

Ness News

Community News & Events

March 2025



Murrayfield Centenary Year



Lion Dance Visit





Welcome to the Spring edition of the Ness News which is slightly later due to a couple of family medical issues on my part and Seonaid's increased workload before taking maternity leave later this month.

It is lovely to see some happy events like the birth of a few babies, a graduation, an engagement and a couple of weddings so congratulations to all. Sadly, we've seen the passing of quite a few local residents over the past few months and our thoughts are with all their families but I particularly want to pay tribute to two ladies who did so much in our community. They are Carol Pritchard who was another amateur photographer as well as a fellow member and Chair of the Community Council and Harry Whiteside who was the Chair of the Community Company and whose advice and assistance in helping me with the Resilience Group during the pandemic and for verifying the community council's accounts for many years which I greatly appreciated.

On a happier note, it was great to see my good friend, Julie (Paterson) Beavan present the ball at Murrayfield at the Six Nations rugby match where Scotland won 35-29 against Wales on 8th March. Her grandfather scored the first try there 100 years ago and Felix Paterson has written an interesting article about it in this issue.



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Linda 'Harry' Whiteside
1963 - 2025

A tribute to the powerhouse she was and how lucky this community was to have her.



Harry, as we all knew her, was born in Glasgow and moved to Lochaber with her late husband Martin and their very young daughter. Harry played a pivotal role in Voluntary Action Lochaber whilst there and then when she moved to Invergarry, was influential in getting funds to build the new Glengarry Community Hall.

Harry then moved to Fort Augustus after the sad loss of her husband, Martin in a hill walking accident in 2003 and we were very lucky to have had her in the area as her tireless efforts, despite her own health battles, have left this community with an amazing legacy. Harry and her amazing vision and tenacity in working for her community and leading the board of Directors, all on a voluntary basis, was responsible for; the upgrade and extension of the Fort Augustus village hall, FAGCC becoming landlords by purchasing housing and then building the 12 affordable houses named 'Caledonian Court', starting the Community Caretakers scheme, the community purchase of the convent land, the re-building and community ownership of the Medical Centre and setting up the apprenticeship scheme to support local people training for a career.

Many of you will be aware that Harry, after retiring from being the chairperson of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, moved from Fort Augustus back to Glasgow to be closer to her family in 2022. Very sadly she died after a very short illness on the 1st January 2025, leaving behind her daughter, Audrey, son-in-law Stuart, her much doted on granddaughter, Bonnie and her two sisters, Anne and Audrey.

What many of you may not know are some of the other things that Harry played a huge part in from behind the scenes. From Covid 19 resilience providing larder boxes, hot food for the vulnerable and financial assistance for those in need, helping other voluntary organisations with their accounts either as treasurer or as an independent verifier of accounts, assisting countless individuals to fill in forms that they would otherwise struggle with from tax returns to housing applications with lots more in between, to general advice to anyone who asked about where to find out about help that was available under a whole range of circumstances.

Harry never minded how much of her time she dedicated to helping others. She asked nothing in return. She could be a little blunt sometimes but really she had the kindest of hearts and the softest centre with a great sense of humour. A strong willed lady who never took no for an answer and would persevere to ensure the community got what they needed.

We will miss you Harry and our thoughts are with your family as they adjust to a life without you.





Carol Pritchard

Carol, who was an integral part of the community in Invermoriston, died in the Highland Hospice on Monday, 25th November 2024 after a short battle with Melanoma. Her husband Derek, whom she'd been with for 36 years, was with her when she died. She also left behind a younger brother Andrew, who was able to spend time with her in the Hospice.

Carol and Derek moved to Invermoriston in 2008 from north Nottinghamshire. Carol had been the senior partner in a law firm in Nottingham and on moving to Scotland obtained a dual qualification in Scottish Law.

Prior to retirement 2 years ago, Carol worked for RASASH (Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland) as an Advocacy Counsellor, advising survivors of sexual abuse of the criminal process when their cases came to court. She very much enjoyed helping people with their problems and she became a Befriender in the Fort Augustus area.

Her pleasure was walking their Border Collie, Meg every day and would often be seen out in all weathers. She was a keen photographer and used these walks to record the flora and fauna of our area to the delight of her friends.

Carol became the Chairman of the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association board and was instrumental in expanding the use of the hall and in setting up the Glenmoriston Community Group. Without her unfailing support, the Invermoriston community would not have its new children's playground, Community Tuesdays, Culture Vultures or Community Shop. She is irreplaceable to her friends and colleagues in this area for her warmth, sense of fun and her extra-ordinary talent for pulling people together.

Carol's wish was for her body to be donated to the Aberdeen University Anatomy Dept and as such there has not been a funeral. Her hope was that she would be remembered with happiness while her friends eat and drink together. Therefore, there will be a Celebration of her life for all who knew her at the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall on the 27th March 2025 at 13.00. Donations in lieu of flowers please to the Highland Hospice.



The Hub, Dalchreichart

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush!

Looking back at what has been happening over the last few months, even though winter is a time of hibernation, activities at the Hub have continued apace.

The December winning entry saw the conclusion of our Photographic Competition which had been held each month over the year enabling us to create a unique Dalchreichart calendar for 2025. All winners were presented with a copy of the calendar and further copies were available for sale, all having now sold out.



Our Bird box competition attracted two entries, both very worthy examples. The winning entry, announced at our November coffee morning and pictured here, was built by Dave Lee who received a £25 Abriachan garden centre voucher. Both bird boxes will be placed in the garden and, fingers crossed, the wild birds will be using their 'des res' for nesting in Spring.



Our Christmas dinner took place on December 7th attracting around 40 guests and it was good to see families with younger children attending. A three-course meal provided by The Redshank was enjoyed by all and this was followed by an entertaining and fun, festive quiz provided by Tim Perkins. Our newly painted hall (thanks to Beinneun windfarm funding) looked very festive and welcoming.



2025 has been welcomed in and the year is now well under way.

Coffee mornings - Our regular monthly coffee morning takes place on the last Saturday of every month from 11 am to 1 pm. Our next are scheduled for 29th March, 26th April and 31st May. All welcome, come and meet your neighbours, enjoy the craic and indulge in some cake (usually home baked and rather delicious) or biscuits.

Quiz nights take place on the second Saturday of every month at 7 pm. Our January quiz was cancelled due to the extreme weather but February's went ahead, with a range of questions posed by our resident quiz master, Bob Slattery. There is no charge for entry and prizes are given to the winning team and for the team with the lowest score. Bring your own drinks and snacks, teams usually of four but can accommodate on the night. Forthcoming quiz nights will be held on 8th March, 12th April and 10th May.



Craft and Chat club is back on again after taking a winter break. Sue Reed has kindly volunteered to organise it this year, and the first one will be held on February 20th and then the third Thursday of each month (20th March, 17th April and 15th May). All welcome, bring along whatever craft you are working on or just come and enjoy the company. Start at 10 am to 1 pm.

Games night – Our first games night of the year will take place on Friday 21st March at 7 pm. This is a chance for you to test out our new snooker table or for something different, try a game of air hockey. As usual, we will have table tennis and darts and a selection of board games for your use. If you are not games orientated, just come along, relax and watch the fun! Tea and coffee are provided but you are welcome to bring your own beverages and snacks.

Table Top sale - A table top sale will be held in conjunction with our usual coffee morning on 26th April. It's the time of Spring cleaning and a chance to sell your unwanted items. Please book a table (no charge) in advance by emailing thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com by Easter Saturday, 19th April.

