

Ness News

Community News & Events

September 2019



Ness News Turns One



Shaun on 14 Caps for Scotland

BAFTA for Screen Machine





Welcome to this edition of Ness News which is slightly late due to work commitments, wedding preparations and illness.

It has been another busy summer with lots of tourists, but parking is still a massive issue and was not helped by the car park extension not going ahead as had been promised (hopefully, it will be in place next year).

Unfortunately, there were also eight commercial break-ins in Fort Augustus during July and August which is very concerning but the police have stressed that local residential properties are not at risk as this group are targeting commercial premises who have been advised as

in the CC Minutes.

The road and pavements between Markethill and Golf Course road are complete with the road crossing. We are now in negotiations with Transport Scotland to move the 30-mile signs further out as this had not been requested when SSE applied for the reinstatement package.

The public toilets in both Invermoriston and Fort Augustus have also been problematic, and we hope to get solutions to both problems sooner rather than later. The care group for Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and Glengarry is now called 3 Glens Community Care and will go into partnership with the Highland Hospice and Befriending. A meeting is to be arranged shortly for a constitution to be set up and to plan how to recruit and get a co-ordinator etc.

Trees for Life were successful in employing a Community Engagement Officer - Cat Murphy who started in July. She will spend 2.5 days working for Trees for Life and 2.5 days working on the Red Squirrel translocation project. She is hoping to work with schools and run a series of events locally, ideas are welcomed from the community who can contact her by phone or by e-mail.

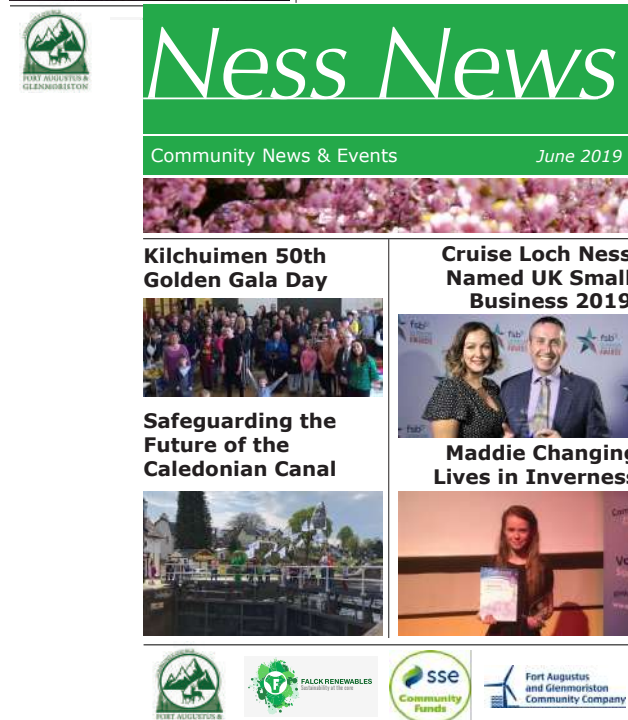
The content and photographs in Ness News have been obtained by authorised contributors and any local news, stories or photos can be sent to nessnews-paper@outlook.com

Regards
Deirdre MacKinnon
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Chair

Editors
Deirdre MacKinnon
Seonaid MacDonald
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Ness News Turns One



Happy 1st Birthday to the Ness News! The Ness News was funded by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company for the past year and FERN (Beinneun Windfarm) is paying for the coming year. Without their funding, Ness News would not be possible so we would like to thank them for their support. We would also like to thank you, our readers for picking up the paper and giving us articles/stories to put in especially Maureen Ferguson who has been a great help with our Blast from the Past page. We hope you all enjoy our quarterly paper. We are always looking for local stories, any suggestions and photographs are welcome.
 nessnews-paper@outlook.com

MacBean Cup Memorial



This year's memorial match was held at Craigard Park, Invergarry later in the year than normal. Traditionally, the challenge match is played after the Glengarry Highland Games. However due to not being able to secure a fixture with another team, the club had to postpone the match until further notice. Kinlochshiel was the opposition this year, fielding a young but testing side. Glengarry this year have dominated in its domestic league of North Division One but knew that Shiel' would be no push over.

The match got underway with Steven MacLachlan being the man in the middle. The Garry saw most of the possession in the early parts of the first half, making advances on goal and moving the ball well from the centre to forward line. However, any attempts on goal were fruitless with the ball going wide and the goal keeper making good saves and some goal line clearances. Shiels' young side began to get into their stride as the first half progressed, Garrys' defence were put to work but managed to steer the danger away until the half time whistle leaving the match scoreless at the break.

The second half was but a minute old when David Rodgers fired in a long-range effort high into the net not far from the halfway line giving Glengarry the ideal start to their second half. Kinlochshiel certainly didn't ease up the pressure, the young side were moving the ball nicely throughout the park and defending from the front allowing them more opportunities to get in on goal. Good saves from Gordy MacDonald and fine defending from Matthew Ross and his defence allowed the ball to return to the Garry end of the park where Nick Dalgety on half a chance put the ball into the top corner from 30 yards. 2-0 Glengarry. After the second goal, Glengarry began to get a little more familiar in front of goal creating more opportunities and making the Shiel' keeper work to clear his lines, until Ken Henderson made his mark on 61 minutes, with a low drive into the bottom corner.

The match remained scoreless for the next fifteen minutes where the majority of the pressure was on the Glengarry defence, Shiel' working hard to put shots on goal and keep possession in their half but to no avail, shots going high and wide and Gordy policing the best of them off. Glengarry's fourth and final goal came in the 84th minute when Garry' captain Rhuairaidh MacDonald went one on one with the Shiel' keeper and managed to convert from close range. The match didn't see anymore goals and ended 4-0, giving Glengarry the victory and another two points on the board leaving the 7 points clear of title rivals, Newtonmore.

The memorial cup was presented by Tony MacBean and his grandson, alongside Glengarry club chairman, Scott Bremner. Referee Steven MacLachlan had the duty of selecting the player of the match, which was awarded to David Rodgers.



