

# Ness News

Community News & Events

February 2020



## Young Maddie Recognised for the 3 Glens

## The Board for **Volunteer Work Community Care**





## **Shinty Update**















GLENMORISTON

I think we are all fed up with this weather and looking forward to warmer Spring days and more daylight hours. Over the last couple of months, the local community has been hit hard with so many local deaths so it's good to see an engagement and birth notice in this issue.

The Community Council have been busy trying to get the Highland Council to do repairs on the Achnaconeron and Ardachy roads and sort out signage there as well as on the Auchterawe road.

The main car park in Fort Augustus has gone for planning so fingers crossed that something will be done by the summer to alleviate some of the parking problems.

The 3 Glens have been busy setting up a group and there is an article on P4 to explain its aims to the local community.

There is also an article from the Loch Ness & Great Glen Recreational Development Group who are moving forward with their plans for a leisure centre with help from Voluntary Action Lochaber.

The works at the canalside have been problematic but necessary and will be finished at the end of March.



This photo was taken as Amey Plc who are working at the SSE substation in Auchterawe gave £500 each to the Fort Augustus Children's Christmas Parties and Fort Augustus Senior Citizens.

If you have local issues or concerns, please contact one of your local community councillors.

The content and photographs in Ness News have been obtained by authorised contributors and any local news, stories or photos can be sent to nessnews-paper@outlook.com

Regards
Deirdre MacKinnon
Chairperson
Fort Augustus and
Glenmoriston Community

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

# Glenmoriston Volunteer Recognised for her Groundbreaking Work with Disabled People



Madeline Hayes (front) with some of those she has helped at Cheshire House. A young girl volunteering at Inverness's Cheshire House has received an award from the Prime Minister.

Madeline Hayes from Glenmoriston was just 11 years old when she became a befriending volunteer with the Leonard Cheshire charity, helping disabled people to learn new digital skills.

She has also created inspiring videos about daily life at the centre to give new service users an idea of what to the videos picked up a lot of interest on youtube and now aged 14, she has been rewarded for her efforts with a points of light award from the prime minister for her efforts in tackling social isolation.

"I feel so lucky being able to volunteer in such a nice environment where I've always felt welcome," she said.

"I help out when I can and I don't think of volunteering or befriending as something I have to do – it's something I choose to do."

Article and photo taken from The Inverness Courier.

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A board of Charity Trustees has been formed by representatives from the communities of Fort Augustus, Glengarry and Glenmoriston. The 3 Glens board will be the planners and fundraisers for a range of potential community services. Personal care for older people living at home is high on our agenda, alongside support services like a transport scheme and a befriending service.

3 Glens will be in partnership with the Highland Hospice, who will be the care service providers. Highland Hospice will recruit, employ and train care workers to the standards required by the Scottish Social Services Council.

Trustees of 3 Glens board are Deirdre MacKinnon (Chair), Denise Paterson (Secretary), Claire Stebbings, Jenny Thurston, Lorraine Martin, Carola Selwyn, Helen Allen, Catherine Stewart and Phyllis Miller. We would like to have a representative from Glenmoriston, so if anyone is interested, please get in touch.

Our Highland Hospice representatives are Paula Cooper and Andrew Leaver.

In January, we applied to the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) which we have now been awarded. Now that we are registered with OSCR, we can formalise our partnership with the Highland Hospice – something we look forward to enthusiastically and then real development can begin.

We endeavour to keep our 3 Glens communities informed of progress.

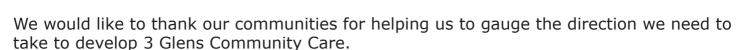
To contact us: Deirdre MacKinnon, Chair, email: deirdre\_x@hotmail.co.uk Denise Paterson, Secretary, email: denisepat88@gmail.com

#### **Community Drop-In Event at the Telford Centre**

On Friday, 24th January, between 4-6pm, a community drop-in event was held for the three local areas.

Charity Trustees of 3 Glens, alongside Paula Cooper of Highland Hospice (our care provider partners) were circulating among the visitors to gather thoughts and ideas on the development of the community care service. Approximately 30 members of our communities dropped in. Several of those people expressed an interest in future volunteer involvement and a very encouraging number of working-age people expressed interest in care work employment.

Highland Council's Emma Micklethwaite had plans and drawings of the 6 supported houses which are to be built adjacent to the Telford Centre. Some of our local medical staff and Cllr Margaret Davidson popped in during the second half of the session.



There will be a Community Drop-In Event at Glengarry Community Hall at 7pm on 10th March.

#### **Boleskine Community Care Visit**

The Trustees of 3 Glens Community Care visited Boleskine Community Care Hub in Foyers on 23rd January. Boleskine have been established and providing care in the community and other support services since 2014. Their partnership is with Highland Home Carers, who are the service providers – recruiting, employing and training care workers. We met with their Chair, Kit Cameron, their Treasurer, one of their volunteers and their Service Development Officer, Gillian Haston. They gave us an overview of how they set up and how their community care service works. They also offered support by way of information sharing and it was a very informative, positive and encouraging meeting.

#### **Sunflower Home Care**

Sunflower Home Care is the Highland Hospice registered care at home service. This service is an extension to the Highland Hospice's current care provision and will be developed in partnership with local community groups. We have a contract with NHS Highland to provide care at home and housing support services. Our plan is to establish Hospice/community partnerships with the Hospice being the registered care provider. We have identified that we may be able to support community organisations by recruiting, training and employing locally based care at home workers and to build and provide community led care at home within these communities. We are working in partnership with the 3 Glens Community Care group who are currently registering as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Once 3 Glens are registered, we will then be in a position to look at recruiting in your area. We will be working alongside our NHS Highland colleagues in an effort to meet your community's care at home requirements. If anyone would like more information on our project or on working for Sunflower Home Care; please contact our registered manager, Paula Cooper, on 01463 243132 or pcooper@highlandhospice.org.uk.



## **Glengarry Shinty Club**

Glengarry Shinty Club is gearing up for another busy shinty season in 2020. The teams are working hard in preseason, putting the hard work in now so they are ready and raring to go once the 2020 Season throws up in March.



