth-mobile-library/>



See Page 20 - Sellotape was first manufactured in the UK at Acton, West London in 1937



Church News



Dores and Boleskine Church is having a busy time this autumn with a Local Church Review guided by Inverness Presbytery and participation in a Presbytery Plan towards the future well being of worship in our parish. At Boleskine Church, Drumtemple, we have a good number of worshippers in regular attendance and have recently been happy to see that increased.

The Remembrance Day Memorial Service at Stratherrick War Memorial was on 12th November, and we also have the annual, open to all, Community Carols to look forward to on Saturday 16th December, in the Stratherrick Hall at 2pm. The Christmas Eve service is at 10.00 am on Sunday 24th December at Boleskine Church.

Wishing everyone God's blessing in the forthcoming season of goodwill from all at Boleskine Church.



The **Scottish Episcopal Church** at Croachy - Services are at 11.00 each Sunday. A 'Craft and Chat' event happens on Thursday afternoons from 2pm. www.stpaulsstrathnairn.co.uk

Free Presbyterian Church, Gorthleck every 3rd Sunday. Mrs E Fraser 01456 486 282 / 220 www.fpchurch.org.uk

Free Church Continuing (Dores) check at www.freechurchcontinuing.org

Stratherrick Free Church, Erroglie. Sabbath Service at 4.30pm. Mr S McLure 01456 486435 www.greyfriarschurch.org

Photo – All Saints and All Souls – at St Peter's Croachy on 29 October 2017 (photo Rob Peel, Twitter)

Father Harden, Parish Priest for Stratherrick and Fort Augustus can be contacted on 01320 366 451 e-mail andrew.harden66@gmail.com Parishioners and friends recently undertook a Parish Pilgrimage to Orkney to recognise the 900th anniversary of martyrdom of Saint Magnus.

Stratherrick news is posted in the weekly bulletins at <http://lochnessparishes.dioceseofaberdeen.org/>

On Christmas Day at 12noon we invite the community to join us for carols, followed Mass at 1230hrs.



Service of Remembrance

Over forty people participated in the 2017 Service of Remembrance at Stratherrick War Memorial at 3pm on Sunday 12th November 2017. Wreaths were laid by the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, the Community Council and the Community Trust. The Community Council has received an email from two people who stopped in their car and joined the congregation as they were returning to Inverness. They found the service, recitation and singing very moving.



Our hours over the Festive period are as follows

The Practice will be closed on the following dates:

Monday 25th December 2017

Tuesday 26th December 2017

Monday 1st January 2018

Tuesday 2nd January 2018



NHS24 will be covering the practice area on these days.

If you have a problem that can not wait until the Practice re-opens, please call NHS24 on 111

Always dial 999 in an emergency!



Please remember to order your repeat prescription in plenty of time!
Ideally via our website www.foyersmedicalcentre.co.uk
or by handing in or posting us your repeat prescription slip.
Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy
New Year from all the Doctors and Staff.



Highland Council's Winter Payments Scheme now open - £81

Can you claim £81 towards your winter bills from Highland Council?

The Highland Council's Inverness area winter payment scheme is open to all residents over 90 years of age by next February. In addition younger people on specific benefits may also qualify. Highland Council's Inverness area includes Stratherrick and Foyers. We are part of the Aird and Loch Ness Ward and Inverness area. Strathnews contacted the Council about eligibility for individual householders on Universal Credit alone. They are not eligible to apply unless someone in the household is also receiving a further benefit – Attendance Allowance, medium or high rate Disability Living Allowance (Care Component), War widow / widowers pension, Personal Independence Payment (dlc) or Armed Forces Independence Payment.

Any questions are best directed to the Highland Council on **0800 090 1004**

But, if you have difficulty in getting an application form, please e-mail strathnews@sfctrust.org.uk or call 07525 120966 and we will post one out to you.

Foyers Bay Project set to start in 2018

As this issue of the NEWS went to press, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust was on the brink of signing the lease of the old fish farm site and foreshore with SSE. Look out for signs soon, and details of the initial clean up of the area. If you have equipment or own items along the shore and have not yet been in contact with the Trust, please call Steven on 07525120966. New community slipway plans have now been drawn up and a consultation will take place soon. The area will be developed as a recreational asset for local people to enjoy.



...gets a flying visit

Here are some comments from the pupils:

'I like seeing the mask on the peregrine falcon.'

'I like that they hunt with the birds. I liked seeing the hawk fly and how they swooped.'

'The hawk was really well camouflaged in the tree. It also came back when Paul whistled.'

'It's amazing the peregrine flies up to 200 mph.'

'The shape of their wings helps them fly fast.'

'It was funny seeing the hawk protect its food.'

