

# Ness News

Community News & Events

June 2024



## JUNIOR SHINTY

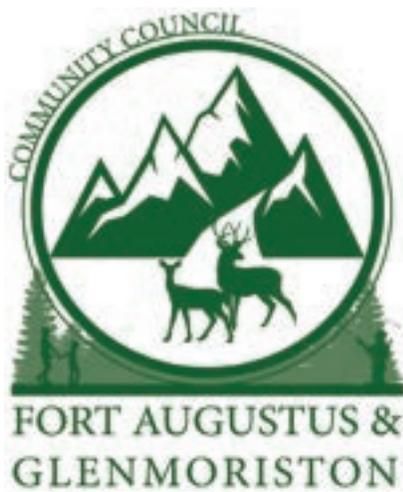


## CEILIDH KING



## MEMORIAL GOLF





Hello Everybody

It's been another busy few months and we're now into summer so looking for some gorgeous weather as you probably are too. Our May Community Council meeting was well attended due to presentations from Ride Ness (Glendoe) and Statera (Loch Kemp). Other issues came up regarding traffic issues when the main roads are closed at Invermoriston due to road accidents, speeding, the amount of motorhomes parking on Scottish Canal and Forestry land, Inchnacardoch Bay, dog fouling and Abertarff Place green which is a play area for children. The green is now frequently being used as a dog play/walking area as the Community Council is receiving many complaints on those matters. PLEASE refrain from taking your dogs there and use the Convent Wood if necessary, picking up any mess incurred, of course.

The Community Council are delighted with the news that the Highland Council have approved the transfer of the Memorial Hall to the community company and we look forward to hearing about their plans for the building.

As everybody is aware of the UK General Election on the 4th of July but to ensure you are ready, please -

- Register to vote with The Highland Council by 18 June 2024
- You will need photo ID to vote in this election · apply for new postal and postal proxy votes by 5pm on 19 June 2024 · apply for new in person proxy votes by 5pm on 26 June 2024 · apply for a voter ID certificate by 5pm on 26 June 2024

Voter ID is not required for any postal voters or postal proxy voters but is required for voting in person at a UK General Election.

Valid photo IDs include the following:

- Passport
- Driving Licence
- Blue Badge
- Concessionary bus pass
- Young Scot. You can see the full list of accepted forms of photo ID on the Electoral Commission's website. You can still use some photo ID even if they are out-of-date, as long as the photo still looks like you. If you do not have an accepted photo ID, you can apply online for free Voter ID known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can also apply for this by post if you live in the UK.

More information is available by calling the Highland Election Helpline on 01349 886657.

On a local level, please come along to Our Place, Our Plan events in Fort Augustus, p;[\Invermoriston and Dalchreichart to give info on what you would like to have in your area. Those events are highlighted on the advert on the back page, otherwise you can visit [www.ourfutureplan.net](http://www.ourfutureplan.net) or scan the QR code on the back page to fill in the form.

Have a lovely summer and keep sending in your local news and articles.

Deirdre

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# Reay MacKay Memorial Golf

On Saturday, 4th of May, the Fort Augustus Golf Club kindly let us use the facilities to remember Reay MacKay who passed away in December of 2020.

Initially, the plan had been to run a gravel sprint in Auchterawe Forest but due to ongoing SSE work and the recent storm that devastated the area, it was looking like it was going to be impossible to run such an event. Luckily, a lot of Reay's friends have taken up golf in recent years and the get together was more important than the actual event.

Reay would have turned 50 in April of this year and it seemed only right to get everyone together and keep him in our thoughts, A lot of friends travelled to take part in the day and the weather stayed dry for the best part of it.

The travelling winner was Donnie MacDonald from Inverness, in second place was Shaun Sinclair and third place was Grant Straube. The local winner and highest score on the day was Alec MacDonald from Fort Augustus with David MacKay as runner-up and Jamie Ferguson in third place.

A huge thanks has to be mentioned to everyone that helped with catering and brought gifts for prizes, and also Fort Augustus Golf Club for letting us use their facilities. The day was a great success and it was brilliant to get so many old friends back together, Reay would have certainly been chuffed with the turn out!! Lorn MacKay

Grant Straube & daughter



Jenny Findlay & Alec MacDonald



# Glengarry Junior Shinty



## Glengarry Junior Shinty

Glengarry young team had a brilliant day of shinty at Blairbeg Park, Drumnadrochit for the UHI Graham MacGregor Cup. The event which saw 200 primary school aged players come together for a great day of competition.

Congratulations to our very own Glengarry side for retaining the UHI salver for the second year in a row! What a team!

A HUGE thank you to Cruise Loch Ness for sponsoring our new junior tops. Their generous contributions have allowed us to purchase tops for the U17s, U14s & U12 teams. Cruise Loch Ness have been a constant support to our club over the last few years and we are incredibly grateful for all they have done for us.

Photo: Ronald MacKenzie - owner of Cruise Loch Ness and Shaun Nicolson - head coach, with some of the Glengarry junior players.



# THE HUB DALCHREICHART

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

Heralded by the Summer Solstice, we have long light days and nights, and plenty to look forward to in the months ahead. Best at this point not to mention the midge season! It has been said that:- A perfect summers day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the mowers broken. We hope you enjoy, and make the most of summer, however you choose to spend your time.

The Hub Dalchreichart has already had a busy first half of the year. Our games nights with table tennis, pool, darts and board games have been a hit, and well attended. Quiz nights have been popular, in particular on Saturday 11th May when in addition to the Quiz, we had a licensed bar with free nibbles and hot finger food. Coffee Mornings have been well frequented, and enjoyed by all, particularly the morning of Saturday 30th March that included the Table Top Sale and Easter Bonnet Competition. The weather was very kind to us. It was lovely to see numerous people sitting outside on the benches, in the sunshine, enjoying their coffee and cake.

The Angry Seagull mobile catering unit was welcomed on Saturday 23rd March. Local residents enjoyed their fish and chips and selection of other foods. All the tables inside The Hub main hall, and the refectory areas were taken with community members and their families who decided to eat in, rather than take their food home.

Our monthly Photographic Competition, to produce a calendar for 2025, has delivered some exceptional entries. The April winner was Jane Bowman with her beautiful picture of larch 'roses'. The winner each month receives a free copy of the calendar when it is printed at the end of the year. Their winning picture is printed in the calendar for the appropriate month. Calendars will be available to purchase upon completion. To help choose the monthly winner visit Westglenmoriston Hub Facebook page and press the 'like' icon, only one vote per person please. Don't forget to submit your photo entries by the last day of each month to thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com Conditions of entry may be viewed on our website, thehubdalchreichart.co.uk

To get the summer off to a good start, we have on Saturday 1st June at 11am, a chance to buy or swap your plants. We trialled this event last year and it proved very popular. It gives residents the opportunity to bring their extra bedding, vegetable, rockery, house plants or shrubs etc. to The Hub, and swap or sell them to those in attendance. Both Abriachan Nursery and Highland Liliiums Garden Centre will be attending with stalls selling plants and providing advice. At 2pm there will be a BBQ which is being subsidised by The Hub, with a licensed bar selling Cask Beer and Wine. You must pre book your ticket to attend the BBQ. No ticket, no food. The food is being freshly cooked on site and must be pre ordered. To request your tickets please email thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com You will be provided with a ticket online.

Throughout the summer our regular events will run as normal.

First Wednesday of each Month Craft and Chat 10am till noon.

5th June, 3rd July, & 7th August.

Quiz Night the second Saturday evening each month starting at 7pm.

8th June, 13th July & 10th August.

Coffee Morning the last Saturday morning each month commencing at 11am until 1pm.

29th June, 27th July & 31st August.

Please see our calendar of events at thehubdalchreichart.co.uk



Some new books have been added to our already large selection of books available for you to borrow. Borrow a Book is available whenever The Hub is open for other events.

We intend to hold more Games Evenings, please watch the Glenmoriston Hub Facebook page for dates to be announced. We are hoping to hold these on some Friday evenings.

There will be a lot of activity in the grounds of The Hub during the summer, and well into the Autumn months, as we transform the front and rear areas of the property into ecological gardens. We applied for, and have been awarded, a £20,000.00 grant funded by Great Glen Energy Co-op, administered by Foundation Scotland to enable us to create gardens that will not only encourage and provide a habitat for insects and wildlife and sustain them throughout all the seasons, but also be a good usable space for all the community and visitors who visit our glen. Preparation work commenced in May, with the repairing of the stone walls around the boundary of the property. The long awaited painting of the rendered walls of The Hub was completed leaving the coast clear for the start of the exciting Ecological Project. In conjunction with, and to encompass the project, we will be holding a number of talks and outdoor experiences regarding native birds, insects and plants that not only will be informative, but also illustrate what we can do in our own gardens to help develop biodiversity and ecological sustainability.