Scottish Canal

Dear Friend of Scottish Canals

As you are undoubtedly aware, the completion of Phase One works at Fort Augustus to replace lock gates 2 and strengthen lock gates 3 & 4 took place last winter and the canal reopened to navigation on the 17 April 2019.

We would like to thank you for your patience while we carried out these works and to advise you that Phase Two of the lock gate replacement works at Fort Augustus & Cullochy are scheduled to take place later this year, with works starting onsite in Autumn 2019 for completion in Spring 2020. In addition, there will be some works carried out to the embankment to the west of Kytra, which will place some restrictions on the use of the towpath.

To accommodate the Fort Augustus works we will need to periodically close the south side road to traffic from lock gates 1 to lock gates 6. Whilst we have applied to the council for a long-term road closure, access will only be affected during specific dates when there are major activities taking place and these dates will be communicated to residents and business-owners in advance. Not only will we continue to communicate with local people throughout the project, we will do all we can to minimise any impact as far as is practicable throughout the programme of works.

To undertake the necessary works safely, the Caledonian Canal water level will also be reduced from Kytra lock to the top of Fort Augustus and at Cullochy lock. However, we are also changing the operating mechanisms during this phase of works from hydraulic to electrical systems which means a quieter, more reliable and energy efficient operation throughout the programme of works.

As custodians of Scotland's canals we have a duty of care to ensure the safety of the public, visitors, residents and our staff, as well as the continued operation of the canal. These works are critical in ensuring that the lock gates operate with improved safety and efficiency and the Caledonian Canal continues to attract thousands of visitors by land and water for many years to come.

Following the interest earlier this year in our open day, we are currently identifying dates for another session where local residents, business-owners and other interested parties will be able to see the work that is being carried out and why it's so important. We'll be back in touch to invite you to this session once we have a confirmed date. In the meantime, you can find out more about the works on our website, and follow us on [twitter@scottishcanals](https://twitter.com/scottishcanals) for project updates.

Catherine Topley
Chief Executive Officer

Highland Village Targeted



A number of Fort Augustus businesses have been targeted for break-ins since July, including Monster Fish & Chips, The Boathouse Restaurant, Cruise Loch Ness ticket office and, most recently, the petrol station. A CCTV hard drive was also fished out of the canal, which police say is linked to the break-ins.

Local councillor Margaret Davidson said the break-ins were slick, professional and targeted and people were fearful there would be more. She said: "The criminals are people who have been watching the town. "Fort Augustus is a tourist town with a lot of money changing hands and it's now quite difficult to deal with all that cash on the premises."

In Fort Augustus, the Bank of Scotland is now open just twice a week, and only between the hours of 10am and 3pm. The Royal Bank of Scotland's mobile banking van, meanwhile, visits the town once a week, on Thursdays, for just half an hour.

Mrs Davidson said: "The closure of banks also makes the Post Office more of a target, and the Post Office is restricted in how it can deal with summer cash. The banks have just walked away from us. It's a disgrace. There was no discussion among them as to how to sustain a service for this village. All the villages I represent have lost their banks, including Drumnadrochit and Beaulay, which has lost both."

Detective Inspector Eddie Ross said the police are continuing to follow a number of lines of inquiry in connection with the Fort Augustus break-ins.

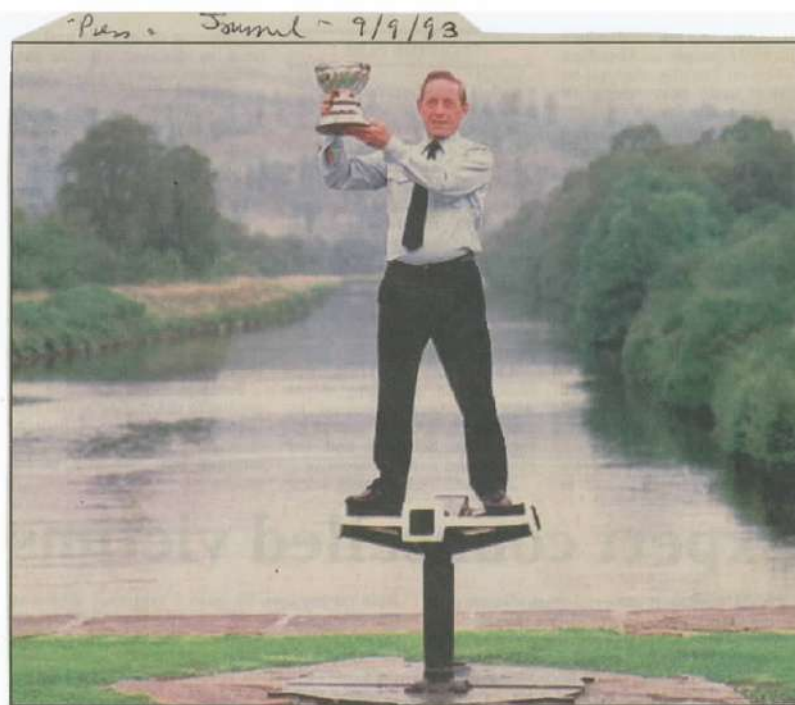
He said: "These inquiries relate to seven business premises in the village. There are similarities between many of these incidents, not only in Fort Augustus itself, but also other crimes in rural locations across the Highlands, Perthshire and Tayside. However, we continue to keep an open mind about links between them as our inquiries progress."

DI Ross said the force's preventions and interventions unit had visited local businesses to advise on how to keep their properties as secure as possible.

Targeted patrols – involving both uniformed and plain clothes officers – have also been carried out in and around Fort Augustus in recent weeks.

A Royal Bank of Scotland spokesman said: "We regularly review our mobile branch banking service to ensure the best possible care for our customers and the public. We would encourage customers' feedback to help us deliver a service which suits their needs." Article taken from the Press and Journal, written by Susy Macaulay.

