

# Ness News

Community News & Events

October 2021



## Shinty Update



## Sunflower Home Care



## Invergarry Rocks





Welcome to this edition of Ness News which we hope to continue producing if we can continue to get funding. It costs approximately £800 to produce 500 copies when we started with 250 copies. We cannot post to every household as this would cost the same again totalling £1600. Seonaid and I spend approximately 40 hours on each issue as there is a lot of work involved but we are grateful for all contributions sent in Word, Pdf and Jpeg format by email.

Ness News started after it came up in the Community Action Plan but it was Barbara Oliver who really spearheaded me into doing a local magazine and it was Stuart Findlay who also prodded me. Sadly, those two salocal worthies have passed and I miss them both very much. I saw Barbara daily when I worked in both post offices and I was in contact with Stuart on the phone or in person almost daily about community council business as he was my "wingman" and guided me in many ways. I'll always be grateful for having known both Stuart and Barbara and they will be sorely missed by the local community.

Deirdre MacKinnon

## Councillors' Notes

### CAR PARKING

It was great to see the extension to the main car park. It was extraordinary and seemed to fill up immediately and looked as if it was always there. The land is owned by Lovat Estates and they have made an agreement with the Council to operate it. So what next? We still need better traffic control in Fort Augustus. Over the autumn/ winter, we are looking at improvements to Oich Road and the turning areas. Then the road will be marked up and charging will be introduced alongside the riverside. The Pier area will be marked up and tidied and let's hope some of the problems in the pier area can be sorted. With the Community Council, we are working at trying to get some No Stopping orders on the road around the corner of Station Road to the canal bridge. Vehicles pulling up there are very dangerous. And finally, we have the promise of improvements to the pavements on Fort William Road. Not before time, but now being told it will not be until next spring, which is disappointing. We'll keep at it.

### SOCIAL CARE

The Sunflower Home Care scheme working with the Highland Hospice is doing very well. The only problem they have just now is to keep up recruitment. So if you think you would like a rewarding job, don't hesitate to get in touch.

### HOUSING

Fort Augustus has some wonderful new housing. The community build finished and is allocated and is a great success. I know it has driven a few folks mad, the bureaucracy

### Editors

Deirdre MacKinnon

Seonaid MacDonald

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and costs have been epic. However very worthwhile. The 6 houses for older/vulnerable people are also now finished at the Telford Centre. They are excellent and will be great for those that move in. We now need to discuss the model for providing care for the residents with NHS Highland.

#### GLENMORISTON

The Village Hall group in Invermoriston has been successful with funding to upgrade and reopen their toilets to the public. Thank goodness and I know they have been helped by the Community Company. Well done all for the effort. There are conversations underway about the extent of the works and they need to be discussed with the wider community and businesses and I hope to see to that soon.

Finally, a word of praise for the Community Council and the Community Company that have continued to work all the way through the pandemic and have served their communities in an outstanding way. Take your hat off when you see them next.

Best wishes to all

Margaret Davidson. Independent Councillor Aird And Loch Ness

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It has been just over seven months since I was elected last March and it's been really interesting getting to know more about each area. Along with Councillor Margaret Davidson and the Community Council, I have been working on several issues in Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston.

Road safety is one of biggest issues we have and we continue to press Transport Scotland to make improvements to the A82 including the footpaths in Fort Augustus. Within the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston area the safety priorities include parking on the A82 within Fort Augustus, resurfacing of the footpath at the south end of the village and reducing the speed of traffic within Fort Augustus and Invermoriston. I will also be discussing with the community council and the wider community ideas for improving road safety from Dundreggan to Torgoyle Bridge.

The maintenance of the Fort Augustus public toilets has been a big issue this summer. The current arrangements of Highland Council visiting the site once or twice a day clearly are not effective when the village is busy. So, we need to look at improvements ahead of the next tourist season. In contrast at Drumnadrochit where the community recently took over the running of the toilets and visitor information centre, customers seem very pleased with the facilities.

Ward Discretionary Funding - In addition to normal ward fund we have a special £100,000 Place Based Investment Fund for this year and next. The Ward Councillors have agreed that the expenditure will be allocated as follows. Playparks £20K; paths / trails £30K; Cycle Networks £15K and Community led proposals £35K

At this stage, it is the play park improvements that we are asking community groups to bid for. The discretionary fund application forms are available from the Highland Council website. If you are considering making an application, please let us know or discuss it with the Ward Manager, Charles Stephen. Details of the other funding routes will be discussed with all the community councils in our area and confirmed at a later date.

Thank you again and please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can help. My email is [David.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:David.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk) and my mobile number is 07791390792

# News from Glenmoriston

## Recreation Field in Invermoriston

The main focus of the Glenmoriston Improvement Group (GIG) at the moment is the recreation field in Invermoriston. Conversations and consultation with the community are continuing and we are grateful for the suggestions and objections already raised. There has been some communication with The Highland Council but we need to contact the owner of the land before we can apply for significant funding. This is proving difficult. Plans for the field and a shopping list of children's play equipment (to discuss with local children) are being drawn up and there will be further consultation and information available before any funding application is made. One of the main requests has been for the grass to be mown regularly and kept in a suitable condition for a variety of games to be played on, including shinty. The need for additional activities for children is also a priority. There will continue to be space for a helicopter to land (mainly used by the emergency services).

## Heritage

GIG is also planning various heritage events and activities for 2022, celebrating our local natural, historic, musical and language heritage and looking at how this can be preserved.

## Traffic

GIG is continuing to chase traffic safety measures in Invermoriston and Glenmoriston and are pleased that David Fraser, our new councillor, is helping us to pursue these.

## Completed projects

The improvements at the War Memorial are now complete. Please enjoy our new specially commissioned seat and safe standing area if you attend next month's Remembrance Day. The Beastie Trail is now open, with a beautiful and informative leaflet on sale to go with it. We hope you will encourage visitors to try it out. Our community website, [www.glenmoriston.net](http://www.glenmoriston.net) is now open for use.

Information about our group can be found at [www.glenmoriston.net](http://www.glenmoriston.net) We welcome ideas and contributions from everyone in Glenmoriston, particularly from parents and children in relation to the recreation field.

