

Ness News

Community News & Events

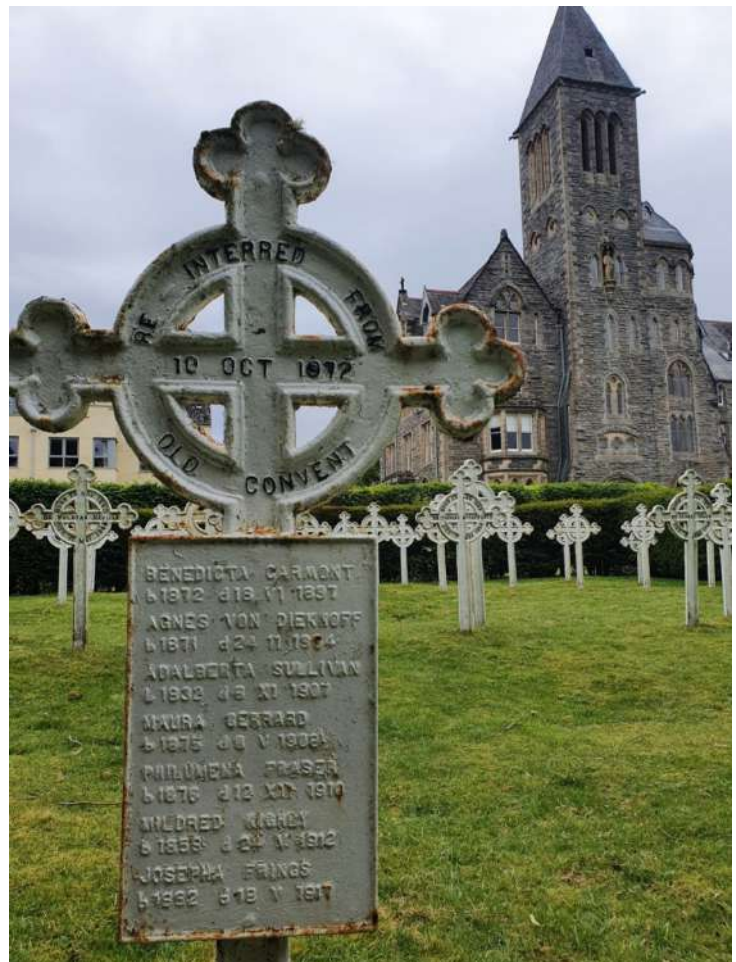
June 2021



Shinty Update



Blast From The Past



Nature Notes





Things are beginning to get back to normal although we're still not able to meet up in certain halls and venues which limit a lot of local events and activities but luckily Glengarry Shinty Club have restarted with the Men's, Women's and Junior games now being allowed to play. Read all their updates in this issue as well as the developments of the Convent and Sheltered Housing, news from Glenmoriston, the refurbishment of the Telford Centre Day Room and Dining Room and an interesting article on the St. Scholastica nuns in Blast from the Past. The Community Company and the Glengarry Trust have also written updates but I would like to include more Glengarry news in future issues so please send any info or events in any of the three local areas to the email

address below.

I hope the summer months are good for everybody with some lovely warm weather after the cold spring we encountered. Deirdre

Hello, I am David Fraser and I am the newest of the four councillors for Aird and Loch Ness. The Ward's four councillors are Cllr Emma Knox SNP, Cllr Margaret Davidson, Cllr Helen Carmichael and myself (all independent).

I was born in Drumnadrochit. I am a Civil Engineer by profession and worked across Scotland for a number of years before returning home in 1992 to raise our family. I have supported my local community in a number of roles including Chairman of the Community Council and Convenor of the Patient Participation Group. I have also served as a director on the Glenurquhart Care Centre board for over ten years and then again as Convenor 2016/17.

Since the election I have been getting to know the issues at our different communities as well as the workings of the Highland Council. I am working with Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council on a number of road safety issues particularly in and around Fort Augustus and Invermoriston. I was also on the panel for the appointment of the Kilchuimen head teacher and deputy head teacher roles.

At Highland Council, I have recently been appointed to the South Planning Area Committee and along with Margaret Davidson, we represent Aird & Loch Ness on that committee. I have also joined the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee; this committee deals with a number of important issues including mental health, children & young peoples services and adult social care.

I will be visiting Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston as COVID permits and look forward to meeting people face to face. I feel that my experience of life around the Loch and my family background will help me understand the specific needs of our area. Whether you voted for me or not, I am available to help if you need it. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The best way to contact me at the moment is by my new Council e-mail David.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk, mobile 0779139792 or via facebook.com/davidforairdandlochness

Editors

Deirdre MacKinnon

Seonaid MacDonald

nessnews-paper@outlook.com



The Glengarry Trust

Community benefit funding is available for The Glengarry Trust to distribute from the Millennium and Stronlaig windfarms.

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**):

23rd August 2021 (for our meeting on 13th September)

22nd November 2021 (for our meeting on 13th December)

21st February 2022 (for our meeting on 14th March)

23rd May 2022 (for our meeting and AGM on 13th 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.

Hallo to everyone as we go into summer.

Two important issues I want to raise.

Firstly, the sheltered/care housing behind the Telford Centre is coming on a space. It could be ready by October and hence we need to find the first tenants now.

