

# Ness News

Community News & Events

December 2024



## Golf Memorial



## Poppy Project



## Bloom Borealis





Welcome to the Christmas edition of Ness News where there are a lot of adverts with all the upcoming events and a very detailed report from the Community Company as well as the final part of The Gathering feature. It's lovely to include births, weddings, graduations and other occasions as well as obituaries so please keep sending them in so that I don't have to chase them up. We also like that the schools and the Rewilding Centre keep us updated.

It was sad news in September to hear of the sudden death of Kit Cameron, who worked for many years in the Telford Centre, Sister in law of Cathy Fraser and Maureen Ferguson.



Christina Cameron (Whitebridge)  
25.07.1953 – 05.09.2024

Suddenly at home on Thursday 5th September 2024, Christina Cameron née Grieve (Kit), Ballan Ruadh, Whitebridge aged 71 years. Chairperson of Boleskine Community Care. Most loved wife of Ian, much loved mum of Andrew, Jackie and Cathleen, devoted granny of six, great-granny of five, a dear sister of Elizabeth. A massive loss to the community.

Remembrance Services were held in Invermoriston, Fort Augustus and Invergarry on Sunday, 10th November.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Editors  
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# CLlr. David Fraser

Given its position at the head of Loch Ness, with the Caledonian Canal and River Oich running through the heart of the village it is no surprise that thousands of visitors visit every year. Whilst this brings welcome employment and income to the area, it can also put enormous strain on the facilities. This is just a brief note on some of the issues people have raised with me this summer.

Housing is a huge challenge for many of our communities, starter homes for young people, accommodation for key workers and seasonal staff, suitable homes to enable people to live well within our communities as they become older. As a Council, we recently held a housing seminar and the Fort Augustus Community Company took part, there are no easy answers but vital solutions are found so our communities have the right balance of permanent residents and visitor facilities.

A82 – road safety is an ongoing concern both within the villages of Fort Augustus and Invermoriston and on the main section of road to Inverness.

Within Fort Augustus, BEAR were due to undertake a safety review including pedestrian movement around the canal, I am awaiting the report.

At Invermoriston, I continue to push for a reduced speed limit both in the centre of the village and at the south end. The last speed surveys in the centre did not support introducing a lower speed limit but they have agreed to look at measures that will help to slow traffic. If these work then hopefully the limit can then be reduced. It is counter intuitive but they will only introduce a lower speed limit when it can be shown that most traffic will be compliant with the new speed limit.

On the wider road network, they continue a programme of drainage improvements and are looking at the feasibility of a new north bound pull-in point so traffic can get past slow vehicles.

At Kilchuimen Academy, I was delighted that Lynne Angus was appointed as the Deputy Head Teacher.

Playparks – We have recently allocated some capital funding for playpark improvements at Fort Augustus and we will be engaging with our young people, the community council and the community company on how best we maximise that investment.

Renewable projects - For some years now Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston have seen very significant projects being delivered and we continue to see more proposals from SSE in terms of their equipment as well as windfarm and pumped hydro planning applications. These developments can cause significant local disruption and I will continue to support people who are impacted by the works and raise awareness of planning applications as they come forward.

Finally waste bins - Comments have been raised about the number of bins near the village hall. There was a time when life was simple, one bin, picked up regularly. In Drumnadrochit we now have 3 large bins, plus a small food waste bin and some people have a garden waste bin also. This roll out of multiple bins is continuing across Highland. Whilst the separation and recycling of waste is a good thing, it does give rise to the challenge of where bins get stored. Officially, people should only put their bins to the roadside for collection on the evening before and they should then be taken back within your grounds as soon as possible thereafter. There have been problems elsewhere that bins left out get blown about and also used by passers-by.

If there is anything I can assist with please let me know, my contact details are below  
David Fraser Email [david.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:david.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk) Mobile 07884 567200

# Finlay Nicolson Golf Memorial



This year marked the 12th anniversary of the Finlay Nicolson golf memorial cup. There was a great turn out with over 20 players on the course at Fort Augustus. It was an emotional day as always but to see Finlay Nicolson junior win the cup in his dad's memory was special. Finlay had a great day of golf and also managed to sink his first hole in one on the 9th, mirroring his father's talents as he had done the same many years before. What a great achievement.

Well done Finlay - your dad would have been proud.

# Bloom Borealis



Fort Augustus is home to Ashleigh & Ossian Parker-Mackenzie, owners of Old Pier House. In recent years, the pair have been working to launch local flower farm, Bloom Borealis, which is now underway. As a trained florist, this endeavour not only supports Ashleigh's job as a florist, but the pair also hope that this will enrich the community by providing fresh, locally grown flowers.

With a background in events floristry, Ashleigh brings a wealth of experience and creativity to her flower farm. The initiative to cultivate her own blooms came from a desire to offer her customers the highest quality flowers while embracing sustainable agricultural practices. By growing her own varieties, she is able to ensure the freshness and vibrancy of flowers, all while supporting local environmental goals.

The farm features an array of flowers, from timeless classics to seasonal favourites, nurtured with care in the scenic landscape of Fort Augustus. In addition to supplying bouquets locally, Ashleigh envisions a vibrant community connection through future workshops and events. The first of which will begin this December, with a series of Christmas Wreath workshops. "The uptake for these workshops has blown me away, with both events selling out in three days. I am encouraging everyone who wants to attend events like this in the future to sign up to the event waitlist, as I would be delighted to run more of them if the demand is there."

As the seasons evolve, so too will the offerings from the garden, providing a continuous supply of beautiful blooms to the area.

With her dedication to excellence and community involvement, Ashleigh's flower farm promises to be a valuable addition to Fort Augustus, and the couple look forward to developing this exciting new area over the years ahead.

For upcoming events and floristry, visit [www.bloomborealis.com](http://www.bloomborealis.com)



# The Hub Dalchreichtart

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024/25

No winter lasts for ever; no spring skips it's turn. Then clocks have gone back, dark nights are creeping in. Now is the time for hearty meals and sitting around the fire. Previous autumns' have provided us with better weather, however, the spectacular colour of the foliage never lets us down, and this year was no exception.

The Ecological Garden at The Hub has seen all the ground works completed. John Ferguson and his team of landscapers have now left the site, after concluding an excellent job. John was a pupil at our Dalcheichtart school, he has taken great pride in returning the garden area to a usable space for all the community to enjoy. Trees for Life have generously provided the garden with some shrubs, plants and trees, and have attended on two occasions with volunteers to plant the selection provided. More plants are required, and we would like to ask the community to donate any herbs, plants, shrubs and seeds, excess to their personal needs. Please contact us if you are able to help by emailing us at [thehubdalchreichtart@gmail.com](mailto:thehubdalchreichtart@gmail.com).



Iain Chalmers, award winning chainsaw sculpture, has transformed a previously damaged crown of trees which were too dangerous and impossible to save, into a beautiful selection of carvings of native birds and animals, including pine martin, squirrels, woodpecker, otter, owl and many more including a dragon fly, providing a focal point in the garden which is well worth viewing.



The Bee Hives have been resited and we hope to have them in use in the Spring.

A Boules Court has been created, providing a usable area for all ages to enjoy this outdoor sport in a picturesque setting. We are hoping this will be multifunctional, also allowing games of Skittles and perhaps outdoor Dice. All the new garden furniture is now in position, providing a good resting place for those who choose to walk in our beautiful glen, and for members of our community, to sit and enjoy the view, and rewards of this ecological project.



Remaining on the Ecological theme, our Natural History Walkabout focusing on Fungi, lead by John Malley, [former Water Catchment Advisor and Land Manager for the National Trust] was well attended, with over fifty five different types of fungi being identified including the



Shimmering White Destroying Angel, aptly named due to its poisonous nature.

We are wanting to erect bird boxes around the area of The Hub garden, in preparation for the spring. In order to achieve this aim we have held a Build a Bird Box Competition, inviting the community to build blue tit, robin, owl, bat boxes and sparrow terraces. The winner received a £25 garden centre voucher. Judging and presentation of prizes, took place at The Hub Coffee morning on Saturday 30th November 2025 prior to our AGM. All entries were donated to The Hub.

Our Oktoberfest with Hog Roast was very well supported, all tickets being sold. The Highland Hog Roast Company supplied us with superb food, and the musicians Scott, Curley, Allan provided excellent entertainment. One of the musicians Michael Curley had previously attended Dalchreichart School until he was eight years of age. It was a trip down memory lane for him to return.

The monthly photographic competition has produced an outstanding Calendar for 2025, all the photographs have been taken locally, the winners being chosen by the community voting on social media. The winners have each received a calendar for every winning entry. The prizes were presented at The Hub Coffee Morning on 30th November, 2024. Calendars are for sale, if you wish to buy one please contact us at [thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com](mailto:thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com)

During the autumn all our regular events have continued as usual with the addition of a table top sale, at the October Coffee Morning, and a Film Night in October, showing an excellent comedy film, starring Brenda Blythen and Martin Clunes called Saving Grace.