Blast From The Past



■ Caledonian Canal lock-keeper Andy Brady with his prize

Cullochy top of the locks

THE keeper of Cullochey Lock, on the Caledonian Canal, has beaten 71 entrants from throughout the UK to win the 1993 National Waterway Length Competition.

Alan Brady was presented with a £750 cheque by British Waterways Board chief executive Brian Dice for his care of the lock at Bridge of Oich and its surroundings over the past year.

Mr Brady also received a framed certificate and a plaque, as well as the Ritchie Rose Bowl.

The prize has been presented annually to British Waterways' best-kept lock, since the 1950s. It was last in Scotland in 1988 when Gairloch Lock, also on the Caledonian Canal, was national winner.

Mr Brady has lived in Fort Augustus with his wife, Mamie, for many years. He has worked for

British Waterways since 1981, taking on the Cullochey job four years ago. The couple have two children and one grandchild.

Helped by Mamie, Mr Brady has spent a lot of his own time transforming the lock area since major engineering work was completed in 1991. In his spare time he fishes and plays the accordion.

Also receiving cheques for £250 were Jenny Rowantree, Moy Bridge keeper, and Robert Ramsay, keeper at Kytra Lock, who were joint runners-up in the Scottish regional competition.

Ronald Ross, keeper of Tomnahurich Bridge in Inverness, received a £100 cheque for gaining third place in the Scottish competition. He also won a shield for the most improved canal length in Scotland.

Andy Brady, the keeper of Cullochey lock on the Caledonian Canal had beaten 71 entrants from throughout the UK to win the National Waterway length competition in 1993. He was presented with a £750 cheque by British Waterways Boards chief executive Brian Dice for his care of the lock at Bridge of Oich and its surroundings over that year.

Mr Brady also received a framed certificate and a plaque as well as the Ritchie Ross rose bowl. The prize has been presented annually to British Waterways best kept lock since the 1950s. It was previously in Scotland five years earlier, when the Caledonian Canal was a national winner.

Helped by Mamie, Andy had spent a lot of his own time transforming the lock area since major engineering work was completed in 1991. In his spare time, he fishes and plays the accordion.

By Maureen Ferguson



Trees For Life

Hello! My name is Kat, I'm the new Community Engagement Officer at Trees for Life. For those of you who don't know us, we're a charity based in the Highlands who, along with the help of landowners, dedicated staff and thousands of volunteers, are working to restore the Caledonian forest and associated species such as red squirrels to large parts of the Highlands. We have managed the Dundreggan Estate, 7 miles from Invermoriston on the Skye road, since 2008.

I feel really lucky to be the first ever Community Engagement Officer for Trees for Life, and to be working in such a beautiful area. I've worked all over the UK as an environmental educator for several charities, including the Field Studies Council and two Wildlife Trusts and have run curriculum-linked education programmes for pupils in full-time education as well as family events and after schools clubs.

I'll be working 2.5 days per week at Dundreggan, and am currently working on a set of activities for local schools. We will be offering free visits to schools, and inviting pupils to come and visit our estate. Also in development is a programme of events for local people, including things like bat walks, foraging, nature walks and heritage crafts.

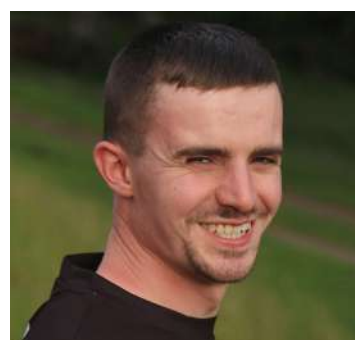
If you have any questions for me, or any ideas you would like to share, please get in touch! I want to know what events you would like to have happen here. You can contact me at katherine@treesforlife.org.uk, or give our office a call on 01320 340 242.

The events programme will be kicking off with a Tea and Tour morning at Dundreggan on Thursday 3rd October where I invite you to come and join me on site for a cup of tea and a chat, followed by a tour of our site including the tree nursery, some of our short walks, and hopefully a planting site too. We'll start at 11am and should be done by 1pm. If you'd like to come along there's no need to book, just meet me at the Dundreggan Estate public car park by the start of the trails. Please bring sturdy shoes for walking, waterproofs, and a midge net or repellent!

I'd also like to introduce our Community Engagement Trainee for the next year, Graham. In his own words...

"Before joining the traineeship, I worked in retail and volunteered with a local charity. I recognised that although I enjoyed helping and engaging with people, I also wanted to work in an outdoor environment where I could develop my interest in nature and conservation. I am excited about the prospect of being involved with Trees for Life. I am looking forward to working with the local community and developing my skills and knowledge which will stand me in good stead for a future career."

We're both very much looking forward to meeting members of the local community. Keep an eye on local noticeboards, newsletters and our Facebook page for upcoming events.





WILD BOAR ON THE BRUACH DUBH!



Some years, notably this year, we have had wild boar in the garden. They have made quite a mess around the grounds but they didn't get into my polytunnel - thank goodness! The first photo is from 2010.

We thought we were seeing things when they walked single file down the road and then turned in to Edelweiss, marched up to the apple trees and started munching on the windfalls!

Then they wandered into our garden but found nothing much lying around.

The next time they came was when Kelly had just come back from Canada. She was used to seeing BEAR round and about where she lived in Jasper. She woke early one morning to see these 'BEAR SHAPES' grazing through the trees behind our house. She woke us up to look, only to realise that it was a herd of boar.



The next two photos are from June this year when they visited our garden for the third time whilst we were away for a weekend. They made quite a mess!



They have been in our garden 4 times this year and each time we've been away. We have never seen them - only the evidence that they have been!!!

We have barricaded the back gates behind our houses, but they have been back once more recently. We have filled in the gaps by the burn with fallen branches to see whether that gets disturbed. Then we'll know if that is their way in. But what else can we do???

By Denise Paterson



Announcements

Marriages



Eva Marfoldi from Hungary and Niko Demirev from Bulgaria married on the 21st August, 2019 at the Register office, Fort Augustus. Eva works at the Great Glen Trading Centre and Niko works at the Lovat Loch Ness and have set up home at Bunoich Crescent, Fort Augustus.