Build a Bug Hotel competition – we invite you to get creative and build a bug hotel, a Buggingham Palace for our eco-garden! There are numerous suggestions and plans available on-line or design your own. It can be any size but please no bigger than 65cm high x 65cm wide x 65cm depth. The entries will be judged at the plant sale (details below). Entries must be brought to the Hub for 11 o'clock on 31st May, judging will take place at 12 noon the same day. The winner shall receive a £25 voucher for Abriachan Garden Centre. All entrants must be willing to donate their masterpieces to the Hub so that they can be used to encourage insects and pollinators to our eco-garden.

Plant sale - Coffee morning on 31st May will also be combined with a plant sale from 11 am onwards. Hamish from Abriachan Gardens will be selling a range of their plants on the day, and, as we have done in the past, we are also inviting you to bring along any plants, seeds etc that you wish to sell or swap with others. We'd also appreciate any native plants or seeds that you may have as donations for our eco-garden.

THE REDSHANK IS COMING TO DALCHREICHART HUB! – their mobile takeaway service will be available from 5pm to 7pm on Friday, 7th March. Have a rest from cooking your evening meal! This is an opportunity to buy your fish and chips or chose something different from their sustainably sourced food which will be cooked to order. You can collect and eat it in the comfort of your own home, or why not arrange to have a private meal with your neighbours? Alternatively, the hub will be open for you to purchase your food and eat inside. Please bring your own beverage and enjoy a convivial evening with your friends in the community.

Dawn Chorus Walk – 3rd May. We will be meeting at the Hub at 6.30 am for anyone interested in identifying birds by their individual songs. An early start but we hope a rewarding one! A walk of around 2.5k is planned and will be led by John Malley.

For further information on our Hub, check out our website: thehubdalchreichart.co.uk. Our events are usually posted on our facebook site: Glenmoriston Improvement Group, or if you are a member of Dalchreichart Residents Group you can see them posted there too. You can also contact us by email on: thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com

West Glenmoriston Community Company



Loch Ness Highland Resort

Hi, my name is Peter Fraser and I'm the newly appointed sales manager on Loch Ness Resort, Loch Ness Lodges, and Loch Ness Retreat for the Pure Leisure group. I have been in the holiday park industry for the last 17 years, working all over the country but this my first time in Scotland.

Julie Cocker, the park manager and I had a meeting with Deirdre just after Christmas so we could chat about our plans involving Loch Ness Resort. We would like to see the local community use the park as we have a big children's play area. Bring your kids along and let them run around as we know in the past, this wasn't allowed but we would encourage you to use it now.

We also have a brand-new gym which is very reasonably priced, why not come and try it?

We have a Bistro, which at the moment is open 5 days a week but will be going to 7 days shortly. We have the Monday club for the local pensioners and are in talks with possibly doing a breakfast club one day a week. We are toying with the idea of a monthly doing themed night eg. Mexican nights, curry nights etc.

If anyone has family members or friends who are interested in holiday home ownership either here or any of our other parks, please get in touch because will give £1000 for a referral if they purchase .

In our meeting with Deirdre, we spoke about the problems with coaches in the village so the company is in talks with different coach companies so we can help with the possibility of taking up to 10 coaches during peak season to relieve the congestion. The Pure Leisure group is a corporate group with 19 parks from Scotland to Cambridge and Wales.

Thank you

Peter Fraser



Silver Surfers

What a busy time the Silver Surfers group had in 2024, lunches all over the place and visits to Cawdor Castle, Fort George, a boat trip on Loch Ness, ending with our Christmas lunch in the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall. We would like to thank the Glen Rowan café for the wonderful meal and service on the day. Aimi, Vicky and the crew were brilliant, thank you. This year we held a raffle, with prizes donated by the members. The raffle raised £138 for the Highland Hospice, thank you all for your generosity.

February has been a very quiet month with many places closed but we had our first lunch out on March 5th at the Jaggy Thistle. Thank you, Keith, for accommodating us.

On one of the days out, we hope to put together a trip on the Waverly Paddle Steamer, very ambitious we know. This would be a one off and a day to remember.

So, if you are interested, please contact one of our group organisers.

Jean Curley (07955790826) Lesley Hill (07739546507) Kelvin Hill (07738928090) or Susan Knott (07799566891)



Christmas Parties

Gemma, Lisa and myself have absolutely loved being part of the Community Children's Christmas Village Parties for the past 8 years, helping to put together the best parties we could with the help and support of local businesses, the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company and through fundraising. As a team and due to our children getting older, we have decided that 2024 was our last party and we will be handing the reins over after 8 wonderful years. We hope others will take over and carry on these great parties for children. Without volunteers, the parties can't continue which would be such a shame. Please, if you are interested in taking over, get in touch with Jessie Marie, Lisa Gordon or Gemma Islerdemir. Once again, thank you to everyone who supported us over the years, we couldn't have done the parties without you.

Gemma, Lisa and Jess.

'Supporting Our Communities'



3 Glens Community Care: Supporting Our Rural Communities

In the heart of our beautiful glens, a grassroots initiative makes a real difference in people's lives. 3 Glens Community Care is dedicated to supporting individuals, families, and older residents across our rural communities by offering essential services, social connections, and a helping hand where needed most.

Encouraging New Members and Volunteers

As with any community-driven initiative, we rely on the enthusiasm and generosity of our volunteers and supporters. If you're looking for a way to give back, meet new people, or gain experience, we'd love to welcome you aboard. There are many ways to get involved, from helping with events to providing practical support for those in need.

We seek new volunteers and members to help expand our reach and enhance our services. Whether you can spare a few hours a week or just now and then, your support can significantly impact you. Volunteering with us is an excellent opportunity to develop new skills, build friendships, and contribute to the well-being of our community. No prior experience is necessary—just a willingness to help and a caring heart.

If you're interested in joining our dedicated team, please get in touch. We offer flexible opportunities to suit different availability and interests, ensuring everyone can find a role that fits them.

Development of Our New Community Transport Service

We are excited to announce the development of our new community transport service, which aims to make travel easier for those who may struggle with mobility or access to transportation. This initiative will help residents attend social events and stay connected with their community.

Our goal is to provide reliable, affordable, and accessible transport to those who need it most, ensuring that no one is left isolated due to a lack of transportation options. As we develop this service, we are looking for volunteer drivers to help make this a success. If you have a passion for helping others and some spare time, we'd love to hear from you!

Stay Connected

To keep up with our latest news and activities, follow our Facebook charity page. We share updates, upcoming events, and ways you can support our mission. Your involvement—big or small—helps us continue to build a stronger, more connected community. Please find us on Facebook at 3 Glens Community Care.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those around us. Join us at 3 Glens Community Care and be part of something truly special.

The Board of Trustees of 3 Glens Community Care work together, and alongside other organisations, to improve the availability of care services in our rural area to improve social isolation of people in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, or social circumstances.

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

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



Centenary year of Murrayfield and Scotland's first Grand Slam – 1925

Growing up as a boy in Fort Augustus, I had known J.B. Nelson as being the proprietor of two hotels: the Lovat Arms and the Caledonian. He was quite an influential figure, but other than being highly regarded and a great friend to the many who knew him, I had no comprehension of his previous achievements.

James Benzie Nelson was born in Glasgow on 9th February 1903. But for me his story begins 22 years later on the 21st March 1925 as he and his Scotland teammates walked onto the new home of Scottish Rugby, Murrayfield. This was the first time that Murrayfield had been used for International games and it hosted a record crowd of 70,000.



J. B. Nelson shaking hands with King George V at Twickenham, possibly in 1926 where Scotland became the first Home nation side to defeat England at their home ground.

