

Ness News

Community News & Events

December 2022



Long Service Shinty Update



Blast From The Past





Welcome to the Christmas edition of Ness News and hope you will enjoy the upcoming festive events such as the Highland Hospice Quiz and the Christmas Market which are both in the Fort Augustus Village Hall this week followed by the Christmas parties for the children and senior citizens in each village. Also please come to the 3 Glens events in each village in mid-December where there will be representatives from the Sunflower Carers, Age Scotland, Home Energy Scotland, SFRS Community Safety and other local groups. The other exciting event is the Christmas Gathering on 22nd December where there will be something for everybody so have a look at all the adverts. The Christmas trees are now up in Invermoriston and Fort Augustus and hopefully by the time you read this,

all the Christmas lights will be on. We would like to encourage more groups such as the local schools, church, bowling clubs, camera club etc to send us articles or upcoming events for future Ness News as well as announcements by 1st March, 1st June, 1st September and 20th November. Remember to send photos in Jpeg or Pdf format by email please. Talking about photos, I hope you like some photos that I've recently taken and included in this issue

If you have any local amenity issues in Fort Augustus or Glenmoriston, please contact any of the local community councillors below -

Deirdre MacKinnon - 01320 366556 / 07746839568

Iain MacKnocher - 07956072302

Helen Clay - 07947503789

Mike Anderson - 01320 338221

Robert MacDonald - 07796435380

Jeff Dymond - 01320 351267

Claire Pegrum - 01320 366479 / 07901663129

Hilary Wilson - 01320 351226

*Wishing You All
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

Deirdre MacKinnon

Chair

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council



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Local Memorial Services



Blast from the Past

Speedboat Tragedy on Loch Ness

On a bright and sunny afternoon on the 28th August 1932, after spending the previous day organising the local village Flower Show in the nearby village of Fort Augustus, the owners of Glendoe Shooting Lodge, Mr and Mrs Hambro and two of their sons (aged 6 and 13) with Miss Calvert, the children's nanny left for a trip down Loch Ness in Mr Hambro's top of the range speedboat. When they were about three miles from Fort Augustus just opposite Invermoriston, there was a loud explosion and the boat became engulfed with flames.

The Hambros along with their sons abandoned the boat as both of them were good swimmers; Mrs Hambro being Olympic class but the governess for some reason stayed on board. Mr Hambro pulled the two boys who were tied to a life belt and they were then pushed to the shore by Mr Hambro but sadly before Mrs Hambro could reach the shore, which was only a distance of less than 100 yards, disappeared probably due to shock and the very cold temperatures in Loch Ness. The depths of the loch at that point were 100 ft dropping to 200 ft.

The boys' governess was still on the boat, which after a bit drifted to the shore and when the hull got near the rocks, she managed to climb out and reach the shore.

The accident was seen by Lt-Colonel Lane from the Invermoriston shore and another eye witness was Mr Ian Kydd, the son of the hotel keeper at Invermoriston who set out in his father's boat to the scene of the tragedy. Mr Hambro, the boys and the governess were all safely on the shore but there was no trace of Mrs Hambro.

The survivors were taken on Mr Kydd's boat back to the Invermoriston hotel while other boats arrived on the scene and searched the area till late at night for Mrs Hambro's body, but without success.

The Scot II searched the area for a whole week after with the weather taking a turn for the worse and high waves were reported hitting the Scot II.

The tragedy created much pain in the Fort Augustus district as Mrs Hambro was a very popular lady in the area and had taken a keen interest in the activities in the area and had been the Chairwoman of the annual flower show and a very prominent golfer. Mr Hambro was chairman of Hambro's bank and was also the managing director and Mrs Hambro who was formerly known as Miss Winifred Ridley-Smith was a prominent lady golfer and had won many a championship in her time.

Mr Hambro erected a monument in memory of his wife that still can be seen to this very day.

Mr Hambro employed experienced divers from London to search the area but no trace was found and all the divers said that they would not go down again as it was so murky and dark with overhanging rocks with cave like feature and very large eels were seen when they went to the allowed depths. It was reported that maybe Mrs Hambro was wearing a fur coat which may have hampered her from swimming, along with a very expensive pearl necklace.

Maureen Ferguson





Long Service



On the 9th November, the first post Covid ceremony was held in Inverness to award Long Service Medals for Fire and Rescue Personnel. We all value fire and rescue professionals for the diligence and hard work that is required to protect our communities; these awards are one way to recognise firefighters and control staff for their dedication to their careers in the fire and rescue service. Lorn MacKay, Jonathon Seymour and Dave McConville (day time cover) were awarded medals

for over 20 years service. Donnie Kennedy (Iain MacKnocher pictured holding Donnie's award) was awarded a 30 year certificate and Alistair MacKinnon received his brilliant 30 year and 40 year recognition. That's a combined outstanding 130 years of dedication to protect Fort Augustus and communities further afield. A huge thank you and well done to Lorn, Jonni, Dave, DK and Shorty.

Queen's Funeral Tribute



Martin Fraser and David MacKay, Fort Augustus Royal British Legion marking the 2-minute silence in tribute to Queen Elizabeth II on the day of her funeral



Glengarry Shinty Club

As the nights draw in, our shinty season also finishes for the year. Season 2022 has been very full on as we went back to proper competitive leagues and competitions following the abbreviated Covid-19 leagues.

