



Ness News

Community News & Events

March 2022



Inchnacardoch Bay





Welcome to the Spring edition of the Ness News which has been difficult for us as we are both very busy at work and struggle to put this together as we try to get interesting content for each issue.

We are grateful to our regular contributors, but we would like to reach out to other groups and organisations to send us updates on what they are doing. I can think of groups such as the Golf Club, Bowling Club, fitness groups, church groups, Brownies, Cadets etc and organisations such as the

Senior Citizens, Telford Centre, Fire Brigade, Kilchuimen Academy, Playgroup, Loch Ness and Great Glen Recreational Group, Gun Club etc and many more who we would like to send in some articles even if it is only a couple of times a year. I spend a lot of time chasing up well after the deadline and there's always a rush before going to print so, please send us your news, announcements, local history and photos anytime up to 1st March, 1st June, 1st September and 20th November for each quarterly issue. Anything after those dates may not make the issue.

I would also like to explain about sending in photographs; we would like them to be sent in Jpeg format which is sent straight from your camera or mobile as photos from Facebook and Messenger do not print well as they are flattened and pixelated and do not look good in print; this is why we ask you to send them as email attachments rather than sending them on Messenger.

The Highland Council have resurfaced Oich Road in Fort Augustus which was in a bad state repair and hopefully the Canalside will be done soon, both the Community Council and Company have spoken to Scottish Canals about visibly improving the area in front of Glentarff and Caledonian House which is an eyesore. BEAR Scotland should be resurfacing pavements on Fort William Road this week, it's been a long time coming and has been an issue for visually impaired residents.

In Invermoriston, work is being done on St Columba's Well to make easier access; the Community Company are looking to hire a caretaker solely for Invermoriston (see advert) to do work in the village.

Lastly, I would like to thank Harry Whiteside (Community Company) and Cllr. Margaret Davidson (Highland Council) on behalf of the Community Council and myself for their long service to the community and all the help they have given as they go on to pastures new.

Editors

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





Garry Goons



Local Ladies take part in Scottish Winter Swimming Championships

Four local ladies took part in the Scottish Winter Swimming Championships at the Loch Tay Marina, Kenmore held on the 5th and 6th March 2022.

Alex Humphries, Katy Silvester, Chantelle Lee and Carol Littlewood are all part of the Garry Goons, a local wild swimming group.

Alex and Carol started swimming together (socially distanced) at the start of 2021 in Loch Oich soon other ladies were also joining in and the Garry Goons was formed.

At the start, due to lock down, groups were small sticking to the number of families which could meet up and abiding by social distancing rules. As lockdown restrictions eased the number of ladies swimming regularly increased so that now there are about 14 ladies in the group.

The group tries to swim most weekends all year round usually in Loch Oich.

Alex, Katy, Chantelle and Carol decided to take part in the Scottish Winter Swimming Championships held by Swim Wild UK. They took part in the Anything Goes Relay Race dressed as Nessie in homemade bikinis and Nessie headwear and under the name of Garry Goons Gone Mad.

Alex also took part in the 50m Heads up Breast Stroke – to take part in this race, competitors have to wear swimsuits and are not allowed to wear any neoprene (so no socks, gloves or wetsuits).

The weather that weekend was beautiful for the swims and the water temperature was a lovely 5 degrees centigrade.

The ladies had a great time and are looking forward to taking part again next year.

Carol Littlewood



News from Glenmoriston

Activities at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

<u>Monday</u>	Indoor Bowls 7.30 pm
<u>Tuesday</u>	Available for bookings
<u>Wednesday</u>	Zumba 7.15 pm
<u>Thursday</u>	Yoga 10.30 am Scottish Country Dancing 7.30 pm Monthly Book Group 31 st March – Heritage Group AGM
<u>Friday</u>	After Easter – weekly kids activities 1.00 to 6.00 pm
<u>Saturday</u>	Craft Club 11.00 am - 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month 26 th March – Quiz with Pie & Peas at 7.00pm 23 rd April – Race Night
<u>Sunday</u>	Ecumenical Church Service 3.00 pm - 2nd Sunday of the month

For all bookings & enquiries please email

GMHCAhallbookings@gmail.com

**You can become a member of the association at any time at
<https://membermojo.co.uk/glenmoristonhall>**

Membership is free and you will receive emails about events



Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Public Toilets Project Status

- ✓ Funding in Place
- ✓ Engineers and Architects appointed
- ✓ Engineering design for drainage system complete
- ✓ Internal alterations agreed
- ✓ Contract for servicing and operation agreed
- ✓ Building warrant applied for
- ✓ Contractors invited to tender

Next steps are to award contracts and begin construction



Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association SCIO (SC051089)

Invermoriston Recreation Field – negotiations are ongoing for a new lease between the owner and Highland Council. Funding for a ride on mower has been applied for by GIG to enable local volunteers to cut the grass regularly so the field can be used for play and organised games. Once the lease is in place funding can also be sought for the improved play equipment chosen by the children.