At 7pm on Saturday 7th December, 2024 The Hub will be holding a Christmas Dinner. This year The Redshank will be attending and cooking a three course meal, with a superb choice of menu. As always, this will be heavily subsidised by The Hub, the tickets will be £15 per person, providing an up market affordable meal.

Our winter events are as follows:-

Quiz Night the second Saturday every month commencing at 7pm.

14th December, 11th January, and 8th February.

Coffee Morning the last Saturday of each month 11am until 1pm

28th December, 25th January and 22nd February.

For further information re The Hub Dalchreichart see our website, [thehubdalchreichart.co.uk](http://thehubdalchreichart.co.uk)

on Facebook at <https://m.facebook.com/intheglen> or contact us by email at [thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com](mailto:thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com)

West Glenmoriston Community Company



# White Bridge Hotel



Here at The Whitebridge Hotel, we are a local pub as well as a hotel which is popular with tourists. Our local trade has been consistently growing over the past few years, making us a destination where customers are happy to travel several miles to dine with us, enjoy a few drinks or attend an event.

We very much value our local trade and as a method of thanking our locals for year-round support, we offer a range of locals discounts throughout the year for those living on South Loch Ness, including Fort Augustus. We have a local resident's card which offers you 10% discount on food and draught beer all year round. If you would like a discount card, please bring along proof of address, complete a registration form and a card will be made available to you. From November to March (excluding Christmas/New Year), we offer discounted rates on overnight stays when dining with us, giving you the opportunity to kick back and relax and enjoy a wee dram or two after dinner without thinking about how you will get home. Get in touch by email ([info@whitebridgehotel.co.uk](mailto:info@whitebridgehotel.co.uk)) if you would like to take advantage of our local's rate as it is not available on our website.

Our hardworking team are regularly commended for their friendliness and keenness to make our customer experience one to remember. We pride ourselves in providing quality hospitality beyond a busy summer season, where locals can enjoy a traditional pub/hotel that is catering to local people where quality is paramount alongside value for money. If you have a special occasion to celebrate and you would like us to get on board, give us a call and we will do our best to meet your needs. The sound of the happy birthday song can be heard from our bar most nights of the week. We have also hosted a few small weddings, our lovely old Victorian building and the surrounding outdoor space is the perfect place for a intimate wedding.

We are positioned on the picturesque south side of Loch Ness, making us the perfect watering hole after a day of exploring and we are dog friendly for friendly dogs. During the winter months we have an events programme that is designed to keep our local trade entertained, this is also a time when our creative kitchen team excel where food is often combined with our events. This winter our events include a Wine and cheese tasting event on 22nd November, a pirate themed Murder Mystery night (dinner theatre) on 29th November and Festive nights during the month of December – 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st December. Our festive nights are popular with customers who are looking to have a festive get together, whether that's a group of work mates, couples or indeed a wee family gathering. Our traditional old Victorian dining room is the perfect backdrop for a festive evening where you will be treated to a delicious 3 course festive dinner and afterwards we can enjoy a wee tippie in our lovely old bar!

Our Christmas Day lunch is a big hit with locals, our availability is limited due to popularity so please get in touch soon if you would like to book for Christmas Day. Hogmanay celebrations are a big deal on our events calendar; our Hogmanay dinner teamed with live music is the perfect way to 'bring in the bells' highland style! Again we

have limited availability for the Hogmanay dinner, however everyone is welcome for the party in bar. On New Years Day we host our traditional Quiz .....which is all about fun, we don't do mastermind quizzes at The Whitebridge but we do have fun – we also serve our popular roast on New Year's Day- booking essential. Whitebridge Hotel is a cosy wee place that's filled with eclectic / nostalgic decoration, if you haven't visited us yet – you are missing out.....fun mixed with a down-to-earth approach to hospitality is what we deliver. We hope to see you soon!

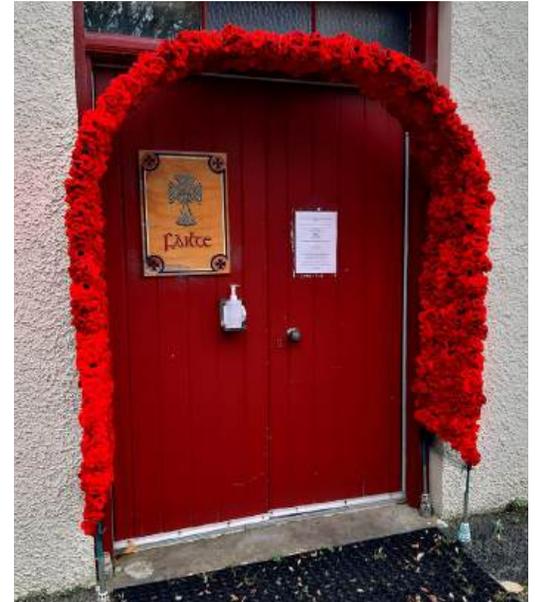
## Poppy Project Update

The Poppy Arch was put in place at the doorway of Fort Augustus Parish Church at the end of October and remained there for three weeks. The Crochet Club wish to thank everyone who contributed to this in any way. And if anyone has any red and black yarn left over – we still need a few more poppies!

The raffle for the crocheted blanket in aid of Poppy Scotland was drawn by Roland Spencer Jones, the speaker for the Cill Chuimein Heritage Group event held on the 9th November and was won by Didi Fraser, daughter-in-law of Cath Fraser. £205 was raised in the raffle. Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets.

The World War One and World War Two Reminiscence exhibition held at the church over the first two weekends in November was visited by 94 people, including 18 young people from the primary school, and raised a further £65 for Poppy Scotland.

In all a donation of £270 was made to Poppy Scotland.



## Benemerenti Medal

Anne Davies of Invergarry has been recognised for her dedication and service to the catholic church by Pope Francis.

Anne, who has attended St Finnan's, Invergarry, nearly all her life, has been awarded the Benemerenti Medal.

Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Brian McGee, presented her with the Benemerenti Medal on behalf of the Pope, at St Margaret's Church in Roy Bridge on Sunday 10th of November.

Parish priest of St Finnan's, Father Danny Convery, who made the application to the Vatican for the award, said she was an outstanding parishioner for the care and dedication she has shown over many decades. The medal is awarded to the clergy and laity for long and exceptional service to the church.

It was first awarded by Pope Pius VI (1775–1799) as a military decoration. In 1925, the concept of awarding this medal as a mark of recognition to persons in service of the Church, became acceptable. The current version of the Benemerenti medal was designed by Pope Paul VI. The medal is a gold Greek Cross depicting Christ with his hand raised in blessing.



## 'Supporting Our Communities'



### Our Services...

**Befriending Service** - This month, we're hosting our winter meet-up, a cosy social event where our community of service users, volunteers, and members come together for a warm, festive gathering. The day will be filled with coffee and tea, a delightful selection of cakes, and various craft activities for all skill levels. It's a chance for everyone to relax, chat, and connect in a welcoming environment, share stories, and perhaps pick up a new crafting skill or two. The event is designed to be a comfortable space to build friendships, celebrate the season, and enjoy a bit of creativity together.

**Handyperson Service** - We're excited to share the latest news from our Handyperson Service, a free community initiative designed to support residents with small household tasks, helping them stay safe and independent at home. Since its launch, the service has made a meaningful impact in the 3 Glens area thanks to our dedicated volunteers and your ongoing support. Each visit is limited to three tasks to keep things efficient, and residents are welcome to book additional visits as needed. As the service has been operating for 6 months, I organised a team meet-up to streamline the service and ensure our hard-working volunteers are happy with our current procedures. This is why we set a 3-job limit to better manage our volunteer's time.

**Facebook**- Great news! Our 3 Glens Community Care Facebook Page is now live! 🎉 This page will serve as a central hub to share updates, community stories, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. It's also easy to stay connected with our services, including the Handyperson Service, and learn about our latest initiatives. We'd love for you to follow, like, and share our page to help spread the word about our work. Every share and like helps us reach more people who might benefit from our services or wish to support our cause. Thank you for being a part of the 3 Glens community!

*Beth*

**Wheelchair use 2024** Two wheelchairs are available to our communities. One was on loan for 1 month. The second has been used twice - for 3 days and for 7 days. There are also 2 Tri-walkers and a shower chair available for loan.

### Good News for Moss Park Care

After several months of strong campaign action from 'Lochaber Action for Moss Park' and its supporters, it is a relief to announce that the Highland Council and NHS Highland are taking over the running of this private care home. Several residents of the 3 Glens area live at Moss Park, and it has a good reputation in all categories of care. It was shocking to hear that Moss Park was to close. Residents and their families were given 13 weeks' notice and have endured an extremely distressing few months of uncertainty! Another home could not be allowed to close - Highland care homes are at capacity with few NHS places available. Check Facebook 'Lochaber Action For Moss Park'. *Denise*



# Church News

'You may not know it yet but, you Church is a blessing! How you might ask? I don't receive anything from it! What does the church do to help me? Well the old adage has it – you only get out, what you put into something. Everywhere, especially at this time of year, we are apt to be looking or expecting something for ourselves. What presents am I getting for Christmas? What will the dinner be like this year? Have we bought the 'bird' for the Big Day? Do we really want the extended family coming around again? Why are the shops so crowded? There is not enough room to make way to the counter? Must we always turn the season into one mad 'rush' – and then it is all over? And then there is – ah yes, but I love it!