All of the events free to attend, everyone is welcome. They will be advertised on the Westglenmoriston Hub Facebook page, <https://m.facebook.com/intheglen>

This project has been designed not just to make a visual impact at The Hub and more usable space. It is being created to provide an ecological cocoon to attract all forms of wildlife. We would encourage the community to embrace the idea and become involved. It will be very informative and produce a 'living area' that will continue to survive and reproduce for many years to come. A large area will be planted with wild flowers, producing pollen and seeds for bees, butterflies and birds. As a first step during the summer, please collect seeds from your own garden and pass on to us for scattering. This is your community garden and we would like to encourage you to be part of it, to watch it grow and develop.

For further information regarding The Hub, Dalchreichart please see our website, [thehubdalchreichart.co.uk](http://thehubdalchreichart.co.uk)  
on facebook at <https://m.facebook.com/intheglen>  
or contact us by email at [thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com](mailto:thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com)



# News from Glenmoriston

Summer activities in the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

Saturday – 1st and 3rd of the month – Craft Club – open to all, bring whatever you are working on and have a chat and share tips with others. We have spinners, knitters, people who crochet and embroider as well as felting, jewellery makers and others. 11.00 am until 3.00pm.

Next Quiz will be on Saturday 28th September and then on the last Saturday of the month.

Sunday – Line Dancing between 6.30 and 8.00 pm. Informal and good fun. Just come along.

Monday – Art Club between 1.30 pm and 4.00 pm – open to all. We have some experienced artists and some beginners, with everything in between. Sketch, draw or paint – bring along your own kit but we may have some to lend you if you wish.

Indoor Bowls between 7.30 and 9.30 pm. Bowls provided if you don't have your own.

Tuesday – Shoshinkan Iado martial arts – 7.15 pm to 9.15 pm

Wednesday – Zumba between 7.15 pm and 8.15 pm

Thursday – Yoga between 10.30 am and 12 noon

Scottish Ceilidh and Country dance on evenings of Thursday 20th June, 18th July and 15th August.

Friday – Kids Club between 1.00 pm and 3.30 pm

SAVE THE DATE – FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER – the return of the awesome Budapest Café Orchestra - a distinctive gypsy style quartet with a talent for fun.

For bookings and additional information contact [gmhcahallbooking@gmail.com](mailto:gmhcahallbooking@gmail.com)

At the time of writing, we do not have an update about when the septic tank at the hall will be back in working order but we are managing to use the hall safely for clubs and smaller events. The lack of full functioning in the hall has held us back in planning more events.

Silver Surfers, for the over 60's in Glenmoriston, have held various activities, mainly involving lunches in local cafes and hotels, but are also planning a visit to Cawdor Castle in June.

If anyone is interested in joining a Chess Club, please do get in touch as we already have a few potential members.





# Loch Ness TaeKwon-Do Takes Medal Haul and Student's Get Closer to Black Belt

Loch Ness TKD, now has over twenty club members, has been enjoying success after success at competitions and gradings.

Instructor Simon Canning is finding the club is being invited to more and more competitions as the club's reputation steadily grows in the competition circuit.

Since the last article was submitted to Ness News, there have been too many successes at the club to list. However, the most recent competition for the club was at the DMA Championships in Wishaw, near Glasgow.

Simon was delighted to see five of the club's members bravely step onto the mats and give their best performance; the most competitors the club has had so far and the most successful medal haul everyone taking away a medal.

River Humphries took the gold medal for the Tiger Tail. This is an introduction to sparring for the junior competitors helping to build confidence in themselves. River's father, Grant, also stepped onto the mats for the first time taking the silver for the patterns. Sadly, Grant injured himself so couldn't enter the sparring, but it is without doubt that he would have again excelled himself.

Invergarry lad, Ryan Gate, also stepped onto the mats for the first time earning himself silver medal for the sparring. A tremendous feat for Ryan who continues to progress month after month. Simon is looking forward to seeing what's next for this brave young man.

Invergarry brothers Ben and Josh White have been representing LN-TKD at competitions and every time Simon is approached by the Chief Umpires complimenting the boys' achievements.

At the DMA Championships, Josh took bronze for patterns, gold for special technique and gold for sparring. In the meantime, Ben also dominated his divisions taking gold medals in patterns, special technique, and sparring.



The club's next competition is June 15<sup>th</sup> in Livingston where Ben and Josh will defend their Scottish Championship titles against challengers from all over the UK. Best of luck to everyone from LN-TKD competing.



## Recent grading results after a seminar hosted by Simon on 25<sup>th</sup> May:

Promoted to Yellow Belt – *River Humphries*

Promoted to Green Belt – *Oscar Roadnight*

Promoted to Green Belt with 'A' level pass – *Téa Drew*

Promoted to Red Belt Black Tag with 'A' level pass – *Josh White*

Promoted to Red Belt Black Tag with 'A' level pass – *Ben White*

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the seminar and especially to those who graded. Ben and Josh White are one successful grading away from gaining their 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt which will make them LN-TKD's first Black Belts. This is testimony to the hard work from everyone in the club supporting each other at training and helping each other progress.

Simon is certain that there will be more competition winners and successful gradings on the horizon for everyone at the club.



While the club is largely family oriented, it is open to children (min. six years), young people and adults. You can be assured of a warm welcome from Simon and the club. It is an inclusive and friendly atmosphere training at Fort Augustus Village Hall two evenings every week.

Simon has thirty-three years of experience in Taekwon-Do ranging from gradings, seminars and successfully competed in the UK circuit and has represented Scotland at World Championship level. There is also a focus on self-defence and confrontation avoidance. While competing is a small yet significant part of the syllabus, Simon likes to make sure the students are prepared to protect themselves in difficult situations.

If you're interested in joining, email Simon at [canningsimon@rocketmail.com](mailto:canningsimon@rocketmail.com) or call 07432 620202. New members are always welcome. Or just turn up Mondays and Fridays for 6pm at Fort Augustus Village Hall with tracksuit and t-shirt or loose, comfortable clothing.

The Facebook page can be found by searching Loch Ness TaeKwon-Do.



Fort Augustus and Area Gaelic Group  
www.the-gathering.co.uk

This project is funded by



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

### The Story of Glengarry in Music and Song

No matter where you go in the Highlands you will be surrounded by history, folklore and music. This is certainly the case with Glengarry which, situated on the border of Inverness-shire and Lochaber and tucked away from major thoroughfares, has quietly bequeathed us a large number of Gaelic songs, as well as a good few pipe and fiddle tunes. And this music charts and reflects the glen's often tumultuous story, as well as the lives and loves of the people who once lived there.

### Clan Chiefs

Traditionally the clan chiefs with their ownership of vast swathes of land brought great rewards to their followers: pride, prosperity, investment, employment and the sharing out of the land and its bounty. Correspondingly they were hugely powerful, and thus were also respected and perhaps loved - these may be interlinked! There is a strong Gaelic bardic tradition of honouring Clan Chiefs and landowners through panegyric, or praise poems, celebrating their wisdom, generosity, handsomeness and valour in battle. Glengarry is no exception with numerous songs and poems written in honour of the traditional landowners - The MacDonells of Glengarry.



Coat of Arms and Clan Crest of the MacDonells of Glengarry

One of the most famous of these panegyric songs is Alasdair à Gleanna Garadh (Alasdair of Glengarry), written by the poet Sìleas na Ceapach (c. 1660-1729) to mourn the death in 1721 of her

kinsman Alastair Dubh, 11th Chief of the MacDonells. The song is notable for the way it links his personal virtues to the natural environment including likening

Alasdair Dubh to the manly and noble tree species, whilst distancing him from those trees associated with low status.

Bu tu 'n t-iubhar thar gach coillidh,  
Bu tu 'n darach daingeann làidir,  
Bu tu 'n cuileann 's bu tu 'n draigheann,  
Bu tu 'n t-abhall molach blàthmhor;  
Cha robh do dhàimh ris a' chritheann  
No do dhligheadh ris an fheàrna;  
Cha robh bheag ionnad den leamhan;  
Bu tu leannan nam ban àlainn.

You were the yew above every forest,  
You were the strong steadfast oak,  
You were the holly and the black-thorn,  
You were the apple-tree, rough-barked and  
many-flowered. You had no kinship with the aspen,  
Owed no bonds to the alder;  
There was none of the lime-tree in you;  
You were the darling of beautiful women.

Translator: Colm Ó Baoill - From The Great Book of Gaelic (Canongate, 2002)



The song's melody was collected by the Frasers of Knockie in the mid-1700s and first published by them in the Angus Fraser manuscript a century later. According to the Gaelic singer and scholar William Matheson, this tune was used exclusively for heroic or battle songs in 18th century Gaelic poetry by bards both before and after Sìleas' day. The song is beautifully sung here by Rachel Walker: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYkcLWcoWfo>

Alasdair Dubh's second son, Angus Òg MacDonell, was fostered by the Grants of Glenmoriston - a customary means of helping bind neighbouring clans in friendship. Glenmoriston bard Archibald Grant from Tom Bheallaidh was given the responsibility of bringing up Angus Òg and wrote at least 4 poems for his pupil / foster son, of whom he was evidently very fond. The Rev. Allan Sinclair in *The Grants of Glenmoriston* says that the below song, Bobadh 'us m' ansachd, is a morning lullaby to Angus Òg. As Alexander Macdonald says, "Now we fancy that we almost hear the good old Highlander breathing his strains anxiously and earnestly into the ears of the boy and saying ...."