This year, the Senior Men's team will be playing in North Division One, having come so close to clinching the title last year, they hope to once again push the competition all the way. They look to put the disappointment and disgruntlement surrounding the nature of Newtonmore's league win last season behind them and build on the foundations as to what was essentially a decent season. Without a doubt for a club our size and with the minimal playing squad, we are competing above our means and something that the club is proud of.

Once again, we rely heavily on our youth development process, with an exciting season ahead for our younger lads stepping up to the senior team and cementing their place within that squad.







The Youth set up, is once again, up and running but has had a disrupted start with the weather being very much against us and once again raising the issue of facilities within the area. However, not to be deterred, the club has got some ambitious plans for youth shinty in 2020 and hope that the clubs development plan and structure secures the future of our club.

We look forward to, once again, competing in the Glen Albyn league, commencing in March and in various other competitions, with a lot of focus on matches and game time for the juniors this year, as they have all worked hard in training and are ready to play!



The women's team are also looking forward to kicking off their season, with their first fixture scheduled for the end of February, they look ready to build on the work implemented last season with regards to bringing through younger players and developing the team. Focus this season, will once again be on the cup competition and our development team, with a change of format to the development league structure, we hope to use the opportunity to welcome our primary/S1 age girls in to the Women's Shinty set up.

The club, as always, depends highly on amazing people giving up their precious time, to which everyone involved is very grateful. However, there is always a warm welcome for anyone interested in becoming involved in a more "committed" capacity – you don't need to have a shinty background, in fact, often not having one helps as you are able to bring fresh, innovative and exciting ideas to a really enthusiastic group. Skills such as fundraising/finance, coaching (fitness/training), administration, organisation, gardening (grass cutting!!), communication, marketing, first aid/medical, social care & project management are all vital to running a club and helping us achieve our objectives and aims going forward. If you would like to be part of the club, enjoy the social and interactive aspects whilst giving something back within our communities, then please do not hesitate to contact Elaine on 07787404472 or ellyno10@hotmail.com

### **Blast From The Past**

## Duncan's the chap to take you down the

HUNDREDS of holidaymakers have enjoyed the thrill of a cruise on Loch Ness this summer aboard the Caledonian Canal pleasure boat Scot II. with the constant hope of seeing the monster.

And they have been in good hands. At the helm of the trim and sturdy vessel is a man who knows the loch in all its moods-Skipper Duncan Cameron.

He was born beside it-He was born beside it— at Fort Augustus. He grew up with the sound of its waters in his ears. And, as long as he can remember, he has been sailing up and down the loch.

For many years Duncan was a MacBrayne's man on the canal.

sailed Gondoller, the last passenger service boat to ply on it.

Duncan was with the famous old paddle boat, when, in 1939, she was taken to the local slip to be stripped of her fineries and fittings before being towed to Scapa Flow to be sunk for boom defence purposes.

But Duncan will tell you that But Duncan will tell you that the Gondolier never reached Scapa. On the way she broke loose and foundered just off Tarbat Ness, in the Cromarty Firth.

With the Gondolier gone Duncan took up war service



aboard an oil tanker in coastal waters.

And on home ground Duncan and his mates came within an ace of being blow i to smithereens.

The tanker, lad-n with aviation spirit, was slowly making its way through the Caledonian Canal on a quiet Sunday afternoon when an

## canal

enemy plana swooped and dropped three bombs on them.

"Luckily," says Duncan, " all missed, but the blast blew every fuse on the boat."

For a time after the war he served on a coaster plying between Glasgow and Dublin.

But the call of the Cale-onian Canal proved irresistible.

As captain of Scot II., the little boat with the dual role—ice-breaker in winter, pleasure craft in summer—he's back where he was in the Gondoller days.

For Duncan and his crew of three this has been a busy season.

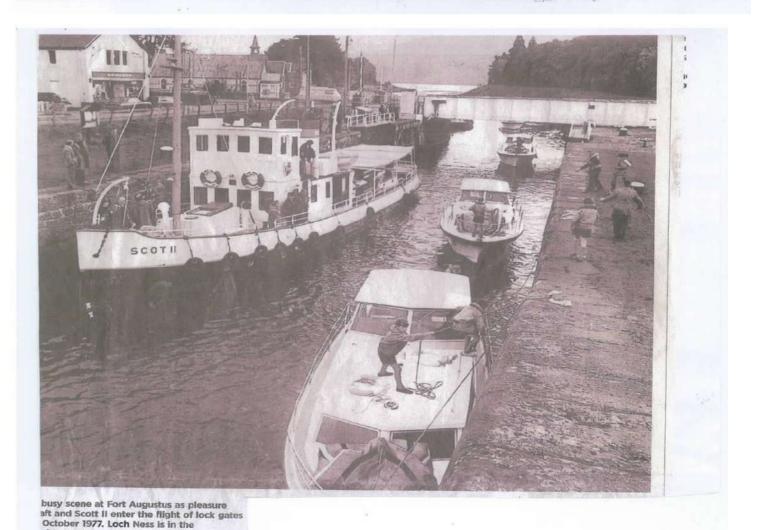
The Scot I has caught on in a big very with holiday-makers. Almost every trip there's a full complement of 65 passengers.

So popular are the cruises



that there are three sailings he'll be able

aily—morning, afternoon and passengers the big thrill they so eagerly anticipate—a close-up view of "Nessie."





# The Fort Augustus Village Council History

The record as in the minute book shows the local Fort Augustus Village Council which was inaugurated in June 1949 and continued in the same format until it was dissolved in September 1978 after 29 years successfully representing the village.

Regular monthly council meeting were conducted during those 29 years.