## Monday Coffee Mornings 10.00-12.00

Local volunteers will be offering weekly tea/coffee mornings at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall on Mondays, starting on October 25th. There'll be a chance to swap books, jigsaws, DVDs, catch up (and spread!) local news over a cuppa and biscuits. All ages welcome. Free, but we will not turn down donations to cover the refreshments

Cleaner required at the Millennium Hall for a few hours a week. Contact Clare Levings on 01320 351330



# Introducing Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association



## What's happening?

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall is changing its charitable status. It will be known as Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association and the current Hall Committee will be standing down.

## Why is this happening?

There have been a lot of changes in Charity Law since the old Trust was created, so it is being retired and replaced with a new charity to bring it up to date.

## The past...

For over 20 years Glenmoriston Millennium Hall has been widely used providing events and activities for our community, but its charitable aims made supporting activities out with the Hall's scope difficult.

## The future...

The new charity will allow the freedom to get involved with what ever folk in the community would like to happen. Have your say by becoming a member of this new association.



## Have your say in how the Association is run:

To become a member scan the code  
or go to <https://www.membermojo.co.uk/glenmoristonhall>





# Glengarry Shinty Club



The club has had a busy few months, however, Covid-19 is still causing some disruption and causing issues with fixtures across all competition. Our women's teams fixtures have been affected the greatest, but of course the safety of our players remains our priority. However, we have had some great training sessions and focusing on

integrating the junior girls, all of whom have done great in their step up.

Our men's team have had sporadic fixtures throughout the last few months, meaning that there hasn't really been a chance to build momentum and build of results. However, our younger squad members are getting plenty game time and building on their experience looking to next season.

This season was always going to be difficult as we were being asked to give 100% commitment to fixtures despite things such as travel restrictions and social events opening up and players getting the opportunity to return to normality and then being asked to commit to Shinty Saturdays. Due to Camanachd Association guidelines, despite other restrictions being lifted, we started the season with supporters not allowed to come to matches, this created a strange atmosphere for games and they very much felt like two teams going through the motions rather than competing. However, we have had some exciting matches, in all weathers – from heatwaves to thunderstorms and despite the sporadic fixtures, we were glad to get back into action.

As we look ahead to 2022, please check out our club Facebook page for training information and if you fancy playing shinty, get in touch.

Our junior section has enjoyed a great few months, as mentioned in previous editions. We have seen a great increase in numbers attending our junior training sessions and this continues to grow, almost weekly!

Our Junior Shinty Summer Camp was attended by 49 children, who enjoyed 2 days of shinty training, drills and matches, our U14's Girls v Boys series over the 2 days was very exciting and the younger children really got behind the teams and created a great atmosphere!

We of course, had two days of very different weather, our first day was glorious sunshine, our second, couldn't have been more the opposite, with rain all day – however that did not dampen spirits and the children had a great day and we really have seen some progress with the juniors since.

A couple of weeks ago, we attended the Kingussie 6's Tournament and our U10 age





group team, did great, reaching the semi finals only to be beaten by eventual winners, Kinraig. We took a lot of positives from the day and with a bit more game experience, we can iron out the parts of the game that went wrong in Kingussie so we are moving very positively with this age group. We were also invited to enter a P1-P3 team; this was most of our children in this age



group's first opportunity to play in proper matches, so we were very impressed with their positional sense and awareness, though the big crowds gathered to watch this section was perhaps a little overwhelming. We can now look forward to watching this impressive group progress.

Our Primary Girls also had two games v Lovat Primary Girls and over the two matches, were overall winners. The girls showed some great shinty ability and skill however, confidence was the biggest battle but more matches like this will definitely see the girls progress and develop into some great shinty players.

We also had Banavie Primary visit us for some training matches, giving both clubs some extra game experience. Our P1-P3 team were up against a very well organised Banavie team, but we showed again some great positional sense and our movement will progress as the children develop. Our P5 team, showed how quick progress can be made, we fielded 2 x 7 aside teams and played a round robin with Banavie with our Blue team showing some great shinty, with hitting, movement on and off the ball and good positional sense, our Yellow team showed the depth that we have in this age group, putting up a great battle against Blues and taking a win against Banavie as well.

We were also delighted to have some of our Senior Girls and Boys take their first steps in coaching and refereeing - with Ben showing some real potential for refereeing; something that we will give him the opportunity to work on over the next few months, building his knowledge and confidence as a referee.

Ruby and Erin also showed great confidence with the whistle and also did a great job working with the P1-P3 team and keeping them organised and getting them ready for matches. Lexie showed some great coaching skills and a lot of confidence in organising the team throughout their matches and encouraging them.

The Club are grateful to our Sponsors and those who have made donations to the club. We have also received support from Glengarry Trust, which has seen us purchase new equipment for the junior section and hopefully the new equipment will be with us soon as numbers increase, helping us to provide shinty to all that wish to come along and attend our sessions.

We are also continuing to work on another project, which will see school shinty return for our local primary and hopefully academy pupils. We had an initial set back with the FAGCC not being able support the project, which would have benefitted so many



children. We have been overwhelmed by the support in the local community from people understanding the importance and benefits of this project, so we will have some really exciting news to share in the coming weeks. As always, the Club is keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in getting involved. You don't need to have a shinty background or really know anything about shinty; we can find a role for just about anyone who would like to be involved in our Club, you can reach us on Facebook or by emailing: [secretary.glengarry@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.glengarry@outlook.com)



# Nature Notes

## Dundreggan Rewilding Centre

Construction work has begun on the Rewilding Centre and accommodation building here at Dundreggan. We can't wait to welcome you to the Centre when it's complete in 2022, but while construction is underway, for everyone's safety, we need to restrict access to the construction area. As of 31st August 2021, the public car park is closed and there is no access to our trails or composting loo. Unfortunately there is no realistic alternative car parking on site, so we are effectively closed to visitors. Construction traffic will be using the main entrance and the driveway.