Bobadh 'us m' ansachd, Gaul beag agus m' ansachd, Bobadh 'us m'ansachd, Moch an diugh, ho!	My love and my darling, My little love and my darling, My love and my darling, Early today, ho!
Bheir Aonghas a' Ghlinne Air a chinneadh comannda; Bobadh 'us m' ansachd, Moch an diugh, ho!	Angus of the Glen Will take command of his clan; My love and my beloved, Early today, ho!
Bheir sinn greis a's Tombealluidh, Air aran 'us amhlan; Bobadh 'us m' ansachd, Moch an diugh, ho!	We shall spend some time in Tom-Beallaidh, On bread and produce; My love and my beloved, Early today, ho!

Source and translation: *Story and Song from Loch Ness-side*, Alexander Macdonald (1914)

One of the most notable (infamous?) of the MacDonell chiefs was Colonel Alasdair Ranaldson MacDonell (1773 – 1828). Known as "Glengarry", he regarded and styled himself as one of the last true Highland chiefs, swathing himself literally (and metaphorically) in tartan, adorned with sword and pair of pistols, and followed everywhere by a band of loyal retainers. However, whilst portraying himself as the guardian of Highlanders and their way of life, he (and his mother Marjory, acting on his behalf) was also one of the first (and most ruthless) of the Highland landlords to undertake large-scale clearance of tenants to make way for the more financially lucrative sheep. In 1785, following his broken promise made to Glengarry men to lease land in return for enlistment in the 76th Regiment,

500 people emigrated to Glengarry County, Ontario. Clearances at the hands of the MacDonells of Glengarry took place from the 1780s right through to the 1830s when they sold their land, and as such, they can be seen as being largely responsible for the current lack of population of their traditional lands of Glengarry, Glen Quoich and Knoydart. Although his friends praised his kindness and loyalty, few at the time denied Glengarry's arrogance, entitlement and immense sense of his own importance. And it is fair to say that posterity has not looked upon him kindly.



MacDonell of Glengarry by Henry Raeburn (1812)

On 17th January 1828, Glengarry was on a steamer on Loch Linnhe heading to Edinburgh when the ship was wrecked in a storm. The Chief jumped from the ship but hit his head on a rock and died later that night. According to press reports, 1,650 men made the five-mile funeral procession from Invergarry to the burial site at Kilfinnan with Glengarry's coffin being carried by 18 Highlanders.

For all his many undoubted faults, Glengarry was certainly a generous supporter of the traditional arts and his retinue included many retained musicians and poets.

"Glengarry's family have always been celebrated for supporting the dignity of a Highland chief, and for keeping up a retinue of minstrels; hence the tendency of minstrels to celebrate their patrons. Glengarry's late piper, his blind bard and minstrel, and Neil Kennedy, his late fox-hunter, have all been listened to with much pleasure by competent judges" (Captain Simon Fraser Collection, 1816).

Through their works we have a very rich inheritance of Gaelic song, pipe music and fiddle tunes associated with him and the area. Foremost of these are the works of blind Gaelic poet Alan MacDougall (ca. 1750-1829) - or Ailean Dall as he is known. Originally a travelling tailor from Glencoe, he lost his sight in an altercation and thereafter made his living as a musician and bard. His

fame grew after moving to Inverlochy in the 1780s, but it was only when he accepted the patronage of Glengarry that his future became secure. He produced two collections of his work - the first around 1790 and the second published just after his death. In this second book are to be found many of his songs and poems relating to the people and places of his new home in Glengarry. Foremost amongst these songs are those dedicated to his benefactor, Colonel Alasdair MacDonell.

**Faigh a-nuas dhuinn am botal** (Fetch down the bottle) is a toasting song in praise of Colonel Alasdair MacDonell of Glengarry containing much detail of his skill as a hunter and describing his bravery when leading his men in battle.

<p>Faigh a nuas dhuinn am botal,  'S théid an deoch so mu `n cuairt,  Lìon barrach an copan,  'S cùm socrach a chuach;  Tosda Choirneil na féile  Leis an éireadh gach buaidh,  Oighre Chnoideart a bharraich,  'S Ghlinn-garaidh bho thuath.</p>	<p>Fetch down for us the bottle,  And let the drink go round,  Fill the cup to the brim,  Keep steady the quaich;  Health to the generous Colonel,  With whom be every success,  Heir to Knoydart of the lofty trees,  And Glengarry to the north.</p>
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Translation: Frances Tolmie (1840 - 1926)

It is sung here by Calum Johnston of Barra. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdw-Btaw5SI>

It should be noted however that Ailean Dall was well aware who paid for his keep and was painting a slightly flattering picture/using poetic license - Glengarry, whilst the founding Colonel of the Glengarry Fencibles, was never actually engaged in any military conflict.

**TO BE CONTINUED**





# Monster Paddle Board Challenge

At 6am on the 6th of May 2024 we arrived at Loch End ready to set out on our monster paddle board/kayak challenge. The loch was pretty eerie looking covered in a blanket mist but this didn't put us off. After Derek woke the whole neighbourhood with his electric pump, we set off into the mist. The conditions on the water couldn't have been better, not a breath of wind and no swell. It was so quiet and peaceful, well it was till we showed up! Before we knew it, we had reached Urquhart Castle where the mist started to clear. All of a sudden we hear people shouting Derek's name. It turned out some of his supporters were disappointing tourists by pointing out that it was a paddle boarder they were seeing and not the monster! We reached the halfway point and noticed a few more boats on the water so we switched sides from Drum to Foyers. You really don't appreciate how big the loch is until you are right in the middle of it.....Did you know that Loch Ness is 23 miles long and holds an estimated 263 billion cubic feet of water and at the deepest points, it is up to 800 feet deep!

We stopped briefly at Foyers for a comfort break and a bite to eat. At this stage, Derek's legs were starting to cramp up and his arms were aching, I was suffering from a numb bum and aching shoulders but we kept going. We hit Invermoriston where our parents were cheering us on or maybe checking up on us. It seemed to take ages to pass the familiar sights around Invermoriston but eventually we could see the welcome sight of Borlum Bay and to our surprise, a group of family and friends had gathered to welcome us home.

At 3pm we hit the shore after 8 ½ hours on the water. All of this effort and hard work was down to Derek Steele. It was his big idea to raise vital funds for Highland Top Team, so his kids and their teammates can travel to the Elite Brazilian Jiu Jitsu junior world championship in Wolverhampton in July. So far the total sits at £2400. We would like to thank everyone for their kind support and donations.

Susan Macrae and Derek Steele



# Announcements

## Marriages



Christina Stephenson married Christopher McRobbie on the 24th of February 2024 at Achnagairn, Kirkhill.



Ailsa Hosie and Iain Todd. Married at Cardney Estate, Dunkeld on the 20th of April 2024 surrounded by wonderful family and friends.

## Deaths



**Margaret (Magga) Ellen Prise** passed away peacefully at home on the 14th April, loving wife to the late Bill and mother to Derek, Myra and son-in-law, Frank. She was born on 27th September 1932 in Farr and came to Fort Augustus at 6 weeks old. She lived at Market Hill where her granny and grandad brought her up as her mother had to go out to work. Magga had very little English when she went to school as Gaelic was her first language which her grandparents spoke.

After leaving school, she went to work at Levishie in Glenmoriston where she met Bill at a dance. They were married in September 1950 and stayed at Market Hill when Derek was born and then moved to 6 Abertarff Place as the first residents, then three years

later Myra was born. When the children were older, Magga went to work at the Golf View Restaurant, then waitressed in most of the local hotels. Later, her and Arthur Vickers ran the local mobile fish and chip van for a few years before she started working in the laundry and boys' dormitories in the Abbey. She spoilt the boys and was known as Mrs.P; some remained in contact after, with Roddy and Vincent Igoe and Paul Walker always visiting her when in the area. She also did B&B at her house for a few years.

She was a beautiful dancer, a good bowls player and loved going abroad for sunny holidays. She also liked playing Bingo on Saturday nights in the Legion and having a couple of drams. The highlight of her week was getting up on a Sunday morning, getting dressed up and going down to Mass at the Abbey.

She looked after her husband, Bill very well whilst he had Alzheimer's before passing away in April 2004.

A special thank you goes to the 3 Glens Sunflower Carers and Morag Dallas for their care and looking after her so well as we could not have done it without them.