The tenants need to be less able, they can be elderly of course, someone with increasing needs or becoming unable to cope on their own would be ideal. However, It can be someone younger who needs help with a medical condition, or a younger disabled person can be eligible. Give it some serious thought as these are going to be lovely two bedroom homes, and very well adapted with technology and of course, the staff of the Telford will be close by. The houses will be run by the Highland Council so any applicant will need to be on the housing list. If you are having trouble filling in the form, then please let me know and I'll get someone to help you. They are not the easiest. They are on the Council web site. Other updates, the Fort Augustus car park extension will be ready in July. Hooray, my goodness the village needs it. And finally, the work on the road into Kilchuimen Cemetery will also finish soon and hopefully that will protect the road from the river.

Have a good summer everyone and hope to be around the village a fair bit.

Margaret Davidson

News from Glenmoriston

Glenmoriston Beastie Trail

Thanks to funding by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, the new Glenmoriston Beastie Trail is going ahead and should be launched by the end of June. Trail booklets will be available from the local cafes, the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel and shops in Glenmoriston. The modest charge for the booklet includes pencils and sharpeners for completion of the "brass rubbings" of local wildlife on the trail marker posts which are being erected at sites of interest in the glen.

Check out more information about the history, heritage and activities in the glen on the website at www.glenmoriston.net



Voices of the Glen

In the past there have been some recordings of conversations with people living and working in the glen and we would love to continue that process with anyone who is willing to talk about aspects of their life in the glen, memories of people, places and events. It would be interesting to hear from anyone with such memories, not just those who have lived here for a long time, but we are particularly interested in the stories from people who have seen many changes and who remember people that are no longer with us.

We thought that informal conversations in small groups or one to one might work best, Gaelic, English or Scots language. The conversations could take place in the local cafes, hotel or halls or at home and would be initially be recorded on a mobile phone. Participants would be able to say what could or could not be kept and used from their conversations. People who do not live in the glen at the moment but who would like to share their relevant memories are also very welcome to contribute.

If you are interested in taking part in any of these conversations, whether as a contributor or a listener, please contact Joyce Gilbert at Dundreggan Farm Cottage, Glenmoriston. IV63 7YJ or on joycegilbert56@gmail.com or telephone Carol on 01320 351311 (evenings)

Invermoriston Recreation Field

At present, the terms of the lease state that the recreation field is only to be used for "sports and games facilities" but the Glenmoriston Improvement Group is looking at whether it is possible to negotiate extending the potential uses of the field so that other activities could be considered, such as a community garden, poly tunnel or allotments for example. Ideas for additional sports and games that could be played are petanque, a 5 or 7 a side pitch rather than the full sized one, shinty, archery, adult sized exercise equipment and, of course, much improved play equipment for children. Once the terms of use of the field have been settled, there will be a full consultation with the community about what people are interested in and willing to organise. Any ideas or volunteers to assist in the consultation and running of events are most welcome at this stage. Please contact Carol on 01320 351311 (evenings) or at invermoriston@gmail.com

Stories in the land: the Glen of the Bards

Glenmoriston was home to a succession of Gaelic poets & musicians in the late 18th and throughout the 19th century, known collectively as "The Glenmoriston Bards". These bards wrote songs and poems in praise of Glenmoriston which provide a unique perspective of life in the glen at that time. In 2020, we managed to secure funding from SNH (NatureScot) to employ two skilled researchers (Munro Gauld and Ceit Langhorne) to investigate the Glenmoriston bards. Since that time, Project Manager Joyce Gilbert has been visiting sites in Glenmoriston connected to their report - writing linked blog posts on the GIG Facebook Page which have been regularly viewed by around 100 people. Whilst the blog post has been an excellent way of sharing the research findings (especially during the Pandemic), we feel it will really come alive for the community at public events in the glen.

We are currently hoping to secure funding for a series of events in September, where we will share the findings of the research through a mixed media presentation and historical re-enactment. The presentation will include maps, photographs, music, song and story plus recordings of local people made in 1952 by Calum Maclean of the School of Scottish Studies. Tom Langhorne's outdoor historical re-enactment will give a unique flavour of life in our glens at that time.

Invermoriston War Memorial

The new commemorative bench has been delivered and work is being carried out to give a safer standing area by the War Memorial. This has been funded by FAGC Company and fabricated by GD Stell of Belfast. We are grateful to Pat Dobner for her design, Marion Gillies for the donated slabs, the Glenmoriston Estate for permission to carry out the work on their land and to Thomas Dobner for his hard work in doing the groundworks and making the base



Road Traffic

The group submitted a comprehensive list of issues and suggestions to the Community Council which was discussed at the most recent FAGCC meeting. (Please see latest FAGCC minutes.)

Minister's Footprints

The Glenmoriston Improvement Group provided the materials for Glen and the Community Caretakers to make and install safer steps and handrail for access to the Minister's footprints at Dundreggan. We want to thank his team for the great job they have done.

Glengarry Shinty Club

Finally, after a long period of being away from Craigard Park, Glengarry Shinty club are BACK. Kids, ladies and men from the neighbouring villages of South Laggan, North Laggan, Invergarry, Glengarry, Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and further afield all participate in the game.