Scotland already had victories over France at Inverleith (25-4), Wales in Swansea (24-14) and Ireland in Dublin (14-8). Scotland were facing the Auld Enemy England with the chance of winning their 1st Grand Slam. J.B. or 'Jimmy' to his teammates, played at scrum half for both his club Glasgow Academicals and

country. In the match, England took an early lead with a penalty goal after 8 minutes. The Scots hit back when J.B. Nelson scored Scotland's first try after 20 minutes - which was converted. There followed a try and conversion by England, then another try for England but the conversion was rushed by the Scotland players who kicked the ball away before the English kicker could complete his attempt. Scotland then had another try and conversion and finally won the match with a drop goal with just five minutes remaining.

The final score was Scotland 14 England 11. So, as the history books will tell you, 1925 was the year Scotland won their 1st Grand Slam and that J.B.(Jimmy) Nelson was the first international try scorer at Murrayfield Stadium. By all accounts, it was an enthralling encounter that was in the balance until the very end. They followed this up being the first home nation to defeat England at Twickenham in 1926. J. B. made 25 appearances for Scotland between 1925 and 1931.



JIM NELSON (Glasgow Academicals) was one of the great scrum-half-backs. He joined his equally distinguished club partner, Herbert Waddell, in the Scottish team in 1925 and was capped 25 times. Apart from his fine play he wrote his name large in the annals of the game by scoring the first try in the opening match at Murrayfield.

Prior to settling in Fort Augustus, J.B. Nelson had been the manager of the Buchanan Arms in Drymen, so it was natural that during World War Two, he joined the RAF Catering Squadron and was posted to RAF Inverness at Longman airfield. RAF Inverness had a number of Squadrons based there during the war including a Polish Fighter Reconnaissance Squadron who flew Supermarine Spitfires. At this time his wife Mollie and daughters, Eveline and Jan, moved to Drumnadrochit, then onto Craigmonie, Lewiston with the girls attending primary school in Drumnadrochit.

After the war, the family moved to Fort Augustus, where they purchased the Lovat Arms Hotel and shortly afterwards, Cartref. Later, the Caledonian Hotel was added to the family portfolio with daughter Jan running the Caledonian Hotel and Eveline and her family running the Lovat Arms.

J.B. was very much involved with community life and in 1948, he along with Rev Hugh Gillies and Jean Alexander were pivotal in forming the first Community Council to represent the area.

With his sporting background, it was no surprise that he was also heavily involved at Fort Augustus Golf Club where he was President of the club during the period of 1953 – 1975. During his tenure he presented the club with the Nelson Trophy which was played for annually in the format of Two Ball Foursomes.

J.B. Nelson died on 16 Oct 1981 and is buried in Strathoch Cemetery, Fort Augustus.

I wish to thank Eveline and Jan's daughter, Julie for supplying some great photos and information.

This season's Six Nations has just kicked off with Scotland winning their first match against Italy. Here's hoping that this year's team can replicate their brothers of 1925 and win another Grand Slam 100 years on from their first victory.



Fort Augustus Golf Club Committee 1969

Doik MacKintosh, Jackie Paterson, ? ?, Bob Watson, R Paton, Jack Sabin

Bill Ford, Ian Mclean, JB Nelson, Eric Keir

Can anyone name the man in the back row 3rd left?, Please contact the editors.

Felix Paterson

SENIOR CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, 14th December, 76 members of the association enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Lovat. We are most grateful to the Community Company for funding the event. Thanks, are also due to Chris Rose who gave up his day off to drive the community bus which transported some members who had difficulty getting to the venue.

The committee would like to thank all the hotel staff who took such good care of us on the day, Pauline Kesterton who compiled an excellent quiz which tested our general knowledge, everyone who generously donated prizes for the raffle and all who bought tickets. Lastly, thank you to the Area Representatives for informing everyone and gathering names of attendees.

The next event planned is our AGM which has been arranged for Wednesday, 30th April at 2pm in the Church of Scotland Hall. The business part will be followed by Tea/Coffee and cake. All are welcome to attend. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for future events or outings. We look forward to seeing you on the 30th April.



30 Miles in 30 Days

Back in November, I decided to undertake a Cancer Research Challenge to walk 30 miles in 30 days. It's a cause close to my heart and even more so as nearly 1 in 2 of us will get cancer in our lifetime.

Rhogan and I walked in all kinds of weather but managed to get out walking everyday, successfully completing the challenge on 30th November.

We raised a fantastic total of £820, which far exceeded my £250 target! A big thank you to everyone who donated.

Katrina Fyfe





CILL CHUIMEIN HERITAGE GROUP

It has been very nice to see old friends and some new ones at our Sunday afternoon meetings. It appears to be a suitable day for most people. There was a good attendance at our February meeting to watch a film about The Massacre Of Glen Coe. It gave the political intrigue preceding the Massacre of 13th February 1692, and there were some old famous actors to spot in this 1970s film.

The showing of the film ties in with our proposed Field Trip this year . We will be travelling by minibus to Glen Coe Visitors Centre, Wednesday 28th May to view the exhibitions and films. After coffee, we will have a guided tour of the turf and creel house and the archaeological finds discovered on digs in the area of the villages. The house has been built as a replica using materials and tools which would have been available in the 17th century. This tour is described as excellent by those who have visited recently.

After this, we shall head into Glen Coe for lunch at the Clachaig Inn or Glen Coe Inn. If time permits, we may make a trip into Glen Coe village to see the MacDonald Monument and make a short stop to view Eilean Munde across the waters of Loch Leven. This is the Grave Island where Alistair McIain, 12th Chief of the MacDonalds was killed in the Massacre is buried, along with others of his Clan.

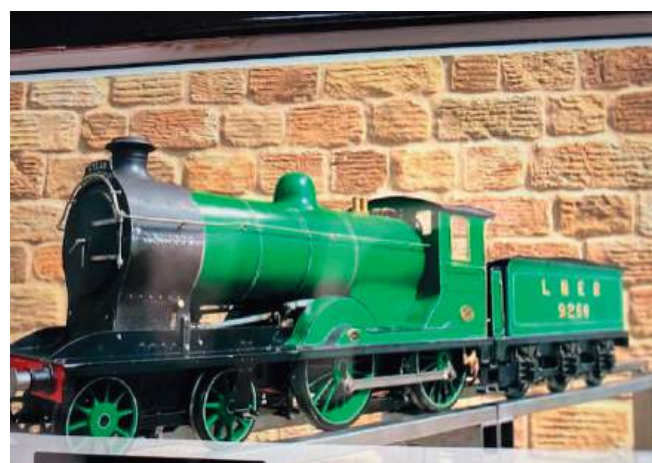
The minibus will leave from the Church of Scotland car park at 9.30 am prompt. There will be a charge of £5.00 per person towards the minibus fuel and its hire. We would hope to be back in the village by 5.30 pm

If you would like to join the Field Trip please contact either Linda Bowman 01809 501772/07904528081 or Lynne Davidson 01320 366262 Our next meeting will be in September. More information to follow.

Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Museum

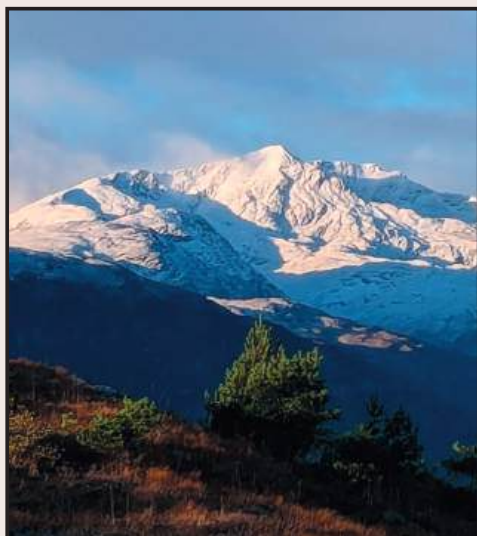
At the time of writing, the Great Glen Way and the Railway Station are still closed to the public, due to tree felling operations. Latest information is that the work should be completed by mid to late March, when once again we can all enjoy the walk along the side of Loch Oich and a visit to the railway.