Glen of The Bards – performances by the musical researchers and others will take place at the three community halls in Invermoriston, Fort Augustus and Dalchreichart over the weekend of 20 – 22 May 2022. Free entry and an opportunity to experience a taste of the unique Gaelic music and song that originates from Glenmoriston.

A Glen meeting including the GIG AGM was held at the end of February and well attended. Lively discussions took place about the priorities for the area, some of which will be passed to the Highland Council and Community Council including broadband, the speed of traffic, the need for pavements and a footpath to the burial ground from the car park.

Heritage group in Glenmoriston is being reactivated with a meeting to be held on Thursday 31 March at 2.00 pm in the Millennium Hall and by Zoom. One aim is to improve safety at Columba’s Well. There may also be opportunities to arrange other heritage events.

Jubilee celebration events are being planned for the area, including a ceilidh at the Millennium Hall and a “street party” on the recreation field. Thank you to the Community Company for instigating and funding these.

Dalchreichart Hub events coming up

Saturday 12th March at 7.00pm (and every 2nd Saturday in the month). Quiz Night.

Saturday 26th March at 11.00am (and every last Saturday in the month). Coffee Morning.

Tuesday 5th April from 10.00am (and every 1st Tuesday in the month). Craft & Chat.



Glengarry Shinty Club

With the return to competitive shinty upon us, the shinty club's teams have been working hard in pre-season in preparation for the return to our normal league structures. The senior men's team will be back playing in North Division 1, with entry in the MacTavish, Camanachd and Balliemore Cups and the new Single Team Club Cup Competition which will be in its inaugural year.

With a small playing squad, we are often up against it in terms of numbers against other bigger teams, but this cup competition puts against teams of a similar size as ourselves and hopefully will allow a more level playing field in terms of competitiveness. Glengarry Shinty Club has worked hard behind the scenes for many years, in pushing the need for such a competition to the Camanachd Association and we are delighted that this year they have come through.

The men's team are a very committed bunch and with some younger boys training with the team in pre-season, we look forward to seeing them integrate in to the team. The men's team play on Saturdays with our home matches at Craigard.

The women's teams, will compete in the WCA North Division 1 and North Development League, again with a small playing squad; we will see some of our promising U14 girls move in to the women's team. We have an impressive squad of primary girls and our older primary girls will be involved in the Development League and will gain some great experience in the step up to senior shinty. Our women's teams all play on Sundays (with a couple of away Saturday matches) and all home matches are played at Craigard.

The women have been training at the MUGA and have seen amazing numbers with an average of 20 females from ages 10 years upwards enjoying shinty – we have a mixture of abilities and ages so welcome any female wishing to have a go – you can contact us on the Glengarry Shinty Club Facebook page.

Our junior section is going from strength to strength. However, the lack of suitable playing facilities in the winter months has really hindered the children in their training. On the nights we have trained, we have had incredible numbers, with the children desperate to play shinty, the coaches have been blown away by the desire for matches – the more competitive the better as far as the children are concerned! We ran a 'Beginners Session' on the MUGA on Tuesday nights, which proved to be great for integrating children who hadn't played before into the sessions with the experienced players. This is so important for safety reasons as the reality is, our 10 year olds have already been playing shinty for 5-6 years!!! We will be running another Beginners block in Spring when the light nights come in and we move back to the shinty pitch – this information will be posted on the Glengarry Shinty Club Facebook page.

Also on Tuesday nights, we have our very successful P3 & under group – these sessions have been so well attended and the children have positively thrived. With the Club providing in-school sessions for all primary age pupils, we have found that even our youngest P1's are coming to club sessions fully understanding the basics of shinty, so this age group has really benefitted from the in-school sessions.

The group played in their first tournament in a wee friendly tournament with Glenuquhart, which gave them some valuable match experience and a taste of what game situations are like. We are also taking part in another tournament in Fort William on 4th March, so the children are very much looking forward to this experience.



Our older children – the P5 group, played in the Lochaber area first shinty Indoor National Final Qualifiers the other week. Despite the lack of indoor facilities to train on, our team did us very proud – with some of the team playing indoor for the very first time – they won 2 matches, drew 2 and lost 2 so not a bad result all things considered. Our P7 group also took part in their age group qualifiers and put in a very good performance against bigger teams, with only two P7's we were always going to be up against it but we, as always, gave everything and that is all you can ask.

Neither of our Age Group teams qualified for the National Finals but it was a good measure for both coaches and players to see where they are in terms of other teams, we know what work we need to put in and the children are determined that next year's qualifiers will be the best yet!

With our Primary and U14 Group competitions due to start in a month or so, there will be some hard work put in at training to be ready but one thing the children are not afraid of is the hard work required to better themselves as shinty players.