Do you want to know which photo is of the Harris Hawk and which is the Peregrine Falcon?
Ask a Foyers Primary pupil!



On Friday 15th September Foyers Primary School were joined by some feathery visitors. A Peregrine Falcon and Harris Hawk along with Susan and her son Paul Van Vynck amazed the pupils and staff alike with a lovely bird display. The pupils asked lots of questions and even had the chance to name the Harris Hawk. The pupils found out lots of facts about the birds. They also loved seeing the Harris Hawk take flight around the school. We would like to say a huge thank you to Susan, Paul and Peter Faye for organising the event.

Contributed by Miss Pinkerton



Boleskine Community Care (BCC)

For the latest news from Boleskine Community Care visit their website at

www.boleskine-communitycare.org.uk



Good turn-out for the Boleskine Community Care Annual General Meeting.

On the afternoon of Saturday 4th November 44 people came along to the BCC A.G.M. Following the formal business of the meeting, the guest speaker this year, Geraldine Ditta from Alzheimer Scotland (photo above with BCC's Julie Russell) explained how communities could help improve the life of those suffering from Dementia. In Scotland there are 95,000 sufferers, with 4,600 of those living in the Highlands. As a community, here in Stratherrick & Foyers, we can be sure that we know someone suffering from this common disease. The traditional tea and cakes along with a show of slides from the Heritage Group completed the event. £60 was raised for the Seagull Trust.

BCC Activities over the past year:

The Chair of the meeting, Morag Cameron, gave a report on the progress that BCC had made in the past year and the plans that the Trustees hope to achieve in 2018. There is more information on the Boleskine Community Care website. Morag was able to also announce the recent news that the Community Trust are able to take over the ownership of the building in Lower Foyers from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, thus enabling BCC to make use of the whole space as a HUB.

What now for BCC:

After an election all the current BCC Trustees have remained in place but there is concern that some will be required to stand down in the next year or so. Morag told the meeting that it is important that new people are able to come forward to take the groundwork already established into the next decade. The bigger HUB building will require management both from volunteers and, hopefully, a newly created post of a part time Support and Development manager. An application for this post has been submitted to the Community Trust.

Over the coming year BCC hope to be able to establish a small respite facility at the HUB so that 'family' carers can bring loved ones along for a few hours break.

Boleskine Community Care (BCC)

If you would like to support BCC:

- Please consider becoming a 'Friend of Boleskine Community Care'. An Application Form is available on the BCC website.
- Come along to any of the weekly events that are held around the Strath.
- If you have time to spare the Transport Scheme is always looking for volunteer drivers.
- Handyman/women - plenty of help will be required in the new Hub building so please get in touch.

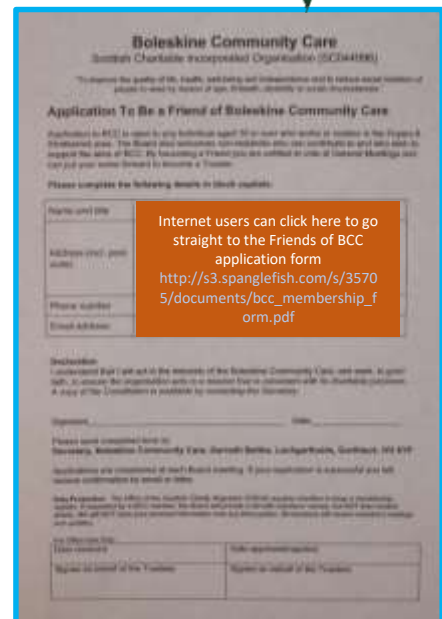
And... if you are a good organiser.... BCC runs on community support and input!

Hopefully 2018 will be an exciting year for us all.

Weekly Gatherings - Every month

- 2nd Thursday: [Morning coffee](#) at the Waterfall Café.
- 3rd Monday: [Broth and a Blether](#) at the Chapel Hall
- Last Friday: [Seniors Lunch Club](#). Stratherrick Public Hall
Book with Cathy 01456 486 329
- First Friday: [Afternoon Tea](#) at Camerons' Tearoom

If you can't get to any of these events
just phone the transport scheme
01456 486 688



The image shows a scanned application form titled 'Boleskine Community Care (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC204189))'. The form is for 'Application To Be a Friend of Boleskine Community Care'. It includes fields for Name and Title, Address (street, post code, town), Phone number, and Email Address. A blue box highlights the URL: http://s3.spanglefish.com/s/35705/documents/bcc_membership_form.pdf. There is also a 'Declaration' section and a 'Signature' line.

In addition to regular weekly gatherings, here are some special events coming soon.

Garrogie Estate - Pensioners Christmas Lunch

18th December 2017. Hosted by the estate, this event has proved to be very popular and should be a memorable day for those that have booked to come.

