

Ness News

Community News & Events

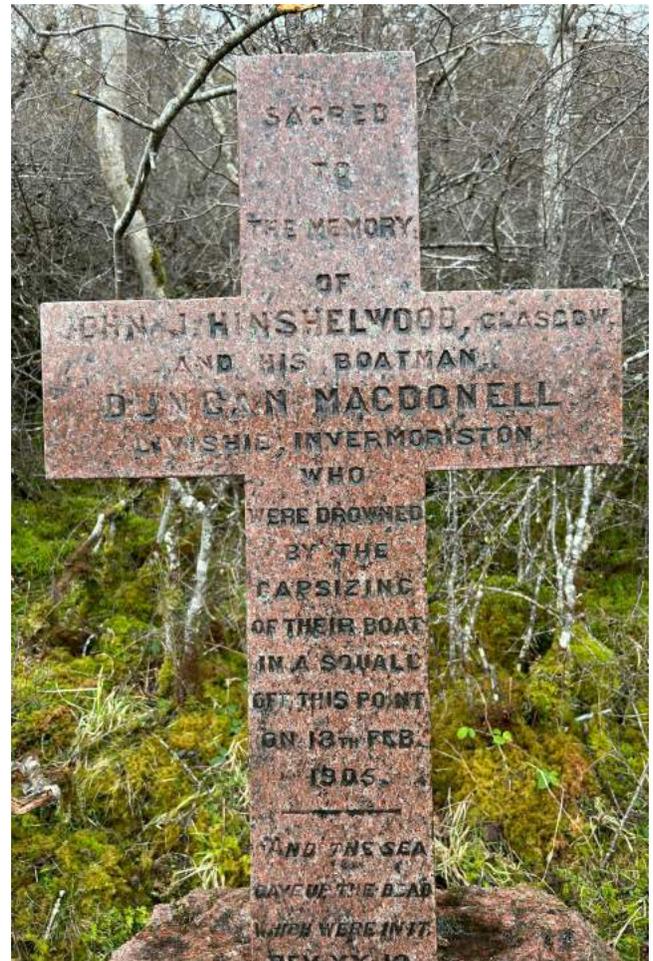
March 2024



Feis Gleann



Blast from the Past



School Update





Welcome to the Spring edition of Ness News and thank you to all the contributors as last week there were two pages still to be filled and then after a last shout out, I got six emails with so much information that we had to add another four pages. We are very grateful to all those who supply articles and announcements but if you require two to four pages, please let us know in advance so that we can have available space. Thank you to Lorna MacRae for bringing the Blast from the Past to our attention and supplying a photo of the memorial and also to Patrick Ungless and others who supplied the photos of the Feis Gleann Albainn event. Well done to Dylan Cox for his article and photographs from a young person's perspective as it is good to get young people involved in our community.

On the community council front, we are pleased to have a full allocation of councillors since we co-opted four new members in the past few months so now there is Helen Clay, Mike Anderson, Claire Pegrum, Clare Levings, Jenny Findlay, Daniel Clark, Rachel Hayes, Leanne Findlay and myself who can all be contacted about community matters and their details are on our website www.fortaugustus-glenmoriston-cc.co.uk

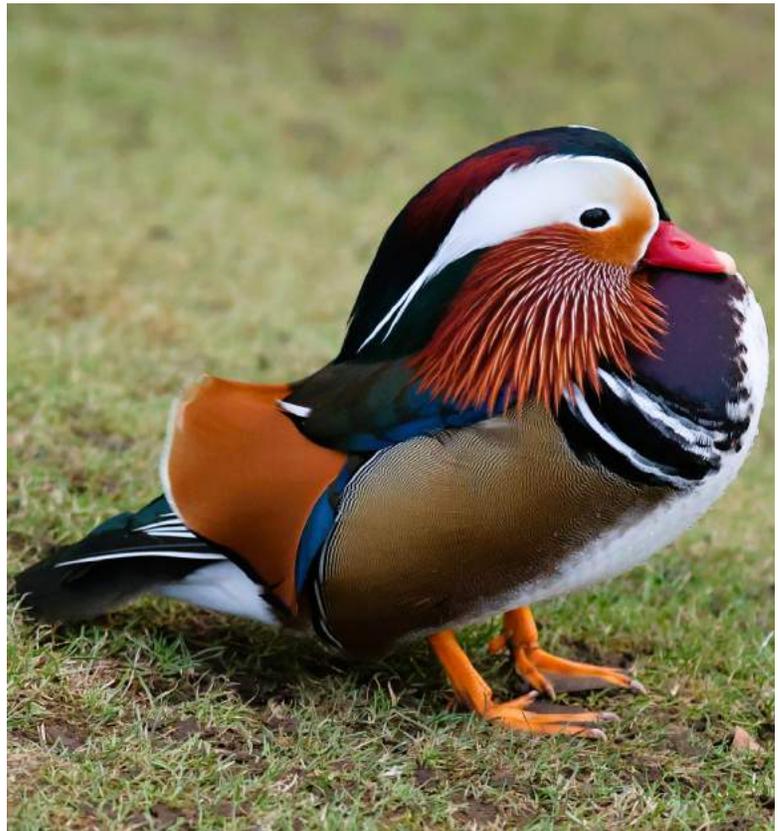
There are quite a lot of projects going on and some have already gone to planning after public consultations where there has been a low attendance. One such event only had 11 attendees out of 1200 local adult residents in the area so the company have stated that they have 80% approval of their project in the local community. The community council have written to the Scottish Government about concerns on the Loch Kemp Pump Storage (Loch Ness). There are also concerns about some windfarm projects which have been brought up. The CC minutes are available on our website and the quarterly ones are in the Ness News. At last week's meeting, the amount of dog poo in the Fort Augustus is a concern that was raised especially where dogs are going into other people's gardens and about poo bags being left on tree branches in the Convent Wood and up the canalside. Please be responsible dog owners.

The CC has contacted the Highland Council about blocked drains at The Riggs and Abertarff Place, potholes in those areas as well as the canalside and the state of disrepair on the Ardachy road. We have also been in touch with BEAR about the dangerous broken tree opposite Cedar Gates and Dalreoch in Fort Augustus and about touring buses parking on the A887 at Redburn but please feel free to contact any of us if you have any community issues or concerns.

On a personal level, I would like to thank all the locals that have appreciated and liked my photos over the past couple of months but I realise that not everybody is on social media so I'll add a few on the next page. It is good to have positive feedback on something that I really enjoy. I'm off to Harris in two weeks' time so I'll be bombarding you with even more on Facebook and I'm looking forward to warmer weather and longer daylight hours like everybody else.

All the best, Deirdre.

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Photos by Deirdre MacKinnon

Blast from the Past



From Moriston Matters, Issue 16, December 1979.

ANGLERS' MEMORIAL, FASACH, INVERMORISTON

This memorial may be found on a steep bank, overlooking Loch Ness about a mile past the Allt Saigh Youth Hostel (on the Invermoriston side). Although clearly visible from a boat on the loch, it is not easily found from the road (the A82 Inverness/Fort William road) since it is situated some 30 yards below it and screened from it by a dense undergrowth of bracken, bramble and hazel.

The simplest way to find the memorial – a red granite cross about 3 feet high set in a boulder of local stone – is to continue past Allt Saigh until you come to Fasach, which is a green field guarded by a large iron gate. You must then retrace your

steps eastwards along the grass verge to the first milestone; thereupon, turn and walk 84 paces to the West. At this point you must walk resolutely down the bank towards the loch where you will find the memorial.

It bears the following inscription in white lettering of remarkable clarity considering that over 70 years have passed since its erection.



SACRED
TO
THE MEMORY
OF
JOHN J. HINSHELWOOD, GLASGOW
AND HIS BOATMAN
DUNCAN MACDONELL
LIVISHIE,
INVERMORISTON,
WHO
WERE DROWNED
BY THE

CAPSIZING
OF THEIR BOAT
IN A SQUALL
OFF THIS POINT
ON 18th. FEB
1905.
AND THE SEA GAVE
UP THE DEAD
WHICH WERE IN IT
REV XX 13.

The tragedy occurred on Saturday 18th February 1905, during a fishing trip which went drastically wrong.

For a few days the weather had been unpleasant with high Northerly winds and flurries of snow which had affected not only Loch Ness-side but many parts of the Central Highlands. This did not, however, deter Mr John Hinshelwood, a Glaswegian staying on holiday at the Invermoriston Hotel, who had decided that despite the inclement weather he would troll around the mouth of the River Moriston and up the bank as far as Fasach. This had been his practice – unsuccessfully – for a number of days previously.

Hinshelwood, a 48 year old bachelor whose father was a substantial Glasgow business man owning a large fleet of omnibuses, was a typical sporting gent of the era. Head of the Atlas Express Parcel Co. and a fine golfer, he was also a devotee of field sports and it was his custom to arrive in Invermoriston at various times each year to avail himself of the fishing.