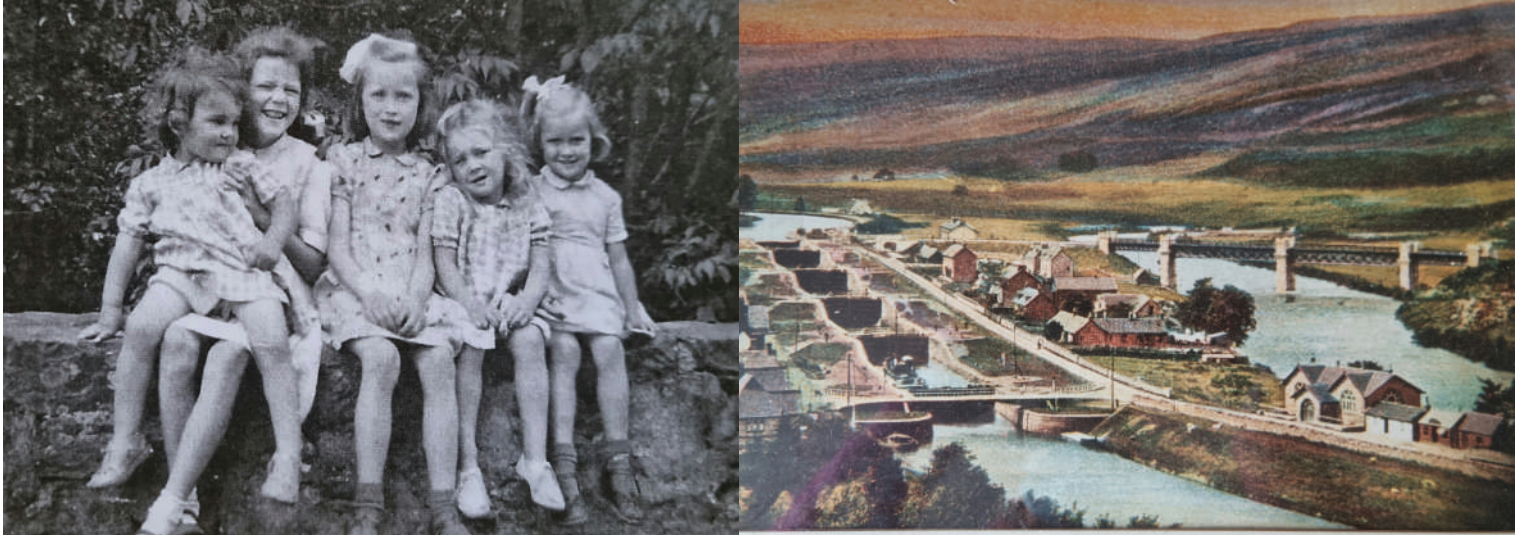
The Club are indebted to our junior coaches: Elaine, Shaun, Shaina and Suzi, with Andy assisting and gaining experience pre-coaching qualification. These guys put in a load of work and commitment week in week out, all year round. Some weeks we have coaches out 4 nights a week as well as playing themselves at the weekend – that is commitment and something we are exceptionally proud of as a small volunteer club. In addition to this, we are especially grateful to Elaine, Suzi and Andy who took time off from their employment to volunteer and offer the in-school sessions in the two primary schools and the Academy.

There has been a real step up in the performances on the park from all age groups and every session we are impressed by the desire and hard work put in by the children. We feel this is in direct correlation to the in-school sessions in which the coaches are covering basic skills with complete beginners and allows the more experienced players extra time to work on polishing up those skills – which means by the time club sessions come round in the week, they are a step ahead! The most asked question at all Junior Sessions is "when is our next game?"!

As always, as a small volunteer club, in a small community, we are always on the look out for more help. We appreciate there is now a lot of people now living in our communities, who may not know or understand shinty but it is a great way to meet new people and become involved in a very active part of your new community. No shinty experience or knowledge is necessarily required; we have loads of jobs that are not connected to on pitch activities, so if you would like to get involved, please get in touch: secretary.glengarry@outlook.com or check out our club Facebook page: Glengarry Shinty Club – where you can find all our latest news and events.



Blast From The Past



Aucherawe Girls from L-R Maureen (Cameron) Ferguson. Margaret (Flemington) Pringle, Katrina (Fraser) Fyfe, Catherine (Cameron) Fraser and Winnie (Fraser) MacDonald

Auchterawe / Strathoich

Before the acquisition of the ground at Auchterawe for forestation and nursery cultivation by the Forestry Commission in 1920, the land at Auchterawe was farmland managed by Borlum Farm with the employment of three men. The farm manager lived in Auchterawe House (dated 1870) and there was a total of eight inhabitants. It was all excellent arable ground and was also the site for the first Golf Course in the village before it was relocated to Market Hill, for the development of the nurseries in 40 acres and a well used shinty pitch.

The nurseries employed eighty people in seasonal work from March to September and forty people in the winter months, bedding young plants to mature enough to be transported all over Britain.

There were eight houses with small holdings built around 1920 with no accurate date. My grandfather was the first employee of the Forestry Commission and grew vegetables and flowers which he sold to the local hotels and shops. Even small holders got five fruit trees from Lord Lovat, some that are still bearing fruit and he also kept goats for milk. A variety of army huts were used, one as an office and the one beside it was for the family of an office worker.