Christmas Craft Afternoon - BCC HUB, Foyers, 11th December 2017, 1pm to 3pm

Unveil your hidden creative talents and try your hand at ceramic painting, creating your own Christmas decoration or a gift for someone special. Morag, of Morag's Crafty Bothy will be on hand to guide us, so come along to try something different!

Prices will be from £4.50 to cover costs.

Tea, coffee and mince pies will be there to help us along!

The BCC Care Hub is open every Tuesday and Thursday between 10am – 3pm.

If you need any help or advice about the Care at Home Service please drop in and talk to Julie the Care Manager or phone 01456 486247.



An update on Forestry Operations

The following information was included in a recent talk (24 October 2017) to Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council by Alex Macleod, local Harvesting Manager at the Forestry Commission.



There are two major felling projects in our area. These are at Dalcrag and at Glenliath, both of which are approved under a land management plan.

The **Dalcrag** work involves felling 14,000 tonnes of timber which will be extracted to three separate timber landing areas. These are storage areas close to the public road between the Loch Bran Junction at Fairyburn and the Catholic Burial Ground at Bridge of Loin. The landing areas have been in place for some months now. The purpose of these landing areas is to allow felled logs to be gathered and stacked close to the roadside ready for timber lorries to take the harvested timber away to the purchasers.

Felling commenced in late June but was suspended soon after to allow the development of a transport management plan with Highland Council and to progress community consultation. At the present time, two of these landing areas are full of logs (around 2,500 tonnes of timber waiting extraction). The logs are deteriorating and need to be moved as soon as possible. The Forestry Commission has now developed a plan in conjunction with Highland Council to transport the timber away to sawmill markets.



This plan will involve some improvements to the Fairyburn – Bridge of Loin section of the road to allow extraction and also more road improvement work once the clear fell harvesting of the forest areas around Dalcrag is complete.

Lorries loaded with North Dalcrag timber will exit the timber storage area nearest Fairyburn and turn right for Foyers on the public road. It is estimated that up to 300 lorry loads will head in this direction. North Dalcrag extractions cannot access the in-forest timber haul route because of Loch Bran.



Six hundred lorry loads of timber are expected to leave Dalcrag.

Wood collected from the two storage areas to the south, nearer to Bridge of Loin, will exit the storage areas and turn left onto the public road. It is estimated that another 300 lorry loads will take this route. At the Catholic Burial Ground they will then turn right for Fort Augustus via the Suidhe, or left towards Gorthleck and the Calanour. Lorries from South Dalcrag will use the in-forest timber haul route to go north towards Inverness and will access the route at Tyndrum (down from the Fire Station).

An update on Forestry Operations

The second area for major extraction is **Glenliath** where around 30,000 tonnes of timber requires felling as it is currently being subjected to wind damage. Work has not yet commenced here with operations expected to start in Spring 2018. The timber concerned is on both sides of the road beyond 'The Pipe' heading down to the junction with the Pass of Inverfarigaig including the timber around Clach na Boneid / The Bonnet Stone.



The ground rises sharply from the public road and extracting the wood will be difficult, especially on the Spital of Boleskine (west) side of the road and require the deployment of specialist skyline extraction teams. Ancient mosses will be protected. Timber haulage from this felling area is expected to be from a combination of direct extraction onto the in-forest timber haul route and via secondary extraction along the Pipe road onto the in-forest haul route once improvements to the junction below Trinloist are made. Any questions should be directed to Alex Macleod at the Forestry Commission.

alex.macleod@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Footbridge at Foyers opens ahead of schedule



Highland Council's contractors MacGregor Construction successfully removed the footbridge from Nairn Harbour and installed it on the Bailey Bridge at Foyers. The bridge has been welcomed by locals who no longer have to hope no motorhomes turned up when they were making the crossing. It is a neat job, which allows visitors to look out from the bridge towards the falls and the masonry arch bridge without fear of being run-over.

For the first time in many years visitors have had the opportunity to sail on Loch Ness this autumn. The cruise boat 'Kerry' has been offering short trips. Posters are on display locally and other information may be available on Facebook.



Sandy Fraser recalls a Christmas Concert from his schooldays



Up to the outbreak of World War Two parents and children gathered at Errogie School to enjoy an evening of entertainment before the school closed for the Christmas holidays. Mrs Sedgwick of Farraline Estate supplied the tree for the occasion. Two of the senior boys were detailed to collect it and set it up in a corner of the schoolroom. The tree was all specially decorated. Those were the days before electric power had arrived in the Strath. There were no twinkling lights but candles and paraffin lamps lit up the school back in those days. We had a coal-fired stove too, which give it a nice festive spirit.



Tilley lamps ...
can you still hear them hiss?