Births

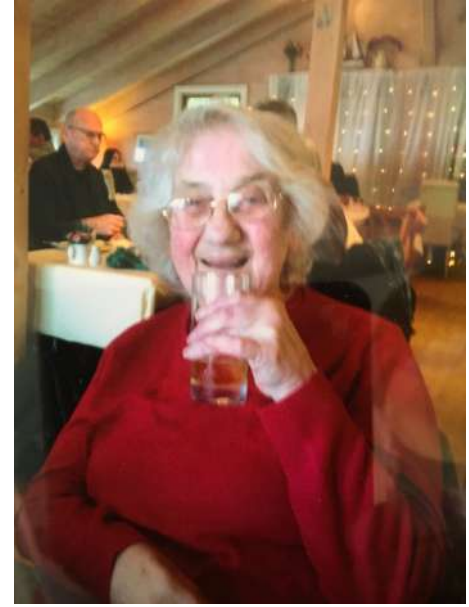


Jay Hounsom and John Graham welcomed their daughter, Hali Iris Graham on the 26th of June 2019.



Renesme Prakelyte was born 8th July 2019 weighing 7lb and 8oz. Her parents are Gabija Makarskaite and Julius Prakelis, who reside in Jenkins Park.

Deaths



Joyce passed away peacefully on the 17th June, 2019 in the Ballifeary Care Home, where she received wonderful care. The collection of £118 at the funeral was for the Care Home. Les and Judy would like to thank all of Joyce's and our friends for their kind messages and help.



Mary Laurie Veitch (Molly) Garry Bank, Invergarry 18th October 1930 - 30th June 2019.

West Glenmoriston Community Hub News

The first phase of refurbishments to the West Glenmoriston Community Hub in Dalchreichart is now complete and we are beginning to run a variety of workshops and events. This has included regular bee-keeping classes, a coffee morning & plant sale and more recently two very popular willow-weaving workshops for adults and children with artist Joe Gregory of Creative with Nature. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are looking forward to expanding the programme over the coming months.



"Thank you so much for organising the willow weaving workshop. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and was great to have produced something at the end of it. I am delighted with my stag's head (Bernard) and I think he appreciated the ears I gave him when I got home. Joe was fabulous and what an achievement to get 10 novices to produce 10 completed stag heads." - Alexandra Adjei

Look out for information about forthcoming events at the West Glenmoriston Hub on community noticeboards or on our Facebook page. Beekeeping classes will run regularly over the coming months and our next craft workshop (spoon-carving with Fort William-based artist, Richard Bracken) will be on Saturday 19th October. For further details email, joycegilbert56@gmail.com



Kilchuimen - Academy, Primary & Nursery



Photography: Well done to Inesa whose photograph was published on the BBC Scotland "Pictures from Scotland" section of their website. Photo and text taken from the BBC Website.



Newton Room:

An exciting start to the term for the S1 & S2 pupils with a visit to the Newton Room in Fort William.





Nature Notes



As August slides into September, I can already see the birch trees losing their deep green colour and starting to look a bit tired and bronzy. I'm sorry guys, but summer is drawing to an end! But, looking on the bright side, in a few weeks, and with a couple of frosts (!!) the autumnal reds and yellows of birch, rowan, oak and aspen will come to the fore. New England, on the east coast of the USA, is renowned for its "Fall" colours but Highland Scotland can put on a show too. Interestingly, the yellow colour of many leaves is there all the time but it is only as the green pigment of the leaves begins to fade that we see the yellows clearly. It appears to be a bumper year for birch seed, those tiny gold paper stars that are already littering the ground. We think the last good year for birch in this part of the world was 2015. Look out for flocks of wee birds like redpolls and siskins in the tree tops this year munching on these seeds.

At Dundreggan, the later broods of house martins are swarming around their old nest sites wondering what happens next – yes, kids, you're off on a big winter holiday! They will head off in a couple of weeks to, er...somewhere in Africa. For such a familiar bird, it's surprising that we know very little about where they spend our winter. It's definitely Africa but we don't know where. Studies of ringed birds have failed to find the answer, though south of the Sahara is a likely bet. For a bird that weighs about as much as a 50 pence piece, it's quite a journey! Come to think of it, I'm not sure I've seen a swallow here at Dundreggan in the last few days – have they already started to depart?

Some of the more adventurous gastronomes amongst you may have noticed that there was a very good crop of chanterelle mushrooms this year. The pale saffron orange fleshed and apricot smelling fungi are delicious fried in some butter on a bit of toast and grace the plates of top foody restaurants throughout the country. As long as you don't go crazy, picking a few mushrooms will not do a population any harm, but make sure you can identify those that are safe to eat. The role of fungi in the life of plants is just beginning to come to light now with some amazing research on the transfer of nutrients between fungal and plant roots underground. There is a whole Wood Wide Web of communications and trade going on beneath our feet, and we now know that, without mushrooms (or their ancestors at least), plants wouldn't have made the journey out of the primordial seas onto dry land, and we'd have nothing to eat! Although most mushrooms are not poisonous, some are and you need to be careful not to put a fittingly named Death Cap in your soup pot! Look out for Penny Buns under birch woodland – large bread-coloured caps with a white stalk and tiny black dots.

Bats are very active now, having produced a single batlet (what's the name for a baby bat?) in a nursery roost somewhere, they are all now flying about snapping up insects from dusk until dawn. Baby bats are fed on their mother's milk for the first 6 weeks of their lives but are now weaned and eating insects like their parents. As autumn kicks in, they will find a hibernation site – somewhere cool and dry like a tree hole or rock crevice where they will spend the winter. The most common species is the pipistrelle bat but we do get water bats and long-eared bats as well in this part of the world. The old story of them flying into your hair is a bit mad – their sophisticated echolocation system allows them to "see" in the pitch dark and avoid flying into things. And by the way, bats are not blind, they can see perfectly well. We are hoping to hold a bat detection session at Dundreggan in the near future so look out for information on that.