Christmas is a real 'mix' of emotions. It is a seesaw of wanting and losing out. Not getting what we expected or wanted! It is also, a time of haves and have nots. Many folk are struggling and just getting by. Many of us are stumbling, losing our way in the apparent darkness instead of enjoying a festival of light. The days are shorter, darker as we edge to the happiest time of all – Christmas. In the Church, we have just begun to celebrate the journey of Advent. We are lighting candles each Sunday to mark the birth and coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus – light to the entire world which is what this worldwide birthday is really about! It is the reason we decorate our homes, put up Christmas trees, sing carols, share gifts and talk about a 'Season of Goodwill'.

Well there is only one gift you really need this year and, that is the spirit of Jesus in your heart. And yes – you need the Church as a living blessing. Generations continue to come each Sunday and, not just at Christmas. Why? Because all who come will receive a blessing in one way or another. You see the Church is all about being blessed. It happens at our earliest age, as babies or adults when we come to be baptised. It happens when we are married in Church. It was a pleasure this year to have been able to conduct Wedding Blessings for couples renewing their vows. This is a service provided for all who wish to celebrate their long unions together. Every single service ends with the Minister pronouncing a blessing on the entire congregation. We talk about a blessing as something very special. It can affect your life in so many new and positive ways. Come along and find out! The Church can be a blessing for you in your life at Christmas and, not just at Christmas, but always. You see, a blessing is more than a gift it is permanent.

Wishing you God's richest blessings at Christmas,  
the New Year and always,  
Reverend Anthony Jones

Parish Minister  
Fort Augustus and Invergarry





# The Gathering An Cruinneachadh

[un - croon - ya - cug]

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

This project is funded by



Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

## CONTINUED



### Pipe tunes

In addition to Gaelic songs and fiddle music, there is a strong local piping tradition, much of it relating to the MacDonells of Glengarry who had supported the piping tradition and had retained pipers. Laments were composed upon the death of notable chieftains and it is not surprising that on the death of Alasdair MacDonell in 1828, his piper Archibald Munro composed the lament, Cumha Mhic Mhic Alasdair.

Source: Collection of ancient piobaireachd or Highland pipe music, Angus Mackay 1838. Photo: National Library of Scotland

It is considered a fairly simple tune and is often one of the first piobaireachd that pipers learn. Here is the Urlar, or 'ground' - the opening theme - as played by David Methven:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG3kkKYlesA>

To finish off, we have another pipe tune, Cruinneachadh Gleann-Garridh, (The Glengarry Gathering).

This 2/4 march was written by Angus MacKay (1813-1859) to commemorate the Gathering of the 7th September 1841. A similar annual event, known initially as The Glengarry Games had been started in 1822 by Alasdair MacDonell (who else!) to celebrate the true Highlander's physical and martial prowess and was one of several that he organised throughout the Highlands. Contests included throwing an 18-stone boulder over a five-foot bar, an eight-mile race which the leading runners ran naked, and a tug of war competition between teams to see who could first pull a limb from a cow which had been stunned with a sledge hammer.

After Alasdair MacDonell's death in 1828, the extent of his financial mismanagement became clear, and Glengarry was sold, first to the Marquis of Huntly, and then by 1840 to Lord Ward - an English landowner and benefactor. Lord Ward wholeheartedly bought into the romantic role-play of being a Highland laird and appointed Angus MacKay as his piper around 1840 - a position he was to hold for only a few years as by 1843 he had been secured as piper to Queen Victoria.





Portrait of Angus Mackay, by Alexander Johnston (1840)

Image: National Galleries of Scotland (Creative Commons)

Mackay is regarded by some as the most important figure in piping history. By the time he was twelve, Mackay was a proficient piper, could read and write music and was accepted as the major collector of piobaireachd in Scotland. His book of collected piobaireachd, published in 1838, set the standard for piping staff notation – a standard which has been copied ever since.

Source: David Glen's Collection of Highland Bagpipe Music (1876-1900)



Here it is played on the bagpipes by Joe Stewart in its usual "pointed" style <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MChXAck3ZBc>

The tune has a made the transition to the fiddle tradition and here it is played by the famous Aberdeenshire fiddler, Hector MacAndrew, as recorded by Edinburgh University's School of Scottish Studies in

1960. <https://www.tobarandualchais.co.uk/track/87400?l=en>

And finally, here is The Glengarry Gathering played as a reel on flute and cittern: <https://soundcloud.com/user-396491986/cruinneachadh-ghleann-garaidh-the-glengarry-gathering>

## Recycling and Reuse Event

Bring, Buy and Sell, a table-top recycling and reuse event

12 until 2pm on 13 January in Fort Augustus village hall  
(Book your table for either a 1 or 2 hour slot)

Take the chance to recoup money for items you no longer need and let other villagers get what they need for free or at low cost!

A table-top recycle and reuse event to be held in Fort Augustus at the same time as the skip is available in January, intended to be a last opportunity to avoid sending items to landfill, and to generate interest in the village for restarting environmental activities in our communities.

To aid with the cost-of-living there is no charge for booking a table and a sales price limit of £5 per item. It is hoped however that at least half of your table will be reserved for free items.

The following items are suggested for recycling, but is not an exhaustive list: Small electrical; Cookware; Bakeware; Toys; Games; Art and Craft supplies; Sports equipment; Outdoor clothing; Tools; Jam jars for local makers; Seed/plant swap

Your rubbish may be someone else's treasure!



## SCOTTISH MEN'S SHEDS ASSOCIATION

### Latest news from the Fort Augustus Men's Shed.

The Fort Augustus Men's Shed has been meeting regularly now since around 2021, however the men's informal "coffee morning get-together" had been running for many years previous to that. During those years some members have passed over and some new members have joined the group. Our membership at the present time is ten. We continue to seek new members to join us at our meetings in the Caledonian Centre Cafe every Wednesday morning at 10:30 for a hot drink and a chat - all are welcome!

On the 14th of December, we will be having our second Men's Shed Christmas Supper (with partners) at the Whitebridge Hotel and this is now established as an annual event.

Although we still do not have any premises of our own, we have recently set up a bank account so that we can now start to seek funds to boost our coffers and hopefully we can then start looking for a suitable piece of land or a building that we can purchase. However, the availability of land or buildings in or close to the village is quite sparse. Various possibilities have been mooted but it is too soon to make any firm statements.

Finally: when talking to various people in the village it has become apparent that they may be unclear as to the purpose of the Men's Shed therefore we would like to reiterate the following.

The Men's Shed is an international organisation that aims to enable men of all ages and circumstances to meet together in order to develop and maintain comradeship and mutual support and to

participate in joint activities at a local level. We consider this to be a necessary service for the men of our community and a positive contribution to the well-being of men's health, with particular regard to those elements of social interaction, friendship and mutual support. These principles are very much in line with many of the government's health initiatives for men. Therefore, the development of activities will be very wide ranging according to the requirements of the members and therefore should not be forced to fit into any stereotypical idea of what the Men's Shed should be providing.

Recently, two of our members visited the friendly and welcoming Men's Shed in Nairn and they were very impressed with the wide range of activities on offer to their members, among these were lessons in lathe turning, genealogy, photography, film shows, coffee morning open days and many more. So it seems they have something for everyone and that Men's Sheds are shaped according to the members requirements and not by any given criteria. So what do you want from a Men's Shed? Come along and let us know or if you wish to contact us our current email address is:

[ftaugmshed@outlook.com](mailto:ftaugmshed@outlook.com)

Any further information regarding Men's Sheds can be found at:

Scottish Men's Sheds Association

Banchory Business Centre, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 5ZU

Email: [info@scottishmsa.org.uk](mailto:info@scottishmsa.org.uk)

[www.scottishmsa.org.uk](http://www.scottishmsa.org.uk)