Prior to the day of the concert we all spent time rehearsing our different parts and making up various items like deer antlers, decorations, coloured paper chains, paper hats and so on. We all had party-pieces to perform. I remember having to act out a policeman on point duty directing traffic swinging my arms and singing at the same time "I do this and I do that". It must have been quite amusing to the spectators. Who would have guessed that 40 years later I would be directing traffic for real as a special constable, but without the singing then!

There were many rhymes like "The fisher-wife selling her herring" which was performed if I remember by Elizabeth Rose. "Ten green bottles", "The Twelve Days of Christmas" - beginning with a partridge in a pear tree, and "Jingle Bells" - with boys dressed up as reindeer complete with antlers made of cardboard. I recall one lad William Mackintosh (still going strong) trying to box another deer and breaking an antler, the teacher obviously not very impressed but a hurried repair job patched it up. I don't think Sellotape was on the go then - which would have made the repair much quicker.

Santa Claus arrived too. He looked a little like the local blacksmith, Sam Macdonald. He handed out the many beautiful presents to all. The lovely presents were supplied by Mrs. Sedgwick of Farraline and only recently my sister Margaret said how much she was taken with her lovely expensive doll. The boys presents included lovely Meccano sets which were an assortment of metal pieces which you fixed together to make bridges and such like, a very popular toy at the time but long gone off the market taken over by Lego etc. Even children not yet in school and babies were not forgotten.

I remember two boys were sent down to Mr Campbell at the Ark just below the school to collect a large box of Jaffa oranges and a box full of bags of sweets for us. We all went home happy after an enjoyable tea and plenty goodies. Given the hard winters back then I don't remember ever been snow bound at that special time.



Sadly, like many other commendable events the outbreak of WW2 brought all to an end.



Sandy Fraser

'Am Dram' at its best from Loch Ness Luvvies



Luvvies Peter J Faye, Heather Macdonald, Simon Hargreaves, Janet Sutherland, Jim Cameron, Jan Hargreaves, Lorraine Fraser and Michael White left the whole audience smiling

The Luvvies were back on top form at the Stratherrick Hall on 20th and 21st October for their performances of 'Bunkered', the Two-Act play by Lynn Brittney. 'Bunkered' was an inspired choice giving over 100 local theatre-goers a great night out. We followed the strange lives of four naval personnel in a Cold War bunker who were still turning up and drawing their pay decades after the Navy had forgotten about them.

The audience was soon drawn into the story and smiles and laughs followed. Michael White, playing the part of Harry, excelled as the part-time anarchist brought in to fix the electrics. Simon Hargreaves, Lorraine Fraser and Jan Hargreaves took the roles of Pete, Joan and Mags who were all looking forward to retirement - as long as their pensions were paid. Over the years their bunker routine had become a little odd, but the actors skilfully developed the story so the audience could see how this might happen. Unexpected alarm signals sent to HQ triggered the arrival of two exuberant Marines with guns. Connor (Peter J Faye) and Taylor (Heather MacDonald) both added to the hilarity with their repartee.

The second act started with more confusion, but Bill (Jim Cameron) appeared in his pyjamas and charmed the audience, even if the pigeon did die! Janet Sutherland rounded off the cast's fine ensemble performance as the Commodore, resolving the problems and saving the day. The Director, Morag Pickthall thanked her players, and Stage Manager Jo Cameron, Elsbeth White for the costumes and the Set, Lighting and Sound Crew of Ollie Pugh, Calum and Graham Martin. Fiona Ambrose the 'Whispering Prompt' needed to be on her mettle too, just to help out where needed, which added to the enjoyment of the audience! The Loch Ness Luvvies are a great asset to our area.

If you are interested in joining the Luvvies, please contact one of the members or look at the Luvvies Facebook page.

Trust agrees system for larger community grant proposals with SSE

The Community Trust and SSE have agreed a new process for community groups in Stratherrick and Foyers who want to ask for funding for a large project. If your group wants a grant of over £20,000 then a new grant system is in place to handle your request.

Most local community groups have made successful grant applications for special events, equipment or running costs. The majority of recent applications have been for sums under £10,000. As the community benefit funds available have increased, community groups can now be encouraged to 'think big'. The Trust will now be encouraging grant applications from community groups for sums over £20,000.

Trust Project Coordinator Steven Watson said 'This is a big step forward for the Trust. **We have agreed a process with SSE for larger applications. It is a new two-stage process, with two new forms. Community groups who are planning to make a grant application for more than £20,000 will first submit a Stage One Proposal Form. The local group will outline what they plan to do, and what the costs and benefits would be.'**

Steven added 'Governance is a very important part of the Trust's work. Stratherrick and Foyers is fortunate to have these funds, all of which are lodged with the Trust by SSE and other firms until they are issued to applicants. This new large grants system will give the Trust's funders confidence in our processes and ensure that community groups with larger projects have a clear method of making requests.'