She will be remembered for her long and well-lived life.

Derek, Myra and Frank

## FERGIE MACDONALD MBE (THE CEILIDH KING)

Fergie was born in Glasgow's Rotten Row Hospital, one might ask how this man associated with the West Highlands of Scotland came to be born in Glasgow. A few years before Fergie was born, his mother Mima went through a very difficult birth at home with the arrival of his sister, Dulcie who sadly died at birth. When it was almost time for Fergie's arrival, the local doctor, sent his mother to Glasgow in good time to be sure of a safe arrival. On the 24th April 1937 and named after the doctor, 'Duncan Ferguson Macdonald' was born, aka Fergie!

Brought up on the croft in Mingarry, Moidart with his parents John 'Ton' Macdonald and Mima Macdonald, Fergie was educated in Mingarry Primary then onto Fort William High School. Fergie had no English whatsoever up until he went to school with Gaelic being his first language. Gaelic was an immense help throughout his career, personally and musically. He always felt his music revolved around Gaelic language and culture in that he always put the words to the music and played the way it would be traditionally sung, especially the Gaelic waltzes.

Fergie was one of Scottish Traditional Music's most inspirational figures. A world renowned button key accordionist and composer, known for his unique style in traditional music. Unable to read or write music, Fergie broke away from 'Scottish Country Dance Music' in the early 60s and went on to popularise and introduce his own unique style of highland traditional ceilidh music. Due to this popularity, fans and fellow musicians affectionately gave Fergie the title, 'The Ceilidh King'.

Some of his proud achievements:

- First Band created in 1953, followed by his first BBC radio broadcast and television appearance in 1964
- Number one hit in the Scottish Music Charts with 'Loch Maree Islands', written by Kenneth Mackenzie in 1966
- Number one within 24 hours in the world music iTunes charts with hit song 'The Shinty Referee' in 2014
- Inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame in 2006
- 14 Caps representing Scotland in Clay Target Shooting DTL
- Number one best seller in Scotland book 2006 – Memoirs of a musical legend



- The Moidart Sniper – book written about his father’s WW1 experience
- Over 50/singles albums
- Awarded an MBE in the 2021 New Year’s honours list in recognition for his services to Scottish Traditional Music
- Multiple BBC Take The Floor broadcasts - last broadcast December 31st 2022 at the age of 84
- Multiple television appearances with the BBC and STV over a career of 70 years

It’s impossible to cover every aspect of Fergie’s life. He had many hobbies and professions, composer, writer, hotelier, physiotherapist, clay target shooting internationalist, army PT instructor, singer, highland games athlete, Moidart historian, deer stalker, there is no end! And that’s only the professions and hobbies the world knows about!! However, his biggest achievement in life and most cherished was his family. Meeting Maureen (then Clark) in the Coffee House in Fort Augustus where she was working at the time, Fergie had gone in one afternoon and on his way out left a note for Maureen. It read, ‘meet me in the car park at 7.30pm...nice legs...F xx

True Fergie style! They would go on to create and run The Clanranald Hotel for almost 30 years, and become the first husband and wife to represent Scotland in clay target DTL at international level, travelling all over the UK and Ireland.

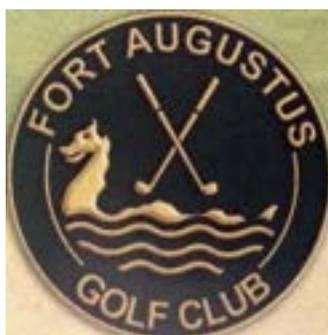
Fergie leaves an amazing legacy and imprint in the world of traditional music and all who knew and met him. He was instantly your friend and full of encouragement.

He will be remembered for his kindness and character, and there is always a ‘Fergie story’. He was immensely honoured to have had a career over 70 years and so grateful to his loyal fans who followed him through his career.

He was the supreme example of how to live life to full while remaining grounded and hard working.

Maureen, James, Angie, John and Morven would like to thank everyone near and far for the support, tributes and kindness they have received.

Fergie’s aim was to get people up on the floor, and that was one of his last wishes...keep dancing!



# Fort Augustus Golf Club celebrates 120 years of golf & 100 years on the current course

We are proud to announce we are celebrating 120 years of Golf and 100 years on the current site this year.

We will be holding some events throughout this year which will involve some special events. The 100 years centenary open on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, inviting some golf clubs to come along and play here on the 11<sup>th</sup> August. On the 31<sup>st</sup> August, a dinner dance has been booked and this will be open to the residents of Fort Augustus to come and join us celebrate. Information on cost and how to obtain a ticket will be announced in the near future.

D. Mackay  
Fort Augustus Golf Club.



## ‘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 social isolation of people in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, or social circumstances.

**CONTACT** our development officer:  
07507627990  
[contact@3glenscare.org](mailto:contact@3glenscare.org)  
[www.3glenscare.org](http://www.3glenscare.org)

### New Handyperson Service – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The Handyperson Service is working well. Word is getting around and 5 requests for small jobs have been successfully completed to date.

Examples: lowering a wardrobe rail,  
installing a carbon monoxide alarm on ceiling,  
re-balancing a wobbly washing machine,  
moving furniture/appliances for Spring Cleaning  
(we don't do the cleaning, sorry!)  
putting things in/out of loft.

Nothing too complicated, but often no longer practical or safe for those of us of advanced years. *Thank you to all our volunteers.*

### AGM – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

We were pleased with a good turnout. Kaye gave a short talk and question/answer session on the new Handyperson Service. A TV screen presentation of 3 Glens work and services was shown. We kept the AGM business as brief as possible.

**Questions: Prescription Delivery.** Kaye has researched in detail, consulting local pharmacist and others. Various difficulties arise. More research necessary. **Community Transport.** Potentially a big project. Lots of work to do on this. Both would rely heavily on volunteers. More understanding of availability of Community Minibus based on the Fort Augustus schools campus.

A pleasant, social afternoon, enjoying tea, homemade scones, and cakes - of course!

### Introducing our new Development Officer & Services Coordinator

Kaye has been our Development Officer for 2 ½ years. She leaves us in June as she is moving away from the area. We thank her for her enthusiasm and professional approach to her work for 3 Glens CC. She has achieved a lot on our behalf, and we will miss her.

We welcome our new Development Officer & Services Coordinator - Beth Stewart. Beth has recently graduated from University of the West of Scotland and has considerable volunteering experience – including volunteer and service management. Beth is receiving a 3-week handover from Kaye to ensure that our two services continue to run smoothly.





# Fort Augustus Ladies Group

The last meeting for this Springtime was a real treat.

A cookery demonstration on how to make a lemon frosted cake by Veronica Sandham, and of course there was 'one I made earlier' to enjoy with our tea.

Veronica and her family are well know in Fort Augustus and Invergarry for previously owning and running the shop at The Well Of The Seven Heads. Veronica had some interesting stories about her experiences from attending catering college to places she has worked and people she has catered for in the past. She ran a very successful cafe before moving to Scotland. She now bakes for many local functions and private individuals.

Ladies Group have had an enjoyable year of meetings and outings. Afternoon tea at Dochfour and a three course dinner at Jaggy Thistle proving very popular. We have had several interesting and informative talks and quizzes throughout the year. Any suggestions for a future programme would be welcome. Please feel free to come along and join the ladies for a light hearted afternoons entertainment. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st September at 2.30pm.

# Cill Chuimein Heritage Group

The tree planted to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee now has an ornamental tree guard and plaque. This was purchased last Autumn from Black Country Ironworks and has been placed around the tree as a protection from deer and rabbits. The tree, a Whitebeam, is looking very healthy and is flowering at present. Take a look as you pass by and you will find it complements the colours of the flowering cherries planted around the area.



The Committee has been involved in discussions with heritage groups across the Highland area who have been facing similar problems of organisation as us. It has been decided to follow their example and run the group on a more informal basis. There will be no annual membership fees. At the AGM, the constitution changes were proposed to facilitate those changes. We will be holding our meetings at a weekend or on an evening to see how many members and visitors find this easier. Hopefully, we can work out what arrangements are most convenient to enable people who work to come along.

Following our talk from the ever popular speaker, Pete Moore from Butterfly Conservation in May, our next meeting will be in September after the summer recess. This will be a coffee morning with our Archive exhibition display and some unusual objects to view.

November brings Roland Spencer-Jones from N.O.S.A.S. back to talk to us. Our Christmas meeting will be as usual a celebration of Christmas with seasonal reading and stories along with refreshments, mince pies and Christmas cake.

