

Ness News

Community News & Events

March 2023



Gold Medal



Girvan's Farewell



Rally Champs





Welcome to this Spring edition and WOW, there is so much going on that we have had to add 8 extra pages. Please read everything as there is so much especially about mental health issues. I'm so glad to see so many clubs and activities have been formed or recommenced as there is something for everybody from the Brownies to the Men's Shed who are both looking for new members as well as the local camera club so have a look at the adverts and read the articles.

The Gathering, Community Tuesdays (Invermoriston) and The Craic (Invergarry) have all been well attended and going from strength to strength but there's also the weekly Men's Shed, the weekly Thursday coffee mornings in the church hall and the Ladies' Group who also meet there on the first Tuesday of the month in Fort Augustus.

The Fort Augustus Senior Citizens' Association runs a shopping bus trip on the 3rd Wednesday every month for £3 return with 3 different hourly stops in Fort William with helpers on hand to assist with mobility and shopping which you don't get with the free bus pass. We have access to mobility scooters if needed and are also planning to arrange a couple of trips to Inverness in the future. We have also opened it up to any age group so it is a bargain at £3 return saving on fuel and service bus costs. Please use this service so that we don't lose it and we would love to see Invergarry and Invermoriston folks use it. Contact Jenny on 01320 366438 to book your seat.

The Fort Augustus Senior Citizens' Association held a Christmas Lunch in The Lovat in December which was well attended after a 3-year break and everybody seemed to enjoy it. Our next event is an Afternoon Tea at the church hall next Tuesday, 7th March after a very short AGM at 2.30pm so come along for a cuppa at 3pm.

The Christmas Gathering Tractor Run in December was a huge success and money collected went to Macmillan Cancer Support Scotland so well done to Elaine Cameron and all those involved and we'll look forward to this year's one.

Finally, the Community Council has their AGM on Wednesday, 31st May at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus. We are looking for a Minute-taker which is a paid position and involves being at monthly meetings except July and December and producing the Minutes so not too onerous.

NB. - Fort Augustus Senior Citizens' Association are looking for a Treasurer to help keep an eye on accounts but it should not be too taxing (Sorry for the pun!) Contact details below for both positions.

Deirdre MacKinnon
Chair
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council
07746839568
deirdre_x@hotmail.co.uk

Editors
Deirdre MacKinnon
Seonaid MacDonald Urquhart
nessnews-paper@outlook.com

Girvan's Farewell



After many years of business in Fort Augustus and with a heavy heart, the Girvan family have decided the time is right to move on.

Wilson (with his brother Jimmy) bought Grant's Garage in 1971 and over the 51 years developed it into the Great Glen Trading Centre to include the Petrol Station, Supermarket, Gift Shop, Pharmacy and Post Office. Wilson has been such a strong influence in all of this and was always looking at making the business better for the local area.

Over the years during summer holidays, Blair, Ross and Robbie all worked there and enjoyed the fun times. All the boys were born in Fort Augustus and started their schooling there. We all have happy memories off our times in the village.

Robbie has been in charge of the Great Glen Trading Centre for the past 5 years but decided he needed a change of lifestyle. Ross was involved with the building of the Hardware Store and ran it successfully for 9 years particularly enjoying the bike hire and sales. He and Georgina have taken over a new business near Pitlochry. We are so happy the Community Company have bought over the Hardware Store and we wish them every success.

We would like to thank our loyal staff ... past and present (so many over the years) especially those who have been an invaluable part of our team. We would also particularly like to say a huge THANK YOU to all our customers in Fort Augustus and the surrounding area. We appreciated your support and friendship.

We will miss Fort Augustus and wish you all well in the future.

The Girvan family

Blast from the Past



Roualeyn George Gordon Cumming

Of all the great Victorian eccentrics, perhaps the most bizarre in habits was the big game hunter, Roualeyn Gordon Cumming.

After years in South Africa as a lion hunter, during which he was suspected by the Boers of gun running to the natives, he returned to the UK to exhibit his trophies, first in London at the Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851 then in Inverness.

In 1852, he bought the old Free High Church building in Bank Street to house his large collection of stuffed animals, skins and trophy heads.

He later moved to Fort Augustus in 1858 where he opened a museum on the canal bank beside the old Fort charging a shilling per person. This proved to be an entertainment diversion for the passengers on steamers with time on their hands when the steam boats went through the locks.

There can be few exhibits as exotic as Cumming himself, a power man of great physique, clad in extravagant Highland dress. He was usually accompanied by his faithful friend, Donald Cumming the local blacksmith and one of his tame goats. Roualeyn wore a kilt of Gordon tartan and a plaid of the same fastened by a large brooch, a frilled shirt, Highland bonnet or a brass helmet on his head, buckled shoes or boots and a great amount of jewellery including silver fishhooks in his ears and carried a high staff.

On warm days, he was known for wandering around clad only in his shirt and stockings carrying his kilt over his arm, his hair was dropped in long ringlets.

Cumming was known to wander in the woods in Glenmoriston from morning to night cutting down hazel which he would make into walking sticks for sale. He used to speak to everyone he met on the road in a very musical voice not what you would expect from such a large man. The young women in the area admired him greatly and used to

present him with tartan plaids or silver jewellery.

He lived in a little thatched cottage in Fort Augustus but seemed to spend most of his time with his friend, Donald and his sister Peggy at the Smithy cottage in Invermoriston. Donald saw him as a hero and would do anything for him such as writing to Roualeyn's family and relatives requesting money for him. Many a supper Peggy prepared for him at all hours and it was no light snack as he thought nothing of finishing a whole leg of mutton and a dozen salt herring at one sitting and finishing off with oatcakes and cheese.

Roualeyn Gordon Cumming came from Morayshire and after joining the Army, he visited Canada, India and South Africa with his regiment. His desire to explore the bush was so strong that he bought himself out of the army and spent five years as a big game hunter. He got together a collection of flora and fauna of Africa that proved to be one of the finest collections ever assembled by a single individual.

In his book, "Five Years Adventures In the Far Interior of South Africa" which ran to eight editions where he tells of meeting the Scottish missionary, David Livingstone in the wilds of Africa.

When Roualeyn first came home from foreign lands, he brought with him a little African servant but sadly the young African caught smallpox and died in the Inverness Infirmary much to his master's great grief.

When the exhibition closed, the timbers and the roof were used for the rebuilding of the Church of Scotland in the village.

Roualeyn died on 24th March 1866 in Fort Augustus.

Maureen Ferguson

Oban Times Gold Medal



Eilidh Davies who was brought up in Invergarry, won the prestigious Oban Times Gold Medal for solo singing at the Royal National Mòd in Perth in October.

Eilidh, who works as a sports reporter for BBC Sport in Inverness, is now a double Mòd gold medallist, after winning the An Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal in 2012 in Dunoon. Her grandfather, Jock MacAskill also competed for this medal in 1935 and 1937.

She is also a clàrsach player and a member of Dingwall Gaelic Choir.

Glengarry Shinty Club

Glengarry Shinty Club Round Up

It has been a quiet few months for the Shinty Club, we have all enjoyed a break away from shinty to a certain degree but are now gearing up for a busy Season 2023!

The Senior men's team have been training since early January, testament to their commitment by travelling up to Inverness to use all-weather facilities in town each Thursday evening and of course, 'enjoying' Vicky's class on a Tuesday night. The Men's team have a couple of pre-season friendly fixtures organised on Feb 18th against Lochcarron and Feb 25th against Oban Celtic, check the club's Facebook page for more information.

In addition to our Senior men's team, we are working to offer less competitive shinty to the males in our community, so if you haven't played shinty for a few years and are keen to give it another go, have just moved to the area and would like to give it a go or if you are 13+ and want to progress gently into senior shinty, then these sessions will benefit you greatly – please give Elaine a message on 07787 404472 if you are interested.

