

Ness News

Community News & Events

December 2021



Lighting Up At Christmas





It's that time of the year again with the festive season upon us so Seonaid and I would like to wish all our readers and contributors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There's been a few marriages and a couple of births since the last issue but sadly a lot of deaths in the past couple of weeks and our thoughts are with all these families who are grieving at this sad time before Christmas. I'd also like to apologise to Calvin Oliver and family as well as Barbara's friends for the unfortunate typo in the announcements page. It should have read that she passed away on Friday 23rd July not August.

On a personal note, I would like to ask anybody who has some spare time or looking for work to join the advertised local home care agencies as they are vital in helping to keep elderly and vulnerable residents in our community living at home. Carers working for the Highland Hospice Sunflower Home Care, Carr Gomm, NHS and Crossroads services are really stretched but the job is rewarding.

Catriona Morrison has now received hearing aid batteries from audiology to give out to anyone in the glen who needs them. Will you please tell anybody that you know who has hearing aids to text or call her on 07368325695 as it will save waiting for the hospital as they are well behind with supply.

Garry Goons Away For A Dip



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Join The Brownies

The 1st Fort Augustus Brownies are delighted to now be welcoming new Brownies. We have a fun-packed programme in coming months, encompassing all the usual celebrations and commemorations; Burns Night, Mother's Day, Easter – and anything else we can think of!

The 1st Fort Augustus Brownies is open to girls between the ages of 7 and 11. We have one permanent leader (Brown Owl – me!) This year we have two new Leaders in training, and a couple of admin helpers, which is making a massive difference to the unit. We will still however, rely on parent helpers to assist us from time to time. Now this is not as onerous as it might sound; the Brownies and I would be very grateful to any parent who could offer to help at a meeting or two (or more) a session or share a particular skill.

We meet each Tuesday during school term time at the Church Hall, Fort Augustus from 5.30 to 7pm

For further information, please contact me on:-

01320 366389 or 07881 363001

Jessica Smith



News from Glenmoriston

Glenmoriston Improvement Group (GIG) have continued to consult and make ongoing refinements to the plans for the **Recreation Field** at Riverside Park, Invermoriston. We will have new drawings to show people soon for comment and have obtained one set of quotes for the play equipment that the children said they would like to see. This includes a Flying Fox, a Basket Swing and an Activity Cube. We are also hoping to include a swing for wheelchair users and exercise equipment for adults. A community orchard and a shinty pitch have received much local support in the plan.

We cannot apply for major funding yet but hope to have much improved grass cutting facilities for the new season so that the playing field can be put to good use again.

We are also looking for your views on improving infrastructure in the glen. Ideas will be collated and passed on to the Community Council, who can then progress projects for which there is a general consensus.

On the A887 we want to see some stretches with a reduced speed limit. We could potentially ask for:

- Improved signage at Torgoyle Bridge or traffic lights to make it safer
- Footpath alongside the main road, perhaps between the Trees for Life entrance at Dundreggan and Redburn or beyond. Traffic Scotland is resistant to any changes in speed limits and it has been suggested that the "look" of the road might have some effect on their views, i.e. if it is used by pedestrians
- Improved lay-by provision, possibly opposite the Redburn café, and/or extending or improving the surface of others.

If we can submit ideas for which there is general agreement, as one coherent plan, we have a better chance of success. Comments on the infrastructure proposals to jwyattgig1@gmail.com or to the Forum area of the website at www.glenmoriston.net

There is also wide community support for reducing speed limits approaching and in Invermoriston. Again, we have been advised to consult on the production of a coherent plan and will be consulting on this in 2022, to send to the Community Council.

Coffee mornings. These have started up on Mondays. Between 10.00 and 12.00 the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall is open for swapping books, DVDs and jigsaws and we are providing coffee/tea and biscuits. We hope people will see this as a safe place to meet up and chat, and comments on ideas for local activities can be shared. Some of us new to the Glen would love to hear the old stories about characters and events in Glenmoriston. There is no charge for these coffee mornings.



Kilchuimen - Academy, Primary & Nursery



Ms Sutherland and Mrs Peers accompanied the primary 5-7 children on their long awaited residential trip to Altnacriche. They all returned very happy but exhausted after a variety of activities ranging from bush skills to learning about nature. Rock climbing on the simulated rock wall proved a favourite activity choice along with having a go on the adventure playground, which tired them out before activities ended around the camp-fire. P1-4 have had a busy day too last week in the school field working with some of the Altnacriche staff. The weather was cold but dry. The children made large canvases from mud, twigs and fallen leaves, which will be available to view in the corridor display boards in Primary.

A huge thank-you to staff at Altnacriche for allowing these events to happen and hosting our pupils and staff.



Glengarry Shinty Club

Shinty in School

Glengarry Shinty Club were delighted to have been working with the local schools in delivering school shinty sessions. Over 100 children from Invergarry Primary, Kilchuimen Primary and Academy have enjoyed swapping class time for shinty over the last month or so.


Club coach Elaine Cameron, has been working with PE teacher Rebecca Masson at Kilchuimen, and senior pupils Grace Bremner and Jack West, who both play for the Club and have helped with the club junior coaching sessions and have introduced shinty to a lot of new potential players.