The first AGM was in the Memorial Hall on the 14th June 1950 where the office bearers and District representatives were elected for the year 1950/1951;

Chairman J Leslie

Vice Chairman Mr R D Guthrie
Secretary& Treasurer Mr J. Mc Skimming
Auditors Mr M McAulay B of S
Mr H Williamson

District reprsentatives;

Markethill, Cullachy & Kytra Mrs Beckett
West End area Mr A Paterson
Glendoe Mr J Kirk
Bunoich Mr McB Fraser
Blair Connard & Port Clair Mr Denoon
Awchterawe Mr J MacLaren

Here are some of the issues discussed at meeting in June 1950;

Water supply -considered inadequate for the new houses in the village.

Lighting – plans for the position of the lighting poles in the village.

Education- pupils numbers attending the local school

War memorial - an anonymous gesture to gift the sum required apply the names.

Golf course - to receive an opinion on the cost to reopen the course.

The Village Council constitution was amended in 1966 to include additional matters to be represented by the council;

The annual election of the district representatives. Include all bona-fide sport, cultural and other organisations within the village. Include local major employers organisations and Ex. Officio Members of the Council.

The Fort Augustus Village Council continued to meet and serve the village with some significant progress being made.

At a meeting in February 1966 Dr Maclean said it was hoped the building of the new school would begin and should be complete sometime in 1968. Housing for teachers was also discussed.

Kirton Memorial, a fue of the Sandy Brae site had been offered at 1/- per year. It was agreed to form a committee to carry out this project.

By 1976 the revised scheme to establish Community Councils was considered. The Fort Augustus Village Council presented a petition form to the District Council

requesting a Community Council in Fort Augustus, Glenmoriston and Dalchreichart which was agreed and signed by Glenmoriston and Dalchreichart representatives.

On 24th March 1977 the formation of a Community Council in Fort Augustus, Invernoriston and Dalchreichart was implement with the first meeting in the Town hall

The formal winding up of the Village Council in favour of the Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council took place on the 13th September 1978. The minutes of the closing ceremony on the 2nd October 1978 were approved at the meeting of the Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council on 30th August 1978 in the school library.

## **Trees For Life**

#### An update from Dundreggan

A happy new year to you all from everyone at Dundreggan!

Thanks to everyone who braved the frosty weather on 14th December for our Winter Family Day! People joined us from all over the Highlands and Moray to enjoy tracking workshops with Dan Puplett, make their own bread over the fire, do a spot of tree dressing and weave and decorate their own willow wreaths.

We also had lovely cakes and mince pies from Bad Girl Bakery, and warming mulled apple juice. Thanks also to those who travelled from far and wide to learn all about identifying trees in winter on 1st February.

Couldn't make it to these events? Don't worry, we have lots more in the pipeline for 2020. If you think there's an event we should be running (maybe you're keen to learn about the dawn chorus, watch the black grouse lek, or survey for bats?), please get in touch and we'll see if we can make it happen.



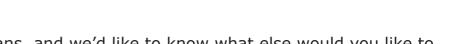


#### **Community Consultation**

In November, we ran a series of consultation evenings - at Dalchreichart Hub, Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, and Fort Augustus Village Hall - to give you a chance to find out about our plans for Dundreggan for the next 5 years. We brought copies of our management plan along (and plenty of biscuits!) and were available for a couple of hours each evening to chat through any questions people had. Looking at the answers to the questions we asked it looks like local people are interested in seeing more wildlife-watching events happen, as well as workshops around heritage crafts and wild food. People are also keen to see more footpaths developed to allow better access to and exploration of the estate. This is something we are keen to do in the near future so watch this space.

If you couldn't make it, or have anything else to add, just get in touch, or come along to our next consultation at 10am on Saturday 7th March at Dundreggan where we'll discuss plans for the Rewilding Centre we are building starting early 2021. Thanks to confirmed funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Scottish Natural Heritage-led Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, we can now announce that we will be building the centre as planned, and are aiming for it to be open to the public by March 2022.

We want your views on this new centre. Thanks to your input in 2019 we have added a 10



Gaelic Resource Centre to the plans, and we'd like to know what else would you like to see happen at the centre. How are you likely to use it and how can we make it work for you?

I'll be delivering a questionnaire to our closest neighbours over the next few weeks. If you're in Invermoriston, Invergarry, Fort Augustus or further afield and would like to fill out a give us your views on the centre through the questionnaire, please email me and I'll send you a copy.

As always, for any questions or comments, please feel free to get in touch on 01320 340 242 or email me at katherine@treesforlife.org.uk. Kat

# Loch Ness & Great Glen Recreation Group Update



This month the Loch Ness & Great Glen Recreation Group is one year old; having been formed following the Publication of the Community Action Plan. In the last twelve months the group has made considerable progress by identifying several projects where additional or refurbished facilities would help to improve access to leisure options for local residents.

The building of a Leisure Centre has been our main focus and we are now at the stage of commissioning a feasibility study; after which we will be better informed as to the financial viability for both the construction and the running of such a facility within the community.

The second project we are currently focusing on is the renewal of the play facilities next to the Fort Augustus village hall and this project is progressing well. To date we have received preliminary plans from the manufacturer, with whom we are currently in discussions to make some tweaks to the proposal.

There are several other projects that have been highlighted by group members and members of the community which are all good and worthy suggestions and we hope to look into these in due course.

We continue to meet on a monthly basis and are actively looking for people to join the group, no experience is necessary just a willingness to participate.

Contact us at Inggrecreation@gmail.com

### **Announcements**

### **Engagements Deaths**



Andrew John Forbes
Paterson(30) of
Brackenfeld, Fort Augustus,
got engaged to, Rowena
Scott Wotherspoon(27) of
Teanacoil, near Kiltarlity
on the 14th of September
2019. The proposal was
delivered at a secluded spot
near Lochinver with a
stunning view of the west
coast sunset. The wedding
will take place later this
year.

#### **Births**



Chloé Mireille Danti is the baby daughter of Jehan and Cheryl (Kennedy) Danti born 27/01/20 at 11.15am, weighing 7lbs 1oz at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.