That Saturday, in a virtual gale, Hinshelwood, Duncan Macdonell, his boatman, and his ghillie, Donald Macdonald, a native of Innis-Ewen in Invermoriston, set out. The boat had not gone far when the wind which Hinshelwood had speculated might be falling actually began to increase. They were fine as long as they kept close to the shore but, in order to round Fasach Point, they had to head out towards the middle of the loch. There at a spot 50 yards from the shore they were struck by a fierce gust of wind which heeled them into the path of a large wave. The combination caused the boat to capsize.

The three men were tossed out of the boat, whereupon Hinshelwood, a strong swimmer, struck out for the shore. For a time he appeared to be doing well but he was hampered by a heavy overcoat and boots as well as the heavy waves and he soon sank from view.

The two boatmen, more astutely, clung to the keel of the over-turned boat and in this manner were carried quite a distance from the spot where they originally capsized. They were growing weaker in the high waves, however, and presently Macdonell was washed away by one of them. His companion, Macdonald, turned round in time to see him lose his grip and slip beneath the surface leaving only his cap floating. Macdonell was thirty and unmarried. An experienced boatman used to estate work all his days, he had served for a number of years in the Lovat Scouts.

Donald Macdonald continued to cling to the keel and was eventually washed ashore in an exhausted condition about half a mile from the point where the incident occurred. In an extremely weak condition, he crawled up the steep bank to the public road where he was found in a semi-conscious state and taken to a nearby house, where, upon recovering, he raised the alarm. Search parties were sent out later on Saturday and all

day Sunday but attempts to recover the bodies with grappling irons proved fruitless. All that was recovered were two fishing rods belonging to Hinshelwood found at a spot near to where the boat capsized. A further attempt to recover the remains was made by a diver later in the week but that too was in vain although a fishing basket which was identified by Macdonald as being in the boat was found floating on the surface near the shore at Fasach.

True to the traditions of Loch Ness, the bodies never were recovered, hence the text from Revelation on the memorial.

H. Fraser MacKenzie

Brownies and Guides



During the past few months we have welcomed 2 new Brownies to our unit which has been lovely to see, we always welcome new members to both Brownies and Guides. We have made rocky road this term, celebrated Chinese New Year by making gorgeous cherry blossom lanterns and eating homemade fortune cookies, we made pancakes on Pancake Day. To celebrate World Thinking Day, we made and swapped cards with other Brownies and Guides units across Britain as well as other activities.

Each meeting we have tried to do at least 30 minutes following the Brownies and Guides programme, these activities will count towards badges for the girls as well as helping them develop new skills.

Over the next few weeks, we will be celebrating Mother's Day and International Woman's Day. In honour of International Woman's Day, we have a guest speaker coming in to speak to the girls about empowering themselves. To finish off this term, we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt. Going forward, we are looking to get the girls to do more activities outside now that the weather is getting better.

If you have a daughter aged between 7 to 10 years old who would like to join Brownies or a daughter aged between 10 to 14 years who would like to join Guides please get in touch with myself (Lisa Gordon) on Facebook or alternatively you can register them at girlguiding.org.uk

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers, if you have a few hours to spare on a Tuesday night or have a skill you would like to share with the girls please let me know.

Lisa Gordon (leader in training)

Dundreggan Rewilding Centre

Saves the day for

Glenmoriston Craft Club!

Many Folk will have heard that Glenmoriston Millennium Hall had to unfortunately close for a short time in February, due to Septic tank issues. This meant that Craft Club would have had to be cancelled if an alternative venue could not be found. Dundreggan Rewilding Centre very kindly offered the use of their lovely bright classroom and saved the day! Altogether 17 members enjoyed their usual chat whilst crafting and were able to treat themselves to a delicious lunch from the café.

We would like to again thank everyone at Dundreggan Rewilding Centre for helping us out and making us feel so welcome.



Craft Club meets the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month 11am – 3pm at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, new members are always welcome.



Fun things for kids to do at Dundreggan Rewilding Centre

Visit the Café.

Here you can get lovely cakes, cold drinks and delicious ice cream.

Your grownups can also enjoy some lunch, a coffee or pot of tea.



Explore the Visitor centre.



Here is the tree of animals made from Recycled Metal.

Explore the underground wall and press buttons to see their underground homes.

Watch the short movie about the story of the Arrow head.





The Park



Have fun playing in the park with its unique features such as the Squirrel den, rope bridge and puzzle games.

The Walks





There are various walks to explore.

The Juniper path is the easiest walk and leads you to a waterfall. It is suitable for everyone even buggies and Wheelchairs!

The Oak path with some steeper sections has lovely views & a little off path detour to the great Oak tree.

The Heather and Pine paths are longer and harder with rough ground lading you up into the hills.

The most important thing

Dogs with responsible owners are very welcome and there are free dog treats in the café. There is a very important dog who lives at Dundreggan Estate, he is called Baz and you might be lucky enough to meet him.



For information on visiting Dundreggan Rewilding Centre check out their website:
visitdundreggan.co.uk

Words and Photos taken by Dylan Cox age 12





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

This project is funded by



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

Researching music from the Three Glens area: A personal perspective Munro Gauld

“St Augustine says, the dead are invisible, they are not absent. You needn’t believe in ghosts to see that’s true. We carry the genes and the culture of our ancestors, and what we think about them shapes what we think of ourselves, and how we make sense of our time and place. Are these good times, bad times, interesting times? We rely on history to tell us. History, and science too, help us put our small lives in context. But if we want to meet the dead looking alive, we turn to art.”

Hilary Mantel, Reith Lecture 2017

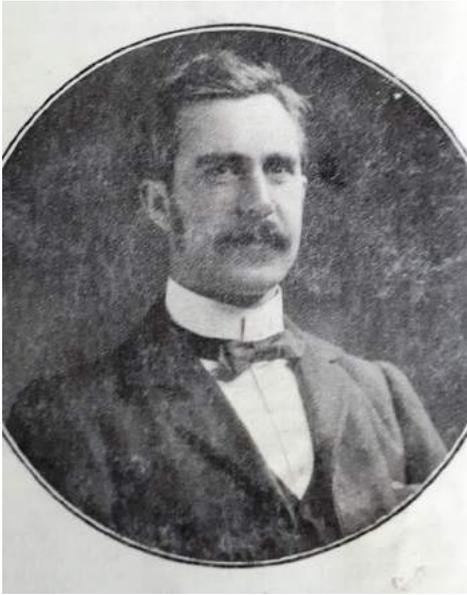
The above quote illustrates the importance and significance of the arts in helping us to understand and connect with our past – and our surroundings. In particular, music has the ability to connect us to a place and its past not just intellectually, but emotionally too. We have all had the experience of listening to a song or piece of music from our past and being instantly transported back to another time or place. For me, every time I hear Mairi’s Wedding, The Uist Tramping Song or Will you go lassie go, I am once again 7 years old listening to the girls singing in Davie MacDairmid’s mini-bus taxi travelling down the glen to school. My childhood was clothed by these songs, as well as by the well-worn records by the likes of Alasdair Gillies, Bobby MacLeod’s dance band, and Calum Kennedy. To hear that music now, I get to grasp, if only for a moment, the ghosts of my memories of childhood and what I saw, heard and felt. Music is indeed magical.

The An Cruinneachadh / The Gathering Project is a community arts programme that was established to celebrate the cultural heritage of the three glens area – Fort Augustus, Glengarry and Glenmoriston. The element that my colleague Raghnaid Sandilands and I were tasked with was to further explore the musical heritage of the area. This had been started with The Glen of the Bards project where Ceit Langhorne and myself had looked at the music of Glenmoriston – and the astounding number of Gaelic songs from the glen – over 300! These were the songs that local people would have grown up hearing and singing - the “soundtrack to their lives” whether they were nursing infants, working, or spending evenings at informal ceilidhs in people’s houses. They are an echo from the past, a form of oral history, and an insight into the distilled inner thoughts and feelings of the composer. Re-singing songs written two hundred or more years ago gives us a chance to listen to and access the writer’s soul and, just as Hilary Mantel suggests, allow the illusion that they are real and alive once again.

In carrying out the research, we were fortunate in being able to access the work of Glenmoriston’s Alexander Macdonald (1860- 1928), who had spent his adult life collecting, documenting and publishing Gaelic songs from the Loch Ness area. His 1914 book, *Story and Song from Loch Ness-side* is a wonderful collection of the area’s rich cultural heritage. It is however only part of his prodigious output which includes a book of his own poems, *Coinneach ‘us Coille* (1895), and numerous papers about local songs



published by the Gaelic Society of Inverness. In addition, Macdonald wrote extensively for a variety of newspapers, periodicals and cultural organisations and over a 35-year period right up to his death in 1928 "barely a week went by where he didn't have an article published".