Once forestry work is finished we will be back to working on Tuesdays. There is usually someone on site from 9.30 am til 4pm if anyone would like come along. Work has been continuing at a slower pace due to the restrictions but we are now looking forward to a new season with more for the public to see. We are presently awaiting the delivery of steel to make tracks for a miniature railway which we hope to run on open days this season. One of the trains will be a replica of Glen Douglas, the steam engine which used to work on this line.



The full size track into the workshop is now operational, and the loco and guards van are indoors ready for restoration. Some busy days ahead and we hope to welcome visitors on our open days, dates to follow.





Great Glen Camera Club

For this edition our theme is "Winter in the Glen". Looking forward to Spring.

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





Photographers John Malley, John Prior, Joan Lewis
Deirdre MacKinnon, Sarah McPhee, Patrick Ungless



Announcements

Graduations



Siobhan West graduated in Bachelor of Science for nursing in December 2024.

Births



Ross & Georgina welcomed Oscar Winters Macpherson Girvan born on 5th October. A wee brother for Magnus & Kit.



Fiona and Iain welcomed Reay Walter MacKnocher on the 23rd December 2024 at 09:46, weighing 10lbs 1oz at Raigmore hospital.



Ailsa (Hosie) and Iain Todd welcomed Euan William Stewart Todd. Born at Forth Valley Royal Hospital on the 12th of January 2025 weighing 6lb 8oz.

Engagements



Zanete Upeniece and Dean MacDonald got engaged on the 12th February in Dubai.

Weddings



Niall Howie & Vicky MacIntyre, South Laggan got married on Hogmanay in the Glengarry Community Hall.



Fiona McLachlan and Dougie Fairfield married on Friday 14th February 2025 at Cupar Registry.

Deaths



Betty Paterson

20/06/1932 - 19/12/2024

Betty was born in Glasgow and fostered with a very kind Catholic family in Commercial Road. At the age of 7, when the Second World War broke out, she was evacuated to the Highlands to live with her birth mother, in Glen Luidh, Invergarry. It must have been a very difficult transition, because nothing would have been explained to her as she was so young. However, her mother had a baby called Billy, and she soon became a wee mother to him, which helped her a lot to settle in.

She had a long walk to school everyday (around 3 miles there and back). On her journey home she would collect the milk from the farm, and would be given lovely treats of home baking from kind folk who lived on Mandally.

She never got a chance of further education, and had to leave school at the age of 14 and go straight into work with the Forestry Commission. She enjoyed outdoor work, and often

told us stories of the fun and laughs they had back then.

At 17, she went to work as a housemaid at the Lovat Arms in Fort Augustus. In her spare time, she would play badminton and go to local dances in the village, where she met Jimmy. Herself and Jimmy were very good dancers.

2 years later, in 1951, she and Jimmy married, and they enjoyed 60 years of marriage together. They had 3 children, Donald, Sharman and James, 11 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandson.

Over the years they lived in Fort Augustus, Invergarry, Mucomir, and then finally back in Fort Augustus.

When Jimmy retired they took a trip to New Zealand to visit her brother Tommy and his family.

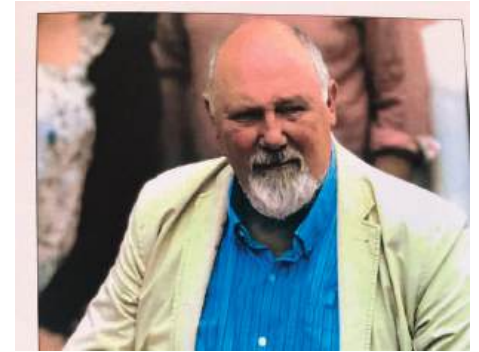
She loved sport, and joined Jimmy in re-establishing the Glengarry Shinty team, which involved a lot of fundraising, travelling every weekend with the boys, and even cleaning their kits for them, which she enjoyed every minute of. She also loved Rangers Football Club, always keeping up with the team news and watching or listening to the games on the radio whenever she could.

Betty and Jimmy loved their garden, and spent many hours working on it, with lovely displays of flowers, with her sweet peas being her pride and joy.

She enjoyed her game shows, Countdown and Pointless being some of her favourites, and in her final

years enjoyed completing Wordle daily with her family.

Her greatest love was having her family around her. Her home was the hub where they would all congregate. She was at her happiest when she had friends and family coming to visit.



Les Webster

Sadly, Les Webster, aged 76, passed away on the 14th January 2025 in the care of the Highland Hospice after a long, brave fight against prostate and bladder cancer. He and Judy moved from London to Fort Augustus in 1977 as he had always loved Scotland and loved Fort Augustus so much. He worked hard, manager of Leslie's shop, gardening, delivering logs, Forestry Commission Research Dept. and window cleaning. For many years, he volunteered for the local Fire Brigade when the fire engine was housed in a small shed at The Abbey. His wellies and waterproof trousers were always ready near the front door! Les supported Inverness Caley Thistle for many years and was a nature lover, fisherman, motorcyclist and a really good person. He is greatly missed by family and friends.



Ann Sandilands

1946 – 2025

(Spean Bridge, formerly South Laggan)

Peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family, on Saturday 4th January 2025, Ann Sandilands, aged 78 years, Arran Way, Spean Bridge, by Fort William (formerly of South Laggan).

Beloved wife of the late Alex, a cherished mum to Marie, Aileen, Heather, Alison and Colin and mother-in-law to Iain, William and Scott, a wonderful nana to James, Gemma, Eily, Ryan and Seona a caring sister to David, Fiona and the late Margaret, a much loved auntie, relative, neighbour and friend. Forever in our hearts.



Catherine Anderson

1948 – 2024

(Aberchalder, by Invergarry)

Peacefully, surrounded by her family, in the care of Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on Sunday 29th December 2024, Catherine Sweeney Anderson (Cath), aged 76 years, Aberchalder Lodge, Aberchalder Estate, by Invergarry (formerly of George Street, Dunoon). A cherished sister of David, Janet and the late Archie, a much loved sister-in-law to Jessie and the late Christopher, a treasured auntie to David, Gary and Kirsty, a dearly loved relative and friend. Sadly missed.



Colin Pegrum

When he was born in Essex in 1935, Colin's family were what were known as plotlanders.

Between the wars, when the value of agricultural land fell, farmers divided land up into small plots and sold them off. In Essex, they were often sold to Londoners wanting to escape to the country. Colin's parents had bought one of these plots and had a bungalow built on it. There was no vehicle access, water came from a well which his father had dug and there was no electricity.

When Colin's parents took him for trips up to London, from the train he could see people working in offices and this became his ambition. He left school at 15 and started work as an office boy in the City of London. He did his National Service in the RAF as a personnel clerk and stayed on for an extra year. During this year, he had a posting to central London and was allowed to live at home and commute into work. Once this posting ended, returning to barrack life no longer appealed and he left the RAF and became a clerk for an Australian import-export company back in the City. He married June in 1964 and they had two daughters. They moved to Suffolk and opened a B&B.