Donella MacDonald (nee Grant) of Pier House, Invermoriston, Passed away peacefully on the 17th December 2019, aged 86. She was well-known to many in the area as a former geography and history teacher at Kilchuimen Academy. The wife of the late Patrick MacDonald (Pat the Pier), she had lived in Invermoriston for nearly 60 years. Born in Fairlie, New Zealand, she came to live in the Highlands at the age of four, growing up near Garve and studying Geography at Aberdeen University in the 1950s. Much-loved mother of Connie, Donald, Colin and Ruaraidh, she will be sorely missed by her family and friends.



Andrew Leonard Tuckwood (Andy), Torgoyle, born 1967, passed away on 12th January 2020.



Billy & Sybil Ross moved to Fort Augustus in the year 2000. They enjoyed their retirement in their wee bungalow at Abertarff Place. Billy helped out on the golf course and Sybil was a regular attendee at the local Church of Scotland. Billy sadly passed away in 2014 and more recently Sybil passed away peacefully at Strathallan House in Strathpeffer on the 20th January 2020.



Peacefully at Raigmore
Hospital, Inverness on 5th
January 2020, Linda Moore
(nee MacKenzie), aged 63
years, Fort Augustus,
beloved wife of Bill,
devoted mum of Emily and
the late Eddie, loving
granny of Hannah, Max and
Oscar, much loved sister of
Julie.





Alasdair MacDonald (known as Golspie) after his place of birth met his wife, Winnie Fraser who was nursing in Golspie, married and moved back to Invermoriston where she belonged. He was an HGV driver and between them, they ran the Altsaigh Youth Hostel for 14 years. They then moved to Inverness and then to Golspie when they retired. Alasdair enioved gardening, DIY and long walks with their dogs. He passed away on 17th November with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife, sons Colin and Roy, five grandchildren and sister-in-law, Katrina.



Ronald Reay MacKay, born on the 2nd of September 1947. Born in Aberdeen and moved with the family to Fort Augustus in 1955, he was the middle brother of three and spent most of his life living and working in the Highlands. He embraced all things highland and loved shooting fishing and horse riding, also a very keen sportsman with a love for golf tennis and skiing in the winter months. Father to Reay and Lorn, grandfather to Ruben and Ross who he doted on. Ronnie sadly passed away on the 27th of December 2019 in Raigmore hospital following a short stay, he'll be missed by many.



Iain Urquhart, known to many as Ginger, he sadly but peacefully passed away on the 7th February in the ITU suite of Raigmore hospital. He was the youngest of five. He was a car enthusiast and sports daft. Iain worked in SSE for 40 plus years, retiring in March 2019. He was also a retained fireman for 23 years which he embraced and enjoyed time with the rest of the boys, retiring in February 2014. He was a beloved husband to Marjory, father to Neil and Zoe and devoted grandfather to Isla.



Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on 16th February 2020, Deirdre Margaret McDonald (nee Bruce), aged 58 years, Rosemarkie, cherished wife of Philip, loving mum of Eilidh, Laura and Rhuairidh, special nonna of Mollie, Phoebe and Sophia, also a dear sister, sister in law, aunt and friend to many. She spent her childhood and schooldays in Fort Augustus until she got married and moved to Rosemarkie in 1981. "Our Mum was the epitome of a mum. She always put us first, loved us unconditionally and remained proud of us, no matter what we achieved. The last couple of years had been exceptionally hard for her due to ill health but she battled on every day for us and our Dad, Philip who she loved very much. She was the best "Nonna" to Mollie, Phoebe and Sophia, they will miss her terribly as we do already. She was a determined and formidable woman when she wanted to be, this was even more apparent in her final days."





## KA Robotics – VEX IQ Challenge Highland Regional Competition:

KA Robotics wins an Award!

14

Competing against seven other Highland schools on 1st February, KARobotics won the Design Award. This Award is given for so much more than just designing and building a robot. It is awarded to the group of young people who really perform as a team in all respects, recognise each other's contribution, support their own team throughout as well as cooperating with and actively supporting the teams they were sharing the competition with.

We ranked second in the Teamwork Challenge and so nearly won the chance to represent Scotland at the UK Finals of the current VEX IQ Challenge – Squared Away. Next year??

#### Australia Fundraising Day at Kilchuimen:

On Friday 31st January the pupils of Kilchuimen Nursery, Primary and Academy held a special Australia Fundraising Day.

In the morning, the Primary pupils were split into four groups and they took turns to visit the Nursery and the three Primary classrooms. They took part in activities such as baking, a quiz, games and watching an episode of "Skippy the Bush Kangaroo". The pupils paid £1 to go towards the fundraising.

After break there was an art gallery in the school hall. The Nursery and Primary pupils had art work for sale, the nursery ran a "Kangaroo Selfie" station and P1/2 had a treasure map to win a koala competition. There was a cupcake stall and the Academy pupils had baked Anzac biscuits and ran a tea and coffee stall.

In total £324 was raised. The P5/6/7 class chose which charity the money should go to as there were quite a few charities supporting Australia.



I thought I'd give you all a rest from my own ramblings about Nature so I've selected a few choice folklore references to Scotland's native trees on Trees for Life's website. You can find more interesting facts and tales at www.treesforlife.org.uk.Most of the text was written by Paul Kendall with some minor edits from me. Enjoy!

#### Scot's Pine

Scots Pine has a long and rich history in mythology. In The Golden Bough, James Frazer relates various stories involving pine trees from classical mythology, which may or may not have been Scots pines, such as how the ancient Egyptians buried an image of the god Osiris in the hollowed-out centre of a pine tree. He writes that "it is hard to imagine how the conception of a tree as tenanted by a personal being could be more plainly expressed." As a symbol of royalty the pine was associated with the Greek goddess Pitthea, and also with the Dionysus/Bacchus mythology surrounding the vine and wine making, probably as a fertility symbol. Worshippers of Dionysus often carried a pine-cone-tipped wand as a fertility symbol and the image of the pine cone has also been found on ancient amulets as a symbol of fertility. For the Romans the pine was an object of worship during the spring equinox festival of Cybele and Attis. As an evergreen tree the pine would also have symbolised immortality.

The oldest known living Scot's pine trees in Scotland are at Glen Loyne, near Glen Garry. They have been measured at 550 years old in 1997, making them around 573 years old now - they were young seedlings in 1447!