# Fort Augustus Parish Church

FORT AUGUSTUS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

SCO22637

Reverend Anthony M. Jones, BD (Hons), D.P.S., D.Theol, Cert Min (Oxon), F.R.S.A.  
Church of Scotland Manse,  
Fort Augustus.  
PH32 4BH

tel: 01320 366210 follow us at [www.greatglenchurches.co.uk](http://www.greatglenchurches.co.uk) and [facebook@Fort Augustus Parish Church](https://www.facebook.com/FortAugustusParishChurch)

May, 2024

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2. 1-4

Dear Friends,

This is the season of Pentecost. The reading above is for Pentecost or, Whitsunday. This is when we remember the Holy Spirit coming upon the first disciples. The Holy Spirit breathed on the friends of Jesus and, they became as 'new' people. They experienced a new life and power, new energy and strength to spread the good news of Jesus. Pentecost is traditionally a time when we welcome new members into the Church. This we have done each year and, we rejoice that this year is no exception. On Sunday 19th May, there will be a Service of Confirmation for Bartholomew Jones. I look forward to welcoming my youngest son Barty 'officially' as a member of the Church of Scotland. He has been attending church faithfully with the family every week for all his young life. Please do come along and give your support for him in this his step of faith and for all the church on this special happy day.

May is a busy month. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland meets for business from 18th to 24th May in Edinburgh. Please remember the National Church in your prayers at this time. On Saturday 18th May between 10am and 2pm, the annual Abriachan Plant Sale is on at Fort Augustus Church. This is always a good opportunity to find those fresh shrubs, plants and flowers for your home and gardens. Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall. On Friday 24th May at 7pm in the Church Hall there is another popular Film Club Night. The 70th anniversary of J.B. Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' with Alastair Sim and, the classic railway comedy 'The Titfield Thunderbolt' with John Gregson. Everyone welcome.

On Friday 31st May at 7pm in the Church Hall, you are invited to a Social/Ceilidh Evening. Friends of the Church will be sharing their talent and entertaining us with music, singing, poetry and more. Please do come along and enjoy what promises to be a memorable night.

Fort Augustus Church are having a 'STRAWBERRY TEA' in the grounds of the Church (Hall if weather inclement!) on Sunday 30th June from 2pm to 4pm. All Welcome.

Reverend Anthony



**Nursery:** This term, our Nursery class have been learning about 'spring'. The children have been looking for any signs of new life in our local environment including newborn lambs, buds on trees and early spring flowers. They have created a lovely display in school with some beautiful artwork to celebrate this lovely time of year. Some of our Nursery children are also looking forward to their ongoing transition into P1 which will culminate in their 'Graduation from Nursery' later this term.



**Primary:** Our P1/2 pupils have been exploring different forces. By looking at the world around us we started to build a picture of how forces impact our daily lives. We created parachutes to show the effects of air resistance and dropped them from the top of the climbing bars in the hall. We created experiments with toy cars to test the force of friction on different surfaces. And we even painted a picture using gravity by dipping a ball in paint and dropping it on a piece of paper to see the different patterns it created.



In P3/4/5, we have been enjoying lots of art this term with Miss Payne from the Academy. We have been drawing, painting and collaging farm animals which has been lots of fun. We have also enjoyed visits from the Ness Fishery Board when we have been learning about fish and fishing. This fantastic learning experience will culminate in a field trip to the river Tarff later in the term. We have also enjoyed a visit from our local police officer who talked to the children about keeping safe online.

The P6/7s class have continued our learning about Ancient Egypt. We have made some Egyptian masks and even wrapped some of our class up as mummies! We have also continued with our transition events which will include the much anticipated P7 trip to Edinburgh in June. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to spend three days in our capital city with lots of amazing activities including the 'Chocolaterium', the 'Dungeons' and, of course, Edinburgh Castle.





**Eco Committee:** A few members of the school Eco Committee were out in the sunshine admiring the bedding plants Keith, the school janitor had kindly planted around the school grounds. He spoke to the children on how to care for them and they learnt about watering needs and dead heading the flowers to help new flowers grow.

Our thanks to the Friends of Kilchuimen Nursery & Primary School Parent Council and Kilchuimen Academy Parent Council for funding all the bedding plants and compost.

**Academy:** The senior pupils are currently following the SQA Examination calendar and sitting their National 5, Higher and Advance Higher exams and will shortly be looking forward to Leavers Assembly and School Dance.

On Friday 3rd May P6-7, S1-3 and some older pupils had a brilliant day at the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup at Nevis Range. The weather was absolutely fabulous, and the pupils were, as usual, a credit to the school.



### DYW at Kilchuimen Academy

This term, DYW have provided an alternative study leave programme for some of the senior pupils at Kilchuimen during the month of May. During this month, students have visits UHI (North, West & Hebrides), Coire Glas (SSE renewables), UHI (Inverness) and the Mountain Bike World Cup (Nevis Range). The highlight of the programme has been the "Farm to Fork" Project. DYW working in partnership with RHET have created a project that focuses on the journey of food: sheep & wool. It has included visits to Balnagown Estate, Dingwall & Highland Marts & Borlum Farm, cooking lamb with a professional chef and working with wool.



If you are a local business interested in finding out more about Developing the Young Workforce please contact Rebecca Masson(DYW coordinator):

Email: [Rebecca.Masson@lochaberchamber.co.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Masson@lochaberchamber.co.uk)





## Invergarry Primary School News

We have had a busy few months at Invergarry Primary School, starting with a visit from American fantasy author, John Wells. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to John speak about his experiences and have been inspired to work on their own fantasy stories in class. Some of the children read excerpts from their writing at the Easter Celebration at Glengarry Parish Church.

Our P5-7 class also entered the Young Writers poetry competition and each child's entry was selected to be published - it seems we have some talented young writers in our midst! On March 18th we headed to Fort William to take part in the Lochaber Music Festival. We had entries in the solo verse, action dramatised song, poem recital, piano, strings and singing. All of our children performed very well, and P1-4 were proud to win a trophy for their rendition of 'We've all got Rights'. Lina and Rhiannon both also won in their categories - well done to them both!

We have had some wonderful sporting successes this term too, with our P5-7 class bringing back trophies for winning the small schools section of the swimming gala and the inter school sports in Fort William. Outside of school, some of our pupils have been involved in the UHI Shinty tournament and have had successes in TaeKwon-do - very well done to them. STEM has been a big focus for us this term, with workshops on energy, engineering, maths and fisheries. A STEM Coordinator from UHI came to do a workshop on electrical circuits and batteries and showed our P1-4's how to make a battery with a lemon! Thanks also to Chris from Ness District Salmon Fishery Board for coming in; both classes really enjoyed the fisheries workshops - especially the river visit.

The primary and nursery children have had great fun attending The Craic at Glengarry Community Hall last term. A delicious lunch, followed by games and a bit of craic brightened up our Wednesday afternoons. We were delighted to return the hospitality when we invited The Craic to school on 26th April; a great time was had by all! The nursery children have been making use of the outdoors this term, planting flowers and vegetables in the garden, which they will cook with and enter into the produce show. You may have seen us out and about in the community, on trips to the petrol station, Post Office, playpark, library van, hall cafe and on walks. The children have been going on scavenger hunts - a minibeast one lately - and have made use of our wonderful school grounds. We look forward to another busy year to come in nursery.

Our new after school Gardening Club has been popular with children from both classes this term, with children growing flowers and vegetables; thank you to Mrs Cameron for running this. The children have also had the opportunity to attend after school dance sessions led by former pupil, Lucy Bloom - many thanks, Lucy! Some of our wonderful parents arranged a beetle drive on 22nd March which raised funds to go towards various things, including the upcoming P6 and 7 trip to Edinburgh and the P7 leavers hoodies. Thank you to them and the Parent Council for their support with raising funds for our school. We're hoping to have news next term of a special outdoor project that we have collectively been working on for a while - watch this space, and check the Invergarry Primary Rocks Facebook page for updates. As a holder of the Bronze Rights Respecting School Award, granted by UNICEF UK, our children have been learning about the rights of the child and, with staff, have been working very hard towards gaining the silver award. We hope to be able to share more about this next term.

We'll be finishing off the term with a few events: a school fair will be held on Thursday 20th June from 1.30pm, which the community are invited to attend - we will have a tombola and other stalls, plus teas, coffees and scones! We are hoping for some good



weather for sports day on 21st June this year - thanks to Glengarry Shinty Club for allowing us to use their pitch again. The 25th June will be a Fun Day for the children, which is set to be magical!

Finally, our leavers assembly this year will take place at the Glengarry Community Hall and we would like to invite the community to come along and help us say farewell to our P7's. School will close for the summer holidays at 12.30pm on Thursday 27th June for a well-earned break for children and staff alike. Wishing you all a wonderful summer from all at Invergarry Primary School.



**SCOTTISH  
MEN'S SHEDS  
ASSOCIATION**

## Mens Shed

Latest news from the Fort Augustus branch of the Men's Shed

It is a little while since we have updated the situation regarding the progression of the Fort Augustus Men's Shed. The main reason for this is that progress has been slow with regard to acquiring any sort of premises in which we can meet. That is to say: a building wherein we can pursue any pastimes, hobbies and other activities that are of particular interest to men. Several property options and sites have been pursued but they have either failed to be viable or they have been deemed to be unsuitable. They may also have been allocated for other uses or they have simply not had sufficient support to move them forward with any degree of priority.