Alexander Macdonald (1860-1928)

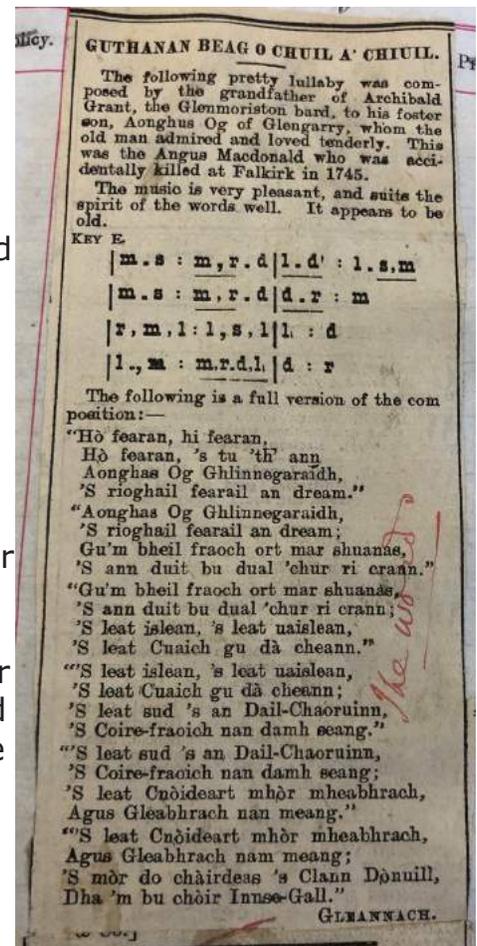
Alexander Macdonald's personal papers were donated to the nation by his daughter Mairi in the 1970s, and can be viewed in the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. Raghnaid and I spent a few fascinating days there looking through scrapbooks of his newspaper articles, jotters full of scribbled notes of song lyrics, his own poems, many unpublished, photographs etc. It is a huge resource, and one that is particular cultural importance to the Loch Ness area. We were only able to scratch the surface of what is there - it would take someone years to fully unpick, catalogue and research this treasure trove of Gaelic songs and their backstories. Perhaps one of the most significant aspects of Macdonald's legacy is that, as well as writing down the

lyrics to the Gaelic songs, as he also was musically literate, he also recorded the accompanying melodies in solfa notation. This is relatively unusual and crucially means that these forgotten songs, once commonly sung in every house and village surrounding Loch Ness, have the potential to be resurrected and given a new lease of life.

One such song is Hò Fearan, hi fearan. I first had come across the song in Story and Song from Loch Ness-side but when in the National Library of Scotland, Raghnaid and I found a newspaper cutting from around 1905 with the words and music of the song. The lullaby had been written around 1725 by Archibald Grant from Tom Bheallaidh in Glenmoriston to his adored foster son, Angus Og, second son of clan chief John MacDonell of Glengarry. You sense Archie Grant's love for Angus in the words and melody and can imagine him crooning it as he rocked him on his knee. Hearing Hò Fearan, hi fearan sung beautifully by Rachel Campbell accompanied by Charlie Grey in Fort Augustus Village Hall last November was, for me, a very moving experience. It had probably not been sung or heard for perhaps a hundred years or more. It is a beautiful song and should be known, and sung, by every school child in Kilchuimen and Glengarry - a celebration of part of their birthright and heritage.

Although it conveys very different emotions, another song from Glenmoriston, Oran nan Geamaran, equally captures the thoughts and feelings of its composer. Here is Alexander Macdonald describing the context to the song in Story and Song from Loch Ness-side.

"After the Achnaconeran people had been deprived of their hill pastures, where their ancestors had for generations had their shielings, and which for themselves fed a considerable stock of excellent sheep and cattle, those beautiful corries and fertile glens were fenced off. There was planted in the township immediately a gamekeeper, whose duty it was to watch the forest, and prevent poaching. There were of course other keepers, here, there, and everywhere in the



neighbourhood. Those keepers were one and all considerate and they and their families excellent neighbours. Still, they represented unpopular authority, and now and again an opportunity was taken of satirising the service”.

Na Geamèaran	The Gamekeepers
<i>Hò-rò, na geamèaran, Hi-ri, na geamèaran; Gasch fear tha giùlain gloine dhiubh, Gu 'n aithnich sinn a mhòr-chuis: Hò-rò, na geamèaran</i>	<i>Ho-ro, the gamekeepers, Hi-ri, the gamekeepers; Each one who carries a spy-glass, We can recognise the arrogance: Ho-ro the gamekeepers</i>
<i>Ach mar bith dhomh-sa 'n tàmailte, 'S gu 'n cuirt' as an àite mi. Na 'n tàchradh e 's a' Chràch orm Gu 'n d' thug mi bhàrr a chòt' i.</i>	<i>But if it were not for the same, And being evited from the place, Should he meet me in the Craach, I would take the spy-glass from off his coat.</i>
<i>Bu mhoch a thachair said orm, Le ghunna fada 's mial-chu aig'; 'S gu 'n d' fhoighnichd e gu h-iargalt diom 'N robh saial aqam air ròcais.</i>	<i>In the early morning I met a hero, With his long gun and greyhound; And he asked me most ferociously, If I knew where to find a rook.</i>
<i>Labhair mi gu h-uasal ris – "Cha 'n 'eil a h-aon 's na cruachan diubh; Ach fiach-sa toll na luathainn, Is cuir cuairt air lag an òtraich.</i>	<i>I spoke to him politely – "There are none in the stacks, But try the hole for the ashes, And round about the midden pit."</i>
<i>'S choinnch gaisgeach shuas ud mi. 'S e caoidh cho beag 's a fhuair e dhiu; - "S ann chuir 'a chlann air fuadach iad, 'S gur truaigh nach fhan sibh sàmhach."</i>	<i>And I met the warrior up there, Lamenting that he had got so few – "The children have driven them out, And it is a pity you do not keep quiet."</i>

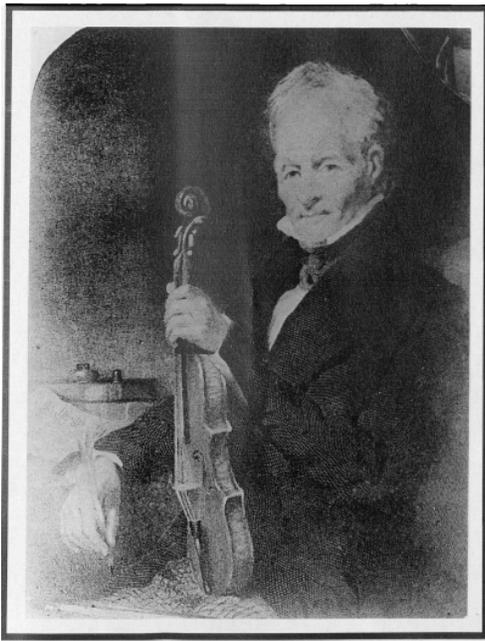
Source and translation: *Story and Song from Loch Ness-side*, Alexander Macdonald (1982)

The song is infused with bitterness and simmering anger - a rare voice of dissent from the past, struggling with the injustices of changing landownership and land use. The melody associated with the lyrics was unfortunately not written down by Alexander Macdonald, but Ceit Langhorne wrote a lovely fitting tune to give the "orphaned" song a new lease of life.

Gaelic songs cover all aspects of daily life of the Loch Ness inhabitants during the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. There are love songs, songs to accompany repetitive work activities, drinking songs, songs of loss and bereavement, of hope and despair. There are also many praise poems – an ancient traditional song type written for the clan chiefs / landowners extolling their manly virtues, kindness, honestly bravery etc. These include songs written for successive generations of the Grants of Glenmoriston and the MacDonells of Glengarry - perhaps the most numerous being ones by Ailean Dall, blind Alan MacDougall, bard to the infamous Colonel Alexander Ranaldson MacDonell of Glengarry (1773– 1828). I will be exploring his fascinating musical story in a forthcoming blog which will be available on the An Cruinneachadh website – see: www.the-gathering.co.uk

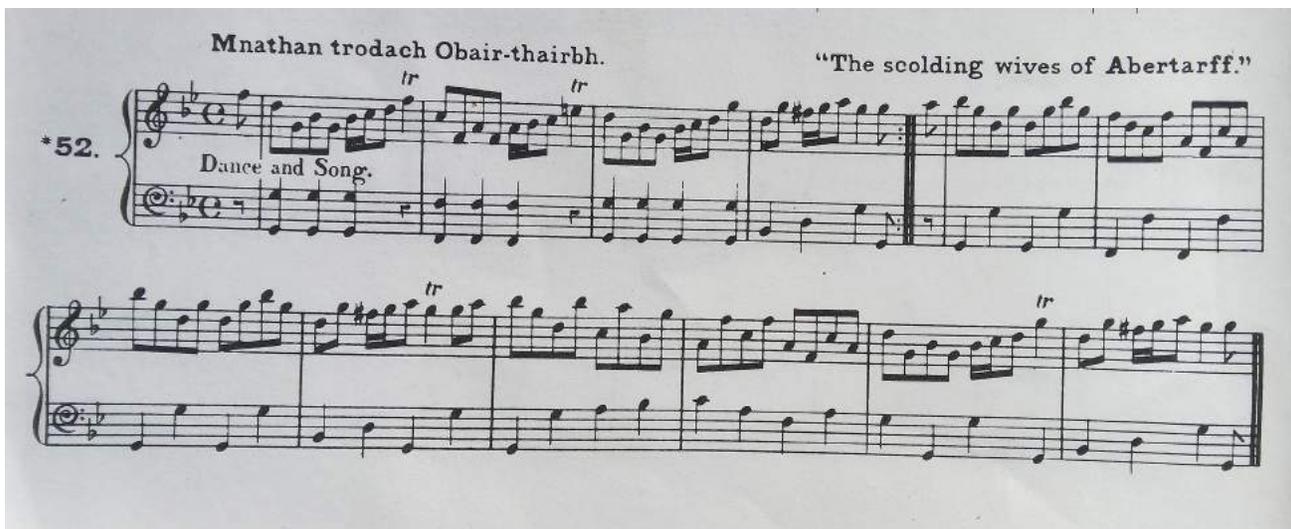
As well as Gaelic song, the area has a wealth of traditional fiddle music – much of it collected in the mid to late 1700s by John Fraser, a cattle merchant and farmer from Errogie, and published by his son, Captain Simon Fraser (1773-1852) in his *Airs and Melodies Peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland and the Isles* (1816). Simon Fraser was reputedly a very fine fiddler – a contemporary gentleman, Captain MacDiarmid, was reputed to have said of him that "I never knew anyone who could make the fiddle speak Gaelic so beautifully...."

