

Ness News

Community News & Events

July 2022



Queen's Jubilee Celebrations





Welcome to this issue which is very late due to personal circumstances as I haven't been available for about five weeks. The good news is that all is well now and we are awaiting the imminent arrival of our second grandchild any day now.

The Jubilee Weekend was a huge success in all three villages and it was great to see the communities coming together.

The monthly shopping bus is starting up again on Tuesday, 20th July which is excellent news and can be booked by phoning 01320 366800. The Monday Lunch Club at the Lock Inn is also going well.

It's also good news regarding the toilets in Invermoriston which are now open in time for the influx of summer visitors.

Remember to send your articles and announcements to us by the 1st September for the next issue.

If you have any local issues, please contact any of the local community councillors or your Highland Councillor, David Fraser on 07791390792 or david.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Deirdre MacKinnon



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THE GLENGARRY TRUST

FUNDING

Community benefit funding is available for The Glengarry Trust to distribute from the Millennium and Stronelaig wind farms.

The funding is available for organisation, groups and individuals operating or residing in the Glengarry Community Council area.

We meet quarterly 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.

Upcoming deadlines for applications (all by 5pm that day):

22nd August 2022 (for our meeting on 12th September)

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 for more information about the projects we fund, upcoming deadlines and news about our work and other funding that might be available.



News from Glenmoriston

FLUSHED WITH SUCCESS

As I write this the work on the public toilets at Invermoriston is nearing completion.

The drainage system has been completely replaced with a much larger setup that will hopefully cope with the load on it for many years to come. Inside the building the structural changes have been completed. In fact by the time you read this the toilets should already be up and running, which I'm sure will be a great relief to all!

We must thank Judi Crichton and everyone at BGC Civils for doing a fantastic job delivering the work both on time and on budget. Thanks must also go to our funders F.E.R.N Beinneun, who provided the lion's share of the money, along with Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company. Our thanks also to all those that have supported the project.

(from Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association)

GLEN OF THE BARDS

Three magical performances of poems written by Bards from Glenmoriston put to music took place in Invermoriston, Dalchreichart and Fort Augustus in May 2022. They were the brain-child of Joyce Gilbert, who assembled a group of musicians and story tellers, including local fiddler Charlie Grey. The events were mostly funded by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company following an application from the Fort Augustus and Area Gaelic Group, and were well attended by local lovers of Gaelic, history, heritage and music. See separate feature article for more detail.

BEGINNERS GAELIC CLASSES

Starting on Tuesday June 14th, a series of 10 classes aimed at people who would like to learn Gaelic, will be held in Invermoriston. The classes will run from 7.00 to 8.30 pm. each Tuesday. Why not try something new? For more information contact Didi on 07519 963160.

STREET PARTY INVERMORISTON

Sunday 5th June saw a community street party in Invermoriston on the recreation field, with food, drink and children's games. Thanks to the 3 Glens Recovery Fund, who helped us to celebrate together.

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE HUB in DALCHREICHART

1st Tuesday of the month - Craft and chat,

Last Saturday of the month - Coffee morning at 11.00

2nd Saturday of the month - Quiz night and social at 7.30 pm

REGULAR EVENTS AT GLENMORISTON MILLENNIUM HALL

Monday Indoor bowls at 7.30 pm

Tuesday Beginners Gaelic at 7.00 pm for 10 weeks from 14 June

Wednesday Zumba at 7.15 pm

Thursday Yoga at 10.30 am

Scottish Country Dancing – 7.30 pm

Book group – monthly at 2.00 pm

Saturday Craft Club – 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month - 11.00 am until 3.00 pm

Quiz – last Saturday of the month

Sunday 2nd Sunday of the month - Ecumenical Church Service at 3.00 pm

For all bookings and enquiries please email GMHCAhallbookings@gmail.com

If you wish to be a member of GMCHA, which is free, apply on <https://membermojo.co.uk/glenmoristonhall> and you will receive information about more events

The Hall is available for private and commercial bookings as well as for clubs and groups.

Jubilee celebrations – Glenmoriston

The ceilidh on Saturday 4 June in the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall was enjoyed by about 60 people. Music by Sheila Common and Ann on the fiddle inspired lively dancing. The excellent catering was supplied by The Jaggy Thistle.

Sunday afternoon was dry and sunny and the perfect day for a “street” party on the recreation field in Invermoriston. This was attended by at least 50 local people and children. The games included croquet, Jenga and sumo football. The sumo suits were very popular with both children and adults. The highlight of the food contributions was the Jubilee Trifle made by Hilary Wilson. There was even a song written and performed by Andy to celebrate the event.



The Glen of the Bards/ Gleann nam Bàrd

Glenmoriston has a rich tradition of local bards. Their poems and songs tell the story of a changing way of life: from shielings and drovers to the introduction of sheep and the clearances, to the rise of sporting estates. Alexander Macdonald from Achnaconeran in Glenmoriston is one of these bards. He came from a culturally rich family with a strong interest in both collecting and writing Gaelic poetry and song. Throughout his life he collected material from the Glenmoriston and Loch Ness-side area, some of which was published in his 1914 book, 'Story and Song from Loch Ness-side'. He also wrote extensively for a variety of newspapers, periodicals and cultural organisations and over a 35-year period right up to his death in 1928 "barely a week went by where he didn't have an article published". Yet almost 100 years later his work had been largely forgotten.

When I arrived in Glenmoriston eight years ago, I came across a copy of 'Story and Song from Loch Ness-side' in Leakey's bookshop in Inverness. Little did I know that this chance find would lead to an exciting project about the musical heritage of Glenmoriston. At the time, I could immediately see that it was a treasure trove of information. However, I lost the thread every few pages because it is partially written in Gaelic. I was sufficiently intrigued to sign up for an online Gaelic course with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in 2018. In autumn 2019, I took the plunge and enrolled in their residential immersion year at the college on Skye. This included a module about Gaelic poetry and the bardic tradition. Suddenly 'Story and Song' started to make sense and I knew I needed to delve a bit deeper.