Further up there were a further four army huts, one previously used as a Scottish Youth Hostel was the cookhouse and the camp for workmen, one was divided in two for workers and their families, two other 60ft army huts were for two more families.

Everyone living in Auchterawe had hobbies and were very active playing in a band or shinty, the ladies at the WRI and whist drives. There was a recreation hall as you cross the burn beside the Forestry bothy and it was well used for all activities.

The small wooden house recently demolished was owned and occupied by the Forestry. The old burial ground of St Moula's dates back to St Columba's time lies below Torr Dhuin (the vitrified fort) and just round the corner was the sanitorium which was an initiative of Lady Lovat and opened in 1907 but that's a story of its own.

Jenkins Park houses were built in the early 1950's again another story as well as the Hydro scheme which will be in later issues.

Maureen Ferguson



Maureen's grandfather - Ian Cameron



Large photo L-R - Tommy Fraser, Jim Fraser, Jock MacLaren, Colin Matheson, Danny Williamson, Colin Campbell, Danny MacDonald, Bill Inglis, Bill MacGruer, Charlie MacGregor, Willie Stoddart, Hugh Dempster, Alex MacDonald, George Ross

Minnie Dempster, Aileen Taylor, Rena Cameron, Mary MacGruer, Ileen Bain, Megan Bain, Beth MacGruer, Cathy Cameron, Danny MacIntosh, Margaret MacIntosh, Kate Grant, Lizzie MacLaren, Sid Fraser, Jimmy MacArthur, Alistair Matheson

Donnie Finlayson, Ian Dempster, Roddy MacDonald, Donnie Dempster, Hugh MacDonald





Snowman Rally

What a great weekend at The Snowman Rally where we finally finished the rally for the first time after quite a few attempts, we came in 41st overall.

Brilliant craic as always and great seeing everyone and amazing seeing spectators back on the stages.

I would like to thank the team for everything, Shaina on the notes was great as always, Josh and Will and Stuart on prep and servicing at the rally and all that gave a hand.

Thanks to G&M Mechanical Services Rally Preparation for helping us getting the brake line sorted so we could get back out of first service and also Jimmy Jack for giving us a shot of his seat harness and Trish with her delicious baking keeping us fed and watered. Well done and thank you to all the organisers and marshals on a well run event.

If anyone would like to sponsor us please send us an email to either rhuaridhcampbell@btinternet.com or shaina.archibald@hotmail.com

Rhuaridh Campbell



3 Glens Community Care

'Supporting Our Communities'

3 Glens Community Care are pleased to announce that

Kaye Couzens started work as 3 Glens Development Officer

in January. We are very pleased to have her professional help in our ongoing development.



We are proud to be in partnership with Highland Hospice and continue to support them by contributing to the costs of employing a Care Coordinator, recruitment and training of care staff, equipment, and uniforms for Sunflower Home Care.

3 Glens is contributing to restoring social and recreational opportunities in our communities alongside Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company and the Glengarry Trust. The project is known as 3 Glens Recovery. We hope to help more recreational and social groups get back on track. If you have ideas and need support, please contact any of the groups mentioned.

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

We have recently distributed our new Charity Fundraising Collection Boxes.

Several businesses within our three communities have adopted a box - helping with our fundraising efforts. Look out for them in shops and hospitality venues. Please support us with your small change donations.

3 Glens CC is keen to recruit new members. We would like to encourage anyone over the age of sixteen, male and female, to enrol as members. By supporting us this way, you can have a say in the future development of care in our communities. We also hope to attract new trustees to help with our continued development. Our AGM is planned for May. For a membership form, please email: chair@3glenscare.org or telephone: Denise on 07760 360007

The time for the AGM has been rearranged to afternoon.

3 Glens Community Care – 2nd Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday 9th May, 2022

Time: 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Venue: Fort Augustus Village Hall

Announcements

Marriages



Rhoda & Neillie Stewart celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 2nd of October 2021.

Births



Calum Gillies Walkowski and Euan Alexander Walkowski were born on the 16th November 2021. Calum was 2lb 1oz and Euan was 1lb 8oz. They were born at 26 weeks and 4 days at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital. Parents are Catriona MacNally and Ryan Walkowski.



Bella Mary Slater (Bell) Born the 13th of December 2021 at the Belford Hospital in Fort William weighing 8lb 8oz. Jess Saunders and Jordan Slater of Ardochy Lodge.



Laura Stewart and James Lindsay welcomed Charlie, born 1.11am on 25th February 2022 weighing 8lbs 11oz



Barbora and Fraser welcomed Lia Elizabeth McInnes on the 28th February 2022 weighing 7lb 4oz.



Lauren Johnstone and Grant Boyd welcomed Duncan Boyd. Born on the 3rd of March 2022 at Raigmore Hospital, weighing 8lb 6oz.

Deaths



John Allan Durning passed away peacefully at home in River Court, Invergarry on Dec 5th 2021, at the age of 87. He will be greatly missed for his sense of humour, concern for others and his unique take on life. He was laid to rest at Invergarry Cemetery on the 10th December 2021. John lived a fulfilling life as a husband, father and grand father. He is deeply missed by his immediate and extended family.



