

Ness News

Community News & Events

September 2025



Railway Open Day



Shinty



Blast from the Past





Lots of activities and events have taken place in the area over the past few months with lovely warm weather but sadly there have been too many local deaths and funerals especially in Fort Augustus and our thoughts go out to all the families affected.

The Community Council have been actively participating in numerous Renewable Energy and Community Benefit consultations and meetings during the summer. We remain committed to representing our community on these issues, as there is a shared concern that the scale of these projects has a severe negative impact for our area.

Lately, we have managed to curtail motorhomes parking overnight at the Catholic Church near the Highland Club, had the bins removed from the front of Fort Augustus Village Hall and attended a meeting with Kate Forbes, Lynne West and representatives from Transport Scotland and BEAR on Invermoriston road safety issues. We are currently addressing tour bus management which is impacting several areas of our region, especially Fort Augustus.

The community council have set up a SCIO called Cill Chuimein Legacy Project which you can read about on the next page and get involved and there is a new CC website and Facebook page set up to keep everybody updated so take a look at www.fortaugustus-glenmoriston-cc.co.uk

Now putting on my other hat, the Fort Augustus Senior Citizens' Association have combined the annual outing and the September shopping trip on the 17th September where stops will include Beauly for coffee/tea, Fortrose Golf Club for lunch and Tesco's in Dingwall for shopping.

There's also a trip for over 60's residing in Glenmoriston, Fort Augustus and Glengarry to the Highland Cinema in Fort William on 15th September which will also include lunch before and snacks provided whilst watching the new Downton Abbey film. This will be a monthly event up until December and is funded by Beinneun Community Fund. Lesley Hill (Glenmoriston) and I (Fort Augustus and Glengarry) will be helping to coordinate the future film trips so if you're interested in going, please contact us.

Deirdre

Editors

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A new future for Inchnacardoch Bay

A new group has been formed to look after the strip of land around Inchnacardoch Bay that is currently owned by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council (FAGCCI).



Iain MacKnocher 2025

Back in 1984 the land was bequeathed to the FAGCCI by the Forestry Commission and has remained their asset ever since, however as time moves on the situation concerning liability and litigation has also developed and the asset can no longer be managed as before.

This brings a new future for the land (water not included) which contains one of the few public slipways on Loch Ness as well as parking and a path that weaves its way to the viewpoint overlooking Cherry Island, the only surviving Crannog on Loch Ness.

The newly created Cill Chuimein Legacy Project (CCLP) will assume ownership of the land later in the year and then will be engaging with the community as Mike Anderson the Chair of CCLP states:

“We wish to bring the site up to modern Safety, Health and Environmental standards while simultaneously ensuring that this historic area of outstanding natural beauty is preserved for future generations of our community to enjoy”.



Leanne Findlay 2025



L-R Dan Clark, Mike Anderson, James Prince, Jen Findlay - Deirdre MacKinnon 2025

The site also provides access to the bay via the slipway and CCLP, in conjunction with FAGCCI are contacting the boat owners and engaging about future access. It is early days, but the Project, comprising of Mike Anderson, James Prince, Jenny Findlay, Dan Clark and Leanne Findlay, are keen to press on registering the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation with OSCR and then transferring ownership.

If you wish to register an interest with the

Project or learn more please use our website:

cclegacy.co.uk



Cill Chuimein Heritage Group

The Heritage Group and friends had an enjoyable trip to the National Trust Visitor Centre in Glencoe on Wednesday May 28th. En route we stopped for coffee at the Soap Factory next to the 12th Century Inverlochy Castle. Arriving at the Visitors Centre set amidst the dramatic mountains of Glencoe the views were stunning. Eilidh, a National Trust guide, welcomed us in Gaelic and English and showed us the Creel and Turf house, a replica of the 17th Century home of MacIan, the MacDonald Laird. The Creel House was built from turf that hardened almost to stone, with a timber frame and heather thatch weighed down against storms with stones tied to strong heather ropes. One of the walls inside had been plastered by local children with mud and cow manure. Benches were low to the ground to avoid the smoke from the central fire. In the dim interior smelling of peat smoke we heard the moving story of the Glencoe Massacre when government troops were billeted in the village during the winter of 1692. For 12 days the soldiers enjoyed generous hospitality from the MacDonald Clan, then the Campbell Officer received an order to turn on their hosts. 30 MacDonalds were killed including MacIan their Chief. Coming out into the sunshine we walked down a grassy track bordered with wild flowers to the ruins of the original village. It was hard to imagine anything could disturb such a peaceful scene. Our thanks to Chris Rose for driving the minibus and to Linda for organising yet another successful Field Trip.

HERITAGE AND GAELIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

We are thrilled to announce the long awaited appointment of our two officers, Eilidh Sykes and Laura Brown. They will be working to promote Heritage and the Gaelic language in Fort Augustus, Glenmoriston and at Trees for Life. They are already hard at work familiarising themselves with the area, establishing contacts with Gaelic speakers, and delving into Heritage records held in the archives in Fort Augustus.



Our next meeting will be on Sunday September 21st at 2pm, when we will welcome Dr Chris Robinson from The Highland Museum in Fort William, to show us some interesting artefacts from the museum collection. This will be preceded by a short AGM to present the Chairperson's report, and an update on finances. We are running the group on a more informal basis, but of course things don't happen without some organising. Anyone willing to help out will be more than welcome. Why not have chat with one of the committee to find out more.

We are planning a 'fungi forage' in the near future. Further information will be available on the What's On Fort Augustus Facebook page and posters around the village.

November's meeting on Sunday 16th at 2pm, will be looking at the Fort Augustus floods photos of 1989 and sharing stories of the impact on the community.

December brings us to our Christmas meeting, Sunday December 7th at 2pm. The story of The Ardachy Ghost is the subject for intrigue and speculation, whilst enjoying mince pies and Christmas cake.



The Hub, Dalchreichart

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2025



“Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons”

As the leaves turn and the air takes on that crisp, golden edge, the Dalchreichart Hub is settling into the cosiest time of the year. The Hub has been bustling with activity, and we're excited to share what's been happening – and what's still to come.

A Smart New Look for the Car Park – over the summer, the Hub's car park was fully resurfaced and finished – and we have to say, its looking very smart indeed. It's now smoother, safer, and far more welcoming for visitors and you can see in the picture above just how good it looks.

Celebrating the Eco Garden Opening - on 30th August we officially opened the Hub's Eco Garden – a space designed to grow community spirit as well as plants. Alongside our regular coffee morning, we marked the occasion with a lively BBQ. A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support the opening and to those who helped bring this green space to life.

Check out our new colourful signs - we've placed some interesting and informative signs on the external walls depicting local wildlife, insects and fungi that are found in Dalchreichart and Glen Moriston. Do pop by and take a look - you may well be surprised at what you can find in our area!



What's On At The Hub?

Coffee Mornings – A monthly Tradition

Don't forget, our Coffee Morning takes place on the last Saturday of every month from 11am to 1pm. It's the perfect opportunity to catch up with neighbours, enjoy delicious home baking and keep connected with the community. Next coffee mornings held on 27th September, 25th October, 29th November which also coincides with our AGM.

Borrow A Book – or Donate One

The Hub has a small library of books that you can borrow whenever we're open for other events. If you have books you'd like to pass on, we'd be delighted to add them to the collection for others to enjoy.





Bingo Nights

Mark your calendars – Bingo Night is on the second Saturday of every month at 7pm. It's an evening full of prizes, laughter and a great chance to spend time with friends old and new. Whether you're a seasoned bingo pro or a complete beginner, you're guaranteed a warm welcome and a load of fun! Cost - 50p for a card. Sessions planned for 13th September, 11th October and 8th November.

Craft and Chat

We meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday each month. Everyone is welcome. Bring whatever craft you are working on or just come along and enjoy the company. Session runs from 10am to 1pm. This is a free event. Next meetings planned for 18th September, 16th October and 13th November.

Coming up – Oktoberfest!

Get ready for a night of music, merriment and maybe a little lederhosen! Our Oktoberfest celebration this year will be held on Saturday 25th October at 7 pm. We will provide snacks, tea and coffee, but please bring your own drinks. Expect some good cheer and frivolity on our take of this Bavarian-style evening. The event is at no cost, but we are limited on numbers so please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment by emailing us at thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com

Indoor Curling – Would You Join In?

We're exploring the idea of hosting an indoor curling event at the Hub. If you're interested in having a go, please let us know. If there is enough interest, we will put a regular event on over the autumn/winter period. Please express your interest by contacting Tim on directly on 07862229314 in the first instance.