During 2021, Ceit Langhorne (Gaelic singer/storyteller) and Munro Gauld (traditional musician) undertook research on behalf of the Glenmoriston Improvement Group. With financial support from NatureScot, they uncovered over 300 local songs, which would have originally been shared in people's homes (Taigh Ciùil). Ceit and Munro produced a superb report which can be found on the Glenmoriston Community website. www.glenmoriston.net

During spring and summer 2021 (much of this in Lockdown), I started to explore places mentioned in the songs and shared a regular blog on the GIG Facebook page. The aim was to introduce local people to the project and at the same time use conversations on the threads to gather more information. We were amazed to see how perfectly the songs mapped places in the glen – it was like a Gaelic Song-Line. The yellow dots show where the bards lived, and the red dots are the places the sang about. These songs give us a snapshot of everyday life in Glenmoriston 200-300 years ago. It is the story of our glen...



Mapping the songs

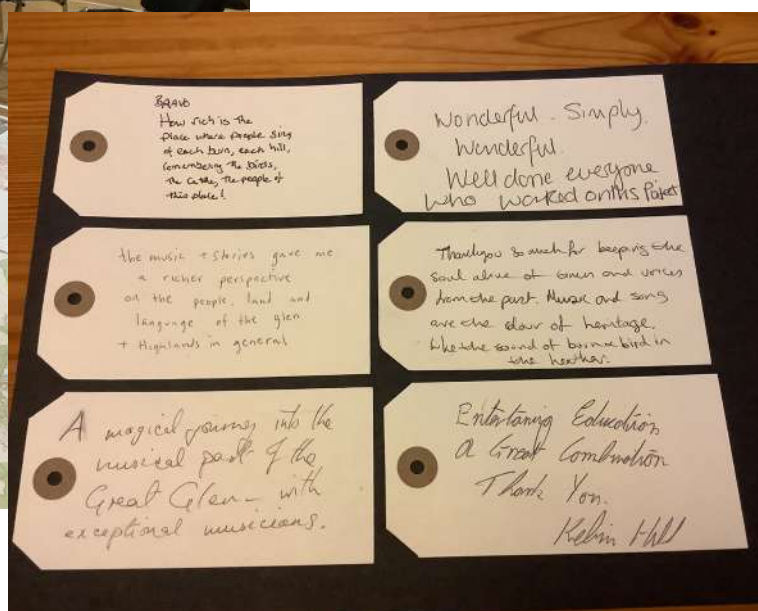
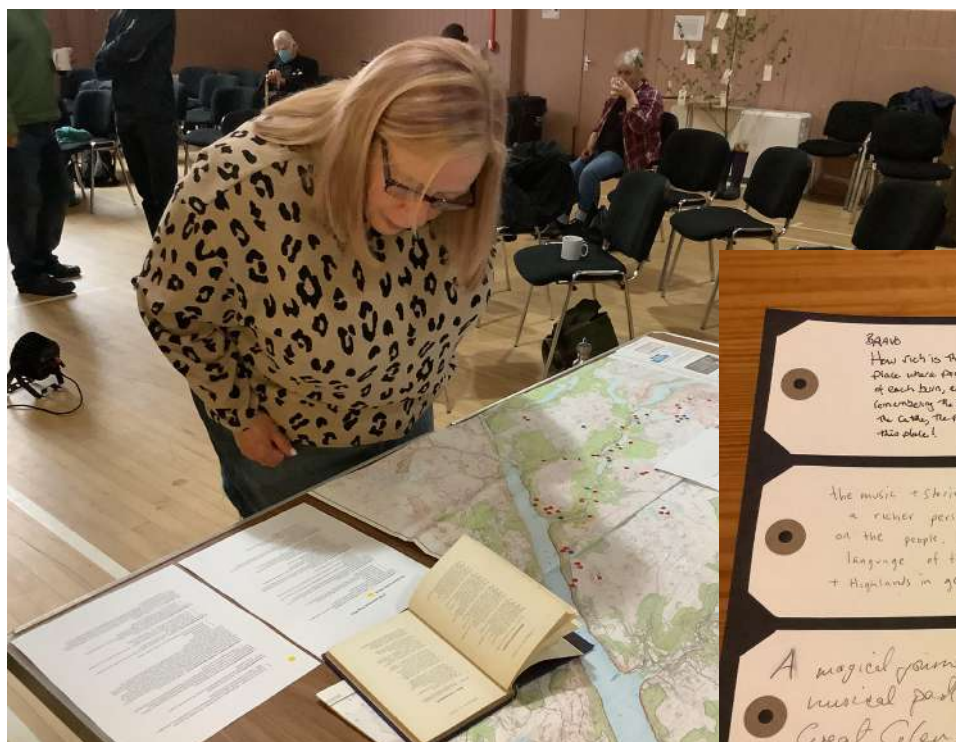
In August 2021, professional fiddler Charlie Grey (Fort Augustus), and cittern player Neil Bailie (Aberfeldy) joined the Glen of the Bards project team. Many of the poems didn't have accompanying music or the music was in Solfa notation. This method of transcribing notes was popular in Victorian times but doesn't give much information about how a song or tune might sound. It meant that there was a lot of skilled detective work required to match the words to the music. Over the following six months the team worked closely together to interpret the music. Finally in May 2022, we were able to bring the music back to the community after a gap of perhaps 100 years. Events were held in Invermoriston, Fort Augustus and Dalchreichart and in 30 years of designing and managing heritage projects, I've never seen so many heartfelt, often poetic responses/evaluations (in English and Gaelic). It has profoundly affected the project team too.

Thanks to the brilliant researchers/musicians Ceit, Munro, Neil and Charlie and our wonderful sound engineer Dave McFarlane. Abair sgioba!! Also to Trees for Life for lending us their film-maker (Chris Coutts) for a day, to Carol Pritchard and Lynne West for their support and encouragement through GIG and our local Gaelic Group.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without our funders - NatureScot, The Highland Council, FAGCC and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

I have included a few photos that capture some moments from the weekend. Don't worry if you missed it. A film and high-quality recordings will be available on the Glenmoriston Community Website soon. Meanwhile, if you are inspired and want to learn a little Gaelic, Didi Finlay is starting some beginner's classes at the Millennium Hall in Invermoriston on 14th June. I will be there to help too. Contact Didi on 07519 963160 or Didifindlay@hotmail.com

By Joyce Gilbert (Project Manager)



Glengarry Shinty Club

It has been a busy few months for Glengarry Shinty Club – with league and cup fixtures aplenty!