GGSC club coach, Elaine says "Our project to deliver shinty in the schools has been a long time ambition of the club, our club junior sessions are very well attended, but we were aware that not all children have the opportunity to attend after school activities and therefore miss out on what their peers are experiencing. We were keen to ensure that all the children in our community are offered the same opportunities so this project has really opened some doors for children who otherwise would not have been able to try shinty"

The sessions have been great. From week one through to our last session, we have seen the children really engage and enjoy the sport. Even though not all may decide that shinty is the sport for them, they have learnt about being part of a team and working together. It has been great to see the teachers and support staff be so involved and fantastic to see the respect and camaraderie between the teachers and pupils.



Shinty is becoming increasingly expensive to partake in, so the club do their best to ensure that equipment is available at club junior sessions for anyone to come along and try. Our numbers have grown so much that earlier in the year, we had to stop new enrolments as we simply didn't have enough equipment. We successfully negotiated the Glengarry Trust application process and were awarded funding for club equipment which has ensured we can take on new members. We are grateful to Ron & Debi MacKenzie at Cruise Loch Ness and Glendoe Estate who immediately saw the value in this project and backed us, along with the Baxter Foundation. This has allowed the club to purchase camans, balls, goals and helmets for Kilchuimen Academy.



More recently, Jack West has completed his Camanachd Association foundation coaching course, gaining valuable skills and qualifications. He hopes to transfer to his new role as Kilchuimen Academy shinty ambassador, along with Grace Bremner and assisted by Isla MacArthur who takes up a junior ambassador role with Jack and Grace. Our hope is that Jack, Grace and Isla will set up lunchtime shinty sessions and work with pupils keen to continue their shinty journey.

Team Manager Retirement

After 30 plus years of service to Glengarry Shinty Club, Senior Mens Team Manager, Ewen Cameron has announced his retirement.

Glengarry Shinty Club are exceptionally grateful for the time and work Ewen has put into the club over many a decade. The dedication and devotion to the club will be hard to match. Ewen has had many a role within the club, starting out as a junior coach with the primary school teams through to U14's and U17's and the senior team. Ewen was also vital to the establishment of the women's team, giving the team the same importance and respect as the men's team when the shinty world wasn't quite so welcoming towards women playing shinty.

From lining and maintaining the pitch, repairing sticks and chasing up players for a Saturday, Ewen has pretty much done it all within the club and has been vital to the club's survival and we will certainly miss his presence in the dug out on a Saturday.

If you would be interested in becoming our Senior Team Manager, please contact: Scott Bremner on 07867 775034

Hamper Raffle

After a break last year, due to Covid, Glengarry Shinty Club are delighted to announce that our Christmas Hamper Raffle is back for 2021!

Back with a difference too, Instead of our one, mega hamper and only one winner, we will now have 10 smaller hampers available to win, all filled with some great treats and delights to enjoy over the Festive Period!

The raffle will be drawn on Saturday 18th December 3pm at the Bothy, Fort Augustus. Tickets can be bought in the following places:

Fort Augustus: Great Glen Trading Centre, British Legion, Fort Augustus Gift Company, Girvans Hardware,

Invergarry: Glengarry Filling Station, Invergarry Post Office, Jaggy Thistle, Well of the Seven Heads

Thank You

Glengarry Shinty Club would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to everyone who has supported the club this year. We are grateful for the increased support and we look forward to shinty in 2022

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year from all at Glengarry Shinty Club



Nature Notes

What to do in the long, dark winter nights? Many animals, especially mammals are most active after dark as a way of avoiding day-time hunters (like us). In the summer months, it's no big deal for wildlife watchers to see what's going on as it is light for much of the early morning and late into the evening, so animals have less time to remain hidden. But as I write, it is only light between 8am and 4pm, at which times most nocturnal creatures gone out of sight after a night's activity. One way to catch up with them is to use a trail camera.

Trail cameras that automatically take pictures or videos of animal activity have become very popular for those who want to know what is going on in the woods, or indeed, in your own back yard. By setting them up in your garden, you can gain a peek at the fascinating world of the wanderings of animals you may not see otherwise. Here are a few pictures captured recently at Dundreggan.

This is a red deer stag which was following a hind through the woods – she's out of view to the right. The picture was taken in late September so the rut was underway – I think he had romance on his mind! The shining eyes is an effect caused by light (in this case infra-red light) reflecting off the back of the animal's eyeball, like "red-eye" in flash photos of people.



Here's a sika stag in the same place a few days earlier – smaller than a red deer with a slightly different coat pattern. He was actually nibbling on the mushroom you can see below the bracken leaf, which is an unusual behaviour to observe! One of the good things about trail cameras is that the animals are acting naturally and you often see interesting behaviour like this.

This time in daylight, a buzzard comes in to land in front of the camera and eats two beetles on the ground. Surprisingly for such a big bird, buzzards eat a lot of beetles when they are easily available.



I placed this camera here to check if deer were able to cross the fence which has been damaged by a fallen tree. I managed to capture this fox instead!



And lastly, no camera trapping article would be complete without a picture of a badger. Surprisingly common, badgers spend most of their time hoovering up earthworms, beetles and other insects, though they do occasionally scavenge from deer carcasses as well.



There's lots of advice on the internet about which cameras to choose and where to put them up but remember, you must have the landowner's permission to place a camera somewhere other than your own property and, in this day and age, you are not entitled to take someone's photo without their permission, so choose a place where this is unlikely, or put up a notice telling people they may be photographed. Happy camera trapping!

Doug Gilbert, Dundreggan

Trees for Life

Dundreggan Rewilding Centre

Construction work on the Rewilding Centre is well underway, with local contractors Compass hard at work on site. Those of you who have been past the estate will have noticed that the main entrance has been widened and new surfaces put down. Foundations for both buildings are going in now and the buildings will quickly take shape over the coming months.