Doug Gilbert, Trees for Life at Dundreggan.



Latest News from FAGCC Chief Officer

Angela Williams has now been in post for 3 months and you may well have seen her around meeting people and getting to know the area and issues that are important to the community.

Another new face for FAGCC

Our long standing Administrator, Sharon, is moving on to new things. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to this community and wish her well for the future. Her replacement, Karen Edwards, has just started in the office and is getting to grips with the many things that Sharon has been doing. She is looking forward to meeting many of you in the weeks to come.

Village Hall - Office

The old meeting room has now become the office for FAGCC. Whilst not manned all of the time, you are likely to find either Angela or Karen in there regularly. Please do feel free to call in and see us or ring and make an appointment.

Grant Applications

The closing date for grant applications for the September 19 meeting has just passed but the next closing date is 2nd November for the grant meeting in December 19. If you have an idea for a current group, want to start something new or want help completing an application form

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please get in touch.

Student Travel Grants

Now that the new academic year is about to start don't forget that we offer travel grants. These are for up to £250, to help students with the cost of travel to and from home. Full details are on the website.

Apprenticeships

Are you a business wanting to take on an apprentice or do you know anyone who wants to start an apprenticeship? If so do have a look at our website for the details of the support available.

Minutes

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

Contact

For information or help on any of the above, help with applying for grants or any other query, please contact our Administrator, Karen Edwards on one of the following:

Tel - 01320 366800

Email –
contact@communitycompany.co.uk

Website –
www.communitycompany.co.uk





Community Company Caretakers Seasonal Update

There is only one word that springs to mind for the centre of the village during the summer period and that word is 'Hoochin'. The main car park is ridiculously busy; it's like a half-price sale day at Lidl! The competition for a parking space is continuous and must be especially frustrating for the coach drivers. If the Fort is to sustain its tourism industry then there really must be plans set in place to enlarge the car parking area.

The waste has been controllable, but only because of the relentless effort by the community care taking team to stay on top of the game. The Highland Council's community waste operatives' efforts must be applauded especially when they swing into the car park and see the volume of waste waiting for them. We have also obtained a new skip from the Council which has been a very welcome addition.

Old Convent Land update – The team have delivered a number of educational visits to the school and we will now be supporting their work with a hands on wildlife garden project. We have the fencing materials sitting in the yard ready to go; should anyone be interested in helping with the project please contact the community company office.

Village improvements have included a new post and rail fence surrounding part of the play park in Abertarff; a half round rail finish was requested and finishes it off nicely. Some new play equipment really wouldn't go a miss in this location.

A new directional toilet sign is in the process of being constructed and will be installed in one of the raised beds at the Fountain Garden; we struggled to obtain a new sign, so in the end, Dua used her independent initiative and solved the problem by upcycling old facilities signs from Invermoriston.

Dare I mention the old grass situation; at this time of year it becomes a bad word and in most weeks we will be cutting 4 out of 5 days; the weather has favoured the grass this year but the team are still managing to keep on top of it, just! By this period, the grass cutting kit has taken a hammering, therefore running repairs are a must; without Gordy's seemingly endless knowledge of carburettors, cables and clutches the community company would be much further out of pocket.

The weather conditions have not been in our favour for spraying as you need sunshine and minimal wind but at some point, a window of opportunity will arise and the cemetery paths will be treated.

Hanging baskets, well I'll let you make your own mind up there; their condition has not been because of the lack of water, believe me; if anyone has any useful suggestions to get the best from a hanging basket then let me know; if not, this might be the last year of the baskets.

Finally, some wildlife news which consists of spotting Goldeneye ducks heading up the water at the canalside, a common spotted orchid popping its head up next to the bins at Invermoriston, and numerous dragonfly and unusual caterpillar sightings.

Until next time
Glen Campbell



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Recreational Development Group

The objectives of the group are:

- Improve the educational opportunities for young people who wish to develop their abilities in sport and leisure;
- Encourage the integration of all people regardless of age, race, religion, ethnicity, gender orientation or sexual preference and to ensure that the values of equal rights are promoted and observed;
- Encourage the support of people with physical or mental health issues, including those with more specific educational needs;
- Promote empowerment and self-confidence through recreational and sporting activities;
- Promote a sense of community and friendship and also to enhance the integration between the community and visitors.

The group hope to achieve these objectives by:

- Seeking revenue funding and capital donations by all available and appropriate legal means;
- Providing high quality accessible and varied facilities for people in our community, fairly and evenly distributed across all ages and needs;
- Delivering a broad spectrum of sporting and recreational activities with particular emphasis on the educational needs and skills development of those people of school age;
- Encouraging the development of tourism by improving local facilities;
- Having a motivated and skilled staff and encouraging community involvement and the support of volunteers;
- Cooperating with the Local Authority and other agencies, in particular Education and Health Services, Social Services, Tourism and the Voluntary Sector.

What has the group been doing ?

The group has been actively looking at the following recreational developments:

- Building a new Leisure Centre in the Fort Augustus area
- Developing the current Play Parks and Tennis Court
- Developing an Outdoor Gym in the Old Convent Woodlands

Where are we now ?

Leisure Centre

The group has prepared a pre-feasibility study for the centre, and has identified a number of areas to focus on to make it a viable proposition. It is hoped to include a swimming pool, sports hall, health and fitness suites, fitness studios and social areas. The Highland Council and Highlife have added their support to the scheme; and the group are planning to visit a number of existing centres in the area and develop a more detailed "Design Brief". Several areas around Fort Augustus have been identified as possible sites for the centre and with a Design Brief it will progress to a detailed "Feasibility Study" which will enable it to assess whether the whole project is viable or not.

The group are looking for more support from the local community as currently there are only a few active members of the group, and the proposed developments need as much support as possible to make them happen. The group meet once a month in the Village Hall with the next meeting scheduled for the 17th September 2019. If you wish to participate and help develop the recreational activities in the community, please contact the groups secretary Mairi Sutherland at mairi.sutherland@highland.gov.uk and we will add your name to our mailing list. We hope we will see more of you.