The Men's Shed is an international organisation that aims to enable men of all ages and circumstances to meet together in order to develop and maintain comradeship and mutual support and to participate in joint activities at a local level. We consider this to be a necessary service for our community and a positive contribution to the well being of men's health, with particular regard to those elements of social interaction, friendship and mutual support. These principles are very much in line with many of the government's health initiatives for men.

However, building or no building the Men's Shed continues to thrive with as much vigour as ever. So... if anyone is interested in joining the organisation or simply chewing the fat over a hot bevvy, we still meet every Wednesday morning at 10:30am in the Caledonian Canal Café in Fort Augustus where all men are welcome to join us for a friendly hour and a chat.

If you wish to contact us our current email address is: [ftaugmshed@outlook.com](mailto:ftaugmshed@outlook.com)

Any further information regarding Men's Sheds can be found at:  
Scottish Men's Sheds Association  
Banchory Business Centre, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 5ZU  
Email: [info@scottishmsa.org.uk](mailto:info@scottishmsa.org.uk)  
[www.scottishmsa.org.uk](http://www.scottishmsa.org.uk)

To contact the Community Company, call 01320 366800  
or email [contact@communitycompany.co.uk](mailto:contact@communitycompany.co.uk)  
Follow us on Facebook to keep up with all the news.

### Soup and Sandwich Days

The Soup and Sandwich Days are running every second and fourth Wednesday of month at Fort Augustus Village Hall.

Arranged by Helen Clay and a small team of volunteers, the Soup and Sandwich Days are free for anyone in the community although donations are gladly accepted.

So far, Helen and the team have collected £164.49 for Highland Hospice, £270 for the MS Society and £180.23 for 3-Glens Community Care.

Helen, successfully secured £486 funding from the Community Company, planned the days, and arranged the team for prepping the sandwiches, making the soup and the tea and cakes that of course come along with it.

The funds were used to bring in additional equipment such as the soup pot and blender. The team also use the funds to buy the food and ingredients from Tarff Trading.

The days were initially planned to run for two months, but their popularity was evidence that the community enjoys and benefits from them. So, Helen and the team secured further funding of £4,291.97 for more equipment, including a dishwasher and large fridge/freezer and to ensure food ingredients can be provided for the coming months meaning the days can continue.

A massive well done to Helen and the team for successfully organising and running the days, providing a warm, welcoming environment to everyone. And good luck to volunteer Jackie who was invaluable in setting it up and has now moved on to newer pastures.

Also thank you to the Bank of Scotland for agreeing to share the hall with the Soup and Sandwich Days.

If you haven't yet come along, it's recommended for the food, the company, and the fantastic atmosphere. It's also an opportunity to speak with the Community Banker.

### Community Open Day – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

The Community Company AGM is scheduled for November this year. That's a long time to wait to hear about what is happening right now. With that in mind we are organising an Open Day for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June from 10am till 12pm. This will be an opportunity to find out a little more about who has successfully secured funding and what projects are underway within the community.

We do hope that you will come along and find out more about what has been happening.



## Community Action Plan

The Community Action Plan foundation work has been entrusted to consultant Nick Wright, who will be working hard to make sure your voice is heard.

This gives the community the opportunity to tell us what they want for the village such as facilities, communal areas, work and to address issues that are important such as housing, transport, and recreation.

Nick will work with various groups in the community establishing future priorities. Look out for community engagement events across the communities to make sure you take the chance to put your ideas over, and to discuss these vital issues that affect our communities.

You can scan the QR code which will take you straight to the survey online. Alternatively, paper surveys will be available in a range of outlets, as will drop boxes for completed surveys.

The Community Company and Community Council want to make sure everyone has the chance to have their say on what happens next.



## Grants

**Ness District Fisheries Board** wanted to teach P3 to P5 pupils at Kilchuimen Primary School about the water all around them. The Fishery Board managed to secure a grant of £1,519.98 from the Community Company towards the project. The special sessions are focusing on Loch Ness and its uses, the Water Cycle, Animals of Loch Ness and the Atlantic Salmon.



**Lyndsey Surkitt** applied to the Community Company for £1,000 towards the costs of buying and installing audio visual equipment at Millennium Hall. The equipment is available for hall users and is expected to be especially helpful for activities such as dancing groups and meditation among others.

Lyndsey worked with Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association to select the preferred equipment and to arrange installation.

Thanks to Lyndsey and the board at GMHCA for organising and putting the grant to good use.

**If you have a community benefit project or a group to start, then consider the Community Company for funding. Give us a call on 01320 366800 for more information. We're here to help.**

**Kilchuimen Primary Parent Council** secured £4,578 to help fund June activities including a trip to Dundreggan and a trip to Edinburgh. This will benefit many school children from across our community providing the experience of travelling with friends and promoting independence. Congratulations to everyone involved in arranging the trips and for securing funding from the Community Company.



**Kilchuimen Academy** organised for seventeen senior students and two teachers to travel to London for an educational trip. Pupils studying a combination of Modern Studies, Design and Manufacturing and Graphics Communication enjoyed the two-day trip. Kilchuimen Academy sought and secured £2,866 in funding from the Community Company.

The students taking part in the trip brought back memories to last a lifetime in this educational and fun filled trip. Head teacher Yvonne Walker told the Community Company;

*“The trip was a success, filled with engaging and educational activities that all the pupils enjoyed. Visiting iconic landmarks such as the London Eye, the Natural History Museum, visiting the Design Museum, and going on a guided tour of Parliament, provided the pupils opportunities to develop and improve the knowledge gained within the classroom. Seeing real world applications of the knowledge and skills they have been developing, seemed to encourage them to ask questions and want to learn more about various aspects of the itinerary locations.*

*Once again, thank you for your generosity and belief in our goal to provide learning experiences for our pupils.”*



Congratulations to everyone involved with organising such a successful trip.

### Community Skip Days

The Community Skips, funded by the Community Company, will be available on the dates below.

- Invermoriston - **5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July**
- Dalchreichart - **5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July**
- Fort Augustus - **8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July**

There are strict regulations regarding acceptable items for the skips. A good rule of thumb is to avoid discarding fabrics into the skips; these will be deemed as fire retardant materials and will result in a large fine. Fridge/freezers, asbestos and liquids including paint, and tyres are unacceptable.

If you need to check if your items to be discarded are suitable for Bowman’s Skips, then please call 01320 366800 or email [contact@communitycompany.co.uk](mailto:contact@communitycompany.co.uk). Alternatively, Bowmans are very helpful in providing information on acceptable items and can be called on 01397 722218.

### Student Grants

With the new academic year starting in September, don’t forget we offer a student grant to help with all those expenses. Full details and the application form are on our website.

[www.communitycompany.co.uk](http://www.communitycompany.co.uk)

## Community Caretakers - Spring update from Glen Campbell

Well Spring has certainly sprung; or has it sprang? I'll leave you to decide the appropriate verb and just get on with it.

It's hit the caretaking team with a vengeance excelling vigorous growth everywhere and anywhere. Our efforts to tame such growth is beating us at the moment but we are always chasing its heels; and I would be happy with a draw at the end of the season.

The usual seasonal waste volume is trending with visiting tourists from all over the planet, asking the same questions like; 'Excuse me Sir, are there toilets nearby?', but in another accent. It sometimes enters my head that I really should put the effort in to learn a different language but then thankfully the thought goes out the other end as quick as it came in.

The team have been delighted by small achievements this year so far, such as the floral displays at the toilet block and main carpark, having some usable home-made compost from our community area for projects and enrichment, enjoying the cherry blossom on the specimen trees on Cali Brae and delighting in controlling a few "*pesky wabbits*" that are unwanted in appropriate places!

This year we are also grateful for some volunteer help from the one and only Mr Robert Ramsay who has kindly taken on the responsibility of maintaining Kirton Memorial Garden. He's really doing a sterling job and looking forward to the new bedding plants arriving to add some colour.

Future larger project plans include improving cemetery paths and controlling imposing dominant trees, fixing collapsing dry-stone dykes, and building on a workable plan for our very popular community composting site. However, mean time, there's a never-ending standard maintenance plan to work through week on week; so, on that note Adios for now; there's jobs to do! *Glen*

## Tarff Trading

We're delighted to see the PayPoint facilities in the store have been popular with the community. Unfortunately, this is a cash only service. If we were to accept card payments Tarff Trading would have to pay the fees, as they earn very little from PayPoint for a transaction it would not cover the cost, so for now it is not viable to do this. Hopefully in the future this can be changed.

With signs of Summer fast approaching, our gardening range has everything you need to keep your garden tidy and up to date. And for those who enjoy barbecuing and a bit of dining al fresco, we have bistro furniture as beautifully demonstrated by the lovely Nigel enjoying a coffee.