The Rewilding Centre will include an accessible visitor centre with classrooms, cafe, event space, natural play area and an improved trail network. There will also be a 40-bed accessible accommodation building for groups and individuals staying as part of more immersive experiences, educational groups and short courses.

Work continues on the activity and interpretation planning, with the Centre team recently getting their first glimpse at our consultants' ideas for the internal and outdoor displays. Interpretation is being planned, designed and built by CMC Associates and Abound Design & Interpretation, in conjunction with Trees for Life staff and Gaelic consultants Ceit Langhorne and Roddy Maclean.

Tree of Life



Helen planning the tree sculpture in her workshop. Photo credit Grant Anderson.

Over two days in mid-November we visited Invergarry Primary School, Kilchuimen Primary School and Academy, and held an open evening in Glenmoriston Millennium Hall where we talked with around 130 people about the plans for the Centre, and asked for feedback on a very special project.

Scottish artist Helen Denerley is creating a tree sculpture that will be rooted in the heart of the Centre. This 4.5 metre tall 'Welcome Tree' will be the focal point as you enter the building and anchor the interpretation found throughout the building. Helen talked the students through her artistic process and got them to come up with animals that could form part of the finished sculpture, which will be made entirely from recycled materials and scrap metal. They made clay models and charcoal drawings of their ideas. Taking inspiration from the suggestions, Helen will be adding native wildlife to finish the tree back in her Aberdeenshire studio.

Our Gaelic consultant Ceit Langhorne also joined the workshops. 99% of the place names in Glenmoriston have Gaelic origins and understanding these brings the history of the glen to life. Gaelic connects us to the land - illustrating where forests once stood, where wolves used to roam and where the wee folk caused mischief. After learning a few Gaelic words and phrases, the students had a go at writing their own nature-inspired poetry. Visitors to the evening workshop were also treated to a video presentation by Roddy Maclean on the connections between rewilding and Gaelic language and culture.



We don't want to spoil the surprise, but as a result of the students' ideas, Helen will be adding some iconic Scottish wildlife to the tree over the winter, including birds, insects and some very special furry mammals. There's still room for more ideas too, so watch this space... A huge thank you to everyone who participated in these workshops. It was great to hear your feedback and ideas, and to know that so many people are looking forward to visiting when the centre opens.

Keeping in Touch

Throughout the planning stage we have carefully considered the feedback of local residents and businesses, and we want to keep the conversation open. In December we'll have a second meeting with our advisory group - a group of stakeholders including local community members who feed back on our plans and help us ensure the Centre will be welcoming and accessible to all, as well as being a resource for the community.

We will keep the community informed of progress and official reopening dates. To find out more, visit our website www.treesforlife.org.uk/dundreggan/dundreggan-rewilding-centre.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or ideas about the project you can contact us at rewildingcentre@treesforlife.org.uk.

The Dundreggan Rewilding Centre is supported with funding from the Natural and

Cultural Heritage Fund, led by NatureScot and funded through the European Regional Development Fund; the National Lottery Heritage Fund; Bòrd na Gàidhlig; SSE Sustainable Development Fund; Audemars Piguet Foundation; FERN Community Funds; Garfield Weston Foundation; Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme; and individual donors.
Laurelin Cummins-Fraser, Dundreggan Rewilding Centre Director
Kat Murphy, Dundreggan Rewilding Centre Education Manager

3 Glens Community Care

'Supporting Our Communities'

Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation – S.C.I.O. no. SC049964



3 Glens Community Care are pleased to announce that a Development Officer has been appointed. Kay Couzens will officially start in January. There is plenty to do as we have several ideas that we are keen to work on. The setting up of 3 Glens has been a huge task as well as a huge learning curve for the Trustees. We are fortunate to have retired professionals on the 3 Glens Board: a community nurse, a nurse manager, a teacher, an experienced care service administrator, as well as two Trustees still working in the care field. Several of our Trustees have valuable experience of community work with and alongside senior citizens. Preparing to become good employers to attract the right employees involves a lot of research, reading, form-filling, policy drafting and adopting, and proving compliance with legislation. It has been no mean feat for the Trustees, who are all volunteers. Everyone who has been involved to date has proved their worth. A Development Officer with 15 hours to dedicate to 3 Glens work will be a real boon.

What 3 Glens does....

- Funding support for **Sunflower Home Care**: 'A partnership between 3 Glens Community Care and Highland Hospice to deliver care at home in your community.'
- Contributing to restoring social and recreational opportunities in our communities.
- Future projects to include Befriending Services which could include:
- Supported trips for shopping, coffee mornings, medical appointments.
- Friendship visits.

If you have an idea, or recognise something that is lacking in our communities, particularly in connection with support for older people, we would love to hear from you.

Soon to make a presence in our communities: **Charity Fundraising Collection Boxes**. Several businesses within our three communities have expressed willingness to support 3 Glens Community Care by having collection boxes on their premises. These have been ordered and will be distributed a.s.a.p.

3 Glens CC is keen to recruit new members. By being a member, you will be notified by email of special upcoming events and invited to our AGM in May each year. All events will also be advertised on local notice boards in our three communities. We would like to encourage everyone, of any age from 16 to 116, male and female, to enrol as members. By supporting us this way, you will help to secure care services in our communities. We will not pressure anyone to take on tasks or join the Board of Trustees.