Our junior section has been very busy with lots of games and competitions for both the club and primary schools. For the first time in many years, we think around 20 years, we were able to enter primary school competitions. These are played at 12 aside and it has been a long time since we have had sufficient numbers to allow us to play. Though our players are still on the younger side of ages, with only three P7's. We have a strong bunch of up and coming players in the lower primaries that did great against older and physically bigger players so we look forward to the next couple of years in these competitions. We played in the MacKay Cup and CA Club Competitions; we competed well and got some valuable game experience at junior level, in physical sports, size matters. Although we had great shinty ability, the physical aspect will come in time.

The primary school team have also been very busy, as both Invergarry and Kilchuimen Primary Schools have small school roles so this allows them to join under the Camanachd association small schools combined rules and we are able to play a mixed team from both primary schools. The team played in the UHI Primary School Competition over two rounds, the first round saw the team come up against some very experienced and older teams and were a bit overwhelmed. However, we did manage two wins which was a real positive to the end of the day. In the second round, we hadn't accumulated enough points in the first round, so dropped down to the Plate competition, which was more suited to smaller schools who don't always have a team full of P6/7's and we won 4 of our 5 league games which was enough to see us qualify for the final. We came up against Ardnamurchan who edged past us but the team collected their runners up medals with smiles on their faces and delighted in their great team performance. A few weeks later, we competed at the Shinty World Cup and again reached the final against a much bigger Aviemore team; we lost the final 2-1 but had improved in performance and we are sure it won't be long until we see the juniors lift some silverware. We are grateful to Mr Perkins, Invergarry Primary and Mrs Walker, Kilchuimen Primary who are very supportive and encouraging of the children participating in school competitions and taking part in these competitions would be impossible without that support.

The primary group have also played a couple of friendlies, just to give everyone plenty of game time and experience. We hosted Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar a couple of weeks ago and were able to get 21 of primary age children playing over two matches – which is amazing and hopefully holds us in good stead for the future. With plenty more competitions and games in the pipeline, the kids definitely will get plenty of game experience.

Our U14 team have been playing a lot of games recently too as they are in the midst of their League campaign. We have had some great results but at times had some very tough matches although we have improved in every round of the competition. Our team plays and works very well as a unit rather than one or two players doing everything. This has been great as we have had players missing for fixtures through injury etc and the team is still able to perform at the same level which is all you can hope for as a club. The U14's age group was probably the group worst affected by the break due to covid. It is great to see team back together and working hard and we look forward to our next round of matches. All the U14 girls have also been playing with the women's



21 Glengarry players after friendlies with BSGL



Glengarry team runners up at UHI primary school competition



Glengarry U14s on Corran ferry returning from their league match in Strontian

development team and are making great steps in their progression into Women's Shinty. The U14 boys are catching the eyes of the senior team who have been impressed by their effort and ability.

The men's team have been playing away too, in cup and league competitions, most recently beating Boleskine to reach the final of the Single Team Cup Competition, in its inaugural year. This is a competition that allows the single team clubs to play competitively against one another without the impact of experienced players from first teams etc. We are set to meet Col-Glen in the final on 16th June at Taynuilt, which is sure to be a great day out for the club and hopefully we will take some silverware home with us.

The women's team have seen plenty of action as well, they also sit 3rd in their league with the top team playing two more games. They are also through to the semi-finals of the Challenge Cup Competition, which saw them travel down to Glasgow to take on Glasgow Mid Argyll in the quarter final. They came home victorious and have reached the semi finals set to be played in August against Lovat. The women's development team has been doing great, having competed in three rounds so far. There has been a marked improvement in performances over each round and is a credit to the younger girls' hard work and determination.

As ever the club is thankful to all the volunteers who make all the club activities possible, we are very proud to be able to offer the opportunities that we do to the young people of our community. If you would like to become involved in the club, there is a wide range of roles and opportunities where no shinty experience is necessary. You just need a sense of humour and a will to help give back to your local community. If you would like to be involved, please contact the club on facebook or email: secretary.glengarry@outlook.com

3 Glens Community Care

'Supporting Our Communities'

3 Glens Community Care are pleased to report that our first 'in person' AGM on Monday 9th May 2022 went well. It was well attended – phew!! – and so nice to be in direct contact with members of our communities again.



We were pleased to be able to display information about our organisation to illustrate our purpose. We now have a membership of 31. However our board has shrunk to 5 trustees.

Information about our local care service Sunflower Home Care was displayed, as was information about the Electric Vehicle Scheme set up by the Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company. Two electric cars are being dedicated to Sunflower Home Care care workers use. They will also have 2 electric bicycles at their disposal. This will make a huge difference to the cost of providing care in our widespread communities, and will also remove the need for care workers to use their own vehicles, and avoid the associated excessive wear and tear.

Boleskine Community Care – who, like us, also have a partnership with Highland Hospice and have their own Sunflower Home Care service, were represented. They also displayed information about their services. They were our initial inspiration, being the first community led care service in our vicinity and have given us a lot of help and support from the outset.

Our proposed Befriending Services were outlined. Susan Smith, Helping Hands Service Manager, from Highland Hospice was there to answer questions. We have a second partnership agreement with Highland Hospice and are being guided by their well established experience in this field. Look out for more information – coming soon.

REMINDER: Mobility aids. 2 Wheelchairs and 2 Tri-walkers are available for short-term loan to members of our community. Stored at Fort Augustus Village Hall. Contact: Community Company tel. 366800 or email: contact@communitycompany.co.uk

For out of hours, Denise Paterson 07760 360007 can access.

3 Glens CC is keen to recruit new members. We encourage anyone over the age of sixteen, male and female, to enrol as members. This does not make you a member of the Board of Trustees, and you will not be pressured into joining the Board. By supporting

us this way, you give strength to our organisation and you can have a say in the future development and retention of care in our communities.