Our new animal products range is proving really popular. It seems that lots of you have chickens, and that range sells fast. If you need a regular supply do let us know so we can keep an order for you.

Fresh produce and dairy products are always available, along with a range of cold meats and frozen food. We do our best to stock the lines the community want prioritised so let us know if you think we're missing something. The community store isn't a community store without your valued suggestions.



## Convent Land Update

Convent Land Development Officer Chris Rose is focusing on extending and developing the natural paths network on the Convent Land. Chris is seeking specialist guidance to make the path through the woods accessible for everyone without adversely impacting the woodland.

In the early consultations for the land, a children's play area was a popular suggestion. Chris is working with Kilchuimen Academy to gather the young people's ideas and to make sure their thoughts are represented. He is also working with experts in this field to establish an appropriate location and materials, to bring the adventure play park to life.

Planning permission can take some time to go through but Chris will keep pushing forward so everyone in the community can have the opportunity to enjoy the walks through the land and even perhaps enjoy some time to play!



*An image of the potential type of construction Chris is investigating.*

## Apprentices

Congratulations to Connor Kelly and Angus MacKinnon for successfully securing their apprenticeships and starting their careers in this community.

Connor was working part-time at the Lovat Hotel and enjoyed it so much that he was delighted to accept an offer to kickstart his career in hospitality with them. The Lovat Hotel was delighted at the opportunity to bring Connor on board as an apprentice; an apprenticeship which will see Connor have access to some prestigious hospitality courses. Thank you to Caroline at the Lovat Hotel for providing Connor with this fantastic opportunity.



Angus MacKinnon has obtained a three-year apprenticeship with C.F.Electrical which will result in Angus being a fully qualified electrician.

Both apprenticeships are supported by funding from the Community Company. We wish them the best of luck with their apprenticeships. And thank you to Caroline at the Lovat and Cameron of C.F.Electrical for giving Connor and Angus the opportunity to kickstart their careers.

Interestingly, Cameron of C.F Electrical, started his own career by successfully completing a Community Company funded apprenticeship. A huge thanks to Cameron for taking Angus under his wing.

Best of luck to Connor and Angus for their training. We're looking forward to seeing how both develop in the coming months and years.

**Hot off the press! - Community Company is buying the Memorial Hall.**

Come along on the **22<sup>nd</sup> June** to find out more about plans for this space.



# Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council  
Draft Minutes of meeting held at the Memorial Hall,  
Fort Augustus on the 28th May 2024

Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)

Helen Clay - Vice Chair (HC)

Mike Anderson - Treasurer (MA)

Claire Pegrum - Secretary (CP)

Clare Levings (CL)

Jenny Findlay (JF)

Daniel Clark (DC)

Leanne Findlay (LF)

Cllr. Emma Knox (EK)

Minute Taker: Barty Jones

Ride Ness Presentation: Representatives from Ride Ness gave a presentation on their plans to build a bike park, explaining how it would benefit Fort Augustus. They also addressed any questions or concerns from the public. It is currently going through the planning application stage.

Statera Presentation (Loch Kemp): Representatives for Statera gave an update on how they are proposing to build and operate a new 600MW Pumped Storage Hydro scheme using the existing Loch Kemp as the upper storage reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir. Questions from the CC and public followed.

Previous Minutes:

Proposed by JF seconded by HC

Matters Arising:

Redburn Traffic - Ongoing

Janitor's House - Highland Council are prepared to undertake a community asset transfer with the Community Company if they are interested. - Ongoing

Glenmoriston Estates - Ongoing

Oich Road - Ongoing

Fort Augustus Public Toilets - Ongoing

Achnaconeran Road - DM has not heard anything back regarding Achnaconeran. She has asked about a sleeping policeman to reduce water going into nearby buildings.

Roads - The issue was raised about white and yellow lines and signs in need of re-painting around Fort Augustus especially at Tarff bridge. DM to contact HC.

Invermoriston Toilets - Ongoing

Battery Storage - Trying to find suitable contractors - Ongoing



Dog Fouling - If anyone sees somebody dog fouling, they are to get in touch with HC dog warden - Ongoing

A82 - DF notified DM regarding the situation with road closures at Invermoriston due to accidents and buses not going to the car park to pick up passengers. Stagecoach have come back stating that they will instruct their drivers to pick up passengers in the main car park. However, Citylink stated that their buses cannot safely turn in the car park and advised passengers to check live tracking on social media. DM has asked DF on how passengers without WiFi can access this information and on the size difference between Citylink and Stagecoach buses.

School Bus - DM raised a query that there is a school bus from Fort Augustus taking pupils to Glen Urquhart High School, Kilchuimen Academy Parent Council and teachers are wondering why this is happening and how this was initiated and why the same service is not provided for pupils going to Lochaber High School or coming from South Loch Ness to Kilchuimen.

#### Treasurer's Report:

The account balance is currently £5,930.15

#### Police Report:

CC has not received any kind of Police report as of yet.

#### Renewable Energy Projects:

Melgarve Cluster Project - SSE have submitted an application to Scottish Ministers for consent for the Melgarve Project. The CC are statutory consultees to Melgarve which is outside the area. CC submitted no comment.

Glen Earrach Energy Ltd - Have contacted the CC asking whether we want them to come to the next CC meeting as the vast majority of development is within Glenurquhart CC's area, CC declined. The HC also asked if the CC wanted to comment, no comments were submitted.

Tomchrasky - Highland Council have had a meeting and have no objection to it.

Bhlaraidh - The connection from Bhlaraidh to Dundreggan substation - The HC has no objection.

The CC has proposed hiring some professional help to negotiate payment amounts with the energy projects happening in the area.

#### Planning and Licensing Applications:

Planning Applications Validated 24/04/24 - 28/05/24

Ref: 24/01092/FUL

Location: Land 1200M East of Ardachy House, Fort Augustus

Proposal: Construction of mountain bike trail centre, hub building, cafe, retail, bike hire/store building; 40 motorhome pitches, 8 shepherd's huts; play areas; maintenance storage building, parking.

Applicant: Glendoe Limited

Notes: Need to respond to consultation by 06/06/24. Have asked HC for extension to 20/06/24. The CC are not formally objecting but have concerns about the Traffic and Visual Impact.

Ref: 24/01915/PNO

Location: Land 1500M SE of Meall A Cholumain Radio Station, Invergarry

Proposal: Peatland restoration

Applicant: Culachy Footprint Management Limited

Notes: Land on Culachy Estate.

Ref: 24/00754/FUL

Location: Land 250M NW of Netherwood Cottage, Invergarry

Proposal: Formation of temporary construction/site yard; siting of portable offices and accommodation; materials storage

Applicant: Balfour Beatty

Notes: Application is for four years. Development has taken place and is in use.

Ref: 24/01803/PNO

Location: Land 5830M SW Of SE Substation Bhlairidh, Glenmoriston Estate, North of Levishe Invermoriston

Proposal: Peat restoration works

Applicant: Trees for Life

Notes: Dundreggan Estate.

Ref: 24/02045/SCOP

Location: Northwest Side of Loch Ness, Approximately 9.5 Km to the South of Drumnadrochit & 6.5Km North Of Invermoriston

Proposal: Pumped storage hydro scheme Glen Earrach / Loch nam Breac Dearga

Applicant: Glen Earrach Energy Ltd

Notes: Most of development within Glenurquhart CC's area. Access track from A82 at Alltsigh within FA & GM CC's area.

Ref: 24/01071/PAN

Location: Land 3830M SE of Achlain Mhor, Glenmoriston

Proposal: Millennium East Wind Farm - Erection of 8 wind turbines, with a blade tip height of up to 200m; Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); associated infrastructure and ancillary development, site-specific measures to conserve, restore, and enhance biodiversity.

Applicant: Renantis UK Limited.

Ref: 24/01786/FUL

Location: Land 2KM NW of Farm Cottage, Tomchrasky Farm, Dalchreichart, Glenmoriston

Proposal: Erection of 100m high met mast

Applicant: EPower Ltd.

Community Amenity Issues:

Inchnacardoch Bay - DM has got a copy of the deed from 1984 and has sent it to the Community Company. MA went onto the site with David Campbell to look at risk assessments. It was recommended that CC replace signage with two other signs, one to do with the path to Cherry Island, notifying how difficult the path is to traverse, the other sign telling people who own it, who to report issues to, and that the CC will accept no liability for accidents, damages or losses incurred. It was also recommended that the pontoon needs to be removed as it is dangerous. MA will also increase the insurance to £5 million.

AOCB:

- CC discussed the idea of giving Welcome Packs to newcomers to the area, notifying them of what's going on in the community and what the community council/company does. A member of the public agreed to help out.



