

# Ness News

Community News & Events

September 2022



## Sheep Dog Trials



**38 Years of Service**

## Charity Dook





Welcome to this autumn issue. I'm pleased to say that my life is getting back to normal and the family was delighted with the birth of my second grandchild, Ivy Louise Kennedy who arrived mid July.

The Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council acts as a voice for the wider community that it represents. The Community Council will express the views and concerns of local people and groups on a wide range of issues and make representation to the Highland Council, Public Authorities and other organisations. The map shows the area that the Community Council represents up to Aberchalder, Loch Cluanie, Loch Tarff and past Aultsigh. I'd like to welcome Claire Pegrum, one of our posties who has been co-opted onto the Community Council.

If you have any issues that need to be brought up, please contact any of the community councillors listed below or your Highland Councillor, David Fraser on 07791390792 or email [david.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:david.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

Deirdre MacKinnon – 01320 366556 / 07746839568

Iain MacKnocher - 07956072302

Helen Clay - 07947503789

Mike Anderson – 01320 338221

Robert MacDonald - 07796435380

Jeff Dymond – 01320 351267

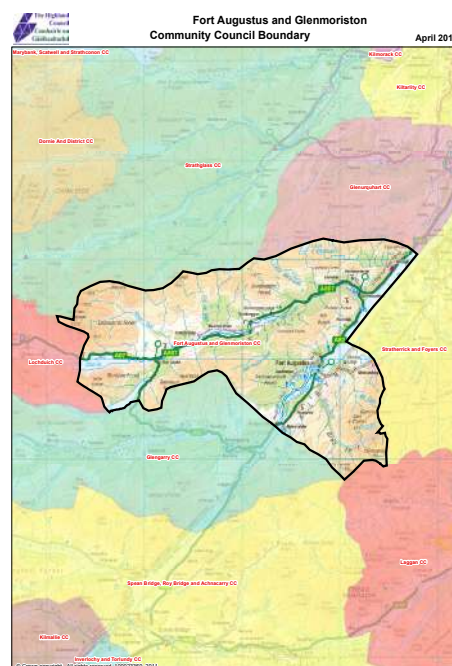
Jill Wyatt – 01320 340320

Claire Pegrum – 01320 366479 / 07901663129

The shopping bus (every 3rd Wednesday of the month) is a return to Fort William is only £3 which is open to the local community and not just senior citizens but they do take first priority. Plenty of clubs are back to pre-Covid days and also some new ones have been set up. Most of them are advertised or mentioned in this issue as well as upcoming events. We've also advertised a local electrician, Cameron Findlay who served his apprenticeship with help from the Community Company and is just starting out on his own.

I'd like to thank everybody who submitted articles and events within the deadline this time as it made it so much easier for us. The deadline for the next issue is 20th November but please send as email attachments in Word, PDF or Jpeg formats not by Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp as the quality is not good for printing.

Lastly, please give your support and donate to Tiffany Holt and Dua G Wilson, Sunflower Carers who are doing the Dook A Day Challenge this month raising money for the Highland Hospice.



## Editors

Deirdre MacKinnon

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# Cricket Club

Fort Augustus Cricket Club are coming to the end of their inaugural season in the NOSCA (North of Scotland Cricket Association) Senior League. Since reforming, the club has been steadily growing. A positive campaign in the reserve league last year suggested they were ready to join the Senior League and, if luck was on their side, be immediately competitive.

The season itself started well. FACC was competitive from the start, winning games and only narrowly losing close matches. It was an encouraging start, and by half way through the league, the club had won half their matches. A huge success for their debut year. More importantly, they were still in the hunt for the title. If a few close games had been wins, they could well have been at the top of the standings.

Unfortunately, things have not gone as well in the second half of the season. Despite playing hard throughout, FACC have just not put enough runs on the board in their final few matches and seemed to always be chasing the game. In the end, they finished the season with three wins and seven losses, not quite the fifty percent target aimed for.

However, there are many positives to take from the season. New players are joining the club all the time, youth cricket training has been very successful on a Wednesday evening and the club is lucky enough to play on the most beautiful ground in the north of Scotland.

If you are interested in possibly playing for Fort Augustus please get in touch. It is an active club catering for all ages and abilities. Training sessions usually take place on Wednesday evenings, weather permitting. While we play in the senior league, there are lots of friendlies and reserve games throughout the season for people to make their debut and give the game a go. Visit [www.fortaugustuscc.com](http://www.fortaugustuscc.com)

# Tiffany & Dua's Dook A Day



Tiffany and Dua are doing the dook a day challenge through out the month of September, to raise money for the Highland Hospice. If you would like to donate head to their facebook pages to do so.



# News from Glenmoriston

## WHAT'S ON Glenmoriston Autumn 2022

<b>Sep</b>			
<b>6</b> Tuesday	The Hub Dalchreichart	<b>Craft &amp; Chat</b> (And Every first Tuesday of the month)	Starts 10:00 Free Entry Bring your craft
<b>Sep</b>			
<b>10</b> Saturday	The Hub Dalchreichart	<b>Quiz Night</b>	Starts 7pm Free Entry B.Y.O.B
<b>Sep</b>			
<b>11</b> Sunday	<b>Millennium Hall Invermoriston</b>	<b>SUNDAY LUNCH AND AFTERNOON FILM</b>	Doors open 1pm £10 adult £5 under 12s Book your place
<b>Sep</b>			
<b>24</b> Saturday	The Hub Dalchreichart	<b>Coffee Morning</b> (And Every last Saturday of the month)	Starts 11am Free Entry
<b>Sep</b>			
<b>24</b> Saturday	<b>Millennium Hall Invermoriston</b>	<b>Quiz Night</b>	Starts 7:30pm Entry £2 B.Y.O.B
<b>Sep</b>			
<b>27</b> Tuesday	<b>Millennium Hall Invermoriston</b>	<b>Travelogue with a difference</b> A talk with photographer <b>Karen Thorburn</b>	Door open 19:00 Starts 19:30 Free Entry Refreshments available
<b>Oct</b>			
<b>8</b> Saturday	The Hub Dalchreichart	<b>Quiz Night</b>	Starts 7pm Free Entry B.Y.O.B

# Glenmoriston Matters

## Community recreation field and play area – Invermoriston

Several suppliers of play and other equipment suggested by the Highland Council have visited the field and are preparing their ideas about how to improve the facilities for all. We hope to show the results and consult with the community about the options available shortly.

## Potential community shop in Invermoriston

Thank you to all who have given their comments so far. An open meeting will be held on 13 September, in the Millennium Hall and, if positive, steps will then be taken to prepare a business plan for submission to the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company.

## Public toilets in Invermoriston

We managed to open these in early July with particular thanks to Clare and Mary for offering to clean them until the Highland Council could take over in line with their agreement. Donations by the users before the payment barriers were put in place were generous, indicating that the resumption of this service was appreciated.