Richard John Allen, Glengarry Lodge, Faichem, Invergarry died on 5th December, 2021 aged 77 years old with his wife, Helen by his side.

about as they are today. Douglas attended Merchiston Castle School and on leaving school he went to work in a cooorage in Stockbridge. After that he got a job in a printers, as a guillotine operator, in Leith and then be he bought his first taxi and spent the rest of his working life working hard as a self-employed taxi driver. He is survived by his son, Michael.



Vicky Elise MacKay passed away on 26th January 2022 after a long illness aged 35 years. She was an adored wife to Ruairidh and a devoted mum to Joey, Lily and to the late baby Mary and greatly missed by her extended family and many friends.



Douglas Mackie Nisbet was born in Edinburgh on 30 Sep 1940 to Margaret and George Nisbet. Douglas was their 4th child, and he grew up in Edinburgh with his brothers and sisters, George Margaret, Lottie, Peter, Ian, and Irene. At an early age, it was discovered that Douglas had acute hearing problems but his deafness never held Douglas back even though it must have been incredibly difficult for him growing up in an era when disabilities were not spoken



Sadly on Monday 10th January 2022, Robin Arthur Seymour, Linda's House, Free Church Road, Fort Augustus, aged 72 years. Former Police Officer at Inverness, Cannich and Fort Augustus and latterly Shop owner of Glen Alybn Gifts and Collectables. Beloved husband of the late Linda, much loved father to Joanna and Jonathon, father-in-law, grandad and great grandad. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends and all that knew him.



Very suddenly and unexpectedly on the 30th of January 2022. Peggy MacEachen of Abertarff Place passed away. Loving mother of Elizabeth and Alistair. Devoted Nana to Lisa, Alistair and George, Great Nana to Aiden and Kayla, also a dear sister and auntie. Peggy will be missed by many family and friends. Peggy will always be remembered for her love of bingo and whist nights in the village.



Peggy Fraser 6/10/34 - 23/12/21 Helen Fraser 21/9/38 - 20/2/22

Peggy and Helen Fraser (nee MacInnes) were born and brought up in Teangue, Sleat on the Isle of Skye. Peggy was the 5th and Helen the 7th child in a family of eight. There was Margaret, Morag, Christy, Neil, Peggy, Angus, Helen and Hector.

After they left school Peggy and Helen worked in hotels on Skye before going to Glasgow where they attended The Glasgow and West of Scotland College of Domestic Science or the "Dough School" as it was called. They both worked in Glasgow before returning North when Peggy got a job as cook in The Lovat Arms Hotel, Fort Augustus and Helen started work as cook in The Whitebridge Hotel.

It was then that they met their future husbands, Alasdair and Ian Fraser from Dell Farm, Whitebridge. In 1961 at a double wedding in The Lovat Arms Hotel the MacInnes sisters, Peggy and Helen, married the Fraser brothers, Alasdair and Ian. This was the first double wedding in Fort Augustus for over 100 years!

After getting married Peggy and Alasdair moved to South Laggan and Helen and Ian lived at Garrogie before moving to Greenfield in Glen Garry and finally to Mandally.

Helen and Peggy were known to be good cooks and bakers and anyone visiting them received a warm welcome and never left hungry!

Peggy passed away peacefully at home on 23rd December 2021 and is survived by her husband Alasdair and children Angus, Alasdair, Eilidh and Donald and grandchildren Morven, Andrew, Michael, Murray, Callum, Fergus, Cameron, Finlay, Holly, Beth, Lucy and Robbie and great granddaughter Keira.

Helen passed away peacefully at home on 20th February 2022, just 8 weeks after Peggy's passing, and leaves her daughter Aileen and grandchildren Catriona and Heather. Helen's late husband Ian passed away in May 2017 and their late son Hector passed away aged 29 years in January 1995.

Peggy and Helen were dearly loved by all their family and they will be greatly missed by all who knew them.





Nature Notes

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

Scot's Pine

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

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

Birch

At the end of the last ice age, the humble birch tree would have been one of the first trees to begin colonising the ice-scoured landscape. Hence, in botanical terms the birch is referred to as a pioneer species. Similarly in early Celtic mythology, the birch came to symbolise renewal and purification. *Beithe*, the Gaelic for birch, is the first tree of the Ogham, the Celtic tree alphabet. It was celebrated during the festival of Samhain (what is now Halloween in Britain), the start of the Celtic year, when purification was also important. Bundles of birch twigs were used to drive out the spirits of the old year. Later this would evolve into the 'beating the bounds' ceremonies in local parishes.

Gardeners still use the birch besom, or broom, to 'purify' their gardens. Besoms were also of course the archetypal witches' broomsticks, used in their night-time flights, perhaps after the use of extracts of the fly agaric mushrooms commonly found in birchwoods!