It was a busy year and as we look back over the season; we have had a great year and seen a lot of action for all our teams. Our first ever Dinner Dance held on Saturday 29th October was a great opportunity to celebrate a return to normality and of course, our achievements over the course of the season.

We also presented our player of the year awards at the Dinner Dance and these were awarded as follows:

Men's Player of Year	Finlay Fraser
Women's Player of Year	Laura MacKay
Men's Most Improved Player	Cameron Fraser
Women's Development Player	Ruby Robson
Young Player of the Year	Finlay Fraser
Manager's Player of Year Men's	David Rodgers
Women's	Leona Falconer

After a tremendous meal, prepared by Donnie and his amazing team, we enjoyed some dancing and cracking music by the Cast Ewe Ceilidh Band – it was a fantastic night and one that the Club hopes to become an annual event.

As the seniors enjoyed their dinner dance, the previous week we held a Club Open Day which was a great opportunity for our Juniors to come together and be rewarded for their hard work and impressive form over the year. They had a great time with the Rodeo Bull, Bouncy Castles, Shinty Skills, Facepainting and of course, the ever-competitive races for the coveted overall Sports Champion Trophy!

We used the Open Day as an opportunity to welcome new people to our Club, we were amazed by the number of new faces who were there enjoying all our Club has to offer and we hope to see some of them back at Craigard.

It was brilliant to see the children in their races, as ever their competitiveness and will to push themselves to win was amazing and this is the area where we have really seen the juniors improve on this season. Whilst it isn't always about winning, the desire to give the absolute best account of themselves has been incredible and this has been reflected in results and performances on the pitch as well as in training and the growth in their confidence both individually and as a team has been very rewarding for us as a Club to watch. Shinty may not be the future for all of them but the confidence and bonds they are growing and creating as friends and teammates will hold them in great stead for the future.

Sports Champions:

P3 & Under Sports Champion – Jack Nicolson
P3 & Under Sports Runner Up – Darcie Williamson

P5 & Under Sports Champion – Lewis Robertson
P5 & Under Sports Runner Up – Gracie Nicolson



P7 & Under Sports Champion – Scott Cameron
P7 & Under Sports Runner Up - Holly Fraser
U14 Sports Champion – Lexie Cameron
U14 Sports Runner Up - Nico Barreno-Anderson

Overall Sports Champion – Scott Cameron
Overall Sports Runner Up – Jack Nicolson




Of course, we can't have a report without mentioning the parents' race – the juniors gave plenty of encouragement, well heckling perhaps! Our winner was Stevie Anderson, who powered past the other parents to take the trophy!

It was an excellent day and the weather even stayed dry for us so that of course was a bonus – we are grateful to Mowi Scotland for assisting with funding this event. Our juniors have enjoyed a few weeks off over the last wee while but now they return to training and will have several competitions over the winter months. The effort and commitment we have seen from the juniors this last year or two has been incredible and something that has not gone unnoticed by a lot of people who have commented on their improvement and the growth within the club, which is always great to hear.

We were delighted to have Cruise Loch Ness come on board as our Primary Team sponsors, Ron and Debi MacKenzie have been incredibly supportive of our projects aimed at offering opportunities to the younger members of our community and our juniors were delighted to receive fantastic training tops which will be worn with pride.





As the Women's team turned 25 in 2022, we were delighted to have won the WCA Development Club of the Year, for the continuous work we do in creating player pathways for girls and women of all ages. In 1997 when the women's team was established, we were only the third women's team – we played sporadic matches against the other two teams but also were pivotal in developing the women's game and creating opportunities for new teams and players to play. This hard work was rewarded years later when the Women's Camanachd Association was established and they created the first ever competitive women's shinty leagues. Over the last few years, our Women's team has really focused on creating opportunities for the junior girls to develop and have a clear pathway into the senior women's team. In season 2022, we organised and played the first ever 12 aside all girl primary age match – which of course, we won! We also organised and played the first every all girl U14 match, which we also won despite the opposition having to use some overage players to make up numbers – which really puts into perspective, the development aspect of our club.

Giving the girls the opportunity to play shinty is something that we are proud of, but most importantly whilst our women's team has a great support network from junior through to senior level, we have encouraged these girls to become confident and independent, which we feel is vitally important as they become young women. Our Women & Girls Only Shinty Sessions are well attended and are great fun; we have a wide range of attendees – some who probably never imagined ever playing shinty but are having a great laugh and running around chasing a ball. We would encourage all the females in the community to come along and try shinty at least once. Our focus is not only about making and developing you into a player but giving you the opportunity to be part of a fun, supportive and enthusiastic team of amazing women.

We are grateful to the Women's Camanachd Association for the recognition of our hard work and for recognising that there is a need for development pathways in shinty – their development league is an amazing opportunity for all the WCA clubs and teams and something that we wish was available in the men's game.

As ever, we are a small club and made up entirely of volunteers, who put in an amazing amount of time and commitment to the club and without that, the club wouldn't be what it is. Thank you to everyone who has helped, supported and donated to the club in Season 2022 – we are very grateful and thank you to Ness News for giving us the opportunity to share all our news.