After lockdown, the kids got the go ahead to start training first and returned full of enthusiasm and a lot of new members to keep coaches Shaun, Elaine, Katie, Suzi, Shaina and Grace on their toes when they meet for training sessions on a Thursday night. Star trainer of the week decided by the coaches will receive a certificate and a free ice cream sponsored from Highland Ice Cream. The older kids have had their first competitive match in the Development League travelling to Grantown-on-Spey.

The men, who started non contact training last month have taken part in a few friendlies in the run up to their first league match against Skye, which they won, where a minute's silence was held in memory of the club secretary, Mrs Catherine Cameron, who passed away in March 2020.



The ladies team are back in training but await word from the Women's Camanachd Association as to when games can start.

A lot of changes have taken place, each game and training session must have a Covid officer in place, every item must be sanitised, track and trace forms must be filled in, a set amount of officials at a game and at present **NO** spectators. A different world to what we are used to but we must adhere to these regulations if we want to continue playing our beloved shinty.

Our local sponsorships are in place and this year many local businesses have donated to the club, all of whom we would like to thank. The club are always looking for volunteers to assist with many different aspects of the club so if you have a spare few hours free why not contact us?

Glengarry Filling Station is now stocking a lot of our merchandise but if the size you want is not in stock or if you want an item posted, please contact the club and we will do our best.

Check out our Facebook page; this is where we post photos and you can catch up on all the club news.

Once again can, we just thank the community for their support in these trying times.



Nature Notes

Moths and Butterflies of the Glens

Butterflies, like garden birds, are hard not to like. Often beautifully coloured and flitting around wildflowers in the summer-time, they brighten our lives up when we take time to notice them. Out now, are a host of large and gorgeous types known as Nymphalids – the Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Red Admiral, all of which feed as caterpillars on nettles. If you want to have these flying wonders around your garden later on in the year, leave a patch of nettles for the summer. Much smaller but equally stunning, Green Hairstreak, Common Blue and Small Copper butterflies are also about. Watch out for flashes of metallic green, blue and orange respectively.



Most people regard moths with fear and distain. The idea that moths eat your carpets and clothes, or are evil, night flying creepy-crawlies is presented to us from an early age. And while it is true that a handful of moths can be a problem in the house, the huge majority of species are absolutely harmless, spending their time eating plant leaves and sipping nectar from hedgerow flowers. In fact, moths are just night-time butterflies, and many fly during the day, like the Speckled Yellow pictured that I saw in Glen Garry last weekend. Next time someone says moths are boring and grey, show them this!

Many moths do fly at night though, and are difficult to see without catching them. At Dundreggan, I regularly run a light-trap during the night to attract whatever is about. On a good night, it is not uncommon to record 50 different species and hundreds of individuals. Here's one I found in the trap a couple of weekends ago – an Elephant Hawk Moth – large and impressive! That's a normal-sized egg box it's sitting on.



Trapping them like this does them no harm, and they are free to fly off the following night, once all the birds have disappeared for the evening!

The Great Glen, Glen Garry and Glenmoriston are particularly good for rare and interesting moths. With names like Blomer's Rivulet, Blaeberry Pug, Great Brocade, Rannoch Sprawler and Anomalous (yes – a real name for a moth!) it's hard not to get interested, especially as most of them are really very beautiful when you take a close-up look. I find it endlessly fascinating to think that we share the landscape with such amazing creatures that hardly anyone notices, unless they have a certain curiosity about what lives around us! If you want some more amazing facts and pictures about moths and butterflies, have a look at the splendid Butterfly Conservation Scotland website: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/conservation-projects/scotland>

Doug Gilbert
Trees for Life
Dundreggan

Trees for Life

Sheltered Housing at Abertarff Place

The site is progressing well. The buildings are up, the roofs are on, and doors and windows are all in place.

The roughcasting will be nearing completion if not completed at time of writing, meaning externally, the properties are about there and looking good.

Internally, plumbing, electrics and joinery are all on schedule and the taper has made a start. Compass report that they remain on programme which is great news.



Announcements

Births



Rachel and Sean Johnstone welcomed the birth of Lachlan Sean Johnstone on 29 April 2020. Arrived unexpectedly 16 weeks early at 24 + 1 weeks. Spent 7 months in hospital and came home November 2020. A feisty, active little boy who loves his food. Thriving since being home and recently turned 1. Making his family proud with all that he has achieved so far.



Scott and Duncan born 21 August 2020 to Andrew MacDonald, Invermoriston and Jenny Service.



Kyonn Brian Henderson Ferguson born on the 17/06/2021 weighing 7lbs 12oz at 11:30am to Ruth Henderson and Brian Ferguson.

Deaths



Margaret (Margo) Agnes Smith (nee MacPherson) passed away peacefully, in the care of the Telford Centre, Fort Augustus, on 16th May, 2021, aged 91 years. Margo will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral service held at Invermoriston Cemetery. Margo's family would like to thank the staff at the Telford Centre for all their care over the years.



Kenneth MacKenzie Michie
46 Abertarff Place
11th February 1946 - 25th May 2021.



Sandy Ferguson, Greenfield, who has been a Glen resident for many years. First coming to work for the Forestry at an early age & remaining with them until his retirement. An animal lover, Sandy ran his own croft with the help of his family; wife Louise, son Derek & future daughter-in-law Natasha. He was very involved in the Glengarry Gun Club & was an excellent sportsman, a keen shot & fisherman. A loving father & husband who will be sadly missed.