As we move into autumn, the Hub continues to be a place for warmth, connection, and shared moments. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

For further information on our Hub, check out our website: thehubdalchreichart.co.uk. Our events are usually posted on our Facebook site: Glenmoriston Community. If you are a member of Dalchreichart Residents Group you can also see them posted there, or if you are simply curious, why not drop by and join in, the more the merrier! Open to all, including visitors and residents of surrounding villages.

The Dalchreichart Hub Team, West Glenmoriston Community Company.
Email: thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com



Shinty Update

Our 2025 tombola and merchandise stall and kitchen, serving hot food and drinks was a huge success at the Glengarry Highland Games. Many thanks to all for donations and thanks to volunteer helpers Linda, Anna, Mairi, Shannon & Anne for all their assistance.

The last night of the term and probably the wettest saw the juniors having a fun night as well as a training night. Congratulations to our junior winners Fergus, Ben, Sebastian, Scott, Brooke and Gracie.

At the beginning of July, we said a sad farewell to coaches Shaun and Roddy who have worked with the juniors for the last couple of years and to Holly and all her organisational skills and the upkeep of the junior administration. We welcome onboard new coach, Martin and new junior secretary, Anna.



After wins in 2023 and 2024, unfortunately 2025 saw Glengarry depart the Chieftains Cup with a 3-2 loss to Oban Celtic despite goals from Daniel MacLennan and Raymond Robertson. This is the first year since the cup started that Glengarry has not made it to the final, but hopefully that will change in 2026.

On 12th July, we hosted our annual MacBain Cup. This cup is in memory of Roddy MacBain of Invergarry. The match was attended by his brother Tony and niece Samantha. This year Glenurquhart were our opponents, and the thrilling game ended 2-2, which then continued to penalties which Glenurquhart won. Man of the match was DD Cameron.

Like all clubs nowadays, we need to do fundraising to stay afloat, so Ken organised a pool & darts evening in the British Legion. A fun night was had by all not just with pool and darts but also scratch cards, spot the ball and a secret bottle raffle. All proceeds have gone to the running of the club and the purchase of new sticks. Congratulations to the winners Archie, Finlay Nic, Charlie, Rhuairidh and Joey. Looking forward to holding the next one in the new year.

Junior training sessions restart on Wednesday 20th August at Craigard Shinty Pitch, Invergarry

P1 – P7 6.00 – 6.45
S1 up 6.45 – 7.45
Shin pads must be worn

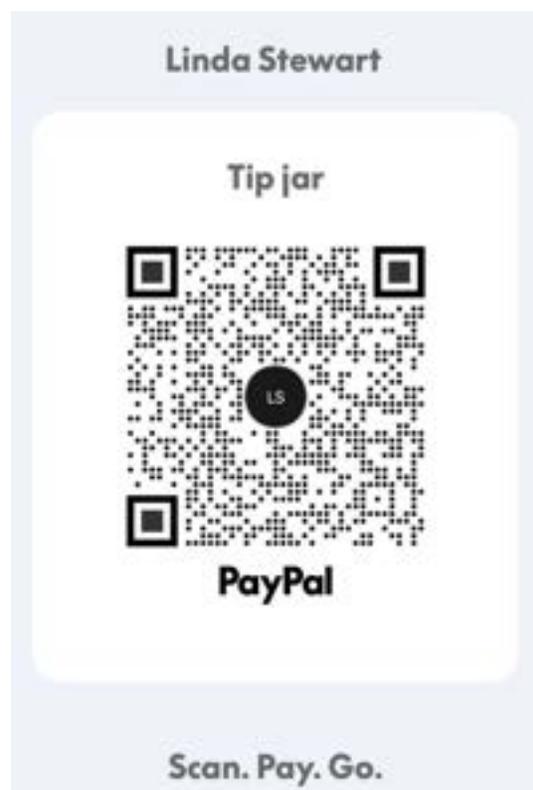
The club would like to say a fond farewell to player Archie Johnstone and girlfriend, Grace who are leaving to start a new life down under in Australia this September.





On Saturday, 9th August Glengarry Women's shinty team undertook a 200 mile static cycle challenge in Fort Augustus, giving themselves 8 hours to do so. After what's been a glorious summer, the girls were faced with a dreich cold day, however they pedalled through completing the 200 miles by 3pm after 6 hours of cycling. The girls called it day at 4pm racking up a total of 233 miles, a distance which would take them just past Berwick-upon-Tweed on the borders. The girls were overwhelmed with the generous donations from residents and tourists alike, making a grand total of around £550. Many thanks to everyone who contributed. Thanks also to Monster Fish & Chips who kindly fed our participants afterwards.

(If you'd like to donate you can pay through PayPal using the QR code, not sure if tests allowed)



'Supporting Our Communities'



3 Glens Community Transport Service – Now Running Twice a Month

We're excited to announce that our **3 Glens Community Transport Service** is now operating on the **second and last Monday of each month**.

Route: Glengarry & Glenmoriston to/from Fort Augustus

Cost: £2 return

The service is **open to all 3 Glens CC members** – membership is completely free, and you can register in advance or even on the bus. **All passengers, including the driver, must be members and over 18**, so unfortunately, we cannot transport children.

This service must be **well-used** – the more journeys we make, the stronger the case we can build to show there's an ongoing need for community transport in our area.

3 Glens CC is in a new phase – trialling a Community Transport Service with a minibus provided by Glendoe Ltd (Glendoe Estate). This service is reliant on volunteer drivers. At the moment we have one committed volunteer. Volunteer drivers must meet our insurance terms. Training and support will be given to volunteers aged over 25/under 70 who would like to contribute to this service. We also welcome any suggestions for other routes. Denise.

Booking is easy:

Call 07507 627990. Our is a dedicated answer machine service.

Or send us a message via our Facebook page, 3 Glens Community Care.

Calling All Volunteers – We Need You!

As our services grow, so does our need for friendly and reliable **volunteers**. Whether you can spare time as a **befriender or handyperson**, support **community transport**, or help out at **local events**, your involvement makes a real difference. Volunteering is flexible and rewarding—every hand helps.

CONTACT:

Beth - Development Officer/
Services Coordinator
07507627990
contact@3glenscare.org

Visit our website
www.3glenscare.org
Facebook:
3 Glens Community Care

Chair - 3 Glens CC
Denise Paterson
chair@3glenscare.org





Fort Augustus Club Makes History

Loch Ness Taekwon-Do is back in action after the summer break, and it's kicking off the new season with something special - the club's very first Black Belt promotions.

Congratulations go to **Ben White** and **Josh White**, who both earned their 1st Degree Black Belts after completing an intense day of testing. Their achievement is the result of years of consistent effort, discipline, and hard training; a real milestone for them personally, and a proud moment for the club as a whole.

Classes have now resumed at Fort Augustus Village Hall, running every **Monday and Friday from 6.00–7.30pm**, and are open to **anyone aged 10 and over** whether you're a complete beginner or returning to martial arts after some time away.

Loch Ness Taekwon-Do offers more than just kicks and punches. At its heart, the club is about building **confidence, fitness, and discipline**, within a friendly, supportive and welcoming environment.



Realistic self-defence is the essence of the club's goals. Students learn how to stay calm in stressful situations, how to assess danger, and how to defend themselves effectively if needed. Every technique taught is practical and rooted in real-world application.

Instructor Simon believes this is especially important for young people in the Highlands who may eventually move to larger towns or cities. *"Life in urban areas can be unpredictable,"* he says. *"We want to make sure our students, especially those leaving rural communities, have the awareness and skills to look after themselves."*

Whether you're a teenager looking to boost your confidence, an adult wanting to improve your fitness and learn something practical, or a parent thinking ahead for your child's safety, Taekwon-Do offers something worthwhile.

No experience is needed, and everyone is welcome to come along, try a class, and see what it's all about. For more information, just drop in to **Fort Augustus Village Hall** on a class night. New faces are always welcome!



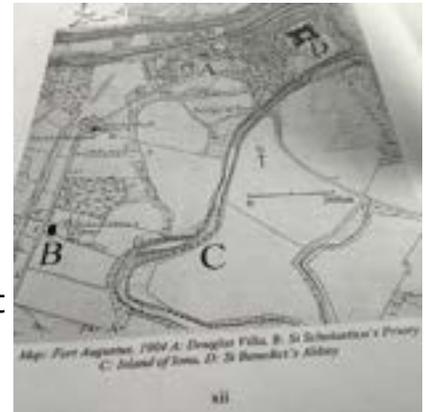
Blast from the Past

Convent Wood

How lovely to see all the work that has been done in the convent wood.

Such a tranquil place and brings back fond memories of the time I lived over the fence from it, below our house was the walled graveyard with its wrought iron gates, in the springtime, the ground was amass with snowdrops and the most amazing daffodils all colours and shapes with the most glorious smells.