After many years, he returned to office work as a farm secretary and then they retired, or so they thought, to Dorset. After a year of "what are we supposed to do now?" they decided to accompany Claire (whose ambition was not to work in an office....) on her move to Scotland to open an independent youth hostel in Invergarry and they moved to Fort Augustus. June died in 2010 and some years later when he became less mobile, Colin was grateful for the opportunity to move into an accessible bungalow in Caledonian Court and enjoyed taking part in activities such as lunch clubs, Soup and Sandwiches, Community Tuesday and the summer outings.

Loch Ness TaeKwon-Do:

Building Confidence, Fitness, and Self-Defence

Loch Ness TaeKwon-Do continues to make a strong impact, not only in competition but also in building confidence, improving fitness, and teaching essential self-defence skills. At the recent **Highland Junior Championships** in Alness, the club's students showcased their dedication and skill, earning an impressive array of medals.

A Champion's Mindset

Led by **4th-degree black belt and international instructor** Simon Canning, Loch Ness TaeKwon-Do nurtures discipline and perseverance in its students. Their recent successes highlight the hard work and determination required to excel in this martial art:

- **River Humphries** – *Gold in Power Punching & Gold in Sparring*
- **Ryan Gate** – *Bronze in Sparring*
- **Dylan Humphries** – *Bronze in Patterns & Silver in Sparring*
- **Téa Drew** – *Gold in Patterns & Bronze in Sparring*
- **Joshua White** – *Bronze in Special Technique, Bronze in Patterns & Bronze in Sparring*



Beyond the Medals: Confidence and Fitness

While competitions play a key role in a student's development, TaeKwon-Do offers much more than just trophies. Regular training enhances **fitness, coordination, and flexibility**, helping students become stronger both physically and mentally.

Through structured training, students build self-confidence as they master techniques, set personal goals, and push past their limits. Whether a beginner or experienced martial artist, every student benefits from the supportive and disciplined environment.



Practical Self-Defence Skills

TaeKwon-Do is a highly effective self-defence system, equipping students with essential skills to protect themselves in real-life situations. Training includes:

- Kicking and punching techniques for striking power
- Blocks and evasions to defend against attacks
- Escape techniques from grabs and holds
- Controlled takedowns to neutralise threats

Simon emphasises that self-defence is at the heart of TaeKwon-Do, empowering students with the confidence to handle challenging situations safely and effectively.

Breaking the Myths: Martial Arts and Positive Development

A common misconception about martial arts is that they encourage aggression. In reality, TaeKwon-Do instils **discipline, self-control, and respect**. Students learn to channel their energy in a positive way, developing patience and resilience.

The structured environment ensures that techniques are taught with responsibility, reinforcing the values of non-violence and personal growth. TaeKwon-Do is not about seeking conflict but about having the confidence and ability to avoid it when possible.

Join the Club

Are you looking to improve your fitness, build confidence, and learn practical self-defence skills? Loch Ness TaeKwon-Do welcomes new students aged **ten and above**, regardless of fitness level or experience.

Classes run on **Mondays and Fridays from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**. Spaces are available now, so take the first step in your martial arts journey today!

For more information or to book your first class, contact Simon Canning at **07432 620202** or email **canningsimon@rocketmail.com**.

We look forward to welcoming you to the club!



Invergarry Primary School News

We have hit the ground running during term 3 here at Invergarry Primary, with visits, workshops and trips, all to support the children's learning in school. Glencoe Museum brought a pop-up display, which we were able to keep in our foyer for a few weeks, featuring childhood items from the past. This fitted in well with our history and World War 2 topic. The children were very interested in all the items, but particularly enjoyed learning about the 'torture' devices that were historically used in schools for punishment! They also enjoyed looking at the vintage toys and games and learning about what children did for enjoyment in the past.

We are planning a visit to Fort George later in the term, where we will visit the Highlanders Museum to do a workshop and experience their handling collection on World War 2. We'll also get to go on a tour of Fort George – hopefully the weather will be kind to us!

We invited parents and family into school recently to see our Roald Dahl play-in-a-day. Konflux Theatre came and worked with us all morning to put together a play for the afternoon. The children all had fun learning how to use their voices and acting skills to channel the stories of Roald Dahl into a performance that we hope everyone who came along enjoyed.

We're staying active as usual this term, with swimming lessons, a curling workshop, a badminton tournament and the upcoming swimming gala. We also have a visiting Gaelic singing tutor who comes in to teach the children Gaelic songs – some of our instrumentalists are joining in with their instruments too which is lovely to hear.

Nursery have enjoyed having their Bookbug song, rhyme and story sessions again this term. Members of the local playgroup are still welcome to join in with these, and parents and toddlers can join us every second Thursday morning to spend time in nursery socialising, playing and joining in with snack time. Please get in touch if you would like to come along with your toddler.

ELC and P1 enrolment weeks have taken place recently for those starting school or nursery from August. Don't worry if you have missed the dedicated enrolment weeks – just go to the Highland Council enrolment webpage and complete the online form.

We're looking forward to the upcoming Easter events and holidays in April. We already have a lot in the diary for the summer term, which is bound to be a busy one. We like to welcome members of the community to join us at school for events throughout the year – please find us on our new Facebook page 'Invergarry Primary School' where we will share information and invites to upcoming events.





Appointments

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Calum Findlay, our new science teacher, as well as Pupil Support Assistant, Niamh Lumsden and Clerical Assistant, Leigh Woods. A warm welcome to Kilchuimen.

Kilchuimen Nursery and Primary

This term, we were lucky enough to have the Glasgow Hong Lok and Lion Dancing Troupe come to perform the traditional lion dance for Chinese New Year. We would like to thank the Scottish Highlands, Islands and Moray Chinese Association (SHIMCA) for arranging this. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the dance as well the opportunity to learn more about Chinese culture.



Kilchuimen Academy

This term, we welcomed SSE renewables to the school to deliver skill sessions to all our S4-6 pupils. During the session, students had to plan a mock event to meet the following brief: "Celebrate 50 years of Foyers and the benefits of Pumped Storage Hydro". During the task, students had to explore marketing, social media and budgets to plan their mock events. The conclusion of the sessions involved students pitching their ideas to SSE renewables, followed by mock interviews.



We have continued to link with local employers to diversify and enrich our curriculum. These have involved visits to Shiel Buses to discuss apprenticeships, a visit to Wolfhouse Gym for the Exercise & Fitness Class, Rural Skills Class visiting Glendoe and Glenmoriston Estates and much more.

Our senior Barista team have had another busy term working towards their National 5 Barista Award. They have organised "Barista Tuesday" where they have been putting their skills to the test preparing coffees and other hot drinks for the staff. Their next event will be "World Book Day" where they will be serving milkshakes and smoothies to the primary school.



If you are a local business interested in finding out more about Developing the Young Workforce, please contact Rebecca Masson (DYW coordinator):
Email: Rebecca.Masson@westhighlandchamber.co.uk

Rugby

Kilchuimen Academy has rugby back on the curriculum! We have welcomed Stevie McAleer from Lochaber Rugby Club to deliver taster sessions to all S1-3 pupils. From these taster sessions, we have had 10 pupils who have recently attended a rugby competition at Elgin Academy, with more competitions in the pipeline.



Tel: 01320 366800

Email: contact@communitycompany.co.uk

Office hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 3.30pm

Tarff Trading

As the days grow longer and signs of spring start to appear, now is the perfect time to prepare your garden for the season ahead. Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or just getting started, **Tarff Trading**, our local community store, has everything you need to bring your garden to life!

- **Seeds for Every Garden** – From vibrant flowers to fresh vegetables, we have a fantastic selection of high-quality seeds to get your garden growing.
- **Nourish Your Plants** – Stock up on **compost and fertilisers** to give your plants the best start this season.
- **Essential Gardening Tools** – Whether you need trowels, spades, rakes, or watering cans, we have a great range of durable tools to make gardening easier and more enjoyable.
- **Wildlife & Bird Care** – Attract birds and pollinators to your garden with our bird feed and feeders.