The Women's team have had a little more abrupt start to their season, when we hosted the Johnstone Trophy Indoor Tournament in the Nevis Centre, Fort William a few weeks ago – the Johnstone Trophy is the oldest competitive trophy in the Women's game and was donated to Glengarry Shinty Club by D.A. Johnstone Contractors of Invergarry in 1999. This was its return since Covid and the tournament was a great success, Skye Camanachd ran out winners after an exciting final against the holders, Badenoch. Our own team did well and were close to qualification to the semi's which is impressive given we had a lot of our younger girls playing for their first time ever indoors.

Our Juniors have, as always, been impressing and working hard – this winter, we have been fortunate enough to be allowed to use the Fort Augustus Village Hall for our junior sessions, with our rubber topped plastic sticks and soft ball, it is an ideal location for the kids to practice and blow off steam – sessions have been running over weekends, but demand and enthusiasm has been such from the kids that we have been running extra week night sessions when we can get access to the busy hall.



Our age group teams have been playing in some friendly indoor competitions in Fort William against other Lochaber area schools and our teams have done very well. This held them in good stead going in to the National Indoor First Shinty Primary School Lochaber Area Qualifiers, where our P5 (U10's) team did great and came through with 6 wins and 1 draw to seal their qualification to the National Finals – an amazing achievement for our small community. The National Finals take place in Fort William on Friday 24th February and I am sure the excitement going in to these will be unmanageable!

The tenacity of our juniors never fails to impress our junior coaches, parents and club and we were blown away by the performances in the later part of the tournament, where they played some very impressive and skilful shinty, one game against Inverlochy, who were possibly the favourites to win the qualifiers. We found ourselves 2-0 down very quickly – in a 5 minute game, it didn't leave much time for a comeback, but comeback we did and were pretty quickly level at 2-2 and with the very last strike of the ball, Jack rocketed the ball in to the top of the net to give us a 2-3 win! A very impressive victory for the team and we won't mention the coaches' input at that particular moment (if you know, you know!!!!)

A change to the rules of eligibility for the qualifiers made it impossible for our P7 team to compete in their area qualifiers but we won't be the only team affected by this change and there will be plenty more games coming up for all the age group teams.

Our Junior Sessions are now on a Saturday morning and you can get the details on our club's Facebook page – it is always great to see new faces.

Glengarry Shinty Club Christmas Gathering 2022

It feels like it was a long time ago now, but we wanted to say a quick thank you to everyone who came along and supported our first ever Christmas Gathering on 22nd December. We raised an amazing amount of money for MacMillan Cancer Support Scotland and think we were a bit overwhelmed by the amount of people who came out to enjoy the event and especially the tractors, lorries, breakdowns, diggers etc – wow, it truly was an amazing night.



A few thank you's also to those who played a massive part in making the event the success it was – thank you to Deirdre MacKinnon, Lorn MacKay, Kathryn Sharples and Claire Pegrum, our amazing Carol Singers, the amazing The Fillers for the tunes and of course our brilliant wee dancers! Thank you to all our drivers, who I think we can all agree, made such a massive effort with their vehicles!

Is it too early to say we are looking forward to Christmas 2023 yet?

Glengarry Shinty Club Starts the Mental Health Conversation

During December, Elaine Cameron was invited to join the SAMH (Scottish Association of Mental Health) Gain the Advantage Charter, Fort William Shinty Club and Kilmallie Shinty Club had secured funding for this initiative and opened up spaces for local clubs to join, so we jumped at the opportunity to learn more about the topic of Mental Health. As part of the Gain the Advantage Charter, the Club has agreed to 'Start the Mental Health Conversation' and feel it is important that not just the Club benefits from this resource but our community too. In a time where resources are stretched to an all-time high, we want to raise awareness of Mental Health and create a community environment where we can hopefully recognise and help when our near and dear are needing that support and how to get professional help and support.

We are grateful to the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company for their support of our ideas and providing funding which can hopefully make a difference to not just our club but our community too.

As part of the project, we will be hosting a Mental Health Awareness workshop on Tuesday 7th March at 7.15pm at Fort Augustus Village Hall, this workshop will be open to everyone – not just members of the Shinty Club but everyone in our community. Following on from our Mental Health Awareness Workshop on 7th March, we will be hosting a fully certified Mental Health First Aid Course, spaces for this will be limited and we ask that if this is something you would be interested in, please email: Community.GGSC@aol.com for more information and to register your interest.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WORKSHOP TUESDAY 7th MARCH 7.15pm
FORT AUGUSTUS We will be advertising this locally and on social media, so please keep an eye out or contact Community.GGSC@aol to register interest or for more information.

Nursery

The Nursery was inspected on 6th December 2022 by the Care Inspectorate, the scrutiny body that sets national standards for care services, including early learning centres. We are happy to inform you that our nursery received a "very good" in "Nurturing care and support" and a "very good" in "Staff deployment". We also received "good" ratings in all other areas. Key messages from the report were that children were happy and settled, snack and meal times were relaxing and a sociable time for the children, staff/children interactions were positive and promoted language development, and the staff team worked very well together to ensure positive outcomes for the children. Full report can be found on the Care Inspectorate website.

Fort Augustus Parish Church

'Goings On!'

There is a lot going on at your local Church of Scotland so, why not come along and enjoy the company, the 'craic' and the opportunity to celebrate.

Each week sees a Thursday Community Cafe from 10am to 11.30am in the Church Hall. There's a Brownie Pack meeting on Wednesday evenings, a monthly Heritage Group with fascinating talks on the history of the Great Glen area, a sewing group and more. Next month sees the Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 12th March at 10am. Come along and find out what is going on.

On Friday 3rd March, Fort Augustus Church will be joining with Glengarry Church for worship (in its yearly turnabout) for the World Day of Prayer service at 7pm. This year, we will be thinking about Taiwan.

This Easter there will be films in the Church Hall on Friday 31st March at 7pm and Saturday 15th April a big Family Film Show.(details to be announced)

Easter services will be held on -

Maundy Thursday 6th April at 6pm (Communion) Glengarry Church.

Good Friday 7th April 'Reflections on the Cross' at Fort Augustus Church 7pm.

Easter Sunday 9th April at 10am Family Service with Communion (and family egg hunt after the service) at Fort Augustus Church.

The Minister is always pleased to talk with you if, you are planning a family occasion like a baptism or wedding at church.

Please feel free to call him for more information on: 01320 366210
or, email: Ajones@churchofscotland.org.uk

Christmas Party Committee

The Fort Augustus Children's Christmas Parties Committee would like to thank everyone who supported us during our fundraising last year and helped at the parties. We want to express a special thank you to Cruise Loch Ness, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, the Vernon family of Glendoe Estate and an anonymous donor for their support and donations towards last year's Christmas Parties. We really couldn't do these parties for the children without the support and donations we receive, so thank you again. We would also like to thank The Bothy (Kathryn and Finlay Ross) for helping with the food for both parties which was really appreciated. Finally, thank you to Santa for finding time in your busy schedule to visit us.

THANK YOU EVERYONE,
Gemma, Jess and Lisa

3 GLENS COMMUNITY CARE

'Supporting Our Communities'



Three Community events were held in December to promote our 'up and running' Befriending service.



Tuesday 13th – at Fort Augustus British Legion was unfortunately blighted by the heavy snow which fell overnight. Attendance was minimal and a planned visit by Home Energy Scotland was cancelled. Hot drinks, courtesy of Fiona and the British Legion, and festive mince pies were much appreciated.

Glenmoriston held their first 'Community Tuesday' at the Millennium Hall - we joined them in the afternoon for a well-attended and very social afternoon.