Our Christmas Hamper Raffle is BACK! Tickets are available at the Great Glen Trading Centre and Glengarry Filling Station, as well as from Linda Stewart and other Club members – so don't miss out on your chance to win an amazing, goodie filled hamper just in time for Christmas to be drawn on Thursday 15th December 2022. Keep up to date on our Club Facebook page for updates on training, news and other things we have planned!

If you would like to become involved in the Shinty Club, then get in touch – you don't need to have a shinty background or any knowledge, running a club has lots of non-shinty roles and jobs, so there is always something you would be able to help with. You can contact us on Facebook or by emailing: secretary.glengarry@outlook.com

3 Glens Community Care

'Supporting Our Communities'

The Board of Trustees of 3 Glens Community Care work together, and alongside other organisations, to improve the availability of care services in our rural area to improve the quality of life, health, well-being, and independence and to reduce social isolation of people in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, or social circumstances.



We are a registered charity and have received funds from FERN (Beinneun Windfarm), Glengarry Trust, FA&G Community Company, Arnold Clark. Local donations have totalled over £300 this year. With these funds, alongside Highland Hospice, we financially support Sunflower Home Care and our Befriending project.

In October, 3 Glens CC welcomed 3 new trustees to the board. We would like to have representation from Glengarry and Glenmoriston. If you are interested, we would love to hear from you.

We are pleased to report that our Befriending project is finding its feet with both service user and volunteer interest!

This is confirming the need for the service in our area. The service is free of charge and offers friendship, emotional support, and a listening ear, whilst supporting people to do the things they like doing and staying connected to the local community.

We have been busy reaching groups in our area and other organisations to promote the service.

Come join me, grab a mince pie, and learn more!

13th December:

10:00 – 12:00 The British Legion Pub Fort Augustus

14:00 – 16:00 Millennium Hall Invermoriston

14th December: 12:00 – 14:00 Glengarry Community Hall

Drop-in sessions to find out more about Befriending and the 3 Glens Community Care. With Age Scotland and guest advisers such as Home Energy Scotland. Local groups will also be there to come and have your say on having Community Warm Hubs.

Please do get in touch to talk it through and find out more

Contact us by email: contact@3glenscare.org or telephone: 07507627990



The Gathering/ An Cruinneachadh

The Fort Augustus & Area Gaelic Group was set up in February 2020 to promote Gaelic in the area, through language classes, informal conversation groups, cultural heritage events and research. In 2021 and 2022 we worked with the Glenmoriston Improvement Group to secure funding for a successful project called The Glen of the Bards/Gleann nam Bàrd. For the first time in perhaps a hundred years, it offered a unique perspective of our glens through the work of local Gaelic poets and importantly it was made accessible to people who weren't Gaelic speakers. It culminated in three public events where music and stories from the area were shared with communities in Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and Dalchreichart. An ambitious follow-up project called The Gathering/An Cruinneachadh is planned for 2023. I'm delighted to report that our grant application to Beinneun for 90% of the project costs has been successful and we are optimistic that this will be matched by the end of the year. This will involve the gathering of people across all three communities, the gathering of people across generations and the gathering of the stories of our glens.

We wanted to keep the momentum going and this autumn The Gaelic Group has been working in partnership with The Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) to support primary schools in Invergarry and Fort Augustus to do projects with themes that prepare the way for The Gathering/An Cruinneachadh. It has involved people who will be part of the project team next year. Funding was secured from the Scottish International Festival of Storytelling to hold a Glen of the Bards event in Invergarry. The Glengarry Trust and FAGCC also supported linked sessions for young people at Glengarry Community Woodland and the Convent Wood. It's been a busy time as you'll see from the photos!

The Glen of the Bards event at Glengarry Community Hall shared stories and songs from Glenmoriston and celebrated the strong connections between Glengarry and Glenmoriston that have existed for centuries. If you want to learn more about Glen of the Bards/ Gleann nam Bàrd and hear a recording of the event in Fort Augustus, visit Donald Macdonald's excellent website <http://www.glenmoriston.org.uk/>



P3/4/5 at Kilchuimen Primary School had a great time with Tom Langhorne and Caoimhe Keohane in the Convent Wood, learning about life in Fort Augustus 300 years ago. The children's role-play was excellent and it was lovely to hear them say Good Morning in Gaelic (Madainn Mhath - ma-ten-va) as they woke up in the morning. The session finished with a game simulating a cattle raid which was fun. A special thanks to Susan Reed from the Glenmoriston craft club for making the hats for the women & girls. Tom and Caoimhe also ran 'Rewilding Ourselves' sessions for local youngsters at Glengarry Community Woodland and the Convent Wood. This included learning about how our ancestors moved in more dynamic ways and how resourceful and resilient local people were in the 18th century. Tom and Caoimhe made everything great fun and we're looking forward to having them as part of the project team next year.



We had an excellent day of story-making and story-sharing at Glengarry Heritage Centre with children from all three communities - led by professional storyteller Nicola Wright with contributions from local storyteller Stanley MacDonald. Stanley told a ghost story that features an old house in Invergarry which had the youngsters enthralled. By the end of the day, the children were confidently telling stories about their villages. There are definitely some future storytellers in the making! Nicola also ran storytelling sessions for both classes in Invergarry Primary School where she was able to share some of her own stories from where she lives in Edinburgh. The one about a greedy cat that lived in the Royal Mile was a great favourite with the younger children.