## What will the Centre be like?

Dundreggan is a unique place, rich in natural and cultural heritage where real change is happening, and we believe it should be shared with more people. The Rewilding Centre will enable us to welcome a larger, more diverse audience to Dundreggan, making it the place where people come to discover a vibrant regenerating landscape and leave inspired to engage with rewilding. The development features an accessible visitor centre with classrooms, cafe, event space, natural play area and an improved trail network. We're also building a 40-bed accessible accommodation building for educational groups and short courses. There will be activities for all on offer, from guided walks, family activities and events to workshops, courses and school visits. There is rich Gaelic heritage in Glenmoriston, so the language will be woven throughout the interpretation and activities, and an area of the centre is devoted to exploring and highlighting the connections between Gaelic language and culture and the landscape. Throughout the planning stage we have carefully considered the feedback of local residents and businesses, and we're pleased to be contributing to the objectives of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Action Plan through: the creation of 15 FTE new jobs, and more through the supply chain; providing a space with great facilities where local people can come together for socialising, activities and events; education, training and volunteering opportunities for people of all ages; and contributing another facet to a great tourist destination, highlighting its fantastic cultural and natural heritage. We will keep the community informed of progress and official reopening dates. To find out more, visit our website

[www.treesforlife.org.uk/dundreggan/dundreggan-rewilding-centre/](http://www.treesforlife.org.uk/dundreggan/dundreggan-rewilding-centre/). You can also get in touch with us with questions or concerns at [rewildingcentre@treesforlife.org.uk](mailto:rewildingcentre@treesforlife.org.uk).

The Dundreggan Rewilding Centre is supported with funding from the Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, led by NatureScot and part funded through the European Regional Development Fund; the National Lottery Heritage Fund; Bòrd na Gàidhlig; SSE Sustainable Development Fund; Audemars Piguet Foundation; FERN Community Funds; and Garfield Weston Foundation.

We very much look forward to welcoming you back next year.

**Laurelin Cummins-Fraser, Dundreggan Rewilding Centre Director**

**Doug Gilbert, Dundreggan Operations Manager**

**Kat Murphy, Dundreggan Rewilding Centre Education Manager**

# Trees for Life







**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

Fire and smoke alarms: changes to the law

Every home in Scotland must have interlinked fire alarms by February 2022.

Interlinked means if one goes off, they all go off, so you will always hear an alarm wherever you are in your home.

The new law has come about because of the Grenfell fire in London in 2017, and it applies to all Scottish homes.

It is the property owner's responsibility for meeting the new standard.

What each home needs

By February 2022 every home must have:

- one smoke alarm in the living room or the room you use most
- one smoke alarm in every hallway or landing
- one heat alarm in the kitchen

All smoke and heat alarms should be mounted on the ceiling and be interlinked.

If you have a carbon-fuelled appliance – like a boiler, fire, heater or flue – in any room, you must also have a carbon monoxide detector in that room, but this does not need to be linked to the fire alarms.

Help with costs

If you are a homeowner, you are responsible for the installation and costs.

Older and disabled homeowners on low incomes can get help with costs - contact your local care and repair service.

If you are a private tenant, your landlord is responsible.

If you are a council or housing association tenant, the Scottish Government states that work is ongoing to make sure your home meets the new standards.

Two types of alarms

You can use either sealed battery alarms or mains-wired alarms.

Both types of alarm are interlinked by radio frequency and do not need WiFi.

They can be purchased online or most hardware outlets.

Home Fire Safety Visits

As part of our commitment to building a safer Scotland we offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. We'll help you sort out a fire escape plan and provide information about smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms. Get in touch with us, it's so easy to arrange:

call 0800 0731 999

text "FIRE" to 80800 from your mobile phone

email your local fire station [Elizabeth.Proudlock@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Proudlock@firescotland.gov.uk)

# Sunflower Home Care / 3 Glens Community Care Update



At the end of 2020, 3 Glens Community Care and Highland Hospice launched the Sunflower Home Care service in Fort Augustus, Glenmoriston and Glengarry. This was the first time Highland Hospice had delivered a care at home service anywhere in the region. The service has now been running over nine months. There are five active members of the team, including the coordinator, Martha Tiffen. Together they currently care for eight service-users delivering over 300 hours of care every month.

Martha explains, "We receive requests for care from the NHS. They refer people who would benefit from help with personal care, medication, preparing meals etc. Upon receiving these, I do an assessment – meeting both the client and their family – and agree their support package."

"I received first class training from Highland Hospice which helped so much with my confidence in being able to deliver this. One of the best parts of this job is working with the team I have here. The girls are so passionate and they give their all to the job. The team are so delighted to be delivering 'Sunflower Home Care.' We feel like we are making a real difference to the whole community – it's not just the person we are caring for who benefits, it's their whole family. Often a family member has been responsible for care and this takes a real toll on their physical and mental health. It can become so difficult, particularly with illnesses such as dementia."

Sunflower Home Care offer flexible contracts and competitive rates of pay. The service is looking for new team members, if you are interested speak to Martha in the community or contact Vicky Kilgour, Home Care Officer at Highland Hospice on [v.kilgour@highlandhospice.org.uk](mailto:v.kilgour@highlandhospice.org.uk).



# 3 Glens Community Care Update

Job Title: 3 Glens Community Care Development Officer

Location: Cille Chuimein Medical Centre

Working Hours: 15hrs per week. It is important that the postholder is flexible about working hours to fit with meetings and events, including some evening and weekend working.

Salary: £25,000 - £29,000 pro rata, dependent on experience

Purpose of role: To develop resources and initiate new services to meet the needs of the community in line with the stated purpose of 3 Glens Community Care. The postholder will perform, coordinate and oversee a wide variety of duties on behalf of the Trustees and work closely with the Care Coordinator.

## Desirable skills and Knowledge:

Possess excellent verbal and written communication skills.

Ability to work independently and proactively with a minimum level of supervision.

Understanding of volunteering and the Third Sector.

Experience in development work with individuals, voluntary and community organisations.

Knowledge of community engagement and involvement.

Be able to identify needs and or gaps in service provision.

Responsible to: 3 Glens Community Care Board of Trustees

The 3 Glens Community Care Is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) formed to benefit the communities of Fort Augustus, Glenmoriston and Glengarry Community Council areas. The aim of the organisation is:

- To improve the quality of life, health, well-being, and independence and to reduce social isolation of people in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability or social circumstances.
- To improve recreational facilities and organise recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended.
- To promote similar charitable purposes, objects or institutions in such proportions and manner as the Trustees think fit.