#### **Birch**

At the end of the last ice age, the humble birch tree would have been one of the first trees to begin colonising the ice-scoured landscape. Hence, in botanical terms the birch is referred to as a pioneer species. Similarly in early Celtic mythology, the birch came to symbolise renewal and purification. Beithe, the Gaelic for birch, is the first tree of the Ogham, the Celtic tree alphabet. It was celebrated during the festival of Samhain (what is now Halloween in Britain), the start of the Celtic year, when purification was also important. Bundles of birch twigs were used to drive out the spirits of the old year. Later this would evolve into the 'beating the bounds' ceremonies in local parishes. Gardeners still use the birch besom, or broom, to 'purify' their gardens. Besoms were also of course the archetypal witches' broomsticks, used in their night-time flights, perhaps after the use of extracts of the fly agaric mushrooms commonly found in birchwoods!

#### Rowan

The rowan is also prominent in Norse mythology as the tree from which the first woman was made, (the first man being made from the ash tree). It was said to have saved the life of the god Thor by bending over a fast flowing river in the Underworld in which Thor was being swept away, and helping him back to the shore. Rowan was furthermore the prescribed wood on which runes were inscribed to make rune staves. In Scotland the rowan has a long and still popular history in folklore as a tree which protects against witchcraft and enchantment. The physical characteristics of the tree may have contributed to its protective reputation, including the tiny five pointed star or pentagram on each berry opposite its stalk (the pentagram being an ancient protective symbol). The colour red was deemed to be the best protection against enchantment, and so the rowan's vibrant display of berries in autumn may have further contributed to its protective abilities, as suggested in the old rhyme: "Rowan tree and red thread / make the witches tine (meaning 'to lose') their speed".

We should pay more attention to native trees in our landscapes – they are wonderful things and with all the talk of planting a gazillion trees to beat climate change, the more of them that are native trees the better, I say.

Doug Gilbert Trees for Life at Dundreggan



#### **Newsletter for February 2020**

We want to keep you up to date with what we are working on, so here are a few things that may be of interest. Do let us know if there is anything you would particularly like to hear about another time.

#### **Community Caretakers**

The caretaking team have now completed their construction of the new community skip compound; there was a general agreement that they were unsightly in their old location.







After

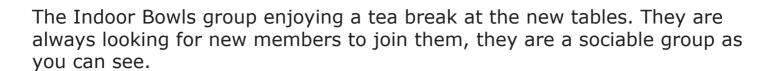
The function of the new compound is to help reduce unnecessary and inappropriate dumping of waste and create a structure which was far more aesthetically pleasing to the eye, (basically hiding the rubbish). I am sure you will agree that this looks a lot better. The community company are not averse to residents utilising the skips, upon request, but only if there is space (just ask one of the team); I would advise not to ask mid-summer though!

The community caretaker's team would like to thank the many local residents for their expressions of support throughout the year, these are always appreciated and help keep our spirits up.

#### **Village Hall**

Thank you to Liz Ferguson for the gift of a sofa, 2 tables and chairs. These recycled items have allowed us to create a more comfortable seating area for groups to use when they stop for a tea break.





#### **New Housing**

Lots happening behind the scenes with the new housing project. We are still waiting for planning and time has been spent managing the final queries that have been raised. Tenders have been returned and are being assessed, both financially and for quality. The financial package for the project is just about in place – with several funders there is a fair amount of paperwork, some of which can't be sorted until we have the final costs.

We have had a number of people who have asked to go on the list to be considered for the new housing – so please pass your name through if interested.

The development has impacts on the area around, including the wall which is likely to have to be reduced in height. There is also a large amount of fill to be brought onto site and we may look to source this from elsewhere on site.

There will be the opportunity to find out more about the works shortly – as well as the opportunity to vote for a new street name!

#### **Grants and apprenticeships**

Live in Fort Augustus or Glenmoriston and thought about applying for a grant? We offer quite a selection.

There are group grants for constituted groups, who need help to support the activities that they undertake, that could be for things like room hire for a meeting or a special piece of equipment to enhance what you can offer members, with lots more in between.

There are grants for those who wish to organise something for the community these can range from evening classes in Gaelic to running a community litter pick. The options are endless but remember it must benefit the community you live in.

Student grants are available to help with travel costs to and from your chosen place of study.

Apprenticeships for those who want to learn in a different way. If you live in Fort Augustus or Glenmoriston the Community Company can help fund an employer to take you on and train you in your chosen profession.

As with any grant giving there are guidelines to follow which have been agreed with our funders. The Board have to consider these when assessing any grant. All our guidelines are available on the website in the grants section but if you have any questions Karen will be happy to help. Examples of these guidelines are:

- An event/item cannot have been booked or purchased in advance.
- We will need to see a range of documents supporting your application.
- Any group applying must require 2 unrelated signatures on a cheque.
- You must do a completion report at the end of the timetable set.



If you are interested in applying for a grant please do have a look at our website or ring us for guidance on what may qualify for you or your group.

#### **Grants awarded last quarter**

Groups

Glenmoriston Senior Citizens Lunch Club £4,000 Glenmoriston Senior Citizens Outings £3,200

Individual for Community Benefit

Deirdre MacKinnon (Community Ceilidh) £ 670

Individual

4 Individual student travel bursaries @ £250 each £1,000

In addition to these grants we also supported the Screen Machine visit to Fort Augustus in January, through discounted ticket prices, and paid for the Christmas lights to be installed in both Fort Augustus and Invermoriston. We are working with both communities to get the Festive lights available to a more cost effective level to safeguard them for the future.

#### Key dates...

Next Grants deadline – 15th May 2020

Contact us:

Telephone: 01320 366800

Angela, Chief Officer chiefofficer@communitycompany.co.uk Karen, Administrator contact@communitycompany.co.uk Please feel free to call into the office or contact us if you have any queries.





Cill Chuimein Heritage are holding an evening meeting on April 6th at 7.30pm. in the Church of Scotland hall.