The seven nuns in the graveyard were re-interred in 1972 to the St Benedict's Abbey (the council were going to build houses there, what a thought) by Ian Grant, the local undertaker and his friend, Neil Ferguson. Strangely enough, Ian Grant's father had acquired the nuns wooden chapel in 1921 which was going to be demolished and transported it to the other side of the canal and rebuilt it and called it Arizona.



Ian Grant himself lived there with his wife and four daughters.

When the land was owned by the nuns in the 1880s, they intended to build their convent on one of the two small islands that were on the River Tarff at the time and call it Iona. After a lot of research, they had to give up the idea as the river was prone to flooding and they were extremely disappointed.

The land acquired by the nuns was on Market Hill, well known at the time for its cattle markets and stretched to St Joseph's Hospital. A high stone wall was built all around the boundary by two local men Duncan and Peter for the sum of £99 ironically, some of the stone they used was from the small island that the nuns called Iona.



By the beginning of 1889, the nuns were completely self sufficient with milk, butter, eggs, potatoes and crops of corn. Also they had a bakery and sold surplus meat, eggs and veg to the local butcher.

Duncan and Peter built an impressive wooden fence by the River Tarff, making a secure enclosure for the ducks and hens, beside the enclosure was a successful field of strawberries, when their two fields of corn were cut and harvested with great joy an annual picnic tea carried in two large laundry baskets was held by the River Tarff overlooking Iona.

Between harvest time and planting, they burnt acres of gorse, and beyond the cemetery where they built a small Calvary which is still standing. A gift of 900 trees from Lady Weld were used to plant an avenue from the cemetery to the priory and the remainder were planted in the new enclosure and around the dry stone arch which they used for reflection and reading in the afternoon sunshine.



Maureen Ferguson

I would like to dedicate this to a dear family friend who recently passed away Mairi Ingles, Whitebridge Cottage, Auchterawe (Sister Mairi) dedicated her life to care for others and always there for me.

Community Tuesdays Are Coming Back



Thanks to a generous grant from the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, these community days will start again on Tuesday 28th October in the Millennium Hall in Invermoriston.

We start at 12.00 noon with soup, sandwiches, newspapers and good craic. Afternoons offer visits from various organisations (Citizens Advice, mindfulness, tai chi or head massage for example) jigsaws, table tennis, bar football and indoor curling and of course more chat over tea, coffee and home baked cakes. Check your blood pressure and glucose levels if you want and try your hand at crafts with Jackie.

An evening meal (always including a vegetarian option) is served between 5.15 and 6pm and we clear the hall by 6.30 in time for

Iaido (Anyone for Japanese sword skills?).

These days are totally free and aimed at helping you to turn down your thermostat to take advantage of our Warm Space. All ages are welcome: come after school with the youngsters and see if anyone can beat Roger at table tennis, or just chat with the neighbours and get to know new people.

Beth from 3Glens is looking into getting transport to Invermoriston from Fort Augustus and Dalchreichart, so we hope the days can be enjoyed by everyone in the area. Wherever you live.

Invermoriston Community Shop

You may have noticed some changes at our Community-run shop:

Julius has moved on to take up work at West End Garage: we are very grateful for all his knowledge in helping to establish the shop and wish him well in his new career as a mechanic. Stephane is now ably supported by his new part time staff, Tiff and Stephen. Tiff will soon be undertaking a book-keeping course, which will be of benefit not only to the shop, but also to the area. We are already benefiting from the kind assistance of two new volunteers working in the shop: welcome to Megan and Susan.

We have recently managed to find a new supplier of organic vegetables: Black Isle Breweries! If you are interested in buying organic fruit or vegetables please let Stephane know what you would like. Lochaber Larder from Fort William supplies our excellent fresh meat. We are also now stocking a wide range of price-marked goods, which will keep prices lower for our customers and our local crafters continue to impress us with





their skill and creativeness. We also stock gluten free and lactose free products. Don't forget local residents can sign up as members which entitles attendance at the annual members' meeting and a 5% discount on groceries.

We are sporting a new look, with some new tastefully coloured doubled glazed windows and doors, ready for keeping our customers cosy this winter. With assistance from Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company we have upgraded our heating system and purchased new more efficient fridges and freezers.

Do call in and say hello, check out what we are selling and of course let us know if you can spare a couple of hours most weeks to help out. Our volunteers say they enjoy being in the shop, meeting people, catching up on local news and being part of a happy team. See you soon!

Invergarry & Fort Augustus Railway



The railway has now fully reopened and also the Great Glen Way, after a two year closure by Forestry and Land Scotland. The closure had been brought about by the need to fell trees on the station face wood. It's good to have people walking and cycling through the railway site again. Work recommenced in April and started with a big clean up and deciding where our priorities are for the next part of the project. It was felt that we should have an open day to remind everyone what was going on. The day was officially declared open by Mrs Janet Ellice, whose late husband, Christopher was one of the founder members of our Society.

The diesel shunter was working on the main line and the steam miniature train was providing rides on the new Invergarry lower line. This proved to be very successful with



children and adults alike. The weather forecast was for rain in the morning and clearing in the afternoon. We were open from eleven to four, and were surprised when people were queuing to get in before eleven and in the rain. In all we had over two hundred people attending.

Thanks to all our volunteers and working members, and in particular to Glen Mhor Croft for providing the BBQ, and the ladies who provided and served tea, coffee and cakes throughout the day. Due to popular demand we shall be running two or three more days before Christmas, hopefully to include a Santa special. Watch out for details later.

Photos by Deirdre MacKinnon

Church News

Pictured at his recent baptism at Fort Augustus Parish Church on Sunday 17th August proud parents Brian and Ruth look on as Theo Ferguson is baptised. The Minister, Rev Anthony Jones introduces baby Theo to the congregation in the custom of perambulating around the church.

A Renewal of Vows took place on Wednesday 9th July when Paul and Amanda Cook travelled from Franklin, Ohio in the United States of America to celebrate their anniversary by having their wedding blessed in the Scottish Highlands at Glengarry Parish Church by Rev Anthony Jones, the Minister at Glengarry Church.

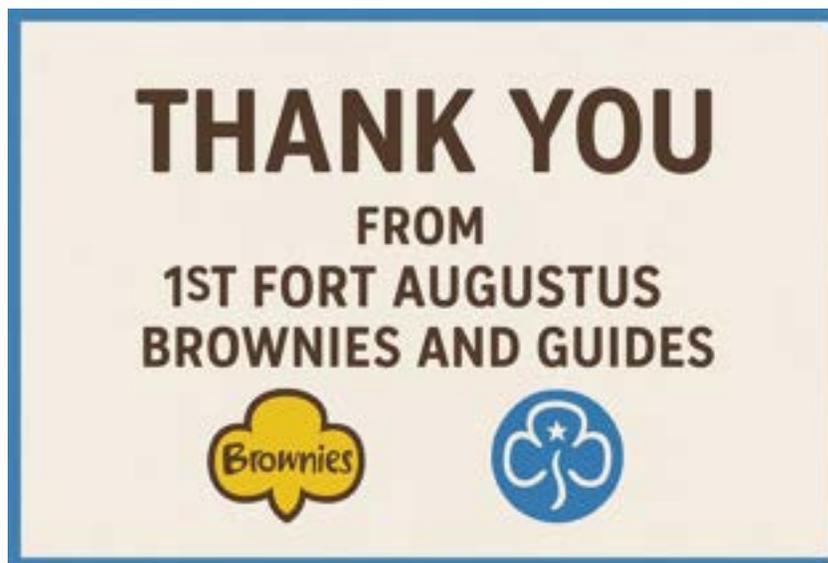
WEDDING BELLS!

Recently married on Friday 30th May at Fort Augustus Parish Church were James Macrae and Caroline Macrae.

Gemma Macrae and Enok Wang were married on Saturday 31st May at Glengarry Parish Church.



Brownies



1st Brownies and Guides has restarted again after the summer holidays and we have already attended the Screen Machine while it was here. We meet every Tuesday (term time) at the Church of Scotland Hall at 5.30pm and each meeting is £2.50.

We are very keen for more girls to join our units and always welcome new members. If your daughter is aged between 7 and 10 she can join Brownies or if she is aged between 10 and 14 she can join Guides.

We are also more keen to be involved more in the community and for the community to be more involved with the units. If you have any ideas how we can achieve this or have any hobbies talents etc you could bring to a meeting please get in touch.

Lastly, we would like to say a massive thank you to Helen Clay and her helpers for choosing the local Brownies and Guides as their chosen charity in June at the Wednesday Soup and Sandwich Lunches.

Also a massive thank you to Julie and co. at the Legion for raising funds for the units through August's killer pool competition.

Without these donations we wouldn't be able to run the units.