What's next?

An Cruinneachadh (un-croon-ye-cug) will involve working with a group of freelance artists, musicians, ecologists, geographers, historians and researchers. The overall team (many of whom who live locally or have local connections) has been chosen based on their skills and experience working with communities, and in particular their ability to mentor young people. All have an interest in cultural and natural heritage including Gaelic. Invergarry-based artist Helen Liddle is part of the project team and has already set up a Facebook page for An Cruinneachadh where we will be sharing our plans. We hope to bring the team together at Fort Augustus Village Hall on Saturday 4th February 2023. This will be a chance for anyone who is interested to meet us informally, to hear in more detail about what's planned and to chat about how you can get involved. Look out for more information nearer the time.

Meanwhile, Didi Fraser will be running Gaelic classes again in the Church of Scotland Hall, Fort Augustus in the spring. These are subsidised by The Highland Council and FAGCC, so the cost is just £20 for a ten-week course. Contact Didi for further information on 07519 963160.

By Joyce Gilbert on behalf of Fort Augustus & Area Gaelic Group



Brownies

1st Fort Augustus Brownies have been busy since starting back up again. We remembered the late Queen by doing a couple of activities and a few of the girls (and an extra helper) planted trees with 2 of the community care-takers, Glen and Ronald; we made collage pictures which we sent to the new King; started a time capsule which we will be finishing and burying soon. We had a Halloween party which was great fun, the girls also took part in the Remembrance Parade and Jane Patten came in to do a Remembrance activity with the girls. Coming up, the girls will be making Christmas crafts, having a Christmas party and there is also a cinema trip being organised.

We have had a few new members join us which has been brilliant to see; we always welcome new members and if your daughter is aged 7 or above and would like to join the Brownies, please register them online on Girlguiding Go or feel free to get in touch with either myself (Lisa Gordon), Kat Douglass, Lesley Hill or Liz Ferguson.



Announcements

Births



Georgina and Ross welcomed Kit Alexander Wilson Girvan born 13th October 2022 at 5am. Weighing 8lb exactly.



Sorley Ruadh Sinclair Skeoch born on Tuesday, 25th October 2022 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley to Becca Skeoch and Owen Sinclair. Birth weight 7lbs 14oz.



Jessica and Rohan Davis are the proud parents to Olive Davis born on 3rd November weighing 7lb 9oz. The proud maternal grandparents are John and Angela Pargeter.



Bonnie Grace Franklin, born on Monday, 7th November 2022 in Plymouth to Iona Greer and Gordon Franklin. Granddaughter to Mary and Billy Greer.



Happy 1st Birthday on the 1st of December 2022 Murphy Darach Macdonald Love from Mummy, Daddy, Abi, Lilly, Innes, Penelope, Granny & Grandad, Granny Stornoway and all your aunties, uncles and cousins. You are so loved Balach Beag.

Deaths



Sadly, Michael Thomas Nisbet, aged 51 years passed away at home on Sunday, 16th October 2022. Former Royal Navy, Coalman for Skye, Applecross, Lochcarron and elsewhere, latterly landscape gardener. Beloved son of Linda, much loved by his brother David, loving father of Loulou and Molly, a hugely missed character to so many.



Mary Brown was born in Kirkwall on the 30th August 1925 to Roderick & Margaret Brown. At that time, her father was the brewer at the Highland Park Distillery. Two year's later, she was joined by her younger brother, James.

Despite living on Orkney at this time, both her parents were from the head of Strathglass, Culburnie and Breackachy respectively, which is why the family graves are in the graveyard at Eskadale. Indeed, she is related to many of the early priests of St Mary's Chapel at Eskadale and to many of the Chisholms, Forbes, Frasers and McLarens also buried there.

When she was about 4, the family moved to Brora, where her father was the Distillery Manager at the Clyneleish Distillery. It was not a move she completely enjoyed as the family were just about the only Catholics in the town. Their isolation was such that they became friends with the English family of the local Coastguard, who were similarly classed as outsiders! Mary shared many stories from this time including having to spend

her first school week in the headmaster's office as the teacher's refused to teach a Catholic and the other parents were upset at the idea of "Papist" being at the school.

Thereafter, the family moved to Lochy Bridge outside Fort William, where her father became the manager of the Ben Nevis Distillery for Long John MacDonald. Mary and her brother attended the local school in Fort William. In 1942, two major events befell Mary. Her father died from oesophageal cancer and the family had to relocate to Fort Augustus as the distillery had provided a tied house, where she moved in next to her first cousin, Mrs Grant. And secondly, Mary went up to Glasgow University to read English & French. She had many stories of her time there and her first journey down to Glasgow and trying to revise for her French exams in 1945 with celebrations on-going outside. She went on to also undertake her teacher training in Glasgow, at a Catholic school in the Gorbals. She maintained that for all the area's reputation that she really enjoyed her time there and that all the children were wonderful and she never had any issues.

She became the Primary school teacher down at the little school by the swing bridge which is now the Clansman Centre in Fort Augustus. She served many years there. The family have found school

group pictures from many years where the only way to tell the passing of time is through the fashions of both the teachers and pupils alike. Perhaps many of the congregation were also pupils of hers. After the school was closed, Mary went to Beaully and worked there for many years where her head mistress was a Miss MacNicol.