3 Glens CC is partners with Highland Hospice who ensure delivery of the Care at Home Support through their Sunflower Home Care service for the area. 3 Glens CC is governed by a Board of Trustees and is grant funded.

As this is a community role, it would be ideal - but not essential, that the successful applicant would be familiar with the 3 Glens area.

For job description please go to [www.highlandhospice.org/3glens](http://www.highlandhospice.org/3glens)  
Please send CV and a letter supporting your application and for further information contact [audrey.sumner53@gmail.com](mailto:audrey.sumner53@gmail.com)

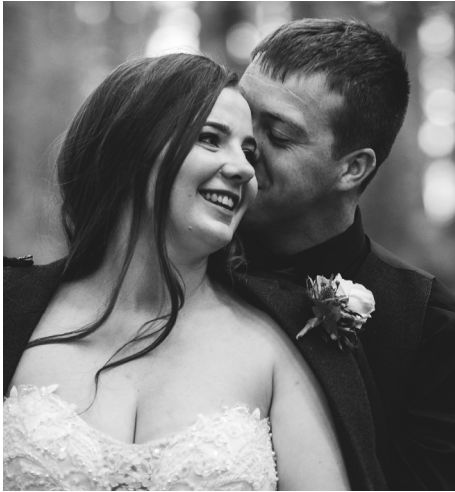
Applications close on 15 October 2021.

# Announcements

## Marriages



Jennie McCallum and Duncan Seaton, Glendoe married on 2nd July 2021 at Shoreton Farm, Culbokie



Seonaid MacDonald and Cairn Urquhart married on July 16th 2021 at Glenkirk in Drumnadrochit.



Hannah Leadbetter and Michael Brady married on the 14th of August 2021 at Forbes of Kingennie.

## Births



Isla Nicola MacKenzie born 30th June 2021, at 2.25pm, 7lb 2oz to Jonny and Lindsay



Blair Cameron Johnstone born on the 10th of July 2021, 8lb 3oz to Martin and Michelle Johnstone



Lachlan James Robert Johnstone Born on the 10th of July 2021 weighing 7lb to Scott Johnstone and Eilidh Macintyre.



Harry Steven MacDonald born 19th July 2021 weighing 8lb 12oz at Raigmore Hospital to Brian and Leanne MacDonald



Meelie Jessie Johnstone born on the 19th of July 2021, 4 weeks early at Raigmore Hospital weighing 5lb 3oz to Ryan Johnstone and Trisha Williamson.



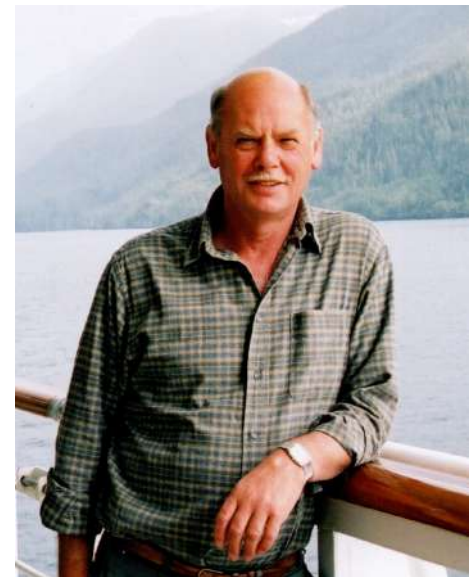
## Deaths



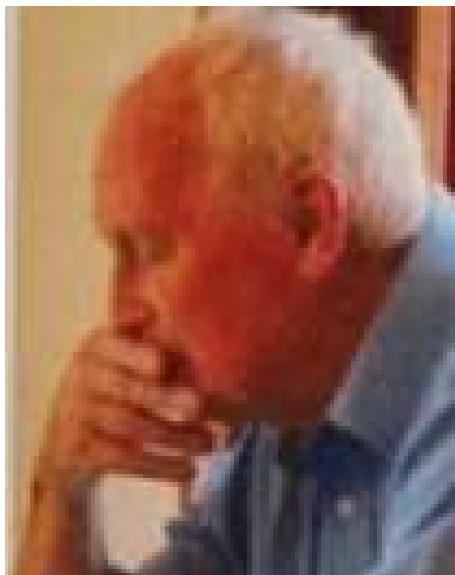
Patrick Duncan MacDonal (Invermoriston) died peacefully at home on Friday 9th of July 2021 after a short illness, aged 75 years. Much loved husband of Betty, dearly loved dad of Jennifer and Heather, father-in-law of John and Sandy, devoted grandad of Naomi, Dana and Ryan, a dear brother of Brian, Christine and the late Alistair.



Barbara Elizabeth Oliver born 28th of March 1932 and passed away on Friday 23rd of August 2021. Beloved wife of the late Iain Murdo MacLean Oliver, adored and much loved mother to Calvin and a friend to many.



Stuart Findlay, Ash Cottage, Fort Augustus born 4th of July 1940, died on 31st July 2021. Alma and the family would like to thank all those in the community for their kind expressions of sympathy and also for the beautiful flowers received following Stuart's passing. Your kindness was very much appreciated, thank you all.



### **A Celebration of the life of Alex Sandilands**

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Mr Alexander Sandilands (south Laggan) is to be held in Glengarry Parish Church on Thursday 21 October at 2pm. Refreshments will be provided afterwards in Glengarry Community Hall to which all are warmly welcome.

## The Hub

The Hub is opening its doors again on Saturday 25th September 2 - 4.00pm for a get together. We are launching Yoga classes, Book Club, Coffee Mornings, Quiz nights and more to come. Coffee mornings will start on Saturday 30th October from 11.00am and every last Saturday in the month. A book club will start on Thursday 14th Oct and will meet every month. Yoga taster sessions will start on the 29th September and we are also running a Quiz Night every second Saturday in the month, starting on Saturday 9th October at 7.00pm.

# Blast From The Past



It was once common for people to get married outdoors in the Highlands and there was often a special site where this took place.