We would like to attract new trustees to help with our continued development. The bulk of the setup work has been done, however continued development is ongoing and needs community input. There will be no pressure to take on tasks. For a membership form, please email: chair@3glenscare.org or telephone: Denise on 07760 360007

Exciting times! 3 Glens Community Care are pleased to announce the start of our Befriending service.

Loneliness Awareness Week takes place 15th – 19th June - an annual event to raise awareness of loneliness, break the stigma attached to it and encourage people to speak about the issue openly.

We have teamed up with the Highland Hospice Helping Hands service to bring social and practical support to those who may feel isolated or lonely living in the 3 Glens area.

The service will be free of charge and offers friendship, emotional support, and a listening ear, whilst supporting people to do the things they like doing and staying connected to the local community. If you feel this would benefit you or someone you know in any way, please do contact us.

We need help from the community to run this service. The Befriending service matches volunteer Befrienders to Befriendees. Befrienders offer their company, visiting a Befriender in their own home or providing support to venture out. Befrienders help to promote independence and reduce isolation. You may have a cuppa and a chat at home or elsewhere, go for a walk or go shopping together for example.

Full training and PVG check will be provided. Befrienders will not be involved in personal care or domestic tasks. If you have a minimum of an hour a week/or fortnight to spare, we'd love to hear from you. We feel the service could benefit many people in our community so please do get in touch with

Kaye Couzens, the Development Officer for 3 Glens Community Care, at contact@3glenscare.org or on 07507 627990.

Nature notes



Yesterday I found a violet oil beetle on a grassy path behind the Lodge at Dundreggan. They are quite rare because they have a very unusual and complicated lifecycle, which is the insect equivalent of a cuckoo. They're easy to recognise with their narrow necks, and wings that look a bit like a badly fitted waistcoat. They also have a purplish or greenish tinge. There are three different kinds - all nationally rare but often found in our glens – especially on grassy paths. You might spot one in your garden!

So .. here's the amazing life story of this remarkable beetle....

Around this time of year or usually earlier when wildflowers begin to appear, the adult oil beetle lays around 1000 eggs in an underground burrow. When the larvae hatch, they climb up a dandelion or similar flower where they wait for a small solitary mining bee (also rare) to land. Some of the larvae climb on the wrong bee so won't ever become a beetle. But if they are lucky the grubs hitch a lift and are taken back to the mining bee nest.

Once in the nest, the oil beetle grubs eat the bee eggs and are tended by the adult bee .. a bit like a meadowpipit or other small bird will look after a cuckoo chick. Once the beetle grubs are fully grown, they drop to the bottom of the bee nest as pupae (like the pupa of a butterfly) and the adult beetles emerge at this time of year to begin the whole process again. Isn't nature amazing?

Blast From The Past

Around the River Oich to Bunoich and Jenkins Park

The Mackay Hall

This Church was erected in 1906/07 by the members of the Free Church who did not wish to become United Free Church members. It was purchased in kit form from Spiers & Co of Glasgow. In 1929, the Church united with the Church of Scotland, and it became the Mackay Hall named after the minister at the time it was built. In 1986 it was sold to the Edinburgh Woollen Mill.

The War Memorial Hall

This former drill hall and public hall was built in 1891, with the war memorial added to the porch in 1918. Lord Lovat was instrumental in obtaining the hall for use as the drill for the Imperial Yeomanry Regiment which he established in 1900. A shooting guest (Mr Kenneth Onlsow) from Brighton had a great love for the area and paid for the building. Directly beside the Memorial Hall were three wooden buildings. One was used by an electrician, then the shoe maker. Going further down this road, on one side is the River Oich and on the other is the Caledonian Canal - which will be celebrating 200 years this October. It was mostly constructed by manual labour, involving the division of the river which ran where the buildings are on the opposite bank. What an achievement! The River Oich Bridge was built in 1772 but was washed away in the great flood of 1849. Beyond the bridge is the Barrackmasters. Crossing the Oich bridge, this area was originally called Bridgend and was once the heart of the village with the post office, the village shop and baker's.

Both sides of the River Oich were lined with small fishing boats belonging to local men who fished for salmon on the rivers and Loch Ness. The ice house on Bridgend side was packed with barrels at the height of the fishing season. There was also a blacksmith where the hydro garages are now and climbing up Bunoich Brae, on the right hand side was the house of the Wishart family which sadly burnt down. Smithy cottage is on your left on the top of the hill. It belonged to a crofting family and their croft is now the village car park and The Riggs. This was originally the main road round to Inchnacardoch and Inverness.

The Fort Augustus junior secondary school is now affordable housing. Crossings over Inverugliar burn, on the left was the Free Church manse, the new village hall and shooting range. The small house beside the hall was also lived in by a crofting family. The building opposite was the Free Church minister stable's. In 1937 the Rev Donald, Ferguson (a St Kilda man and ex shipbuilder) built his own boat in the stables. The small cottage after that was originally two house and the big house after them had a cafe and shop. This was the original road to Auchterawe. At the top there was a gate with a small kissing gate for pedestrians. This was all crofting land at one time and further up was the corn mill. Heading to Jenkins Park, several small cottages could be seen. A small man who was an ex circus lion tamer lived in one of them. He only had one leg! He grew the most fantastic vegetables and he was proud of his garden - especially the soil that came from Ireland on the grain boats and was used as ballast (maybe he was Irish?).

Jenkins Park

Jenkins Park originally got its name from the man that used it as a small holding and stables for his horses. He stayed in Iona villa at Bruce's Buildings. A Chief Petty Officer from Cork in Ireland, he came to the village in 1884. Not much is known about him or his family. After he died in 1907, his widow move to Aberdeen. Up until 1999, I was getting letters from a solicitor trying to trace the next of kin of his daughter (Anne

Louise Jenkins), wife of the Rev K C McLennan (a Free Church Minister) to try to settle her estate.

Maureen Ferguson



Brownies



It's been a busy term for the Brownies, from a sponsored Zumba dance party, raising £159 for Children in Need and an equal amount for our own unit, three new Brownies making their Promise to become full Brownie members and a Jubilee tea party on the 7th June, to celebrate the 70 year reign of the Girl Guide's patron, HM The Queen.