Blast From The Past

St. Columba's Convent, thereafter called St. Scholastica's Priory

In December 1896, Abbot Leo Linse told the Sisters of St. Scholastica's that they should make an effort to buy the field, which lay between them and the hospital (St. Joseph's Hospital) as "Lord Lovat is going to try and sell this land for houses which would be disastrous for us". The field was then bought by the Bishop.

They also took on nine acres of land belonging to their rented estate and built a stone wall as a new part of the enclosure. Their dream of Iona (a small island on the River Tarff) had to be given up, a spot that they were attached to but the expense caused by the flooding to the wooden fence that had previously been built, rendered it impractical at this time.

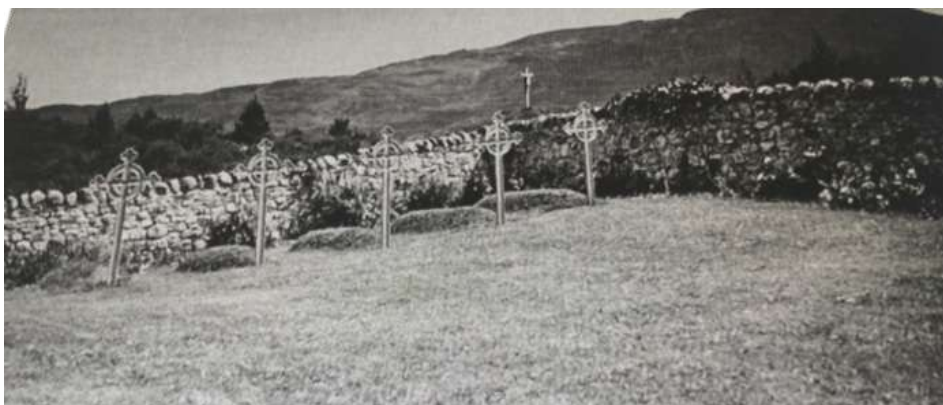
The new wall was built by a local contractor, Mr Grant from Invergarry for £90 and a local carpenter was hired for £70 to extend and repair the wooden enclosure.

At the beginning of 1898, the nuns began farming and kept themselves supplied in dairy products, vegetables and chickens. Peter and Duncan (two local men) tried to control the rabbits as they were overrun by them and Peter built a run for the chickens. A German nun, Katherine Sax enjoyed working outside and seemed to be more used to the cold weather in the Highlands than the others who complained of the extreme cold winters and wet autumns.

Peter and Duncan assisted them with the cutting of the corn and they also built a duck pond behind the wall from the road and on sunny days, the nuns enjoyed afternoon teas there. Sister Hildegard was the beekeeper and an expert in catching swarms.

Between planting and harvesting time, they cut and burned acres of gorse in the area around the graveyard, (a small walled cemetery was made in sight of the river and the small hill) where they built a small Calvary. They planted an avenue of trees in 1898 from the Priory to the small walled graveyard, the rest were planted around the hillside as 900 small trees were a gift from Lady Edith Weld who was a relative of Lord Lovat. The graves were removed and interred at the Abbey graveyard in 1972 to make room for new houses.

M Ferguson





The Community Company has had a very busy year so far! We've supported some really great projects in the communities through our grants and progress on the new homes has been fairly whizzing along. Read on for all the latest news about our grants, new homes project, the Community Caretakers and more...

Grants

Well this year has certainly been different and many of the grants we had given out have had to be delayed, due to the restrictions imposed by Covid. We were delighted to award a grant to Glenmoriston Improvement Group earlier this year for a commemorative bench for the war memorial, and to set up a "Beastie Trail" to encourage everyone to explore Glenmoriston a bit more.

We are always keen to support applications, so do give us a call if you have an idea for a grant and want to see if it would qualify, or if you need help with working out what is needed. The next round of grant applications will close on the 17th August.

This spring, along with Falck Millennium Wind Farm, we worked with Kilchuimen Primary school (Primary 4 & 5) on what they called their "Mini money fund". The children designed their own grants programme with all the paperwork they needed, invited applications from other pupils and then went through the assessment process to agree which projects they would support, all this while managing a budget.

They did a great job and there were some wonderful projects that have been approved by the children. Primary 1, 2 & 3 have been granted money for sand pit toys and a maths robot, Primary 4 & 5 have been awarded money for a maths/art robot, tennis equipment and a Warhammer starter game to set up an after school club. Finally some pupils from P 5, 6 & 7 put in a bid for a post-covid party for elderly people in the community. We can't wait to see these ideas being put into practice.





New Homes for Old Convent Land

We've had a very busy few months with preparations for the completion of the new homes. In March, the Director's housing subgroup finalised the affordable homes and allocation policies. Due to the enormous interest we received, the application process was split into two stages, with the first set of application packs sent out in April.



When the number of applications had been narrowed down, the second stage of applications was begun in May. Following assessment of these applications by the housing subgroup, offers have now been made to the 12 successful applicants.