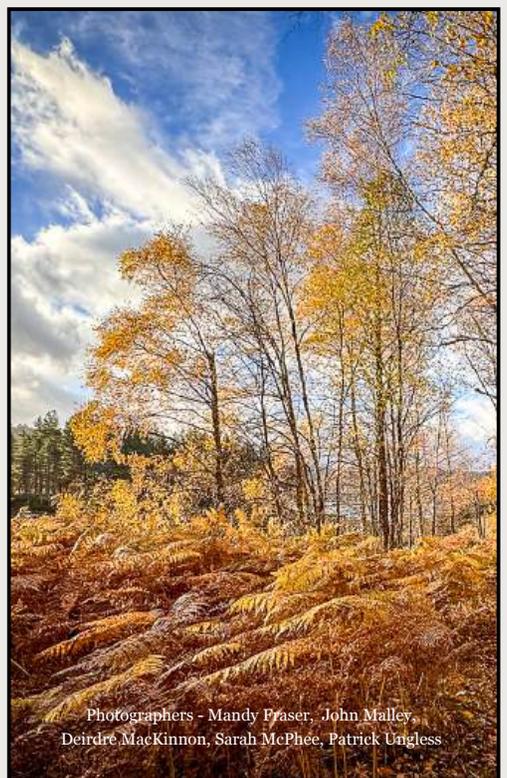
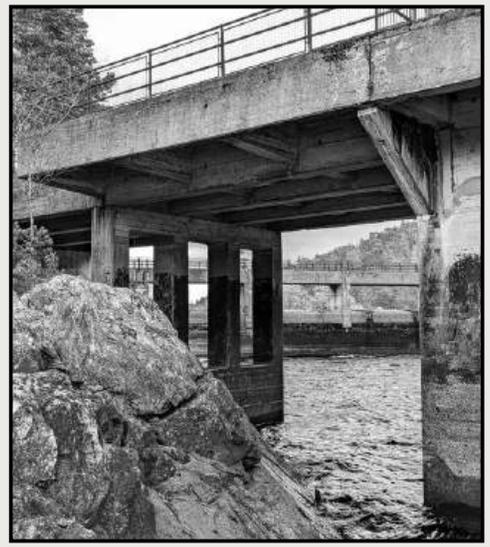
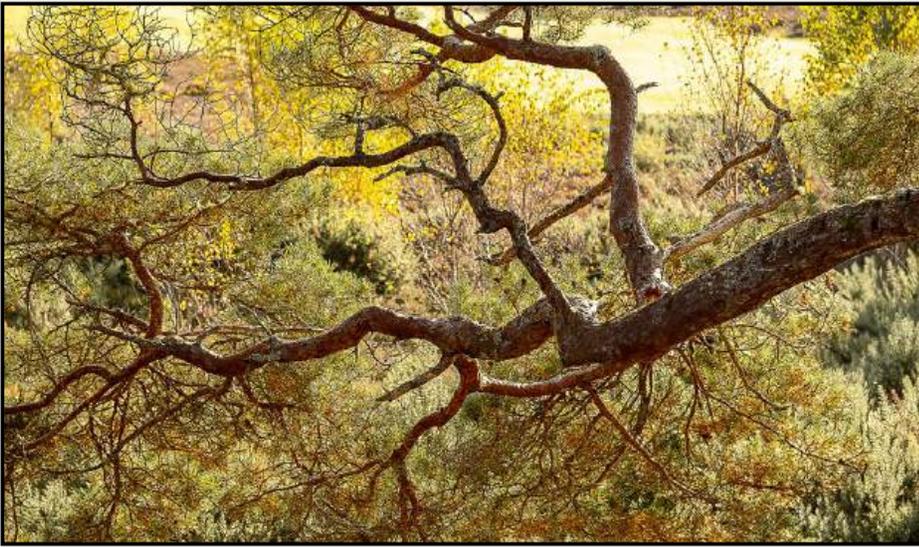


## Great Glen Camera Club

**Our photographers have been out and about taking pictures with a theme of "Autumn"**

*Why not join us on a photo walk. All abilities welcome, whether you have a DSLR or a phone camera there is something for everyone. Email us for more info at [greatglencameraclub1@gmail.com](mailto:greatglencameraclub1@gmail.com)*





Photographers - Mandy Fraser, John Malley, Deirdre MacKinnon, Sarah McPhee, Patrick Ungless



# Announcements

## Births

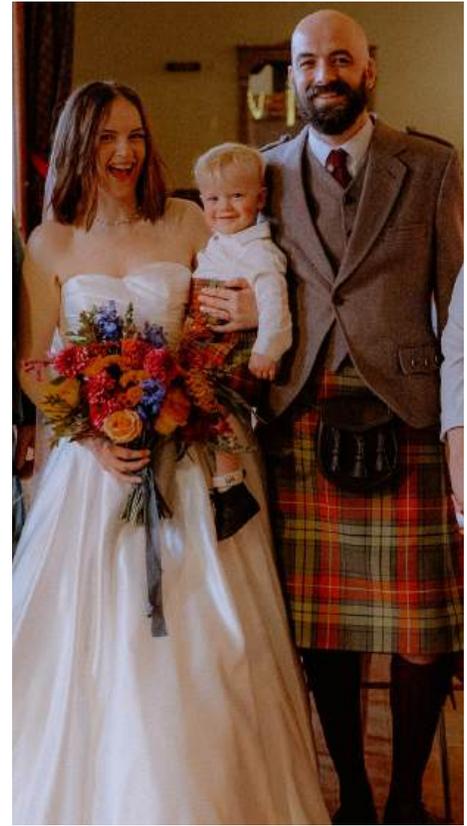


Callum and Fiona Fraser welcomed Conall Neil Fraser, on 16th of November 2024 at 1.52am, weighing 7lb 1oz.

## Weddings



Stephanie Henderson and Stuart Archibald married on 4th October 2024 followed by a reception in the Fort Augustus village hall.



Mhàiri MacDonald and Daniel Cullen married on the 18th October 2024 in a church near their family home, followed by the reception at the Skye gathering hall.



Jordan Slater and Coreigh Ann Sonley, married in Inverness on Friday 25th October 2024. The wedding was followed by an intimate reception at the Glen Mhor Hotel.

## Loch Ness Life Drawing

Christmas Special  
15th December  
(more dates in 2025)

**SELECTED SUNDAY'S 4-6PM**  
FORT AUGUSTUS VILLAGE HALL  
SELF-LED SESSIONS  
**£10** cash, per session, per person

To book or for more info please email: [lochnesslifedrawing@gmail.com](mailto:lochnesslifedrawing@gmail.com)  
Over 18's only please. All abilities welcome. Materials provided.

# Shinty Update

It's been a busy season at Glengarry Shinty Pitch, not just on the pitch but also behind the scenes.

At the beginning of the season, we received a grant from SSE Renewables to buy two badly needed dugouts. The new dugouts are portable, and the seats are in our bright green and yellow colours. Many thanks to Jade Clark and SSE Renewables.



At the start of May, we were contacted by Balfour Beatty who are working in the area and would like to donate a defibrillator to the club. Thanks to liaising with the late Ross Cowie of the charity Lucky2bhere, the right type of defibrillator was installed and a training session was held in September.



June saw us receive a grant from Greene King Brewery which enabled us to purchase new indoor equipment including portable goals, plastic sticks, bibs etc for our adult teams.

In June, we also held an awards ceremony for the under 17's and junior sides. Much fun was had with games, competitions and bouncy castles. Many thanks to Gemma and Rambo from the Boathouse for donating the food and drink and running the BBQ on the night.



Thanks to a grant from Beinneun wind farm our long-awaited new storage shed has started. This has been on the cards for a long time due to the state of our present storage containers. The first phase of groundworks has been completed and the second phase began in November. Plans are to have it all completed by the start of the 2025 season.

Fort Augustus Community Company awarded the club a grant for first aid and coaching courses. Due to increasing numbers several camans were also purchased for all age groups. Our juniors received new shorts to match their new shirts which were sponsored by Cruise Lochness. Thanks to all involved.

July 20th brought the final of the Single Team Cup Final at Jubilee Park, Ballachulish. After a very tense and nail-biting game, which eventually went into overtime, Glengarry won 5-2 against Kilmory to retain the cup. The manager, captain and sponsor voted Archie Johnstone as "Man of the Match".



Our annual MacBain Cup, which is held in memory of Roddy MacBain, a Glengarry shinty player who sadly lost his life in a car accident, was eventually played after being postponed several times. Glengarry managed to bring the cup home and Ben White was named "Man of the Match".

The 2024 dinner/dance and Player of the Year Awards was held on 10th November. A chance for both the adult teams to catch up, celebrate and dance the night away to the Cast Ewe Ceilidh Band. A delicious meal was provided by DM Catering Services and the bar was run by the Fort Augustus Golf Club. Congratulations to all our winners:

Men's Player of the Year – Gordon MacDonald  
Men's Players Player of the Year – Gordon MacDonald  
Men's Young Player of the Year - Billy Benhach  
Women's Player of the Year – Aoife Tangey  
Women's Young Player of the Year – Amber Anderson  
Woman's Endeavour Award – Sofi Seymour  
Woman's Endeavour Award – Leona Falconer



Thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes and auction prizes and also to all those that helped with the setting up and tidying up.

Our annual hamper raffle is very popular and a great fundraiser for the club. Tickets are now on sale at the following places: Glengarry Filling Station, Tarff Trading, Invermoriston Shop and the gift shop at the Great Glen Trading Centre. You can also buy them through our Facebook Page. The raffle will be drawn in The Bothy on Saturday 16th December. All donations greatly received.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 11th December in Fort Augustus Village Hall at 7.30 pm. We are always looking for new (and old) volunteers who can spare a few hours each week whether it's coaching, maintenance, bookwork, fundraising etc.