## Glenmoriston Heritage Group

The group is recommencing its monthly talks on the last Friday of the month. The first meeting will be on Friday September 23rd at 7.30 in the Millennium Hall, the topic being "The Heritage of Glenmoriston". The second will be on Friday 21st October, with a talk on the "Heritage of Dundreggan" given by Doug Gilbert. The AGM will be on Friday 18th November, with cheese and wine, with photos and chats about the old days.

## St.Columba's Well

Access to the Well is currently closed as the platform is unsafe. Thanks to generous support by the Beinneun Fern Community Fund and from the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, the Heritage Group has the funds to rebuild it in recycled materials, with the work starting in October.

To apply for free membership of the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association go to <https://membermojo.co.uk/glenmoristonhall> or pick up an application form at the Millennium Hall.



# Glendoe Estate

The owners of Glendoe Estate, Hillhouse Estates Ltd, unveiled exciting new plans for their proposed business 'Ride Ness' & 'The Cottages' at a well-attended public event on 22nd August.



Representatives of the estate described the proposals: 'Ride Ness' will offer 15km of progressive downhill mountain bike tracks starting from one trail head. The trails will be of varying grades and will be accessed by a dedicated uplift service. The tracks will be designed and built to a high standard to create a unique offering that will suit all standards of rider.

Ride Ness will be centred around a hub providing a welcome facility for riders, a cafe, and bike hire shop as well as a large extended skills areas for riders to hone their techniques and receive specialist coaching.

Ride Ness will also include a high-quality food offering and meeting place for riders and non-riders with open views over Loch Ness. There will also be marked walks, playpark and 'Mini Landrover' experience for children where they can drive mini electrically powered vehicles around a track under adult supervision.



The project will also include 'The Cottages', which will be development of high-quality short stay accommodation within walking distance of Fort Augustus. The accommodation will comprise a mix of cottages, group lodges and pods. The accommodation will be available for holiday makers, visitors to the area, and for those

using Ride Ness. It will also provide accommodation for the staff of Ride Ness. The public event provided strong support for the plans and good feedback that will be taken forward into finalising the proposals.

Planning applications will be made to The Highland Council later this year or early next year. The proposals will bring about significant benefits to the local area including generation of around 30 new jobs. The jobs will include roles in:

- Management & Administration
- Mountain Bike Track Construction
- Mountain Bike Coaching
- Driving
- Maintenance
- Catering
- Housekeeping

As part of the plans Hillhouse Estates Ltd will explore opportunities to collaborate with existing businesses and explore opportunities with further education providers.

Hillhouse Estates Ltd, a family business owned by the Vernon family, have supported various community projects over many years.

Andrew Vernon, Chairman of the Hillhouse Estates Ltd commented 'that this offers an exciting opportunity that will broaden the existing visitor experience in the area and we are confident that by attracting visitors to the area the community of Fort Augustus will benefit from increased spend at local businesses. I would like to thank all of those who attended the event and for their positive and helpful feedback'

There is a website set up for showing the plans, where further comments can be left via a feedback questionnaire until 30th September. Details can also be left there should you wish to be kept up to date with the proposals and where you can register for future employment opportunities. Please see [www.rideness.info](http://www.rideness.info) for further details.





# Glengarry Shinty Club

It has been a busy summer for the Shinty Club and whilst our Junior section has a holiday, it has been all go for the men's and women's teams.

First up, our men's team competed in the Final of the inaugural Single Team Cup Competition against Col-Glen in Taynuilt – it was a great day out for the Club. However, in a very tense game, Col-Glen grabbed a late winning goal to take the cup back to Glendaruel with a 2-1 victory. There was the inevitable disappointment having not won, but this puts the fire in the belly to come back stronger next season.

The Club would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who travelled down to support the Club as it was a great turn out and the support was greatly appreciated.

There was no time to be too disappointed as the following Saturday, the men's team returned to league duty and have been consistently playing league fixtures throughout the summer. We have maintained our second-place position in the league and we push on in the hope there is a slip up from top team Inverness as we have 4 fixtures left in the league. Two of these are at home so still plenty of time left to get along and take in a match.

Our women's team have been busy too and are also sitting in second position in the league. We push on with 3 league fixtures remaining. Whilst we feel the league is out of our grasp this season; this year was about integrating our younger players into the team and this has been seamless as Erin, Ruby and Lexie have transitioned easily and are now firmly first picks for the team.

The Women's Development team have also been busy, as this has been a great opportunity for our up-and-coming junior girls to get their first taste of women's shinty against some very experienced development teams. We started their development league campaign back in March and in our first few rounds we were losing matches 3 or 4 nil. However, progressing 5 months on, the girls have become a difficult team to beat – winning and drawing around 85% of their matches and have only lost 5 games since the early rounds of the league, This shows the growth in confidence and highlights the sheer determination of the youngsters who have been undoubtedly physically outmatched but have never given up or stopped trying to do better.

The Women's Camanachd Association has really hit the nail on the head with regards to the Development League format. It is a great tool for allowing younger and less experienced players the opportunity to play without the pressure and demands of a competitive league match. As a small club, this is something that we feel the Camanachd Association could really learn from and look at integrating this WCA initiative into the men's game.

Whilst the senior teams have been busy all summer, our Juniors have enjoyed a summer break after a packed May and June. We have now restarted junior shinty sessions and are again blown away with numbers attending and once again have loads of junior shinty fixtures coming up over the next month or so.

Before the summer break, along with Invergarry Primary, Kilchuimen Primary and Academy, we awarded our first every School Shinty Player of the Year awards. As a club, we were delighted to be involved in the schools' end of term celebrations and enjoyed the musical talents of the pupils greatly.



We have done a lot of work with all the schools and it has been incredible to see them represented in shinty competitions once again after a long absence. We are incredibly grateful to all the teachers and parent helpers who have made this possible.

Our first award was the Invergarry Primary Player of Year and this was awarded to Finlay Davies. Finlay has always had plenty of skill and ability but was often restricted by his confidence. However, since March we have really seen him grow into himself and assume the lead role. As the oldest player in the team, this includes keeping the younger players right on the pitch and organising them off the pitch. Without a doubt, the independence sport gives children has been massively positive in Finlay's growth not just as a shinty player but also as a young man and we are really excited to see his progress going forward.



Our second award was to our Kilchuimen Primary Player of the Year and this was a very easy selection for us with the award going to Scott Cameron. Scott is a very talented and determined player. All the younger boys look up to him and he really delivers as a role model on and off the pitch. Scott has great ability and reads the game incredibly well but also has a steely determination that sees him chase every ball and literally never give up – wonder where he gets that from?



Our final award was for our Kilchuimen Academy Player of the Year and this was awarded to Jack West. Jack has worked incredibly hard to ensure his break into the senior team and we have seen this really pay off over the last few months. Jack is quiet and unassuming and has been since he started playing in P1. Whilst he has seen his junior team mates come and go as they move on, Jack has remained a mainstay in our junior set up and we are excited to see him break in to the senior team.