Last year, I found a transcription of a recording made by Calum Maclean about a 'Clach a' Phòsaidh' or 'The Marriage Stone' which is somewhere near Fort Augustus. It was widely used by local people and is likely to be the venue of the wedding described in a beautiful short story written by Keith Aitchison who worked at the Crofters Commission and had family in Fort Augustus - see [www.glenmoriston.org.uk](http://www.glenmoriston.org.uk) - Recollections/Keith Aitchison.

According to Calum Maclean's recording in 1952, as told by James Warren of Glenmoriston, the stone is located about a mile from Fort Augustus, on the military road

which winds its way over to Glenmoriston. I had been on this route many times, but I hadn't known to look for a distinctive stone. I couldn't find any information as to what size it was, but Maureen Ferguson told me that it was in three sections - one for marriages, one for baptisms and one for the minister. The only clues as to its location were that it was next to a burn called Allt Fearna (the burn of the Alder trees), close to the military road and nearing the top of the hill. Fortunately, Allt Fearna is only close to the military road for short time, and this coincides with nearing the top of the road. It is a particularly scenic section of the burn which falls in cascades and is still lined by native trees - though rowans now rather than alders. I knew it might be tricky to find the stone because the area has been planted with commercial forestry for many years, and while there is still a track, it often diverges from the original route.

I was excited to find a very large stone in three sections at the right location. It was only visible because timber has been felled but it was covered in brashings, moss, small seedlings and heather. The largest stone was covered in moss which could be rolled off easily like a carpet. This revealed the most amazing stone which is composed largely of quartz. The other two stones will require more effort as they are covered with bracken and heather.

I contacted Matt Ritchie (the archaeologist at Forest and Land Scotland) about Clach a' Phòsaidh. He replied to me the same day, and I was delighted to read his email which said 'Well done - a fascinating blend of local history and landscape archaeology!' It is so good to know that people care about these important cultural sites and appreciate amateurs finding them.

Now that Matt has a grid reference, steps are being taken to make sure that an area of 10 metre in circumference will not be re-planted. This will mean that the site is protected. Information about Clach a' Phòsaidh will be included when any interpretation is renewed. This will happen more quickly with the digital information of course. At his suggestion, I also sent the information and photos to the Highland Archive Centre. It would be good to clear the rest of the site and fully expose the stones. This is probably best done later in the year when the bracken has died back. I'll put out a call for help then. It will be easier if there are more people! In the meantime, if you're out walking that way - see if you can spot the stone that I have started to uncover. The grid reference on Sheet no 34 (Fort Augustus) is NH351101.

Joyce Gilbert, Glenmoriston



## **New Homes for Old Convent Land**

**It's been 3 years in the making and our biggest project yet, but the new homes at Caledonian Court are now finished, and the new tenants have moved in. To all our new tenants- welcome to Caledonian Court, and we hope you are settling into your new home!**



The new homes were officially handed over to the Community Company on 4<sup>th</sup> August, and it was great to welcome members of the local community to our celebration event on the 8<sup>th</sup> August. The support and enthusiasm from the local community throughout the project has been fantastic, so it was great to be able to share this achievement with you and show you inside the new homes! A big thank you must go to all who helped out, both behind the scenes and on the day. A lot of fun was had by everyone- and it even stayed dry!



It was also a perfect opportunity to celebrate the Old Convent Land, on which the new homes were built. The land was bought in 2018 for community use, and the new homes are just one of many ways we can utilise the land. The Community Caretakers have already been at work



on another project, working with pupils from Kilchuimen Primary to create a wildlife pond on the land. We'd love to hear your suggestions about how the land could be used in the future, so please feel free to drop into the office for a chat or email us at [contact@communitycompany.co.uk](mailto:contact@communitycompany.co.uk)

Now that people have moved in, the houses are really coming to life and becoming *homes*. From the start, the aim was to provide affordable housing to make it easier for people to stay and work in their local community. Depopulation, and especially the loss of young people to cities, is of concern to rural communities all over Scotland, so we're really happy that the new tenants of Caledonian Court provide a real mix in terms of age, experience and skills, that will help ensure that Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston remains a thriving and sustainable community for the future.

Access to affordable housing remains a priority for the Community Company, so with this in mind we are now applying for funding to enable us to purchase another 3-bedroom home for affordable rent in Bunoich Crescent. If we are successful, we hope the property will be available from the end of January 2022 for a member of this community. If you are interested in being considered as a tenant, please email us at [homes@communitycompany.co.uk](mailto:homes@communitycompany.co.uk) and we will add you to the mailing list for more information if we are successful.





Invergarry Primary Parent Council organised a fundraiser which ran throughout July and August in the form of an Art Trail at Glengarry Castle Hotel and in the woods around Invergarry. This was made up of beautiful painted rocks, painted by the children, community and some by professional artists who kindly supported us. Many local businesses also got involved by sponsoring us and displaying rocks.

We aimed to raise funds by inviting visitors to our Art Trail to donate online to our fundraising page. Our first target of £500 was smashed and we ended up raising over £850 through Just Giving. Sadly, some of our rocks did go missing throughout the summer and although this was disappointing, we have been overwhelmed by the positive support and donations of the vast majority of visitors and locals alike.

Our tombola and silent auction, which featured many of our rocks, was a great success and we have plans afoot to auction off the remaining rocks on Facebook – keep an eye on our page 'Invergarry Primary Rocks!' for updates.

It has been a difficult time for community groups to fundraise, but we are delighted by the response to our Art Trail, so we would like to say a huge Thank You to everyone who has supported our fundraiser which will allow our wonderful local school, Invergarry Primary and Nursery to Keep on Rockin'!







# Kilchuimen - Academy, Primary & Nursery



## Retirement

Mrs Hill, who has been our Early Years Practitioner in Kilchuimen for nine years, will be retiring after the October break. Mrs Hill has played a large part in the lives of our young children; her enthusiasm and sense of fun have clearly shone through. We would like to thank the Parent Council and our Parents and Carers for their kind donations. The staff organised an afternoon tea with lots of cake where she was presented with her gifts. She will be sorely missed by our whole school community and we all wish her the very best.