SSE provides the majority of the community benefit funds provided for local projects in our area. SSE's hydro scheme at Glendoe and their windfarm at Dunmaglass both result in substantial recurring contributions to Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. The Trust in turn accepts and manages applications from community groups for funding for a range of projects around the district. The Trust is accountable for the correct management and use of all grants approved.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTpZ5V4HrK4>

Stronelaig Wind turbine blade delivery video 'goes viral'

Internet users around the world shared the link to a video on the 'You Tube' website. Viewers saw a driver from Campbelltown firm MacPherson's Transport manoeuvre a blade over the Bunloyne Bridge on the A87 between Cluanie Inn and Fort Augustus on its way to Stronelaig from Kyle.

Do you want to discuss an idea with the Trust Co-ordinator?
Call Steven Watson on 07525 120 966 e-mail pc@sfctrust.org.uk



Shinty Report



Keith Nicholson - Boleskine's Player of the Year 2017 - outplays his Inverness adversary. (above) Boleskine's Young Player of the Year is Duncan MacPherson, Abersky, who has already got his name on the senior team's scoresheet. (right)

Boleskine Camanachd Club's senior team is ending the season at the wrong end of North Division Two. Shinty goes in cycles, however and this year has shown that long established teams who have had decades of poor form can challenge the bigger clubs to take the victories and the trophies.

North Division Two winners this year are Glengarry. It is over 20 years since their team won a cup, but with over 100 goals in 20 matches there was no stopping them. Duncan MacPherson (above) is seen above skilfully keeping the ball away from a thundering Glengarry player at a Smith Park game earlier this season.

There were no awards for Boleskine Camanachd at the Marine Harvest Shinty Awards in October, but Marine Harvest North Division One Player of the Year went to Stratherrick player Ewen Fraser (photo right). Ewen played for Boleskine from the age of 5 until his studies took him to Aberdeen in 2014. Shinty is a team game, but Ewen Fraser's contribution to Aberdeen University's recent run of form has been substantial scoring 19 goals this season. The Aberdeen University Team was at the bottom of North Division Two in 2014 but by 2016 they were run-away leaders in that league. In 2017 the team has done well after promotion to North Division 1, reaching a challenging second place behind Newtonmore.



Boleskine Camanachd's Junior numbers continue to grow and, thanks to a grant from the SFCT, new sticks and helmets are being purchased for next season. New indoor equipment has also been ordered. Boleskine Camanachd training takes place on Wednesday evenings at the Farr Hall. Follow all the games, news and results at www.shinty.com

*Boleskine Camanachd Club would like to thank all supporters and contributors who helped at the annual sale at Stratherrick Hall on 25th November 2017. Over £1,100 was raised for club funds*²³

On the road..... bus service improvement announced!



Cearn-Earaghaidh

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council Chair Catriona Fraser has announced that D&E Coaches has agreed to extend the 1750hrs bus from Inverness beyond Dunmaglass Road end with effect **from 8 January 2018**. This service – the 301, Monday to Friday – currently leaves Inverness Bus Station and proceeds via ASDA, Inverarnie Stores, Farr School and Croachy to Dunmaglass Road end where the bus terminates. D&E Coaches has confirmed the service will extend over the Calanour when required to set down passengers already on board. People travelling to Errogie, Gorthleck and Whitebridge will all be able to get home. Passengers will mention their destination to the driver when boarding in Inverness.

Foyers – Whitebridge request service – The current request bus service beyond Foyers is suspended indefinitely because of the state of the road between Fairyburn and Bridge of Loin.

Thanks from Margie Elgar-Bond of Ault-na-Goire to all who signed the Bus Survey. We've got a result!

Thank you to all who signed the Bus Survey which was sent to D&E Coaches, The Highland Council and local councillor Margaret Davidson. From January 8th 2018 the 301 bus leaving Inverness Bus Station at 17.50 will, on request, stop in Errogie, Gorthleck and Whitebridge, Monday to Friday.

The reasons were various for the use of this bus service: This bus leaves ASDA at 6pm [the bus shelter is on the corner of the main road and Slackbuie Way] and could help pupils of the IRA. The University of the Highlands and Islands has a shuttle bus from its Campus that goes to Inverness City Centre in time for the 301 bus leaving the bus station. The hospital has a bus to Inverness City Centre in time for the 301 bus. Late afternoon shopping is now possible and tourist usage is a possibility.