FORT AUGUSTUS &
GLENMORISTON

Condensed draft Minutes
of the Fort Augustus and
Glenmoriston
Community Council Meeting
held at the Millennium Hall,
Invermoriston at 7.30 p.m.
on Wednesday 28th August
2019.

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

Matters Arising

Car Park/Parking: Shane
Manning is to visit
Fort Augustus to discuss
parking in the village. DM
has spoken to the drivers
of buses who are parking at
the road widening in front
of the children's play area
beside Bunoich car park.

Speeding: Reports of
speeding on the new road
layout at Three Bridges MD
advised that if there are
any concerns about
speeding vehicles they
should be reported to the
Police. The 30 mph limit
sign from Glendoe to the
village is not enforceable,
signage was put in place

Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

for the construction but
should now be asked to be
removed as should be 60
mph limit until Tarff Bridge
which is a 30 mph limit.
National speed limit applies
to the Culachy Road (60
mph).

SSE - Road Improvement:
Complaints have been
received about the delays
and state of the road
improvements from the car
park to Jenkins Park.
Johannes Smit, Archie
Munro to attend September
meeting.

Information Pod:
Johannes Smit and Archie
Munro of SSE unavailable
to attend this meeting will
attend in September.

Police Report

The following incidents
have been reported to
Police since 26th June
2019.

July: One minor RTC; one
speeding, one person
reported for a Road Traffic
offence. Three commercial
break-ins in Fort Augustus
in July.

August: One minor RTC;
one speeding. Five
commercial break-ins -
Anti-crime patrols being
undertaken and to be }
continued into September.
Use of CCTV being
investigated.

Superintendent Iain
Maclelland, Sgt Brian
Bissett and PC Keri Jones
were in attendance to
speak to the

community about recent
break-ins at commercial
premises and provide full
updates on priorities and on
the actions being
undertaken to address local
concerns regarding
criminal activity in the
village. There have now
been nine break-ins since
July in the early hours of
the morning at weekends.
It is clear that the area has
been targeted specifically.
The community were
assured that there were
now several dedicated
teams in the area at
various times of day to
provide a deterrent. Police
had and would continue to
undertake crime
surveys with local
businesses. There were
outstanding enquiries in
relation to forensics, CCTV
etc which may reap further
dividends in identifying
the individuals concerned.
Community told not to
hesitate to call about
'suspicious persons' on 101
or 999 if urgent.
PC Jones discussed the
Prevention/intervention
Scheme in which he can
discuss security issues with
businesses individually. An
officer would be visiting in
due course to review and
discuss CCTV within the
village. Businesses asked
to remove cash from tills
overnight and put signs in
the windows stating there
no cash was on the
premises. Discussion was
had about the lack of

banking facilities which was exacerbated by the Post Office stopping business banking, due to the fact that the Post Office had been targeted and that therefore more robust security was being arranged before it would be able to recommence business banking. Business owners raised concern over having to take cash home or drive to banks in Inverness or Fort William. The Police sympathised and suggested there may be some benefit in discussing banking with the remaining bank in Fort William to see if any interim arrangements could be made. There was comment that people in the village were feeling vulnerable, Police advised that there is no reason to suggest that residential properties were being targeted it was purely business premises. Insp. Maclelland reiterated that it was a top priority for Police and that it was being dealt with by officers throughout the area. Furthermore, if there were issues with calls not being dealt with promptly on 101 the facts should be reported to him and he would investigate. Regular Anti-Crime patrols and pro-active roadside checks were already being undertaken and Police confirmed that they would carry out stop checks on vehicles in the area late at night and that if possible, the CCTV van would be placed in the village. It was yet unconfirmed whether the burglary in Drumnadrochit was linked to the ones in

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Fort Augustus but likely as it too was at a business.

PC Keri Jones can be contacted by any local business to arrange a Crime Prevention Survey free of charge at:

P.C N0774 Keri Neil Jones
Preventions and Interventions
DCU, N Division
Police Scotland
Grampian Road
Aviemore
Highland
PH22 1RH
Telephone: 01479 815522
Email: keri.jones@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Treasurer's Report -The balance as at 27th August £7,199.13 this included a grant from THC of £546.83 and payment from FERN (Beinneun) of £1,656.00 for Ness News. The CC agreed to donate £250 to the Sheepdog Trials.

Community Amenity Issues
Toilets: At the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Committee (GMHC) meeting on the 8th July THC offered to empty the septic tank as necessary and pay for the feasibility study. Clare Levings (CL) the Chair of GMHC stated that an engineer had attended the site, looked at the system and advised that the pumps were broken. The septic tank is designed for a much lower number of users and is too small to cope with the volume of use from tourists. The septic tank overflow goes into a second tank from where it is pumped to the soakaway, it has been a longstanding issue that the

second chamber is always full that the pumps work continuously which is not what they were intended for. On the 14th September there will be a canoe event in the village with 200+ people in attendance who would be using the toilets as they would have access to the hall. A question was raised as to whether porta-loos could be put in the car park, MD stated there could be but that would raise the issue of who would pay for them. MD stated that THC had agreed to empty it as often as necessary but didn't know how often that would be. As to whether or not THC would pay for the porta-loos was something MD would have to put to them. The hall committee member was asked why if THC were prepared to pay for it, were the committee not prepared to open them? MD stated that the GMHC had a decision to take; THC had agreed to pay for emptying the tank and provide an engineer. CL advised that Patrick Ungless and Andy Summers were going to liaise with MD as Andy now understood their dilemma. MD stated that they could restrict the hours of operation and a key lock could be installed in order to facilitate a cleaning team. The community questioned why if THC were willing to empty it every week why the GMHC weren't prepared to open it. MD suggested that the community have a public meeting which could circumvent the GMHC. CL advised that the next



GMHC meeting would be on Monday 2nd September at 8.00p.m. and that they would invite Andy Summers to attend but she would not discuss further as it was a matter for the committee. MD suggested and JD agreed that if a solution was reached on Monday all well and good but if not to call a public meeting.