Please feel free to come along and join the club.

Are you a player or a newbie. Feel free to come along to our training sessions and learn the Highland Sport. Why not follow our Facebook page. Contact the secretary: secretary.glengarry@outlook.com

Last of all, special thanks to all that have assisted at the club this year whether coaching, committee, maintenance, players, drivers and the many other roles. Without you, there would be no club.

From all at the club have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and see you all in 2025.

# Dundreggan Rewilding Centre



## This year at the Dundreggan Rewilding Centre

It has been a truly bustling year at Dundreggan, filled with all sorts of activities, retreats, and workshops that highlight the magic of rewilding and our connection to the natural world.

This year, we've welcomed more academic and research groups than ever before. The Mammal Society and the British Lichen Society are just two of the many organisations that have made the Rewilding Centre their base for workshops, learning, and research, showcasing Dundreggan as a hub for both science and conservation.



On a more reflective note, our retreats have offered more intimate experiences, from one-day yoga and guided nature walks to multi-day escapes featuring fire-side storytelling and opportunities for quiet reflection amidst the beauty of Glenmoriston.



We also hosted the wildly popular "Landscapes Through A Lens: Photography Workshop" led by the talented Will Hall. The event saw participants exploring and capturing Dundreggan's breathtaking landscapes, and we can't wait to see the photos that came out of this inspiring day.

## A warm invitation to you

We'd love for you to enjoy everything Dundreggan has to offer. The Rewilding Centre is open to the community, dog-friendly, and completely free to enter. Whether you're visiting for a leisurely stroll, a coffee in our café, or to explore the playpark and storytelling area with family, there's something for everyone.



Our facilities include footpaths that wind through the estate's restored landscapes, a café serving delicious treats (don't forget half-price cake on Sundays!), and even venue hire for your events. While the Rewilding Centre will be closed from 16 December to 5 January, our footpaths remain open year-round for wintry walks.

For those looking to roll up their sleeves, we invite you to join our volunteering days at the tree nursery, starting in spring. These sessions are a wonderful way to contribute to nature and connect with like-minded people.

To find out more or to get in touch please visit [visitdundreggan.co.uk](http://visitdundreggan.co.uk)



We have once again had a busy few months at Invergarry Primary School. Before the summer holidays we were aiming to move on from our Bronze Rights Respecting School status - we can now share the wonderful news that we have achieved Silver status! Well done to the children and thank you to Mrs Cameron for all her hard work last year. The next level is Gold and we hope to continue working towards this.

Earlier in the term we visited Glengarry Community Woodlands where we learned about the geology, land use and biodiversity in Glengarry. This was a great opportunity to expand on the topic we have been covering in school about our local landscape. We were also lucky to have a parent come in to show us about how she designs and makes maps; we all had fun making our own maps too. We invited parents into school for a morning of presentations, games, and quizzes, to show what we have learned - we hope they all enjoyed it as much as we did!



Primary 5-7 went to the Newton Room in Caol to take part in a workshop about energy. This is such a great resource to have in our area - the children learn so much through seeing what they are learning about in action.

Nursery have enjoyed having their Bookbug reading and singing sessions again this term. As well as inviting the local playgroup to join in with these, parents and toddlers have also been joining us every second Thursday morning to spend time in nursery socialising, playing and joining in with snacktime.

Over the summer we finally managed to take delivery of our Tipi - this was a fundraising project that staff and parents had been working on for some time, and we were delighted to hold an official opening at the end of last term. Thank you to the donors who made this purchase possible - The Gordon Brown Memorial Fund, SSE Renewables and Invergarry Bowls Club on behalf of Green Energy Highland - as well as the parents who helped out. The children have thoroughly enjoyed using the Tipi as a shelter for play and learning this term and will continue to do so for years to come.



As part of the Lochaber Active Schools, we have taken part in basketball and cross country events this term - well done to the children who participated in these. We also have an after school dance club running and we will perform in the Lochaber Dance Platform once again this year. Thank you to Lucy for continuing to run this.



We always make time for fun alongside our learning at Invergarry Primary and our annual Halloween Fun Day was 'Spooktacular' as always, with lots of creative costumes and ghoulish games! We're now on



the count down to the festive period and we are looking forward to singing carols at The Craic in December in Glengarry Community Hall - thank you for inviting us along again this year. We will also be attending the Panto at Eden Court - Oh, yes we will! - to get us in the festive spirit. Our term will end with our Christmas Performance at Glengarry Community Hall on 17th December and a Christmas Party on 20th December, after which we will all enjoy a lovely Christmas break.

Thank you to parents and the wider community for supporting our school and making it such a great environment for our children to learn and grow in. We wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas and New Year, from all the staff at Invergarry Primary.

## Brownies & Guides

Hello everyone I'm delighted to say 1st Fort Augustus Brownies and Guides have new volunteers/helpers allowing us to continue running as a group. I'd like to say a huge welcome to Hannah MacDonald, Susan Greer and Mhairi McCaskell.

First of all, I would like to say a huge thank you to Glen, one of the local caretakers for inviting us along to help plant the boat plater outside the public toilets just before the summer holidays. I think everyone can agree him and the girls did a wonderful job.

The past few months have been busy with lots of activities including our Halloween party, a trip to the Telford Centre where the girls sang songs and chatted to the residents, a kindness evening, doing arts and crafts as well as working towards some badges. Several of the girls also took part in the Remembrance Parade this year.

The next few weeks continue to look busy with a possible County cinema trip, another visit to the Telford Centre where we will sing Christmas songs and give homemade cards, we are hoping to make Christmas wreaths as well as other Christmas crafts and we will also have our Christmas party.

If you have a skill/talent you would be willing to share we would be delighted to welcome you along to one of our meetings to share this. Please get in touch with myself to arrange this.

We are always looking to welcome new members to grow our unit so if your daughter is over the age of 7 years and would like to join us making new friends, having fun and learning new skills please get in touch.

On behalf of all at 1st Fort Augustus Brownies and Guides, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas when it comes.

Lisa Gordon





## Staffing

We are delighted to announce that Lynne Angus has been appointed as a Permanent Depute Head Teacher in Kilchuimen Academy. Mrs Angus has been "acting" in this role since December 2023, so we really are happy to have her join us on a permanent basis.

## P5-7 Alltnacriche Trip

We are grateful to Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company for funding the latest P5-7 trip to Alltnacriche in the Cairngorms National Park. Every three years we send P5-7 on this trip so that every child gets the chance to go. The pupils stay for two nights, and they take part in a wide variety of outdoor activities which might include gorge-walking, crate-building and pond dipping. We are also grateful to the Kilchuimen Primary School Parent Council who applied for the grant on our behalf.



## Menstrual Health Workshop

On Tuesday 29th October, Kilchuimen 3-18 hosted Cara Redpath, a registered clinical nutritional therapist, who delivered a Menstrual Health workshop to our pupils. The workshop was offered to pupils from P7-S6 and discussed the hormones of the menstrual cycle, discharge and PMS, as well as how to support symptoms and energy levels with food. The workshop also discussed period products and looking out for signs which might require the support of a GP.

The afternoon was informative and will empower pupils with the knowledge they need to support their health.



## Technical Department

The Technical Department have kicked started their fund-raising campaign to support a trip to Copenhagen in June 2025 for S4 -S6 students who take Tech. They had a dress down day and a bake sale successfully raising £200. Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Company and The Glengarry Trust have kindly awarded a grant towards this trip and the forthcoming PGL Dalguise Activity trip planned for May 2025 for S1-S3.

## Telford Centre

The Nursery children and P1-3 pupils had a lovely time at the Telford Centre celebrating Halloween whilst the P4-5 class were in Inverness at their swimming classes. The Telford Centre staff and residents were very welcoming, and the children enjoyed showing off their Halloween costumes, singing songs and telling stories. We are looking forward to further developing our links with the Telford Centre in the future and are also working towards having a senior student work placement there.

All of the staff team and pupils at Kilchuimen 3-18 would like to send everyone our Seasonal best wishes and thank the community for their continued support this year.



Yvonne Walker  
Head Teacher  
Kilchuimen 3-18



### DYW at Kilchuimen Academy

It has been a busy term for DYW. Our S3-6 pupils have attended a variety of careers fairs; Lochaber Careers Fair, Cairngorm Rural Careers Fair and Lochaber Aquaculture Day. This allowed our students to engage with many local and national employers.

We have been bringing the "curriculum to life"- linking with local employers to support a variety of curriculum areas. This has included the Metal Work Class visiting NEWco Welding, the Exercise & Fitness Class visiting Wolfhouse Gym, Rural Skills Class visiting the Forestry and Land Scotland Larder, and a Royal Navy Chef Team delivering the Ready, Steady, Cook Challenge. A highlight of this term was seeing our Barista Students deliver their first event. The students ran a very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning for the school and wider community.