Captain Simon Fraser of Knockie (1852)
Photo: Glen Collection (1891), National Library of Scotland



Fraser's collection is made up mainly of the melodies of Gaelic songs commonly sung in the area around Loch Ness. But it also includes many traditional pipe reels and fiddle tunes, some of them written by Fraser himself. One of these tunes is the reel, Mnathan trodach Obair-thairbh, or The Scolding Wives of Abertarff which refers to the original name for the village and surrounding district at the southern end of Loch Ness where the River Tarff joins the loch (now known as Fort Augustus).

Fraser's accompanying notes to the tune states: "This air had its origin from an observation of the late parochial minister of Abertarff, who used to say, that of a number of respectable people, who lived there, they were never without some disputes that embittered their lives, chiefly among the females. These must have run high, when the minister christened the place by the epithet of 'Little Hell.'".



Finally, what overview of the musical history of a community in the Highlands would be complete without a mention of pipe music? One notable local tune is the pibroch Cille Chrìost - also known as The Raid of Cill-Chirst and more commonly in modern times, Glen Garry's March. This tune commemorates a raid in the early C17th by Alan Macranald and the MacDonalds of Glengarry on Brae-Ross, Ross-shire. According to Gregory's History of the Western Highlands and Islands (1836):

"this foray was signalled by the merciless burning of a whole congregation in the church of Kilichrist, whilst Glengarry's piper marched round the building mocking the cries of the unfortunate inmates with the well-known pibroch which has been known ever since under the name Kilichrist."

Seeking revenge the MacKenzies chased the MacDonalds back down Loch Ness killing many of them. Alan Macranald however escaped his pursuers by leaping a gorge at Alltsaigh close to Invermoriston. The accepted modern view is that there is no evidence that the burning of the church actually took place - and that several different events have been conflated. The pibroch has been adapted to be played as a fiddle tune which is still popularly played in the modern repertoire.



From: A Collection of the Ancient Martial Music of Caledonia, Donald MacDonald (1820)

Munro Gauld is a traditional musician and researcher and has been involved with The Glen of the Bards and An Cruinneachadh projects examining the musical heritage of the area. For more information see:

<https://www.the-gathering.co.uk/music-research-rannsa-chadh-ciuil/>

Feis Gleann Albainn



The school half term weekend saw the annual Fèis Gleann Albainn adult fèis take place. This is an exceedingly popular event which is quickly booked out two or three weeks from the release of the application forms, with the majority of participants coming back year after year.

Over one hundred people come from all over the UK and beyond to enhance their playing of traditional music, learning from some of the best musicians on the Scottish traditional music scene. It's surprising the distances some will travel to get to our small Highland village in what is still winter: folk come from Shetland, the south of England and even The Netherlands.

The majority of participants are fiddle players which is why we need five tutors to offer tuition for fiddle. But we also offer tuition for guitar, whistle, accordion, song and mandolin. We pride ourselves in the quality of our tutors but this is not the only reason people come here.

Cake at tea break is always welcomed. This is provided by the Fort Augustus and District





Ladies Group to whom we are able to offer a donation for their services. When it looks like there may not be enough cake other kind souls utilise their baking skills for us. This all helps make it a real community effort.

So is it just cake and tutors that has people returning year after year? No, there are a few other factors. We offer a relaxed and easy atmosphere. Many friends are made here and we ourselves have made many over the years. Also the beauty of the place is not missed. Every year I see photos pop up on social media of the village, the canal, the loch and of course the pubs. If you are out and about in the evening, it must be hard not to miss the music coming from these places.

The village is small and we are thankful to all the people and establishments which allow us to enter their premisses: The Lovat, The Legion, The Lock Inn, Morag's Lodge and lastly the helpful staff at the school. Without the availability of these places we would not be able to go ahead in the way we do. Not forgetting Kay and Keith at the The Jaggy Thistle who supply an excellent farewell lunch on Monday to fortify everyone either for their journey home or for the survivor's session in the Lock Inn in the afternoon.

Why do we do it? For the happy faces, good tunes and the friends we have made over the years. We get told that it is the best weekend of its kind. So we must be doing something right. It is hard work and we are not getting any younger so volunteers are always welcome.

Bill Skeoch



Announcements

Engagements



Ella Lumsden and Drew Simpson got engaged in February in Barry, Wales.

Marriages



Brian and Ruth Ferguson (Henderson) married at Atholl palace in Pitlochry on the 23rd November 2023.

Births



Born to Blair & Gosia Girvan on 8th December 2023, Hamish George 6lbs 10ozs. Another lovely grandson for Wilson & Catriona Girvan.



Rosie Stoddart and Rhuairaidh MacDonald welcomed Murdo Tormod William MacDonald on 6th February 2024 at 17.46 weighing 8lb5oz.

Deaths



Tom McCrindle February 1968 – December 2023

Sadly but peacefully Tom McCrindle of Station Road, Fort Augustus passed away on Wednesday 6th December 2023 after a short illness, aged 55 years. A greatly missed and loving partner to Lin, dad to Callum, son to Ina and the late Jimmy, brother to Elaine, Alistair and Jamie, stepdad to Liane and Jenna and proud Gaga to Amelia, Jack and Lucas. A great friend to many. Tom was born in Girvan, South Ayrshire and had lived and worked in Kent and Lancashire before moving to Fort Augustus in 2016 with Lin to run Lorien House B&B. Quickly settling in to village life, Tom was a regular at local pubs, enjoyed playing pool and having a craic with friends. He was well known for his unique greeting of 'helloooooooo' which quickly caught on with others. He was a huge character who touched the

hearts of many and will always be fondly remembered by those who knew him. His partner Lin would like to thank everyone for the many, many cards, flowers and messages of condolences received and for all those who attended Tom's service celebrating his life at Inverness Crematorium and his farewell celebration at the Legion afterwards. He will be remembered and missed by many.



William "Willy" Walker
31st May 1949 - 9th December 2023. Willy passed away peacefully in Moss Park Care Home. A Memorial lunch will be held on 16th March 2024 at 1pm at the Glengarry Community Hall to celebrate the life of my brother William.



Rob Aiston

Rob died peacefully in the Belford Hospital on 12th December 2023, aged 96, a much loved husband of Carmelita and loving Dad, grandad, uncle, brother and friend. He was from Cullercoats, a small village near Whitley Bay, so will always be remembered as a much loved 'Canny lad'.



Ewen Cameron

Sadly passed away on 11th January 2024. Ewen was a much loved Dad, Grandad and Uncle and beloved husband to the late Catherine. Ewen spent his life on the croft in Balmaglaster, where he and Catherine brought up their family. He worked for the forestry commission before becoming a forestry contractor himself. He spent many happy years pulling and coaching with the Glengarry Tug of War team before moving to Muir of Ord ToW when numbers saw the end of GG ToW. As his children became

involved in shinty, Ewen and Catherine devoted their time to Glengarry Shinty Club, ensuring there was a club and opportunities for their children and others. Ewen will be sadly missed but he lived a rich life and plenty of memories shared with his family and friends alike.



Margaret Isabella Proudlock
13.01.1935 - 21.01.2024. Peacefully at the Telford Centre, Fort Augustus. Margaret was born in Longbenton just outside Newcastle to George and Barbara Thompson who ran a grocery store. She was brought up during the war and one night remembers the roof had been blown off and she went to sleep looking at the stars. Margaret fondly remembers one family holiday to the Isle of Skye where they drove the old road through Tomdoun over to Cluanie before the dam was built. Margaret attended Dame Allans Girls School in Newcastle where she excelled in English, Art and of course Needlework. Margaret then went on teacher training college where she studied a

number of subjects but Crafts was her main subject. Margaret then taught in a number of schools and in 1969 she had a year living and working in Bermuda. In 1971, she married John who was an ex Group Captain in the Royal Air Force, a navigator on Lancaster Bombers during the war. They met in London and were married soon after. In 1973, they moved back to Northumberland where Elizabeth was born in 1974. Margaret was also good at mending things – clothes, walls and made many of her own clothes and loved to upholster and bring back to life all kinds of furniture. Often making curtains and repairing things for friends. She also loved cooking,

baking and gardening. She helped arrange a number of events in Fort Augustus such as a scarecrow competition, fancy hat tea party and a treasure trail. In 2006, John died and in 2008, Margaret moved to Fort Augustus to help look after her granddaughter Erin. Margaret and Erin spent many hours making things, baking, playing with toys and in the summer enjoyed picnics in the garden in the Wam – a small wigwam as well as fishing in the river with nets and also a tea strainer attached to a stick. Granny P was devoted to her grandchildren and loved playing good old fashioned games such as snap and refused to have any “pressy buttons” type modern technology in the house.