We also made one more award on our visit to Kilchuimen Academy and that was to our dear friend Bill the Jannie. With so many teams and age groups playing shinty, the MUGA becomes our second home in the winter months and this was only possible because of Bill. We were exceptionally grateful for his support and flexibility towards the club. He enjoyed seeing kids coming as wee P1's and progressing through the levels, always taking the time to ask how things were going and like us all, was excited about the opportunities ahead for the children. Like so many in our community, we were deeply saddened by his passing and having the opportunity to show him how much we thought of him. He will remain very special to us all here at the Club.

We have a lot coming up in the next few months, to keep up to date with our latest news, please check out our club's Facebook Page – Glengarry Shinty Club.



# 3 Glens Community Care

## 'Supporting Our Communities'

The Board of Trustees of 3 Glens Community Care work together, and alongside other organisations, to improve the availability of care services in our rural area 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. As a local charity, we rely on fundraising within the 3 Glens area and are very grateful to all our supporters.



3 Glens Community Care are pleased to report that our Befriending project is now live! We are gathering interest from people that would like to use the service and from people to become volunteer befrienders. The service is free of charge and offers friendship, emotional support, and a listening ear, whilst supporting people to do the things they like doing and staying connected to the local community. Please do get in touch to talk it through and find out more.

3 Glens CC needs you!

"I volunteer for 3 Glens Community Care because I like helping. Moving to another country it was especially important for me to be involved in the community and help where I could, I feel I am making a contribution to society."

After a successful AGM we now have a membership of 31. However, our board has shrunk to 4 trustees. There are lots of way to contribute and get involved, therefore we would love to hear from anyone interested. We are especially looking for someone to take on roles as secretary, bookkeeper, and help with publicity. We can provide full training; all we ask if for reliability and enthusiasm to share our goal in supporting our communities. No commitment is too small, and we are always looking for new ideas!

Contact us by email: [contact@3glenscare.org](mailto:contact@3glenscare.org) or telephone: 07507627990





# James Paterson

On Saturday, 27th August 2022, Fort Augustus Fire and Rescue held a retirement evening for FF James Paterson. The event was well attended with crews from other stations including Foyers, Fort William and Kyle of Lochalsh along with Station Commanders from Inverness and Lanarkshire.

James joined Highland & Islands Fire Brigade on 18 January 1984 as an Auxiliary Firefighter based in the Abbey. On 1 April 1998, Fort Augustus Station changed to Retained Duty System status and James's role changed to that of Retained Firefighter.

James left the Service on 28 February 2022, having served for 38 years and 1 month. A fantastic achievement.

James was well known for his driving skills getting crews safely and quickly to incidents with confidence. James was always calm at incidents and was a great asset to the crew.

James is a cheery character and is well known for his mischievous antics within the crew. He was extremely welcoming to new members of the crew and nothing was a bother.

James will be sadly missed by the crew especially for his witty cheek!

Thank you for your service James, stand down, your service to your community as a Firefighter has been completed. You can now go and be mischievous elsewhere!

WM Proudlock





# Bicentenary of the Caledonian Canal

At half past five on the afternoon of Thursday, the 24th October 1822, a crowd of spectators and a grand cannon-fire salute (Inverlochy), two steam yachts and a sloop tied up in the newly constructed Corpach sea lock at the western end of the Caledonian Canal. Thomas Telford and William Jessop had designed and brought into being the largest canal in Britain and, indeed the world at the time (their original intention was head up Loch Shiel and Loch Eil out to Mallaig but found that the cut in some places needed to be 30ft deep and wastoo costly). Their voyage began thirty hours earlier at Muirtown basin in Inverness. After proposing a toast, Mr Charles Grant, a member of Parliament for Inverness and one of the commissioners of the Canal remarked that it was "one of the most stupendous undertakings of that nature which Europe had seen, not so much for its length but its depth which was twenty feet" and the world at the time.

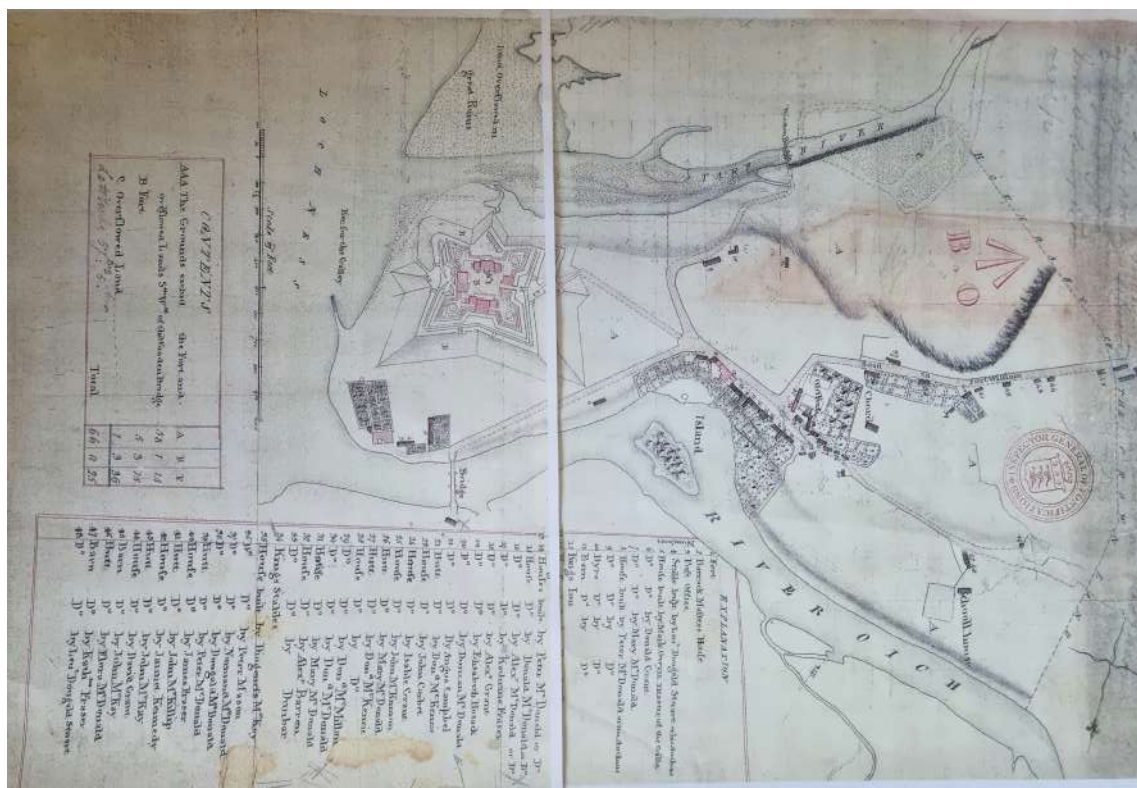
## Brahan Seer

The vision of the canal had been seen over a century before its construction when Coinneach Odhar said "in the not too far off, we will see full-rigged ships will sail eastwards and westwards by Muirtown and Tomnahurich."