## Grant Money

Last session, Primary 4/5 gave out £400 in grant money from the Community Company and Falck Renewables. Some of the projects the children chose are now well under way and they are very much enjoying them, especially the new sandpit toys, the tennis rackets and the robots!

## Hydrogen Challenge!

Can you design and build a car from Lego and power it with a hydrogen fuel cell in about 60 minutes? Well, all of the students in S1 and S2 can! Not only that, the cars that they built from scratch and with zero knowledge of technical Lego were able to travel between 14.5m and 25m. As Erin, a member of winning team 'Cool' said 'it was very funny watching our car go out the door!' - (PHOTO TO FOLLOW)



## The Daily Mile

We are continuing with the "Daily Mile" and are encouraging the pupils to run the mile if they can. Those who do not want to run the mile are asked to walk at a good pace so that they are benefitting from the exercise. We do encourage pupils to chat to each other and to staff as they walk, as we have found that the "Daily Mile" is a great opportunity to "catch up".



## Shinty

Primary pupils took part in the Kingussie 6's, reaching the semi finals and beaten by eventual winners Kinraig!

## Swimming lessons

Swimming lessons have been resumed at Inverness Leisure centre for P1-P7 too, albeit on a restricted basis due to covid-19 regulations.

## Drum roll, please...

In Music, the department often use sheet music and backing tracks for guitar and drum kit performances, which is produced by Rock School Ltd. Miss Cameron won a drum kit from Rock School Ltd! The pupils spent over 2 hours building it ...



# Telford Centre



A pilot scheme by The Highland Council to develop housing provision that sits as a "stepping stone" between living entirely independently in the community and living as a resident in the Telford Centre Care Home in Fort Augustus has been completed.

The Telford Centre housing development pilots a new type of house – a flexible, adapted property designed to support residents with increasing need to stay at home and live independently for longer.

The six houses are self-contained, with flexible kitchen provision to cater for wheelchair users, and fully adapted bathrooms accessible from both the hallway and directly from the main bedroom via a sliding door if required. There is an additional room to the rear which can be used flexibly as required, for example, as a small dining area, or space for an overnight carer or guests. Patio doors onto the garden from the lounge allow residents to sit out, and a large covered porch can act as a dry entranceway, a place to park a mobility scooter or other such transport, or a place for table and chairs.

Residents receiving care will continue to do so via their visiting Care at Home packages. By grouping the homes in a "cluster" care delivery will be much more efficient as carers won't have to travel long distances between clients; maximising the time they can spend with them.

As part of the project the existing gardens have been much improved with the Care Home's original patio being re-laid, their gazebo refurbished, and new benches and planters installed with improved paths that can accommodate mobility scooters right up to the front door. The gardens will be communal, shared between the new residents and the Care Home.

The architect was Bracewell Stirling, the engineer was HGA and the contractor was Compass Building and Construction Services. The project was delivered under budget.

Leader of The Highland Council and Ward 12 Member, Councillor Margaret Davidson said: "Development of adapted houses is not new to the Council, but this pilot takes the fresh step of building the units in the grounds of the Telford Centre Care Home to provide the missing link between living independently and entering a formal care setting.

"We've worked closely with the NHS and with the local Community Company, who kindly provided some of the land needed to enlarge the Care Home garden sufficiently for the 6 units we have built, and I think the project is a splendid example of how partnership working can bring tangible benefits to communities. I am sure the new residents will be very happy in their new homes."

Article and photo taken from [https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/13981/ground-breaking\\_housing\\_project\\_in\\_fort\\_augustus\\_completed](https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/13981/ground-breaking_housing_project_in_fort_augustus_completed)



# Recreational Development Group

With a view to moving forward with the Jenkins Park playground redevelopment, members of the committee have been discussing options with suppliers of playground equipment. A site meeting with a supplier was very productive and we have recently received a quote and plans for the proposed alterations. We are very pleased with the plans and are enthused to see this go ahead. We have already had a generous donation towards this project but will need to raise additional funds before it can go ahead. We will be resuming our physical meetings shortly for those interested in becoming part of the committee and helping to raise the additional funds required. The time and date is yet to be confirmed but will be posted on our Facebook page in due course.



## Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

### Members Present:

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

### In Attendance

Margaret Davidson – Councillor (MD)  
David Fraser – Councillor (DF)  
Kelton Bennett (KB)  
Gavin Steel (GS)  
Lisa Marchi (LM)  
Sally Cooper (SC)  
Karen Fox (KF)

Note Taker: Jade Marie Douglass (JMD)

### 1. Previous Minutes

The Minutes were proposed by HC and seconded by MA

### 2. Matters Arising

DM brought up that a new Treasurer was needed and a bank signatory, MA stepped up to do this and will be in discussion with DM.

Jeff is willing to carry on being our director for the Community Company because if we didn't have him, there wouldn't be a CC representative until their next AGM.

Loch Ness Highland Resort: We have received a few complaints about the new sign erected and the Highland Council have written to the owner about what authority he has for the sign and if he fails to show proof, then he will be asked to remove the sign. If this is unsuccessful, enforcement might be the case which isn't straight forward.

Glenmoriston Estate: People are still complaining about barbed wire around the fence and people not able to go through the field. Legal proceedings are going ahead and the CC will get updates at some point in the future.

Riverside Park Invermoriston: Many residents at Riverside Park have created a petition and are not too happy with the proposed plans for the playpark that they have heard about. The Glenmoriston Improvement Group has proposed these plans for changes to the field and park without any planning or consultation. The residents want this to go through the Community Council but fully support the plan for new play equipment, weeds and overgrowing bushes being replaced and cleaned up. However, they are unhappy about a possible compostable toilet. They have fears that the new compostable toilet will encourage more people to wild camp in the field which is very close to residents' homes.

They also brought up additional parking for residents and that there should be a separate carpark for the playing field.

JW brought up that the group was set up about 18 months ago and they were just asking the community for ideas and that no plans were put forward.

MD said if we could get the Minutes for their meetings in the future so the CC could see what they are doing.

Invermoriston Cemetery: MD said the trees have been cut and wasn't sure what else they wanted done to the cemetery.