Thank you especially to all her friends and all the crew at the Telford Centre for looking after her so well.



I would like to thank most sincerely all my family & friends throughout the area for their kind wishes, prayers, gifts and cards during my recent illness. Heartfelt thanks to ICU Raigmore and St John’s Hospital in Livingston for saving my life. God Bless you all
Anne Davies

Starting Monday
15th April 2024



Handyperson Service



Could you or someone you know benefit from a Handyperson Service?

We aim to give you the confidence to live safely and independently in your own home.

This service is available to anyone struggling to complete small jobs around the house who lives in the 3 Glens area (Glenmoriston, Fort Augustus, Glengarry). It is free of charge and can be used as often as needed. (Any materials required must be paid for.)

To book, please call our answerphone line on 07507627990. Please leave your name, contact number, address and what the job is. Someone will then be in touch within a week.



Working with
Highland
Hospice

Handyperson Service



All our volunteers are PVG checked, and will arrange a mutually suitable day to come to do the job.

We do not cover domestic jobs or any job requiring a skilled tradesman. Jobs can include:

- Securing carpets or trailing wires
- Taking down and putting up curtains and/or tracks
- Moving furniture within your house
- Putting up picture frames, shelving, bathroom cabinets and other similar items
- Unblocking sinks and baths
- Replacing tap washers and toilet seats, sealant around the bath/sink
- Replacing light bulbs and plugs
- Changing batteries in smoke and/ or carbon monoxide alarms
- Building flat pack furniture

Volunteer for us...

If you would like to volunteer for this service, you could be making a marked difference to someone's life. Full training and support is provided.

Contact our Development Officer:
contact@3glenscare.org or 07507 627 99

For further information: www.3glenscare.org



Working with
Highland
Hospice





'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
www.3glenscare.org

New Handyperson Service – 15th April 2024

As a result of the survey completed at the end of 2023, we will be launching our brand-new Handyperson Service on the 15th April 2024. Thank you for all your comments and feedback. The service came across as very much needed across the 3 Glens. We have had some lovely volunteers come forward and have nearly everything in place to start. Please see the leaflet on the next page for full details on the service and how to use it. Please do use the free service, we hope it helps.

UPCOMING AGM – 13th May 2024

3 Glens CC was formed after **5 years of mounting local concern** about the limited care services available in our rural communities and **5 years of public meetings** to find a way to improve the situation. Formed in January 2020, by March we achieved Scottish Charity status with OSCR. The Board for 3 Glens CC has maintained a steady group of 7 Trustees, ably assisted by Development Officer Kaye. Current Trustees are not seeking retirement; however we need to 'future-proof' our organisation. There are 4 vacancies for the Board. We would specifically like to recruit representatives for Glengarry & Glenmoriston. Interested? Contact: chair@3glenscare.org

Sunflower Home Care

Jane Mason is the new Care Coordinator for Sunflower Home Care in the 3 Glens.

Monthly operational statistics for 3 Glens area – January 2024

9 service users, +1 on previous month.

101 hours of care per week, + 14 on previous month.

24 hours Travel Time.

Total hours per week - 125 hours.

Staff: – 8 staff members = 1 coordinator and 7 staff.

Focus is on recruiting for evenings and weekends to build up resilience needed.

Referrals for 'care at home' are made by GPs, Community Nurses, or Social Work to the NHS Care @ Home Service, who, when they are at capacity, contract out to approved care agencies - Sunflower Home Care in the 3 Glens area. Working in tandem with NHS Care @ Home, they greatly enhance care services in our 3 glens. Highland Hospice have responsibility for all aspects of the Sunflower Home Care service. 3 Glens CC

Iaido



Glenmoriston Millennium Hall is now running a Japanese martial art form known as Iaido. Iaido is the art of drawing the Japanese sword (katana) with roots back as far as 500 years in Edo Japan.

Iaido consists of four main components, the smooth, controlled movements of drawing the sword from its scabbard, striking, shaking the blade, and replacing the sword in the scabbard, which are elements of all 55 Kata (forms). While beginner students of Iaido may start learning with a wooden sword, most of the practitioners use a dulled-edged sword called an Iaitō, as live edge swords can be very dangerous. Iaido is a reflection of the morals of the classical warrior and to build a spiritually harmonious person. Iaido teaches mindfulness of thoughts, balance, posture, coordination and builds bonds with other students.

Local resident, Craig Hardy who moved to Invermoriston in October has had 10 years experience of training in this art form where he first started in a small club in Nottingham, England. Craig went on to build the club up with his teacher into Shoshinkan Iaido and began teaching. Eventually in 2016, he opened up his own Dojo (club) also under the guidance of his teacher, in his own town of Derby, England. This new Dojo is now part of the Shoshinkan name and has ties to both Dojos in the midlands in England.

Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome at the club which runs on a Tuesday evenings at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall from 7:15-8:15pm. If interested, please contact Craig for information on: 07568337238

Darts and Pool Competition

In February, Kenneth Henderson organised a day of competitions at the Legion in Fort Augustus to raise money for a few girls from Kilchuimen Academy who are going to America to play shinty in June. The main darts competition was won by James Henderson and the runner up was Dan Wilson. The main pool competition was won by Kevin O'Meara and runner up was James Barron. We had a consolation darts competition which was won by Alex MacDonald with Gordon MacDonald as runner up. We raised £582 on the day which has now gone up to £850. Ken still has a couple of donations to come in but all in all, it was a cracking day which everybody enjoyed. Another event will hopefully take place later in the year and raise money for other activities.

Senior Citizens



Fort Augustus Senior Citizens' Association 2023 Update

2023 was our first full year of activities since the start of the pandemic. On Tuesday 7th March, we held our AGM followed by social time with tea/coffee and cake. Deirdre MacKinnon and Sandra Attwood were happy to continue in their roles of chairperson and secretary. Calum Johnston announced his intention to stand down from the role of treasurer but kindly offered to carry on until a replacement could be found. Claire Pegrum took on the role in June following a handover from Calum. We are very grateful to Calum for stepping in to keep the Association going as without his input, it would have folded. Denise Paterson joined the committee as a link between the Association and the 3 Glens Community Care.

In August, a summer bus trip to Aviemore was enjoyed by all who participated. There was a stop for morning coffee at An Talla followed by a 2 course lunch and coffee at the Cairngorm Hotel in Aviemore. There was then some free time for anyone who wanted to have a walk about before returning home via Spean Bridge. Thanks to our driver for taking such good care of us that day.

On 16th December, 74 Seniors enjoyed a 3 course Christmas Lunch at the Lovat Hotel where we were well looked after by the attentive staff. A small Christmas gift was given to each resident in the Telford Centre.

During 2023, the Association acknowledged 6 x 80th and 3 x 90th birthdays with a card and gift. Please continue to let a committee member know if you are aware of anyone celebrating an 80th, 90th or 100th birthday.

The Association continues to organise/support many of the activities in Fort Augustus such as –

- Monthly shopping bus – third Wednesday
- Weekly low impact exercise class
- Weekly lunch club
- Weekly games/cards afternoon
- Monthly whist drive – 4th Friday October- March

We are very grateful to the Community Company as we could not fund all these activities without the generous grants that they award.

Due to prior commitments and annual leave, the 2024 AGM will be held in April. We hope as many people as possible attend and give input/ideas for the 2024 summer trip.



Kilchuimen 3-18

Kilchuimen Nursery & Primary Term 3

This term, we had a focus on transition events across all age ranges. The Nursery children visited Invergarry Nursery, to strengthen our community links. They travelled on the school mini-bus and spent a lovely morning playing & socialising. The children had a super time meeting new friends and particularly enjoyed going on the bus!



The Primary 7s have also started their transition events. So far, they've had lessons in PE & Tech as well as lunch in the canteen and social time in the Art room. More events are planned to include a Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) event with Mrs Thurnell (Chemistry) and a weekly 'Meet the Teacher' with a member of the Academy teaching staff coming to the P7 classroom to meet the pupils and answer some of their questions.

Mrs Thurnell (Chemistry) has already held some STEM sessions in the P6/7 classroom, focussing on engineering skills as part of the Primary Engineer Award Competition. Previously one of our pupils, Erin in S4, won 1st prize in this competition so we are keeping our fingers crossed for further success!



Our Primary committees have been very busy of late, working together to make our school, and wider environment a better place. Our Eco committee have big plans for the Nursery Garden and will be working with Miss Monti in the Tech Department, as well as with the Senior students in the Academy and with our new janitor, Keith. We are all looking forward to seeing all their hard work take root and grow into a space we can all enjoy.