For a membership form or information:

email: chair@3glenscare.org or telephone: Denise on 07760 360007

Announcements

Marriages



Andrew John Forbes Paterson married Rowena Scott Wotherspoon on the 7th of August 2021 at Teanacoil, near Kiltarlity.



Eoghan Farmer and Mairi Walker married on the 2nd of October 2021, Fort Augustus Church of Scotland. Photo credit - Andy Taylor Photography.



Blair Girvan and Gosia Wasik married on the 22nd of October 2021 at Fonab Castle, Pitlochry.

Births



Kate Sonley welcomed Amber Marina Lily, born on the 14th September 2021, at 6.12pm and weighed 4lbs 10oz



Holly and Shaun welcomed Shaunie Munro Nicolson on the 10th of October 2021, weighing 8lb 1oz.



Jessica Pargeter married Rowan Davison on the 13th of November 2021 at Sleaf, Isle of Skye.

Deaths



Fredrick Brodie, Abertarff Place, Fort Augustus born 27th November 1944, passed away 25th of September 2021



In the tender care of the Telford Centre, Fort Augustus, on 15th October, 2021, Sarah MacKenzie (nee MacDonald), aged 96 years, Riverside Park, Invermoriston and formerly of Horgabost, Isle of Harris, dearly loved wife of Jackie, loved mother of Colin and Jacqueline, caring grandmother of Chloe and William, also a loving sister, aunt and mother-in-law.



Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on 16th October 2021, Robert Morton Buchanan Davidson, aged 68 years, resident at Cheshire House, Inverness, beloved son of the late George and Jean Davidson (late of Abertarff Place, Fort Augustus), also a dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle.



Peacefully on Saturday 6th November 2021 at Raigmore Hospital, Catherine MacDonald, 9 Riverside Park, Invermoriston aged 71 years.

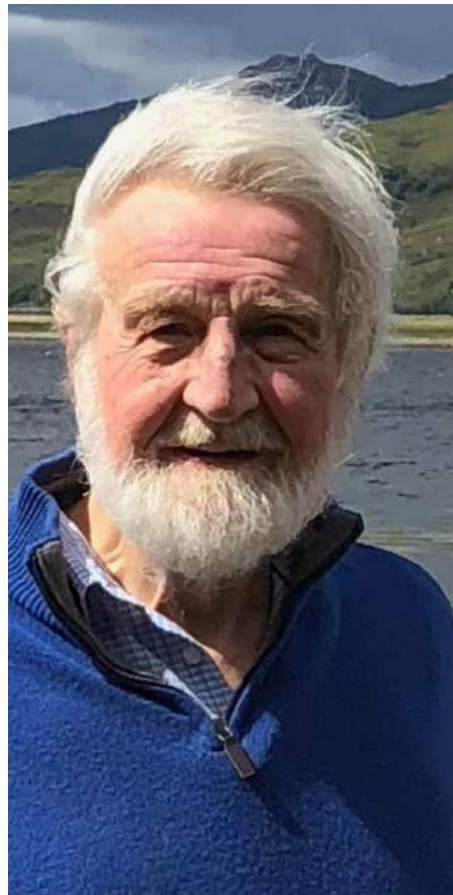


Andy Brady passed away on the 24th November 2021 aged 89 years. He was well known locally with a talent for playing the accordion and also for growing tomatoes. He will be missed by many people. His knowledge and talents live on through his family, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Sadly, Beryl Wadsworth, Riverside, Fort Augustus died on Friday, 26th November 2021



Peacefully with her beloved husband, Donald and faithful companion, Haggis by her side at home on 26th November 2021, Catriona Margaret MacLeod (Tina), nee Cameron, aged 73 years, Upper Cullernie Court, Balloch, Inverness, much loved mum of Norman, Evelyn, Angela, Rhona, Gemma and the late June, also a dear granny, great granny, mother-in-law, sister-in-law and aunt.



Brian Furie, Tigh nan Eun, Invermoriston passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on Sunday 28th November 2021 at the Telford Centre. He still enjoyed the Invermoriston pensioner club and Telford Centre lunches prior to the pandemic. Due to ailing health, he moved into the Telford Centre in August 2021, after a 6-week care period in Strontian after his discharge from Raigmore Hospital. He is survived by two children, Conal and Deirdre, and four grandsons.



Passed away at home on 3rd December 2021, Mabel Gordon Sloggie (nee Mackie), aged 81 years, Achadhluachraich, Invergarry, beloved wife of the late John Sloggie, much loved mother of Edmund, Mark, Matthew and Peter, proud grandmother to sixteen and great grandmother to eight, also a dear mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law and aunt.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 19th December at 10am - Family Crib Service. Travel with the holy family to Bethlehem. Sing carols, hear the story of the first Christmas as children who wish are invited to help fill the crib with all the well loved figures of the nativity.

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve Watchnight Service at 11.30pm - Welcome Christmas morning in this reflective and joyful service.

Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day) at 10am





Blast From The Past

The lost bobbin mills of Glenmoriston

For 150 years, bobbin making was a significant industry in the north of Scotland. Yet nowadays there is often little or no trace of the bobbin mills and many people are unaware that this industry ever existed. Last year I came across an excellent piece of research carried out by the Woodland Trust about Bobbin Mills of the Great Glen. This helped me to find the site of the Dundreggan bobbin mill - one of nearly 100 mills that operated in the north of Scotland between 1830 and as recently as 1980. Most were supplying bobbins for the textile industries in Dundee and Paisley.