Lisa Gordon and all at 1st Fort Augustus Brownies and Guides

Mindfulness

Retired Drumnadrochit GP, Peter Wilkes will be running a mindfulness course for beginners in the Millennium Hall at 10am on Thursday 4th September until October 23rd. The course is intended to teach participants the techniques of mindfulness that are used to relieve stress and anxiety and to help them cope more easily with the ups and downs of life. The course is being provided free of charge.

Peter Wilkes was a GP in Drumnadrochit for many years and worked for many years as a mindfulness facilitator with the Clinical Psychology Department in NHS Highland.

Potential participants are welcome to contact Peter using this email address (peterwilkes239@gmail.com) if they have any questions about the course or wish to discuss the suitability of the course for them.

Announcements

Births



Ruth Henderson-Ferguson and Brian Ferguson welcomed Theo George Loui Ferguson Born 4 weeks early in Raigmore Hospital on the 30th of June, weighing 4lbs 14oz.



Becky Hodson and Matthew Brady married at Perth Registry Office on 1st August 2025.



Chris Clark and Anna Surgeoner married on the 21st June 2025. The wedding took place at their home at Drumclune, Drumnadrochit.

Weddings



Barbara Philip and Martin Girvan married on 16th August 2025 at the Kingsmill Hotel, Inverness.



Jock Findlay and Seo So-young married at St. Peter & St. Benedict's Church, Fort Augustus on Saturday 26th July 2025.



Gemma Macrae and Enok Wang were married on Saturday 31st May 2025 at Glengarry Parish Church.

Deaths



Heather Urquhart

Heather Urquhart nee Bell passed away peacefully at her home in Auchterawe on 14th May 2025. She was a loving wife to Ian and mum to Ian, Donald and Angela and an amazing Nana to her 10 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter. Heather's passion was dancing and loved nothing better than taking to the floor with Ian at local ceilidhs. Losing our mum and nana has left a huge void in our lives as she was our rock and soul mate. Greatly loved and missed. Rest in peace.



Stan Barnes

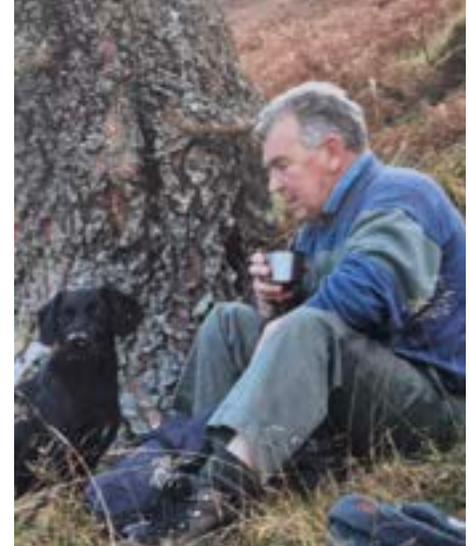
Stan Barnes was born in Farnworth, Lancashire on 4th July 1945. He joined the army as a Royal Signals soldier before training in psychiatry and later in learning disabilities, mainly in clinical management positions which took him to many areas in the UK from Cornwall to Argyll and Bute. He married in the 1970's and had three children and later, three grandchildren.

In 1989, he joined an NHS Community Specialist Team where he met and later married his colleague, Maura. He studied at universities in Liverpool and Manchester to further his health studies and theology.

In 1995, Stan moved to the Highlands with his wife who was joining the Highland NHS and for the next ten years they lived in Glen Nevis, Bohuntine, Appin and near Roy Bridge before settling in Fort Augustus in 2005. During his time in Lochaber, he had periods of severely disabling illness and when well enough, he wrote poetry and had an eclectic taste in music, enjoying The Proms, opera and Abba as well as Leonard Cohen and Eva Cassidy.

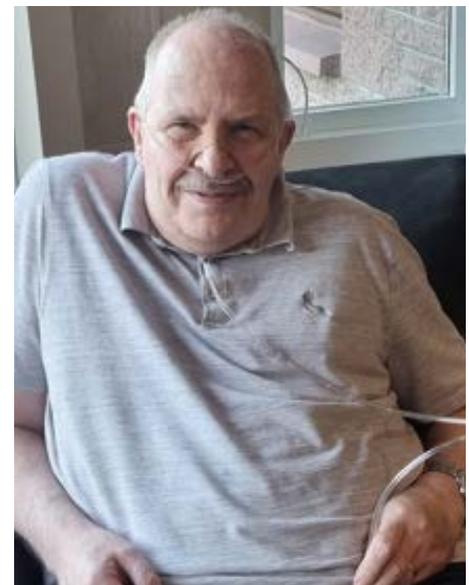
He enjoyed meeting his Men Shed mates at the Canal Centre café for coffee and having a good chat. In the latter years, both Stan and Maura studied art and made some good friends at

the UHI West Highland. On returning from their Christmas family holiday in Mallorca, Stan was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer and was supported and nursed at home by Maura until he died on 24th May 2025.



Brian Clark

Brian Clark, Kimmeridge, Fort Augustus sadly passed away on 13th July 2025. He was a loving husband to Thelma, a devoted dad to Sheree and Chris, father-in-law to Anna and grandad to Laura, Archie and Lachlan.



Colin Sherriffs

It's with great sadness, our family tells everyone who knew Colin, that he passed

away on 25th July. Colin grew up in Fort Augustus, and we spent many happy time in the area. We held his cremation on 12th August, to which many friends, family and former colleagues attended. We are truly thankful to all who made the trip from far and wide. We would also like to thank everyone for there cards of condolence, messages on media and beautiful flowers that were sent. We now have to learn to live without this amazing man in our lives. Thank you all Lillian, Kelly, Douglas, Anni, Bethany, Skye, Toby, Alora, Sam, Riley and Taiah.



Katie Johnston

Kathleen "Katie" Johnston (née Clark) was born on the 5th July 1958, in Polloch by Loch Shiel to Kate and Jimmy Clark. She was the 6th of 8 children. They had a simple but

loving and fun filled childhood, spent mostly at Levishie, just past Invermoriston. Katie and her family moved to The Riggs in Fort Augustus when she was 9 years old and she remained in the village for the rest of her life, apart from a year and a half spent in Stromeferry working at the hotel at age 16. She was a kind, loving and caring person. This was evident in her time spent caring at the Telford Centre, working in the school canteen and later private home care work she did for quite a few elderly locals over the years.

It was New Year 1990 in the Lovat public bar that she met Andy, who she would marry on the 25th August 1992 at the registry office in Fort William. Her caring nature found its fullest bloom in motherhood, when she and Andy welcomed their only daughter Claire on 24th April 1997.

She had a wonderful sense of humour and found great joy in being surrounded by her family and friends. She was very fondly "Auntie Katie", and loved dearly her many nieces and nephews. She was very close to her brothers, sisters and in-laws too. She loved getting "dolled up" for an occasion and was the life and soul of a party. Katie also loved her holidays, especially getting away in the camper van her and Andy bought.

Katie was diagnosed with breast cancer in November

2011. She underwent radiotherapy and was given the all clear. It wasn't until early November 2022 she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. This devastating news was softened slightly by the birth of her only grandson Ronnie on the 25th of November 2022. She always said "he came along at the right time for Granny". It was obvious how much joy and strength he brought her and she absolutely doted on him. Throughout her treatment, Andy stood by her with unwavering strength, love and support. She often said he was her rock and no words could describe how much she appreciated him. She was undergoing chemotherapy at the same time as her older brother, Brian, which gave them both courage knowing they were in it together, and she was devastated when Brian passed on the 13th of July, only 13 days before herself.

She passed peacefully on the 26th of July at home with Andy and Claire by her side. Katie has left behind a large and loving family who will never forget the kindness, love and care she radiated. We will all miss her terribly, but we try to feel not only sadness, but celebrate the joy she brought to us all. Her light, love and laughter has not come to an end — it continues in each of us who were lucky enough to have known her.



Derek Prise

Derek Prise was born on the 16th of February 1952 to Bill and Magga. His primary education was at the Roman Catholic School before going onto Fort Augustus Secondary School. Leaving school, Derek embarked on a career with the Forestry Commission planting trees and working through the ranks to serve in the Research Team and also served with the Royal Observer Corps for many years. Leaving the Forestry after 16 years' service, and fed up of all the travelling,

he joined the British Waterways which he thoroughly enjoyed until he retired. He was Treasurer of the Indoor Bowling Club and played golf, darts and snooker with enthusiasm, he also enjoyed the social interaction and his claim to fame was when he appeared on television with Jim McColl on the Beechgrove Garden. Over the past year, Derek became ill and was very reluctantly admitted to Raigmore Hospital and then transferred to Invernevis House Fort William on the 31st of July, where he passed peacefully.