Finally, to celebrate Burns Night, Mrs Grant (P6/7) shared the story, 'Room on the Broom', reading it in Scots. Children from P1 – P7 enjoyed a lovely afternoon together. The children understood so many words in the Scots language, with only a few words e.g. ettercap (spider) and puddock (frog) raising a quizzical expression!



ACADEMY NEWS

Hill to Grill Celebration Event

Our innovative and popular Hill to Grill Project won an award! A Highly Commended, in the Scottish Country Sports Tourism Awards, Innovation section.

The winning project formed the final week of Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland's Kilchuimen Academy alternative study leave programme in May 2023, where we designed and ran, in partnership with Loch Ness Rural Communities, a 5-day 'Hill to Grill' project for pupils from Kilchuimen Academy in May 2023.

To celebrate this achievement the pupils, who were involved in the Hill to Grill programme, planned, prepared, and served a lunch with support from Danielle Menzies (Glendoe Estate). The event was kindly hosted at the luxurious setting of Glenmoriston Estate. The students prepared a delicious meal, using Pheasant from Glendoe Estate to the invited guests. The event was a great success! Thank you to all the partners involved; Loch Ness Rural Communities, Glendoe & Glenmoriston Estates.



DYW
WEST HIGHLAND
Developing the
Young Workforce





Poppy Project

In November each year, social media is full of wonderful displays of knitted and crocheted poppies flowing from churches and memorials, honouring the war dead from two world wars and other conflicts. This year the Crochet Club, which meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in the church hall (other yarny crafts always welcome!), have decided that we need such a display in Fort Augustus. Our plan is to decorate an arch around the church door, so we need lots of poppies. If you wish to get involved, even a single poppy would be much appreciated, the patterns we are using are below, although there are many other available online; you could even do a sewn poppy, so long as it's red and black. Any completed poppies can be dropped off at the church hall.

We also hope to have a related exhibition in the church at the same time. For more details contact Val Ungless at val@kishmul.me.uk or Jane Patten at jaellan41@aol.com

CROCHET POPPY

UK crochet terms; ch = Chain, dc = double crochet tr = treble crochet
Black and red yarn

Round 1

In black yarn: Magic ring or chain 4 and join to first chain with a slip stitch to form a loop.

Chain 2 (counts as your first double crochet dc). Work 11 dc into the centre loop. Makes 12 stitches in total. Slip stitch to close, Fasten off but leave the two ends of the black yarn long for attaching to frame.

Round 2

In red yarn; into any stitch work ch2 (counts as first double crochet). Work 1 dc into same stitch.

Into next stitch work 2 dc and repeat this, working 2dc into every stitch = 24 stitches.

Join with a slip stitch into the second chain stitch you did at the beginning of the round.

Round 3.

Petals; repeat this 4 times to make 4 petals in total.

Ch 2 (counts as a dc), into next stitch work 2 tr,

Work 2 tr into next stitch

2 tr into next stitch

2 tr into next stitch = 8 tr crochet stitches

1 dc into next stitch = 10 stitches = 1 petal





1 dc into next stitch is the start of your next petal - repeat steps 1 - 5 three more times

Complete your 4th petal with a slip stitch into the first ch 2 for the first petal but do not cast off.

Round 4

Into each tr stitch from previous round work 2 dc = 16 dc

Work a slip stitch in between the two dc from previous round. This gives the 'dip' between the two petals clear definition.

Repeat for each petal working all the way round your poppy. Join with a slip stitch and fasten off.

Weave in red ends, close magic circle/chain ring but leave black ends long.

KNITTED POPPY

About 4 grms Double Knitting yarn in red

About 1m Double Knitting yarn in black

4mm (UK8) knitting needles

Cast on 80 stitches (sts) in Red

Row 1 to row 8 knit every row (80sts)

Row 9 Knit 2 stitches together (k2tog), repeat to end of row (40sts)

Change to Black leaving a tail of black hanging of about 4"/10cm (we will use this black end to tie the poppy onto the structure)

Row 10 K2 tog to end of row (20sts)

Row 11 Purl 2 stitches tog, repeat to end of row (10sts)

Cut black yarn leaving a long tail end of about 8"/20cm and thread a sewing needle onto the tail end. Run the sewing needle through the remaining 10 sts which are still on the knitting needle. Remove the knitting needle, pull the black tail up tightly to form the centre of the poppy, sew up side seam and fasten off. Sew in the red ends but leave the black ends hanging loose.



News from Glenmoriston

Regular Activities in the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall

Monday	Weekly	1.30 – 4.30 pm	Art Club
Monday	Weekly	7.30 – 9.30 pm	Indoor Bowls
Tuesday	Weekly	7.15 – 8.15 pm	Shoshinkan Iaido – martial arts
Wednesday	Weekly	7.15 – 8.15 pm	Zumba
Thursday	Weekly	10.30 – 12 noon	Yoga
Thursday	Weekly	7.00 – 9.00 pm	Scottish Ceilidh & Country Dancing
Friday	Weekly	1.00 – 3.30 pm	Kids Club
Saturday	1 st and 3 rd of month	11.00 – 3.00 pm	Craft Club
Saturday	Last of month	7.30 – 9.00 pm	Quiz

At the time of writing, we have problems with the septic tank at the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall and are therefore avoiding events that have a heavy use of the kitchen and toilets because we have to limit the use of water. The public toilets are closed but limited use is possible for hall users.

Clubs

Most of the regular clubs meeting in the hall have increased numbers of people attending over the last 12 months, which is great.

New activities include Art Club and the martial arts, Shoshinkan Iaido. There is also interest in starting a Chess Club and Line Dancing.

The Glenmoriston Heritage Group were able to show the film "Loch Ness – They Created A Monster" on the big screen and this event was well attended. One of the directors of the film, John MacLavery, came to answer questions about the film and Adrian Shine was also there and spoke about some of his early experiences and former colleagues as shown in the film. Then we ate Loch Ness ice cream! The vegan apple flavour is particularly good.

The Silver Surfers enjoyed an excellent festive meal with catering provided by the Glen Rowan café. It was a good opportunity to meet with old and new friends. Some of us are going to Eden Court to see the comedian Mark Nelson and there are plans for a lunch at a local café soon, and hopefully a trip to Cawdor Castle in the late spring. If you are over 60 and live in Glenmoriston and wish to join us, please email silversurfers60@gmail.com (that is the correct spelling.)

The Kids Club meets from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Friday afternoons and there is a variety of things to do. Rumours of Dungeons and Dragons starting soon. Parents need to book a place for their children with Lesley Hill.

To ensure that you receive information about what is going on, you may wish to become a member of the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association. Membership is free and open to everyone in the area who supports our objectives. Membership applications can be completed online at <https://membermojo.co.uk/glenmoristonhall>

Community Tuesdays

The issues with the septic tank means that we have not been able to hold Community Tuesday at the hall since 6th February. We are looking at options to hold it elsewhere

and have also been hosted by the Rewilding Centre at Dundreggan but it may be that we cannot return until the autumn. As well as providing food, drink and cake at Community Tuesdays, we have enjoyed the opportunity to spend relaxing time with friends and neighbours while taking part in various activities. The crafting has been great fun and there has also been reflexology, mindful meditation, pampering, nail painting, chess, indoor curling, table tennis, word games, jigsaws, bread making and visits from the police and other agencies.

The quality of the table tennis players has improved over the months, although ping pong balls have been discovered in obscure places after the kids have joined in!! It has been great to see people of all generations together in the hall spending time together.

We have raised money for charities including Highland Hospice, Crisis at Christmas, Scottish Charity Air Ambulance and Kintail and Affric Mountain Rescue.

Invermoriston Community Shop

A full alcohol premises licence has been approved by the Highland Council so we are offering a range of alcohol and low-alcohol drinks. Our local crafters are busy stocking the shelves with Mother's Day and Easter gifts and cards. The managers have passed their Food Hygiene qualifications and Highland Council have advised us on new regulations so that we can now sell hot early morning butties. Our volunteer workforce has been boosted by a young man who is pursuing his Duke of Edinburgh Award, so do call in and say Hello.





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

Storm Gerrit

27th December 2023 saw Storm Gerrit arrive in the 3-Glens leaving many of the community without heat, water, electricity and means of communication.

The strong winds of Storm Gerrit blew down trees and damaged property in and around Fort Augustus and further afield. Some blown over trees narrowly avoided damaging cemeteries and gravestones.

A power cut soon affected us all with engineers unable to get through roads that were blocked by trees.



For many in our community, no electricity means no heating, no hot water, no communication, and no means of cooking. In some local areas, the power cut lasted as long as three days.

SSE provided Welfare Vans in the Fort Augustus car park meaning community members could be assured of a hot breakfast and dinner while the engineers got to work on repairing the damage and re-supplying electricity to our homes. They couldn't have got there though without the tremendous efforts of locals like tree surgeon, Mark Smith.

Mark wasted no time getting to work in cutting and removing fallen trees to clear the roads for the engineers to get through. Mark wasn't alone as Storm Gerrit brought out an amazing sense of community around the 3-Glens. Locals used their cars to pull debris from the road ensuring safe passage for some who were unable to get home, the emergency services and the SSE engineers.