We anticipate that the new homes will be completed by late summer, and we are looking forward to welcoming all our new tenants to their new homes at 'Caledonian Court.' Work on site has really developed over the past few months as each house has taken shape. With the scaffolding almost gone, I think we can all agree that the new homes look really smart. With work on the interiors nearing completion, the main work in the next couple of months will be landscaping the gardens and shared courtyard space. We hope to include a range of bushes and fruit trees in these areas, and to provide a buffer between the A82 and the homes.



Community Caretakers

The caretaking team are now back to full strength with all the team now tackling the backlog of jobs created during lockdown.

Brushing, shovelling, blowing and scraping are on the cards for standard village maintenance, as well as the familiar grass cutting regime. The cobwebs have been brushed off the kit and we're ready to go!



Residents and visitors alike should be enjoying a range of new outdoor furniture throughout the villages in the area. Thanks to the HIE Tourism Fund for providing funding for some excellent and much needed new seating and interpretation products to enjoy in 2021.

Out with our standard routine, some planned project work for the team over the next few months will include stone walling, bridge building, fencing, drainage, pole pruning, woodland management, building maintenance and floral planting.

As always, should you come across any of the orange team do stop and say hello.



Village Hall

Fort Augustus Village Hall is once again open for bookings! Bookings for groups, businesses and individuals are now being taken. All Covid regulations are being followed with strict cleaning and disinfecting between each booking. At the moment we are limited to one booking per day however, we have a number of groups, new and old, holding their sessions once more. These include HiiT classes with Ania on Mondays 6-7pm, Army Cadets on Tuesdays 7-9pm, and new Fort Augustus Fitness on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7-8pm. Crown Vets are also in the hall on the fourth Thursday of the month. A calendar of events can be found on our website-

www.communitycompany.co.uk

If you would like to book the hall, please email Karen on contact@communitycompany.co.uk or phone the office on 01320 366800.



Goodbye...

Many of you will know that I am leaving the Community Company, heading down to a new community buyout in Langholm in the Borders in mid July. The last two years have been so busy as we kept the new housing project moving forward alongside providing COVID related support and all the other day to day activities.

There has been something new each day and I would like to thank all the directors and the many members of the community I came into contact with for your support. I would like to wish the company all the best for the future; building 12 new homes on top of the medical centre build is an amazing achievement and I shall look forward to seeing what new projects move forward in the future.

Thank you.

Angela Williams, Chief Officer



Kilchuimen - Academy, Primary & Nursery



Ms Sutherland has been formally appointed as Head Teacher at Kilchuimen 3-18. Mairi started in primary 1 in Fort Augustus some years ago and has come full circle back to Kilchuimen to be appointed Head. She is very much looking forward to continuing to develop opportunities through the school for all learners and working on increasing community links with the school.

Kilchuimen Academy Parent Council would like to thank Debbie Allan for her continued support as parent council chair over the last few years. Debbie stepped down as Chair at the recent AGM. Debbie has led the parent council and supported the school through our most difficult time in education, through the COVID pandemic and lockdowns. The whole school community are very grateful to her. Moving forward, Mrs. Paula Page has been elected to the Academy Parent Council chair position and together with Mrs. Debie MacKenzie who continues as Primary Parent Council chair we are looking forward to a lockdown free new school session in August.

Telford Centre

It has been quite a year! However, it has not all been bad news. I started work in the Telford Centre at the start of lockdown last year and have had the pleasure of working with a fabulous and dedicated team of staff who care for and support our lovely residents. Sadly, we had some losses during this time but we have also enjoyed welcoming some new residents into our fold.

Over this past year we have been able to get the Dining Room and Day Care Room refurbished. It has been a joy for us all to watch it coming together and we could not have done it without the grant from the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company and some money from our endowment fund. We have tried to spend wisely and as part of this work we have up-cycled some existing furniture. There is still a bit of work to do with finer details for the day room and we have just started on the residents' downstairs lounge and kitchen area - more photos to follow. We hope that when we get back to normal services you will come and see us and the Centre as it is now. In the meantime, thank you all for your support and understanding during these challenging times.

Kerry Watson, Manager



Before. . . .

. . . .After





Some of our parishioners are resident at the Telford Centre in Fort Augustus. I made a presentation of 'Twiddle Muffs' to Kerry Watson, Manager of the Telford Centre. This was made on behalf of the Rotary Club of Lochaber at Fort William. The muffs were made by people from throughout the local area to be gifted to the elderly and infirm. They are a special comfort to people who are suffering from dementia. The 'Project' really gathered momentum during the 'lock down' and the response from members of the public has been terrific. We would like to thank everyone involved in making and donating them. Rev. Anthony Jones, Fort Augustus and Glengarry Parish Church.



Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

AGM Meeting

Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon (DM) (Chair),
 Iain MacKnocher (IM) (Vice Chair),
 Helen Clay (HC) (Secretary),
 Stuart Findlay (SF) (Treasurer)
 Jeff Dymond (JD).

Minute Secretary: Sam Cornelius



1.Minutes

Minutes from the AGM on Wednesday 27th May 2020 were read for approval. They were agreed to be an accurate and true record, proposed by DM and seconded by HC.

2.Chair Persons Annual Report

DM presented the annual report (attached). There were no matters arising

4.Office Bearers

In line with the standing orders, the office bearers stood down from office. Nominations were proposed and the following office bearers elected.

Chair - Deirdre MacKinnon (Proposed by SF, Seconded by HC)

Vice-chair - Iain MacKnocher (Proposed by DM, Seconded by SF)

Treasurer - Stuart Findlay

(Proposed by DM, Seconded by HC)

Secretary - Helen Clay

(Proposed by DM, Seconded by IM)

The AGM closed at 7.30 pm

Provisional date for the next AGM - Wednesday 25th May 2022 at 7.00pm

FORT AUGUSTUS & GLENMORISTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL Chairman's AGM Report

During the 2020/2021, the Community Council have held 10 council meetings online during the pandemic. As Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the councillors for their regular attendance and involvement at these meetings.

Unfortunately, Rachel has not managed to attend these online meetings due to poor internet connection up the glen. Rachel has now decided to stand down as a councillor for personal reasons and the very recent death of her father. The community council sends sincere condolences to her and her family. We would also like to thank her for her time as a councillor. Also Sam, our minute taker is resigning and this will be her last meeting; I'd like to thank her for doing the Minutes over the past few years and we are sorry that she is leaving as she'll be a hard act to follow. I would particularly like to thank Stuart for all his help in the background over the past year with planning applications, windfarms, accounts, Invermoriston toilets, attending other meetings and anything else that cropped up. I would also like to thank Cllr Margaret Davidson for her attendance, help and support during the past year and to the other community councillors for attending other meetings in the community. I would also like to welcome David Fraser as one of our new councillors. Also thank you to Harry Whiteside, the Community Company and Maria MacRae, the Glengarry Trust for helping me with the 3 Glens Resilience Group through the pandemic. Over the past year, we have seen the formation of the 3 Glens Home Care providing much needed help to those who need it and 12 houses/flats which are very much needed living accommodation for local young people in particular. The Community Council is delighted with Gavin Steel and Kelton Bennett for keeping us well updated throughout the Scottish Water project over the past two years. The Community Council will carry on supporting and representing both communities across a wide range of issues:

- 1.Community traffic and parking issues including the extension of the main car park in Fort Augustus and the speed reduction in Invermoriston
- 2.Reviewing planning applications and responding when necessary
- 3.BEAR and Highland Council road maintenance issues
- 4.Local Access issues
- 5.CC support of community groups including the 3 Glens Home Care, the Glenmoriston Improvement Group as well as the Loch Ness and Great Glen Recreation Group
- 6.Better internet provision for the whole area.

Deirdre MacKinnon

Draft Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021

Members Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)
Helen Clay - Secretary (HC)
Stuart Findlay - Treasurer (SF)
Jeff Dymond (JD)
Iain MacKnocher - Vice Chair (IM)
Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)
David Fraser - Councillor (DF)
Jill Wyatt (JW)

1. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 28th April 2021 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by DM and seconded by HC.

Presentation by Scottish Water (SW): Kelton Bennett (KB) provided an update on the Loch Ness Regional WTW. North to South: connection pipework was unable to go ahead on 17th May as planned and has been re-scheduled for early June. Jenkins Park connections are being held back until the North to South work has been completed to reduce customer impact. Raw water intake: will continue on temporary supply until the permanent power supply is available towards the end of June. Water treatment works: will continue on generators until permanent supply is available at the end of June. The new power supply cable has been installed along the Great Glen Way. Hard landscaping will be completed once the temporary generation equipment has been removed. Great Glen Way pipework: a constant low flow rate is now being pumped through the pipeline to the service reservoir. Final inspection of the excavation rock face is planned w/c 24th May. Fort Augustus reservoir: a constant low flow rate is running through the tank, permanent power will be available towards the end of June. Booster pumping stations: primary booster site is almost complete, secondary booster site is also almost complete with power supply works to begin at the end of May. Invermoriston WTW: work ongoing to connect in the supply pipework from the new treatment works. Mechanical and electrical work to start in early June. Choramination: leaflets were delivered to all customers advising of the change that water is treated together with advice for tropical fish/aquatic animal owners.

2. Matters Arising

Invermoriston Toilets: No update, MD to contact Harry Whiteside (Community Company) for update on situation with contract and camper van waste disposal unit.

Scottish Water: Monthly report and verbal update provided to the CC.

Glenmoriston Access Issues: No update from Access Officer, ongoing.

Campsite: Noise issues ongoing, Robin Fraser at THC aware.

Sheltered Housing: Properties could be ready by end of Sept early October. The sheltered housing will be owned and operated by THC therefor all applicants to ensure they are on the Highland Housing Register. The community properties are allocated by the Community Company. MD would like to put information in the next Ness News about allocation. Kilchuimen Cemetery Road: Work has commenced on site and will take approximately six weeks

3. Police Report

Incidents between 28 Apr 21 – 26 May 21:

Road traffic issues continue to dominate the demand for Police. The increased number of tourists who do not pay attention to road markings or drive slowly causing frustration in others is an ongoing concern. There was a serious road crash between a van and a lorry that demonstrates the damage that can be caused by driving outwith your lane which resulted in a male suffering life changing injuries.

Parking outside the Chinese takeaway in Fort Augustus has reduced but continues just north of the cones. Persons should continue to be discouraged from doing so and park

elsewhere, the Police will continue to educate offenders.

As more and more people come to Fort Augustus and the pubs and cafés open antisocial behaviour will increase. Licensed premises should ensure they are not supplying alcohol to clearly intoxicated persons. Police have engaged with a number of drunk persons in the village and will continue to do so to ensure this does not become a common theme. There have been no incidents of note, however, as stated above licensed premises should be responsible in the provision of alcohol. Visitors in the village getting drunk and causing noise and or damage will result in Police having to carry out more stringent licensed premises visits in order to combat drunkenness.

The influx in tourists to the village will mean more money coming into businesses and therefore attract thieves. Businesses should ensure they are taking their security seriously to deter thefts. Police will continue to carry out patrols in the area to deter such things and challenge suspects.

People should continue to be aware of their surroundings and if they see any activity they believe is suspicious it should be reported via 101 or 999 if urgent.

4. Treasurer's Report

The balance as of today is £5,339.96. The annual accounts have been independently approved.

5. Community Amenity Issues

Car Parks: DM and SF met with Shane Manning (SM), the car park extension should be open by July. DM to contact SM and ask if he can discuss double yellow lines on the A82 with Bear Scotland. MD has spoken to David Devine (DD) of Transport Scotland who advised that the pavements may be completed in September. MD to check with DD to see whether they will be doing both sides of the road or just one side. If only one side MD will ask for the side opposite the hardware store to be done first.

Roads: Extension of 40mph speed sign in Invermoriston, Transport Scotland wrote to MD in January and confirmed they had looked at the speed there in 2012 so were not going to review again. MD and DF had a brief meeting with a Police Sgt in Dingwall who was interested in looking at the data to support the application. DM has written to Richard Perry and asked for the most recent data from Invermoriston and The Clansman. Support of the Police is critical as Transport Scotland have advised that without the support of the Police, their hands are tied. Invermoriston are keen to have flashing speed signage installed and also investigate the possibility of a road crossing as people are crossing from the entrance of the car park to the bridge almost diagonally across the road. DM to forward relevant details to DF. DF to add Invermoriston to the 'wildlife' issues as there is a population of red squirrels there. DF to remind DD about double yellow lines and bollards/clearway being installed as Highland cattle are now back in the field opposite Redburn Café.

6. Renewable Energy Projects

Contact from Alan Greenwood of SSE about the Cloiche and Bhlaraidh extensions, he is happy to join a Community Council meeting at some time.

A meeting will need to be arranged with Marianne regarding community funding. SF raised concern over the five windfarm developments in discussion all within the area just north of Bhlaraidh, one of which borders Bhlaraidh windfarm where visibility is going to be horrendous. MD to contact the senior planner and review the sites overall and cumulative effects.

Fiodhag Windfarm: Nick Forrest has been in contact wishing to talk about Community benefit. Loch Liath Windfarm: Helen Lafferty has been in contact with the CC and has put information out to the public about the windfarm.

Fort Augustus Substation: JD provided an update of the meeting on the 7th April with SSE regarding their intention to apply for an extension from 25th April to 30th October. SF explained to Zoe Skinner at THC that SSE failed to answer all of the comments previously raised and objected to the reasons that they submitted for the need for an extension and the disruption to the community.

SF has a map which shows that within a five kilometre radius north of Bhlaraidh there

are two operational windfarms and four more which are currently in scoping which will give a total of 144 turbines within 75.5 km² which is almost 2 turbines per km² and will have an impact on the environment, the ground, visual impact etc.

7. Planning & Licensing

21/02231/FUL - Taigh-Eighe, Fort Augustus, PH32 4DH. Demolish porch, erection of porch, extension to rear, internal alterations.

No comment by CC.

21/02152/SCOP - Land 3615M NW of Burnside, Bhlairidh, Glenmoriston. Chrathaich Wind Farm - Erection and Operation of a Wind Farm for a period of 25 years, comprising of 17 Wind Turbines with a maximum blade tip height of up to 180m, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure.

No comment by CC.

8. Correspondence

All correspondence was from Scottish Water and windfarm information which has been distributed to councillors.

9. AOB

Rachel Hayes has stood down this year, the CC will invite someone from the Glenmoriston area.

Sam Cornelius has resigned so a replacement is being sought for a minute taker. An advert will be placed on Facebook.