Rowan

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

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

Doug Gilbert Trees for Life at Dundreggan



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

AGM



The AGM was held on the 25th January and we were delighted to welcome 27 members and five guests. We sadly said goodbye to our outgoing Chair, Harry Whiteside. Felix Paterson thanked Harry, on behalf of the community, for her years of service. Her determination, enthusiasm and sheer hard work in delivering so much for the community will be sorely missed. Without Harry's foresight and efforts many of the projects, like the Medical Centre and the new homes at Caledonian Court, would not have happened.

DIRECTORS

Whilst we may have said goodbye to one person, we were fortunate to welcome two new Directors to the Board. Michael Alvey-Anderson and Lynne West. We thought you might like to know more about our new Directors so to start us off here is a bit about Michael. More on Lynne next time....

"My wife and I live near Fort Augustus with three boys plus our 2yr old lurcher: Buddy. We moved to near Fort Augustus in February 2021 and are loving it here. We're setting up a small homestead to provide us with vegetables and eggs from 9 chickens and 6 ducks with a view to being more self sustainable.



I enjoy indoor and outdoor rowing, football, mountain biking, motorsport, wildlife and bird watching, walking, being outside and spending time with my family."

AFFORDABLE HOMES

The Community Company is delighted to tell you that we took ownership of 1, Bunoich Crescent in February and we hope to welcome a new tenant in April, following some re-furbishment work on the home.



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

A common issue that has come up time and time again, is that residents struggle to dispose of their garden waste in a responsible manner. We have had many requests over the years to uplift grass clippings, hedge cuttings, branches etc, so it was time for more of a sustainable approach to be adopted by the Community Company.

The decision was made by the Directors to allocate a community composting space in one corner of the Old Convent land. The Caretaker team took the challenge up and have constructed some substantial composting bays to produce leaf mould, wood chip mulch and general compost. All the above will eventually be products we can use throughout the villages, to feed our floral displays, suppress unwanted weeds or just to improve the soil quality of our raised beds.

The team will use this area on a regular basis, but more importantly we want to encourage all interested residents to use the area to dispose of their own garden waste themselves and contribute to future composted products.

The location of the community composting area is just past the entrance to the homes at



Caledonian Court, down the Kilchuimen Cemetery road; you take the first left after the new houses and follow the small circular road into the community field. This will lead you directly to the composting bays that you can drive right next to. We would encourage the site to be used responsibly and garden waste such as grass clippings, leaves, soil, dead flowers, hedge clippings, branches, even your Christmas tree can all be recycled here. The caretaking team will chip all larger branches and hedge clippings etc to make a usable wood chip mulch. However, please do NOT put any food waste in the bays.

A massive thank you must go to MGL Contractors (Morgan) for donating road surfacing materials, over 4 tonnes were donated to upgrade the entrance for which we are massively grateful. The Caretaker team will continue to maintain the road throughout the year. Should anyone have any questions regarding the new facility please contact the Community Company office. Lastly, do enjoy using the composting area, we really hope it proves popular.



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

GRANTS

In December the Community Company were pleased to give out the following grants:

- Friends of Kilchuimen Academy - £1,800 for a whole school ski trip
- Fort Augustus and area Gaelic Group - £5,070 for lessons and a Gaelic Festival
- Fort Augustus Brownies - £1,400 for outings and craft materials

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN REVIEW

FORT AUGUSTUS AND GLENMORISTON COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2018 – 2023

FORT AUGUSTUS AND GLENMORISTON COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN STEERING GROUP

REVIEW



With just 2 years left for the Community Action Plan to run, a review was necessary and the Community Company has been facilitating that on behalf of the original steering group. This Steering Group was made up of representatives from many local organisations. The review has been undertaken via a combination of specific email requests to groups, and other interested parties from the initial plan, alongside an online survey via Facebook. This was finished off with consultation days during February, in the Village Halls at Fort Augustus, Dalchreichart and Invermoriston. We were delighted that so many of you came along to express your views on progress and what the priorities for the Steering Group should now be. Thank you to

everyone who has participated. We expect the full review document to be available in April so do keep an eye out for it.



Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

Members Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)
Iain MacKnocher - Vice Chair (IM)
Helen Clay - Secretary (HC)
Jeff Dymond (JD)
Jill Wyatt (JW)

In Attendance:

Margaret Davidson – Councillor (MD)
David Fraser – Councillor (DF)
Rachel Baird - Fred Olsen Renewables (RB)
Kirsty Leiper - Fred Olsen Renewables (KL)
Felix Paterson - Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (FP)

Apologies:

Mike Anderson
Robert MacDonald

Note Taker: Jade Marie Douglass.

1. Previous Minutes:

The minutes were proposed by HC and seconded by JW

2. Matters arising:

Glenmoriston Estate: No updates.

Invermoriston Cemetery: JW had asked around after the last meeting and said that someone brought up that the gates seem to be very heavy and hard to move.

Felix brought up that the current people doing the cemetery work for the Highland Council are limited on what they can do. They are hoping to take someone on for that job and take over the contract themselves which will also include Dalchreichart Cemetery.

Sheltered Housing: MD had two meetings regarding the Telford Centre and getting them to start checking in on the residents in the housing. MD will keep trying to get more meetings in place.