Invergarry Primary School News



Everyone at Invergarry Primary School is back and refreshed after a lovely summer break. We finished last term on a real high, with a fantastic leavers assembly to say goodbye to our P7's, lots of dolphins (or were they porpoises?!) spotted during the wildlife cruise on our summer trip, and a very successful Summer Fair. Thank you to everyone who came along to this – between the stalls and raffle we managed to raise a wonderful £1026! This will go towards events and resources that the children enjoy throughout the year, as well as any specific requests from our Pupil Council.

We were delighted to welcome our new P1 and nursery pupils at the start of term and are very impressed with how well they have settled into their new classes. Our older pupils have been so helpful and welcoming, especially the 'buddies' who have gone above and beyond to make sure that the youngest members of our school are happy and looked after – well done to you all!

We have some excellent trips and workshops planned for this term; we're looking forward to going back to Trees for Life and will head to Inverness to visit the Art Gallery and Museum. We've got some school-based Health and Wellbeing workshops arranged in September that we will tell you more about in the next Ness News. We will be doing our annual food collection to take along to the Harvest Celebration at the Glengarry Church of Scotland which is then donated by them to the Lochaber Food Bank. Everyone has also been very busy creating our entries for the Glengarry Produce Show; fingers crossed for some rosettes.

Our nursery pupils have settled back into the daily routine well and are enjoying the nursery garden and playground while the weather is still good. We are also very pleased to welcome Miss Grant to the nursery team at Invergarry! The whole school will be making the most of the good weather with plenty of outdoor time - we're all looking forward to a busy term of learning and fun.

Kilchuimen 3-18 Campus



We have had an extremely busy Summer term here at Kilchuimen 3-18 Campus, with our senior pupils undertaking their SQA exams in the Academy and preparing for their next steps, pupil transitions into new year groups, as well as many day trips, residential trips and other exciting events happening.

Nursery and Primary

Our Nursery and Primary pupils have enjoyed various trips and events as part of our Summer activities week this year, including a trip on the Cruise Loch Ness boat, visit to the Highland Hideout park and a fantastic day at Farm Ness. We would also like to thank Katy MacLeod for coming to the school to run an interactive music session showing us what it's like to be a DJ, as well as Steph Smart with fun and educational drama workshops.



We were also delighted to welcome artist Iain Piercy from the Scottish Opera who came to run an art workshop ahead of a wonderful performance here at the school.

Many thanks to Monster Fish and Chips, Screen Machine and Scottish Canals for welcoming us and providing some truly excellent day trips.

A big thank you to Primary pupil Jack Nicolson who won a competition through his football team to bring two Inverness Caley Thistle players to the school to run a workshop with the P4 to 7 classes, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



Our P7 class were lucky enough to go on the annual residential trip to Edinburgh. They packed a lot of interesting and fun activities into the trip, visiting Edinburgh Castle, the Scottish Parliament, Dungeons, Dynamic Earth, Camera Obscura, Mini Golf, the National Galleries and the Edinburgh Chocolatarium, creating some special memories of their last year in Primary School.

The term was rounded off with our annual Summer picnic and Sports Day where lots of fun was had by all, as well as a magical performance of 'Our Terrific Tree' by Trapeze Entertainment. Thank you to Sarah McPhee for working with the FAGCC to arrange this.

We would also like to thank the Kilchuimen Primary School Parent Council for funding our fantastic new Bell tent, providing a great space for outdoor learning and recreational opportunities, which has received excellent feedback from both teachers and pupils.

Academy DYW

Developing Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland organised an excellent study leave program for some of our senior pupils, including work experience placements and a cooking workshop at Glendoe Estate. Many thanks to employers Shaun Nicolson Joinery and Leac Farms for hosting.

Through DYW we also welcomed the Royal Navy for a careers and fitness workshop which helped us understand the wide variety of both sporting and careers opportunities as well as completing team building and physical and endurance activities. Balfour Beatty also came to run a sustainability workshop which was highly beneficial.

School Trips

S1-S3 were invited to participate in a 3-day activities residential in Perthshire at PGL Dalguise. The young people took part in lots of activities such as canoeing, climbing, archery and laser tag. We would like to thank the FAGCC, Glengarry Community Company and Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust for their support in funding this trip.



The S5/6 pupils went on a leadership course at the Outward Bound Centre in Loch Eil, Fort William where they had five days of fun and adventure in the outdoors, doing activities such as rock-climbing, abseiling camping canoeing and gorge walking. Thank you to the FAGCC and the Outward Bound Trust for funding this amazing adventure.

The Technical Department trip to Copenhagen proved to be an exciting experience for all the pupils who attended. Highlights of the trip included a visit to the Danish Architecture Centre, visits to the Danish War Museum and the Museum of Resistance as well as the Design Museum of Denmark. They explored Kastellet, an impressive star fort and then visited the Museum of Natural History, ending with a visit to Tivoli Gardens theme park. The success of this trip was greatly aided by the generous support of the FAGCC, who funded the trip, allowing the pupils the chance to have such a good experience.



Sports

The students have been taking part in rugby sessions since October and have been competing as part of the Lochaber schools' competition. The finals of the Caledonia North Challenger Series took place at Highland Rugby Club. The girls' team were the overall series winner and took home the trophy. We hope to build on this success we had this year by continuing with the rugby sessions next term introducing the sessions across S1-6.

We're excited to announce that our school has received four brand-new dartboards, complete with stands and darts, thanks to the generous fundraising efforts led by Kenneth Henderson. Starting next term, some of our senior pupils will be running darts sessions, providing an excellent opportunity for students to develop new skills and engage in friendly competition.

Leavers

The annual Leavers' Dance was a great success this year. The theme, chosen by the pupils, was 'Enchanted Forest' and they embraced this enthusiastically and enjoyed a fantastic night. We would like to take this opportunity to wish our school leavers all the very best for the future.



3-18 Campus

VE Day

We celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE day as a whole 3-18 school with the community invited to join us for some refreshments and entertainment provided by Miss Cameron and the senior music students. It was excellent to see such a great turnout from the local community. We would like to thank everyone who attended and donated, including the local businesses who so generously donated sandwiches and cakes, helping to make the event such a success.

Trees for Life

Unique juniper forest at Dundreggan given special European status in UK first

A genetically unique juniper forest at Trees for Life's Dundreggan rewilding estate has been awarded a special European designation to protect and enhance its globally significant diversity. Our 10,000-acre estate now joins a European network of genetically important and well-managed sites classed as Gene Conservation Units – a status reserved only for long-standing native tree stands that meet specific criteria.

The network – managed in the UK by Forest Research, the country's principal organisation for forestry and tree-related research – aims to ensure coordinated protection for the genetic diversity of tree species at a European scale. It brings together sites recognised for their protection of genetic diversity and natural processes.

Key parts of both the juniper and silver birch woodlands at Dundreggan have received the prestigious classification – adding to recognition of their importance, and opening up opportunities for further scientific studies.

"This designation underlines why letting our ancient woodlands grow back naturally is so important to us at Dundreggan, and it celebrates the remarkable remnants of naturally occurring and locally adapted juniper and silver birch that still survive on the estate," - Gwen Raes, Dundreggan Estate Manager.

Read the full story here: treesforlife.org.uk/news

Visitors to Dundreggan can explore the lush juniper and birch woodlands and enjoy walks along forest trails, including an accessible, low-level Juniper Path, known as Ceum an Aitinn in Gaelic. In total, the woodlands on the lower part of the estate are home to some 50,000 juniper and 80,000 silver birch.

Upcoming events

It's been a busy few months at the Dundreggan Rewilding Centre, and we're excited to share a diverse programme of events right here in the glen this autumn:

- Experience Rewilding Residential Experience - 13-15 September
- Music: Jenny Sturgeon with guest Patsy Reid - Sunday 14 September
- Autumn Folklore of the Highlands - Saturday 20 September
- Wild Wellbeing Day Retreat - Sunday 21 September
- Natural Ink-making Workshop - Saturday 27 September
- Music: Merlyn Driver - Tuesday 7 October
- Wellbeing and Rewilding Residential Experience - 10-12 October
- Gaelic Residential Experience - 14-16 October
- Highland Cèilidh - Wednesday 15 October
- Beauty Elm exhibition and artist talk with Chris Goodman - Friday 17 October
- Spoon Carving Workshop - Saturday 18 October
- Music: Ruby Warblers - Saturday 18 October
- Wand Carving Workshop - Sunday 19 October
- Dundreggan Nocturnal Adventure - Saturday 11 November

See what's on and book your place: visitdundreggan.co.uk/activities

We look forward to welcoming you to Dundreggan this season!



Great Glen Sauna

A Warm Welcome in the Glen: Great Glen Sauna Brings Community and Calm to the Highlands

Book a seat - Private hire - Events/collaborations

Down by River Oich, a new kind of gathering place is quietly making its mark. Great Glen Sauna, a wood-fired sauna built inside a beautifully converted horse box trailer, offers locals and visitors alike a chance to slow down, warm up, and reconnect with themselves and each other.