Captain Edward Burt discussed the possibility of a waterway as early as 1773 and the Forfeited Estates Commissioner had employed James Watt to survey the line for the canal. His design was deemed too expensive at £165,000 but without his technical genius in the form of a monstrous 36H.P beam engine to drain the lock pits, it is doubtful whether Thomas Telford for all his ingenuity, could have built the canal by the autumn of 1822. By 1801, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Vansittart was supporting the new survey which culminated in the Caledonian Canal Act and dispatched Thomas Telford north in 1803. Britain was at war and funds were short. They hoped that the construction of the canal would be used for commercial use and that the Navy could avoid the treacherous Pentland Firth. It took nineteen years to complete this great feat of engineering at the cost of £650,000 not forgetting the men and women that worked in atrocious weather and conditions to create this fantastic waterway. When we as locals take this beautiful canal that runs through the centre of the village for granted, I always think how on earth did they manage to divert the River Oich from where the shops and cafes are on the west side of the canal. Remembering that they had no machinery and how the masons cut those large blocks, I can only admire them and hope their names are in the Canal archives somewhere. Without them we wouldn't have the great monument of the Caledonian Canal which gives employment and is a big tourist attraction with the five lock gates.

At the same time of the construction of the Caledonian Canal, Thomas Telford was also constructing the new road from Fort William to Inverness. The military road from Fort Augustus to Inverness was on the south east side of Loch Ness and was completed in the early 1730s. However, it was rather steep for carriage travel, and Thomas Telford was asked to consider a new road to Fort Augustus, along the north side by Invermoriston. Work started by 1805 after a successful bid by a Fort William contractor who had Sir John Campbell of Ardnamurchan as his guarantor. Unfortunately, this contractor proved most unreliable and had abandoned the contact by the end of 1808. Sir John had to complete it at his own expense, losing £2000 on the contract. Work was completed by 1813 and involved in building several bridges, including the one over the River Oich. Unfortunately, it was badly damaged in the great floods of 1849, the Oich bridge was left with just a single span on the north side, the rest being carried away by the force of the river. The stone arch was left in place and the missing parts were replaced with a wooden trestle bridge which is still in evidence today, though the bridge is now unsafe.

12 Maureen Ferguson



# Stories in the Land

Stories in the Land: pupils follow the tracks of the Highland Drivers

Joyce Gilbert (Glenmoriston)

In my new role with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS), I've just started to work with the primary schools in Invergarry and Fort Augustus on themes linked to the recent Glen of the Bards Project (which explored the musical heritage of Glenmoriston). P3/4/5 at Kilchuimen are learning about crofting life in the late 17th/early 18th century. Upper stages at Kilchuimen and Invergarry are exploring the life of the Highland cattle drovers at the time of the Jacobite rebellion.

They are using a teaching approach called 'Storyline' which uses a story to deliver the curriculum. I co-wrote these with a wonderful, retired educator called Sallie Harkness when I was previously working for RSGS before moving to Glenmoriston. Recently, Sallie and I have been adapting these so that the story settings for each school are in their village. This has involved a bit of research and for the past 6 weeks I've been spending Thursday mornings at the Glengarry Heritage Centre. If you haven't been there, it's well worth a visit - with the bonus that it's next to the community cafe with delicious home-baking!

Last week, I found the answer to a question that I had been puzzling over - where the women & children of Cill Chuimein took their cattle to graze during the summer months. Seemingly the main shielings were at Lagan a' Bhainne (The Dairy Glade) high up on the Corrieyairick Pass. You can find the site marked on the OS 1:25 map. Here's a lovely description from 'Glen Albyn - Tales & Truths of the Central Highlands' the wee book I found at the Glengarry Heritage Centre which was published in 1909.

'Some way further on, just where the road slopes up to the last ascent to the summit of the range, we come to a rich green strath stretching towards the River Tarff. Here it was that the people of Kilchuimein used to pitch their summer shielings. The shielings

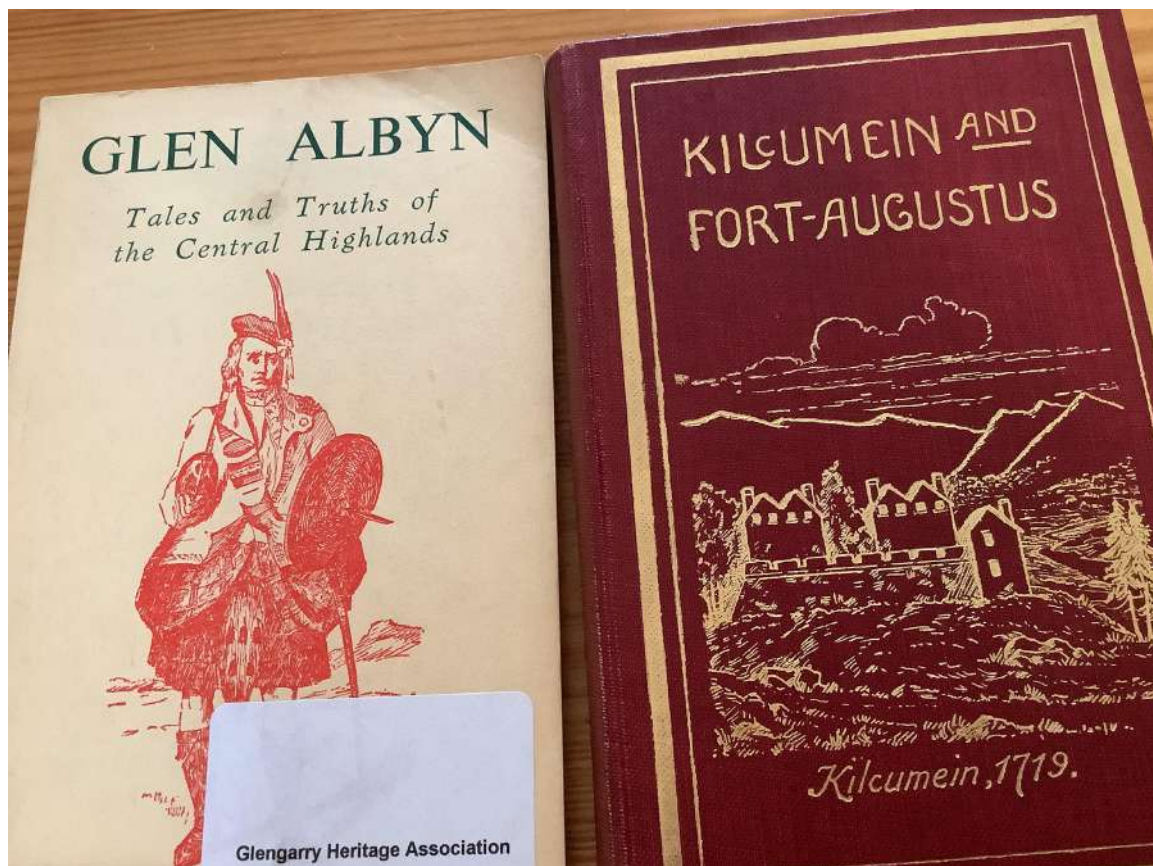


were small huts made with sods with a rude covering of boughs and turf. For some four months or so during the summer and early autumn, the entire population would migrate from the lower valley to these abodes, and while the cattle cropped the lush summer grass on the mountain side, the inhabitants would lay in store cheese and dairy produce against the long cold winter months. The green strath is known as Lagan a Bhainne or The Dairy Glade.