Roland Spencer Jones of NOSAS will give a presentation on the Lovat Estate Maps that relate to Fort Augustus.

Members £2 Non-members £3 ALL WELCOME



# Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

### FORT AUGUSTUS & GLENMORISTON

Draft Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting held at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus at 7.30p.m. on Wednesday 29th January 2020.

Members Present:
Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)
Stuart Findlay - Treasurer (SF)
Jeff Dymond (JD)
Mike Anderson (MA)

#### 1. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 27th November 2019 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by JD and seconded by MA.

#### Presentations:

SSE Renewables: A presentation was given by Craig Cunningham and Eilidh Todd about the Cloiche Windfarm project ahead of the Public Engagement being held on 30th January from 3 - 7 p.m. in the Village Hall, Fort Augustus. A total of 36 turbines is being proposed near to the Stronelairg wind farm in the Monadhliath mountains. The preferred transport route being: blades from

Kyle of Lochalsh and Corpach for the towers. Notice of all deliveries will be publicised in advance. The application will be submitted in April 2020 with construction expected to run from Autumn 2022 to Spring 2025.

SF advised that the CC would want transport routes and times arranged prior to planning together with discussion about the Village Green.

Scottish Canals: George McBurnie (GM) attended with James Black (JB) a representative from their contractor (Mackenzies) to update the CC on the progress of upgrade to the lock flight. Work commenced on 28 Oct 19 and is due to finish on 31 Mar 20. All 10 lock gates have been delivered so there will be no more abnormal loads. There have been issues with high winds affecting the ability to use the crane and also problems with flooding however the finish date is still viable. There have been issues with people parking cars along the south side of the chambers despite no access signage which delays crane movements. The footpath will be open this week but then closed for 3 weeks. New notices will be given to

businesses by James Montgomery. Gate 1 will be put in place in the wet i.e. by using divers as it is cost effective but brings greater risks. Phase 3 will begin in 2021 when electrical actuators will be installed and the current hydraulic system removed. The move to electricity is both cleaner and greener by way of environmental impact. There will be no need to drain the lock flight for the project. Refreshing of the landscape will also be done in 2021.

SF raised the issue of congestion and parking difficulties on Station Road causing issue for school and bank access. JB will endeavour to keep the vehicles to a minimum. Query raised about whether the road would need to be closed for Phase 3? GM stated it might but that they were looking at siting a crane on a barge in the chambers which would be easier all road. It is likely to take three months to complete.

#### 2. Matters Arising

Scottish Canals: Catherine Topley the CEO of Scottish Canals was unable to attend this meeting so a future date is being arranged by MD.



Car Park/Parking: Shane Manning (SM) visited Fort Augustus to discuss all aspects of parking and vehicle management. MD is waiting for sight of the final plan and proposals.

Information Pod: No update.

#### 3. Police Report

No Police Report was available for the meeting despite repeated attempts by DM but has been received for the Minutes.

The following incidents have been reported to Police between 1st December 2019 and 29th January 2020:

Two people have been given a fixed penalty notice for speeding in the 30mph zone in Fort Augustus, they were travelling 47 mph and 41 mph.

One person was charged and has been reported for driving at 53mph in a 30mph limit in Fort Augustus.

There have been several minor road traffic collisions resulting in two people being charged with careless driving and being reported to the Procurator Fiscal. These offences were committed on the A87 near Invermoriston.

Three people have received fixed penalty notices in Fort Augustus for not having an MOT on their vehicle.

One person has been

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reported to the Procurator Fiscal in Fort Augustus for driving without a licence and no insurance. The car was seized by police.

One person has been given a fixed penalty notice for failing to register their vehicle in Fort Augustus.

A man is currently under investigation for a drink driving allegation in Fort Augustus on 12 Jan 20. Numerous other offences are being considered against him and enquiries will soon conclude.

There is an ongoing fraud enquiry recently reported in Fort Augustus whereby an unknown man has presented old Polish money and received far more than their value in return. Enquiries are ongoing.

Crime of note: Another incident of note was a report of threatening behaviour at a B&B in Fort Augustus in the early hours of 18 Jan 20 closely followed by a incident of vandalism at the Lovat Hotel. A positive line of enquiry is being pursued, there is no risk to the wider community as this was an isolated incident.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

Three cheques have been issued and cashed since the last report giving a current balance as at 28th January 2020 of £5,244.13.

#### 5. Community Amenity **Issues**

Toilets: The feasibility report has been produced and a meeting is taking place at the HQ offices on Monday 3rd Feb to discuss. Representatives from the GMHC attending the meeting lodged their surprise and displeasure at not having sight of the report and not being invited to attend the meeting. Pat Ungless stated that looking at the timescale it did not look like the toilets would be open this year. JD agreed to lodge their comments at the meeting where a temporary solution i.e. port-a-loos would be considered for the summer season at least.

Buses: DM to organise a meeting with the school to discuss further with the Head of Kilchuimen Academy.

#### Road Issues:

-Fort William Road: No update.

-Speed Limit Signage: has been removed from the road to Stronelairg. Ardachy road is a 60 mph limit but it is a 30 mph limit up to Glendoe - DM to contact John Taylor.

-Pot Holes: There are two vary large pot holes on the Ardachy Road.

-A82: David Devine is undertaking a survey of the whole of the A82 in the area.

-Torgoyle Bridge: David Devine is going to undertake a review and report back to MD. Although comment made that there appears to be much more signage there now.

-Box Junction: CC to submit a request regarding the provision of a box junction at the entrance to the medical centre.
-Invermoriston:
Achnaconeran road. Works due to be completed by 31st January.
John Taylor and Alan Johnston to be invited to the next CC meeting.

### 6. Renewable Energy Projects

Cloiche Windfarm: Planning application due in April.

Dell Windfarm: Stuart Forsyth is in the process of completing the planning conditions, once done he will contact the CC.

Fort Augustus Substation: The next meeting will take place on 12th February 2020 at the Lovat Hotel at 7.00 p.m.