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

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





Tel: 01320 366800

Email:

[contact@communitycompany.co.uk](mailto:contact@communitycompany.co.uk)

Office hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 3.30pm



### Tarff Trading

Thank you for your continued support of our community store! We're always open to your suggestions for new items to stock, so please feel free to share any ideas. If it's possible to stock it, we'll do our best to make it happen.

### Christmas Orders and Festive Supplies

- **Real Christmas Trees:** Due to supplier issues there is limited availability, so be sure to pre-order your real Christmas Tree early to avoid disappointment.
- **Christmas Decorations:** We have a lovely selection to bring festive cheer to your home!
- **Food Orders:** Pre-order your fresh fruit and veg and other festive treats, boxed and ready for you to collect. Orders must be placed by 18th December and will be ready for collection on 23rd and 24th December.
- **Gas & Fuel Orders:** The last delivery of the year will be on 20th December. Please plan ahead if you need gas bottles or fire fuel to ensure you're stocked for the holidays.



### Festive Opening Times

- **24th December:** Open from 08:00 to 17:00
- **25th, 26th, and 27th December:** Closed
- **1st and 2nd January:** Closed

*Wishing everyone a warm and joyful festive season!*

### Community Caretakers – update

It's the countdown to mulled wine and mince pies or should that be a large dram and some decent meat. I know what I prefer.

The caretaking team are reduced in numbers over the winter months, but we'll still be active trying to keep warm in some corner of the villages.

Projects are planned over the colder months for Strathoich Cemetery including spreading a new dust surface over the car park and internal paths, replacing the now rotten green fence with resources already on site, tidying up some of the windblown trees within the cemetery boundary and landscaping around the raised areas.

The community composting area is now closed until next spring and so please respect the team and don't dump any more green waste in the area. The team are in the middle of tidying up the Suds pond which is adopted by Scottish Water, so absolutely no more waste is to be dumped in that area from now on!



However, we have now produced an 'organic mulch' using some of the material left over the years; this will be bagged and can be available for resident's gardens should they be interested.

The company have also purchased a brand-new drop salt gritter for the village pavements, so hopefully it will prove its worth and play its part by keeping people on their feet over Christmas. If you do slip, it'll be down to the Sherry! And not the ice.

For the near future look out for Christmas trees, sparkly lights and scraping the windscreen in the morning!

See you about.

*Glen*

## **Convent Land – behind the scenes**

We're thrilled to announce that Chris has officially submitted the planning application to Highland Council for the paths network and play area in Convent Land! This marks a major step toward creating a more accessible outdoor space for the community.

The proposed paths will mostly follow the existing trails but will be thoughtfully designed to provide easy access for everyone, regardless of ability. We aim to complete the path network this winter and open the play area by spring.

**\* News Flash\* Thanks to the FERN Beinneun Community Fund and Foundation Scotland we have just received confirmation that they have agreed to fund the costs for the paths and adventure play – It's full steam ahead thanks to the funders!**



## **Community-Inspired Play Area Design**



*Proposed layout of the Convent Land play area*

The design for the play area was shaped by the imagination and insights of Kilchuimen Primary pupils, who contributed ideas about what they'd love to see. Their suggestions have been integrated into the final design, which will feature:

- A mock fort with a mini climbing wall
- Rope bridges and a climbing net
- A zipwire
- A basket swing
- A designated toddler area

This collaborative effort has resulted in a unique space that reflects the creativity of our young community members. Kilchuimen Primary pupils deserve a huge *well done* for their contributions and innovative ideas!

We look forward to seeing this vision come to life and will keep you updated as the project progresses.

## **Minibus**

Local groups can book the minibus up to one month in advance for weekday bookings and up to two months in advance for weekend bookings. You may be able to book it on shorter notice if the school are not using it.

To do this, call **Kilchuimen Academy** on 01320 366296. The cost is **£25 plus fuel**. You will need to ensure you have a qualified driver who has MiDAS certification and is registered as such with the Highland Council.

The office has a list of qualified volunteer drivers so get in touch with Karen or Simon.

### **Community Skip Days – mark the dates in your calendar!**

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

**Invermoriston** - **10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Dalchreichart** - **10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Fort Augustus** - **13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Look out for information on the new “freecycle” event planned for Fort Augustus to encourage recycling of items you no longer want, but may be of value to someone else.**

### **Grant Application Process and Timelines**

This year, it has been encouraging to see a rise in the number of funding applications submitted to the office. Applications require thorough review and if your application is time-sensitive it is best to allow plenty of time for the process.

To help make the process as smooth as possible, we recommend that anyone interested in Community Benefit or Group funding meet with our office staff before submitting their application. Early discussions can help clarify any requirements and ensure a faster, more efficient review process.

Group funding applications, in particular, go through multiple review stages to ensure each request is carefully considered.

Here's how the process typically works:

**Initial Submission:** Once an application arrives, our office staff review it to ensure all essential details are included. If anything is missing, like bank statements or verified accounts, the staff will contact the applicant to gather these details. Until all the required information is provided the application cannot progress to the next stage.

**Assignment to Assessors:** Once all necessary information is compiled, the application is forwarded to two assessors. They may arrange to meet or speak with the applicant to discuss the proposal in greater detail or ask for additional information. Because our assessors and board members, and applicants, are often volunteers with limited availability, this step can affect the timescale.

**Board Review:** After the assessors review the application, their recommendation is shared with the Board at least one week before the next board meeting, where the application will be discussed. The Board meet monthly, however, there is no meeting in July or November. It is possible that the Board may require additional information before a decision can be made.

On average, it takes around six weeks to complete the group grant approval process from the time the application is received. However, this timeline depends on all required information being provided promptly. Missing documents or delayed responses can extend this period significantly. If your grant



is time sensitive, you do need to consider the date of the next possible board meeting whilst still allowing time for the process.

It is important to note that the Board cannot approve grants retrospectively so it is imperative that you do not make any payments towards or advertise any activity that the funds will be used for.

If you are making an application for funding, then get in touch with Karen or Simon at the office and we will guide you along the way.

### **Community funding – grants in action!**

Our community has seen some incredible success stories recently, with a range of projects and initiatives securing grant funding to support and enhance our local activities, education, and environments. Here's a look at some of the fantastic achievements funded by recent grants!

#### **Glenmoriston Hall Community Association**

The Glenmoriston Hall Community Association was awarded **£9,503** to support "Community Tuesdays," a beloved weekly event. With this funding, they'll be able to buy food, upgrade the kitchen oven, and hire tutors for activities.

Community Tuesdays offer locals a warm, safe space to socialise and share a hot meal all thanks to the hard work of volunteers who are truly the heart of the community.



*Homemade pizzas for lunch at Community Tuesdays*

#### **Telford Centre**

Congratulations to the Telford Centre staff for securing **£7,138** to upgrade resident rooms! This funding allowed for the purchase of new bedside cabinets, chests of drawers, and wardrobes, making each resident's room more comfortable and homely.

#### **Wildlife Monitoring Equipment**

A special thank you to Catherine Prince, one of the nature conservation volunteers on the Convent Land, who secured **£236.45** to acquire equipment for wildlife observation. This includes footprint tunnels and a bat detection device, tools that will help the community learn more about the diverse wildlife inhabiting our area.

#### **Kilchuimen Primary Parent Council**

The Kilchuimen Primary Parent Council was awarded funds to cover transport and tickets for primary pupils to attend the Christmas panto at Inverness' Eden Court. The parent council also received a grant to help fund transportation for swimming lessons, providing children with invaluable life skills and memorable experiences.

#### **Cill Chuimein Community Choir**

Chris Rose, a member of the Cill Chuimein Community Choir, obtained **£175** for music score sheets and transportation to upcoming concerts. With these resources, the choir is preparing to hold local performances to raise funds for charity; a great example of music bringing the community together for a cause.

## Kilchuimen Academy Technology Class



*Pupils working hard in the new Tech Club*

A big shoutout to Kilchuimen Academy's Technology students, who secured **£5,886.46** for a residential trip to Copenhagen. This experience promises an enriching blend of educational and cultural activities that will align with their curriculum and broaden their horizons.

## Kilchuimen Academy – PGL Trip

Kilchuimen Academy also received **£5,770.72** to fund a residential trip for S1-S3 students to PGL in Dalguise. The trip includes an exciting lineup of activities such as climbing, abseiling, and archery, fostering personal growth and team-building skills.

## Fort Augustus Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

The Fort Augustus Senior Citizens Association successfully secured **£4,500** to host their Christmas Lunch, providing a cheerful festive celebration and an opportunity for members to connect in the lead-up to Christmas.

As a vital and cherished part of the community, the Senior Citizens Association continues to create warm and safe spaces where its members can come together and build connections. This event reflects their dedication to promoting inclusion and togetherness within the community.