Wednesday 14th December was the Glengarry Craic's Christmas Lunch and all we extras were very generously included in the lunch.

Jo Cowan from Age Scotland and Highland Senior Citizens Network attended all events. The local Fire Service were represented at Millennium Hall to advise on Home Safety. Home Energy Scotland representatives made it from Inverness on the Wednesday.

Coming soon...

AGM

Monday 15th May

2:30-4:30 pm

Fort Augustus Village Hall

Join 3 Glens CC as a Trustee and help us to help our communities.

Contact:
chair@3glenscare.org

Extend a hand and change a life

TOGETHER LETS END LONELINESS AND ISOLATION!

Become a Volunteer Befriender today!

Find out more please call 07507627990 or e mail contact@3glenscare.org

Our mission:

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

Burns' Night



It was with a sense of trepidation when the Committee of the Glengarry Community Hall sat down with a proposal to hold a Burns' Supper in January. Having missed three years with Covid restrictions would people still turn out to this ever popular event? Could we find a band, speakers and with the current trend to rewilding would we be able to find Haggis roaming freely on the hills?

All our apprehensions were put to rest when we hosted our Burns' night last month. Robert Nairn and Friends band is a firm favourite in Invergarry renowned for his West coast style of music which can get anyone on the dance floor. Local speakers agreed to make the appropriate toasts and speeches and a supply of newly culled Haggis was accessed on an estate near Inverness.

In the end, over eighty guests attended on the evening from as far afield as a contingent from Fort William backed up by some regulars from Invermoriston and pleasing to see friends from Fort Augustus who have attended and supported us over the years. One highlight of the evening was the attendance of local families with teenagers and younger offspring dancing and asking when is the next event when we can do these traditional dances?

Neillie Stewart generously agreed to be Fear an Tighe for the evening. The Haggis was piped into the Hall by Ewen Henderson carried by James Menzies. The Selkirk Grace, the address and toast to the Haggis was made by Bob Lee. As part of the entrance fee each attendee received a complementary drink for the appropriate toasts. The meal of Haggis, neeps and tatties was followed by a delicious home made fruit salad. The address and toast to the ladies was made by Stanley MacDonald. Well researched and sometimes light hearted, this was followed by an equally well researched response by Sonia Robbins. I wonder what Robbie would have thought of Google?

Dancing followed with a great selection of tunes and traditional dances from Robert and Ewen. A traditional part of our evening is for everyone to get together and sing some Burns songs from song sheets which are passed around. The evening came to the end with an Orcadian Strip the Willow with Ewen accompanying Robert on the pipes. Some folks' highlight of the evening, followed by Auld Lang Syne.

This event would not take place without our local volunteers who set up tables, prepare in the kitchen, serve the meal and clear up at the end of the evening. Without this team in the background, many of the events we hold would not happen. Many thanks to them all and to all of you who attended. We hope to see you all next year.

Regards,
Lea MacNally

Local Success In Scottish Rally Championship

Rhuaridh (ROO) Campbell from Cluanie estate, Glenmoriston and Shaina Archibald from Invermoriston enjoyed a great season in the Scottish Rally Championship 2022 finishing 6 of their 7 events and Shaina claiming Junior Champion Co-Driver and 1st in class at their last event of the year at the Carlisle Rally in Rhuaridh's Chrysler Sunbeam 2000cc rally car and following the SRC awards at the Hilton, Glasgow on 28th January where they were celebrating Shaina's success, Rhuaridh was awarded the "Becksport People's Champion" which rounded off a fantastic season for them both.

Rhuaridh and his chief mechanic Josh Paterson have spent all winter stripping the car down and rebuilding it ready for this year's Scottish Rally Championship with a new engine and a lot of modifications to improve the car. They are hopeful of improved results this year and let's hope more success starting at the Snowman Rally on the 4th March.

They both would like to thank their team who help them on all the rallies, Josh Paterson and William Archibald who service the car at each event and between events and Tricia Archibald who keeps them fed and watered with her amazing home baking and also the sponsors for last year, Westfield Generators, MacLean Coaches and Kennedy Accountancy.

Rhuaridh and Shaina are looking for sponsors for this coming season, so if you know of anyone that can help them to more local success let them know.



Announcements

Graduations



Shannon Stewart, Invergarry gained her BA Honours in Child and Youth Studies at the University of the Highlands and Islands and graduated on 7th October 2022. She is now studying for her post graduate in primary school teaching at Dundee University.

Marriages



Grant Straube and Caitlin Milne got married on the 22nd October 2022 at the Jury Hotel in Inverness.

Births



Claire and Daniel welcomed Ronnie Daniel Johnston Sandham born 05:20am on 25th November 2022 at Raigmore Hospital weighing 9lb 7oz.



Eilidh Sheila Carola Farmer, born on 1st January 2023, to Eoghan and Mairi. Weighing, 7lb 3oz at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Glasgow.

Deaths



Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, after a long illness battled with bravery and dignity and with her family by her side, on Wednesday January 11th 2023.

Margaret Sandra Girvan (nee Fraser) aged 68 years, of Ceannacroc Estate, Glenmoriston and formerly of Glebe Farm, Kiltarlity. Dearly loved wife of Martin, much loved mum to Martin and Sandra, mother in law to Leigh and adoring granny of Rory, Jamie, Tabitha and Jacob, sister of Don and a friend to many.



Elsie Marjory MacLean MacKenzie was born in Inverness on 11th January, 1938 to Duncan and Elsie MacKenzie, a baby sister for three year old Sheila. In 1940, the family moved to Newtonmore when Duncan was appointed Headmaster. The following year another daughter Kathleen was born. In 1948, the family moved to Edinburgh. Marjory (as she was always called) and her sisters loved life in Edinburgh. When Marjory left school, she went to work for the National Coal Board in Edinburgh. Later on, when the family moved to Inverness she worked for the Coal Board there. She then moved back to Edinburgh to be a receptionist at the Braid Hills Hotel. Some time later, she moved to Fort Augustus. She worked as a receptionist at the Lovat Arms Hotel. Marjory also worked for some time at the Glengarry Castle Hotel.

After leaving hotel work, she was employed in various places around the village; the Tourist Board,

Coffee Shop, the Abbey, and as a relief Post Mistress. She also served for 10 years with the WRVS.

Marjory enjoyed travelling and holidaying abroad. She liked the outdoors and went for many walks with her beloved dogs, 'Lucy' and, later 'Max'. In Fort Augustus she bowled and, played tennis and golf. Her pride and joy was her garden and many a happy hour was spent adding plants and keeping it tidy.

Marjory was a trained soprano and sang with the Opera Companies both in Edinburgh and Inverness. Wherever she stayed, she would always attend church and, she became a choir member. She was an excellent artist and even painted the young Sean Connery when he was a model!

Marjory also liked meeting up with friends for coffee and attending any functions. She took great interest in the life of the Church and the village. She served on Fort Augustus Church Board and loved supporting events in the Hall and fundraising tea parties. Sadly, for the past four or five years she has had a lot of health problems. She spent quite a lot of time in and out of hospital. For the past year, she was more or less housebound which she found very difficult. She went to hospital for the final time on her birthday

in January when Marjory's health gradually deteriorated. Finally, she passed away peacefully in hospital on 10th February.

The family would like to thank Raigmore hospital for their tender care of her. The family would also like to thank the District Nurses and, those members of the Sunflower Home Care Group who called twice daily to give her any help they could. A special mention must be made of Mary Ann MacNally for exceptional loving care of Marjory. Nothing was too much trouble (even coming in the middle of the night if necessary).

Marjory will be greatly missed by her family and, all who knew and loved her in our community.



Adam Philip's parents were married on 2nd January 1936 and on 13 April 1937, Adam was born on the family farm, "The Dale" at Clovenstone, Kintore in Aberdeenshire. Adam soon had a younger brother Gordon followed by a younger sister Molly. Adam also had a much older





brother Johnny.