By shopping at **Tarff Trading**, you're not only getting top-quality gardening supplies but also supporting a local business that serves our community.

Pop in today and let's make this spring the best yet for your garden!



Convent Land – behind the scenes

We're delighted to share an update on the transformation of **Convent Land** into a vibrant community space for everyone to enjoy.

The **adventure play area** is already in production, off site, and we hope will be installed in May, subject to planning permission. With completion expected within three weeks. This will provide an exciting and safe space for children and families to play and spend time outdoors.



Work on the network of paths is (at the time of writing) set to begin in **March** making the area more accessible for walking, exploring, and connecting with nature.

These improvements will ensure that **everyone**, including those with mobility challenges, can enjoy this wonderful green space whether for a leisurely stroll, wheelchair access, or simply to appreciate the surroundings.

These developments are just the beginning. We have more plans for Convent Land to enhance its role as a welcoming, inclusive space for the whole community. We'll keep you updated as new projects take shape.



Thank you for your continued support; we can't wait to see the community making the most of this fantastic space.

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 - **4th - 7th April 2025**

Dalchreichart - **4th - 7th April 2025**

Fort Augustus - **7th - 9th April 2025**

Generous Donations Support Our Community Larder

We are thrilled to share that **Balfour Beatty** has generously donated a **£150 M&S voucher** to the Community Company in support of our Community Larder. This contribution will go a long way in helping us provide essential food and household items to those in need. A huge thank you to **Balfour Beatty** for their generosity and commitment to supporting our community. Every contribution makes a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for their support.

The Community Larder plays a vital role in supporting local families by offering access to nutritious food, reducing waste, and strengthening a sense of community. Thanks to donations like this, we can continue to ensure that everyone has access to quality food, helping to ease financial pressures for many households.

Fareshare have also been helping us with generous supplies throughout the year. They have kindly donated 1.91 tonnes of goods with a retail value of £5900. Our thanks to them as well.

Without these generous donations we would struggle to keep the larder full of such a range of foods.

If you'd like to learn more about the Community Larder or find out how you can help, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!



Community funding – grants in action!

Our community continues to thrive thanks to successful funding applications that support local groups and individuals. A huge congratulations and thank you to all the applicants who have worked hard to secure funding for these valuable projects!

- **Fort Augustus Brownies**

£1,500 in funding for uniforms, equipment, and a subsidised day trip ensures that all local children can fully participate in Brownies, regardless of financial circumstances. This support helps young members develop confidence, new skills, and friendships in an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Well done to the Brownies team for making this happen and ensuring every child can take part.

- **Abertarff Place Community Growing Project**

Veronica Sandham's successful **£880** funding application is bringing a new community growing space to Abertarff Place.

This initiative encourages residents to come together, grow their own fresh vegetables and herbs, and promote sustainable living all while promoting a sense of community and shared purpose.

Huge thanks to Veronica and her team for their dedication to creating a greener, more connected community!

- **GMHCA Silver Surfers Christmas Lunch**



A **£2,050** grant enabled Glenmoriston Community Hall Association to host a festive Christmas lunch for local seniors.

This event provided an opportunity for social connection, reducing isolation and bringing the community together to celebrate the season.

Congratulations to GMHCA for securing this funding and for bringing such a joyful event to our community.

- **Tarff Trading**

Following increasing food sales in **your local store**, funding was approved for additional shelving, refrigeration and freezer storage. This equipment gives Tarff Trading the opportunity to stock more chilled, frozen and ambient food.

Thank you to the team at Tarff Trading for making this possible.

- **Fort Augustus Senior Citizens Association – shopping trips**

Funding to continue the subsidised monthly shopping bus to **Inverness** and **Fort William**. This monthly trip ensures continued transportation for essentials and social outings. This initiative promotes independence and reduces isolation.

Thank you to all who support this valuable community service!

- **Leteisha Cameron**

A **£600** grant helped Leteisha gain her Class 2 driving qualification, a crucial step toward employment as a paramedic assistant. This funding not only supports her career aspirations but also strengthens local healthcare services by ensuring skilled workers can stay in the area.

Congratulations to Leteisha on this achievement; this funding is a fantastic step toward her future career.

- **Life Drawing Group**

Thanks to **£841.33** in grant funding, the Life Drawing Group can continue offering monthly sessions at Fort Augustus Village Hall. The grant supports the cost of materials, equipment, and live models, ensuring that local artists and enthusiasts have access to creative opportunities that nurture self-expression and well-being.

A big congratulations to Sarah McPhee for securing this funding and keeping the arts alive in our community!

- **FA Senior Citizens Association – exercise class**

Support for the weekly low impact exercise class in FA Village Hall. Taking part in the classes gives the members the benefits of exercising in a controlled and safe environment plus the opportunity to meet up with friends for a cup of tea and slice of homemade cake.

Well done to everyone involved in making sure the exercise class remains available for Senior Citizens Association.

These grants demonstrate the power of community funding in enhancing social connections, supporting personal development, and creating lasting benefits for all.

Well done to everyone involved in these projects and for making a real difference!



Karen Dunbar's Comedy Tour

We're delighted to host Karen Dunbar's comedy show at the Fort Augustus Village Hall on 24th May.

Doors open at 5pm, the show will kick off at 5.30pm. You can book tickets at www.breakneckcomedy.co.uk

Bring, exchange, buy, sell

Thanks to local lady **Deborah's** initiative, FA Village Hall hosted a tabletop recycling event. The idea encouraged locals to either pass on or sell for a small value items that were otherwise headed for the skip. Deborah timed the event to coincide with the Fort Augustus Skip Days, encouraging locals to save landfill from receiving more unnecessary items.

Thank you to everyone who came along on the day and special thanks to **Deborah** who also secured funding to make the day happen!

We're looking forward to the next one!

Directors' Surgery - Your Opportunity to Connect with the Board

The Board of Directors is committed to representing the community and values your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. We want to ensure that every voice is heard and that community members have the opportunity to speak directly with us in an open and welcoming setting.

To support this, two of our Board members, **Helen and Paul**, held the first **Directors' Surgery** at Fort Augustus Village Hall on 19th February. This informal session provided a space for residents to share their suggestions, ask questions, and discuss community matters face-to-face with Board representatives. It was great to meet up with a number of you and answer your questions and hear your ideas for this community.

We're pleased to continue this initiative, with the next **Directors' Surgery** scheduled for **19th March**, in Invermoriston, just before the Board meeting that evening from 5.45pm to 6.45pm.

We encourage you to come along, meet your Board members, and share your thoughts. We're here to listen!

Bunoich Brae Handrail

We would like to thank to **Glen and Ron** from the **Community Caretaker Team** for their hard work in building the new wooden handrail on **Bunoich Brae**.

Several community members had requested a handrail to be fitted to improve safety on the slope, and thanks to Glen and Ron's dedication and hard work, this much-needed addition is now in place. Their efforts ensure that the path is safer and more accessible for everyone.

It's great to see members of our community continuing to provide input and suggestions to enhance shared spaces, and we truly appreciate the time and effort Glen and Ron put into this project.



New Apprenticeship funded



A huge congratulations to **Lexie Cameron** and **Glendoe Estate** on securing funding for Lexie's apprenticeship on the estate!

From a young age, Lexie has been involved in sheep rearing, helping her dad in the fields and training sheepdogs. Pursuing a career in agriculture feels like a natural next step, and this apprenticeship is a fantastic opportunity for her to build on her passion and skills.