Outside of school, Mary certainly travelled widely across Europe in her holidays. In her younger years, she was a keen golfer, bowler and country dancer. Apparently, she also organised a badminton club in the village at one point. She was also fond of knitting and needlework. She was also a member of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) over many years.

Latterly she survived cancer twice, although perhaps she was never completely cured of the last illness - it just took 15 years to do her in at the age of 97. She wasn't as mobile as she wished to be and she had wanted to remain at home as long as possible and only finally relented to going into the Telford Centre for the last year of her life. The family would like to thank all the staff at the Telford Centre, the Sunflower Carers and her friends who visited and cared for her, especially those from Lovat Terrace who kept an eye out for her during the pandemic: Mary, Christine & Jim, and the entire Findlay family.





Suddenly but peacefully, at home, on Saturday, 12th November 2022, Allan MacDonald (The Carter), aged 82 years, Jenkins Park, Fort Augustus, long serving Forester at 36 years with the Forestry Commission. A beloved husband to Mhairi, a loving dad to Linda, Alexander and Gordon, a wonderful grandad to Fraser, Isla, Alanna, Laura, Alexander and Brooke, a caring brother to Margaret. Also a loving father-in-law, uncle, relative, neighbour and a good friend to many. He will be sadly missed as a true shinty loving Highland gentleman who played and watched the game avidly.



Sadly, but peacefully, in the care of Raigmore Hospital, on Tuesday, 16th of November 2022, Christopher Edward Ellice, aged 85 years, Laird of Glengarry. Beloved husband to Janet, much loved father to John, Catrina and Alex, a wonderful granddad to all his grandchildren, a brother-in-law to Catherine and a good friend to many.

Solas Siar Photography



News from Glenmoriston

Slow Down Signs

Traffic Scotland and BEAR have confirmed that they are in the process of making animal warning signs for positioning in Glenmoriston to try to slow down traffic and prevent killing our local wildlife. These are to be placed on the A82 approaching Invermoriston from Fort Augustus (Deer); on the A887 approaching Redburn (Deer); and approaching the Torgoyle Bridge (Otters). We are also looking for children to volunteer to design our own signs for Deer, Red squirrels, Otters and Frogs to be placed on private land in the area. We know that there is a pressing need for a 30mph limit in Invermoriston, which the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council continues to press for, on our behalf.

Corner Shop, Invermoriston

Since the closure of PeachieNess, local residents have formed a steering group with the aim of establishing a Community shop in Invermoriston. Consultation has shown a tremendous support for this and the next step is to obtain a Business Advisor from the Plunkett Foundation who are experienced in the business of running community shops, to examine the feasibility of setting one up in Glenmoriston. If anyone has experience or skills that might help our steering group, please contact us on 351769.

PlayPark Consultation

We are hoping (subject to funding and permissions from land owners) to extend the Riverside Park play equipment and to create a small play area by the car park in Invermoriston. On 4th November we held a consultation with local children and residents, with designs presented by four of the major playpark equipment providers. It is hoped this will help us to attract funding from the local Windfarm Community Benefit funds and permissions from the landowner at Riverside Park and from Highland Council at the Picnic area in Invermoriston. The items chosen by the children include a multi-play area for older children and one for toddlers, a double zip-wire, a rotating hamster wheel, a climbing hut/seat, an inclusive roundabout, a pod swing, a double perch and a rope swing. For the picnic area: an agility trail, a ground trampoline and a tipi carousel. These are shown in the pictures:



Chosen designs for Picnic area by Invermoriston Car Park



SIX PIECE AGILITY TRAIL



TIPI CAROUSEL



GROUND TRAMPOLINE JUMPER

These are the pieces of equipment that GIG will be seeking funding to put at the picnic area, chosen by local children.

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall		
Regular events		
Activity	Day	Time
Indoor bowls	Monday	7.30 – 9.30 pm
Zumba	Wednesday	7.15 – 8.15
Yoga	Thursday	10.30 – 12 noon
Scottish Country Dancing	Thursday	7.30 – 9.30 pm
Book Club	Thursday	Monthly at 2.00 pm
Craft Club	Saturday	1 st and 3 rd of month. 11.00 – 3.00 pm
Quiz	Saturday	Last Saturday of month at 7.30 pm
Ecumenical Church Service	Sunday	2 nd Sunday of the month 3.00 – 4.00 pm

In addition:

Regular **Heritage group** events

Look out for the **Christmas Lights** in Invermoriston which will be on display again in December.

Christmas party for the children with Santa as special guest.

Hogmanay Ceilidh Dance on 31st December 2022 with Sheila Common providing the music



To contact the Community Company, call 01320 366800
or email contact@communitycompany.co.uk
Follow us on Facebook to keep up with all the news.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the Community Company was held on the 15th November. Those that attended were updated on the financial position, following the annual audit of the accounts. Both the Chair and Chief Officer gave an update on activities & projects that have been either undertaken in the past year or are being planned for the coming one.

On display were reports on many of the grants that have been awarded. For many this helped them understand who in the community is benefitting from the funds. Attendees were delighted at the range of things that have happened and excited by the future plans.