JD said that when the leaves fall off the trees and branches come off during windy weather, it quickly makes the area look very messy and doesn't look very well cared for. When the leaves are wet, they also become a hazard and the road and path is quite steep as it is.

Sheltered Housing: Four local residents have been allocated the new sheltered housing so far. Beside the Telford Centre, there is an outside gas tank which was meant to be put in the ground as it is very dirty and unsightly and is directly outside the new houses. It has been asked if it can be put underground or cleaned and covered up. MA stated that if it is a live gas tank, there will be rules and regulations about that.

Invermoriston Toilets: Going to tender and the cost of materials is very high at the moment. After the tender comes through, they will be able to see how much money they have to use to fix up the toilets.

In Your Element: Regarding the shed at the bottom pier there's a sign saying Reserved for Active Highs and Boots and Paddles with permission from Scottish Canals, but DM hasn't been able to figure out yet who they are or what planning permission if any, is in place. Local Scottish Canals workers were also unaware of who they are. Locals have been told to turn and leave the bottom car park/ turning point as these groups think that the whole area is for their sole use.

HC brought up a similar situation that happened at the Well of the Seven Heads with people being turned away by people claiming that area was theirs.

The road itself to the pier is full of potholes and parking bays were an idea for that area at the bottom to minimise how many vehicles go down there. However, the Highland Council need to resurface the whole road first before this can be done.

Roads: The Gorthleck road is very bad with potholes and deep ruts on the verges and as a lot of Fort Augustus residents use that road, the CC will get in touch with Stratherrick CC to contact the Highland Council about possible repairs to the road.

### 3. Police Report

Incidents between 19/07/2021 – 19/08/2021

1. On the 5th of August 2021 around 1200 hours, a male was charged with having no MOT for his vehicle in Fort Augustus. Another person was charged for causing and permitting no MOT on the vehicle. A report was submitted to the PF for consideration of prosecution.

On the 18th of August 2021 around 1440 hours there was a report of dangerous driving



on the B862 around 1 mile north of Fort Augustus. A red Skoda was seen to be driving in a dangerous manner overtaking a campervan. If anyone has any information or witnessed this, please contact police on 101, quoting reference number NN/4747/21. On the 18th of July 2021 there was a report of an illegal snare on the fence line near Abertarff Place, Fort Augustus. A local resident observed a cat stuck in the trap and freed it. The cat was not injured thankfully. If anyone has any information as to who might have set the trap, please get in touch with police on 101 quoting reference NN/4441/21

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

£5139.96 remaining after payment of  
- £160 Ness News

#### 5. Community Amenity Issues - Car Parks: No Update - Roads: No update

#### 6. Scottish Water Presentation:

##### Fort Augustus Network

##### 1. North to south connection pipework:

The new pipework that crosses beneath the canal and river was brought into service in July. This is supplying water from the existing water treatment works to all the properties along Auchterawe Road and between Jenkins Park and Inchnacardoch.

##### Jenkins Park

Successful commissioning of the pipeline crossing beneath the canal and river allowed us to proceed with the 2 PRV connections adjacent to the car park in Jenkins Park with minimal impact on customers. These have both been completed although occasional flushing will be required until water into supply is achieved. The reinstatement carried out to date is only temporary and will be made permanent in early to mid-September.

##### Station Road

The non-intrusive investigations carried out at the beginning of July helped us successfully establish the route of the pipe and pinpoint the location of the existing buried valve. An excavation was carried out earlier this month to locate the valve and a surface box has been constructed around it to make it accessible. The temporary footpath reinstatement here will also be made permanent during September.

##### A82 Cross-connection

The non-intrusive investigations carried out at the beginning of July helped us successfully establish the route of the pipe and pinpoint the location of the existing buried valve. An excavation was carried out earlier this month to locate the valve and a surface box has been constructed around it to make it accessible. The temporary footpath reinstatement here will also be made permanent during September.

##### Pre-existing canal crossing

The Scheduled Monument Consent has been received from HES for the additional valve work required to isolate the existing pipe crossing the canal between the swing bridge and the loch. This work can only take place after water into supply and will be programmed to run consecutively with the A82 cross-connection.

##### 2. Raw- water intake

The new raw water pumping station permanent power has been in operation now since the end of June and the site continues to supply water to the new treatment works. The final surfacing to the access road was carried out in July and some soft landscaping remains to be completed.

##### 3. Water Treatment Works

As with the raw water intake site, the permanent power supply to the new treatment works was completed towards the end of June. The plant has been operating since then on permanent power and the temporary generator etc have all now been removed.



The final road surfacing has been completed although some hard landscaping to footpaths etc has yet to be carried out along with the remainder of the perimeter fencing.

Performance testing and associated sampling has been continuing as we prepare for final agreement on the 'water into supply' date, now expected to take place in early to mid-September.

#### 4. Fort Augustus Service Reservoir and Distribution Main

The grid connection at the new Service Reservoir was also completed towards the end of June and the site has been operating on the permanent supply since then.

Telemetry testing was carried out during July and the satellite link between the Service Reservoir and the water treatment works was also commissioned. This has allowed us to test the operation of the system on level control, confirming that the pumps will start and stop as required to maintain the level in the storage tanks.

The distribution main from the service reservoir down to the connection points in Jenkins Park has now been fully flushed, disinfected and sample results confirmed as satisfactory. The water in the pipework is now being turned over regularly to ensure it remains fresh until water into supply.

#### 5. Booster Pumping stations and slip-lining works

Telemetry testing was completed in July for the Primary Booster pumping station site. Final commissioning for both Primary and Secondary Booster PS's is ongoing at present. The slip-lining works on the B862 at Glendoe will begin after water into supply in September and extend through until late October. For the most part, the existing water treatment works will supply the 11 properties as they are each gradually brought onto the supply from the new treatment works. Once the demand reaches such a low level that the water treatment works can't continue to operate, the drinking water storage tanks at the WTW will be filled with potable water that is tankered to site.

#### 6. Existing Invermoriston WMW

The electrical, mechanical and instrumentation works at the existing Invermoriston treatment works have all been completed since the last update. Most of the commissioning work has also been carried out.