On the opposite side of the bank of the River Tarff, we see a large black rock jutting out into the middle of the stream. On top of this boulder, as the water swirled away on foam, the piper took his stand and played throughout the live-long summer night, when the sun scarce sets at all, whilst the youths and maidens merrily footed it on the springy turf and the older folk looked on and encouraged them with applause.'

There is another fascinating book that was published around the same time, which has lots of information about the village after 1715. It's simply called 'Kilcumein and Fort Augustus' and was written by one of the monks at the abbey. It's likely that the pupils will have lots of questions as they begin to research what the settlements in Invergarry and Fort Augustus were like two to three hundred years ago. I know many local people will have interesting and important information to share. Maureen Ferguson has already been brilliant, helping me to locate where the cattle stance was in Fort Augustus at Market Hill. This was the place where the drovers grazed their cattle on their long journey to the markets in Crieff. We hope to share some of the pupils learning at the Glen of the Bards event at Glengarry Community Hall on Sunday 13th November at 2pm. There will be more information nearer the time.

Meantime, if you would be happy to be 'interviewed' by the children about local history as part of their school projects, can you email me? Thanks! [joycegilbert56@gmail.com](mailto:joycegilbert56@gmail.com)





# Announcements

## Graduations



Alysha Henderson, finally got her Graduation in April 2022 with a BSc (Hons) in Bio Medical science from Robert Gordon University



Hannah Smith graduated with a BSc in Environmental Management awarded by The University of Edinburgh.

## Engagements



Millicent M Saunders graduates at Usher Hall from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, with a BA (Hons) in Theatre and Film, July 12 2022



At Last!! After keeping us all waiting long enough, Iain MacKnocher asked Fiona MacDonald to marry him. Iain took Fiona back to Fyrish where he had asked her to be his girlfriend seven years ago.

## Marriages



Following two postponements due to Covid, Lauren Fyfe (daughter of Stephen Fyfe and granddaughter of Katrina Fyfe, Fort Augustus) and Jamie Weighell were married on 30th July 2022 at The Lovat, Fort Augustus. Lauren and Jamie live in Elgin with Jamie posted to RAF Lossiemouth.

## Births



Donny and Rachel Kennedy welcomed Ivy Louise Kennedy born on 18th July 2022 at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee weighing 9lb 15oz. A sister for Levi.





Ellie Catherine Archibald was born at Raigmore Hospital on 11th August 2022 to Stuart and Stephanie.



Felix Forbes Wotherspoon Paterson was born 15th of August 2022 to Andrew and Rowena Paterson at Raigmore Hospital weighing 10lb 1oz

## Deaths



It is with great sadness that the family of Jeanette Johnstone (formerly Barrett and Boa) sadness that the family of Jeanette Johnstone (formerly Barrett and Boa) announces that she has passed away,

following a brief illness with cancer on the 18th of July 2022 at the age of 81 years.

She passed away peacefully in her sleep at Moss Park Nursing home in Fort William – in the Highlands of Scotland.

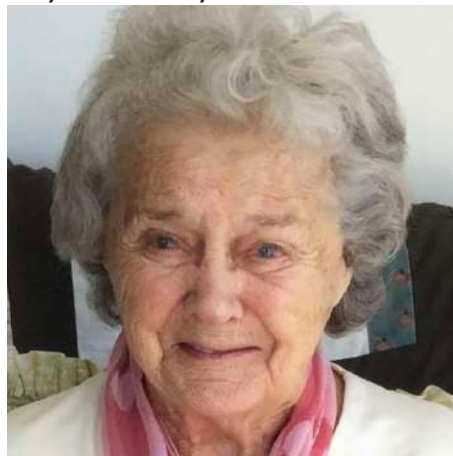
The Highlands was a place that she felt at home - where she has enjoyed living for the past 30 years or so.

Jeanette was a much loved and respected individual and sister to Tommy, Richard, and Doreen Boa.

She was a wife to Bobby Johnstone, a mother to Richard, Ian & Steven Barrett.

A grandmother to Natalie, Danielle, Aaron, Samantha & Calum Barrett.

She was a great grandmother to Myah & Layla Murray.



Pat MacAskill.

Our beloved mother, adored by her grand and great grandchildren, passed peacefully aged 101yrs in July. She had recently moved to a new care home in Yorkshire.

Our parents moved to the Highlands from Yorkshire in 1992, settling in Invermoriston and then in Fort Augustus in 2002. She was widowed in 2005, after a marriage of 62 very happy years.

Our parents were members of the Fort Augustus Free Church. Pat continued to share fellowship with her church family via Zoom throughout the pandemic.

We plan to hold a further service and inter her ashes in the family grave in Invergarry Cemetery soon afterwards. On that occasion we hope friends from the Free Church and those who knew her in Invermoriston, Fort Augustus, Invergarry and beyond, will join our family as we remember her long and well-lived life.



Bill Hepburn, janitor/caretaker of Kilchuimen Academy and Primary died on the 28th July 2022.

The funeral service was attended by many of his family, friends and colleagues from all walks of his life. It was a good send off and it's very apparent that he will be missed by many.



# Sheep Dog Trials

## Fort Augustus Annual Charity Sheepdog Trial

Fort Augustus Annual Charity Sheepdog Trial was held at Borlum Farm, Glendoe Estate on Saturday 27th of August by kind permission of the Vernon family whom we thank. Thanks also to M&S Cameron for the use of their sheep.

It was a beautiful sunny day and 60 competitors from Scotland, England and even one each from Israel and Switzerland took part in the competition. The charity event was held in aid of the Children's Ward, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness and raised the wonderful sum of £5000 for this worthy cause.

The Trial committee would like to thank everyone who attended on the day and gave so generously. Also, a huge thanks to all the local businesses and sponsors for their generous help and continued support.