Home Carers: Recruitment needed.

Invermoriston Toilets: There was a meeting on the 22nd February but neither the

Community Council nor the Community Company had received invites.

JW said that the meeting was about moving forward and what was happening.

Roads: Resurfacing works to take place before end of March

Canalside: DM and FP to meet Scottish Canals next week.

Scottish Water Presentation: No Updates

3. Police Report: Awaiting

4. Treasurer's Report:

A cheque for Ness News of £1440 was cashed on 4th February

£1500 is ring fenced for the interpretation board and the account stands at £3820.49. Felix will put on the agenda at the next Community Company meeting, the possibility of taking over funding the Ness News.

5. Community Amenity Issues:

Glenmoriston: DF brought up road safety issues, Torgoyle bridge, footpath and layby would be granted and that has been written into the requirements for the SNCN and DF got in touch with Transport Scotland to also get involved.

Rock Falls on A82: DF asked for people if they see even small rock falls near or on road to get in touch so professionals can keep an eye on it.

Double yellow lines outside Richmond House Chinese Restaurant: DM brought up that people are still parking right outside the Chinese; a permanent traffic arrangement was brought up and everyone seems to agree to let that go ahead.

IM said that it was agreed in a previous meeting to repaint the line that's there and then we can then also put in a permanent traffic arrangement as the road traffic order can take months to go through.

6. Renewable Energy Projects

Culachy Wind Farm:

RB and KL presented:

They gave an overview of the up-and-coming wind farm at Culachy, and the plans so far are at a very early stage.

They talked about the visibility and access issues that were brought up by public and previous meetings.

Visibility wise they are hoping to have no visibility from the main carpark in Fort Augustus.

MD brought up that the forestry tracks on the Great Glen Way would be high enough to possibly see the wind farm which has been an issue raised in the past and is something

they will investigate further.

JD brought up if aviation lighting will have to be used on the turbines due to being 220m tall. RB said that they will be in touch with the Civil Aviation Authority about this and suggested possibly having a cardinal scheme where only some of the turbines are lit not all of them however it is still very early stages and there isn't yet an agreed lighting scheme.

The access route they are wanting to use will have two forms of access they will be getting their blades brought up from Kyle of Lochalsh so coming along the A87 and then the A82 and the towers will be coming from Corpach, Fort William which will also be coming up the A82.

They would like to work more closely with the community and create the best community benefit fund that would suit us.

A request for a Scoping Opinion has been submitted to the Scottish Ministers by ITP Energised Limited on behalf of Fred Olsen Renewables Limited in respect of the Culachy Wind Farm proposal.

They will have their first round of exhibitions on the 20th of April at Glengarry Community Hall, and also on the 21st April at Fort Augustus Village Hall 11am - 8pm.

Bhlaraidh: Planning has been approved

7. Planning and Licensing:

Retrospective planning for two buildings within the grounds of the White House, one being a shed for laundry and another for personal use and the owners have been given until the 15th of March as they had not been submitted. Email had been sent to DM

22/00505/FUL Muir Pit Auchterawe Fort Augustus, Retrospective application for extraction of sand and gravel for on-site construction work.

22/00342/MSC Ty Rhedyn Auchterawe Fort Augustus PH32 4BW, Erection of house.

22/00564/PNO SW of Tomcrasky Farmhouse Dalchreichart Glenmoriston, extension of forestry road (410m)

22/00289/FUL 350m North of Newtown, Invergarry, Formation of campsite, erection of shop and café building, shower and toilet blocks, parking and access.

8. Correspondence: Various Highland Council and BEAR emails

9. AOB:

Felix from the Community Company came on to talk about the Platinum Jubilee Weekend happening from the 2nd - 5th June where funds are available from the 3 Glens Resilience Recovery Fund to help any groups wanting to put on a function for the Jubilee Weekend. A few suggestions were shared, one suggestion was having an event at Invermoriston and possibly putting the Trooping of the Colour on the big screen and have teas and coffees, and then having the same kind of event in Fort Augustus in the afternoon for soup and sandwiches.

Another idea that was brought up for the 3rd was where some trees had been felled in the Convent Wood due to being unsafe and there were plans on turning them into wooden seats to have around the area in the Convent which could be used to give the youngsters a picnic type event.

Street Parties were also discussed for Abertarff, Jenkins Park, Caledonian Court, Riverside Park and The Riggs; Each of these events would have their own budget.

He will come back at a closer time to discuss further but these were just ideas that were put forward to see what other people think about such events that weekend.

DM has been struggling to get the bank signatories changed since MA is now Treasurer. It's been difficult to get in touch with the bank for any help in this matter and might possibly start looking into a new bank account.

Caledonian House seemed to be looking a mess, will get in touch with Caledonian Canals.

HC brought up the subject of the campsite (Loch Ness Highland Resort) again and how loud things have been. Felix offered to bring it up at the next Community Company's meeting and invited DM and HC.