Rural mills were usually set up beside rivers and streams which provided waterpower. They often took over a building that had been used as a corn or lint mill. For example, one of the bobbin mills in Invermoriston was located at Home Farm (which had been a lint mill). However, the bobbin mills at Dundreggan and Bhlaraidh were likely to have been timber-framed buildings.



The quantity of birch wood used by each bobbin mill was clearly quite significant, perhaps in the region of 1,500 tons of birch wood each year. Indeed, reports at the time refer to the beauty of Glenurquhart being "materially impaired by the ruthless sacrifice of the greater part of its fine birch woods" (1850).

The first indication that there may have been a bobbin mill at or near Dundreggan appeared in the 1891 census, which listed Ewen Gray as a 'bobbin turner' living at Torgyle and Ewan McDonald, another 'bobbin turner' living at Dalchreichart. Jeanne Wilkinson has told me that Ewen MacDonald was her grandfather, known as Ewen the Counter. He was the stock keeper at the

bobbin mill and Ewen Gray was his cousin. Before his move to Torgyle, Ewen Gray had lived at Turnerhall, in the parish of Kilmorack, first as a 'woodcutter', in 1871, and in 1881 as a 'turner'. Although occupied as 'bobbin turners' in 1891, by 1901, Ewen Gray had become a grocer (still living at Torgyle), and Ewen McDonald had become a 'road contractor' (still living at Dalchreichart). So the bobbin-making enterprise they were involved in appears to have been short lived. The 1891 census gave no indication of any bobbin workers living at Dundreggan itself, though two men living there were listed with the occupation of 'wood carter'.

The bobbins produced by the Dundreggan mill were described (by a man who used to live opposite the mill site) as "small, like cotton reels" and to have been of the same type as were produced at the Bhlaraidh bobbin mill. They were seemingly sent away to be "finished". This suggests that their destination was Aberdeen or Dundee for the jute industry.



John Smart worked at the Bhlaraidh bobbin mill and wrote a fascinating account about a typical day (published in the community magazine 'Moriston Matters' in December 1979).

'I along with others dragged in tons and tons of birch wood into the mill from ever so far up the hill above Blairie, across Blairie burn where we built a bridge. All I had to do with the pony (Guildie) was to fasten his dragging equipment onto a good-sized birch tree and let him go. Should the drag stick, he would manoeuvre this way and that until it got clear, and then carry on to his destination at the mill. He also carted in wood from round and about, and with the rest of us we carted away tons of bobbin, shavings (or chips as we called them), and sawdust to Invermoriston Pier where the MacBrayne steamer was waiting to take them away - the bobbins to MacGregor and Balfour, Dundee for the jute mills at Calcutta when they were finished and polished. The 'chips' and sawdust very good for curing fish, went to fish curers. Sometimes we used to get a sample of their kippers. They were just delicious!

Guildie and I with the rest, carted in wood to the mill from all over Invermoriston. Before working the horses, I was employed in the mill, which was quite a going concern in those days. Quite a few people were employed there. There were five circular saws, a long travelling bench for cutting boards and posts etc, a cross-cutting saw outside for sizing the wood into the required size for making the bobbins. There was also a most useful man-operated crane for lifting the wood to the cross-cut saw. Then there was the boring machine for boring the blocks after coming from the saws. Then the turning or ruffing machine, as we call it, for shaping out the bobbin. It was dangerous when working it, as occasionally a bobbin would break and fly out. We had to wear a steel guard over our faces. We all took our turn at these machines. Everything was driven by water - a huge turbine having been installed there previously. The waste wood that came from the mill was really attractive, pleasant to handle and made excellent firewood, for which there was always a demand, the crofters coming in with their horses and carts. Before stopping time - I think it was 5.30pm - we all had to take our turn to carry the bags of bobbins upstairs to the drying loft where they were dried, picked, counted and bagged for transport. We were all experts at sewing bags at that time - between the bobbins, chips and sawdust bags required! '

You can find this article on the excellent Glenmoriston website www.glenmoriston.org.uk/moristonmatters - December 1979. Meanwhile if you'd like to know more about this fascinating piece of local history, please email me and I can supply a copy of the Woodland Trust report (which is relatively short and very readable!) joycegilbert56@gmail.com

Joyce Gilbert, Glenmoriston





Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

It's been a busy year at the Community Company with grants, apprenticeships, and the completion and official opening of Caledonian Court. Read on to find out about our latest opportunities, news and plans for the future!

AGM

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held on 25th January 2022. Members will receive copies of the agenda in the coming weeks. The meeting is also open to non-members, so if you are interested in learning more about the work of the Community Company or getting involved in what we do, please do come along– or consider becoming a member!

Directors

Are you interested in getting involved in the future of your community? Do you live in the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council area? If so, you might be just the person we are looking for!

We are looking for people to serve as Directors on the Community Company Board. As a Director, you will represent your community and develop a forward looking strategy for the company. The role is very diverse and there is the opportunity to get involved in various projects. Our Directors come from all walks of life, so whatever background you have, we'll be sure to be able to use your skills and experience!

So, if you are committed to making a difference in your community and would be interested in standing as a Director, or would like to learn a bit more about the role, contact us on 01320366800, email Karen on contact@communitycompany.co.uk or drop into the office at Fort Augustus Village Hall to have a chat.

Apprenticeships

We've had another successful year with our apprenticeships. Earlier this year George MacEachen secured a pre-apprenticeship in livestock and arable farming with Ringlink and is really enjoying it. Working with Shewglie Farmers in Drumnadrochit, George is helping to manage over 700 sheep and 80 cattle, some of which are known for taking the occasional selfie!



If you are either in school and are planning what to do in the future, or have already left and are looking to develop your career, why not consider an apprenticeship? It can give you a great head start as you earn whilst training in a career that will give you lifelong skills.

Community Action Plan Review

The Community Company is facilitating a review of the Community Action Plan that was carried out a few years ago. We'll be holding two open days early in the new year to update you on the progress and to get your feedback, so please come along and have your say.

Grants

Over the last year, we have given out a number of grants to various groups and individuals however they have been fewer in number than usual due to Covid restrictions limiting the activities for many. The Community Company runs three grant schemes, one for groups, one for individuals for community benefit, and one for students. Each works slightly differently, but all are designed to benefit the community.

There are certain criteria that applicants need to meet, and this is simply to ensure that we can use the money effectively to create the best impact. So when our Directors assess a grant, they are looking to see how the money will benefit not only the people participating in it, but also the wider community.

Directors do have guidelines, stipulated by our funders' terms and conditions, that they have to follow. For example, they are not able to approve a grant retrospectively, so if you booked a trip to a panto, you wouldn't then be able to apply for a grant to fund it. Groups also need to have at least two signatories on their bank account. Directors are also unable to fund something that is a statutory requirement. An example of this would be equipment for a sports activity at school during school hours that is part of the curriculum and therefore should be government funded.

A real life example would be a grant given recently to the Telford Centre to help with refurbishment of the day rooms. The NHS are obliged to provide basic repairs and furnishings but only to a very basic level. When Kerry wanted to make the space more appealing, and all that the NHS could do was paint it cream or white and repair damaged chairs, she applied for a grant to improve on that. As this was over and above the basic requirement, we were pleased to support her in making the space more visually appealing and comfortable for residents and visitors alike. See what you think below!



Before



After

We are always happy to discuss a project with you to make sure that it fits the criteria and makes the most of your opportunity to apply for a grant. Do check the guidelines provided or give us a call on 01320 366800 or email contact@communitycompany.co.uk We would love to chat about your plans.

EV Car Club

Carbon reduction and response to climate change is something we have all heard a lot about recently, and at the Community Company we are keen to develop ways to address this issue at a community level. We are also aware that access to transport is vital for people, both for work and for accessing amenities.

With this in mind, the Community Company is working on developing an electric car club for the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston area. The project is in its early stages and we need to know if there is enough demand for it so please take some time to complete the survey— scan the QR code or paper copies are available at Great Glen Trading Centre. Just drop them in the letterbox at the hall when you've completed it.





Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

Draft Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th of November 2021.

Members Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)
Iain MacKnocher - Vice Chair (IM)
Helen Clay - Secretary (HC)
Jeff Dymond (JD)
Jill Wyatt (JW)
Mike Anderson (MA)

In Attendance:

Cllr Margaret Davidson (MD)
Harry Whiteside (HW)
Ian Leaver (IL)

Apologies:

Robert MacDonald
Cllr David Fraser

Note Taker: Jade Marie Douglass.

1. Previous Minutes:

Previous Minutes were proposed by IM and seconded by JW after bringing up that in the draft Minutes, the Glenmoriston Improvement Group had made a wish list which should have read that they are planning on making a wish list.

2. Matters Arising:

Glenmoriston Estate: Still in legal action

Invermoriston Cemetery: No updates

Sheltered Housing: The houses had all been allocated however the housing officer said that there was one house allocation terminated so there is still one house empty.

Roads: Transport Scotland have been out and about taking surveys and are looking to extend the 30mph sign between Invermoriston and Fort Augustus, however more surveys are needed.

Traffic Scotland refused to redo Torgoyle bridge.

JW brought up that instead of redoing the bridge, maybe they could possibly get some traffic lights in place.

MD stated that discussions will take place in due time.

Canalside: Scottish Canals were asked if there was anything that they could do to clean up some of the houses along the canal such as cutting grass and fixing fences as it is a bit of an eyesore.

Inchnacardoch Bay: Still waiting to get in touch with Traffic Scotland for surveys to be done. Also looking to get something done with the path out to Cherry Island as the mesh that stops you slipping on the wood needs replaced.

Scottish Water Presentation:

- Water Treatment Works

As KB explained, the main focus of work this month has been investigation of an issue that has been identified during the final stages of commissioning of the new Water Treatment Works.

Although there are screens and filters built into the intake, primarily to avoid any organic material like fallen leaves or aquatic plants being drawn into the WTW, we have identified fine sand-like particles which appear to be suspended in the raw water that is reaching the new Works.

The nanofiltration membranes within the new WTW are designed to offer a very high level of treatment, but they are sensitive and need to be protected from larger (although still small by normal standards) particles of this kind.

The focus of our continuing investigations is to understand where the suspended material is originating from in case, we can address the problem at source. Alternatively, we may need to make changes upstream of the membranes to allow these fine particles to be screened out.

Unfortunately, this issue means that the final change to the new water supply is now unlikely to go ahead before the end of the year. We will continue to keep you updated of our progress – and are also exploring in the meantime whether the road crossing of the A82 in Fort Augustus can be delivered in advance of the new water coming into supply. (If acceptable to the roads authorities, we would aim to complete the road crossing, but to leave the final connection to be completed at a later stage in order to minimise risk of disruption to customer supplies in Fort Augustus when this is done.)

We're sorry for this delay, but please be assured that our local team is continuing to work hard to ensure the existing two Water Treatment Works can continue to serve customers reliably until the new WTW can enter service.

- A82 speed limit south of Invermoriston

KB had also asked me to let you know that he unfortunately misunderstood some information that he looked up in response to Cllr Fraser's question about the 40mph limit at the south side of Invermoriston. We have recently extended the traffic (symology) notice that allows us to put temporary traffic management measures such as traffic lights in place when required on this stretch of the A82 to run through until the end of March 2022. This allows for any short-term need to facilitate deliveries etc but doesn't include the continuing operation of the 40mph limit as this is no longer needed for construction traffic. Contrary to what Kelton thought at the meeting, the temporary speed limit therefore does have to be removed at the end of this month (and I understand this was either being done yesterday or today). I appreciate this may be disappointing given the desire that Cllr Fraser mentioned for a permanent lowering of the speed limit in this area. KB asked me to pass on his apologies for the confusion about this, which arose from his best efforts to check information on screen during the meeting.

- B862 burn crossing

As Kelton explained, the other main activity this month has been some localised off-line work to install a section of new water main on the B862 near to Glendoe, where there is a burn crossing. The short section of water main that is being installed here will be connected with the rest of the new pumped water main which will be installed within the existing larger pipe after the new Water Treatment Works is supplying the rest of the

village. (The existing crossing of the watercourse isn't suitable for re-use on a long-term basis, which is why this localised section is being installed separately.)

3. Treasurer's Report:

The bank is £5490.29 with a cheque for £86.50 for Minute taker and postage been cashed. Discussed using the Etape money to go towards future Ness News.

4. Police Report:

Between 29/10/2021 – 20/11/2021

1 – On the 15th of November 2021 a 61-year-old man received a fixed penalty notice for driving 43 mph in the 30 zone at FortAugustus. There were several reports of minor road traffic collisions and break downs. These were all attended to and dealt with by police and recovery.

2 – There has been no incidents of note.

3 – There has been no incidents of note.

4 – There have been no incidents of note.

5. Invermoriston Toilets:

HW and IL gave a presentation so that all the Community Council knew what was going on and how to move forward as they have been dealing with the situation since 31st August 2020 when Stuart Findlay and JD handed it over.

6. Community Amenity Issues:

7. Renewable Energy Projects: 48mins-

Bhlaraidh extension and Cloiche will be going up for planning about February. The CC need to negotiate community benefit so we need someone to come off the Council or someone who isn't part of the Community Council to attend this meeting as we will be looking over the planning applications and cannot do both.

Fort Augustus should be trying to get money from them since we will have to deal with all the traffic and blades that come through the village and how they are planning on getting around the corner.

It would be good to get the road redone between Glendoe and the Suidhe as Loch Tarff is bad with the potholes and Ardachy road also needs to be done.

Both Bhlaraidh and Stronelairg want the turbines to be not visible from Loch Ness or on the skyline.

IM brought up that there are plans for storage at Loch Kemp, and there are going to be open days in the coming week.

8. Correspondence

1 email about Loch Kemp

9. Planning and Licensing:

The Hub Dalchreichart, Installation of solar panels ref. 21/04146/FUL


10. AOB:

MD stated that the Forestry Commission have started making a new footpath up by Auchteraw. Tree felling will be ongoing through the winter on the A82.


IM brought up that he will be putting in a planning application soon for a caravan park on half of the field at Market Hill with toilets and shower blocks included as there is nothing for caravans in the area.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Wednesday of 26th January 2022 via Google Teams.

Notice Board



Wednesday @ 7.15pm
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall



To book your place email
zumbadebbiegg@gmail.com
Sorry no walk ins

Glenmoriston Craft Club

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month

At Glenmoriston Millennium Hall
11am - 3pm

Cost only £3 per session

Come along to our friendly group
bringing whatever craft takes your fancy.

Carr Gomm is recruiting!
Relief Support Practitioner Roles in the
Lochaber areas
(Glengarry, Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston).



**DO YOU HAVE A CARING ATTITUDE AND WANT TO
WORK SOMEWHERE THAT BENEFITS PEOPLE IN
YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?**

We offer flexible working hours, enhanced holidays, pension
and paid travel time - car driver is preferable.

For more information, contact:
Leanne Wells - 07500 608602

www.carrgomm.org
Scottish Charity: SC033491



carr gomm
Supporting People & Communities

APPLY NOW!

**Assistance with linked smoke
and heat alarms is available to
all homeowners in receipt of
full council tax benefit.**

**Applications can be
made for up to 4
alarms.**

Phone 01320366 800 or email
contact@communitycompany.co.uk
to apply by February 2022

Fort Augustus
and Glenmoriston
Community Company

Registered Charity No. SC 038513
Registered Company No. SC 327624



Notice Board



SPECIALISING IN WOMENS HEALTH AND GROWING BODY CONFIDENCE

SPARROWFITNESS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKY@SPARROWFITNESS.CO.UK



Sunflower Home Care


Join the Sunflower Home Care team now and support your community. We are looking for care at home workers in Fort Augustus, Glenmoriston & Glengarry.

