

Ness News

Community News & Events

June 2019



Kilchuimen 50th Golden Gala Day



Safeguarding the Future of the Caledonian Canal



Cruise Loch Ness Named UK Small Business 2019



Maddie Changing Lives in Inverness





Welcome to this edition of the Ness News where all the content and photographs have been obtained by authorised contributors who I would like to thank and for future editions, please send any local news, stories, photos, etc. to nessnews-paper@outlook.com. It has been another eventful few months and sadly, there have been a lot of local bereavements in the surrounding villages. Scottish Water are on target with their project with minimal disruption except to some Dalcataig residents for which they have apologised. The pipelaying work on the Great Glen Way was completed at the end of March as planned and the low route fully reopened on Monday, 1st April.

SSE are progressing with the roadworks from the Three Bridges to the Jenkins Park junction. They have almost completed the pavement out to the Golf Course road with the work being done by RJ MacLeod as part of the reinstatement package from the Stronelairg Windfarm project. Potholes have been filled in at Abertarff Place but also need to be done at the canalside, fire station and on the Achnaconeran road at Invermoriston. Please let me know of others that I am not aware of.

Speeding of vehicles through the village is an ongoing issue but at least the speed monitor beside the West End Garage is working again after a few years of not functioning which will hopefully, slow down a few drivers.

The closing of the public toilets at Invermoriston on 10th May is of great concern and the Community Council would like to be involved in any solution to the problem.

The road from the canal bridge to the 30 mile sign heading towards Inverness will be resurfaced from the week commencing 16th June and there will be road closures from 9 pm until 6 am except for local access. There is also a petition at the Great Glen Trading Centre asking for the 30 mile signs at the south end of the village to be moved to the end of the new pavement.

It is great to see the new medical centre open and bus stops outside for patients living outwith Fort Augustus travelling by bus. It is also good to see the Canalside looking more lively with more businesses open such as the Highland Ice-Cream shop, Rambo's chip shop, the Nessie gift shop and Cobb's café where there is also an Asher's Bakery which is being under used by locals and we are likely to lose it. Accommodation providers can also phone in with orders for fresh bread and rolls.

The Community Care Scheme is well underway following many meetings and a successful open day at the Telford Centre with Highland Hospice. We are just about to set up a constituted group so watch this space!! The car park is due to be extended with a hard-core surface mid-summer to allow parking for an extra 60 cars which can't come soon enough going by the parking situation already! Kilchuimen Academy (formerly Fort Augustus Junior Secondary) had their 50th Golden Gala Day on Saturday 25th May which was a great success followed by a school reunion party in the village hall at night. It was great to see so many old faces!!

Lastly, I would like to bring to your attention, the next round of the Beinneun Community Benefit Fund which has now reopened for new applications and as advertised in this issue. The Ness News can be picked up at the Great Glen Trading Centre, the Service Point, Glenmoriston Stores and Glengarry Filling Station and can be found on www.fortaugustus-glenmoriston-cc.co.uk.

Regards

Deirdre MacKinnon

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council

Editors

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Kilchuimen 50th Golden Gala Day



Our Golden Gala was officially opened by Kate Forbes MSP, Cllr Margaret Davidson, Leader of Highland Council and Don Esson, the school's Quality Improvement Manager. The event was well attended by former and present staff, pupils and friends and we raised more than £1200 throughout the day with tours, teas and coffees, stalls and displays. This included a photo wall, a '50 items through the years', S1 and S2 Art exhibitions and also the S2's had a £10 challenge. We collected items for our time capsule and will bury it with a plaque sponsored by the 'Class of 72'. In addition, Cobbs bakery supplied cakes and the Boathouse restaurant had a BBQ. Although the weather wasn't good to us, there was also a bouncy castle and a clown to keep the younger children happy. The celebration continued on into the evening with a party in the village hall.

A photo booth built by our senior pupils also added to the fun.



Fort Augustus/ Glenmoriston Updates

I have been in and out of the village and Glen a fair amount this past month and because the days are longer, a lot of it has been in the daylight. I have never known it to be so busy. In truth, I feel that the village is under siege as I have never known so many large development projects underway.

Scottish Water spending millions on new water treatment works and mains that will benefit us for many coming decades and is one to grin and bear. I must commend Scottish Water for doing their best to keep the community informed and they have worked hard at listening and communicating as they have gone along.

Scottish Canals have done some interesting and much needed work. However, my experience is that their communication has been poor and I have spoken to their Chief Executive to try and ensure that it improves as they will be back in November. I have asked for a debrief session so we see what can be done to improve things before the next round of works. I am astonished that we still have a leak running down the canalside road!

Their Master Planning for the village caught me by surprise as the community did so much work on planning for the Villages and the Glen last year. While pleased to see the concentration on the Canalside and cycle and walking networks, for which I believe they have money, we need to ensure other plans are integrated with the many projects underway.

SSE

Work on Auchterawe road is underway on the road improvements Phase one, the rest to follow in November when the road closures on the single track piece will be less disruptive. I am trying hard to co-ordinate Scottish Water's work with SSE. None of us want to see that lovely new tar dug up 3 weeks after it is freshly down.

BEAR and Transport Scotland.

I think that we all wondered what was happening on the bridge and again poor communication. Better job with resurfacing Fort Augustus roads beginning this mid June. Communication and negotiations have been much better

Lot else going on with social care.....much more next edition and I will have a concentrated Housing Day in July!

Finally and perhaps most importantly ...MANY CONGRATULATIONS to the community on the opening of the wonderful new Health Centre and 50 years of education at Kilchuimen Academy (formerly known as Fort Augustus Junior Secondary School), a splendid restoration at the old school and Community Hub in Dalchreichart, and now a new market at the Lovat green.

Onwards and upwards and thanks to the all the Community groups for the power of work they have put in. Amazing.