### Results

1	Ewen MacKinnon	(Lochcarron)	Buddy	91
2	John MacKillop	(Fort Augustus)	Zak	90
3	Sandy MacCulloch	(Ayrshire)	Sam	89
4	John MacKillop	(Fort Augustus)	Cap	89
5	Ian MacDonald	(Staffin)	Ben	87
6	Stuart Davidson	(Dunoon)	Dan	87



## Crafty Ladies

Members of Fort Augustus Crochet Group and Glenmoriston Craft Club have been busy making a colourful collection of knitted, sewn and crocheted fidget items, for residents of the Telford Centre. These items help to engage a person by relieving stress, calming nerves, and providing comfort.

The Crochet/knit Group meets twice a month in Fort Augustus Church Hall and the Craft Club twice a month in Glenmoriston Millennium Hall.

New members are always welcome to one or both of these friendly groups. For more information contact Val Ungless Tel 01320 366171 or email [val@kishmul.me.uk](mailto:val@kishmul.me.uk)





## Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

### DIRECTORS

This month we would like to introduce you to another new Director, Fiona MacCormick.



Fiona will be known to many of you as she grew up in Fort Augustus. She did leave for a little while to study and then to travel in Australia for a year but she is back and settled in Fort Augustus.

She is really hoping that her local knowledge will help the Board in its work, and ensure that as many views as possible are represented. Fiona joined the Board so that she could get involved in helping the community to make the most of the assets available to them from the windfarm revenues. She has already thrown herself into the Community Growing project and is really excited to see that develop.

### E-VEHICLES

Three MG ZS EV's have been purchased with funding granted by the SSE Sustainable Development Fund.

The cars along with the 2 E-bikes are going to be used by the Sunflower Home Care Team to help them to be more eco-friendly on their visits to all their clients in the 3 Glens area.

The cars will have logos on them, so if you see them on their way to a visit do give them a wave!

Our thanks go to SSE for their support of this project, which we really hope will help the Sunflower Home Care Team as they head off to visit those who need them both now and in the future.





## Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

### AN UPDATE ON OUR PROJECTS

#### **Memorial Hall**

In common with many Asset Transfers progress is slow. We have a meeting with the council on the 1st September where we hope to find out what plans, if any, the Highland Council have for the hall. Having had a good look around the whole building now there is lots of potential for the community to make better use of it, so hopefully we can convince the council that an Asset Transfer is in their and our best interests.

#### **Glentarff House**

Progress is also slow here as well. Unlike the Highland Council, Scottish Canals do not have staff or systems in place to deal specifically with Asset Transfers, so this feels like new ground for them. We are getting a survey, valuation and options appraisal completed this month. Hopefully it will be financially feasible and we can make some progress.

#### **Campervan Waste Disposal Point**

Another project where progress is very slow. Once we get on the ground it should take less than a week to complete, if we can co-ordinate activities by Scottish Water and SSE. Unfortunately getting on the ground requires a lease from the Highland Council which has taken an inordinate amount of time to complete. Hopefully by the time you are reading this it will be ready!

#### **Community Growing**

We wanted some direction and advice on how to progress with the Lovat Lawn and Convent Land. To that end we asked a garden designer based in the Black Isle to come and take a look. They use the no dig method or hugel beds on their land which I have to say sounds ideal to me. No dig uses a layer of cardboard straight on top of the ground topped with compost and a hugel bed uses branches and compost. If you are interested I would encourage you to look them up as my explanation is very oversimplified. It was very encouraging for both sites and subsequently we commissioned topographical surveys of the sites to ascertain the lay of the land and how best to lay out the planting areas. We have no shortage of branches for the hugel beds but we could do with collecting cardboard so please donate your waste cardboard.



## Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

### GRANTS

In the last few months the following grants were awarded:

- Trees for Life—£20,000 for an outdoor classroom and interpretation boards.
- West Glenmoriston Community Company—£56,934 to pay for repairs to the roof, fascias, guttering and plumbing at the Hub and house.
- Glenmoriston Heritage Group—£4,250 to repair the staging at St Columba's Well.
- Fort Augustus Lunch Club—£10,000 to subsidise the lunch meetings
- Kilchuimen Primary Parent Council - £4,453 For transport to swimming lessons and a visit to the pantomime at Eden Court
- Glenmoriston Bowls Group—£8,000 to purchase an automated mat rolling mechanism
- Andrea Bennett—£980.67 to get the Dalchreichart community growing group started
- Moira MacDonald—£480.99 to pay for summer activities for "Playgroup & Friends"
- Irene Holt—£1000 for new benches and planters in Invermoriston
- Simon Canning—£797.07 for TaeKwon Do equipment
- 8 Student grants—£600 each to help with their study costs

### STUDENT GRANTS

It's almost the start of another academic year. For those of you heading off to college, no matter how near or far, don't forget to apply for a student grant of £600. The application form can be found at [www.communitycompany.co.uk/grants](http://www.communitycompany.co.uk/grants).

Do take a look and get your application in soon.

You may also want to consider applying to FERN Community funds who can offer additional funding to students. See [ferncommunityfunds.com](http://ferncommunityfunds.com)

Good luck with your studies this year.







# Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

Fort Augustus Memorial Hall 29th June 2022

Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)

Mike Anderson – Treasurer (MA)

Jeff Dymond (JD)

In Attendance:

David Fraser (Highland Councillor) (DF)

Ian Leaver (Community Company)

Claire Pegrum

Duncan MacCormick

Lynne West (GIG)

Online:

Iain MacKnocher - Vice Chair (IM)

Robert MacDonald (RM)

Jill Wyatt (JW)

Apologies:

Helen Clay - Secretary (HC)

Presentations were given about Auchterawe Battery Storage by Bex Sherwood, Jamey Rhind-Tutt from Field and Gordon Thomson from Lichfields and the other for Scottish Water by Gavin Steel and Kelton Bennett (reports attached).

Minutes - proposed by Iain MacKnocher and seconded by Jeff Dymond.

Matters Arising –

Invermoriston Toilets seems to be on track but Highland Council are having difficulty getting cleaners.

Invermoriston Speed Limit – No update but a group to be set up for Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston, Drumnadrochit and Abriachan/Lochend. Speed survey to be done on the road going west from the Invermoriston.

Grass cutting – GIG lease for recreational field to be signed on 1st July. Highland Council are still responsible for the cemeteries.

Access – DM to speak Stuart Easthaugh to be contacted about breaches.

Allotment and Community Garden – meeting at Lovat Arms at 11am this Friday with Caroline Gregory. Helen to discuss the waste ground at Abertarff Place.

Fort Augustus Pier – A letter came from a member of the public about the unsightly Heras fencing which is an eyesore at an iconic site. Helen was to approach Scottish Canals.



Parking on Oich Road – still a big problem as there are no charges. Traffic Order still to be done so cannot enforce yet. Have contacted Shane Manning about the problem as well as John Taylor about the dreadful state of the canalside road which is full of potholes and Rabbie's minibuses parking so as not to pay charges.