- HC has emailed Scottish Canals regarding the state of the canal. She has not heard back but has been notified that the paint is on its way. HC to email regarding the pontoon.
- Concern over the difficulty of turning at the Caledonian Canal Centre junction onto the A82, especially when the village becomes busier – Ongoing.
- Concerns have been raised that the online Housing Application Forms are very difficult to fill in. DM has paper copies of the form for those who need them, who will then have to send to the HC for them to put online. It was mentioned that you can phone HC welfare service and do it over the phone.
- CC discussed getting a Traffic Warden for the village and car park.
- MA informed the CC that the Highland Broadband is not happening in Invermoriston only in Fort Augustus which is different to what they told us at our last meeting.
- A give way sign is down at entrance to Millfield. DM to contact the HC.
- CC discussed whether there was a better system for road closures to notify people at Drumnadrochit if a road was going to be closed for a long time. DM to contact BEAR.
- CC have received correspondence about empty homes and what can be done about them.
- Kyle of Lochalsh Community Trust have produced a local place plan and asked if CC would like to comment, CC declined.
- The Community Company and CC are well underway with the local place plan with forthcoming events, posters and an advert in the Ness News which will have QR codes so you can do your planning, fill in your form there, where to get your forms and where to drop them off.
- Events are being held, one in the Legion on 17th June between 3.30-7pm where tea and coffee will be available and a pool competition. Other events will be held at Dalchreichart and in the Millennium Hall. More details will be in the Ness News.
- Breast Screening Clinic which will be coming around 24th July will be at the top car park.
- Issues raised over a lot of canoe companies starting up and blocking the pier, and leaving trailers/vans blocking access to pier. CC to contact the HC to repaint the double yellow lines.
- Concerns over the amount of dog walkers using the Green at Abertarff Place, which is a children's play area. Discussed getting a Children's Play Area sign and potentially sectioning off an area for dogs on Convent Wood land,

Next meeting is at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus  
on Wednesday, 26th June 2024 at 7.30 pm



# Notice Board




## THE GLENGARRY TRUST FUNDING AVAILABLE

Funding is available for organisations, groups and individuals operating or living in the Glengarry Community Council area. Applying is straightforward and there is help available if you need it.

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):

20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (for our meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June, also our AGM)  
 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (for our meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September)  
 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (for our meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December).

**We also have an Apprenticeship scheme – if you are leaving school this year 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)



## Recruiting in YOUR area

Can you give one or two evenings a week to help people in your community stay at home?  
 Looking for evening and weekend work? Look no further.

- Care at Home Worker: £12 - £12.50 /hour
- All training provided
- Travel time and mileage paid
- Supported and funded SVQ
- No experience needed for worker post
- Driving licence essential

For informal enquiries contact Vicki at [v.king@highlandshospice.org.uk](mailto:v.king@highlandshospice.org.uk) or call 07565 029017  
 Full job pack and application form at [www.highlandshospice.org/volunteers](http://www.highlandshospice.org/volunteers) or scan the QR code:




Highland Hospice Care is the Highland Hospice Care of Home services  
 Highland Hospice Care is a registered charity number 501010



## Proposed Loch Kemp Storage Scheme

Who are we?  
 Statera Energy develops and operates various technologies which help balance the grid, addressing the challenge of the intermittent nature of many renewables.

About the Project  
 We are the developer hoping to build Loch Kemp Storage - a pumped storage hydro scheme located on the southern shores of Loch Ness, near Whitebridge. The scheme would use Loch Kemp as the upper reservoir and Loch Ness as the lower reservoir and connect into the grid at Foyers substation.

Key Statistics

- 600MW
- 15hrs duration
- 1,000,000 homes powered

Once complete, the scheme will provide up to 25 long term, well paid and high skilled jobs in the local area. Its construction will inject £30 million into the Highland economy and a further £60 million into the wider Scottish economy. Over 350 people will be employed each year during the construction phase.

Issues  
 We appreciate there may be concerns from the local community about aspects of the scheme and we are happy to discuss these. Construction traffic, ecological impact and water levels in the loch are the main issues raised so far in community feedback

Construction  
 Our scheme has a lower construction impact than many pumped storage hydro schemes because we are able to expand the existing Loch Kemp rather than building a new reservoir. We will construct eight dams to contain the water in the upper reservoir of Loch Kemp. Most of the material from tunnelling and excavation will be retained on site and used in the dams, reducing the number of HGVs on the road. In addition, we plan to use the Caledonian Canal to bring in larger equipment, rather than transport by road.

Water levels in the loch  
 There are a number of hydro and pumped storage hydro schemes in operation or in planning within the Loch Ness or the wider Ness catchment upstream. The operation of all existing hydro and pumped storage hydro will influence the overall water levels on the Loch to some extent, however, the key driver of the loch level is seasonal weather/climatic conditions. One of the biggest threats to the loch, its ecology and the local communities and businesses who rely upon it, is climate change. The change in climate to wetter winters and drier summers is already making its mark and pumped storage hydro can be part of the solution.

There are strict regulations on how much water can be taken out of Loch Ness and how much water can be returned to it. A "stop pumping" level will prevent us taking any water out if levels are low and there is a start pumping level which could help to manage down the water levels, when needed.

Ecology  
 Part of the powerhouse building will impact on a small part of the Ness Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC). We have committed to restoring the remaining 236 hectares of the SAC to favourable status. It has been categorised as being in unfavourable condition for many years.

Further information  
 If you have any questions on the project please visit our website [www.lochkempstorage.co.uk](http://www.lochkempstorage.co.uk) or email [contact@lochkempstorage.co.uk](mailto:contact@lochkempstorage.co.uk). Or you can phone 0141 2642831.

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 80 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL  
 Registered in England and Wales No: 09840486  
 VAT number: 234 9362 96

## Junior Shinty Training

Glengarry Shinty Pitch  
 Monday evenings

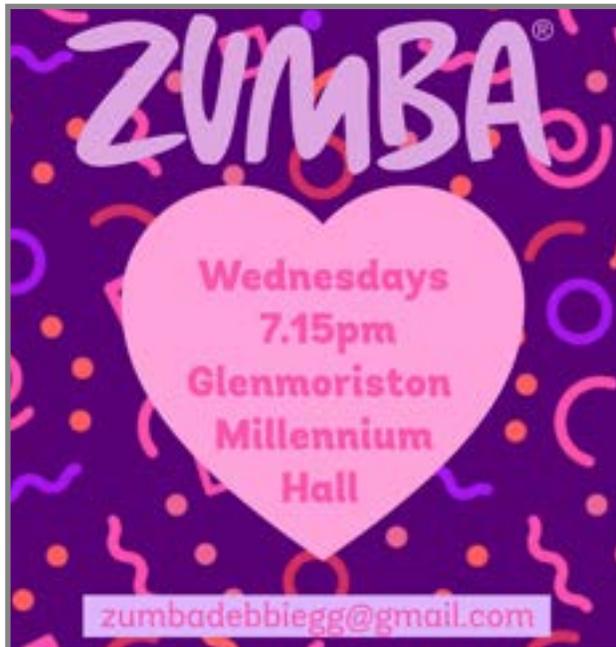
Primary 1 – 3    6pm – 6:30pm  
 Primary 4 – U17s    6:30pm – 7:30pm



New faces welcome

P1-3 £1    p4+ £2    Skin guards essential - available to buy from us

# Notice Board



**ZUMBA®**

Wednesdays  
7.15pm  
Glenmoriston  
Millennium  
Hall

[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.

## Bus to Fort William

\*\*\* Open to all ages \*\*\*

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

£3

Departing Fort Augustus Car Park 0945

Police Station 0950

Abertarff Place 0955

Newton 1005

Invergarry 1015

Leaving Fort William 1330

Return to Fort Augustus 1450 approx

Shopmobility scooters available. Please ask when booking.

To book please telephone

Jenny: 01320 366438

Fort Augustus  
Senior Citizens' Association



## COMMUNITY SOUP & SANDWICHES Wednesday

26th June, 10th & 24th

July 12.00 – 14.00

Fort Augustus Village Hall



For more information contact Helen on 07359 083997

Donations welcome for the MS Society

Thanks to



# Notice Board



## What next for Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston?

Since our 2018 community plan, the community has achieved a lot.

But there is still plenty to tackle - leisure facilities, managing tourism, parking, housing and much more besides.

What should we as a community focus on?

That's up to you! Your ideas will create a new community plan over the new few months - to guide community investment & public services for years to come.

- ✓ NEW MEDICAL CENTRE
- ✓ SUNFLOWER HOME CARE
- ✓ NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES
- ✓ REFURBISHING DALCHREICHART HUB
- ✓ INVERMORISTON PLAYPARK
- ✓ COMMUNITY SHOPS

## Tell us your priorities

Only got 5 minutes?

Use the QR code or this link:

[bit.ly/FAaGsurvey](https://bit.ly/FAaGsurvey)



Fancy a chat and a cuppa?

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm-4:30pm  
Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 3:30pm-7pm  
Fort Augustus Legion, Canal Side

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-1pm  
Dalchriechart Hub (coffee morning)