Part of the purpose of the AGM is to appoint Directors and these were confirmed as:

Felix Paterson, Elizabeth MacEachen, Lorn MacKay, Lynne West, Chris Nelson, Michael Alvey Anderson, Fiona MacCormick, Catriona Watson and Patrick Ungless along with Helen Clay as the Community Council representative on the Board. There had been some late interest in becoming a director and up to 3 more people may be co-opted onto the Board before the next AGM.

If you would like to become a member, allowing you to vote at the AGM, please either go to our website www.communitycompany.co.uk or contact us on 01320 366800 for an application form.

Grants awarded

Since the last issue of Ness News, the following grants have been awarded:

- Fort Augustus and Area Gaelic Group - £707 for Gaelic lessons
- John MacKay - £956 for the after-school soccer club
- 3 Student grants - £600 each to help with their studies
- 42 Cost of Living Grants – a total of £16,250

There are several more group applications that are currently going through the assessment process.

You can apply for a grant at any time and it will be assessed at the first possible opportunity. The forms have all been simplified this year but do get in touch if you need any help.



Kilchuimen Academy Minibus

We are delighted to tell you that we now have 5 local people who have passed their test to drive the Kilchuimen Academy minibus. If any local community group would like to hire it the cost is £25 per full day plus fuel. You will need to have a qualified driver who has been authorised by Highland Council. Bookings for the bus can be made directly with the school. If you need to find a volunteer driver a list can be provided by contacting the Community Company.

Apprenticeships – another way to learn!

Are you leaving school in June and feel that more formal education is not the right option for you? The Community Company can support apprenticeships for those living within the Community Council area. So, for those of you who may want to take up a trade, but want to learn on the job, do get in touch to see if we can help. We have supported electricians, pharmacy assistants, stakers, joiners, care workers, mechanics and agricultural workers, to name just a few.

So, if you want to follow a different career path, working with a local tradesman, give us a call and see if we can support you in reaching your goal.

George MacEachen did just that and he is now loving his work on a local farm, where he is learning all the skills he needs from tractor driving to caring for cattle.



Miles Jones on the other hand wanted to be a joiner and has been working with local firm SN Joinery. He can now proudly say he was involved in helping to build the new houses at Caledonian Court.



Motorhome Waste Disposal Point

Many of you will be aware of the issue of motorhomes dumping their waste in inappropriate places. Some of this is down to a lack of legitimate places to dispose of that waste. With that in mind the Community Company applied for and was granted funding by the Rural Transport Infrastructure Fund and Highland Council to install one in Fort Augustus. The project came in within budget which meant that the Community Company did not need to use any of its own funds for the facility.

This has now been installed in the car park at the top of Bunoich Brae. The Highland Council will shortly be providing signage for it from the A82.

Breaking news - Girvans Hardware Store



After many years of serving the community with its hardware needs, Girvans is up for sale! The owners wanted to try and maintain the facility for local use, so approached the Community Company about purchasing it.

We are delighted to tell you that we are in the process of going through the legalities, both to purchase the hardware store and associated buildings and to ensure that we will not be contravening our charitable aims.

We are hopeful that if all goes well the purchase will be finalised in January 2023. The intention is to retain the premises, at least in part, as a hardware store selling all the things that the community purchases most regularly. However, as the bike business is not part of the sale there will be some additional space that we will be looking to use for other community benefit.

Convent Land Plans

Some of you will be aware that we've been carrying out work on the old convent land. The caretakers have created a community composting site and made a start on clearing some of the overgrowth of rhododendrons. There are more plans for the area though, including a community garden, improving access paths, outdoor play area and sympathetically designed workshop space. All this needs careful planning and input from you the community. So, to make this happen we've applied to an external funder for 3 years funding to employ a Development Officer to focus on the convent land and bring people's ideas for the land to fruition. If all goes well we hope to have someone in post by next spring.



Community Caretakers

With winter approaching the team are currently working on the completion of several practical projects with a deadline of early December. Some of these projects have included the construction of a new entrance path to Auchterawe cemetery, construction and installation of new rustic benches (various locations), community composting management, community firewood distribution and preparing our raised beds and tubs to ensure continuous floral displays come next spring and onwards.



Let's not forget our 'Bread and Butter' core villages maintenance work, which should definitely not be overshadowed by our more grandiose projects. This includes daily waste management, dealing with leaf fall / debris and clearing roadside blocked drains to name a few; all of which are essential works to keep a village functioning and looking fantastic.

Our community composting project has proved extremely popular since the start of Spring 2022, which has really shown the need for such a service to be within our location. The team has worked hard to make this happen by dealing with the compostable debris in various ways, including chipping, turning, shovelling, dragging, sorting etc.



For this service to continue we will require further input from our users for next year; we would really appreciate it if our users could help out by disposing of their waste in the correct bays. To help with this, the community company will invest in better signage and interpretation, so that the vegetation waste will be put to its best use as and when you visit.

Looking ahead, we will be preparing for Christmas and managing our shorter days with essential works. For the team, this will include erecting Xmas trees and organising salt / grit for the roads and pavements (to ensure Santa can land safely when he arrives!)

**Happy Christmas everyone from all at
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company.**





Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2022 at 7.30pm at Fort Augustus Memorial Hall.

Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon (DM) Chair

Helen Clay (HC) Secretary

Mike Anderson (MA) Treasurer

Clare Pegrum (CP)

Jeff Dymond (JD)

Hilary Wilson (HW)

Apologies:

Iain MacKnocher (IM) Vice-chair

Robert MacDonald (RM)

David Fraser Cllr (DF)

Chris Ballance Cllr (CB)

Previous minutes were approved by DM and seconded by MA

Tomchrasky windfarm representatives cancelled their planned presentation – coming to November meeting instead.

Treasurer's Report:

The bank account currently stands at £4204.49.

Matters Arising:

Charles Stephen, the Highland Council Ward manager retires on 31st October and we wish him well.

Yellow lines, white lines and zigzags are to be painted in Fort Augustus on 2nd November, weather permitting. All lines, laybys, bus stops etc will also be repainted by BEAR Scotland.

Glenmoriston Estate Access - ongoing

Scottish Canals - Grass cutting on Caledonian House land has still not happened, HC to contact Ailsa Andrews again.

Oich Road parking - ongoing

Unauthorised signage - ongoing

Police Report:

HC to contact the Police about including the A87 and AA87 and to ask if the format can



be changed back to the original one Report date 27.09-17.10.22 - no incidents of note regarding road safety/ concerns for public etc

1 report of phishing fraud - advice given

Correspondence: - none

Community Amenity Issues:

DM to meet with Glenurquhart and Abriachan/Lochend CCs on 2nd November to discuss ongoing issues with the A82

Invermoriston Recreational Field -There is a meeting at the Millennium Hall on 4th November between 2pm - 4.30pm to discuss the field and also find out what play equipment the local children would like to see in the recreational field and also at the land by the Millennium Hall

Invermoriston Community Shop - A questionnaire has gone out to all local residents to see what is wanted or needed.

Renewables:

Culachy - The proposal is 8 turbines with a lifespan of 35 years

Tomchrasky - ongoing

Tarff Bridge - ongoing

Planning:

22/04296/FUL change of use to form holiday letting units at The Jaggy Thistle

22/04260/S42 Application for planning permission for development without complying with condition 6, construction of public footpath - 8 Glendale Park Invermoriston

22/04295/FUL I MacKnocher - erection of toilet and shower block

DM has asked for an extension to the Boathouse Restaurant planning so we can put in comment

A.O.B.C:

It was agreed for Hilary Wilson to be co-opted onto the Community Council.

FAGCC - JD will resign from the board of directors at the AGM and HC will take his place as the Community Council representative.

Community Assets – Inchnacardoch Bay walkway has collapsed, FAGCC will rebuild and charge the Community Council.

Fort Augustus toilets - the state of the toilets are still an ongoing problem and a discussion followed.

The next meeting is on Wednesday at 7.30pm on 30th November at the Memorial Hall in Fort Augustus.

Notice Board



THE GLENGARRY TRUST FUNDING

Funding is available for organisations, groups and individuals operating or living in the Glengarry Community Council area.

We meet every three months to review applications that we receive and we would be really pleased to hear from you if you are a student in further/higher education or about to start your studies, need adaptations in your home to continue to live there, or are an organisation or group with a project idea you need funding for.

Deadlines for applications (all by 5pm that day):

21st November 2022 (for our meeting on 12th December)

20th February 2023 (for our meeting on 13th March)

22nd May 2023 (for our meeting and AGM on 12th June).

We also have an Apprenticeship scheme – if you are about to leave school or have left school and are interested in this then please let us know!

Website: www.glengarrytrust.org.uk
Email: glengarrytrust@gmail.com

Please also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust

Feeling the pinch and need some help?

**Is heating your home too expensive?
Are your food costs stretching your budget too far?**

Rising costs are affecting everyone in different ways. Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, supported by SSE Renewables, are offering a special grant to help those worst affected.

If you are in receipt of one of these:

- Universal Credit
- Pension Credit
- Council tax reduction (other than single person discount)



You can apply for up to £250 per person (maximum £500 per household). This is a limited grant so don't leave it too long!

For your application form and full details either go to our website www.communitycompany.co.uk/grants or call us on 01320 366800.



Bus to Fort William

***** Open to all ages *****

**Wednesday 21st December
£3**

Departing Fort Augustus Car Park 0945
Police Station 0950
Abertarff Place 0955
Newton 1005
Invergarry 1015

Leaving Fort William 1300

* Visit to Retail Park (M&S, Aldi etc) *
Return to Fort Augustus 1520 approx
Shophmobility scooters available. Please ask when booking.

To book please telephone
Jenny: 01320 366438

Fort Augustus
Senior Citizens' Association



6th Annual Highland Hospice

Quiz Night

Fort Augustus Village Hall

Thursday 1st December
7.30pm for 8pm start

Teams of Four

Individuals and smaller groups are very welcome and we'll make up some extra teams on the night

Entry £3 per person, under 16s £1



Bar & Raffle
Free Nibbles

Notice Board




Fed up with eating on your own?

Come and join the Fort Augustus Senior Citizens Lunch Club. We meet every Monday in the Lock Inn and enjoy a two course lunch together, along with a good catch up on local news, all this for the princely sum of £5. We are able to keep the price low because we are kindly supported by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company.

We are a chatty group who are always happy to meet new members and get to know them. We can often share lifts, if getting here is a problem.