Scottish Canals – HC and DM have brought up the issue about the Glentarff and Caledonian House many times but there has been progress with the Community Company who have approached Scottish Canals about taking over ownership but response has been slow. Ian Leaver, chief officer of the Community Company stated that they were also looking at taking on the ownership of the Memorial Hall to open up the Service Point again, improve the hall with the possibility of a library and other options. Surveys are in various shops for local support.

Jubilee Events - The weekend went well with events in all three villages which will be in the next Ness News.

Forest and Land Scotland – many residents have been asking about campervans and motorhomes going up and down Jenkins Park and Auchterawe. DM spoke to Sam Brown this afternoon and seemingly it was the national team that decided to put Auchterawe down as a site online. The local team were not happy with this decision as there was no consultation to them or the local community but as from today it has been taken down from being online and the signage will

be removed this weekend and replaced with No Camping signs. It was causing the local Forestry a lot of problems.

Signage – unauthorised signage in the village is becoming a problem and Allan Bryce from Planning Enforcement is coming out shortly.

Broadband – ongoing but DF stated that Emma Knox was trying to get a group formed as it was an issue around the whole Ward.

Police Report - attached.

Treasurer's Report - The balance up to today is £4780.49 with £86 paid out to Zurich Insurance and £500 paid back to Highland Council because of an error on their part. There is still money ringfenced for car park and walks signage. After having taken nearly a year for the Bank of Scotland to change signatories, MA is now our Treasurer and is a signatory. The bank's delay is the reason that our accounts have not been done for our AGM.

#### Community Amenity Issues

Roads - DM still pushing for improvements in parking, canalside and Ardachy roads and will give feedback to Shane Manning about the bottleneck situation at Oich Road onto A82.

#### Renewable Energy Projects

Auchterawe Substation – Five new residents have not been invited to these meetings. HC will get a list of the properties and inform Lisa Marchi's replacement, Ryan Davidson.

Cloiche - Ongoing

Fred Olsen Renewables - Ongoing



Tomachrasky – email received from Catherine Wales on 24th June with letter from Gilbert Stevenson, E Power Ltd

Bhlaraidh - Ongoing

Coire Glas – Consultation meeting on 1st July between 2pm and 7 pm and a virtual meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th July. A local resident stated that underground lines would be preferable to overhead ones for houses within 2-3Km. It is more expensive but do-able and would make an enormous difference to residents. Another local resident stated that there are no members of the community who agree with the proposed route going through the local wood,

an amenity used by people from the wider area including Invermoriston as well as Fort Augustus. Forest and Land Scotland have spent £100,000 upgrading paths and bridges within the wood this year and the proposed route would decimate a sizeable proportion of it (45 metres wide) to accommodate the overhead lines.

Planning and Licensing · Bunloinn Windfarm - Erection and Operation of a Wind Farm for a period of 35 years, comprising of 10 Wind Turbines with a maximum blade tip height 230m, access tracks, borrow pits, battery energy storage compound substation, control building, and ancillary infrastructure.

- Land 4035M SW Of Bunloyne Farm Glenmoriston

- Ref. No: 22/01760/S36 | Received: Wed 13 Apr 2022 | Validated: Wed 13 Apr 2022 | Status: Under Consideration · Change of use to letting unit

- Erraid Canalside North Fort Augustus PH32 4BA

- Ref. No: 22/01626/FUL | Received: Wed 06 Apr 2022 | Validated: Tue 26 Apr 2022 | Status: Decided · Installation of scum removal system to existing aeration/settlement tanks

- Waste Water Treatment Works Glendoe Road Fort Augustus

- Ref. No: 22/01471/FUL | Received: Wed 30 Mar 2022 | Validated: Fri 22 Apr 2022 | Status: Decided · Agricultural track

- Land Leading Up To The Hilltop From Tomamhoid Glendoe Fort Augustus

- Ref. No: 22/02469/PNO | Received: Mon 30 May 2022 | Validated: Mon 30 May 2022 | Status: Decided · Installation of 25m lattice tower, fenced compound, cabinet and associated works

- Land 4150M SE Of Achlain Hydro Generating Station Glenmoriston

- Ref. No: 22/01607/TPNO | Received: Tue 05 Apr 2022 | Validated: Thu 12 May 2022 | Status: Decided

- Formation of Forestry road

- Land 1800 M NW of Auchterawe, Fort Augustus

- Ref. No: 22/02618/PNO Received Thu 09 Jun 2022; Validated Thu 09 Jun 2022



· Bhlaraidh – JW mentioned that Glenurquhart and Stratherrick community councils have objected to extensions because there are too many windfarms.

Correspondence –

A letter was received about a planning refusal and DM sent an email to the four ward councillors asking for it to go to the Planning Committee.

Email from Gilbert Stevenson, E Power Ltd

Email from Sam Cornelius regarding Coire Glas

AOCB

Dental Survey – GIG and Community Company

Ness News – Scheduled for mid-July due to work pressures and to other commitments.

Animal Crossing Signage – support from Community Council and LW to contact BEAR Scotland

Shopping Bus – Senior Citizens monthly bus to run again after two years and is being funded by the Community Company.

Claire Pegrum expressed an interest in becoming a community councillor which will be the first item on the agenda at the next meeting. The CC have struggled to get back to normal meetings as only three could attend tonight and the other three are online with the hall having poor internet connection, it has been exceedingly difficult to conduct meetings. We currently have six full members and one co-opted so we can co-opt another councillor if everybody agrees. We can have nine councillors of which two can be co-opted and our quorum is four.

Cemetery – JD asked about the upkeep of cemeteries and DF stated that the Highland Council are experiencing difficulties getting labourers.

Fort Augustus Playpark – Glass was found under the skatepark and the matting under the swings are dangerous.

Next meeting is on Wednesday, 31st August at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus at 7.30 pm

## Brownies

Brownies will be starting again on Tuesday the 6th of September at 5.30pm until 7pm with our new leader in training Lesley Hill.

On behalf of the Brownies and leaders we would like to say a huge thank you to Jessica Smith for all her hard work over the last few years.

We hope you all had a great summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back.

# Notice Board



## THE GLENGARRY TRUST FUNDING

Funding is available for organisations, groups and individuals operating or living in the Glengarry Community Council area.

We meet every three months to review applications that we receive and we would be really pleased to hear from you if you are a student in further/higher education or about to start your studies, need adaptations in your home to continue to live there, or are an organisation or group with a project idea you need funding for.

Deadlines for applications (all by 5pm that day):

21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 (for our meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December)

20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (for our meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March)

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 (for our meeting and AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> June).