Fort Augustus toilets were reported as dirty, toilet paper keeps running out, the alarm keeps going off and that the card payment system doesn't work. People without 50 pence are using the picnic area and beside the toilets instead. MD stated that a permanent member of staff and that the CC should put forward a business plan. MD to find out how much money is taken each week to assist in making the argument for a full time attendant.

MD stated that the fact that there were no toilets between Inverness and Fort Augustus was worrying. Visit Scotland and Local Government need to look at the infrastructure as the reputation of the whole area concerned MD greatly.

Invermoriston: The road at Achnaconeran (Invermoriston) is still in a terrible state with both pot hole and water issues which will be exacerbated by winter weather. MD to discuss with THC.

Village Re-instatement: The road is now finished and although the crossing has been in place for two months the traffic lights have not been operating.

Torgoyle Bridge: there are signs each side of the Torgoyle Bridge stating the limit is 50 mph however at Inchmore the road narrows to single track yet there is no signage warning drivers. On the Cluanie side traffic is supposed to give way but there is no signage there either.

Buses: Issues regarding the difficulty in getting local students to college in Inverness. Although THC does subsidise buses the problem being that if a commercial bus is not used enough the route can be removed. Community Transport may also be subsidised by THC but this may need to be resolved by the CC. MD advised that if the school writes to her then she will seek an extension to the current contract if possible. There is also a community bus which is kept at the school. A meeting should be convened at the school. Drivers would be required so advertising in the community should also be considered.

Road Issues: MD will raise with David Devine the following issues:

- Functioning traffic lights at the new crossing;
- Extending the 30-mph limit on the Fort William Road;
- Extending 30 mph limit by the fish factory by Torgoyle and bridge signage;
- The noisy manhole/drain cover outside Police Station which has been marked for repair but still yet to be

completed;

- When the tactile pavement to the Lovat will be installed;
- Query whether the speed limit at Invermoriston could be reduced from 40 to 30 mph;
- Rupture in newly resurfaced road approximately 1 mile north of Allt-na-Criche which is leaking water;
- Pavement and verges on river bridge collapse, BT has put signage up, but no repairs undertaken.

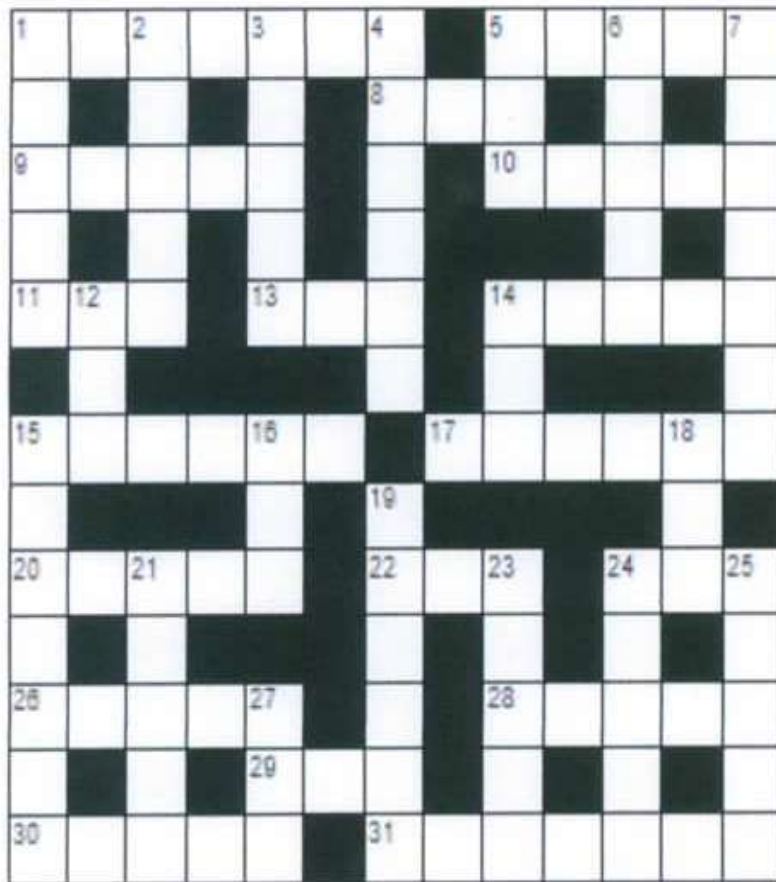
AOB

- At a meeting with Scottish Water they advised that the crossing at the river and canal had been very problematic and that the revised plan was to dig an 8.5 metre trench and drive through steel tubing which could then take the directional drill under the river. That drill must be 3.5 metres below the level of the canal. Works will commence in September and last approximately ten weeks.
- The care group for Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and Glengarry is now called 3 Glens Community Care. They will go into partnership with the Highland Hospice and Befriending. A meeting is to be arranged. Designs for the houses around the Telford are almost ready to be submitted to Planning. The Telford Centre is also being looked at; a public meeting will be held in October for further discussion. A constitution needs to be set up and need to plan how to recruit and get a co-ordinator etc. which will be done at the next meeting.





Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Most ordered
5. Irrigation
8. Selfdom
9. Fireside
10. Unaffected
11. Detect
13. High card
14. Pancake
15. Cerumen
17. Dwindles
20. Masticates
22. Commercials
24. Metallic rock
26. Yawning
28. Ruler
29. Life force
30. Occasion
31. Weapon

DOWN

1. Secures
2. Fish
3. Irrigation
4. More pointed
5. Indefinite period
6. Ostracism
7. Eternal
12. Time
14. Building material
15. A country within a country
16. Equine
18. Listener
19. Celtic
21. Dodge
23. Caught some Z's
24. The last word
25. Nobles
27. And so on...