*Thanks to everyone involved in bringing these projects to life. Each success is a testament to the hard work and commitment of individuals dedicated to enhancing our community. Congratulations, and keep up the inspiring work!*

## Student Grants Update

Student grants are continuing to arrive at the office. If you haven't submitted your application yet, there's still time! Let's make sure our students have every opportunity for support this term.

## AGM report

Our AGM took place at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 12th November, with an excellent turnout of thirty-seven community members in attendance.

Catriona Watson delivered the Chair's report, expressing gratitude to all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

A representative from the auditing company provided an update on the company's accounts and financial standing. Operations Manager Karen Edwards then shared an overview of the achievements over the past year and gave insights into upcoming projects planned for the next year.

We were especially pleased to see active engagement from attendees, with several community members raising thoughtful questions and highlighting important issues for discussion.

If you'd like to become a member and have voting rights at future AGMs, you can apply via our website at [www.communitycompany.co.uk](http://www.communitycompany.co.uk) or contact us at **01320 366800** to request an application form.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this year's AGM!

## Community Development Update: Memorial Hall, Glentarff House & Janitor's House

### Memorial Hall

We're thrilled to announce that the Scottish Land Fund has approved funding for the purchase of the Memorial Hall! With this secured, we'll now focus on finalising the purchase from Highland Council and then working on architectural plans and exploring further funding options. The building has not been used for some years and is in need of a major upgrade. Although as builder access is limited over the summer, we anticipate works being carried out over the following winter.

### Glentarff House

We're pleased to share that planning permission for Glentarff House has been approved! We are now waiting on the final conveyancing of the property, after which we can begin work converting this property into two lovely new affordable homes for the community.

### Janitor's House

Exciting news! We have been approached to consider taking on the Janitor's House with the aim of offering it as an affordable rental property. Currently, Highland Council is not in a position to rent it, so we need to submit a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) request to negotiate a fair price for the property. This project is still in the early stages and will only proceed if we can secure an appropriate price and gather strong community support.

To move forward, we need to demonstrate community interest and support for this affordable housing project.



Janitors House on Station Road

**Please sign the petition available at Tarff Trading to show your backing.**

### Housing Needs Analysis

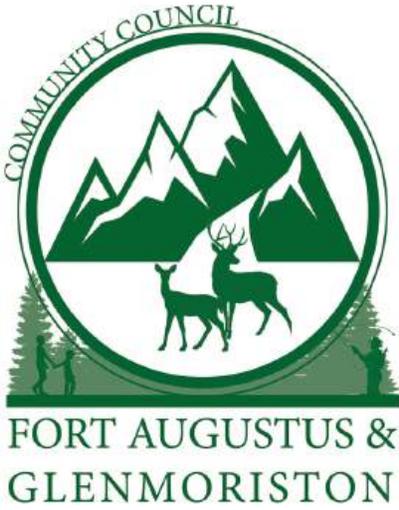


Six years ago, a consultation was done to understand the housing needs of the community. This is now out of date. As a lack of housing has been raised as a concern in the Community Action Plan we need to update this to reflect the needs now and quantify the gaps.

You can pick up a paper copy of the form in Tarff Trading or use this QR code to complete the online version.

**Thank you for helping us create opportunities for accessible, affordable housing in our community!**





# Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

**Draft Minutes of meeting held at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus on Wednesday 30th October 2024**

Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM)  
Jenny Findlay - Vice Chair (JF)  
Clare Levings (CL)  
Leanne Findlay (LF)

Claire Pegrum - (CP)  
Helen Clay - (HC)  
Daniel Clark (DC)  
Cllr. David Fraser (DF)

Previous Minutes:

Proposed by CP, seconded by CL

Community Council - Scheme of Establishment

Discussion took place about attendance requirements at community council meetings as per Highland Council rules.

Since the last meeting HC and CP resigned as office bearers but will remain on as councillors. DF confirmed that the community council requires three office bearers to function. It was proposed by DM that JF would be Vice-chair and seconded by CL.

## Matters Arising:

Inchnacardoch Bay – The breakdown in discussions with the Community Company caused the resignation of community council office bearers no longer willing to bear the individual personal responsibility for liability. Without office bearers, the community council would go into abeyance (Inch Bay would be held in Trust by Highland Council but could not be disposed of by them). Lorn MacKay and Chris Nelson, directors of the Community Company stated that contrary to belief by the Council, there was almost 100% agreement that Inch Bay should be for the community. However, the company cannot knowingly take on burdens and liabilities. A discussion took place about the manner of communication, proceedings and definitions of terms. Solicitors were supposed to be handling legal aspects of proof but it had been necessary for DM to engage an alternate in an attempt to progress. LF urged that both Council and Company needed to ensure continued communication for the sake of the community.

A resident proposed that a third way was possible and supplied information about creation of a Community Interest Company as a social enterprise - another type of non-profit (but outside the scope of OSCR) which could never be a private limited company. Inch Bay would be held as an asset for the community which could never be sold or borrowed against. Costs estimated to be in the region of £2000 for initial set-up, liability insurance and audited accounts for the year. The CIC could apply to funders to improve and potentially increase moorings. Boat owners would pay annually for those moorings and access to the shoreline, West Coast average being £200, with locals having preferential rate.

Discussion and questions raised about land/bay ownership and the water of the Ness being outside the scope of that ownership. Further investigation required. Councillors

concluded that Inch Bay was most definitely a community asset and that the CIC might be the way forward but firstly CL and JF proposed to allow a further month for negotiations to resume with the Community Company now that alternate solicitors have been engaged. Council agreed.

Redburn traffic – bollard installation postponed owing to proposed cement-setting (instead of temporary installation that can be removed if trial was unsuccessful). Summer grazing now ended so the effects of bollards, once installed, won't be seen until next year.

Empty Homes/Short-term let – Highland Council officer to be told that the Community Company is not able to progress the purchase of private homes. DF advises that the Community Council approach other Glen villages to begin the process of creating a short-term let control area. Once established, licences would require planning permission, and could be refused.

Glenmoriston Estate – ongoing legal action by Highland Council could take many years to conclude, with the estate claiming that the land is a private residential garden.

Fort Augustus parking - As reported in the September minutes DF confirmed a Parking Enforcement Officer will be provided for 3 days (randomly) per week from next year.

Service Bus from Fort Augustus to Drumnadrochit school - although a service bus it does not allow non-school passengers and does not use service stops. Query raised about who commissioned and is paying for this service that is so detrimental to our school and villages.

Speeding in Fort Augustus - 20mph restriction is to remain and DF advised that other measures will now be added to enforce it. Those present expressed concern that the start of the 20 limit was causing dangerous overtaking on Market Hill, and should be located at the existing 30 limit. Suggestion that the flash sign should be reinstated, and/or a speed camera.

Loss of the winter fuel payment – HC to speak to the Community Company to see if there are any possible options for the vulnerable elderly residents within the community.

Local Place Plan - draft plan has been advertised and public meetings arranged for both Invermoriston and Fort Augustus.

Young Person on the Community Council - HC to speak to the Kilchuimen Academy (Schools are involved in the Youth Parliament so this may be of interest).

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Current balance is £7214.78 with a deposit of £546.83 annual grant deposited from Highland Council this month and £1500 ring-fenced from Community Company towards solicitor costs.

After several years at the current rate, Etape had agreed to increase the annual payment. Remembrance wreaths ordered.

### **Planning:**

Planning Applications Validated 25/09/24 – 28/10/24  
Ref: 24/03731/FUL

Location: Land 70M West of Inchnacardoch Lodge Hotel

Proposal: Erection of 10no. holiday accommodation units

Applicant: Inchnacardoch Lodge Ltd

Notes: Ten wood clad cabins, 14 parking spaces and access track on land to the right of Inch Hotel drive.

Ref: 24/03895/FUL

Location: Muir Pit, Auchterawe

Proposal: Change of use of land to temporary site compound

Applicant: John Wood Group PLC

Notes: Temporary application for 30 months. In the former sand pit on Forestry land approx. 700m SW of substation/140m NW of River Oich. Modular office and welfare units stacked to a height of 4.4m. Applicant says buildings won't be visible from village side due to depth of sand pit and existing scrub at top of pit. For the Skye Reinforcement project.

### **Renewable Energy Projects:**

Bhlaraidh extension – SSE Community Liaison Group to take place in November

Balfour Beatty – plans to extend the site accommodation for workers. Consultation on 13 November at FA village hall and follow-up consultation on 11 December. Reinstatement concerns.

Loch Kemp - no comment

Glen Earrach – attendance in Invermoriston at the next Community Council in November.

Cnoc Farasd scoping - out of area.

DF speaking with SSE regarding problems remaining after projects that have been previously approved; mud, quality of trees etc. CP recently commented on an SSEN application and queried whether there is a mechanism for following up.

No comments for other planning

### **Community Amenity Issues:**

Ben Donaldson, Highland Broadband can be contacted for any installation issues including reinstatement of verges.