Adam's father was an engineer at the local papermills, while his mother tended the farm. When Adam was still a young loon, his mother began to suffer poor health, so from a tender age, Adam was tasked with many of the jobs around the farm. Before school each day, he'd milk the coos and wearing a shoulder yoke, deliver the milk to all his customers on his way to school. Coming home from school, he would collect all the empties. Adam soon became an expert at making cheese and butter and he kept his old butter pats as a fond reminder of his childhood.

His farm chores did not stop there. He broke in the Shelties (Shetland Ponies) for the Coal mines and became expert at dispatching and plucking the chickens, packing them, ready for their train journey to the London Hotels. Adam would often raise a jolly laugh by describing himself as the fastest puller and plucker in town.

Adam had a lot of responsibility as a child. His schoolwork and learning needed his attention too. Encouraged by his father, Adam developed a love of the poetry of Robert Burns and was able to recite many of his poems by heart. This passion he shared with his father was life long and Adam found himself invited to the top table of many a

Burns' Supper where he recited Burns with all the drama and expressiveness of a great story teller. He was even known to recite Burns in the Doric which was his speciality.

Adam knew from an early age he wanted to be an Engineer like his father. He had no illusions which job was the hardest and it was not engineering. He studied at Robert Gordon's college and attained his Highers and went on to study and gain his Higher National Diploma.

Adam served his apprenticeship at the Inverurie Locomotive works, working on all diesel engines. He was not a feertie of heights and was often called on to band industrial sized chimneys. He even worked on the original Forth Road Bridge, repairing girders by cold riveting. He was called up for National Service at age 21 and instead of joining the Royal Navy, he was able to join the Merchant Navy.

It was a very sad day for Adam when he sold the livestock from the farm before heading off to sea. Adam loved his time at sea and when his National Service ended, he promptly signed on again. Adam and his friend Arthur Crawford always enjoyed visiting new places when their ship was moored at some far-flung corner of the earth.

After the merchant navy, Adam met and married Betty. Together they had

two daughters Karen and Sandra. Adam is also a grandfather and great grandfather.

Adam did various other jobs while bringing up his young family before starting a job with Gas and Equipment. Adam was based in the Aberdeen Branch but he worked all over the world. It was during his time with Gas and Equipment that Betty passed away. The company grew with the fast expanding Offshore Oil industry and Adam successfully oversaw the commissioning of production facilities in Stavanger Norway, Singapore and New Orleans.

In addition to the Offshore Oil Industry and helium based diving gases, Gas & Equipment developed industrial gas production and distribution facilities in the U.K. , the main two being Irlam Manchester and Poplar/Stratford London.

It was 1986 at the new Cylinder Gases industrial facility, based in Blackwall, Poplar where Adam and Barbara first met and their romance soon developed (followed five years later by a very successful marriage). Six months after Adam had completed the production plant, the site was compulsory purchased by the Docklands Development Corporation for redevelopment. Adam immediately set about moving the gas production facility to a new site in Stratford London.





Adam then relocated to Stratford, London from Aberdeen and remained with Gas & Equipment in Stratford until retirement with Barbara to Scotland.

When Adam and Barbara retired to the Highlands in 2006, the aim was to live at a much slower pace away from the rat-race of London. Their retirement home "Deer Field" in Glenmoriston was where Adam was able to return to his farming roots. One of his first tasks was to clean the land as it had not been used for agriculture for over 30 years. He bought an old Massey Ferguson tractor to plough and plant the fields with hundreds of seed tatties. Along with the care of the animals, Adam loved cooking, making jams, his traditional Scottish soups and dishes, pates, meat pies and Anglo-Indian curries.

Wherever Adam went, he brought people and communities together through various hobbies and interests. The sharing of his homemade food and surplus produce from his small holding. Adam was a man who had a zest for life and a passion for Burns' Poetry and Song. So it was fitting that on the 25th of January, the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, folk celebrating Adam's life and wished him a fond fare weel.



Mhairi MacDonald was born on 20th December, 1943 in Larachbeg, Lochaline to Hugh and Mary Cameron. She was the youngest of seven children. Mhairi was christened Mary but, everyone called her 'Mhairi'.

Sadly, Mhairi lost her dad when she was 12 and her mum when she was 15. A decision was made for Mhairi to live with her uncle in Drimnin where she took on the role of caring for him and house keeping. A few years later, Mhairi started a house keeping job in the hotel in Onich.

Mhairi and Allan met at a dance in Lochaline and they married in 1965 at Fort William and lived in a caravan at Onich. Eventually, they settled in Fort Augustus where they had three children, Linda, Alexander and Gordon. Mhairi brought up the children while Allan went to work. Mhairi had a great love of badminton. She played in the Fort

Augustus Badminton Club often travelling to play in tournaments.

As the children grew older, Mhairi worked at the Lovat Arms Hotel. She had various cleaning jobs in a few establishments in the village. She was often to be found caring for many an elderly lady or tending to a neighbour. She began working as a cleaner at Kilchuimen Academy in the early 1980's. She continued working at the Academy until her retirement in 2015 at the age of 72.

She loved spending time with her grandchildren, Fraser, Isla, Alanna, Laura, Alexander and Brooke whom she adored very much.



The Fort Augustus Men's Shed



What is The Men's Shed Association?

Men's sheds or community sheds are non-profit local organisations that provide a space for craftwork and social interaction. The movement originated in Australia around the 1980's to improve the health and wellbeing of men. There are now over 900 located across Australia, with thousands of active members. Men's sheds can now be found in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, United States, Canada, Finland, New Zealand and Greece. The slogan for men's sheds is "Shoulder to Shoulder", shortened from "Men don't tend to talk face to face, they tend to talk shoulder to shoulder".

What is a Men's Shed

A shed is a place where men of any age can meet with one another and socialise and chew the fat over a cuppa or some other light refreshment. It can also be a place to pursue hobbies and pastimes or improve their craft skills and their use of tools or to make repairs or produce various items that may be of use to themselves and others or the community generally. It can also be a place to just come and make a cup of tea, sit down, relax, and read your preferred newspaper. Sheds are whatever the members want them to be.

Although labelled sheds, they often aren't sheds at all. They can be empty offices, portacabins, warehouses, garages, self-built sheds, etc. Some Sheds are purpose-built workshops, but they rarely start out that way. Many don't have premises at all in the beginning and instead form a group that meets regularly for the social connection, company and camaraderie, until they can find somewhere to kit out with tools... and a kettle.

This is the stage that the Fort Augustus Men's Shed is now at, i.e., NO SHED. At present, we meet once a week in The Caledonian Canal Café in Fort Augustus at 11 am. on a Wednesday morning – the number in attendance varies. The café makes excellent bacon, sausage and egg rolls but you will need to order by 11 am. at the latest.

As we can see the Men's Shed Association (national and worldwide) has been established for some time but the Fort Augustus branch is a new venture and we are eager to encourage all its members and any other interested parties, to contribute to its development. Currently, we have 10 signed up members and there are a further 12 people who have shown an interest but are awaiting future advancements.

Why are sheds needed?

Men typically find it more difficult to build social connections than women. Younger men have networks of friends and work colleagues and rarely share personal concerns about health or their personal worries. For some men, when retirement comes, it can feel like one's personal identity and purpose is lost. Men's Sheds can help to change that. Sheds are about meeting like-minded people and having someone to share your thoughts with. They are also about having fun and sharing skills and knowledge with like-minded people and by doing so gaining a renewed sense of purpose and belonging.

Our story so far

This venture grew out of the “men’s coffee morning” that we have had once a week at a café in the village. The coffee morning has been ongoing for several years with a compulsory break for Covid. The venue has changed several times but is now as mentioned above.

As stated previously, at present we have 10 members and 12 people who we have registered as interested. From the current members 4 people have formed a steering group to progress the way forward, i.e., the formulation of a development plan and a constitution and to seek out any possibilities of acquiring premises and to pursue any fund-raising opportunities. To this end we have had several meetings with local officials and future meetings are planned. Several possibilities of land or buildings have been mooted in the past but more recently a much more concrete proposal has been put forward for a piece of land to be purchased (in the very near future?) for the erection of a shed or sheds. This piece of land is situated close to the tennis court by Bunoich Brae. The Men’s Shed is extremely hopeful that this proposal will come to fruition soon.

Contact details:

Please ignore any previous contact details. A website is being developed and we are hoping to be on line shortly.

Our current email address is: ftaugmshed@outlook.com

The Suicide Bereavement Support Service

The Suicide Bereavement Support service is a Scottish Government funded pilot project. It’s being delivered in Highland by Change Mental Health (previously Support in Mind Scotland) and the service has been set up to provide support to anyone who has been affected by suicide.

Once you’ve made contact, our specially trained staff will provide you with the space to talk through the many and complex emotions felt after a suicide, and offer ongoing, compassionate, and personalised support based on what you need at the time. Our team can also help with practical things, such as making funeral arrangements, or talking to hospitals, GPs or the police.

How can I access the service?

You can call us on **0800 471 4768** and leave a message or you can email us direct at: suicidebereavementsupport@nhs.scot

Our team can provide support to you over the phone, by secure video calling or if wanted, face to face. In most cases, ongoing support will be provided by the same person and is available for as long as you need it.

We can support you in the days and weeks following a suicide or if you’ve been bereaved in the past and still need support with your grief. All support is free and fully confidential.

As well as being available in Highland, the service is being trialled in Argyll and Bute and Ayrshire and Arran, and you can access the service if you live in any of the delivery areas, or the death of your loved one took place in one of the delivery areas but you may live elsewhere.

If you or someone you know would benefit from support, please don’t hesitate to call us on 0800 471 4768 – leave a name and phone number and we will get back to you within 24 hours. And if you are currently being supported by another service and would prefer them to contact us, please ask them to refer you - your GP can also do this for you.

Loch Ness TaeKwon-Do

Loch Ness TaeKwon-Do, operating under local leading Martial Arts instructor, Simon Canning is enjoying some amazing achievements since re-opening its doors in February 2022. In November 2022, the club attended a seminar and grading hosted by Master Claire Crosbie VII Degree from Dores and Master John McNally VII Degree from Birmingham. Both Masters hold over seventy years' experience between them making the seminar a fantastic success. This seminar saw Simon grading in front the Masters Crosbie and McNally for the prestigious level of fourth degree which is classed in the TaeKwon-Do community as expert level and en route to mastering the art. Simon was delighted to pass the test with an A+ Pass; a fantastic accomplishment to achieve a high marking pass at that level.

The club is proud to announce the most recent grading results attained in December 2022: Aum Gusain promoted to 7th Kup Yellow Belt Green Tags with A Pass
Antonio Demirev promoted to 6th Kup Green Belt with A Pass
Joshua White promoted to 3rd Kup Blue Belt Red Tag with A Pass
Ben White promoted to 3rd Kup Blue Belt Red Tag with A Pass
The high markings of the tests are in indictment to the hard work and dedication the club members continually show.

Simon and club member Red Belt, Lucy Burnett travelled down to Gloucester for the English Open Championships in mid-January 2023. Lucy fought her way through a large division to earn the Bronze medal for sparring and Simon managed to secure the Gold medal for Senior Men's Pattern category. The championship hosted over three hundred competitors so both results are testimony to their efforts and commitment to the art. The next competition is in Edinburgh at the end of March and Club Instructor, Simon hopes for more of his students to travel down and showcase themselves to a large audience and to bring back some well-earned medals on the way.

TaeKwon-Do teaches confidence, discipline and is an interesting way of keeping fit specialising in cardio, strength, power and flexibility. It's also a dynamic system of self-defence, teaching members ways to protect themselves in challenging situations. Simon has been involved in Martial Arts for over thirty-four years and holds a wealth of experience in training, competing and instructing.

The club is always open to new members from six years and up; no previous experience is necessary as Simon and the rest of the club will help and support newcomers, although we are open to everyone. If you have an interest in trying it out, the club runs Mondays 6pm to 7pm and Fridays 5pm to 6pm at Fort Augustus Village Hall. You can contact Simon on 07375 890572 or by email canningsimon@rocketmail.com and join this potentially life changing dynamic art.



The Gathering/An Cruinneachadh

What's it all about? Well, it's a project which will be running throughout the year, with all sorts of interesting events popping up. Due to the generous funding from Fern Community Fund and match funding from the Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company - the project is able to stretch across the communities and bring together all manner of interesting people from near and far.

The Gathering/An Cruinneachadh follows in the wake of The Glen of the Bards Project- which delved into the Gaelic musical and cultural heritage of Glenmoriston. If you had the chance to hear what came out of that, you might be excited already.

Music, story, Gaelic heritage and place are again a big part of this project. But there's more!

Highlander Survival. Movement and Wellbeing. Sculpture and Art. Maps and Story. Fiddles on the mountain...

From the youngest to the oldest, Gaelic speaker or not, and no matter your background - this project is for you.

You have the opportunity to get involved and influence aspects of what goes on!

You can find out more about the people taking part and what skills they are bringing by visiting the website. There is also a Facebook page and Instagram.

Don't miss a thing - please subscribe to the eNewsletter, which you can do via the website.

If you prefer the newsletter delivered in print - for yourself or another - no problem, just get in touch.

The Newsletter will keep you informed of the overall project, and we hope it will be a good and interesting read in itself. It's also one of the ongoing ways you can offer contributions and suggestions, plus interact with the team and the community.

Here are some of the events that have kicked the project off- look out for more!

- Open Afternoon at Fort Augustus with the Team and the Community.
- Glengarry Heritage Centre hosted members of the Project Team and the Community.
- Iona Macleod (Artist), Nicola Wright (Storyteller) visited "Community Tuesday" at the Millennium Hall, Invermoriston
- Story and art sessions with Nicola and Iona for the Playgroup and the Guides and Brownies in Fort Augustus.
- West Glenmoriston Hub in Dalchreichart hosted members of the Project Team and the Community

Joyce Gilbert is managing the project, contact Joyce at ancruinnjg@gmail.com Tel; 07824 380167

Helen Liddle, local contact and newsletter, helen.ancruin@gmail.com Tel; 07960 694786
www.the-gathering.co.uk



Nature Notes

Opening April 2023 - Dundreggan Rewilding Centre

Trees for Life has been rewilding the 10,000-acre estate at Dundreggan since 2008, which is home to more than 4,000 species of plants and animals, including many rare and protected species. In April, the new Dundreggan Rewilding Centre will open on the estate and become a gateway to this unique landscape that is rich in natural and cultural heritage.

Our rewilding work at Dundreggan is allowing the forest to recover through natural regeneration and important fragments of Scotland's Caledonian forest are expanding. Visitors can explore ancient pinewood, discover centuries of Gaelic history and connect with a landscape undergoing transformation through rewilding.

Lots of multi-sensory, hands-on activities will be available for the whole family, including pond dipping, scavenger hunts and shelter building, as well as specialist workshops to learn more about photography, bushcraft, foraging and much more.

Dundreggan is also the location of our tree nursery, where we grow around 90,000 trees every year, including Scots pine, aspen, birch, willow, rowan, juniper and oak, and visitors will be able to take guided tours of the nursery to learn more about the growing and planting process.