- ✓ Earn a minimum of £10.50 per hour
- ✓ Travel time and mileage paid
- ✓ time, part time and flexible contracts available
- ✓ No experience necessary quality training provided

More information at highlandhospice.org/vacancies or phone Vicky Kilgour on 01463 243132

Sunflower Home Care is a partnership between Highland Hospice and 3 Glens Community Care to deliver care at home in your community.

Highland Hospice is a Registered Scottish Charity No: SC011227
3 Glens Community Care is a SCIO No: SC049964

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association
A charity registered in Scotland (SC051887) constituted as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

The new Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association have held their first board meeting and are looking forward to planning future community events.

The elected board of Trustees are: Graham Bullen, Debbie Cox, Steven Gray, Lesley Hill, Ann P mariner, Carol Pritchard, Catherine Thomson and Robert Ungless.

You can become a member of the association at anytime through <https://membermojo.co.uk/glenmoristonhall>

Weekly Activities
At Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

Monday Monday Chat Coffee morning 10.00 am
Bowls 7.30 pm

Tuesday Nothing at the moment!

Wednesday Yoga 10.30 am
Zumba 7.15 pm

Thursday Scottish Country Dancing 7.30 pm

Friday Nothing at the moment!

Saturday 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month - Craft Club 11.00 am
Quiz 7.30 pm once a month

Sunday 2nd Sunday of the month - Church Service 2.00 pm

Christmas Family Film
With Mince pies, cake & nibbles
Wednesday 29th December 4.30pm Adults £5 Children £3

GLENGARRY TRUST

APPLICATION DEADLINES

GRANT FUNDING

22nd November 2021

21st February 2022

23rd May 2022

Please get in touch if you are a student in further and higher education or an organisation or group with a project in mind.

Maximum limit for funding students is £600 per year for up to four years.
Maximum funding limit for projects is £5000. However, if you have a larger project you wish to put forward, please contact us to discuss this.

The Trust administers community benefit funds from the Millennium and Strathgairn Woodlands.

www.glengarrytrust.org.uk or find us at www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust



➤ JOIN SCOTLAND'S FIGHT AGAINST FIRE

Get ready for winter. Make sure you have working smoke alarms. Fit a heat alarm in your kitchen. All smoke and heat alarms should be ceiling mounted and interlinked.

Take extra care when cooking if you suffer from any illness, disability or are taking prescribed medications that makes you careless or forgetful.

We all know older people who are at risk from fire – it could be a grandmother, aunt, friend or neighbour. Join Scotland's Fight Against Fire. If you, or someone you know, is at risk from fire, contact us now.

Call 0800 0731 999 Text 'FIRE' to 80800
visit www.firescotland.gov.uk
or talk to your local firefighters.

➤ ALCOHOL

If you're tired, have been drinking, or taking drugs, you will be less alert to the signs of fire.

You are more likely to fall asleep. You are less likely to wake up if a fire does start, particularly if you don't have working smoke or heat alarms in your home.

If fire does break out alcohol or drugs can heighten feelings of disorientation, making it difficult for you to escape.

Cooking and alcohol can be a recipe for disaster.
If you've been drinking alcohol or taking drugs, don't cook.

Smoking is the main cause of death from fire in the home. You are more likely to lose your life in a fire if you drink and smoke.

In many fires started by cigarettes, people have also been drinking and are sleepy.

Never smoke in bed.

Don't smoke in your chair if you've been drinking or you're feeling tired. If you do feel tired smoke outside or stand up and smoke at a window or outside door.

➤ FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for practical fire safety advice, or talk to your local fire fighters at your nearest community fire station. You will find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.

For specific information and advice for older persons contact: Age Scotland helpline: **0800 12 44 222**

Visit: www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland

Age Scotland Fire Safety Fact sheet 101s provides essential fire and safety information for older people and persons who care for older people. Silver Line helpline: **0800 4 70 8090**

The Scottish Government 'Ready for Winter' campaign sets out simple steps we can all take in the home, before a journey (whether driving, cycling or on foot), at work and in our communities to prepare for Winter. It also encourages people to look out for others, especially the more vulnerable, when bad weather strikes.

Visit www.readyscotland.org

Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for practical fire safety advice. Or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language, please contact **0800 0731 999**.

TO BOOK A FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT
Call **0800 0731 999** Text 'FIRE' to 80800
or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

v2.3 November 2021

WINTER & FESTIVE SAFETY

To book a **FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT**

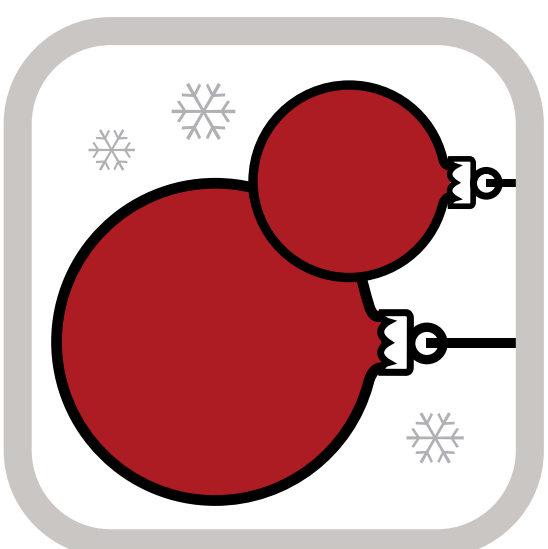
Call **0800 0731 999**

Text 'FIRE' to 80800

or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk



@SFRSYourSafety



Fact.

House fires and casualties increase during winter, with a **high risk** over the festive period.



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Working together for a safer Scotland