***We also have an Apprenticeship scheme – if you are about to leave school or have left school and are interested in this then please let us know!***

Website: [www.glengarrytrust.org.uk](http://www.glengarrytrust.org.uk)  
Email: [glengarrytrust@gmail.com](mailto:glengarrytrust@gmail.com)

Please also follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust](https://www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust)

## Feeling the pinch and need some help?

**Is heating your home too expensive?  
Are your food costs stretching your budget  
too far?**

Rising costs are affecting everyone in different ways. Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, supported by SSE Renewables, are offering a special grant to help those worst affected.

If you are in receipt of one of these:

- Universal Credit
- Pension Credit
- Council tax reduction (other than single person discount)



You can apply for up to £250 per person (maximum £500 per household). This is a limited grant so don't leave it too long!

For your application form and full details either go to our website [www.communitycompany.co.uk/grants](http://www.communitycompany.co.uk/grants) or call us on 01320 366800.



## Save on petrol and catch the "Shopping Bus" to Fort William on the third Wednesday of the month



The Fort Augustus Senior Citizens, supported by the Community Company, organise a bus to Fort William every month, to help those who either can't or don't want to drive themselves.

At just £3 per person it's a very economical way to do some shopping and has the added bonus of being more sociable too.

You don't have to be a senior citizen to take advantage of this, although they do get priority! So, look out for the posters and Facebook posts about the next one on the 21<sup>st</sup> September and give us a call to book your seat.



# Notice Board



## Fed up with eating on your own?

Come and join the Fort Augustus Senior Citizens Lunch Club. We meet every Monday in the Lock Inn and enjoy a two course lunch together, along with a good catch up on local news, all this for the princely sum of £5. We are able to keep the price low because we are kindly supported by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company.

We are a chatty group who are always happy to meet new members and get to know them. We can often share lifts, if getting here is a problem.

If you are over 60 and would like to join this sociable group we would love to meet you. To find out more or to come along to meet us all, just give Jenny a call on 01320 366438. We hope to see you soon.

**FERN**  
COMMUNITY FUNDS

The Beinneun Windfarm Community Benefit Fund has been established to support community groups, social enterprises & charitable organisations in the community council areas of Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston and Glengarry.

Both the Beinneun Community Fund and the Beinneun Scholarship Awards are open for applications. Both close for applications on the 30th September 2022.

Community grant awards available from £250 to £100K for eligible projects. Scholarships of £750 are available for students who reside within the fund catchment area.

Details of both application processes can be found at [ferncommunityfunds.com/beinneun-community-fund/](http://ferncommunityfunds.com/beinneun-community-fund/)

If you wish for any further information about the fund please get in contact via [contactus@ferncommunityfunds.com](mailto:contactus@ferncommunityfunds.com) or call 07871 785583

**C.F Electrical**

Cameron Findlay  
07508456547  
[cameron96f@outlook.com](mailto:cameron96f@outlook.com)

Qualified Electrician  
Covering The Great Glen



# Notice Board

You are invited to a very special event on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm in Invergarry Hall.

Karen Thorburn will be sharing her journey into professional photography and her personal challenge to recreate her childhood photographs, along with lots of wonderful landscape images.

To book your place contact: [glengarrytrust@gmail.com](mailto:glengarrytrust@gmail.com)

Tickets are free but booking is essential to make sure we have enough cake!



You are invited to a very special event on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall

Karen Thorburn will be sharing her journey into professional photography and her personal challenge to recreate her childhood photographs, along with lots of wonderful landscape images.

To book your place contact: [contact@communitycompany.co.uk](mailto:contact@communitycompany.co.uk) or call 01320 366800

Tickets are free but booking is essential to make sure we have enough cake!





# Notice Board



**ZUMBA**

**FEEL THE LOVE**  
**SHARE THE LOVE**  
**BE THE LOVE**

**Wednesday 7.15pm Glenmoriston Millennium Hall**

To book your place email [zumbadebbiegg@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## YOGA CLASS

(All levels of experience including beginners)

**THURSDAY MORNING**

**10.30 - 12.00 NOON**

£8.00 each Session

Bring mat and wear loose fitting clothes.

Yoga not only covers physical benefits. It also teaches relaxation and stress management.



For further details Elaine

Tel: 07747404544

email:

[body senses1@outlook.com](mailto:body senses1@outlook.com)

Booking required in advance

(places are limited)

## Culachy Wind Farm

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

VIEW THE PLANS | LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSALS | HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Monday 24th October | 11am - 7pm**

Fort Augustus Village Hall, Church Road, PH32 4DG

**Tuesday 25th October | 11am - 7pm**

Glengarry Community Hall, Invergarry, PH35 4HE

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 holding two events where you will be able to:

- View the plans
- Learn how they have changed
- Have your questions answered
- Submit your views

If you can't attend. Please:

- View the materials online
- Request printed materials
- Get in touch to set up a discussion
- Submit your questions and comments

[www.culachywind.co.uk](http://www.culachywind.co.uk)  
[communities@fredolsen.com](mailto:communities@fredolsen.com)  
07435 763 900

 Fred. Olsen Renewables

# Notice Board



**Save the Date**

Fort Augustus Children's Christmas Parties will take place on the 17th of December, times tbc

Donations always welcome and appreciated

Ever fancied trying your hand at Golf?  
Now is your chance.....



Thanks to funding from Falck Renewables, the Glengarry Trust and Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company we are able to offer local residents, of any age, a free half hour coaching session with Fort Augustus Golf Club.

To book your session contact: **Dave MacKay on 07454 329484**

This is a limited offer so don't delay, book your session now while spaces are available.



## FORT AUGUSTUS MEN'S SHED



We are a small group of local men who meet on a weekly basis and are at the start of our journey in creating a Men's Shed in Fort Augustus. We would really like you to share in the development of what will become YOUR shed covering Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and surrounding areas. The Scottish Men's Shed Association is actively encouraging new 'Sheds' as part of its network to support the well-being and mental health of men.

### So, what is a Men's shed?

It's a place open to all men over the age of 18 voluntarily run by the men where they can socialise and work on projects or hobbies. Whilst partly a workshop, a Men's Shed is known for using tools to practice craft skills under the practical guidance of others and perhaps undertaking some local repairs – it would also offer a meeting space with refreshment facilities. We may also choose to have a pool table, probably a quiet space or even a tv room ... how would you see your local shed developing?

### Now we need your help

While we have been offered a building in Fort Augustus, it may be many months before building starts and we are able to have a physical space in which to set up the workshop. So, if you know of any suitable building in the village, either for a social meeting space, or larger to accommodate a workshop, please get in touch and let us know.

If you would like to get involved or have any information on a meeting space, please email us at [ftaugmshed@gmail.com](mailto:ftaugmshed@gmail.com) or speak to Dave or John on 07544 733659 for more details about YOUR shed.

More information is available at [www.scottishmsa.org.uk](http://www.scottishmsa.org.uk)

## KIND HEARTED THIEVES

"Why would I pay to see a tramp sing"

- Jim from Facebook



THE BOATHOUSE RESTAURANT  
SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER  
**Folk Rock Singer  
Songwriter**