A network of footpaths, ranging from easy to strenuous, will meander through the Dundreggan landscape, offering visitors of all abilities an opportunity to spot wildlife, see rewilding in action and experience what makes Dundreggan so special.

Dundreggan and Glenmoriston are areas rich with Gaelic folklore stretching back through the centuries. The people of the past and the communities who still live here are integral to the information and activities available at the Rewilding Centre, and we're so excited to share some of this area's wonderful stories and tales in our storytelling space, Am Bothan (The Bothy). Our storytelling sessions will help visitors visualise Dundreggan's evolution over the years and understand how and why we should continue to rewild this important area and the wider Scottish Highlands.

Our accommodation building will offer a truly immersive experience, allowing visitors to spend longer exploring Dundreggan. With 20 twin/double bedrooms, boot rooms and a communal area for relaxing after a day's adventure, it's a comfortable and convenient base for those keen to spend multiple days experiencing the Rewilding Centre, wider estate and local area.

Facilities at the Rewilding Centre also include classroom space for educational groups, a large multi-purpose presentation and event space, an accessible outdoor play area and a café offering delicious meals and light snacks using seasonal, locally sourced ingredients.

Centre Director, Laurelin Cummins-Fraser, said: "We hope the Rewilding Centre will inspire people to explore and engage with Scotland's wild places, and we can't wait to welcome our first visitors when we open in April. Only by working with nature can we

positively affect the future, and we hope that by offering experiences that bring people and nature together, the Rewilding Centre will help visitors to connect with the landscape and encourage them to play their own part in protecting the natural world.”

Details of our grand opening will be announced soon, so follow us on social media (@visitdundreggan) for the most up-to-date information and visit our website for everything you need to know for planning your visit to Dundreggan. (visitdundreggan.co.uk)



1st Fort Augustus Brownies have been busy this term; we have been focusing on working as a team, we also visited the Screen Machine and celebrated Burns night by trying haggis (both vegetarian and normal). On the 25th February, some of the girls attended World Thinking Day for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in Fort William. We have also been visited by some lovely ladies from The Gathering who did some art work and story telling with the girls, a big thank you to them for coming.

As a lot of our Brownies were at the age where they are too old for Brownies, we have very recently restarted the guides in Fort Augustus.

We have had a couple of new members to Brownies and Guides as well as a returnee which has been brilliant to see. If your daughter is between the age of 7 to 10 years and would like to join Brownies, please get in touch with either myself, Lisa Gordon or Kat Douglass and we will help you register them. Alternatively, if your daughter is aged between 10 to 14 years old, they can register with the Guides, again we will help you with this.

Our new times will be as follows from the 7th March -
Brownies will be 5pm until 6.30pm every Tuesday at the Church of Scotland hall.
Guides will be 6.45pm until 8.15pm again every Tuesday at the Church of Scotland hall.

Lisa and Kat

News from Glenmoriston

Community Tuesdays

These have been running in the Millennium Hall every Tuesday since November and have proved very popular. The aim is to get together in a warm space for the day (or part of it) and food, drinks and activities are provided. People have come from the local area but we have also been able to provide hospitality to stranded motorists, honeymooners, a real man of the road, Americans waiting hours for a bus and most notably Speedo Mick who is walking through the country in his Speedos for charity!

Activities so far include table tennis, indoor curling, table football, bead work, making draught excluders and candles, hand or head massage, demonstration of bread making, Tai Chi, nail manicures, soap making or you can just sit and blether, play scrabble, tackle a jigsaw or read the newspapers.

Police Scotland officers from Driver Engagement North provided an opportunity to test skills on a simulator and provided very useful information about driving safely. Age Concern and other agencies have also been involved. On 28th February, the Highland Council and SSE are talking about Emergency Planning and in April, we will have Citizens Advice and Warm Energy Scotland visiting.

We are funded by Falck Renewables and Highland Council until the end of April, and we are open for all.

Invermoriston Community Shop – thank you to FAGC Company for providing the start-up funding to enable the plans to re-open the shop in Invermoriston as a Community Shop to be realised. We are also applying to the Beinneun Wind Farm community fund for the necessary costs of supporting the shop going forward. The lease has been signed and the volunteers are busy kitting out the shop and making preparations for it to be open on 1st April. We are recruiting for paid managerial staff but also intend, in keeping with the ethos of a community shop, to have a rota of volunteers. Anyone who would like to help will be welcome.

The shop will sell foods and basic items identified in our recent consultations, as well as locally made produce and crafts. If you are interested to hear more about the shop, its hours and what it will sell, come along to Community Tuesday at 2pm on March 7th.

Regular activities in the Millennium Hall

Sunday 3.00 – 4.00 pm 2nd of the month Ecumenical Church Service

Monday 7.30 pm weekly Bowls

Tuesday 11.00 – 7.00 pm weekly Community Tuesday

Wednesday 7.15 pm weekly Zumba

Thursday 10.30 am weekly Yoga

Thursday 2.00 pm weekly Chair Yoga

Thursday 7.30 pm weekly Scottish Country Dance

Friday 7.30 pm monthly Heritage Group

Saturday 11.00 – 3.00 1st and 3rd of month Craft club

Saturday 7.30 pm last of month Quiz

What other events would you like to see – Film Nights, singalong movies, bingo, anything else?

To become a member of the Community Association to receive information about activities and to have a say in how it is run go to <https://www.membermojo.co.uk/glenmoristonhall>



Glenmoriston Craft Club Jubilee Mosaic



Last year the members of Glenmoriston Craft Club held a Mosaic Workshop led by local glass artist, Tim Perkins.

In the first session, we learnt about the history of mosaics and made our own small mosaics. Some folk were worried that they might not be able to do it, but Tim reassured us that he had made mosaics with primary school children and if they can do it, we would have no problems.

The process involved drawing our design on to the base, cutting glass tiles and gluing them on to the base. When the glue had dried, grout was pushed into the gaps between the pieces of tiles and excess wiped away. When completely dry, a final clean revealed our lovely mosaic.

We had so much fun that some of us decided to make a mosaic to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and this is now on display inside Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, for everyone to see.

Craft Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 11am to 3pm and new members are always welcome.



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.

Community Caretakers

The Highland winter has thrown a few challenging days at the team, with freezing temperatures, lumps of snowfall and endless grit bins to fill, but we are seeing through the other end now.

Looking forward to Spring, we have secured a number of solid oak whisky barrels to be used as floral planters throughout the area. Most of our existing tubs have seen their day, so time for bigger and better. We'll make sure there are splashes of colour in each of the villages, which always lifts your mood. However, it's a pity we have to fill them as they have a very addictive aroma about them already!

We will also be opening our Community Composting area again in March, as it proved very popular last year. There will be new signage as guidance and I would encourage users to treat the service with responsibility and not abuse it. The team have already used a lot of the waste products on our projects, such as woodchip mulch or leaf mould.

The Great Wall of China (I mean the Fort Augustus version!) has been the focus of our attention of late. The discussion of, lowering and restoration of the ancient, shuttered wall has been an ongoing project since the community company took ownership of the Old Convent land in 2018. The team have now achieved a stately and safe entrance driveway to the Kilchuimen Cemetery. A yearly maintenance schedule will be a priority every winter, for as long as the caretaking team exist.

The next time you are walking your dog down the drive, I challenge you to spot the Flamingo!

Glen



Grants awarded

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

- Kilchuimen Academy £4,400 to pay for transport on a residential trip
- Kilchuimen Primary Parent Council £2,925 to pay for travel to swimming lessons
- West Glenmoriston Community Company £18,442 to pay for a generator at the Hub
- Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association £38,242 to set up and run a community shop
- Lynne West £550 to engage Plunkett Foundation for advice on setting up a Community Shop
- Robert Spence £300 to undertake special Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Training
- 6 Cost of Living Grants for a value of £2,000 in total.
- 2 Student Grants at £600 each

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.

Tarff Trading – Hardware store



Thursday 26th January saw us taking over the Hardware store. Ian, Chief Officer is pictured here with our first customer.

The Community Company has purchased the building and is leasing it to Tarff Trading, a wholly owned trading subsidiary of FAGCC. This new business has its own Directors and the intention is for it to cover its costs with any small profit to be returned to the community.

We are trying to get to grips with the stock and new systems, so if you can't find what you are looking for John & Nigel will be happy to help.

We will not be doing bike hire this year, so that gives us some scope to look at new product lines. So if there is anything you would like us to stock please do let us know.

There is a suggestion box in-store or you can email the shop directly tarfftrading@gmail.com .

Update on Glentarff House & Memorial Hall

The initial paperwork has now been presented, to start the asset transfer request for both these properties.

They now have to go through due process with both the Highland Council (Memorial Hall) and Scottish Canals (Glentarff House). This may take quite a while. So, if you don't see anything happening yet do not be surprised. We will keep you updated when there is more news.

E-Cars



We took delivery of the first E-car at the end of January. This is now being use by Sunflower Home Care to get to and from their clients in Glengarry. You may see it in the Medical Centre car park being charged up at the new dedicated charging point.

The team had a day of induction into using the car before zipping off to take it for it's first outing.

Invermoriston Falls Shop

The Board of Directors were delighted to support a recent grant application to support the opening of a new community led shop in Invermoriston. The grant will fund the initial stock and set up costs, along with rent and salary of the manager for the first year.

Good luck to the community group who are leading on this, we can't wait to see how they get on.





Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

DRAFT MINUTES - AT FORT AUGUSTUS MEMORIAL HALL,
7.30PM ON 25th JANUARY 2023

PRESENT:

Deirdre MacKinnon (DM) Chair
Helen Clay (HC) Secretary
Mike Anderson (MA) Treasurer

Hilary Wilson (HW)
Claire Pegrum (CP)
Cllr Chris Ballance (CB)

APOLOGIES:

Iain MacKnocher (IM) Vice-chair
Jeff Dymond (JD)
Robert MacDonald (RM)
Cllr David Fraser (DF)

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Proposed by MA and seconded by CP

MATTERS ARISING:

Roads - road markings ongoing.

Glenmoriston Estate - ongoing, with legal dept

Scottish Canals - The garden at Caledonian House has been tidied up a little but there is still more to be done. HC to contact Ailsa Andrews again.

Oich Road - DM to get back in touch with Shane Manning.

Minute taker - still looking for a minute taker. HC will keep taking the minutes until we get someone else.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Total balance as at 25th January was £4751.32 of which £3000 is ring fenced for village signage.

POLICE REPORT:

The Police report is now being sent from Inverness Community Beats. The community council feel that it is more like a publicity report for the police than a report on this area. DM to email Judy Hill, the Area Commander. We would also like a member of the local police to come to the CC monthly meetings as they used to previously as we haven't had anyone come for 3 years.



CORRESPONDENCE:

Etape - road closures for this year (Malcolm Sutherland)

Melgarve Consultation - 9th February 2023

RENEWABLES:

No updates. CP to keep an eye on correspondence etc from the windfarms

There was an Auchterawe CLG meeting before Christmas, DM to email Ryan Davidson about a local leaflet/newsletter for the area for better communication of what is happening at the substation.

PLANNING AND LICENSING:

22/05955/S36 – Tomchrasky Wind Farm – Erection and operation of a windfarm comprising 14 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 185m, up to 50 battery storage units, anemometer mast, access tracks, four borrow pits and associated infrastructure. Land 3200m NW of Dalchreichart cemetery.

22/05686/FUL – Erection of anemometer mast and associated infrastructure of up to 80, in height for a period of up to 36 months – Land 4670m NE of Glenloyne Cottage, Cluanie Estate, Glenmoriston.

22/05598/FUL – Installation of patio doors and roof window – No.3 The Courtyard Cottages, The Highland Club.

22/05602/PNO – Erection of agricultural building – Achlain Farmhouse, Glenmoriston

COMMUNITY ISSUES:

- A82 meeting - ongoing. DM to push for signage and markings. New 20mph speed limits to be introduced in villages between May/July this year.
- Riverside Park and Millennium Hall - Permission is needed from Highland Council before bids can be put in to the windfarms for grants for the play equipment. CB and DF to chase up and class as a priority.
- Christmas Lights - A string of lights for Invermoriston is missing and a new connection needs to be put in.
- Streetlights – No lights at the top of canalside up to Bruce's Buildings, also no grit bin at that location. DM has emailed John Taylor, Alan Johnstone and Neil Fraser, all from the Highland Council but is waiting on replies. There are also a lot of potholes there which makes it even more dangerous pedestrians.
- Hardware Store - FAGCC are taking over the hardware store and it will now be known as Tarff Trading.

AGM:

The Community Council Annual General Meeting will be held on 31st May 2023 at the Memorial Hall. DM to ask Stephen Gibson to audit the accounts.

AOCB:

- Christmas Gathering - The Christmas Gathering was a great success, everyone involved in organising it, did a fantastic job.
- Elsan Tipping Point - all ready for use, signage needed (Highland Council)
- Sunflower Home Care - The first electric vehicle for this service arrives in a few days time, two more will be following . These have been provided by FAGCC.
- Ness News - Dates for any news, etc.to be in by; 1st March, 1st June, 1st September, 20th November.
- Lower Bunoich - a resident had contacted the Community Council about people parking in this area, parking will be monitored but it is a public parking area.
- Potholes - There are many potholes in the village. DM has contacted the relevant dept again.
- Abertarff bus shelter - The shelter still hasn't been replaced after being knocked down last year. The bus shelter in Invermoriston also has a panel missing. DM to email John Taylor.
- FAGCC - The Community Company have taken over the Kirton Memorial but have not made a decision about Inchnacardoch Bay.
- Invermoriston Shop - FAGCC are giving £38k grant so the shop can reopen, they are planning to be open by 1st April. A steering group is being set up and shares will eventually be open to local people.
- Community Tuesday – This event in the Millennium Hall is doing extremely well.
- The Gathering - Joyce Gilbert is running a drop in at Fort Augustus Village Hall 2-4pm funded by Beinneun Windfarm.
- Dogs - The police were informed of an incident between dog owners in the Convent Wood, the dog warden was also contacted.
- Fort Augustus Toilets - HC had once again asked FAGCC about taking on the toilets. They will look again at a later date as they have a lot of ongoing projects
- Abbey Gardens - footpath covered in moss/leaves etc and is very slippery.
- Dalcataig - Potholes at entrance to road.
- Beinneun Community Trust – MA to stand down as director.
- Fern - grant applications to be in by 28th February.
- St Columba's Well - Lynne West has contacted BEAR twice about the fencing around the entrance as it needs replacing. DM to chase up.

Next meeting will be on 28th February 2023 at 7.30pm at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall.

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

Glengarry Shinty Club

Mental Health Awareness Workshop

Tuesday 7th March 7.15pm

Fort Augustus Village Hall

Open to All

Further training will be available please contact
Community.GGSC@aol.com for more info/register interest



Sew you would like to try?

'SoAnnSew' OFFERS A FRIENDLY START FOR LEARNING YOUR NEW HOBBY/SKILL

Unsure if it would suit you? Come along and find out as there's minimal outlay until you decide what suits you the most. I have electronic and computerised machines, plus overlockers (and even an embroidery machine for the improvers) that may be used during the sessions. I DO NOT sell machines but am happy to advise what may suit your needs

Drop-in Sessions on 1st and 3rd Fridays 10am – mid-day
Beginners Tutorials every Thursday 7-9pm from 16th March

At the Church Hall Fort Augustus

Drop-in sessions to get together with other sew-ers
Beginners /improvers 8 week introduction starts on:
Thursday March 16th
places are limited so please book promptly, either :

Contact Ann on 07925 429977 to leave a message
OR join the group at So Ann Sew on Facebook for more information, see past projects and join in the chat!