Mark and other members of the community, too many to mention, worked hard under difficult conditions to help bring back power to the 3-Glens. And to them all, we owe our thanks.

“What’s On” Open Day

In the middle of January, the Community Company hosted and ran the “What’s on In Your Community” Open Day, an opportunity for local groups and clubs to showcase themselves and for the community to find out more about what goes on and what’s on offer.

Groups present included the Camera Club, Invergarry Railway Group, Fort Augustus Heritage Group, new group laido for Samurai Sword fans, the Men’s Shed, craft clubs, fitness groups and the new Drawing Class which ran for the first time in January.

If you couldn't make it along but are interested in local groups and activities, then email us on contact@communitycompany.co.uk or call 01320 366800 and we'll be happy to offer advice.



Grants

The Community Company are delighted to confirm funding has been granted for the following:

£767.54 towards equipment for the new life drawing class held monthly at Fort Augustus Village Hall. The grant also covered the costs for a live model, hall rental costs and additional equipment such as a fan heater and artist's light. Classes are running the third Sunday of the month and are run by Sarah McPhee who can be contacted by email sarah.ford28@hotmail.com. Over 18s only.

£438.69 to pay for a thermal imaging camera.

Community Tuesdays at Invermoriston hosted a guest speaker from Warm Energy Scotland who advised a thermal imaging camera can identify heat loss areas in our homes. With this information, residents can ask for advice on how to rectify these areas and in some cases, funding can be available towards the costs. The camera is available by appointment as it will require an operator. Training to use the camera is also available.

£971.99 start-up costs for a new Iaido, or Samurai Sword, class in Invermoriston's Millennium Hall. Equipment included dulled edge practice swords and a Kamidana (shrine to which students pay respect). Instructor Craig is, thanks to the funding, now First Aid trained and fully insured. Iaido teaches many aspects which include strength, balance, focus and mindfulness. Craig can be emailed at mrcraighardy@hotmail.com if you are interested in finding out more. Over 18s only.

£5,000 towards the costs for Kilchuimen Academy students to visit the USA for a Shinty training programme. Community funding will go towards the costs of accommodation and travel expenses for this fantastic opportunity. The girls attending this are fund raising to cover some of the other related expenses.

£588.98 to Kilchuimen Academy for decorations and lights to use at school events. A group of ten pupils forming the Pupils' Voice worked on the project sourcing the equipment and collaborating on the costs. The equipment is available for use throughout the school.

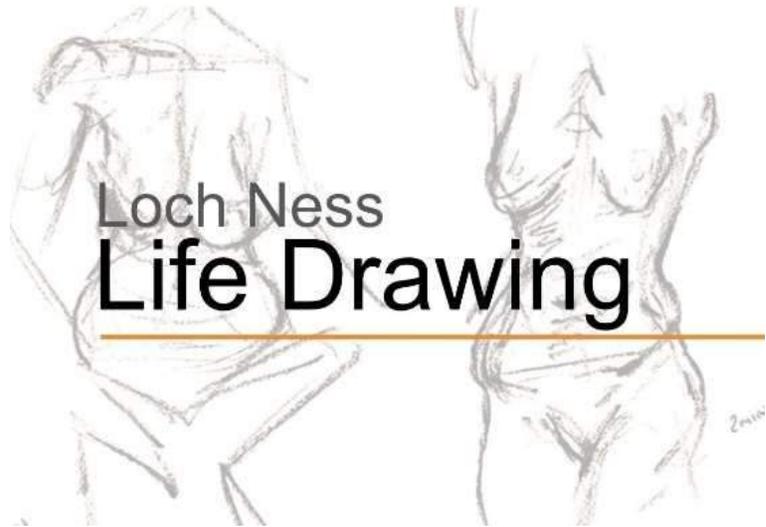
Funding is available for local groups and activities, so if you are already running a club or group or thinking of starting one let us know. We can advise on available grants and help get you up and running.

Community Benefit grants are also available. These are great for those little projects you walk past every day in your area. Invermoriston's Incredible Edible Garden is a fantastic example of how Community Benefit grants can support the area.

Tarff Trading

The store continues to provide the community with suggested lines of stock including dairy products, fruit and vegetables, and cold meats. In the build-up to spring, the store will be bringing in its usual gardening tools, plants and range of soil including Miracle-Gro, New Horizon, J Arthur Bowers and Jack's Magic.

For spring cleaning, we have a fantastic range of cleaning products to get your homes looking as good as new. We have everything from bleach to baking soda, and sponges to shower sprays. Your





home can be ready for the summer months without long trips to the town. And you can enjoy a drink from our coffee machine while you enjoy a browse around the store.

Don't forget you can hire Bissell's Big Green Rug Machine; £19.99 for one day, £29.99 for two days and the cleaning fluid is £17.99 for a bottle.



Watch this space – PayPoint coming soon to Tarff Trading!

Tarff Trading is a community led store. Your suggestions are needed to keep the shop to its original ethos; to serve the community, so give your ideas and needs to Donna, Nigel or John. If we can do it, then we will.

Red Squirrel Project

Convent Land Development Officer, Chris Rose, has been working with Trees for Life on the Save the Scottish Squirrel project, an exciting project to increase the range of Red Squirrels in Scotland.

The project will involve healthy and strong squirrels being re-located to unpopulated areas like the Morven Peninsula near Mull.

Chris' part in the project involves gathering data on Red Squirrels, their movement patterns, and daily habits. The Convent Land is believed to host a healthy and growing population. Following their movements and their squirrely lives will provide invaluable information that will help to strengthen their genetic diversity.



Squirrels' movements captured by the Wildlife Cameras funded by the Community Company

Our Convent Land Development Officer's involvement in the project will see the Convent Land's community of squirrels being fed with some lovely nuts and seeds. That's the safe part! Chris then must weigh and measure the squirrels noting important information about their health and conditions such as any pregnancies and remarkable features.

Keeping a close eye on the squirrels' dreys will be an important part of Chris' involvement in the project. A drey is essentially the squirrels' home. The squirrels typically build these high up in the trees providing a haven from predators; these are usually made by the squirrels themselves and are often mistaken for abandoned bird nests. Keep an eye out for them next time you go for a stroll through the woods.

“Facing many factors that have adversely affected their population, it is fantastic to see the Red Squirrel receiving some well-needed and much-appreciated support. Trees for Life are doing an amazing job of improving the Red Squirrel's genetic diversity and I'm delighted that the Convent Land is a central part of the significant early stages.”

You can find more information about the project and register your name as a volunteer by emailing Chris on conventland@communitycompany.co.uk or call on 01320 366800.





Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

Minutes of meeting held at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus on 31st January 2024

Present:
Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)
Helen Clay - Secretary (HC)
Mike Anderson - Treasurer (MA)

Claire Pegrum (CP)
Clare Levings (CL)
Jenny Findlay (JF)
Cllr. David Fraser (DF)
Minute Taker: Barty Jones

Culachy Windfarm (Fred Olsen): Representatives gave an update about the proposed project which has been submitted to the Planning Dept. A discussion took place about private water supplies, width of road for turbines, new site access and the possibility of a fire with lack of water to put it out. Discussions from the CC and members of the public followed.

Glen Affric and Loch Ness National Park: Representatives of the Strathglass Community Council discussed the possibility of a new National Park for Glen Affric and Loch Ness with the pros and cons of the idea. They notified the CC that there is a survey available on the website regarding the idea and a discussion followed.

Previous Minutes:
Proposed by HC seconded by CL
Position of Vice Chair
HC elected position of Vice-chair, Proposed by DM, seconded by CL
CP elected position of Secretary, Proposed by DM, seconded by HC
MA re-elected Treasurer, Proposed by DM, seconded by HC

Matters arising:
Redburn Traffic - Issues raised about traffic causing problems by parking on verges to look at Highland cows are still ongoing. Concerns were also raised about abandoned HGV trailers being parked and abandoned unlit in laybys and left overnight. DM to contact all small tour operators to raise issue.

Janitor's House - Janitor's house discussed if it could potentially be used to attract teachers and be used as a house.

Glenmoriston Estates - ongoing.

A82 - DM to contact Ken Hossack (BEAR Scotland) to raise awareness of responsibilities of BEAR on clearing access on roads, paths and the bridge during adverse weather. Concerns about the state of the canal bridge. DM to follow up the issue. Traffic lights at the Kirton Memorial have been restored.
Oich Road - ongoing.



Fort Augustus public toilets - ongoing.

Police Report:

The CC are not receiving any kind of police report. Although we have been told that there is a newsletter that CC should receive containing a link regarding police activity in the area, nothing was forthcoming.

Treasurer's Report:

CC now receiving statements every four months. The account balance is £6,088.15. DM to contact the Legion regarding invoice for the wreaths for the Remembrance Service.

Renewables:

Auchterawe Battery Storage - Sound monitors are to be deployed to monitor the noise levels from pylons and more equipment should be fitted before any more pylons are put up.

Loch Ness Pump Storage - DM and HC attended a meeting in Invermoriston the previous evening where Brian Shaw, director of Ness District Salmon Fishery Board came along to discuss the proposed project and the possible effects on the landscape, biodiversity and water fluctuations. Concerns and objections can be submitted via the Energy Consents Unit website <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00003398> by 23rd February. CC will write a letter.

Coire Glas - No further changes, no liaison meeting has occurred since 12th December 2023.

Tomchrasky - Current state is in the next steps and the CC have received an invitation to meet as they reach determination.

JF agreed to come on board to help CP with issues on Renewables.

Planning and Licensing Applications:

Planning Applications Validated 29/11/23 – 31/01/24

Ref: 23/05834/PNO Location of Works: Land 95M SE of Dundreggan Dam

Glenmoriston Description of Works: Application under Regulation 62 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 for ground investigation works associated with a replacement transformer Applicant: Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks.

Ref: 23/05692/PNO Location of Works: Land 1000M NW of Balnacarn Dalchreichart

Glenmoriston Description of Works: Formation of access track. Applicant: Forestry and Land Scotland.

Ref: 23/05794/PNO Location of Works: Land 1340M NE of Achadh Nan Darach

Aberchalder Invergarry Description of Works: Formation of forestry access track.

Applicant: Forestry and Land Scotland.

Ref: 23/05783/PNO Location of Works: Land 900M NW Of Wildwood Auchterawe Fort

Augustus Description of Works: Formation of access track. Applicant: Forestry and Land Scotland.

Ref: 23/05803/PNO Location of Works: Land 2170M SW Of Tomchrasky Farmhouse

Dalchreichart Glenmoriston Description of Works: Formation of track.

Applicant: Scottish Woodlands.

Ref: 23/05864/FUL Location of Works: Land 5300M SW Of Ceannacroc Lodge

Glenmoriston Description of Works: Installation of equipment cabin, generator, fuel tank and 9.5m high wind turbine Applicant: Airwave Solutions Ltd.

Ref: 24/00071/PNO Location of Works: Land 5300M NW Of Ceannacroc Forest Radio

Station Glenmoriston Description of Works: Peatland restoration scheme Applicant:

Ceannacroc Estate.

Ref: No: 24/00240/FUL Location of Works: Land 2210M NW Of Tomchrasky Farmhouse Dalchreichart Glenmoriston Description of Works: Erection of 100m high meteorological mast. Applicant: EPower Ltd.

Ref: 24/00258/PIP Location of Works: Land West of Heather Cottage Dalchreichart Glenmoriston Description of Works: Erection of house. Applicant: Lloyd Fursdon.

Community Amenity Issues:

Concerns raised over an unstable vehicle that has been abandoned at Inchnacardoch Bay for around two months. A decision was made to notify the BEAR about the seriousness of the situation in the hope that they will offer to remove it and erect crash barriers as it's a bad accident area.

Reports of a large number of trees down around the area due to recent adverse weather.

Discussed setting up a Resilience Group for helping elderly and vulnerable residents with no communication, heat or water due to power cuts and storms. Hopefully all community groups would come together, including the Highland Council to facilitate this.

Inchnacardoch Bay - HC had spoken to FAGCC previously about taking over Inchnacardoch Bay but they had said no previously. She will bring it up again at the next meeting with them.

A.O.C.B

- The Forestry car park at Torr Dhuin has had a payment meter installed, payment is made through the Ringo App
- A bus stop at Alt-na-Criche has been asked for, DM to contact David Summers at Highland Council.
- The Ring of Pine at Invermoriston is rotting and has become wobbly, DM to contact Phil Waite at the Highland Council.
- Achnaconoran Road has been affected by flooding once again after all the rain and snow. It has been suggested that a sleeping policeman at the right position would help divert the water, DM to contact John Taylor at Highland Council.
- Invermoriston toilets - the septic tank at the Millennium Hall is leaking, ongoing.
- Invermoriston residents asking why the road speed hasn't been dropped down to 30mph. Transport Scotland deal with trunk road not the Highland Council.
- Battery Storage - Some lorries not using the correct route to battery storage at Auchterawe.
- Ardachy Road - Highland Council will be patching up potholes.
- There are currently traffic measuring devices through Fort Augustus to see how the 20mph limit is working.
- The no entry signs on the canal-side are not very obvious if coming from the canal car park area, arrows on the road need redoing.
- Road Barrier – The CC have been asked about a barrier erected at the footpath from Caledonian Court.

Closed Meeting after Community Council

This meeting took place after public meeting which was attended by some members of the public who wanted to be co-opted onto the Community Council. A discussion took place and it was agreed to co-opt Daniel Clark (Fort Augustus), Rachel Hayes and Leanne Findlay (both Glenmoriston).

Next meeting is at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus on Wednesday, 29th February 2024 at 7.30 pm



Notice Board

STAFF WANTED

The Bothy are looking for waiting/bar/kitchen staff. Full and part time jobs available.

Apply Within or
Tel. 01320 366710

Musicians Welcome

The Telford Centre would welcome any volunteers to come and play a musical instrument to the residents.

Please contact Sabine,
David or Michael
01320 366511

STAFF WANTED

The Lock Inn are looking for bar/kitchen staff. Full and part time jobs available.

Apply Within or email
thelockinn.lochness@gmail.com

WHIST WHIST WHIST

LAST SESSION OF THE WINTER

Date amended due to Easter

Friday 22nd March

7pm start

9.30-10pm finish

**Church Hall
Fort Augustus**

Entry £2 pp

**All welcome.
(Over 10's)**



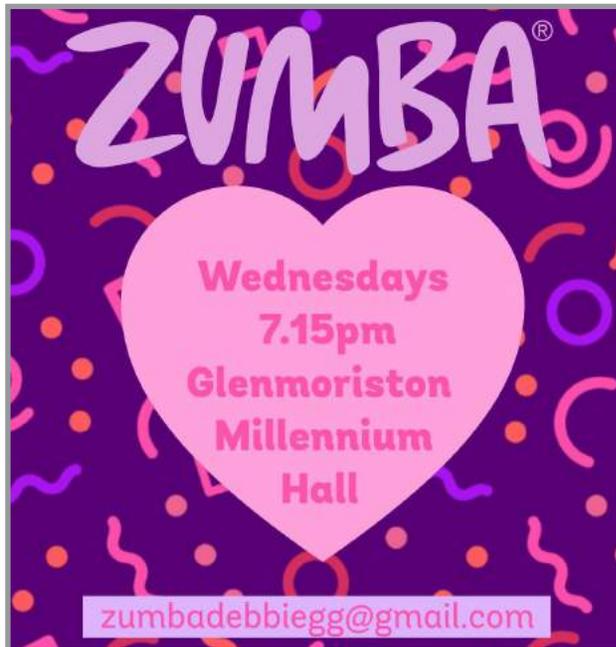
Raffle

**Next date:
27th September
(subject to change)**

**Half-time:
Tea/coffee.
Take own snack.**

Supported by Fort Augustus Senior Citizens Association

Notice Board



ZUMBA®

Wednesdays
7.15pm
Glenmoriston
Millennium
Hall

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 20th March

£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



TEMPLE SPA

ence led skincare with a Medditerean hea
Enjoy a spa experience
1-2-1 or with friends
in the comfort of your own home



To book contact Chantelle
on 07979046332
or email charnie-g@hotmail.co.uk
Local group and work place
bookings also welcome

Notice Board

The Legion, Canalside, Fort Augustus Upcoming Events at the Club

March

Every Monday Evening Pool Tournament
Every Tuesday Evening Darts Tournament
Thursday 14th Quiz Night and Raffle 8pm
Friday 22nd Open Mike night talent contest can you sing/dance/play a music instrument/standup comedian ?

30th Live music from 4play 9pm to 11pm

April

Every Monday Evening Pool Tournament
Every Tuesday Evening Darts Tournament
Thursday 18th Quiz Night and Raffle 8pm
Saturday 27th Fancy Dress 007 Themed Disco

May

Every Monday Evening Pool Tournament
Every Tuesday Evening Darts Tournament
Thursday 16th Quiz Night and Raffle 8pm
Saturday 25th Live band [to be confirmed]

Everybody Welcome

Other new events to be confirmed
See Posters at the Club for more details

COMMUNITY SOUP & SANDWICHES

Wednesday 13TH & 27TH March 2024

12.00 – 14.00

Fort Augustus Village Hall



For more information contact Helen on 07359 083997

Donations welcome for the MS Society

Thanks to



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**):

20th May 2024 (for our meeting on 10th June, also our AGM)

19th August 2024 (for our meeting on 9th September)

18th November 2024 (for our meeting on 9th 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
Email: glengarrytrust@gmail.com

Please also follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust

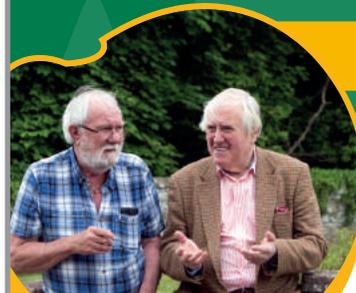


3 Glens Helping Hands Befriending Service

3 Glens Community Care are delighted to be offering a Befriending Service to the residents of Glengarry, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston.

If you need some extra support and friendship then we would love to help you! See over for more details on using the service.

Contact us at:
contact@3glenscare.org



Working with
Highland