#### 7. Planning & Licensing

19/05385/FUL - Land 325M SW of Torr Dhuin, Auchterawe, Fort Augustus. Battery energy storage system comprising steel containers, GRP substation, fencing, new trees. CC to comment.

19/05559/PNO - Land 235M SE of Braeburn, Auchterawe, Fort Augustus. Create a turning point for timber lorries. The CC had no comment

19/05554/PNO - Land 680M SW of Netherby, Auchterawe, Fort Augustus. Formation of turning point.

The CC had no comment

20/00017/FUL - Land 60M NW of Bramble Lodge, Millfield, Fort Augustus. Erection of house. The CC had no comment

20/00118/DEM - Land 95M NE of Old Farmhouse, Auchterawe, Fort Augustus. Demolition of dwelling. The CC had no comment

20/00442/PAN - Land 9400M SE of Glendoebeg, Upper Glendoe, Fort Augustus. Proposed development of Cloiche Wind Farm, including up to 36 turbines, on site substation and ancillary infrastructure. The CC had no comment

19/05565/PNO - Land 920M SE of Achlain Farmhouse, Glenmoriston. Prior Notification for Forestry Road works. The CC had no comment

#### 8. Correspondence

Letter received from MOWI regarding ASC certification for farms and sea lice treatments. To be invited to attend future CC meeting.

E-mail received regarding the public being challenged on the Glenmoriston Estate both walkers and a canoeist. Access Officer to be asked to attend and ensure the Estates Manager is aware of the public access routes.

On 22nd February at 3.00 p.m. at the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall there will be an inaugural meeting

for a new community group solely concentrating on Invermoriston and Glenmoriston (GIG). The idea being to plug gaps not duplicate any efforts of the CC and with the aim to get funding for small things like seating or the Gaelic Community Group.

Beinneun Windfarm
Community Funding
applications are now open
for the 3rd round of
community benefit until the
31st March. One
member of the panel has
stood down and one more
is unable to participate in
this round so new members
are invited.

#### 9. AOB

The Local Housing Surgery held on the 7th December was fairly well attended.

MD asked that Forestry Land Scotland proceed with the upgrade of the Auchterawe Forest Trails now.

3 Glens Community Care met and formed a Board of Trustees as well as applying for Charitable Status, the sponsor being the Highland Hospice. Once charitable status is received in approximately three months, then employment of carers and training can begin. Another trustee would be welcomed from the Glenmoriston area as unfortunately one has withdrawn.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday Millennium Hall, Invermoriston at 7.30 p.m.

## 100 Years of Forestry



Forestry and Land Scotland and Scottish Forestry with help for Cill Chuimein Heritage Society are hosting a 100 Years Celebration Event in and around the Forestry Office in Fort Augustus on the 28th March from 11am – 4pm. This is an event to celebrate the first land acquisition for forestry in the Highlands and 100 Years of forestry in Scotland. Come along to see horse logging, old sawmill, 100 Years photos and displays and lots of activities for families, including wildlife quizzes and walk, challenging the foresters in the chainsaw bar challenge and toast a bun on the fire pit.

There will be teas and coffee available but bring a packed lunch if you need lunchtime food or stop in Fort Augustus for a snack. See attached poster for more information.



## Things to Do

- Senior citizens meet for 12.30 lunch at the Lock Inn £5 (phone Jenny 366438 to arrange)
- Cill Chuimein Heritage Group which meets the first Monday of every month except January, June, July and August at 2pm in the Church of Scotland hall.
- Youth Club 7pm 9pm All high school age children welcome

#### Tuesday

- 1st Tuesday of month Ladies Group meet 2.40-4 pm in Church Hall (from Sept)
- HIIT with Ania 6pm 7pm Fitness class
- Army Cadets 7.30pm 9pm

#### Tue or Wed

- Shopping bus to Fort William 9.45am, leaves main car park but picks up

way. Look for notice of day & date. Usually during last week of month £3. Phone Judy 366304 to get a seat. Plus there are other outings arranged throughout the year. Open to all ages for shopping, appointments and leisure. Returns approximately 2.40pm.

#### Wednesday

- Carpet Bowls in Village Hall 2-4 pm (summer outdoor at Caledonian Hotel)
- Ecumenical Choir meet in Church Hall 7.30 pm (new singers welcome)
- Senior citizens meet for 12 noon Lunch at The Telford Centre £5. Phone Telford Centre 366511 to arrange.
- Parent & Toddler Group 9.30am -11.30am
- Tae Kwon Do 7pm 8pm
- Badminton at Kilchuimen Academy 7pm 8pm

#### Thursday

- Drop-in Café at Church Hall 10 11.30 am
- British Legion Quiz monthly look for notice.
- Beavers Glenmoriston Millennium Hall 5.30 pm
- Scottish Country Dancing Glenmoriston Millennium Hall 7.30 pm Contact Cherry Duncan on 01320 351320
- Glenmoriston lunch club, held in Glenmoriston Arms Hotel every second Thursday at 1pm. The charge for a 2 course meal plus tea/coffee is £5 per head.
- 6th June 11.30am Monthly Prayer Service Church of Scotland.
- 4 July 11.30am Monthly Prayer Service Church of Scotland.
- Junior Shinty at Craigard, Invergarry

- 1st Friday of winter months senior citizens meet for board games e.g. crib, dominoes, scrabble, cards plus lots more 2-4 pm in Church Hall.
- Senior citizens meet 2nd, 3rd, 4th Friday. Keep fit to music 2.15 3.30 pm
- Senior citizens meet last Friday of each month for Whist Church Hall
- Art Group Glenmoriston Millennium Hall 2 pm
- HIIT with Ania 6pm 7pm Fitness class
- Tae Kwon Do 7pm 8pm

- Sunday Fort Augustus Church of Scotland worship at 12 noon
  - Fort Augustus Free Church worship at 3.30 pm
  - Fort Augustus Sts Peter and Benedict RC Church Mass at 10 am
  - Glenmoriston Millennium Hall 1st Sunday each month