If you are over 60 and would like to join this sociable group we would love to meet you. To find out more or to come along to meet us all, just give Jenny a call on 01320 366438. We hope to see you soon.




3 Glens
Community Care

3 Glens Helping Hands Befriending Service

3 Glens Community Care are delighted to be offering a Befriending Service to the residents of Glengarry, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston.

If you need some extra support and friendship then we would love to help you! See over for more details on using the service.

Contact us at:
contact@3glenscare.org



3 Glens Community Care
Working with
Highland
Hospice

As a Volunteer

You could make a marked difference to someone's life.

- Providing a listening ear over a cup of tea.
- We try to match our clients with a volunteer sharing similar interests, so sharing a hobby e.g. gardening can be fun.
- If able, you could take your client for a short car trip or visit the shops/have a cuppa together.
- Main carers find a small break can be a lifeline.
- Full training and support is provided.

Volunteers will not be involved with personal care, medical care, counselling, domestic tasks or financial matters.

The Service

Our volunteer befrienders offer social and practical support to individuals feeling lonely or isolated.

Visits are arranged between you and your befriender usually weekly/fortnightly.

Are you struggling with deteriorating health and family live a distance away? Our volunteers could visit for a chat.

COVID 19 has impacted us all in many ways but perhaps it has left you with feeling of anxiety or loneliness, and this service could help you in these areas.

Our volunteers are everyday people wishing to provide support. They are PVG scheme approved and trained in the role. Your confidentiality will be respected.



We would love to hear from you if you would like to explore further how this service can help you or someone you know.

Get in touch with our Development Officer by emailing contact@3glenscare.org

If you have an hour or so to spare, are interested in helping someone in your local community and would like to volunteer then please get in touch.



Notice Board

**GLENGARRY SHINTY CLUB
PRESENTS
A CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

**THURSDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2022
6.00pm—7.30pm**

CAR PARK, FORT AUGUSTUS

Join us for a Community Christmas Gathering with Carol Singing, Festive Refreshments, Late Night Shopping, Win a Polar Bear, Meet Santa and our Festive Tractor Run!

Also remembering our loved ones on our Festive Memories Tree

All in Aid of MacMillan Cancer Support

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Notice Board



ZUMBA®

**EVERY BODY
EVERY LEVEL**

**Wednesday 7.15pm
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall**

To book your place email
zumbadebbiegg@gmail.com



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.

YOGA CLASS

(All levels of experience including beginners)

THURSDAY MORNING

10.30 - 12.00 NOON

£8.00 each Session

Bring mat and wear loose fitting clothes.

Yoga not only covers physical benefits. It also teaches
relaxation and stress management.



For further details Elaine

Tel: 07747404544

email:

bodysenses1@outlook.com

Booking required in advance

(places are limited)

JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS PARTY
17th DECEMBER

FORT AUGUSTUS VILLAGE HALL
BABIES - PRIMARY 3
12PM - 2PM
PRIMARY 4 - PRIMARY 7
3PM - 5PM

Notice Board

Interested trying your hand at Golf?

Now is your chance.....



Thanks to funding from Falck Renewables, the Glengarry Trust and Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company we are able to offer local residents, of any age, a free half hour coaching session with Fort Augustus Golf Club.

To book your session contact: **Dave MacKay on 07454 329484**

This is a limited offer so don't delay, book your session now while spaces are available.



CHRISTMAS MARKET

FORT AUGUSTUS VILLAGE HALL
SUN 4TH DECEMBER
11am-3pm

Bread, cakes, jams, jewellery,
candles, woodwork, wax melts,
horn craft, knitting,
crochet, dog treats and more

tea, coffee, juice and cake being served

kids craft corner for donations to toddlers

FORT AUGUSTUS MEN'S SHED



We are a small group of local men who meet on a weekly basis and are at the start of our journey in creating a Men's Shed in Fort Augustus. We would really like you to share in the development of what will become YOUR shed covering Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and surrounding areas. The Scottish Men's Shed Association is actively encouraging new 'Sheds' as part of its network to support the well-being and mental health of men.

So, what is a Men's shed?

It's a place open to all men over the age of 18 voluntarily run by the men where they can socialise and work on projects or hobbies. Whilst partly a workshop, a Men's Shed is known for using tools to practice craft skills under the practical guidance of others and perhaps undertaking some local repairs – it would also offer a meeting space with refreshment facilities. We may also choose to have a pool table, probably a quiet space or even a tv room ... how would you see your local shed developing?

Now we need your help

While we have been offered a building in Fort Augustus, it may be many months before building starts and we are able to have a physical space in which to set up the workshop. So, if you know of any suitable building in the village, either for a social meeting space, or larger to accommodate a workshop, please get in touch and let us know.

If you would like to get involved or have any information on a meeting space, please email us at ftaugmshed@gmail.com or speak to Dave or John on 07544 733659 for more details about YOUR shed.

More information is available at www.scottishmsa.org.uk

3 MEN'S COMMUNITY CARE

COME HAVE A MINCE PIE AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US

GUESTS INCLUDE AGE SCOTLAND, HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND AND LOCAL GROUPS

TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER
THE BRITISH LEGION, FORT AUGUSTUS 10:00 - 12:00	GLENGARRY COMMUNITY HALL 12:00 - 14:00
MILLENNIUM HALL, INVERMORISTON 14:00 - 16:00	