Thanks once again, Margie

You can call D&E Coaches on 01463 222444

The current Foyers and Whitebridge bus service timetables on line at

<http://www.decoaches.co.uk/timetables/>



Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust Chair Zoe Iliffe, Whitebridge shares a smile with Claire Munro, Development Manager with the Community Assets team at Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Claire attended the October board meeting of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust to advise the directors on the Scottish Land Fund application procedures and community ownership possibilities for land and assets. An amendment to the Trust rules suggested by HIE has now been passed at the Trust AGM.

First Stratherrick Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Loch Lomond Trip



A sleepover and VIP access to the Sealife Centre at Loch Lomond was a huge success for all the girls. Sleeping – or trying to sleep - in a tunnel with sharks and stingrays swimming above them was only part of the excitement. A private film show of 'Finding Dory' and early morning visit to see the otters were also highlights of the trip. Favourites listed in letters to the NEWS from the Guides included a very big fish they called Grandpa and the hot chocolate and mallows. In a letter thanking the Trust for a grant towards the cost, Guide leaders remarked that the girls behaved in an exemplary way and represented our community fantastically. The educational and confidence building aspects of these experiences for our young people cannot be overstated.

CONGRATULATIONS to the First Stratherrick Guides Unit who won the Francis Anderson Cup for Art and Craft.



On Saturday 28th October, Charlotte, Zarah, Jersey and Arwen spent the day at Culloden Academy with 30 other girls from different Guide Units mainly from the Inverness-shire area.

They learnt how to felt Poppies, design some very colourful t-shirts and also make a fashionable item of clothing from recycled materials. The event was in Memory of Francis Anderson who was an Inverness District Commissioner. The girls worked very well through out the day taking direction from one of the Culloden Academy Art teachers - Jen. Jersey was in the wining mixed unit team for the recyclable fashion but **the overall winning unit for the day was the First Stratherrick Guides.** Well done girls!

Christmas Opening Times and Special Events

	Foyers Stores	Waterfall Café
Saturday 23 rd December	9 am - 5.30 pm	10 am - 4 pm
Sunday 24 th December	10 am - 1.30 pm	10 am - 3 pm
Monday 25 th December	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 26 th December	10 am - 1.30 pm	10 am - 3 pm
Saturday 30 th December	9 am - 5.30 pm	10 am - 4 pm
Sunday 31 st December	10 am - 1.30 pm	10 am - 3 pm
Monday 1 st January	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 2 nd January	10 am - 1.30 pm	10 am - 3 pm

Foyers Stores and Waterfall Café Telephone 01456 486 233



The Craigdarroch Inn - Business as usual over the winter - 01456 486400

Pub - 11am to 11pm. Meals served 12noon to 2pm and 6pm – 8.30pm

Christmas Day – pub open from 12noon to 2.30pm. The pub will be open on Hogmanay too.

Camerons' Tearoom - Festive Hours and Special Events 01456 486572

Wednesday 6th December 2017 - Wreath making for Foyers School Funds £10/person 5pm – 8pm

Saturday 9th December 2017 - 'House of Spice' Curry Night £12.50/person 7pm

The Tearoom closes at 3pm on Christmas Eve and is closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

It is also closed on New Year's Day. Normal opening hours every day in between 9am – 4pm.

The Whitebridge Hotel – Lots on over the Festive Period. 01456 486226

Friday 15th December Christmas Jumper Day - Family

Games Night in aid of Save the Children from 7.30pm.

Christmas Day – open 11am to 2pm only

Boxing Day 11am to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm

Friday 29th December 2017 – Live Music from Ian MacDonald, 8.30pm

Hogmanay – Disco to the wee small hours.

Ne'er Day Open 12noon to 3pm and then 6pm to 9pm



<https://christmasjumperday.org/>

These business wish you all the best this Yuletide and for 2018

Note – Strathnews does not take paid advertising. The above details are included to support community events and charitable causes

Meg's Mindful Movement classes at Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck

Meg's classes run on Tuesday mornings 10-11am followed by coffee/tea 11-12am. Based on mindfulness, this class is suitable for all ages and abilities, it is ideal if you are feeling a wee bit stressed or your body is feeling stiff or you just want some you time. The stretching can be done standing or seated and the relaxation part is either on thick yoga mats tucked up in your own blanket and pillow or on a chair if more suitable to your needs. The hall is warm and you work at your own pace, taking into account your individual needs there is no pressure - it is totally relaxed. I am delighted that the hall charges have been reduced to zero and I am happy to give my services free so **there is no cost for people to attend**. If you have any medical conditions or concerns please consult your Doctor. As this class is free please contact Meg to book a place Meg.Somerville@gmail.com or see Facebook/Instagram Meg's Mindful Movement.

Preparing for tugging time at Dell Farm
Mule ewes are generally Scottish Blackfaced Ewes
crossed with Bluefaced Leicester Tups.