## **Puzzles**

1	24 H in a D
2	26 L in the A
3	7 D in a W
4	12 S of the Z
5	52 C in a P
6	18 H on a G C
7	5 T on a F
8	90 D in a R A
9	3 B M
10	15 P in a R T
11	11 P in a F T
12	12 M in a Y
13	13 is U F S
14	8 T on an O
15	29 D in F in a L Y
16	365 D in a Y
17	13 L in a B D
18	52 W in a Y
19	9 L of a C
20	60 M in an H
21	64 S on a C B
22	6 B to a O in C
23	15 M on A D M C
24	1000 Y in a M
25	9 P in a S A

#### Previous issue's crossword answers

EACH WORD OR PHRASE	BELOW REPRESENTS A FLOWER, VEGETABLE, SHRUB WEED ETC
STINGS	NETTLES
RUDE SOUND	RASPBERRY
PIERROTS PARTNER	COLUMBINE
AUTOMOBILE COUNTRY	CARNATION
AZURE DING DONG	BLUEBELL
REMEMBER	FORGET-ME-NOT
CAN BE PLAYED	VIOLA
TALL AND BLONDE	SWEDE
WISE OLD MAN	SAGE
BOVINE FALL	COWSLIP
WED FIFTY YEARS	MARIGOLD
MUMS PINNY	LADYSMOCK
EMBLEM FOR WALES	LEEK
MEASURE FOR GOLD	CARROT
BRUSH	BASIL
DUMMY STONE	SHAMROCK
CANINE TIMBER	DOG WOOD
CRAFTY STRANGLE	ARTICHOKE
JUMP ON ONE LEG	HOPS
FIRE IRON	RED HOT POKER
DEMON NUT	WITCHHAZEL
FOGGY ADORATION	LOVE IN A MIST
UNHAPPY PARTY GOER	WALLFLOWER
CAN BE SMOKED	WEED
FACIAL TIC	TWITCH
EMBLEM FOR ENGLAND	ROSE
HONEYED VEGETABLE	SWEET PEA
KITCHEN UTENSIL - OCEAN	PANSY
TRANSPORT FOR MEN	CYCLAMEN
EMOTIONAL BLOSSOM	WEEPING WILLOW
EDWARD VII MISTRESS	LILY
DEFEATED TUBER	BEETROOT

## The Beinneun Windfarm Community Fund



Kilchuimen Primary School

The Beinneun Windfarm Community Fund supports voluntary organisations, charities, householders, students and social enterprises in the Fort Augustus, Glenmoriston & Glengarry area. The fund has the following three individual strands of direct support;

- •Beinneun Community Benefit Fund (for charities, community groups, third sector organisations).
- •Beinneun Winter Fuel Allowance Scheme (for householders within a defined catchment area).
- •Beinneun Student Scholarships.

In its first 12 months the Beinneun Community Benefit Fund has

awarded grants to help with, the refurbishment of the local shinty pitch, the continued production of the local newsletter Ness News, the provision of infrastructure materials to the Invergarry & Fort Augustus Railway Museum, the direct employment of development officers for local voluntary organisations and for a school trip to the Glasgow Science Centre...to name but a few!

The latest round of the community benefit fund is now open for applications and grants of up to £100,000 are available. For further information on the application process and

funding criteria visit our website at ferncommunityfunds.com. In addition, our scholarships for local students can be applied for at any time and awards of £750 can be gained by successful candidates. Details of how to apply for a scholarship can also be found online.

Finally, the fund is looking for volunteers, especially from the Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston community council area, to strengthen its funding panel which reviews applications and awards grants for each round. If you would like to apply then please get in touch using the contact details in our advert.







Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

Boys & Girls aged 6-8yrs Cost £3 per week

For more info contact: Lee Cox 07810 118563







Every Wednesday 7.15pm

(Starting 18th September 2019)

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

£4 per person

Suitable for all levels of fitness

Have fun whilst Exercising



Licensed Zumba instructor

## Glenmoriston Craft Club

Ist & 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.





## FORT AUGUSTUS BADMINTON CLUB

- **(**)
- Wednesdays 19:00 20:30
- 0

Kilchuimen Academy

£

2 pounds per session Equipment provided



(All levels of experience including beginners)

MILLENNIUM HALL INVERMORISTON

Starting

11th SEPTEMBER

10.00 - 11.30

#### £7.00 FIRST CLASS FREE

Bring mat and wear loose fitting dothes.

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



Flaine

Forfurther details

± 01320 351283.

email: treatments.em@gmail.com

Booking required in advance

(places are limited)

(consequences are limited)

AIDEN'S CANCER
RESEARCH
FUNDRAISER
Fort Augustus Church Hall
on the 30th of May
RAFFIE

BOUNCY CASTLE FOMBOLA
TERS AND COFFEES GUESS THE DOUS
NAME DOUS

SWEETS IN THE JAR

CRAFT STALLS AND CAR BOOT

AND LOTS MORE



FORT AUGUSTUS MONTHLY MARKET

Held on the lawn at The Lovat, Loch Ness

The last Sunday of the month : March 29th – indoor

April 26th

May 31st

June 28th

July 26th August 30th

September 27th

llam - 3pm

For a pitch please contact Chantelle on 07979046332 or email charnie-g@hotmail.co.uk





## Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

Free Entry Refreshments Available & Raffle

To book a table please contact: Jean Curley on 01320 351291 or email jeancurley44@gmail.com

Tables cost: Large Table £10 & Small Table £8

### -Public Drop In Event-3 Glens Community Care

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> March from 7-8.30pm

At Invergarry Community Hall, Invergarry

- Future of Social Care Services in Glengarry.
- Partnership working with the community & additional homecare.
- · Local Feasibility Study.

Reps attending from:-

- Highland Hospice
- 3 Glens Community Care



The Beinneun Windfarm Community Benefit Fund has been established to support community groups, social enterprises & charitable organisations in the community council areas of Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston and Glengarry.

The third funding round is now open for applications until the 31st March 2020.

Details of the application process and fund criteria can be found at https://ferncommunityfunds.com/beinneun-community-fund/

If you wish any further information about the fund please get in contact via





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