Would you like to join in with the Brownie fun? We are looking for someone to join our team and become a leader to help us continue our recovery from Covid and give the girls lots of great experiences. They have missed so much due to Covid – now is the time to make up for it!

If you are interested, please contact Jessica Smith or Lisa Gordon.

Sports Reporter of the Year

Eilidh Davies who is originally from Invergarry won the Sports Reporter of the Year award at the Highlands and Islands Media Awards. She was shortlisted for her work as a reporter for BBC Sport Scotland for her contributions to both radio and TV. Her coverage throughout the year included football reporting on Ross County and Inverness Caledonian Thistle as well as covering shinty, including a piece on Glengarry Shinty Club.



F.A.I.R. – Fort Augustus & Invermoriston Recycling

A trip down Memory Lane... by Denise Paterson

Seven years ago, Fort Augustus & Invermoriston Recycling – known as F.A.I.R. - disbanded. Formed by local community-minded and environmentally friendly folk, we were very enthusiastic to help our communities become more environmentally aware.

Here is a list of the things that F.A.I.R. got involved with and achieved:

We organised ANNUAL LITTER PICKS around the villages and outskirts. One of our members worked at Kilchuimen Primary School so got the pupils involved in this too.

- 50 COMPOST BINS were collected from ZERO WASTE SCOTLAND and delivered out into the community for £5 each.
- We joined forces with Zero Waste Scotland and hosted a COMPOSTING AWARENESS EVENT at the Church Hall. We learned about what to put in and what not to put in a compost bin and how to make 'good compost' by balancing green materials (green vegetation, vegetable peelings, spent flowers, lawn mower cuttings – not too much at a time) with brown materials (twigs, straw, toilet/kitchen roll inners, egg boxes, contents of vacuum cleaner dust bags). A selection of Composting Containers was displayed. An active Wormery was also on display – fascinating.
- We visited a RECYCLING CENTRE/COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SITE at Acharacle to learn a bit more about Community Composting and Recycling. Acharacle also had a store of donated furniture that could be passed on to members of the community to reuse/repurpose/renovate. A great idea.
- We investigated the viability of a COMPOSTING SITE for Fort Augustus. A potential site was offered by the Forestry Commission. On full investigation, we discovered that there were too many complications including:
 - a. Collection/transportation of waste material.
 - b. Possibility of spreading plant, pest, and soil-borne disease.
 - c. The site was behind a gate, making access less straight-forward.
 - d. An army of volunteers would be needed.
- We met with Caroline and her gardener at the Lovat and were shown their food and garden waste digester – which processes waste, and rapidly turns it into usable compost. Fascinating.
- F.A.I.R. were instrumental in getting the SECOND SET OF RECYCLING BINS for Fort Augustus at the Village Hall Car Park and a set of RECYCLING BINS for Invermoriston.

Most of F.A.I.R.'s members were retirees and the time came when, with no new younger and fitter recruits, it was agreed to disband. I was involved – younger and fitter myself then – and thoroughly enjoyed the engagement with environmental projects. Litter particularly is something I became passionate about in first year at Blandford High School, Dorset. A country-wide litter campaign 'Keep Britain Tidy' took place. We threw ourselves whole-heartedly into it. The positive experience remained with me and influenced me all my life.



Kilchuimen - Academy, Primary & Nursery



Tree & Bulb Planting

Kilchuimen Academy were invited by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company to help plant trees and bulbs within the local area. The trees were donated by the Woodland Trust. During the visit S1-3 pupils found out about the native trees and the local woodland, as well as getting hands on experience planting trees and bulbs. It was a beautiful sunny day and the pupils really enjoyed getting to learn new skills and working together as a team to improve their local area.



Study Leave Work Experience

Students from Kilchuimen Academy as part of their study leave programme spent time volunteering with the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company. During their week they undertook a variety of jobs around the community; grass cutting, fixing fences etc. The students enjoyed getting to work outdoors in a practical environment. Thank you to Glen Campbell & his team for allowing the students this opportunity.

Ski-ing

Many of our S1-6 pupils attended our annual Ski/Snowboard trip to Nevis Range, Fort William at the beginning of March. All pupils had a brilliant time, despite the unpredictable Scottish weather. Well done to all our skiers and snowboarders! Also, a big thank you to the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust and Glengarry Trust who very generously provided the funding to allow all the pupils to take part.



Cill Chuimein Heritage Group

Cill Chuimein Heritage Group went on a field trip to Fort George in June. Thirteen members travelled to the Fort, making a short stop for coffee at the Botanical Gardens and arriving in time for lunch and a guided tour of the Fort. Our Guides were very entertaining and knowledgeable about the history of the times, and the reasons for building plus such a strong fortress which has served the Army for the past almost 250 years. We were lucky to have a lovely sunny day for our trip, and enjoyed the history and stories about the soldiers and their wives who lived at the site. We were shown an interesting area of the Fort that not everyone who visits gets to see. A day enjoyed by all.



Tree Planting to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11

On a beautiful June 3rd morning people gathered to watch the planting of a Whitebeam tree by Mr Graham. Biggs, and the placing of a plaque to mark the occasion. The photograph shows Graham, a Founder Member and current Honorary Vice Chair of Cill Chuimein Heritage Group along with the spectators on the day. The tree was well watered by Carys and Barty and the ceremony was rounded off with coffee and cake in the hall.



Announcements

Graduations



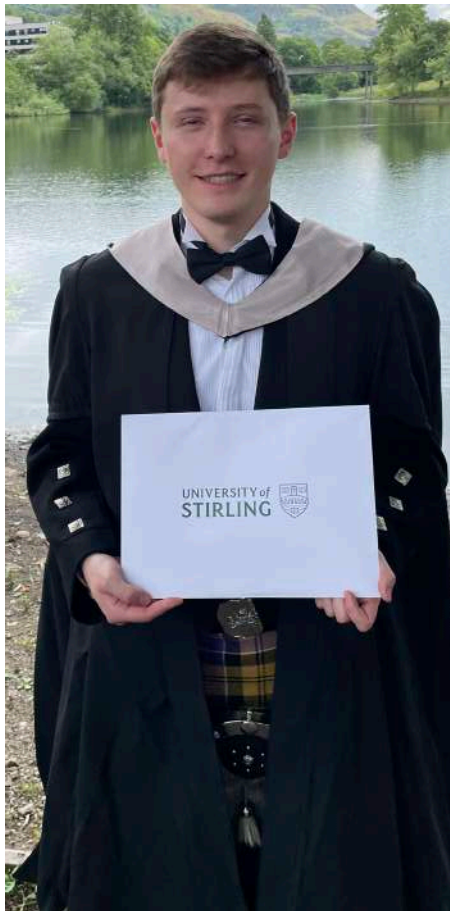
Fiona MacDonald graduated at the top of her class from the University of Strathclyde with a Bachelor of Science in Physics with a First Class Honours. Fiona was awarded the Astronomical Society of Glasgow prize offered to the most distinguished student in their final examinations for a BSc Honours or MSc degree in Mathematics or Physics. Fiona also won the Dean award every year she attended.



Gavin Hosie graduated from the University of Cumbria with BA(Hons) in Outdoor Education.



Eirinn Hosie graduated from Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon's University with a BA(Hons) in Communication Design.



Jamie Walker graduated from the University of Stirling with a Bachelor of Arts Honours in History and Religion.

Births



Scarlett Fox Fisher was born at home at Farhills in Fort Augustus on the 17th March 2022 at 13.48 pm weighing 8lb 2oz to Juliette Garrett and George Fisher.



Chris Clark and Anna Surgeoner welcomed Archie James Clark on the 21st of May 2022, weighing 7lb 7oz.

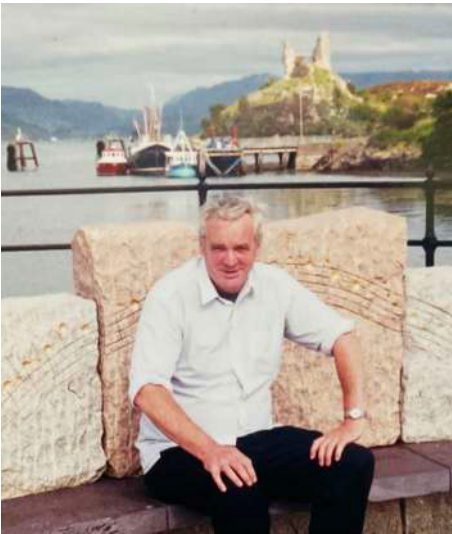


Ruth and Brian Ferguson welcomed Calvin James Ferguson. Born on the 26th of May at 11:30am in Raigmore Hospital, Weighing 7lbs 5oz.

Deaths



Daniel Stoddart (Danny Cluanie) died aged 76 on the 21st April, 2022. Long time respected and popular member of the licensed trade, Glenmoriston Arms Hotel, Cluanie Inn and Lock Inn. Beloved husband of Elma MacColl, greatly loved father of Scott and Fraser.



John MacRae, born in Forest Gate, Invergarry, passed away on the 18th of June at the age of 82 after a short illness. He began work at MacDonald's shop in Fort Augustus followed by study in Aberdeenshire and work in Glasgow and Stirling. He returned to Lochaber to work as Wood Operations Foreman for the Pulp Mill in Fort William, then as a lorry driver and snow plough driver for the Highland Council, deer stalking at

Aberchalder Estate and finally managing Loch Lochy Youth Hostel with his wife, Mairi. In 2000 he retired to Broadford on the Isle of Skye. His funeral was private and was held on the 29th of June in Kyleakin. In accordance with his wishes, he was laid to rest on his croft. He is survived by his wife Mairi, his six children - Anne, Janet, Calum, John, Alasdair, and Ewan - and eight grandchildren.



Christina (Tot) Kennedy nee Cameron was born on 19th March 1931 at 1 South Laggan. She was the youngest of three daughters. Although named Christina she was always known as Tot being the youngest and smallest of the family. She attended Newton School and achieved a bursary to attend old Fort William Secondary School.

After leaving school she worked as a secretary in the old Belford Hospital and the distillery before moving to work on the switchboard at the local

building schemes. Tot's working life continued by working in Glengarry Castle Hotel for many years which she really enjoyed and also cleaning the local primary school.

She married Archie Kennedy in 1951 who sadly died in 1978 when he was only 57. They had two children Ken and Irene.

Her passions in life were her family and sport. In her younger days it was said that you could hear her before you saw her as she approached the shinty field especially when supporting Inverloch. This didn't really diminish too much with age!

Tot's family have said they were so lucky to have had her as their mam and were able to spend the last week by her bedside in hospital.



Muriel Heather Knight born on the 7th of December 1927, passed away on the 2nd of June 2022.

Telford Centre

The Alpaca Experience held at the Glenurquhart Centre, Drumnadrochit



The Telford Centre would like to acknowledge the generosity and hospitality extended to us by The Glenurquhart Centre in Drumnadrochit. They welcomed us and provided us with a much appreciated lunch whilst we enjoyed the visiting Alpaca Experience from Invercannich Farm. The whole afternoon proved to be memorable for our visiting residents.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration



The Telford Centre opened its doors to our residents' friends and family on 2nd May to help us celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The centre organised an afternoon tea with games and a quiz which everyone enjoyed. It was good to see everyone together enjoying the Jubilee and reminiscing over the decades since the Queen's coronation in 1953.




Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

CAP REVIEW

Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Action Plan review
Summary of progress & future priorities (Traffic light system)

Theme	Progress to date	Future work	Priority	Priority
Community & Recreation	Orange circle	Green circle	Person running	Person climbing stairs
Housing & Local Economy	Green circle	Green circle	House icon	Person with tools
Environment & Heritage	Red circle	Green circle	Person with net	Person with magnifying glass
Access to Services & Transport	Orange circle	Green circle	Person with wheelchair	Bus icon
Parking, Roads & Traffic	Orange circle	Green circle	P parking sign	30 speed limit sign

You can find the full report here <https://communitycompany.co.uk/cap/index.php> or scan the QR code



Some of you will have seen the details we posted recently on Facebook to summarise the Community Action Plan review findings. The full document is available on our website <https://www.communitycompany.co.uk/cap/index.php>

It has been great to meet so many of you and hear your thoughts and suggestions.

The next step will be to organise a meeting for those parties who will be involved in taking projects forward and we hope that will be possible in the coming month. It will certainly help the Community Company Directors in determining the priorities for future projects.

DIRECTORS

As promised in the last Ness News we would like to introduce you to our other new Director, Lynne West from Invermoriston.

I retired to Invermoriston in 2018 with my husband: our daughter lives in Dundreggan with her rescue Staffie. My background is in education: I started my working life as a Secondary teacher in London, progressing to be Principal of a Further Education College and Director of an Education Action Zone in the North East.

Community life is very important to me. I am Secretary of the Glenmoriston Improvement Group, a community action group set up in 2020, and of the recently re-formed Glenmoriston Heritage Group, as well as treasurer of the Fort Augustus and Area Gaelic Group. I am an Archery coach (looking forward to seeing a Sports Centre in this area!) and my interests include canal boating, travel, heritage and the environment. I am pleased to join the Directors of the Fort Augustus and Area Community Company, because their emphasis is on action, not just talk, in supporting the area's communities.

We have also been lucky enough to find two new volunteer Directors to join the team. They have been co-opted onto the Board, as they became interested after the AGM. They are Fiona MacCormick from Fort Augustus and David Francis from Dalchreichart. We are delighted to have them join us and there will be a bit more about them next time.





Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

'SUDDEN IMPACT IN GLENMORISTON



Not what you're thinking, Harry Callahan hasn't been spotted in Dalchreichart or Invermoriston, but we do have a new member of the community caretaking team taking care of business in Glenmoriston.

David Campbell has recently joined us and his relentless enthusiasm to improve the area has made a big impact already. His role is far more hands on now and will make a welcome change to being on the Board as a director.

Feedback from many members of the communities was that there was just not enough presence from the community company, which is a fair comment, hence one of the driving

forces behind employing a new member of staff, (our own Harry Callahan), to improve and maintain the two villages. Duties and responsibilities are varied and wide just like the FA based team including improving the aesthetic appearance of the area. This will include all aspects of soft landscaping, maintaining hard standing areas, waste management and more specialist projects.

David will also work alongside the rest of the community caretakers especially when a larger team effort is required.

The villages are already starting to have that looked after feeling about them and just as for the rest of the team, if you spot him working do stop and say hello. You've got to ask yourself 'do I feel lucky', well go ahead punk, make his day.

COMMUNITY GROWING

The first meeting was held in May for people interested in starting up a community growing group. The next meeting is on site, at the Convent Land in early June. The land available extends to approximately 1 acre, with the possibility of more being available. It's a blank canvas and we hope an active group of volunteers growers will plan and develop the land into a productive and inclusive community space. FAGCC directors Fiona and Michael are keen to be involved and the staff of FAGCC will be on hand to support the group to bring their ideas to fruition. The group is open to anyone. There are other areas of ground that may become available so that one day there'll be community growing spaces dotted all round the area on this project.





COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduced new Community Rights places requirements on public agencies.

This includes the right to:

- request information on any public asset that interests them
- request the transfer of a public asset (and it doesn't have to be surplus)
- acquire that asset if the public body cannot offer a good reason not to (i.e. there is a presumption in favour of transfer)
- to decide on the price it wishes to offer, based on the economic, social, health or environmental benefits the proposal will add
- to appeal any adverse decision

FORT AUGUSTUS MEMORIAL HALL

FAGCC has just started the process of applying for a Community Asset Transfer of the Memorial Hall from the Highland Council. We want to see the hall re-opened and retained for community use in the heart of the village.

The success of the Asset Transfer request hinges on demonstrating community support for the Asset Transfer. Our plan is to move FAGCC office into the Memorial Hall so we are more accessible and available, continue with a Service Point or similar and refurbish the Hall and Kitchen to make a comfortable and cosy meeting space. Freeing up space elsewhere provides options should a dentist be encouraged to set-up in the village.



GLENTARFF HOUSE

Similarly to the Memorial Hall, FAGCC are going to apply to Scottish Canals for an Asset Transfer of Glentarff House on Canalside. It has lain empty for twelve years but despite that remains dry and ready for finishing off. FAGCC will complete renovations and let the property out at an affordable rent in line with council rent and the other FAGCC homes. There remains a need for affordable housing in the area, this would secure the property for local housing need rather than it becoming a holiday let.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE ASSET TRANSFERS

We need to be able to demonstrate community support for the Asset Transfers so if you do support us it would be great if you could sign the petitions in either Girvans Hardware or Great Glen Trading.



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

GRANTS

In the first quarter of this year the following grants were awarded:

- Glenmoriston Improvement Group - £ 9,949 for grass cutting equipment to maintain the playing field
- The Community Company - £10,000 to supplement other funding and provide an ELSAN tipping point in Fort Augustus
- The Community Company—£10,000 to support other funding to purchase E-vehicles to be used by 3 Glens Community Care
- Invermoriston Millennium Hall, The Hub at Dalchreichart and Fort Augustus Village Hall—£10,000 each to help with increased running costs and enable them to continue offering a service to the community at reasonable rates.

E-BIKES FOR SUNFLOWER HOME CARE



The Community Company recently purchased 2 E-bikes . These are for use by Sunflower Home Care workers when they are visiting residents in Fort Augustus. The intention is to make it quicker and greener for them to get around the village. No more wearing out their shoe leather or using a car for short distances for them!

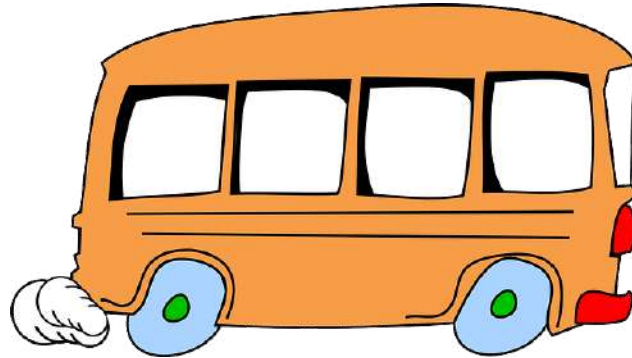
When the team collected the bikes they had a trial ride in the Village Hall. Every one of them squealed when the electric boost kicked in, apparently it is a weird sensation till you get used to it and in an enclosed space was even more peculiar.