"We provide a space to rest, restore and connect with the places and people around you," say local founders Ben & Sarah. Whether you're catching up with friends, sharing stories with family, or simply taking a moment to breathe, Great Glen Sauna provides a space that feels both restorative and welcoming. Sessions are relaxed and informal, with the sauna's wood-fired warmth offering gentle heat therapy and a chance to unwind. It's not just about wellness it's about community. Over time, Great Glen Sauna aspires to become a place where conversations flow easily and connections grow naturally.

What to expect?

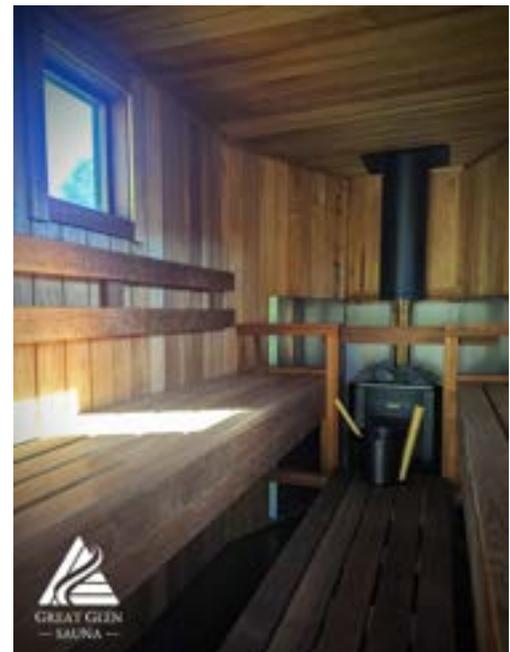
After booking on our website, you will arrive, swimwear on and ready to go. You will be welcomed by your host who will take you through a quick introduction and put your mind at ease. As you step into the warmth of the sauna you hear the crackle of the fire and feel the gentle rise of steam creating an atmosphere that's both invigorating and serene. Then it's all about listening to your body, you set the pace. If you feel too hot, pop out for a breath of Scottish air, splash some cold water on your skin or take a cold plunge. Relax for a moment before returning once more to the heat.

Why Sauna?

Regular sauna use has been linked to a range of health benefits. The deep, dry heat helps improve circulation, ease muscle tension, and support recovery after physical activity. Many people also find that sauna sessions promote better sleep, reduce stress, and leave them feeling mentally refreshed. Combined with the calming presence of nature, Great Glen Sauna offers a holistic way to support both body and mind. For those seeking a break from the pace of everyday life, Great Glen Sauna is a reminder that sometimes the simplest experiences of warmth, nature, and good company are the most meaningful.

"Our journey getting started has been an exciting one and we are looking forward to running more community focused events over the autumn & winter. If you have any ideas on what you would like us to try or would like more information please reach out (info@greatglensauna.com). We look forward to welcoming you to Great Glen Sauna soon," Ben & Sarah.

For more information or to get in touch, check out our website/socials:
<https://greatglensauna.com/>



Fort Augustus Duck Race

The race was originally planned to take place on the River Tarff as the village is so busy with tourists and traffic across the stone bridge. However, on the day before the race the River Tarff had very little water flowing under the bridge and wide stony areas showing along the banks. This was obviously not going to work, so a change of venue was decided on.

After consulting with Deirdre and Cath Fraser the decision was made to hold the duck race on the Oich but later on the day at 7pm when it would be quieter. More posters were put up to inform of the change and a Facebook update made.

Saturday 23rd turned out to be warm and dry with a good turnout of people watching from the bridge as the ducks were sent on their way from Roy's garden on the river bank

The first duck took off and shot down the river, unfortunately the others hung about round the bridge and some hid under an overhanging bush. They were rescued by our volunteer canoeists and Chris Rose in a dinghy.

The winning duck had been sponsored by Adam Mason who received a £20 prize.

All the ducks were sponsored and the proceeds have been split between the Cill Chuimein Heritage Group and the Fort Augustus and Invergarry Railway Museum.

Grateful thanks to Ben McPhee for arranging the canoes and a special thank you to Chris Rose for his help in launching the ducks. I do hope his wellies have dried out!

It seems there is a need to buy more ducks for any future race as quite a few people were disappointed that the ducks were all sponsored when they tried to take part in the race. A lesson learned for the future.



Photos by Deirdre MacKinnon



What next for Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston?

New plan unveiled

We now have a [new community Plan](#) - our Plan - for the next 5-10 years. It replaces the [previous community plan](#) prepared in 2018.

Our "Local Place Plan" has just been registered by the Highland Council, after much hard work by local residents, the Community Council, Community Company and Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association during 2024.

The aims of the new Plan are to:

- **Support community action** - helping us to access money and resources, for example community benefit funding from renewables.
- **Improve public services** - evidence to inform local and national decision-making on planning, transport, housing, economic development and other public services.
- **Build consensus** - enabling us a community to focus on what needs to happen rather than getting stuck in debate, so we are ready to move quickly when resources become available.

Take a look at your new Plan at www.ourfutureplan.net

Priorities for action

The new Plan includes eight priorities for action, shown below. It also contains maps showing proposals for Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Opportunities for recreation, work, learning etc

MANAGING VISITORS

Tourism done with us rather than to us, making more of our heritage

GETTING ABOUT

Safe walking and cycling in our villages, better bus services

COMMUNITY LIFE

Play, recreation, food shopping, health/dentistry, workspace, mens shed etc

AFFORDABLE HOMES

Especially for younger people, workers & families

JOBS & BUSINESS

Local, affordable childcare and space for small local businesses

PATHS & NATURE

Maintaining our local path networks and regenerating nature

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Resources, volunteers & staff so the plan can be delivered

Making it happen

The hard work of implementing the Plan has already started. Here are some of the things that the Community Council, Community Company and Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association have organised over the last few months:

- New signage, 20 mph speed limits, road markings and flashing lights at each end of Fort Augustus
- Bunoich Brae handrail replaced, and no parking/loading enforcement on A82 between Caley Brae and Bunoich Brae
- Invermoriston hall toilets upgrade
- Invermoriston Community Shop supported financially for a further year, and Tarff Trading has extended its food offering to meet local requirements
- Accessible paths around the Convent Land, adventure play
- Support with transport costs to swimming lessons for Kilchuimen Primary children
- 3 new apprentice opportunities in the past 6 months
- New Community Council [website](#) and [Facebook page](#), and [Ness News](#) more widely available

Other work in progress includes:

- Cemetery path / car park improvements and lobby for reduced speed limits in Invermoriston
- Improvements to the Ardachy Road between A82 and B862
- Conversion of Glentarff House in Fort Augustus to two affordable homes for local people, with another proposed in Kilchuimen Academy Janitor's House
- Cill Chuimein Legacy Project at Inchnacardoch Bay
- Abertarff play area improvements in Fort Augustus
- Community acquisition of Fort Augustus Memorial Hall is close to completion
- Exercise classes for teenage girls, cinema trips to Fort William
- Ongoing work to address visitor management, waste management and public transport, and respond to windfarm proposals

Remember...

The Community Council and Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association are entirely volunteer-run, and the Community Company has limited staff and a volunteer board.

If you'd like to help support the Plan, please get in touch.

Community Council

contact@fortaugustus-glenmoriston-cc.co.uk
www.fortaugustus-glenmoriston-cc.co.uk

Community Company

01320 366800, Fort Augustus Village Hall
contact@communitycompany.co.uk
communitycompany.co.uk

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association
glenmoristonhall.org.uk



Tel: 01320 366800

Email: contact@communitycompany.co.uk

Office hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 3.30pm

***Don't forget that you can become a member of the Community Company.
To find out more <https://communitycompany.co.uk/membership/> or call the
office for an application form.***

Convent Land Update!

We were delighted to welcome Kate Forbes MSP and Deputy First Minister to the official opening of the community's recently constructed play area, **Convent Castle**. Approximately sixty members of the community turned up on 25th July to see Kate tear through the ribbon on the zip line and to enjoy a free ice cream afterwards.

It's amazing to see so many of the community taking advantage of the new accessible footpaths and the Convent Castle. A huge thank you goes to Convent Land Development Officer, Chris Rose, and all the volunteers who have devoted so much time and hard work to make it happen.

Thanks to Deirdre MacKinnon for all the photographs,



The day was an opportunity for many members of our community to approach Kate on various issues our community faces.

Chris is now working on plans for a contemplation garden and a feasibility study for a community hub, so look out for more updates soon.

Offensive Waste on Convent Land – Human and dog!