Getting the ewes ready for the tups is a busy time in the sheep farmer's year. The farmer brings the female sheep in after a period of 'flushing' to check them over. For the past six weeks the ewes have been on better ground eating well. This is the time of the year when the ewes have no lambs around. A drench or dose is administered to each ewe to combat parasites such as liver fluke. The shepherds will also tidy up the ewes' hindquarters cutting away excess wool or dag and give them a bit of an MOT. The gestation period for sheep is 145 days, so a ewe that mates with a tup on the Fifth of November will likely produce a lamb on the First of April. To maximise the number of lambs, tups will run with the ewes on for four weeks or more.



Simmental cross cows and calves coming for breakfast at Dell Farm. Cattle like these are often sold at Dingwall Mart.

www.dingwallmart.co.uk/saledates

This year's Christmas Carol Service at Stratherrick Public Hall is at 2pm on Saturday 16th December

--- What's in a name? ---



Grays Park in Lower Foyers is said to be called after Mr Gray. When the big power station was being built in the early 1970's Mr Gray put some caravans there to house building workers. Once the construction work was complete the caravans were replaced with houses.

Stratherrick Dog Training Club

In November the **Stratherrick Dog Training Club** held its six-month progress test. Six dogs and their slightly daunted owners took part. The tests covered a wide range of basic obedience exercises that would be expected of any dog in the community, being behaved around other dogs and people, walking properly on the lead, staying in a sit or down position, returning to the owner on command, negotiating a gate/door in a controlled manner.



Trainer Gill Gray said “We’re delighted with the performance of all of the dogs who took the test tonight, they’ve come a long way in six months and have attained a high standard.” The overall winner was Marjorie Williams with Eddie, a terrier cross, closely followed by Heather McDonald’s Chihuahua, Olly and Alannah Graydon’s German Shepherd, Kuma.

Training nights are on Monday evenings at the Stratherrick Public Hall in Gorthleck at 7:30pm, with dogs of all abilities welcome. If anyone is interested or would like one-to-one training please contact Gill or Gary on (01456) 486419.

The Strathnews **Local and Public Services Listing Pages** are still available on line – along with all back issues of the NEWS at <http://www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk/the-stratherrick-and-foyers-news-our-quarterly-publication>

New Entry - Ian Baily, Architectural Consultant-Planning and Design services, Gorthleck. 01456486507 ibaily@outlook.com

There is a new
Community Trust Grant
Scheme for Medical
Adaptions details at
www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk

South Loch Ness Heritage Group held a successful AGM on 14 November which included Beagan Eile – the second part of the Gaelic Placenames Show with Morag MacNeill and Bob Main. SLNHG Chair Alan Findlay asks for anyone interested in joining the committee to get in touch. www.southlochnessheritage.co.uk



Recent Grants Awarded

The following grants were awarded at the Board meetings held in September and October 2017

Grants awarded to Constituted Community Groups (2)

Foyers Fire Crew (Community Fireworks) £2,000

Foyers Primary School Parent Council (School activities and clubs) £4,721

Energy Saving Grant (1) Mr and Mrs Murphy £500

Student Grants (5) Each grant was £500.

Ruari Tweedlie, Cameron Simpson, Angus McGruer,
Phoebe Drummond, Russell Bain, and Ben MacDonald.

Sporting Grant (1) Alex Sutherland £216

No grants to Non-constituted groups were awarded in this period.

One Hardship Grant of £290 was approved.



The next Grant Meeting is scheduled for December 2017. The deadline for applications for this round was 23 October 2017. You can still apply to all schemes for the next round. The deadline for completed forms to be returned is 23rd January 2018. Grant application forms can be downloaded from the Trust website.

www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk Paper forms are available – contact Laura Walker-Knowles, Trust Administrator on 07464 394 276 – admin@sfctrust.org.uk or Steven Watson, Project Coordinator on 07525 120 966 pc@sfctrust.org.uk

**Would you like to meet the Project Coordinator
to discuss a possible grant application?
Contact Steven on 07525120966**

HOW TO JOIN THE TRUST

You can help shape the future and improve your community by joining up as a member of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. Membership is open to all residents over 18. There is also a Junior membership category. There is no charge to join, and members can only ever be asked to contribute one pound. Once you are a member you can attend and vote at the Trust AGM and stand for election as a volunteer Trust Director. There are vacancies every year. You can help decide how the Trust uses the Community Benefit Funds and what new initiatives the Trust should support in future.

Download a Membership Application Form at

www.stratherrickcommunity.org

Call or text 07525 120 966 and we will send you out a paper form
or email admin@sfctrust.org.uk and we will send you an electronic copy.