Cllr Margaret Davidson

Safeguarding the Future of the Caledonian Canal

Engineering Works Update

Fort Augustus lock flight is undergoing a comprehensive programme of engineering repairs in line with the canals' Asset Management Strategy. The works involve the complete replacement of the enormous lock gates which are now over 50 years old. Due to their condition these gates require complete replacement to ensure that they can fulfil their important function holding 5,163m³ of water in each lock chamber (that's the equivalent of more than 2 Olympic swimming pools – which would take a person more than 3,400 years to drink based on average daily water consumption!)

The first phase of works at Fort Augustus has been successfully completed with the installation of two new gates. The nearby lock gates at Kytra have also been replaced as part of this works programme.

There have been some challenges west of Kytra due to the deterioration of the historic embankments, which resulted in the temporary closure of access to ensure the safety of visitors. As you can imagine, Scottish Canals did not take this decision lightly and understand the impact on travelling the Great Glen Way and National Cycle Route 78. The implementation of an appropriate solution is currently being developed along with organising the programming of any potential necessary diversion. This will be notified in due course.

Our team were very pleased to open the canal to navigation on the 17 April 2019 and we are all looking forward to a busy summer ahead. Scottish Canals would like to thank the community for your patience and understanding so far, given that these works can be disruptive by their very nature.

We hope that many readers of Ness News took the opportunity to visit the works during our open day on 8th March, when we showcased the remarkable engineering that lies beneath the water. The event was very successful with over 300 participants on the day, whilst also attracting interest locally and across the country. Based on the positive feedback received, we are hoping to run similar opportunities to experience this remarkable feat of engineering as part of our Phase 2 programme of works.



We will return to Fort Augustus this coming winter to replace the remaining five sets of gates and we will also be working on the Cullochry lock replacing two pairs of gates. This will secure and provide safe functioning of the middle district lock gates of the Caledonian Canal. We are planning a return to Fort Augustus in November to enable work in the off-season, enabling the canal to re-open to navigation early in 2020.

Our team will be communicating with both the community and businesses around the lock flight in advance of this work and we will take on board lessons learnt from the Phase 1 programme. If you would like to provide contact email addresses to ensure that you are on the Scottish Canals database for these works, please drop a note to: George.McBurnie@scottishcanals.co.uk

Future Fort Augustus

Scottish Canals working in partnership with the Community Action Plan

Scottish Canals was successful in gaining funding support from Sustrans Scotland Community Links and Scottish Government Making Places Fund to enable a consultation programme and study to enable participation in a design-led process to develop Fort Augustus' plans for a shared future.

Importantly, this work builds upon the fantastic work achieved by the local community in the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Action Plan 2018-2023.

The project brief specifically identifies three core themes (see below) from the Action Plan that would be beneficially supported with a shared masterplan, co-produced with the local community and stakeholder partners. This will directly support the consultation work led by the Highland Council for the forthcoming Local Development Plan review.

The three core themes identified from the Community Action Plan for inclusion in the project were: -

Theme 2 Housing and Local Economy

- Exploring opportunity for housing – locals, local employees and tourism growth
- Develop visitor facilities and attractions – a sustainable tourism destination which makes the most of its rich environment and heritage and promotes a year round destination.

Theme 3 Environment and Heritage

- Develop plans to improve the attractiveness of Fort Augustus
- Develop local path network, long distance trails – connecting up routes and loops
- Promote and make more of the local heritage and environment
- Sustainable development measures – looking after our planet

Theme 5 Parking, Roads and Traffic

- Improve parking – looking at opportunities beyond the current plans to expand the main car park area.
- Improve road and pavements – active travel connections and alleviating issues on the A82

Project funding has enabled a team of consultants led by HarrisonStevens Landscape Architects to come on board and help create a masterplan for taking some of these key aspects forward. By developing a shared plan for the village, this will help to augment work to date with plans, drawings and ideas to take forward to potential fundraising opportunities as they arise to enable delivery over time. This is a process that Scottish Canals has successfully delivered in other canalside locations and on the back of this effecting delivery plans with positive results for shared benefit.

Following their appointment in February, the design team have been busy assimilating a wide range of background information and material. We have run over 18 engagement activities including meetings with specific interest groups and clubs, to schools workshops and our 2 day "charrette" design workshop process on the 1st and 2nd May. All these events and meetings have been specifically designed to gain insight and ideas on our shared plans for the village and support development going forward in line with the priorities identified in the Community Action Plan.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to contribute to this process to date - it is greatly appreciated. The design team is now in the process of taking on board all the wonderful ideas, feedback and suggestions and will be preparing material for the community to review shortly. With the planned lock gate replacement works for this winter, Scottish Canals is hopeful that we will be able to make some immediate improvements to the canalside environment as a result of this investment.

Please look out for project updates notices which will be advertised around Fort Augustus and if you would like to join our project database please drop a line to: Helena.Huws@scottishcanals.co.uk



Workshop as part of Future Fort Augustus Community Design Workshops



Discussions during Future Fort Augustus Community Design Workshops



Postcards from the Future, Future Fort Augustus Nessie Hunt, Easter Weekend

Scottish Canals is committed to working with you to make sure the Caledonian Canal continues to play a vital role in the future of the area for generations to come. Please keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates on our programmes above - or pop into the Caledonian Canal Centre. www.scottishcanals.co.uk
Wishing everyone a great summer ahead!
Helena Huws, Scottish Canals

Blast From The Past



Robert (Robin) A Denoon, Headmaster of Fort Augustus Junior Secondary School and Mrs R Denoon, primary teacher 1944 To 1972

A native of Glenurquhart, Mr Denoon taught at Kiltarlity, Elgol in Skye and Abriachan before coming to Fort Augustus in 1944 with his wife Robina, also a teacher and their three children. They first taught at the old school on Bunoich Brae from 1944 to 1965 and both retired in 1972 after teaching since 1929.

Both of them were very active in the community with shinty, reviving the local teams after the war along with Mr Guthrie, the local bank manager who also made shinty sticks (more about shinty in a future issue), Mrs Denoon played piano in the local dance band, Jock Maclaren's Band.

Mr Denoon along with Mr Nelson of the Lovat Arms Hotel and a group of local men reinstated the 9 hole golf course that had completely overgrown during the war. They were also involved in local amateur dramatics and were responsible for setting up the local library in the Memorial Hall, a well used one at that. Mr Denoon always hated the fact that the village was called after the butcher, Cumberland so he would have been delighted to know the school has now got the old name of Kilchuimen Academy (Cille Chuimein).

Maureen Ferguson

Trees For Life

Kilchuimen P6/7 Pupils learn about careers in the outdoors with Trees for Life

On a fantastically sunny day, the five current Trees for Life trainees welcomed twenty young people from Kilchuimen Primary School to Dundreggan Conservation Estate in Glenmoriston. The P6/7 pupils participated in a range of activities and demonstrations, led by the trainees, showing that there are career pathways which can lead to interesting outdoor jobs. Thanks to the school for visiting and the National Lottery Heritage Fund for paying the bus fares.



Sitting in the Argo watched over by Callum, the deer management trainee.



Transplanting rowan tree seedlings into root trainers in the tree nursery.



Making decorative forest looms with the community engagement trainee, Rhona.



Planting small native tree seedlings with Nick, one of two horticultural trainees spending a year at Dundreggan.

O.W.L.S. – (Our Weight Loss Sessions) started in January after the closure of the Scottish Slimmers Classes. OWLS is an informal group that was started because some of the members decided that they still wanted to have that weekly weigh in and the support from the other members. Everyone is welcome to come along, we are at the Church Hall on Thursday evenings at 6pm. It costs £2.50 per visit which covers the cost of the Hall and anything else that the group needs. Losing weight isn't easy and sometimes harder to maintain, so we discuss how we feel about how we've done during the week.

When everyone comes in for their weekly weigh in, they bring in a wee treat that is made into a goody bag and given that evening to the member that has done the best during the week whether it be in the form of weight loss or no weight gain etc. Each month the 'biggest loser' chooses a prize from our lucky dip. Members come for the weekly weigh in and support one another, swap recipes and share helpful hints or tips which also motivates everyone. All members can drop in whenever they can, some members say that it's an incentive to have the weekly weigh in as you can lose motivation if trying to lose weight by yourself. Our members are doing a great job and have lost over 10 stone between them since January which is amazing.

Cruise Loch Ness Named UK Small Business 2019



Cruise Loch Ness sailed past over 2000 entrants to be named the UK small business of 2019 at the Federation of Small Businesses' (FSB) annual awards in London.

The Fort Augustus tour business also collected the family business of the year trophy, as well as the night's top award.

Now operating a fleet of five vessels and employing 18 staff, the business has seen the annual number of passengers carried jump from 120,000 in 2016 to 147,000 in 2018.

Debi MacKenzie, who runs the business alongside husband Ronald, said: "After more than 50 years in operation, we're thrilled to see our family firm recognised by the FSB.

"Year after year, we've reinvested in the business, making sure that our customers have absolutely the best experience possible. While we can't guarantee they'll spot the monster, we can ensure that they have a world class experience."

Article and Photo taken from the Inverness Courier - Calum Macleod

Announcements

Marriages



Mhairi MacDonal and Craig McLernon were married on the 4th of May 2019 at the Atholl Palace in Pitlochry.

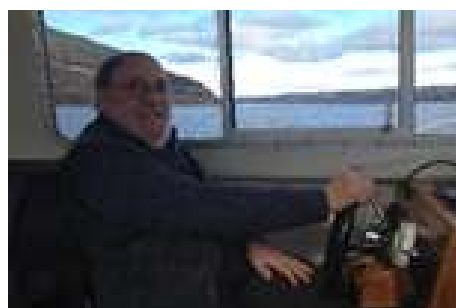


Ross Girvan (son of Wilson and Catriona Girvan) and Georgina Webster married at Murthly Castle in Perthshire on the 25th of May 2019.

Deaths



Les Woods of Whitebridge, beloved husband of Lyn, dear father to Janine & Derek and grandfather to Ruby & Sonny, died peacefully on the 24th January 2019. Les passed away peacefully in the home that he loved, with his family around him and the sun on his face. A good end to the happy life of a truly lovely man, who will be greatly missed but so fondly remembered by so many.



17th July 1944 - 28th April 2019
John Minshull moved to the Highlands in 1988. Working with the Loch Ness Project, based at the Loch Ness Centre Drumnadrochit. He also worked with the tourist side of the centre taking visitors to Urquhart Castle on hourly trips. Going by the many cards received, the one sentence that describes John is "He was a true gentleman".



June Robertson (Invermoriston) passed

away on the 18th April 2019 peacefully in the RNI, Inverness aged 77. Beloved wife of the late William Robertson (Bill), much loved mum of Neil, Shona & Gary and adored Granny. June will be remembered as a good friend to many and will be sorely missed by all.



Janet Mary Paterson (nee Nelson) 12th Dec 1934 – 10th May 2019. Jan was born in Glasgow to Jim and Mollie Nelson and was the elder sister of Eveline. With a love of literature and art, Jan was also an avid reader and enjoyed painting as a hobby. There was always a book by her chair or bedside and after Paddy passed away in 2017 she was able to live at home comfortably, and with her inner strength was still able to attend church and Telford centre for lunches. The family would like to thank the community for their kindness and support at this time.

Mabel Kennedy, formerly of Mountview, Invergarry, wife of late husband Donly and mother to Donald died peacefully at Lynemore Care Home, Grantown on 28th April 2019 aged 89.



Edna Gilchrist, nee Barron passed away on 23rd May 2019 in Invergarry. She was born in Aboyne on 13th November 1937 and moved to Invergarry when she was ten. She married Jock Gilchrist in 1956 at home and had seven children - Jimmy, Billy, Josie, Allan, Sheila, Susie and Stevie followed by 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She worked for many years at Glengarry Castle Hotel and the Telford Centre and latterly, with Bell Henderson in the Community Hall. She enjoyed going to the Telford Centre and Glengarry Community Hall for her lunch and having the craic with everybody.



ROBERT (BOB) MACGREGOR. 19th November 1927 - 2nd March 2019. Following the death of Cis in 2005, Bob continued to keep active, spending much of his time with Robin and family at Whitebridge and as he

became less able, he continued to occupy himself in his garden where he enjoyed getting the craic with the many locals and visitors who stopped at his gate. Fiercely independent, Bob lived alone with no assistance until he was admitted to hospital 3 days before his death at the age of 91. Bob is survived by his son Robin, 3 children and 3 great grandchildren.

The Heritage Group



The Heritage Group made good use of the new community minibus on a field trip in May. The sun shone all day for the visit to the Grade 2 listed Wardlaw Mausoleum, the burial site built in 1634 for the Lovat Fraser family.

We were met by the Curator who gave a very interesting history of the Lovat Fraser family and the intrigue surrounding the headless body buried in the crypt.

Some of our more intrepid travellers made the climb up the bell tower but resisted ringing the bell in case we annoyed the neighbours.

After a break for lunch in Muir of Ord, we continued to Kirk Michael to see the restored church and the collection of medieval gravestones on display. The symbolism of the carvings is intriguing, and the craftsmanship of the stonemasons was well preserved.

Stopping on route to Munloch Garden Centre, we looked for shoreline birds at the Udale Bay sanctuary and we were given a description of the war time importance of the deep-water anchorage at Invergordon on the opposite side of the Firth.

Following tea and cakes at the Garden Centre and time for a little retail therapy, we returned via Redcastle along the shoreline and back home via Beaully. We all agreed it was a good trip and how lucky we were to have the lovely sunshine all day.



Kilchuimen - Academy, Primary & Nursery



A 13-year-old volunteer has been praised for transforming the lives of disabled people at Cheshire House social care service in Inverness. Madeline Hayes is one of Leonard Cheshire in Scotland's youngest volunteers and has been an active befriender in Inverness for the past three years.

Maddie, as she's known by residents of Cheshire House, has been delivering creative classes to enable people to learn new skills and benefit from new technology and the internet. Maddie also makes YouTube videos with the residents. June Batt, a resident at Cheshire House, said: "I always have a great time with Maddie – she's kind, pretty and the videos have made me famous. I'm always watching them on YouTube." Jill Murray, volunteer co-ordinator for Leonard Cheshire in Scotland in Inverness, said: "Everyone loves Maddie – she's a breath of fresh air for the residents at Cheshire House. She has really good ideas and is always willing to help with anything.

"Her videos that she has made for us are really just the best and everyone loves to be a part of them, Maddie does all the editing and planning and they are guaranteed to make you smile."

Maddie said: "To me, volunteering is a very rewarding thing. No matter what I do, I always feel like I've made an impact.

"I feel lucky to volunteer in such a nice environment where I've always felt welcome. I try to help out when I

can and I don't think of it as something I have to do; it's something I choose to do."

Article and Photo taken from the Inverness Courier - Andrew Dixon

Lord of the Glens:

On Monday 29th April, P3/4/5 visited the Lord of the Glens when it was moored at the top of the locks. The pupils were lucky to be given a tour round the ship by Brian and Steven, and they got to see the bridge (where they drive the boat), the dining room and even a bedroom and bathroom. The ship is very fancy and the bedrooms are cosy. The children were excited to see a real life cruise ship after learning all about the Titanic last term.





Nature Notes

Oak before ash
There'll be a splash
Ash before oak
There'll be a soak

If that old saying were true, Scotland would be blessed with dry summers every year! Nearly the end of May now and only two species of trees are still to gain their cloaks of leaves – ash and aspen. The oak has started to come out, and many large ones are in full leaf. You may have noticed some, particularly smaller ones, where the leaves have turned brown immediately – this is due to frost damage and is a clue to why oaks are late to leaf. This has been a particularly good year for the flowering of aspen trees across Scotland – probably linked to conditions last summer, though the reasons for the rarity of aspen flowering and seed setting is still a bit of a mystery. Trees for Life's tree nursery at Dundreggan is trying to establish a regular supply of aspen seeds to enrich planted woodlands – we've been successful this year but there is still much to learn about this beautiful species. Another old saying is "Ne'er cast a clout 'til May is oot" – don't take off your long-johns and vest before the hawthorn bush flowers! Well, the hawthorns have just come out, so get casting!

Any insomniacs or shift workers coming or going at dawn just now (about 4am) will be aware of one of nature's wonderful gifts at this time of year – the dawn chorus. Millions of migrating birds have now landed in Scotland and are busy singing to attract mates, and defending nest and feeding sites. Willow warblers, blackcaps, tree pipits, redstarts and others have joined the resident robins, dunnocks, blackbirds and thrushes in a symphony of song that is most intense just at dawn and an hour or so afterwards. By the time most of us are rubbing our eyes, it's all over for the day. But just once, on a nice still morning, it is worth getting up super-early and going for a quiet walk in any patch of woodland as the sky lightens and the sun rises. Magical! Especially magical just now as the woods are full of flowers. In many deciduous woodlands, the flowers have to do their stuff before the leafy roof canopy closes around them, so now is the time to go looking for yellow primroses, white wood anemones and wood sorrel, and oh-so-blue bluebells.

You also have a very good chance of hearing cuckoos now (I heard the first one at Dundreggan on 22nd April), a sound becoming rarer in much of the UK further south, but in Scotland, the cuckoo seems to be holding its own. Perhaps the abundance of hairy caterpillars in the Highlands, one of the cuckoo's favourite foods, can explain why they seems to be doing better here than elsewhere.

Speaking of caterpillars, the number of insects out and about after this warm weather is amazing, compared to the number only a couple of weeks ago. Butterflies out now include green hairstreaks (like little emeralds in the heather), orange tips (like cabbage whites but smaller and the males have bright orange wing-tips) and small pearl-bordered fritillary (a smashing pale orange thing with pearly white bits). I saw my first May bug last night – great big bumbling beetles about the size of a small potato buzzing about just at dusk and through the night. They are only around for a short time as adults but you may find their larval stage under the soil in your garden at any time – large yellowy grubs that eat the roots of various plants. If you find one, don't kill it! Just stick it somewhere out the way and let it live to fly in May.

Doug Gilbert

Operations Manager, Dundreggan Conservation Estate.

Latest News from FAGCC Medical Centre

The medical centre has been handed over to the Doctors and their staff. We hope you are enjoying the new facilities. We held two open days, one for the Community then one for officials and funders. These events and press coverage are required when so much funding has been sought for a project. Both days went very well and we received many compliments about the building. At the Community open day, we officially opened the resource room which was named in memory of Johnnie MacDonald – see pic below.



We thank you all again for your patience while we delivered this project. Below is a picture of some of the Directors and staff at one of the openings.



Community Action Plan

From the follow on action plan meetings, the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Recreational Development Group are now an established group that meet regularly. The parking, roads & transport group had a good turnout but they felt that they wanted to be more of a lobbying group to help see improvements. There are two more groups (Environment & Heritage and Access to services & Transport) but we postponed the meetings till the new Chief Officer was in place. Those that put their

name down as interested in them, will be getting contacted again soon. If you wanted to get involved in any of the groups, please get in touch.

Chief Officer

Since the last newsletter, we have now appointed a Chief Officer. She is Angela Williams. Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet Angela as she has been attending some events and familiarising herself with the area. Angela starts the post full-time on 10th June 19. We are very excited to have her on the team!

Village Hall

We are going to be converting the meeting room of the hall into an office for staff so this room will no longer be available for hire. The main hall is the same cost and it can be hired for meetings when available. They could be held in the snug and we are also looking into room dividers for the main room.

Grant Applications

The closing date for grant applications for the Jun 19 meeting has just passed but the next closing date is 16th Aug for the grant meeting in Sep 19. If you have an idea for a current group, want to start something new or want help completing an application form please get in touch.

Minutes

Minutes of the boards meetings are available on our website at www.communitycompany.co.uk but as we are a company, our minutes are not available until they have been approved at meeting following so can take one to two months before they are published.

Contact

For information or help on any of the above, help with applying for grants or any other query, please contact our Administrator, Sharon Ferguson on one of the following ~ Tel - 01320 366800
Email – contact@communitycompany.co.uk
Website – www.communitycompany.co.uk

Community Company Caretakers Seasonal Update - 2019

A fine spell of weather lately bringing with it a desire to have a new lease of energy and growth.

I'm not only referring to the endless surge of grass growth and leaf burst but the sunshine helps boost the team's morale as well.

The hanging baskets are imminent as well as the village bedding plants which will throw a much needed burst of colour in our direction. We will have a new approach to watering this year which will hopefully prolong their beauty.

Winter projects have included a decent stretch of stock fencing installed on the roadside corner at Invermoriston, this combined with the recent stonework and improved fence line carried out by Glenmoriston estate have transformed the picnic area. We initially cleared the roadside scrub before installing the fence line, this in turn has led to an explosion of wildflowers, which if managed correctly will occupy the ground for many years to come. Notably Bluebells and Dogs Mercury which have just been waiting dormant in the soil until the right conditions come about. Both of these species are ancient woodland indicator plants indicated past land mass, however for the modern day this tiny strip of flowers will give a much needed food source for many pollinating insects. Another winter project was constructing the stone wall at the entrance to the new medical centre. We used black sandstone for the main structure and a black and gold flat coping stone to finish.

A solid team effort and that's all I will say about that!

The caretaking team have also been utilising their skills and have carried out a couple of school visits encouraging and enthusing the primary school children to enjoy more of their natural surroundings, including the old convent land and the wildlife within.

In the heart of winter the children helped construct a flat pack bat box each, of which some have been installed high on the trees in the old convent woodland; the others the children took home and hopefully hung them in suitable places in their garden, obviously after showing what they built with their own fair hands to their parents!

We are also making head way with plans for a school wildlife garden, watch this space.

For the coming months 70% of our time will be grass cutting and waste management. The volume of waste and litter on the village streets and bins certainly seems to be increasing year on year. Certain weeks prove more challenging than others disposing of this and pretending it's not there to the mass of tourists.

A rethink on resolving this issue is certainly something we have to think about but for the moment small changes on bin locations etc are helping. A community composting scheme for residents green waste really is a must for the future.

Lastly, we hope the village residents are enjoying the newly constructed entrance steps into the old convent land from Abertarff. Talking too many, this was a long time in coming and will now hopefully prevent many wet and muddy backsides trying to navigate the wee hill, especially if you have had one too many!

That's all for now folks
Glen Campbell



FORT AUGUSTUS & GLENMORISTON

Draft Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting held at the Millennium Hall, Invermoriston. On Wednesday 24th April.

Members Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)
Iain MacKnocher - Vice-Chair (IM)
Helen Clay - Secretary & Treasurer (HC)
Rachel Hayes (RH)
Stuart Findlay (SF)
Carol Pritchard (CP)
Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

Presentations:

Gavin Steel (GS) and Kelt-on Bennett (KB) from Scottish Water (SW) provided an update on the progress of the Loch Ness Water Project. The Great Glen re-opened on 1st April with some continuing work to pipe bridges and pipe-laying between the new water treatment works and the existing Invermoriston water treatment works. MD asked SW to contact the owner of the property whose private water supply that had been disturbed and make good any expenses incurred as a result of their operations. The proposed route for delivering the new water treatment works was explained which would utilise the vehicles turning at the junction of the A862/A82. SF stated that that particular route was

Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

unacceptable due to the restoration works that had just been completed and that the village green would not be disrupted again. Discussion was also had regarding the proposed dates and times for delivery of the twelve abnormal loads, currently from 26 August to 2 September arriving in the village at approximately 11.30a.m. The CC made reference to the dates being well within the visitor period and that the time of day would create major difficulties within the village. SF and MD advised that deliveries for Stronelairg were undertaken in the evening which the Police were happy to accommodate and which caused less disruption all round. MD asked GS to revisit the current plan and discuss with Police and other parties alternative options. GS went on to explain that there had been issues with the directional drill crossing under the canal but that suitable options were being examined with a final decision due in May. MD enquired about the planned road crossing on the way to Jenkins Park in light of resurfacing works being undertaken by SSE. SW advised that it would need to be done and that they had hoped to use an existing duct but it was not suitable. The

suggestion was made that ducting could be put in place when SSE get to that part of the road and then surface the area removing the necessity to re-visit at a later date and keeping the new surface intact. MD to speak to Archie Munro and ask him to contact KB direct to see about getting a duct put under the road. Mike Harrison (MH) from Scottish Canals gave a presentation on the 'Future Fort Augustus' Project and the plan to upgrade, improve and enhance the lock flight. The project is jointly funded by Sustrans and Scottish Government and engages with the Community Action Plan. Consultation has taken place with the Abbey residents, the Telford Centre as well as 60+ residents who attended the Community Chambers Open Day stall in the Memorial Hall. On the 1st and 2nd May there will be a community workshop in the village hall with both evening and afternoon sessions details of which are available on posters provided to the Community Company. Following the workshop design proposals will be presented to the community at a presentation event in late May/early June (details on Facebook and Scottish Canals website). Engagement to date has

identified five main areas so far: 1. seating; 2. flowers, colour, maintenance; 3. walking routes; 4. interpretation/stories; 5. pedestrians, cycles & roads. DM to detail all the issues raised by locals about the state of the lock flight and clearly identify those dealing specifically with the lock as opposed to the wider village improvements which MD can then discuss with Catherine Topley (SC). Pat Ungless from the Invermoriston Millennium Hall Committee (MHC) advised the CC that the public toilets would close on the 10th May. Originally there was a Lease Agreement of 20 years between the Committee and THC, whereby THC would contribute £20,000 to the build of the Millennium Hall and the MHC would incorporate and operate a public toilet. However, the visitor load is too much for the current system to cope with and although THC agreed to help upgrade sewage treatment, undertook a survey, which showed that the soakaway was not adequate and further consultancy to re-design. In early 2018 THC was about to undertake the study but with a cost of £5 - £6, 000 THC had no budget to proceed. The MHC currently needs to empty the septic tank 2 - 3 times a year which is not an effective operation. MHC applied to the Community Company for finance but needed a commitment from THC so as for a revised contract

but didn't address the long-term issue. MHC asked for a short-term contract in order for them to obtain funding but as that has not been forthcoming the MHC are forced to close the public toilets to the public although they will remain available to those using the Hall itself. MD will contact Debbie Sutton and David Summers direct.

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

2. Matters Arising
Car Park: MD, DM and Ian MacGillivray (THC) discussed proposals for the Fort Augustus main car park. Lovat Estates are happy to lease it and it will be open at the end of July. It will be a 3 year lease for up to 60 cars only and will be closed in the winter. There is a long term plan but this should provide some respite this year. MD to raise issue of Traffic Management Survey in the car park with Shane Manning. Parking: Loch Ness Highland Resort will not be available for additional parking. Information Pod: To be raised at the next CLG meeting on 15th May. Pot Holes: MD spoke to Allan Bryce and David Mudie about the lack of progress on the hole in the road around a drain by Girvan's Hardware Store and although the broken drains were repaired the road debris has been left on the pavement. A

temporary fix will be made at Abertarff Place, with a permanent major patching programme to follow: plans to close the road (A82) from the filling station to the 30 m.p.h. limit from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Query raised as to the pavements from Abertarff Place to the Medical Centre have all been marked but nothing has actually been done.

3. Police Report
There have been 31 incidents reported to Police since 27th March 2019. Three speeding offences and one MOT offence. One search and rescue with overdue persons located safe and well; one missing person, found safe and well. Police provided advice/ assistance to members of the public for all other incidents.

4. Treasurer's Report
The balance this month is £1,639.99.

5. Community Amenity Issues
Dalchreichart Cemetery: No update. A82: Dropped kerb by the crossing (BEAR) and white lining throughout the village remains outstanding. Pot holes at the Fire Station entrance still outstanding (waiting for timescale).

Vegan Food: Member of community has raised the issue of opening a vegan take away food caravan approx. 10' x 6' near the picnic site in the car park. CC would discuss once formal planning submitted. Invermoriston Cemetery: A new surface is being laid and vehicle turning at the bottom will be improved.

Village Re-instatement:
The triangle is unacceptable; it needs to be levelled and smoothed off as currently looks like a lumpy patchwork quilt and the grass has all dried out. CC wish to have the entire area re-done. The signage needs to be removed as well as the 30 m.p.h. signs which currently continue as far as the Keepers House. DM to contact David Devine and cc in MD who will ask if we can remove all unnecessary signage as redundant. The Community Officers can then remove the tourist information signs and anything else agreed.

Parking at Abertarff Place:
There is a currently a proposal for additional car parking by the Police house but the trees cannot be removed to facilitate that until after the nesting season.

Signage at Village Green & B862: Some of the larger signage has been removed. A Planning Advertisement Notice to remove within 7 days has been issued in regard to signage elsewhere that is within 3 metres of roads/boundaries. Any large signs will require planning permission.

6. Renewable Energy Projects - Stronelairg
Windfarm: No update. -
Glenshero: No update.
Beinneun Windfarm: No update.-
Millennium Windfarm: No update.
Dell Windfarm: The hearing will take place on the 22nd May at 10.00 a.m. in Fort Augustus Village Hall. A hearing statement has been submitted.

Auchterawe Substation:
The next meeting will take place in the Welfare Facility on site on Wednesday 15th May at 7.00 p.m.

7. Planning & Licensing
19/01295/FUL - Land West Of Heather Cottage, Dalchreichart, Glenmoriston. Erect dwelling (Renewal of 16/00264/FUL). No comment.

8. Correspondence
A87 - Invergarry to Bunloyne. There are works provisionally programmed for constructions from Tuesday 7th to Monday 23rd May. Between Tuesday 7th to Thursday 14th May temporary traffic signals and a 10 mph convoy system will be in place. Access through the A87 will be maintained however, some minimal disruption is inevitable due to the nature of the works. A 30 mph speed limit will be in place out with working hours to ensure vehicles can safely pass over the temporary road surface.

Merchant Navy Day information received. DM to collate complaints received about Scottish Canals, namely the leak and the frequency and length of time the bridge is being opened. This is to be forwarded to Catherine Topley and MD together with invitation for her to attend the next CC meeting.

A resident at Abertarff has commented on the littering and the removal of the sign asking people to pick-up after their dogs. Complaint received about the Bank of Scotland which

had no £1 coins over the Easter weekend. Also that the bank gave no notice that it was not going to open on the 23rd April. DM to send a letter to Edinburgh and Fort William. Complaint about the state of the road at Achnaconeran (Invermoriston) which has seriously subsided and unsafe for both traffic and pedestrian use.

NW Planned Maintenance Programme 1920 - the programme of planned improvements across the North West region can be found at <https://maphub.net/BEARScotland-North-West/BEARNW>

Vegetation along the Ardachy Road needs to be cut back as narrowing road for pedestrians.

A request was made for a dog waste bin on the Golf Course. MD advised that the waste was to be placed in the green bins as there was no facility for emptying any dog waste bins were they to be provided.

9. AOB
The Community Council Briefing on the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan will now take place in Drumnadrochit on 29th April at 8.00 p.m. CC to attend.

MD to speak to David Devine about the siting of the 30m.p.h. limit signs with regard to the new crossing.

Comment about motorbikes speeding along the straight from Invermoriston to Torgoyle Bridge. RH to raise with the Police.

Puzzle



ACROSS

1. The language is confused here
5. Hangs around and gets a crust
8. Jean's company?
9. She always puts herself first
10. To sum up it's tiny
11. Ira found this fellow quite interesting initially
12. First you see them - then you don't
13. He navigates most of the street but ends up in E R
16. It's common parlance
18. The barest essentials for a new arrival
21. Hector's cousin is seen to join the AA
25. Tree Abel made a note of
26. It emerges from the last word before tea
30. It's a determiner for the Spanish
31. Taking this tube is a life saver
33. It keeps your balls in the air
34. He was a man of clay
35. It could be nice but it's not the point
36. Sounds like a scary place for a flyer
37. She has a couple of points to follow

DOWN

1. Sober farmers in South Africa
2. It's noted that it's value is doubled
3. Rate a learner following on
4. Firstly Lord Aster has to make amends
5. No need to labour this clue
6. Stoves in
7. Dines and scoffs
14. Sticky rat!
15. Eat when they get here
17. This single with BR is doubled
19. There's no aspirations here
20. The isle of Dogs?
22. If she ended up in New York she'd be a goat
23. Fat rear
24. He got the better of the horse - with a note.
25. Gangway!
27. This tree is to be kept in the lea
28. Get together in church?
29. In the end The Israelite is the chosen one
32. Apparently humans do it

Things to Do

- Monday - Walking group meet at Church of Scotland Hall at 10 am. Take a flask of coffee and packed lunch (unless we have arranged to go to a local café for soup etc.). Usual walk 4 to 6 miles – we are told in advance, by email, if walk is likely to have steep sections or if longer.
- Senior citizens meet for 12.30 lunch at the Lock Inn £5 (phone Jenny 366438 to arrange)
 - 22nd July to 24th 10am - 12pm Summer Activities for Children
 - Youth Club 7pm - 9pm All high school age children welcome
- Tuesday - 1st Tuesday of month Ladies Group meet 2.40-4 pm in Church Hall (from Sept)
- HIIT with Ania 6pm - 7pm Fitness class
 - Army Cadets 7.30pm - 9pm
- Tue or Wed - Shopping bus to Fort William 9.45am, leaves main car park but picks up on way. Look for notice of day & date. Usually during last week of month £3. Phone Judy 366304 to get a seat. Plus there are other outings arranged throughout the year. Open to all ages for shopping, appointments and leisure. Returns approximately 2.40pm.
- Wednesday - Carpet Bowls in Village Hall 2-4 pm (summer outdoor at Caledonian Hotel)
- Ecumenical Choir meet in Church Hall 7.30 pm (new singers welcome)
 - Senior citizens meet for 12 noon Lunch at The Telford Centre £5. Phone Telford Centre 366511 to arrange.
 - 12th June 4pm Congregational Board Meeting - Church of Scotland.
 - Parent & Toddler Group 9.30am -11.30am
 - Tae Kwon Do 7pm - 8pm
 - Badminton at Kilchuimen Academy 7pm - 8pm
- Thursday - Drop-in Café at Church Hall 10 – 11.30 am
- British Legion Quiz – monthly – look for notice.
 - Beavers – Glenmoriston Millennium Hall - 5.30 pm
 - Scottish Country Dancing – Glenmoriston Millennium Hall – 7.30 pm Contact Cherry Duncan on 01320 351320
 - Glenmoriston lunch club, held in Glenmoriston Arms Hotel every second Thursday at 1pm. The charge for a 2 course meal plus tea/coffee is £5 per head.
 - 6th June 11.30am Monthly Prayer Service - Church of Scotland.
 - 4 July 11.30am Monthly Prayer Service - Church of Scotland.
 - Junior Shinty at Craigard, Invergarry
- Friday - 1st Friday of winter months senior citizens meet for board games e.g. crib, dominoes, scrabble, cards plus lots more 2-4 pm in Church Hall.
- Senior citizens meet 2nd ,3rd,4th Friday. Keep fit to music 2.15 - 3.30 pm
 - Senior citizens meet last Friday of each month for Whist – Church Hall 7.30
 - Art Group – Glenmoriston Millennium Hall – 2 pm
 - HIIT with Ania 6pm - 7pm Fitness class
 - Tae Kwon Do 7pm - 8pm
- Sunday - Fort Augustus Church of Scotland worship at 12 noon
- Fort Augustus Free Church worship at 3.30 pm
 - Fort Augustus Sts Peter and Benedict RC Church Mass at 10 am
 - Glenmoriston Millennium Hall - 1st Sunday each month
 - 7th July 12pm Communion Service - Church of Scotland.

Notice Board



Beinneun Windfarm Community Benefit Fund

The Beinneun Windfarm Community Benefit Fund, as part of Fern Community Funds, supports local voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises from the Community Council areas of Glengarry and Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston.

The Fund has now reopened for new applications.

For more information regarding the criteria for the Fund and how to apply then please go online at;

<https://ferncommunityfunds.com/beinneun-community-fund/>

The closing date for this round of funding is the 31st August 2019.

For further information about the fund or if you have any questions regarding an application please email contactus@ferncommunityfunds.com or write to Fern Community Funds, PO Box 6653, Blairgowrie, PH10 9AU or contact 07871 785583.

In aid of LOCAL CHURCHES & SCHOOLS

Mad Hatter's TEA PARTY & FAMILY FUN DAY



STALLS
Fairy Garden
FACE PAINTING
BOUNCY CASTLE
HATTERS' COMPETITION
BRICA-BRAC
BAKING
GAMES
TEAS

SATURDAY
15 JUNE
11am to 3pm
at

CHURCH & MANSE
GROUNDS
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
FORT AUGUSTUS



*We'll begin at the beginning (11 am)
and go 'til we come to the end (3 pm), then stop!*

Mad Hatter's Competition at 1.30pm

Fort Augustus Monthly Market

On The Lawn at The Lovat – Loch Ness

Fort Augustus

Sun 30th June, Sun 28th July, Sun 25th August, Sun 29th September

11am – 3pm

Come along to the new monthly market where you will find local art, craft, food and drink produce including:



Handmade Jewellery

Handmade Cards

Handmade Bags

Handmade Candles

Fresh Meats

Fresh Bread

Homemade Jams and Chutneys

Homemade Cakes

Plants

And much much more....

Come and support local producers, grab yourself some wonderful products and help support our wonderful RNLI Loch Ness Lifeboat Station.

If you would like a stand please get in touch with Chantelle on 07979046332 or email me at charnie-g@hotmail.co.uk

Notice Board



THE OICHS

4th Inverness Fort Augustus
Scout Group



Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

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

For more info contact: Lee Cox 07810 118563



FORT AUGUSTUS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP



EVERY WEDNESDAY



9:30 - 11:30am

AT THE VILLAGE HALL



Fort Augustus
and Glenmoriston
Community Company

Anyone for Tennis??



Fort Augustus Tennis club is looking for new members to help with help make better use of the court.

The court is soon to have a spring clean and if you love tennis and would like to see more activity on the court,

Please contact ~

Sharon on 01320 366800

Or email contact@communitycompany.co.uk

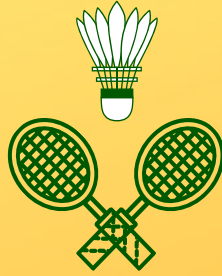
Glenmoriston Craft Club

1st & 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.

Notice Board

27th of February



FORT AUGUSTUS BADMINTON CLUB



Wednesdays 19:00 - 20:30



Kilchuimen Academy



2 pounds per session
Equipment provided

Pop in for Local Crafts from **Glenmoriston Craft Club** At their **'Pop-Up' Craft Shop**

Saturday 6th July &
Saturday 3rd August
11am - 3pm

Screen Machine

Scotland's Mobile Cinema Taigh-dhealbh Siubhlach na h-Alba

£2.50 off all ticket prices. Thanks to the generosity of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, ticket prices for Fort Augustus screenings have been reduced by £2.50.



Rocketman

Fri 14 at 5.30pm, Sat 15 at 8.30pm (15) 121 mins

Director: Dexter Fletcher Cast: Taron Egerton, Richard Madden, Jamie Bell, Bryce Dallas Howard An epic musical fantasy about the incredible human story of Elton John's breakthrough years. *"Taron is an incredible screen force with endless charisma and charm, it's no wonder Elton was adamant he should take on the role."* Daily Mirror



Avengers: Endgame

Fri 14 at 8.30pm (12A) 181 mins

Directors: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo Cast: Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Brie Larson, Karen Gillan, Danai Gurira, Bradley Cooper, Josh Brolin A movie like no other telling a rich, moving, often funny, but always epic, tale of heroism in the face of catastrophe. *"prepare to be wowed"* Rolling Stone



Dumbo

Sat 15 at 2pm (PG) 112 mins

Director: Tim Burton Cast: Eva Green, Danny DeVito, Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton From visionary director Tim Burton, Disney's all-new grand live-action adventure *Dumbo* expands on the beloved classic story where differences are celebrated, family is cherished and dreams take flight. *"a mix of stunning spectacle and pure magic"* Radio Times



Wild Rose

Sat 15 at 5.30pm (15) 100 mins

Director: Tom Harper Cast: Jessie Buckley, Sophie Okonedo, Julie Walters Bursting with talent and fresh out of jail with two young kids, Rose-Lynn just wants to leave Glasgow behind and make it as a country singer in Nashville. *"A happy-sad drama of starstruck fever that lifts you up and sweeps you along"* Variety
Before Wild Rose, we'll screen a free photo presentation of work by Arpita Shah

Fri 14 - Sat 15 June
Fort Augustus, main car park



Book at www.screenmachine.co.uk

Tickets also at Screen Machine 30 mins before each screening.

Reduced prices: Adults £5 15-and-under, 14 to 25, Students, 60+, Claimants and Disabled: £3

All 14-and-under must be accompanied by a parent or 21+ guardian at 8.00pm screenings.

Screen Machine is owned and operated by Regional Screen Scotland. Fully accessible for wheelchair users.



Starting Friday 15th March, from 6pm until 7pm.

Fort Augustus Village Hall.

Open to all ages from 6 years.

Korean Art of Hand and Foot Fighting.

A dynamic and explosive form of self-defence!

For more information contact:

Simon Canning on 07432 620202. Or email:

canningsimon@rocketmail.com

Free Taster Session

Friday 8th March 2019 From 6pm until 7pm

Fort Augustus Village Hall