Sadly, we are finding an increasing amount of faeces on the land, both dog and human. We didn't expect to have to do this, but we are having to put up signage asking people not to use the site as a toilet. We appreciate that this is a problem with tourists and not locals, and certainly an area wide problem not unique to this site. We would ask for your patience as we work with the Community Council to try and deter this anti-social behaviour.

We also ask all visitors to the site to pick up after their dogs. Whilst the majority of people are doing so, we are finding evidence that not everyone is being responsible. There are already 2 dog bins close to the entrances and a further one is on order and will be placed in a central location. New signage will also be put up to remind dog owners of their obligation.

Funding in Action!

Kilchuimen Primary - after a successful grant application, Kilchuimen Primary was awarded **£1,044** to allow P1 to P7 pupils to enjoy this year's panto, it covers tickets and transport. Well done to the team at Kilchuimen Primary for securing the funding.

Kilchuimen Academy – in collaboration with Chris Rose, Kilchuimen Academy secured **£918.55** in funding to buy metal working equipment which will mean the technical students can craft “house” shields to decorate ***Convent Castle***. Thank you to everyone involved in this and we're looking forward to seeing the creative designs in the new term.

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association – the GMHCA were awarded **£9,993** to fund another season of the popular ***Community Tuesdays*** initiative. This project provides a warm, safe place with hot lunches and dinners while surrounding its guests in a buzzing social hub. Congratulations to the team of volunteers who make this happen.

Fort Augustus Senior Citizens – Have been awarded £978 for a coach trip to Fortrose. This will include a stop in Beaulay for coffee, lunch in Fortrose and then time to go to Tesco in Dingwall for a bit of shopping before they all come home.

Fort Augustus Parent and Toddlers – The Community Company has approved the cost of Hall Hire for the coming year to the value of £752. This small group could not afford to meet without this support. The social opportunities it offers for parents and children alike are invaluable.

Vicky Howie – Vicky is keen to start a strength training class for teenage girls and has been awarded £491.80 to help with start-up costs and buying some of the necessary equipment. If you are interested in joining this class or know someone who might be, do keep an eye out for more information once all the necessary checks are in place.

Students – we are delighted to award nine student grants so far for the coming term. If you are going into further education, even for a part-time course, then get in touch and we can help with funding. Student grants have been increased this year to **£750!**

ILM Electrical recycling service

On the first Friday of each month, ILM Recycling will be in attendance at the Fort Augustus Village Hall ready to accept any electrical goods with a plug on it. This service reduces electrical waste joining the general waste and gives your old items the opportunity to be serviced, repaired and re-used.

Just bring your items to the van at the Village Hall car park from **11am to 1pm** on the first Friday of each month.

Community skip dates

Invermoriston 3rd October – 6th October

Dalchreichart 3rd October – 6th October

Fort Augustus 6th October – 8th October

Unfortunately, the community skip in Fort Augustus is being used by commercial enterprises which reduces space in the skips for those who it is intended to benefit. If you know of anyone who is doing so, please do ask them not to abuse the service.

Additionally, Glen and the caretaker team continue to need to remove items which the skip provider will not accept, without imposing fines on the community company. Recently we have found tyres (even push bike tyres are prohibited), half empty paint tins and fabrics. This means the team must climb into the skip and clamber around; it isn't a pleasant task by any stretch of the imagination. They also end up having to break down bulkier items, such as cabinets, that are taking up too much space where they could be flattened. Please do break down items where you can.

Glen and the team also remove items that might be useful for others such as wood and some metal, freeing up more space. We are trialling a new system for Fort Augustus in October which will see two new areas created; one for wood, one for metal. These items should be placed on the marked grass area beside the skip. The caretakers will sort these out and recycle whatever they can and place those that they cannot into the skip.

Please do **not** place fridges, freezers, tyres (including bike tyres), liquids (like paint), mattresses, or fabrics of any kind in the skips. Violations may result in the supplier fining the Community Company which ultimately could lead to withdrawal of this service.

If you're not sure if an item can be disposed of in the skip, you can call Bowmans on: **01397 722218**

Glentarff House

It has been a long journey, but we believe that we may finally be able to complete on the purchase of this wonderful in September.

Then the hard work begins. We already have planning permission but now we need to finalise the detailed designs, tender for the work to be done and find the funding to convert this beautiful building into 2 more affordable homes for local people.

We will be taking down the large trees at the front of the property and tidying up some of the others in the garden before building work starts. The plan includes the removal of the existing porch and small extension to add a more attractive entrance at the front of the property, facing the canal, and extended living space downstairs. If you would like to find out more about the plans for the house please do get in touch with the office.

Don't forget that all of the homes owned by the Community Company give priority to people already living and working in this community. Please do either look on our website or contact us for copies of our housing policies. The rental payments go towards upkeep of the existing homes and where there is a surfeit, this is re-invested in other community projects. The homes are self-sustaining and an investment for the future. They are not reliant upon continuing funding from renewable energy projects.



Tarff Trading

After our summer trial of opening later hours, we'd like to thank everyone who popped in and supported us. From **2nd September**, we'll be returning to our **normal opening times**:

Mon – Sat: 08:00 to 17:00

Sun: 10:00 to 16:00

With the summer sun fading and autumn leaves beginning to turn, it's the perfect time to prepare your home, garden, and vehicles for the colder months ahead.

Our *car care range* is ready for the season, including *antifreeze, de-icer, and ice scrapers* – everything you need to keep your vehicle running smoothly on frosty mornings. We also have *bagged salt* to help keep your paths and driveways safe from ice and frost.

Inside the store, you'll find *draught excluders, insulation rolls, weatherstripping, and door sweeps* – simple fixes to keep the heat in and the winter chill out. For outdoor maintenance, we have *gutters and downpipe accessories, roof repair products*, and waterproof sealants to help protect your property from autumn storms.

Our *garden and outdoor section* is stocked with *rakes, leaf blowers, heavy-duty bags, and compost bins* for managing fallen leaves. We also carry *autumn lawn feed, mulch, and winter plant protection fleece* to help your garden look its best through to spring.

And for those cosy Highland nights, you'll find *logs, kindling, coal, and firelighters*, as well as *fireplace tools and stove repairs* to keep your home warm and inviting.



Pop into Tarff Trading and let us help you get winter-ready whatever the Highlands weather has in store.



Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

Minutes of meeting held at the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston on Wednesday 28th May 2025

Present: Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)
Jenny Findlay - Vice-Chair (JF) Mike Anderson - Treasurer (MA) Claire Pegrum - (CP) Helen Clay - (HMC)
Clare Levings (CL) James Prince (JP) Daniel Clark

(DC) Cllr. David Fraser (DF)

Apologies:

Leanne Findlay (LF) Cllr. Chris Ballance (CB)

Previous Minutes:

Addendum:

JF attended the SSE Community Liaison Group (CLG), and minutes have now been received.

Proposed by MA, seconded by CP.

Speaker: Laurie Piper (LP), Head of Customer Experience and Delivery at Scottish Canals Trust (SCT)

LP attended the meeting at the request of the Community Council. He explained that he has overall responsibility for the operation of the Caledonian and Crinan canals, plus moorings, volunteering and complaints.

LP acknowledged and apologised for the lack of direct interaction with the Community Council and residents over many years, and committed his staff to engage on a regular basis. This is already something that happens with the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee of Argyll and Bute Council for the Crinan Canal and would be every three months at least.

He explained the staffing structure relevant to Fort Augustus and stated that councillors were welcome to speak with them directly anytime. However, in order to have oversight of the backlog of issues, Laurie requested that in the first instance, a collated list be sent to him so that he could assign them to the correct department/person and monitor progress.

Craig Cummings, Manager of Canal Operations, based at the Seaport Marina, Inverness
Douglas Gordon, Local manager for Canal Operations
Gemma Flinders, Canal Operations team leader and liaison for community activities
Charlie Furnival, Caledonian Canal Centre manager

Councillors expressed their disappointment that SCT did not take pride in Fort Augustus despite the scheduled monument status. The infrastructure is neglected and there are no activities for residents (and tourists) to take part in. LP acknowledged



that this appeared to be the case and he undertook to work hard to change this, initially addressing matters relating to health and safety. Partnership with the community could then be developed by Sam Cassels (Placemaking) who reports to Fiona MacFadyen, Head of Estates.

A selection of previously raised issues were then highlighted.

Rubbish and dog bins; painting of infrastructure; loose paving on canalside and steps (last date of inspection to be checked by LP); Log of health and safety risks.

Ownership of the viaduct on Canalside North and the road beneath (not adopted by Highland Council) - potholes and pooling water causing issues for residents of Bruce's Building.

Leak at lock three is expected to be fixed by the end of May. It is now 28 May and has not been done.

The strip of land at Caledonian House is overgrowing again and does not appear to be part of the contractors' cutting schedule. LP committed to getting it tidied up.