Lexie's qualification will span two years, and we're excited to follow her progress. This is a wonderful achievement that not

only supports Lexie's future but also strengthens our local agricultural community.

Pictured with Lexie is **Boss**, the sheepdog she has trained and worked with since he was a pup; a true testament to her dedication and talent.

Well done, Lexie!

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

Memorial Hall – Whilst the purchase of the hall has been agreed, sadly the project has been slowed down because the deeds are incorrectly showing Scottish Canals as the owner. Highland Council are working to get this corrected so that the purchase can be finalised.

Glentarff House - Much to our frustration the purchase is moving very slowly. Scottish Canals have yet to provide all the information needed for the purchase to be finalised. We are really hoping that this will happen soon so we can get started on two new homes for local people.

Janitor's House – We have made an application to Highland Council to purchase this from them. The ideal solution would have been for them to refit it and let it as part of their portfolio of homes. However, due to the way the council works this property is owned by the education department and housing will not take it on, so it sits empty. We have made a proposal to buy it and now have to wait for the process to take its course.

Convent Land Wood from Fallen Trees

Wood from fallen trees at the Convent Land has been allocated for community projects, helping to support local initiatives and sustainable practices. We want to use as much of it as possible for projects on the Convent Land like seating and wildlife hides.

Please do not help yourselves as it is too good to be used as firewood.

Watch this space for more information!



Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

Minutes of meeting held at the Millennium Hall, Invermoriston on Wednesday 25th January 2025

Present:

Deirdre MacKinnon - Chair (DM) Helen Clay - (HMC)
Jenny Findlay - Vice-Chair (JF) Clare Levings (CL)
Mike Anderson - Treasurer (MA) Leanne Findlay (LF)
Daniel Clark (DC) James Prince (JP) Cllr. David Fraser (DF)

Presentation from SSE Renewables concerning the Bhlaraidh extension

Eilidh Edgar explained that the internal SSE decision for financial investment had been declined (not shelved but delayed) owing mainly to increases in supply chain costs, but also the uncertainty of zonal pricing guidance from the UK government. The project will be revisited and refined to determine if it could proceed, but would need to go through the entire planning process.

This decision means that the Cloiche scheme (extension of Stronelairg) will come online sooner with a financial decision expected in October 2025 and construction March 2026. Community Liaison Groups covering the communities of Laggan, Stratherrick & Foyers and Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston would be set up well before construction begins.

Carol Masheter explained that the community benefit calculation is done after the impacts on a community have been determined. Key projects of benefit to the wider community can be funded outside of a grant process.

DF led a discussion about the definition of zonal pricing (connection to National Grid), the suitability of the infrastructure of the region for the multiple projects and the impacts of their works on the environment and specific communities. It was noted that constraint payments had reached £1.8Bn and yet the community benefit payment had remained at £5K per MW for more than ten years. Everyone concurred that this should at least be index-linked, and preferably from enabling of works, not from completion. A Scottish Government consultation on updating the good practice guidance for developer payments runs until 11th April.

Previous Minutes:

Addendum

Nick Wright requested that the previously reported bullet points for the Local Place Plan (LPP) were made more explicit. Councillors were happy that his explicit points had been included in the subsequent LPP submission to Highland Council (HC), but that the following bullet point could have been clearer in the minutes.

Reference to swimming pool should be clear that a swimming pool remains a long term ambition even if it is difficult to see a route for delivering it in the foreseeable future.

Proposed by CL seconded by LF



Matters Arising:

Redburn - At the AGM of Glenmoriston Hall, a resident queried why the bollards had not been installed, and was advised that it was a council matter. DM had spoken with the Chair to reiterate that the Community Council had done everything in their power, with updates in the monthly minutes, and it now rested with BEAR and Transport Scotland to proceed (with some delay caused by dealing with the major landslides that had occurred). DF added that the owner of the cows had been informed that BEAR expects to install the removable bollards in March. It was deemed prudent to try these first instead of concrete, because the idea may not even work.

Inchnacardoch Bay – DM and Chris Nelson from the Community Company had received legal advice concerning the issues of burdens and liabilities, and it was now clearer to all that the legal status of the Community Company prohibits taking responsibility for Inch Bay. The status quo is untenable for the Community Council officers, so a vigorous discussion took place on how to proceed in the long and short-term to minimise risk and keep Inch Bay as an asset within the community. Varying opinions were expressed, and it was decided to invite Fort Augustus resident Chris Rose to the February meeting to present his previously suggested proposal for a Community Interest Company, with comparison to an alternative legal status of Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The latter would need to satisfy OSCR that there would be a community benefit before any asset transfer would be allowed. Hopefully the proposal would be of help to the Community Councillors in deciding the future of Inch Bay.

Short-term action until either a CIC or SCIO is in place, is to block off access to vehicles with stones or concrete blocks, with DM to notify boat owners in advance.

Scottish Canals - DM is to invite Laurie Piper to the March Community Council meeting to progress complaints and promote partnership working.

Long term complaint (>3 years) of water leaking from lock onto Canalside North. DC advised that the bank from where the leak appears is waterlogged and could collapse at any time.

BEAR is responsible for the bridge pavement and salting in icy weather, however DC commented that when he approached workers to do so, they refused to accept responsibility.

Kilchuimen Academy - Last month Kate Forbes and DF had both written to David Summers, regarding the early service bus between Fort Augustus and Drumnadrochit owing to community concerns. DF explained that under Scottish Schools legislation, parents could request a placement in any area. Currently ten pupils attend Glenurquhart and eight pupils attend outwith the catchment of Fort Augustus (Invergarry is not in catchment). Notwithstanding this, DF had investigated and wanted to assure the community that the school is not in any way at risk. The same legislation gives special protection against closure for rural schools - any process would begin informally with the Community Council, and a presumption against closure or downgrade. This process has not been initiated and has not been discussed at Highland Council at all.

If community concerns remain, DF recommended that having community transport could make the catchment more viable by encouraging attendance from lower South Loch Ness.





Flooding in Invermoriston:

Residents attended the meeting to highlight the excess flooding encroaching their properties from land outwith, and to express their fears about the danger of landslides and subsidence of their house foundations. All of the properties have drainage systems and HC has been digging out the culverts, but the sheer amount of water from the woodlands and hillsides is overwhelming. DF agreed to escalate the matter urgently.

Visitor levy:

A resident asked if the Community Council held a view about whether the proposed Visitor Levy is fit for purpose, and the effects that it might have on the village. An HC consultation is open until the end of March and DF encourages all residents to participate as individuals, or as businesses. The following points were raised and discussed:

- no clear directive from HC on how the levy is redistributed to communities
- no clear directive from HC on how the levy is to be spent within communities
- applies to all residents paying for accommodation, not just tourists
- camper vans exempt, unless on a campsite
- administrative burden on small family-owned businesses (% calculation not flat rate)
- smaller businesses may be pushed over the VAT threshold

JF remarked that the Community Council may not be able to reach a consensus on the matter, but encouraged all to respond to the consultation.

Treasurer's Report:

Current balance is £6905.81 with £1500 ring-fenced from Community Company towards solicitor costs. Cheque for £79.20 issued to British Legion for Scotland

Planning:

Planning Applications Validated 26/11/24 – 27/01/25

Ref: 24/04782/FUL

Location: Bramble Lodge, Millfield Fort Augustus PH32 4BY

Proposal: Change of use from holiday lodge to residential (retrospective)

Applicant: Mr Scott Bremner

Ref: 24/04823/FUL

Location: Land 350M North Of Newtown Invergarry

Proposal: Formation of temporary construction yard and associated welfare and accommodation facilities

Applicant: Balfour Beatty

Notes: Temporary accommodation for initial 96 workers for Skye Reinforcement project.