The new pipework that will supply drinking water from the new works to the existing works has been fully flushed, disinfected and satisfactory sample results received. On the day of water into supply, the final connections will be made to the existing storage tanks. We do not expect there to be any interruptions to supply associated with this work.

#### 7. Fort Augustus Network Flushing

Bringing water into supply from the new Fort Augustus Service Reservoir will involve flows being reversed within some parts of the existing water network. Scottish Water, our alliance partner ESD and RPS will be working closely together over a period of approximately 4 nightshifts to gradually introduce the water into the network. This work takes place overnight to minimise the risk of water quality issues. During the process, the pipework will be flushed and sampled. Works will only progress to the next stage once we are satisfied with the results from the on-site sampling. At present, this is expected to take place early in September.

### 6. Renewable Energy Projects

Coire Glas project.

KF presented.

The Coire Glas Pumped Hydro Transmission connection.

Scottish and Southern electricity networks- transmissions (SSEN-T) has received a Transmission Owner Connection Agreement to connect the Coire Glas Pumped Hydro Scheme for December 2027 with an increase in capacity in 2029.

The two-phase connection for a total of 1296MW, this is based on: Phase 1 connection of 612MW in December 2027 and phase 2 connection of a further 684MW in October 2029.







The project includes the connection works and wider reinforcement works. This work includes:

- > Establishment of a new switching station at the point of connection.
- > The route optioneering of 400kv overhead line circuits (OHL) from the point of connection to a new substation in the Invergarry area.
- > Site selection to establish a new substation in the Invergarry area.
- > Route optioneering of 400kv overhead line circuits between the new substation at Invergarry and the existing Fort Augustus Substation.
- > Modification to Fort Augustus Substation (already consented).
- > Rationalisation of a section of FFE/FFW.

SSEN-T are at an early stage (strategy development) and have started the optioneering on the routing of the overhead lines and the siting of substations.

MD asked for a clearer picture of where a substation would be placed as the map was a bit unclear.

KF said she would have more details towards autumn and wintertime.

MD also asked could they consider an underline work up in Auchteraw 400Kv lines could possibly block out the sun.

KF replied with they will bring that up when they do the rationalisation.

Auchteraw substation - LM said they haven't received any complaints and have been thorough with giving residents information and work has been continuing and have been in contact with neighbours and they all seem happy.

MD said that the Bhlaraidh application is in, it's a national one and will be going to Planning Committee at the end of year. It's to do with adding more wind turbines, the environmental impact has been done. As they are needing to use the roads, we should be pushing for money from them for road improvements.

DM bought up that Stronelairg needed three new blades and that they have asked for them to be moved during the evening when the roads are quieter and Traffic Scotland agree with this.

## 7. Planning and Licensing - No Update

## 8. Correspondence -

Letter from Riverside Park residents and one about speeding signs in Fort Augustus as people are overtaking dangerously.

## 9. AOB

Yellow lines needed to stop people parking outside Abbey Cottage and Richmond House This is due to increased parking outside the Chinese restaurant. There were cones placed to deter people from parking there but they were removed by Highway Maintenance for some reason.

HC brought up electric car chargers in the carpark as one or two weren't working and need to be fixed.

Two new police officers have recently joined our local police and will be starting in the coming weeks.

A couple of lights are out down the road at the bottom pier.

Scottish Canals: Caledonian House - the fence is all rotting and falling over and the concrete is also collapsing; the area is messy and could do with a clean up and a new fence being installed.

The Glen Tarff property is empty and could be used by people who genuinely really need it. The whole area up that side of the canal looks awful.

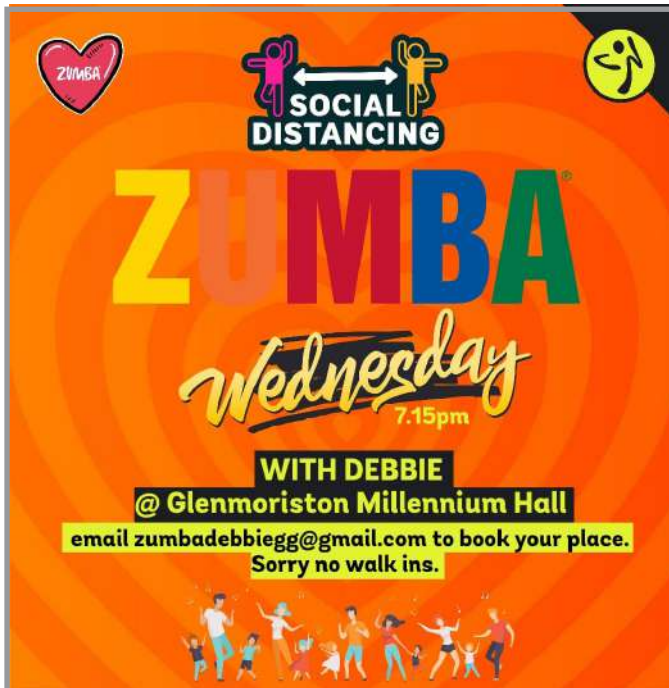
Fort Augustus toilets is still an issue; MD said she would sort it out. We also don't know why the toilets are being cleaned by a company that are only cleaning it twice a day when it needs more than that and why someone local couldn't do the job.

DF said to talk to Russell Fraser about getting some advice on toilets.

The next Community Council Meeting will be held 29th September at 7:30pm



# Notice Board



**ZUMBA**  
*Wednesday* 7.15pm  
**WITH DEBBIE**  
**@ Glenmoriston Millennium Hall**  
email [zumbadebbiegg@gmail.com](mailto:zumbadebbiegg@gmail.com) to book your place.  
Sorry no walk ins.

## Glenmoriston Craft Club

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month

At Glenmoriston Millennium Hall  
11am - 3pm

Cost only £3 per session

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

## GLENGARRY TRUST

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

GRANT FUNDING  
**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**  
**21<sup>st</sup> February 2022**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> 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 Strathclyde Windfarms.

[www.glengarrytrust.org.uk](http://www.glengarrytrust.org.uk) or find us at [www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust](https://www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust)



Fort Augustus Fitness

### Physical Yoga for beginners: Wednesdays 19:00

### Power Yoga: Thursdays 19:00

Fort Augustus Community Hall