JW received an email about possibly getting faster broadband and has asked them for a full breakdown of costs to cover the Glenmoriston area and that will come back in up to 60 days. DF brought up some of the difficulties that these schemes can cause and possible other options residents could choose.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 30th of March 2022 at Fort Augustus Village Hall.

Wanted part time seasonal Assistant Community Caretaker

We are looking to recruit someone new to our team of Community Caretakers. The Caretakers are responsible for keeping our villages looking good, for residents and visitors alike. The successful applicant will be responsible for looking after the area from Invermoriston to Dalchreichart. You'll need to be a self-starter as you'll be working alone most of the time, with occasional work alongside the rest of the team on larger projects. You'll also need to have a full current driving license and access to your own transport is essential.

- Salary: £9.90 per hour
- Location: Glenmoriston (occasional work in Fort Augustus)
- Hours of Work: 16hrs per week from April to end of September

For a job description please call Ian on 01320 366800 or email contact@communitycompany.co.uk

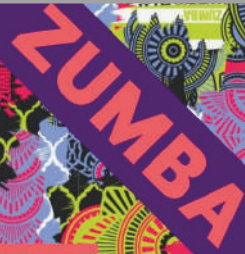

Closing Date Tuesday 29th March at 9am
Interviews Friday 1st April



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company



Notice Board



**MUSIC PUMPING.
HEART RATE
JUMPING.**

Wednesdays 7.15pm
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

To book your place email
zumbadebbiegg@gmail.com

Glenmoriston Craft Club

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month

At Glenmoriston Millennium Hall
11am - 3pm

Cost only £3 per session

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

Carr Gomm is recruiting!

Relief Support Practitioner Roles in the
Lochaber areas
(Glengarry, Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston).



**DO YOU HAVE A CARING ATTITUDE AND WANT TO
WORK SOMEWHERE THAT BENEFITS PEOPLE IN
YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?**

We offer flexible working hours, enhanced holidays, pension
and paid travel time - car driver is preferable.

For more information, contact:
Leanne Wells - 07500 608602

www.carrgomm.org
Scottish Charity: SC033491



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gomm**
Supporting People & Communities

 Fred. Olsen Renewables

Culachy Wind Farm Public Exhibition

Fred. Olsen Renewables is proposing to develop Culachy Wind Farm, located on the Culachy Estate, south of Fort Augustus.

As part of our ongoing community engagement, we are inviting local residents and interested parties to attend our forthcoming exhibitions where they will be able to view our plans, learn more about what we are proposing, have their questions answered and submit their views.

If you are unable to attend we would encourage you to:

- View the materials online and submit any questions you may have (www.culachywind.co.uk)
- Set up a discussion. Text/call **07435 763 900**. The team can be on hand to discuss the plans with you, and this includes after 5pm.
- Submit your questions and comments via communities@fredolsen.co.uk
- Request additional information on memory stick. Email communities@fredolsen.co.uk or text/call **07435 763 900**.

The events will take place on:

Wednesday 20th of April, 11am – 7pm

Glengarry Community Hall, Invergarry, Inverness-shire, PH35 4HE

Thursday 21st April, 11am – 7pm

Fort Augustus Village Hall, Church Road, Fort Augustus, PH32 4DG

www.culachywind.co.uk

Notice Board

AFFRIC HIGHLANDS SCOTLAND

Become an Affric Highlands CHANGE MAKER



Affric Highlands is exploring how nature, people and new ideas can come together to forge a better future for our communities.

Affric Highlands Change Makers will represent younger voices in the development of the initiative. Becoming a Change Maker will give you the chance to join others, develop ideas and take action in Cannich, Drumnadrochit and Fort Augustus.

Why become an Affric Highlands Change Maker?

- Have your voice heard
- Connect with nature and have fun
- Support your local community
- Gain a Green Leadership Award

Upcoming Events:

- An online chat to discuss how to shape the project
- Face to face gatherings to evolve and implement ideas
- A forest outing at the end of March to explore gained skills

Interested? Get in touch

✉ ahcm@treesforlife.org.uk
 📱 @affric.highlands.change.makers

Trees for Life

Trees for Life is a registered Scottish charity - number SC012003. A company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland - company No. SC294326, with registered offices at The Park, Fifehead Bay, Forres, Moray, TD11 3JF. No. 028399936868



Sunflower Home Care

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

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

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

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

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



The Lovat Litter Pick

The last Sunday of each month
10am - 11am

Tea & coffee in the hotel reception afterwards

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

The Lovat, PH32 4DU, Fort Augustus
01456 459250

GLENGARRY TRUST

APPLICATION DEADLINES

GRANT FUNDING
22nd November 2021

21st February 2022

23rd May 2022

Please get in touch if you are a student in further and higher education or an organisation or group with a project in mind.

Maximum limit for funding students is £600 per year for up to four years.
Maximum funding limit for projects is £5000. However, if you have a larger project you wish to put forward, please contact us to discuss this.

The Trust administers community benefit funds from the Millennium and ~~Stronacholm~~ **Woodlands**.

www.glengarrytrust.org.uk or find us at www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust