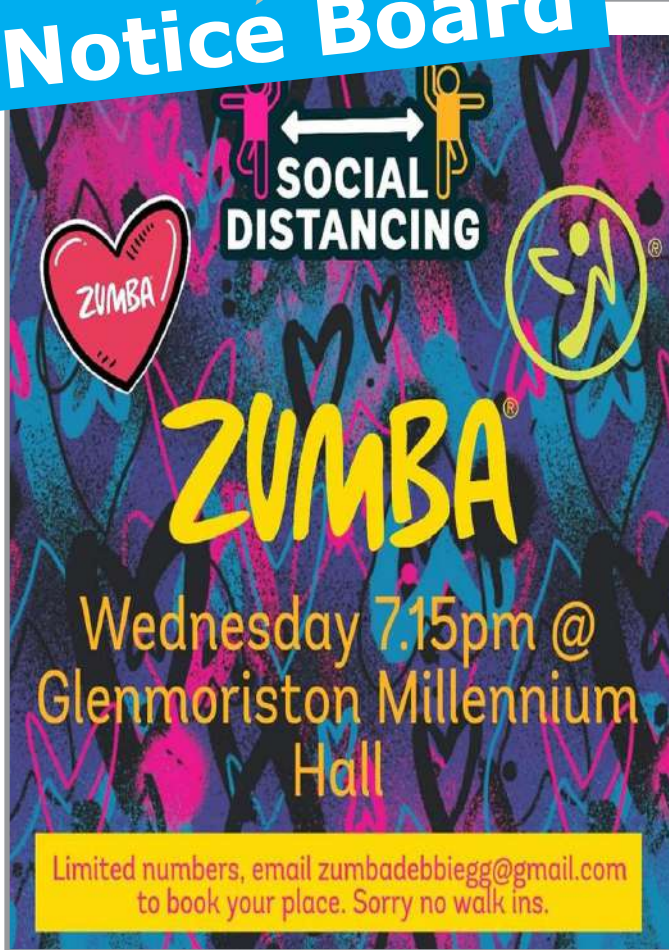
There is a sign at the end of the pier saying "Space Reserved for Boats and Paddles" a local parked there and was told he was not permitted to park there? DM to clarify position with SM at THC.

Speeding raised again on the Auchterawe Road, HC suggested a newsletter be issued by SSE so locals are aware of traffic movements etc. SC stated that SSE used to produce a newsletter which was distributed from Three Bridges along the entire length of the Auchterawe Road but that has not been produced for a couple of years now. DM to contact Lisa Marchi (SSE) and ask if the newsletter could be reinstated and also to invite HC to the next Fort Augustus Community Liaison Group Meeting as a second representative of the CC.

The Waterfront lodges near Invermoriston are now called "The Hamptons Loch Ness" and are advertising a helipad for exclusive use by lodge owners and their guests? The community asked in 2019 that the works to upgrade the tracks and bridges in Auchterawe with the funding SSE provided to Forest and Land Scotland (FLS) be undertaken as soon as possible. It was further requested that any attempt to obtain 'double funding' from other partners was not to be pursued. The construction industry has been able to work for some time yet still no upgrades have begun? MD to follow up with FLS. Alan Greenwood is to be invited with a project manager to speak to the CC so questions can be asked about access, water supply and visual impact etc. SF is keen for support with the whole aspects of windfarms as both the South and North side of Loch Ness now have more than 20 windfarms operational or in progress/scoping etc. There are ten applications in the Monadhliath range alone.

Glenurquhart CC are not taking a view on any windfarms in Glen Liath until they have Planning Applications in front of them. They are, however at the scoping stage trying to get as broad as an environmental impact statement as they can, particularly as any turbine over 150m needs to be topped with a red aviation light for air traffic which means they will be visible both day and night. Strathglass are concerned and the CC's are certainly aware of local feeling about windfarms. DF suggested that a workshop be arranged, inviting two representatives from our Community Council as well Strathglass, Glen Urquhart and Foyers CC's due to the concerns raised by all about windfarms. A Planning Officer from THC will also be invited so all relevant information and broader understanding of policies be available to all. Date of next meeting Wednesday 30th June at 7.30 p.m. via Teams.

Notice Board



A poster for Zumba classes. At the top, two stick figures are shown with a double-headed arrow between them and the text "SOCIAL DISTANCING". To the left is a red heart with "ZUMBA" written inside. To the right is a yellow circle containing a stick figure in a dance pose. The word "ZUMBA" is written in large, bold, yellow letters in the center. Below it, the text reads "Wednesday 7.15pm @ Glenmoriston Millennium Hall". At the bottom, a yellow box contains the text: "Limited numbers, email zumbadebbiegg@gmail.com to book your place. Sorry no walk ins."

SOCIAL DISTANCING

ZUMBA

Wednesday 7.15pm @
Glenmoriston Millennium
Hall

Limited numbers, email zumbadebbiegg@gmail.com
to book your place. Sorry no walk ins.

Glenmoriston Craft Club

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month

At Glenmoriston Millennium Hall
11am - 3pm

Cost only £3 per session

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



A poster for Fort Augustus Fitness. It features a collage of four photos showing people in various fitness poses: a person on a mat, a person in a yoga pose, a person in a lunge, and a person in a yoga pose. The text "Fort Augustus Fitness" is written in white on a purple diagonal background on the left. On the right, it says "Classes for everyone".

Fort Augustus
Fitness

Classes
for
everyone

3 classes: Physical Yoga, Power Yoga and Move Better. You'll find a description of each on the Fort Augustus Fitness page

Days / times currently available are:
Thursday 7pm
Friday 9am
Saturday 9am
Saturday 10.30am
Sunday 9am
Sunday 10.30am
Sunday 6pm
Sunday 7pm

FORT AUGUSTUS MONTHLY MARKET

HELD OUTSIDE ON THE LAWN
AT THE LOVAT, LOCH NESS

OPEN 11AM-3PM

30TH MAY
27TH JUNE
25TH JULY
29TH AUGUST
26TH SEPTEMBER

IF YOU'D LIKE A PITCH YOU'LL NEED A
GAZEBO AND TABLE. COST OF £10
PER PITCH. PM ME, TEXT ON 07979046332
OR EMAIL CHARNIE-G@HOTMAIL.CO.UK