Ref: 24/04946/FUL

Location: Plot next to Taigh Sealladh Fèidh (formerly Netherwood), Newton, Invergarry PH35 4HT

Proposal: Erection of house, garage and associated works

Applicant: Mr Robert Sandham

Ref: 24/05317/PNO

Location: Land 195M SW Of Netherby Auchterawe Fort Augustus

Proposal: Formation of turning head

Applicant: Forestry and Land Scotland





Notes: Decision already made that prior approval is not required

Ref: 24/04714/FUL

Location: Fort Augustus Golf Club PH32 4DS

Proposal: Formation of car park

Applicant: Fort Augustus Golf Club

Notes: Proposal for 29 space car park to be created to north of club house. To be accessed through Loch Ness Lodge Retreat.

Ref: 24/05307/FUL

Location: The Bothy, Glendoe Fort Augustus PH32 4BZ

Proposal: Conversion of workshop to house

Applicant: Glendoe Ltd

Notes: Located within Glendoe estate.

Renewable Energy Projects:

Coire Glas - Councillors DM/JF attended the Coire Glas consultation at Invergarry on 11th December. Main construction is planned to begin August 2026.

Community Amenity Issues:

Achnaconeran Road - sleeping policeman still required. Consider signage - tourists regularly mistakenly take the turning and then get stuck.

Pothole by Telford Centre.

Unsociable neighbours have been reported to HC. DF will ask for an update from the council officer.

CL enquired about the permissions for campervans at Forest Glen holiday park. DF to review the paperwork and speak to the compliance officer.

Signage: the council sign for the Police Station needs to be removed; the elderly sign close to West End Garage is obscured by the new 20mph sign; the brackets for the Oich bridge pedestrian signs are too large for the poles, thus rotating in draught from traffic or wind.

Lighting: the street light outside the canal centre is filling with water; the lights at the back of the main car park are not functioning; give way at Bunoich Crescent is flickering constantly; Christmas lights are still on.

Bins: Residents are still leaving their bins in front of the village hall in Church Road. With absent owners in some cases flyers through letterboxes may be necessary.

Empty properties: any resident can write to HC about a property they consider to be an eyesore. A resident commented that short-term let licences are difficult to check online.

Ness News submission deadlines are brought forward by 7 days to ensure the editor and designer have enough time before printing. 21 Feb/24 May/24 Aug/15 Nov

AOCB

DF advised that HC had allocated funds to the Community Council for play parks and





would be reviewing all play parks and developing a strategy in line with the LPP (once approved) and after consulting with children. It is hoped that these funds would be supplemented by the Community Company.

The Scottish Government is running a consultation on a change to the national speed limit.

The Great Glen Way diversion should be cleared by 5th February.

DM has been told by the owners of Loch Ness Highland Resort that village children are welcome to use the play facilities onsite, and the gym facility is open to village residents. She had previously been approached by residents unsure that the facilities were for local access, so has suggested the owners create a notification for inclusion in Ness News.

The Community Company is holding an inaugural Directors' Surgery, open to all residents, on Wednesday 19th February in the Fort Augustus village hall. It is hoped that this will become a regular event for suggestions, concerns, and questions to be raised and discussed directly with members of the board.

DC advised that the Chair of the Scot II charity is shortly to retire from the position and asked if anyone was aware of an interested party. It was suggested that an item be created for publication in Ness News.

LF reported that the drainage was inadequate on the adopted road at Redburn, with water regularly sitting on the road. Cars lose traction when icy.

A resident asked why BEAR had declined railings at the pedestrian access to Caledonian Court. Councillors are waiting for BEAR to undertake, and report on, an audit of all walking routes around Fort Augustus.

CL reported that once again, diversionary signage for road and bridge closures were misleading or inaccurate. During the current works at Fort Augustus, BEAR closed the canal bridge for a third unplanned night without warning.

Next meetings:

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



Notice Board



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 One Highland Hospice care at home service. Highland Hospice is a registered Scottish charity no SC030222

The Legion, Canalside Fort Augustus

Upcoming Events at the Club

March
Every Wednesday Free Pool 6pm to 10.30pm

April
Every Monday Free Pool 6pm to 10.30pm
Wednesday 16th April Killer Pool Tournament
Saturday 19th Live event from 4Play 8.30pm
Thursday 24th Quiz night

May
Every Monday Free Pool 6pm to 10.30pm
Thursday 22nd Quiz night 7.30pm
Friday 30th Live Event 8pm

Everybody Welcome
See Posters at the Club for more details

Directors' Surgery

Open to all residents

Have Your Say, Ask Your Questions!

Wednesday, 19th March
Millennium Hall, Invermoriston
5.45pm to 6.45pm

Join us for an open and welcoming session where Board Members, **Helen** and **Kelvin** will be available to discuss community issues and take your questions.

Why Attend?

- Voice Your Concerns:** Share your thoughts about community matters.
- Engage Directly:** Pose your questions directly to the Board.
- Be Involved:** Your voice helps shape our community.
- Your community company exists to facilitate the distribution of funds in your area.**

We encourage **all members of the community** to come along and join the conversation and give us your questions and suggestions.

Together, we can strengthen our community ties and create a brighter future for the communities of Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston.

Notice Board

Glenmoriston Craft Club

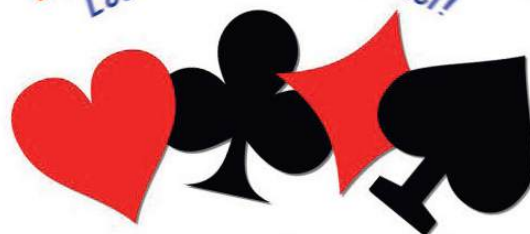
1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month

At Glenmoriston Millennium Hall
11am - 3pm

Cost only £3 per session

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

One more time...
LET'S WHIST AGAIN
Last one for this winter!



Friday 28th March
7pm start

Game over 10pm

Fort Augustus Church Hall

Entry £2

Tea, Coffee, Juice.
BYO Supper

Raffle

Donations greatly appreciated.

All welcome!

Under 14's must be accompanied.

Bus to Fort William

*** Open to all ages ***

Wednesday 19th March

£3

Departing Fort Augustus Car Park 0945

Police Station 0950

Abertarff Place 0955

Newton 1005

Invergarry 1015

Leaving Fort William 1330

Return to Fort Augustus 1450 approx

Shopmobility scooters available. Please ask when booking.

To book please telephone

Jenny: 01320 366438

**Fort Augustus
Senior Citizens' Association**



COMMUNITY SOUP & SANDWICHES Wednesday 26th

March, 9th & 23rd April, 14th &

28th May 12.00 – 14.00

Fort Augustus Village Hall



For more information contact Helen on
07359 083997

Donations welcome for various charities

Thanks to



&

BANK OF SCOTLAND

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 17th February and 19th 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 and apply online, or email 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 3rd June 2025

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

www.facebook.com/glengarrytrust



nadara



JOIN THE BEINNEUN COMMUNITY FUND PANEL

There are three vacancies to join this dynamic Community Fund Panel at an exciting and pivotal time

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
1PM, FRIDAY
25TH APRIL
2025

The Beinneun Community Fund supports projects that benefit residents of the two community council areas of Glengarry and Fort Augustus (including Glenmoriston).

The volunteer Panel members use their local knowledge and passion to ensure funding awards create a direct and meaningful impact on the community.

For information contact:
Hayley Pryor
Community Funds Manager
(North of Scotland)
hayley@foundationscotland.org.uk
<https://tinyurl.com/Beinneunfund>



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