Extend a hand and change a life

TOGETHER LETS END LONELINESS AND ISOLATION!

Become a Volunteer Befriender today!

Find out more please call 07507627990 or e mail contact@3glenscare.org

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.

CHAIR YOGA
MILLENNIUM HALL
INVERMORISTON



Why not try a gentle form of exercise.

CHAIR YOGA.
Starting Thursday 23rd February
2.00 - 3.00pm
For further details Elaine

Tel: 07747404544
email: bodysenses1@outlook.com

Shiatsu & Reflexology
Complementary therapies



*at the Lovat Hotel,
Fort Augustus*

Thursday-Saturday
12 noon- 5pm

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www.thelovat.com



Notice Board

Did you know **Taekwondo** improves self-esteem & also heightens mental and physical wellbeing?



The group meet in the Fort Augustus Village Hall on a Monday and Friday evening from 18.00- 20.00. Their instructor, Simon, will be happy to welcome you and help you learn the skills needed to enjoy this ancient art form.

So make it your new year resolution to come along and give it a go!

FINISHING TOUCHES

Painting & Decorating Services

No job too big or small
Give Albert a call

01320 366109 / 07715 394391

albie1969@hotmail.co.uk

Free Estimates



Notice Board

Got clutter?

Don't throw it out - *give it away!*

More than 8 million people around the world are **giving and getting free stuff** on their local freecycling groups and the **Fort Augustus and area group** is just starting!

Freecycling is a worldwide movement of local volunteer-run groups that allow people to give away unwanted but usable items or ask for things they want - **everything is 100% FREE!**



books
clothes
furniture

tools
electronics
appliances

plants
building materials
& much more!

It's easy to use, simply post what you have to give away and request things that you want.

One person's rubbish is another person's treasure, so let's keep more stuff out of landfill.

Visit trashnothing.com to join!



Scottish Charity 044996

VACANCY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Hours – 17.5 hours per week (3 days per week, flexible)

Salary £26,000 - £29,000 (pro rata)

Boleskine Community Care are seeking to recruit a part-time staff member who will have the necessary qualities to engage with its membership, work with other local groups and promote our Charity within the rural community of Stratherrick & Foyers.

The successful candidate will be a people person, self-motivated and have genuine interest in engendering community spirit. Personal qualities are of key importance ideally backed up with some knowledge /ability with IT and communications (e.g. social media, ms office)

This position will be based at the BCC Hub, Lower Foyers and require flexibility with working hours to meet the needs of the Charity's work.

Own transport and driving licence are essential

For further information – Job Description & Application form please visit <https://boleskinecc.com>

or contact Kit Cameron by email – 'chair@boleskinecc.com'

Closing Date for Applications – end February 2023

Interviews to be scheduled – w/c 6th&13th March 2023

Registered Address: The Hub, Unit 2, Lower Foyers Industrial Estate, Foyers, Inverness IV2 6YB



Scottish Charity 044996

VACANCY

COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR

Hours – 17.5 hours per week (3 days per week, flexible)

Salary £26,000 - £29,000 (pro rata)

Boleskine Community Care are seeking to recruit a part-time staff member to promote existing wellbeing services, identify and develop new ones. Experience or knowledge of the 'Care' sector is an advantage.

The successful candidate will liaise with all existing and new Service Providers and Partners. Working as part of the BCC Team they will lead on promoting these Service activities to our rural community.

This position will be based at the BCC Hub, Lower Foyers and require flexibility with working hours to meet the needs of the Charity's work.

Own transport and driving licence are essential

For further information – Job Description & Application form please visit <https://boleskinecc.com>

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Scottish Charity 044996

VACANCY

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Monday – Friday 4 Hours per day

Approx. 10am – 2.00pm (flexible)

Salary £21,000 - £27,000 (pro rata)

Boleskine Community Care are seeking a self-motivated person to run the day-to-day functions of their Office at the Hub, Lower Foyers.

The successful candidate will have a balance of secretarial (I.T.) and general administrative abilities. Personal qualities and administrative abilities being more important than work experience in the Care Sector.

This position is part-time and could suit a person with other daily commitments in early mornings/afternoons.

Own transport and driving licence would be advantageous

For further information – Job Description & Application form please visit [www.boleskinecc.com](https://boleskinecc.com)

or contact Kit Cameron by email – 'chair@boleskinecc.com'

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Notice Board



ZUMBA

**MUSIC PUMPING.
HEART RATE
JUMPING.**

**Wednesdays 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.**



The Gathering
An Cruinneachadh

Fort Augustus and Area Public Groups

www.the-gathering.co.uk

Sign up for our newsletter available as email or print.
hello@the-gathering.co.uk

You are invited to The Gathering

What's On...

- Sunday 26th February** - Story Gathering, Shinty, History & More. Glengarry Hall & Heritage Centre, 2 - 5pm. Everyone Welcome.
- Monday 27th February** - Story Gathering & Maps. West Glenmoriston Hub, Dalchreichart, 5pm to 7pm. Everyone Welcome.
- Tuesday 28th February** - **Morning**, Story & Art with Ft Augustus Playgroup.
Afternoon, Story Gathering, Photography, Art & More. 'Community Tuesday' at the Millennium Hall, Invermoriston. 12 noon - 2pm.
Evening, Story & Art with Ft Augustus Guides & Brownies. 5.30pm.

Nicola Wright (Storyteller) is gathering stories..

Iona MacLeod (Artist) links stories to sculpture, costume & masks!

Andrew Grant McKenzie (Highland Historian/ Shinty Ref) & Tom Langhorne (Fandabi Dozi) want to talk all things Shinty!

Rob Sutherland (Photographer) is looking for site for drone images & more.

Joyce Gilbert can tell you what its all about.

Helen Liddle is hunting for special places.

This project is funded by **FERN COMMUNITY FUNDS** Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

Come along & find out more!




NHS DEAF SERVICES DROP IN

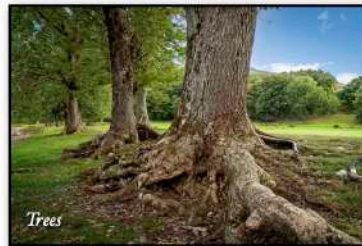
**The Telford Centre
Abertarff Place,
Fort Augustus
PH32 4DR**

**Starting Thursday 15th December 2022
11am – 2pm
(Then the 3rd Thursday every month)**

NHS Deaf Services, 4 Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB
Tel: 01349 868711 Mob: 07887 833889
Email: highland.deafservice@nhs.scot



Notice Board



Interested in Photography?

What we do...

Club Meetings

We meet on 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month in the Memorial Hall Fort Augustus at 7:30pm

Themes

Each month we choose a Theme to follow for our photography. At the first meeting each month we share our images and discuss ideas for improvements. Recent Themes include, Autumn, Doors & Windows, Puddles, Water and Trees.

Workshops

The second meeting each month we have a member led workshop on various photography topics, for beginners and experienced photographers.

Photo Shoots

Group outings to shoot different locations

Private Facebook Members Group

So we can share and comment on each other's photographs whenever we choose.

Public Facebook Page

(Search FB for "Great Glen Camera Club")

Why not join the Great Glen Camera Club?



your local camera club

Want to know more?

- Come to a meeting and see for yourself.
- Check out our public Facebook Page for news and details of next meeting.
- Contact Club Secretary:

greatglenc@outlook.com
phone 0786 7535175