Progress with ownership transfer of the Memorial Hall: LP assured councillors that SCT had completed their part in the matter as evidenced by Registers of Scotland.

Progress with ownership transfer of Glentarff: LP stated that he had already added his signature and it would be signed off by other legal parties in the next few weeks.

LP advised that Scott II was an unlicensed boat and he was making arrangements for imminent removal. He was reminded that it would be illegal to move whilst there were nesting birds. LP agreed to consult with the environmental advisors for SCT.

The motorhome site is an Aire site licensed for up to five spaces in accordance with the Camping and Caravanning Club. It was created in response to a problem that was occurring with overnight parking. This was refuted by a resident who lives close to the site and had witnessed occasional overnight parking turn into nightly parking of between four and twelve motorhomes.

LP was thanked for his attendance and a full list of issues would be sent to him.

Matters Arising:

Inchnacardoch Land

Following the unanimous resolution to form an SCIO for Inchnacardoch Land, there has been an initial meeting of the SCIO sub-committee. Highland Third Sector Interface are advising and a mission statement has been created, although a name has yet to be chosen. A report from the SCIO sub-committee is to become a permanent agenda item.

Access to Inchnacardoch Land is currently prohibited. The Community Council cannot and will not give permission to the land adjoining the bay (the layby from the A82) due to the nature of the current condition of the site and the liability therein.

Fort Augustus to Glen Urquhart School - HC service bus

DF confirmed that the HC service bus for travel between FA and Glen Urquhart School is not being terminated. It operates (in the same way as the service bus from Tomich to Inverness) for the benefit of parents who have exercised their choice of school.

Councillors pointed out that no such service bus exists from Glen Urquhart to FA, nor

from Foyers to FA for parents who wish their children to attend a smaller school. Councillors again expressed their concerns about dwindling numbers, and an insufficiency of teachers. Any newly-qualified teachers have to leave because there is no hope of a job at the end of their probation. DF stated he would speak to Kate Lackie, Assistant Chief Exec of People, responsible for Education.

BEAR

Daniel Preston from BEAR holds responsibility for the swing bridge but Councillors requested support from SCT to press for action concerning cleaning and maintenance (including repainting) of the protected structure. DF is to meet with BEAR in approximately 2-3 weeks to chase the various outstanding road issues, including the swing bridge. CL and Lynne West (LW), Chair of the Millennium Hall Association are to meet with Kate Forbes, MSP on 1 August to discuss the dangers of the Invermoriston junction.

Treasurer's Report:

Current balance remains at £7905.90 with £1500 from Etape deposited the previous day and £1500 ring-fenced from Community Company towards solicitor costs.

Planning:

No new Planning Applications validated 28/04/25 - 25/05/25

Renewable Energy Projects:

Tomchrasky has been approved.

Next SSE Community Liaison Group (CLG) takes place on 3 June.

Bhlaraidh to be invited to the June meeting.

Culachy to be invited to the August meeting

DM and MA met with the Chair and Operations manager of the Community Company to discuss cooperation concerning the Social Charter for Renewables and the Local Place Plan.

A working group for the re-negotiation of renewables community benefit is to be created under the umbrella of the Community Council, supported by the Ward Manager and Renewables Benefits Officer. The group will consist of FAGC Council, FAGC Company, Invermoriston Hall Association and the West Glenmoriston Hub.

Re-negotiation topics will include Direct Funding (local energy discount) for the whole Community Council area, and an increase in benefit from SSEN owing to the extension of the Auchterawe substation.

MA remarked that he would like HC to perform an arbitration role between Community Councils when negotiating with energy schemes to create a fairer system.

Community Amenity Issues:

HC has not yet given a date for the start of the parking attendant in FA.

DF to speak with Citylink again regarding their refusal to recognise the Abertarff bus stop.

Parking and tree issues in The Riggs are to be looked at by the HC Housing department.

Following disappointing attendance at the monthly Directors' Surgeries held by the Community Company, there will be a trial at Soup and Sandwiches.

DF stated that HC would be voting to confirm 20mph orders. Flashing reminder signs were in place for motorists entering the village but not exiting.

The bark covering at the Abertarff play parks has been layered with salted grit. It is assumed that this is to kill off the weeds.

DF confirmed that it was up to the community to create a vision for the local play parks and calculate the investment required. There is professional support available from HC officers and Sport Scotland, and because the £5000 from HC for play parks would not stretch very far, it could nevertheless act as seed money to get additional equipment. (This money would need to be committed by 31 March.) Councillors agreed to add this topic to the agenda for June.

AOCB

Some residents of Abertarff Place are continuing to behave badly toward their neighbours. The Housing Officer was involved approximately 12 months ago but there has been no further action.

DM and MA have spoken with the Community Council about the provision of bins in the Fort Augustus car park and the increasing amount of waste. DF is to escalate the matter with Highland Council. A resident remarked that it would be good to have a whole village approach to reducing the amount of waste produced by tourists and improved recycling.

Correspondence:

Monster Fish & Chip Shop, P & A Prendergast, Community Company, Highland Council Amenities, H Nicolson, Inverness Community Partnership, UK Forest Certification Group, Highland Third Sector Interface, Energy Consents Unit, Crathaic Wind Farm, Loch Kemp Storage.

Next meetings:

Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus on 24th September 2025 at 7.30pm

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston on 29th October 2025 at 7.30 pm

Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus on 26th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Notice Board



GLENGARRY TRUST

APPLICATION DEADLINE

If you have an application you would like to submit, please be aware of the following deadline:

5pm on Monday 17th November

You might be a student at college or university, an individual or an organisation or group looking for funding.

Find out more at www.glengarrytrust.org.uk and apply online, or email glengarrytrust@gmail.com and we will send you a form.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

We administer community benefit funds from the Millennium wind farm and there may be funding available to groups, organisations, individuals and students in the Glengarry community council area.
www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust



Yoga with Katy

Traditional Hatha Yoga with Pranayama Breathwork



Glenmoriston Millennium Hall
Fridays from 10.30am-11.30am

Fort Augustus Village Hall
Sundays from 6.30pm-7.30pm

Glengarry Community Hall
Mondays from 6pm-7pm

Spaces are limited so booking is essential
£5 cash per class

If you have a yoga mat, please bring it with you but equipment can be provided

Please contact Katy to reserve your space: 07790037952 or katysilvester@outlook.com



Free CPR & AED Training at your local Fire Station.

Venue: Fort Augustus Community Fire Station
Date: 18th September 2025
Time: 1930 – 2100



Come along and gain valuable new lifesaving skills, with training supplied by Lucky2BHere.

Take the opportunity to meet your local firefighters, explore a [career in the Fire Service](#), or obtain [fire safety advice](#) whilst you are there.

Read about the vital work which the Lucky2BHere charity does within your local community [here](#) and you can always consider a [donation](#) in support.

We look forward to seeing you!



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.

Notice Board

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CLEANING**

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**FORT AUGUSTUS &
SURROUNDING AREAS.**

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Bus to Fort William

*** Open to all ages ***

Wednesday 15th October

£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 10th & 24th

Sept 12.00 – 14.00

Fort Augustus Village Hall



For more information contact Helen on 07359 083997

Donations welcome for various charities

Thanks to



Notice Board



CAR BOOT SALE
ON SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
12PM till 3
FORT AUGUSTUS CHURCH HALL

Tables/pitches £5 each
Please contact either Jess Saunders on **07710589835**
or Lisa Gordon on **07584119221**
if you would like to book a table or pitch

The Legion, Canalside Fort Augustus September

Every Monday Free Pool Table 6.00pm to 10.30pm
Saturday 6th 4Play 9.00pm to 12.00am
Wednesday 17th Killer Pool Tournament 7.00pm
Friday 19th Blackrock Ceilidh 9.00pm to 12.00am
Thursday 25th Quiz Night 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Friday 26th MacMillan Coffee, Cake and Raffle 11am

October

Every Monday Free Pool Table 6.00pm to 10.30pm
Friday 10th Karaoke Night 8.30pm to 11.00pm
Wednesday 15th Killer Pool Tournament 7.00pm
Thursday 23rd Quiz night 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Friday 31st Halloween Disco 8.30pm to 12.00am

November

Every Monday Free Pool table 6.00 pm to 10.30 pm
Wednesday 12th November Killer Pool Might
Thursday 27th Quiz Night 7.30pm to 9.30pm.
Saturday 29th Blackrock Ceilidh 9pm to 12.00am

Everybody Welcome

See Posters at the Club for more details

Loch Ness Life Drawing

NEW SESSIONS STARTING
SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

To book or for more info please email:
lochnesslifedrawing@gmail.com

SELECTED
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VILLAGE HALL
SELF-LED SESSIONS
£10 cash, per session,
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