Scottish Canals – ongoing. Resident reports that campervan (human) waste is being left in the parking area - found by his dog during walks. DM questioned the ability of a site to be located in close proximity to a school. A resident reports that SC is apparently applying for a Camping & Caravanning licence in order for "infrastructure" to be installed and potentially more than the five campervans allowed by the Aire scheme. DF

commented that this would allow for concerns to be addressed by the HC planning committee.

Bear/Transport Scotland is not maintaining the swing bridge. Walking on the canal bridge is a slip hazard as water lies on it. Treacherous when icy.

Invermoriston car park has large potholes - CL questioned if the car parking money would be used to remedy the problem. DF reported that the HC committee had yet to agree on the mechanism for distribution of the money to communities.

There is a request for signs for the general waste bins - currently located separately from the bottle banks owing to access issues and available space.

The Invermoriston shop is waiting for a larger commercial bin.

Dog fouling - Cllr DF confirmed that a civil fine requires two witnesses and a report within seven days

CityLink continues to dispute the location of stops, missing long-established stops. CP to continue to chase.

The Give-way sign at the Fire Station needs reinstatement.

DM to contact Highland Council about A82 transport issues.

## **AOCB**

Cobbs have renamed their accommodation properties to Loch Ness Gatehouse apartments. No council objection.

Community resilience questionnaire received from Highland Council - CP to circulate to councillors for their input.

A resident reported that the leaseholders of the chip shop are experiencing issues of parking by a HC parking attendant on their own land which adjoins the main car park.

A resident asked if the bins at the front of the village hall could be relocated. He felt it made the area look untidy and it seems they belong to residents on Free Church Road and not the village hall. DF confirmed that a bye-law exists for residents to remove their bins once emptied.

A resident asked if A82 litter-picking can be coordinated during closed-road events/road works.

Following a resident request, the Community Council agreed to become a member of the Highland Environment Forum. LF agreed to receive email communications over the winter season but would be too busy thereafter.

**Next meeting is at the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston on 27th November 2024 at 7.30pm.**

# Notice Board



## GLENGARRY SHINTY CLUB

### CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

TICKETS CAN BE BOUGHT AT:

INVERMORISTON SHOP

GIFT SHOP, GREAT GLEN TRADING CENTRE

GLENGARRY FILLING STATION, INVERGARRY

TARFF TRADING, FORT AUGUSTUS

GLENGARRY SHINTY CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE



£1 & TICKET

TO BE DRAWN ON SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024  
TICKETS TO BE RETURNED BY THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
ALL DONATIONS WELCOME



## Recruiting in YOUR area

Can you give one or two evenings a week to help people in your community stay at home?

Looking for evening and weekend work?  
Look no further.

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

For informal enquires contact Vicky at  
v.kilgour@highlandhospice.org.uk  
or call 07563 025017  
Full job pack and application form at  
www.highlandhospice.org/vacancies  
or scan the QR code:



Sunflower Home Care is the Highland Hospice care at home service.  
Highland Hospice is a registered Scottish charity no. SC012227

## THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN FORT AUGUSTUS & GLENGARRY

### CHRISTMAS IN THE GREAT GLEN CHURCHES

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Kilchuimen Primary School Children's Nativity Service at Fort Augustus Parish Church at 2pm.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Kilchuimen Academy Christmas Celebration at Fort Augustus Parish Church at 10.30am

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Family Crib Service at Fort Augustus Parish Church at 12pm and 10am at Glengarry Parish Church

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)  
Family Christingle Service at 6.30pm at Glengarry Parish Church  
Watchnight Service at Glengarry Parish Church at 11.15pm

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day) Short Festive Toy Service (children bring a favourite present to the service) at Fort Augustus Parish Church at 11am

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 (New Year's Sunday)  
New Year Family Service with celebration of Holy Communion  
Fort Augustus Parish Church at 10am  
Glengarry Parish Church at 12pm  
*(Please note the time of the services change on this Sunday)*

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January (Sunday after Epiphany)  
Fort Augustus Parish Church at 10am  
Glengarry Parish Church at 12pm

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE



## Sound Bath

### Relaxation Session with Surround Sound



Immerse in this meditative experience and be 'bathed' by sound waves. Sound Baths are known to induce deep relaxation, reduce stress & anxiety, enhance creativity, reduce pain & increase energy levels.

#### Session venues

Glengarry Community Hall  
Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 5pm & Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30am

Fort Augustus Church Hall - Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 6.30pm  
*Booking is essential for Church Hall - max 12 places*

Invermoriston Millennium Hall  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2.30pm & Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30am

Fort Augustus Village Hall - Thur 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 4.30pm

Wear warm, comfortable clothing. Bring a pillow, blanket, yoga mat (or similar), & an eye mask. Extra mats available on request to Lindsey by email to: info@libraholistics.com

Sessions are free to all residents of Glengarry, Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston. Subsidised by: 3 Glens Community Care

TO BOOK OR MORE INFO: Email Lindsey: info@libraholistics.com

# Notice Board



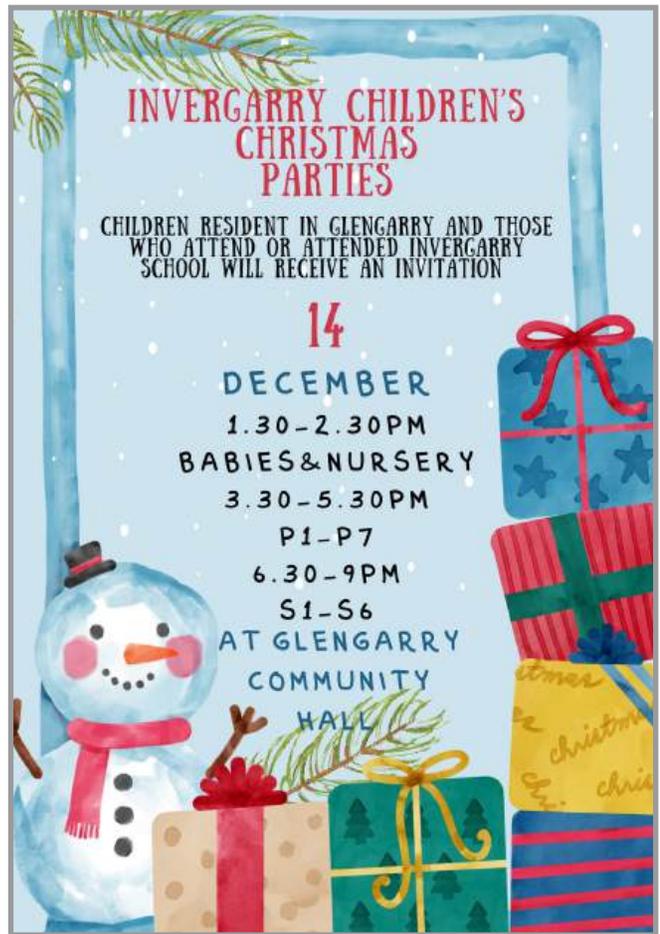
**CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY 21ST DEC**

BABIES TO PRIMARY 3 12PM TILL 2PM  
 PRIMARY 4 TO PRIMARY 7 3PM TILL 5PM

**Fort Augustus Village Hall**

**INVERGARRY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

CHILDREN RESIDENT IN GLENGARRY AND THOSE WHO ATTEND OR ATTENDED INVERGARRY SCHOOL WILL RECEIVE AN INVITATION

**14 DECEMBER**

1.30-2.30PM BABIES & NURSERY  
 3.30-5.30PM P1-P7  
 6.30-9PM S1-S6

**AT GLENGARRY COMMUNITY HALL**

**Bus to Fort William**

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

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**£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 11th December, 8th & 22nd January, 12th & 26th February 12.00 – 14.00

**Fort Augustus Village Hall**



For more information contact Helen on 07359 083997 **Donations welcome for the MS Society**  
 Families Welcome

**Thanks to**



# Notice Board

## GLENGARRY TRUST

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

5pm on both Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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](http://www.glengarrytrust.org.uk) and apply online, or email [glengarrytrust@gmail.com](mailto:glengarrytrust@gmail.com) and we will send you a form.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

OUR AGM WILL BE HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

We administer community benefit funds from the Millennium and Stronelairg wind farms and there may be funding available to groups, organisations, individuals and students.

[www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust](http://www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust)



nadara



### The Legion, Canalside Fort Augustus

Upcoming Events at the Club

#### December

Every Wednesday Free Pool Table 6pm to 10pm

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night and Raffle 7.30pm

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> New Years Eve Party 8pm till Late

#### January

Every Wednesday Free Pool Table 6pm to 10pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night and Raffle 7.30pm

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January live music & dancing from

Black Rock Ceilidh Band 8pm till 11.00pm

#### February

Every Wednesday Free Pool Table 6pm to 10pm

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine Disco 8pm to 12pm

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night and Raffle 7.30pm

Everybody Welcome

See Posters at the Club for more details



## COLIN CLARK

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FORT AUGUSTUS

Groundworks | ATV and Plant Hire | Fencing

Local Contractor

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