Previous editions answers



Things to Do

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

Notice Board



**Fort Augustus
and Glenmoriston
Community Company**

What's on in the Fort Augustus Village Hall

The following regular events are on ~

Monday	Cookery Club 4.30pm – 6pm Youth Club 7pm-9pm
Tuesday	Cadets 7pm-9.30pm
Wednesday	Parent & Toddler Group 9.30am-11.30am Indoor Bowling 1.30pm-4pm (winter only) TaeKwon-Do 7pm – 9pm
Thursday	Crown Vets 2pm-4pm Last Thursday of every month *Hall is available for hire at night.*
Friday	TaeKwon-Do 7pm – 9pm

Other events coming up ~

Saturday 5th October	TaeKwon-Do day
Saturday 14th December	Fort Augustus Children's Christmas Party

The hall is available for parties, private functions, sales etc

To book the hall go to www.communitycompany.co.uk/hall

Or phone Karen on 01320 366800



**Fort Augustus
and Glenmoriston
Community Company**

Anyone for Tennis??



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

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

Please contact ~

Sharon on 01320 366800

Or email contact@communitycompany.co.uk

Your community needs you!
Do you want to be a voice for your community?

This is your chance to become a Community Councillor for your local area. Community Councils bridge the gap between communities and public agencies like the Highland Council. They act as a voice for the local community on lots of issues from new buildings and roads to local services and facilities.

It's important that a range of people are part of Community Councils so that different opinions and ideas are heard. Anyone aged 16 and over can take part so nominate yourself now!

Nominations are open from **Monday 23 September to Tuesday 8 October 2019**. If there are more nominations than places on the Community Council then there will be an election ballot in that local area.

Nomination papers will be available on The Highland Council website and from your Ward Manager. For more information please visit: www.highland.gov.uk/elections

Fort Augustus Monthly Market

On The Lawn at The Lovat – Loch Ness

Fort Augustus

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

11am – 3pm

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



Handmade Jewellery

Handmade Cards

Handmade Bags

Handmade Candles

Fresh Meats

Fresh Bread

Homemade Jams and Chutneys

Homemade Cakes

Plants

And much much more....

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

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

Notice Board



Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

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

For more info contact: Lee Cox 07810 118563



FORT AUGUSTUS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP



EVERY WEDNESDAY

9:30 - 11:30am



AT THE VILLAGE HALL



Every Wednesday 7-15pm

(Starting 18th September 2019)

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

£4 per person

Suitable for all levels of fitness

Have fun whilst Exercising



Licensed Zumba instructor

Glenmoriston Craft Club

1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month
At Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

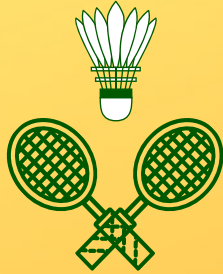
11am - 3pm

Cost only £3 per session

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

Notice Board

27th of February



FORT AUGUSTUS BADMINTON CLUB



Wednesdays 19:00 - 20:30



Kilchuimen Academy



2 pounds per session
Equipment provided

YOGA CLASS

(All levels of experience including beginners)

MILLENNIUM HALL
INVERMORISTON

Starting

11th SEPTEMBER

10.00 - 11.30

£7.00 FIRST CLASS FREE

Bring mat and wear loose fitting clothes.

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



For further details

Flaine

tel: 01320 351283.

email: treatments.em@gmail.com

Booking required in advance
(places are limited)

Screen Machine

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

£2.50 off all ticket prices: thanks to the generosity of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, ticket prices for Fort Augustus screenings have been reduced by £2.50. You will pay only £5 adults/£3 concessions.



The Lion King

Fri 13 at 5.30pm (PG) 118 mins
Director: Jon Favreau. Voices: Danny Glover, Beyonce, Chiwetel Ejiofor, James Earl Jones
The much-loved tale of Simba the lion cub trying to live up to his late father's legacy is back, with a new look. **"gorgeous, star-studded story"** Empire



Once Upon a Time in... Hollywood

Fri 13 at 8.30pm (18) 161 mins
Director: Quentin Tarantino. Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Al Pacino
Quentin Tarantino's 9th movie is a black comedy drama set in 1969 Los Angeles about a fading TV star, Rick, and his long-time stunt double, Rick wants to defend his new neighbours: Sharon Tate and Roman Polanski. Expect violence! **"disturbs and dazzles in equal measure"** Observer



Toy Story 4

Sat 14 at 2pm (U) 100 mins
Director: Josh Cooley. Voices: Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack. Woody and the gang go on a road trip. Along the way, Woody gets separated and he meets up with his old friend, Bo Peep. Seeing her new life, Woody starts to question his place as a toy in the world. **"An amusing and charming gem."** The Guardian



Yesterday

Sat 14 at 5.30pm (12A) 116 mins
Director: Danny Boyle. Cast: Himesh Patel, Lily James, Ana de Armas, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Ed Sheeran. Yesterday, everyone knew The Beatles. Today, only Jack remembers their songs. He's about to become a very big deal. **Before Yesterday we'll screen a free photo presentation of work by Paul Glazier, featuring Vatersay**



Blinded by the Light

Sat 14 at 8.30pm (12A) 117 mins
Director: Gurinder Chadha. Cast: Viveik Kaira, Kulvinder Ghir, Aaron Phagura, Rob Bryden
From the director of **Bend It Like Beckham**, joyous coming-of-age movie set in 1987, telling the story of young Javed, a teenager of Pakistani descent growing up on a housing estate in Luton - and how the music of Bruce Springsteen gave him a reason to believe. **"irresistible Springsteen-powered Eighties escapism"** The Telegraph

Fri 13 - Sat 14 Sep
Fort Augustus, main car park

Book at www.screenmachine.co.uk
Tickets also at Screen Machine 30 mins before each screening.



Every Wednesday and Friday, 7pm to 8pm (or until 8.30 optional)

Fort Augustus Village Hall.

Open to all ages from 6 years.

Korean Art of Hand and Foot Fighting.

A dynamic and explosive form of self-defence!

Increase confidence. Improve fitness, coordination and stability. Learn self-defence.

For more information contact:

Simon Canning on 07432 620202. Or email:

canningsimon@rocketmail.com