They left us to go and test them out before they set off on their visits.

There will be more on the plans for those visiting 3 Glens residents who are further afield another time, that is a work in progress.

Minibus Training

Do you need someone to be able to drive the Kilchuimen Academy minibus to help get your group out and about?



The qualifying things drivers will need are:

- A MiDAS certificate
- Either a D1 code on their driving licence (if they passed their test before January 1997 they will probably have this) or a D1 certificate.

The Community Company is supporting the cost of training, for both certificates, for local people. The MiDAS course is in two parts of up to 7 hours, the D1 is more involved and takes a lot more time, including some self-study*. If someone you know would like to be considered for one or both courses please ask them to email contact@communitycompany.co.uk stating their name, the name of the community group they would be driving for, their address and if they have a D1 code on their licence.

There will be limited places available for the courses and subject to numbers, these will be split to support as many groups as possible.

The cost of D1 training is very high both in terms of the driver's time and in the cost to us, so we ask that a nomination is only made if the person is able to meet the requirements. We would expect anyone we are supporting to be prepared to offer up to 4 voluntary drives a year for other members of the community, if asked.



*If you would like more information on what is involved, please email contact@communitycompany.co.uk

EXCITING TIMES

Coming to Glengarry, Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston soon

3 Glens Community Care are pleased to announce the start of a **Befriending Service**



Let's raise awareness of loneliness, break the stigma attached to it and encourage people to speak about the issue openly. We have teamed up with the Highland Hospice Helping Hands service to bring social and practical support to those who may feel isolated or lonely living in the 3 Glens area.

The service is free of charge and offers friendship, emotional support, and a listening ear, whilst supporting people to do the

things they like doing and staying connected to the local community.

We need help from the community to run this service. The Befriending service matches volunteer Befrienders to Befriendees. Befrienders offer their company, visiting a Befriendeed in their own home or providing support to venture out.

We feel the service could benefit many people in our communities. Please do get in touch if you would like

further information, to use the service, know someone that could benefit from it or would like to become a volunteer befriender.



Contact Kaye Couzens, Development Officer for 3 Glens Community Care by email: contact@3glenscare.org or phone 07507 627990.



Notice Board

The Edge of Each Rough Region: Church and Community in the Great Glen

Now available



Adrian Varwell

About the book:

At the centre of the Great Glen the communities of Fort Augustus and the adjacent Glengarry and Glenmoriston have been at the extremities of other much larger parishes for centuries: only in comparatively recent times have they had any independent identity. For this reason much of the early history of the churches in this area has been subsumed within those larger parishes. This study sets out to explore the fascinating story and the role of the Christian Church in the communities of this area. From the Celtic saints to renewable energy and rewilding, local Christians have sought to be faithful to their calling.


A final chapter applies lessons from the past to the challenges of the present century. The God of the past is the God of the future and, learning from its history, God's people in the Great Glen and in similar rural areas are encouraged to embrace the possibilities that lie ahead.

About the Author:

Adrian Varwell was the Parish Minister of Fort Augustus and Glengarry from 2001-2011. From a background in rural development he has worked amongst communities in the Highlands and Islands for over fifty years and as an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland since 1983.

Publisher: Amazon paperback & Kindle
Website: abertarff.wordpress.com
Available from: Loch Ness Hub, Drumnadrochit
Contact: adrian.varwell@btinternet.com

APPEAL FOR DENTAL SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITY



There is growing concern about the difficulty in finding a dentist, with our residents having to travel to Fort William, Inverness and Dingwall or even not being able to find a practice with vacancies at all. A recent on-line Facebook survey in Glenmoriston found 93 individuals who would sign up to a local dentist. We are now appealing to those of you who live in Fort Augustus and the surrounding area to let us know if you too would sign up to a local dental service. We are unlikely to be able to attract a dentist or N.H.S. support, unless we can demonstrate we have the numbers to make that viable.

So, PLEASE, if you want to appeal for a local dentist service,

Either

- sign up to the petition which is being kept at the Gift shop tills in the Great Glen Trading Post. As the tourist season is growing, please come at a quiet time and ask for the petition to sign.
- or email contact@communitycompany.co.uk, with the number of people in your household and something to show that you live in the area, either address or landline phone number.

If we can demonstrate there is enough demand, this will make it more likely that we can attract a dentist.

Thank you for your support, Lynne West on behalf of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company.



Notice Board

ZUMBA® IS FOR EVERY BODY

Wednesday 7.15pm
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

To book your place email
zumbadebbiegg@gmail.com

Glenmoriston Craft Club

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month

At Glenmoriston Millennium Hall
11am - 3pm

Cost only £3 per session

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

We are recruiting ON CALL FIREFIGHTERS in Highlands

Every dot is a fire station we are recruiting at.

ARE YOU NEARBY?

To see where we are recruiting near you, visit:
www.firescotland.gov.uk/careers/on-call

CAREERS
WE ARE SPRS
YOU ARE #FRS


[firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk) #YouAreSPRS

Yoga Fitness

Every Thursday
7pm

Fort Augustus Community Hall

Fort Augustus Fitness



Notice Board

SINGLE TEAM CUP COMPETITION
FINAL
16th JULY 2022
TAYNUILT

GLENGARRY
V
COL-GLEN



Sunflower Home Care

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

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

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

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

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




The Lovat Litter Pick

The last Sunday of each month
10am - 11am

Tea & coffee in the hotel reception afterwards

Meet at The Lovat and join our team to help clean up our community

The Lovat, PH32 4DU, Fort Augustus
01456 459250

Bus to Fort William

Open to all ages (with priority to over 60s)

Wednesday 20th July

£3

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

Leaving Fort William 1330
Return to Fort Augustus 1450 approx

Shopmobility scooters available. Please ask when booking.

To book please telephone the Community Company: 01320 366800

60 or over? Please book as soon as possible
Under 60? Please book on or after 13th July (subject to seat availability)

Fort Augustus Senior Citizens' Association