Make your own Hand Print Christmas Wreath



You will need –

- Two different shades of green card (either a few sheets of A4 or one big sheet of A1/A2 for each colour)
- One A4 sheet of red card
- A pen
- PVA Glue or a good glue stick
- Scissors
- A Large Plate and a Small Plate to draw round



Step 1 - Trace your hand onto the coloured card and cut it out - this will be the template to make the others.

Step 2 - Onto a large piece of card trace the circle of the big plate.

Step 3 - Place the small plate in the centre of your circle and trace around it. The thickness between the two circles depends on the width of your hand (you want it to be thinner than your hand so you don't see it). Cut both circles out so you are left with a doughnut shape.

Step 4 - Trace around the template hand print to make more hand prints in both shades of green.

Step 5 - Start to glue the hands onto the circle, making sure that the hands overlap and that you alternate the different shades of green. Keep going until the entire doughnut is covered.

Step 6 - Find an item that is small and circular (this could be a glue stick if you are using that) or freehand circle shapes onto the red card. In this example I needed 15 to make five groups of three. Cut them out and stick them to your wreath.

Step 7 - Cut a piece of ribbon to the desirable length and glue it to the back of the wreath, so you can hang the wreath from a wall or door.

Anna made this wreath for us at Strathnews. She says If you have no ribbon cut a long thin rectangle of green card and fold it in half to create the hanger for the wreath. You could add glitter or substitute the red card for red pom-poms!

Stratherrick Public Hall Ceilidh Day – Friday 22 December 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

What's the Afternoon Event?

Designed for young people and children, it starts at 4pm. The band will be in the hall to play for children and anyone accompanying them. It will be informal. There will be a dance caller if you can't remember the dances. 5pm finish.

Do I need tickets for the afternoon ceilidh?

No. Just turn up. 4pm to 5pm. No tickets needed for the Afternoon event.

Do I need tickets for the evening ceilidh?

Yes. Admission is by ticket only. No one will be admitted to the evening ceilidh without a ticket.

Can children come to the evening ceilidh?

Yes, but they need a ticket.

Why do you have to have a ticket?

The licence for the hall is limited, so we need to be sure we do not exceed the limit the Highland Council has placed on the hall. We want everyone who has a ticket to be able to get in and enjoy themselves.

Where can I buy tickets and when?

Tickets are on sale from 11am in 11th December 2017 at Foyers Stores, Camerons' Tearoom and the Whitebridge Hotel.

Why are tickets not free?

By paying £2 AND LEAVING YOUR NAME, we hope that residents will only take the tickets they need. If the tickets were free, they might not be used, or folk might be tempted to take a couple spare.

Are there any concessions on the £2 charge?

No. Everyone pays £2 for a ticket. Children, Seniors, Unwaged, etc. all pay £2.

Who are the Cask Strength Ceilidh Band?

The band are excellent young professional musicians. The band has played in many prestigious venues. You can check them out on YouTube. Band members include Adam Sutherland, Errogie and John Somerville, Abriachan. There will be a dance caller if you can't remember the dances.

What does ROAR mean?

Right of Admission Reserved. That means if anyone turns up in a poor or rowdy state they will not get in, even if they have a ticket.

What does BYOB mean?

For the evening ceilidh you are welcome to **bring your own bottle**. Tea, coffee and cordials will be available in the Hall on the night. There will be no bar or alcohol on sale in the Hall.

What are Stovies?

Stovies are a tasty hot dish including onions and potatoes. Most of the Stovies will have meat in them and some will be meat free. There is no additional charge for the Stovies.

Who is paying for the Band?

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust is paying for the event. It is designed to allow residents to enjoy themselves and get to know their neighbours. If you have visitors up for Christmas they can also attend if you buy them a ticket.

What will happen to my £2?

It will be passed to Stratherrick Public Hall Committee for them to use as they see fit.

What if I buy tickets and then can't use them?

Please call Steven on 07525 120 966 and we will reallocate them and cross you off the guest list.

What if I have any other questions? Contact Steven Watson on 07525 120 966.



Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust Christmas Ceilidh Events

Get to know your neighbours this Christmas at the
Ceilidh Day on Friday 22 December 2017



CASK STRENGTH Ceilidh Band At Stratherrick Public Hall

A free ceilidh for children from 4pm to 5pm
followed by a

Traditional Family Ceilidh and Dance
7.30pm to 11pm
BYOB, Stovies provided

All proceeds to
Stratherrick Public
Hall funds

Children's Ceilidh – no tickets required – just turn up and have fun!

Evening Ceilidh - Admission strictly by ticket only to avoid disappointment.

**Tickets (£2) on sale from 11a.m. on 11 December 2017 at
Foyers Stores, Camerons' Tearoom and Whitebridge Hotel.**

R.O.A.R. Right of Admission Reserved