

# Ness News

Community News & Events

March 2026



## Cricket Club

## School update



## Shinty Update





It certainly feels like we're turning a corner as the days begin to stretch and we look ahead to Spring.

It has been a very busy period for the Community Council since Christmas, with a number of additional meetings taking place. We issued letters to every household outlining our intentions around strengthening community resilience during power outages, and we are continuing discussions with key partners such as SSE, Scottish Water, NHS, Highland Council and 3 Glens Community Care at a meeting on 9th March. We also consulted relevant community representatives at a meeting at Invermoriston on 4th March.

James Prince, Mike Anderson and I also attended a Resilience Teams (Lochaber) meeting on 3rd February alongside key stakeholders and representatives from other community councils.

At the end of January, we held a successful A82 Road Safety and Visitor Management meeting with agencies including Scottish Canals, Visit Inverness Loch Ness, Highland Council and Transport Scotland. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for early April. This marks the beginning of delivering the aims set out in our Local Place Plan (P.24).

The local community was informed at our February meeting that where there are difficulties reaching the police by phone, concerns can be submitted by email at [contactus@scotland.police.uk](mailto:contactus@scotland.police.uk) and will receive the same level of priority.

Community Council meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month (excluding July and December) at 7.30 pm and are open to everyone. Our AGM will take place on Wednesday 27th May at 7.15 pm at Fort Augustus Memorial Hall.

I'm really pleased that the Inchnacardoch Bay issue is finally moving forward and that this area will remain in the community but not as a community council asset with insufficient public liability. The Cill Chuimein Legacy Project is proceeding with land surveys etc and aims to look after local natural and historic places in the community.

Cinema and lunch trips are available for over-60's residents. Invermoriston residents can contact Lesley Hill on 07739546507 and residents of Fort Augustus and Invergarry can contact me on 07746839568 or via my new email address [deirdremackinnon2@gmail.com](mailto:deirdremackinnon2@gmail.com). These outings take place on the first Wednesday of each month.

Ness News is published quarterly. We would welcome articles and adverts by 20th February, May, August and November. Please send submissions by email (not via Messenger or WhatsApp). Photographs should be sent separately in JPEG format and not downloaded from social media.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Glen and his team for all their hard work keeping the villages clean and tidy and looking after our local cemeteries.

Thank you for your continued support.

Deirdre MacKinnon

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# Councillor Update

## Fort Augustus news

Community Place Plan - I was really pleased to be at the stakeholder meeting organised by the community council to help make the place plan a reality. Key people at the first meeting included representatives from Scottish Canals, Transport Scotland, Highland Council, Visit Loch Ness, the community company and local businesses. It takes a lot of work to bring organisations together but I felt a very positive start was made in understanding the vision and the part each organisation can play.

Kilchuimen School – bus travel. I have visited the school several times to discuss the options for a bus that can get people into Inverness and UHI by 9am. This would most likely mean alterations to the bus timetable for the bus that currently leaves Fort Augustus to take pupils from Invermoriston to Glen Urquhart High school. We should know by Easter if there will be changes to the timetables.

We have also been discussing the problems of attracting staff to Kilchuimen due to the shortage of suitable housing. That is something that will not be resolved quickly but is at the heart of the community action plan – making Fort Augustus a more sustainable community.

## Transport Scotland

- Proposed northbound layby between Fort Augustus & Drumnadrochit

Design work is progressing on an overtaking layby (similar to Abriachan) probably north of Alltsigh . Main construction works expected in financial year 26/27

- Speed limit reduction Invermoriston – 40mph to 30mph

BEAR Road Safety team have assessed that a 30mph speed limit is not appropriate at this time. Speed and pedestrian surveys have been carried out and BEAR are to complete a report and make proposals to better manage the 40mph speed limit whilst improving pedestrian facilities. BEAR are now assessing a request for a pedestrian crossing near the car park.

I am aware there are a number of requests for improvements with Highland Council roads and I will update the Community Council as soon as possible on these.

My thanks to the Community Council, Community Company, School and Glenmoriston Community Association for their engagement and help and all the work they do for the community.

If I can be of assistance in any way my contact details are  
David.fraser.cllr@highland.gov.uk or telephone 07884 567200



# The Hub Dalchreichtart

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026



“With every spring comes the promise of brighter days.”

As spring arrives, the longer days and fresh air invite us to reconnect, enjoy local events, and celebrate what makes our neighbourhood special.

## Latest News:

Work will soon be starting on replacing our old and failing sewage system with a new treatment plant, thanks to a grant from Beinneun Windfarm Community Fund. As you can see the equipment has already arrived, so we are just waiting for some better weather for the contractors to begin. There may be some disruption to the hub but this will be kept to a minimum and we will keep you apprised on our social media pages.



## What's On At The Hub?

### Coffee Mornings – A Monthly Tradition

Join us on the **last Saturday of every month** from **11am to 1pm**. A perfect chance to catch up with neighbours, enjoy delicious home baking, and stay connected. **Upcoming dates: 28th March, 2nd April, 24th May (coffee morning combined with plant sale and table top sale– note this is a week earlier than usual this month).**

### Music Club

Fortnightly on **Monday mornings at 10:30am**. Do you own an instrument gathering dust? Would you like to start playing again but never seem to find the time? Are you a singer but have no-one to sing with? If so, come along and join us at the Hub for our Music Club – a relaxed and friendly way to start the week. **Next sessions will be on 2nd March, 16th March and 30th March (tbc).**

We are also holding additional sessions for the Keyboard players on alternate Mondays. If you would like to join in, **the next sessions will be on 23rd February, 9th March and 23rd March (tbc)**. Look out for more information on our social media pages.

### Craft & Chat

Held on the **third Thursday of each month**, 10am–1pm. Bring a craft project or just come for the company and the cake! **Next sessions: 19th March, 16th April and 21st May**

### Quiz Night with a difference!!

Join us on the second Saturday of each month at 7pm for Quiz Night and pit your wits against our quiz master, Bob Slattery's fiendish questions! Expect brain-teasers,



banter, and a great evening for teams, families, individuals and anyone who loves a good challenge. We are changing the format slightly in that we will be **charging £1.50 per person** and all proceeds will go to the winning team! We can make up teams on the night if you don't have a team to come with. If that wasn't enough to tempt you, there will be **free, home-baked Pizza on offer to all our entrants**. Please bring your own beverages if you wish. What isn't to like about that, come along for fun, frivolity and of course Pizza!! **Next dates: 14th March, (11th April – changed to Film and Curry Night), 9th May.**



### **Borrow a Book – or Donate One**

Our small library is available during all events. Bring books to share, and discover something new to cosy up with in the evenings. We also have a selection of jigsaw puzzles for people to borrow and return when finished. We could use a volunteer to organise and help us run it more effectively. See info on Call for volunteers if you feel you could help.

### **Further dates for your diaries:**

#### **Film and Curry Night – 11th April**

Join us on 11th April for a family-friendly Film and Curry Night! Enjoy a tasty home-cooked curry, a great movie, and a relaxed evening where all ages are welcome. Bring the whole family and settle in for a fun night with friends and neighbours — we'd love to see you there!

#### **Table Top Sale and Plant Sale 24th May, from 10.00 am**

Join us on Saturday, May 24th for our community Coffee Morning, which this month is being combined with a Plant Sale, and a Table Top sale. There will be a fine selection of plants from Abriachan Garden Centre and you can get invaluable information from Hamish himself, about what grows best in our Highland gardens, or simply come to enjoy a chat over coffee and have a browse through the table top items on display, so what reason is there not to drop by and say hello! If you want to book a table, then please contact us in advance on [dalchreicharthub@gmail.com](mailto:dalchreicharthub@gmail.com)



### **Call for volunteers:**

We're looking for volunteers to help keep our community hub thriving. Whether you can lend a hand at events, help keep our garden tidy, join the committee, or take the lead with our library, your time and energy would make a real difference. Every contribution — big or small — helps strengthen what we share. If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you. Please do get in touch with any of the hub team, you can message us on our facebook pages\*, email us\* or chat to us at any of our events. \*See below for contact details

### **For further information:**

- Website: [thehubdalchreichart.co.uk](http://thehubdalchreichart.co.uk)
- Facebook: **Glenmoriston Improvement Group**
- Facebook: **Dalchreichart Residents' Group** (if you're a member)

Or simply drop in — everyone is welcome, including visitors and neighbours from surrounding villages.

### **With warm wishes,**

The Dalchreichart Hub Team: Andy Hugens - Chairman, Tim Perkins – Secretary, Cate Lilley and Sue Reed – events, Jayne Malley – fundraising and John Malley - ecologist)  
West Glenmoriston Community Company [thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com](mailto:thehubdalchreichart@gmail.com)



**Etappe Loch Ness 2026**  
**Update for Community Councils**  
*Dated 18/11/25*

**2026 Event Date**

- Sunday 26 April 2026
- 6300 participants

**2025 Key Stats**

- Over 6000 cyclists entered 2025 event
- 80.4% of entrants from outside Highland & Islands (2025)
- 34% of entrants from outside Scotland (2025)
- Estimated £4.3 million economic impact from the 2025 event, with 84.3% of participants having an overnight stay in the local area.
- More than 600 Macmillan riders
- £2.36M raised for official charity, Macmillan Cancer Support, by Etappe Loch Ness riders through its partnership with the event since 2014; £188,110 raised at the 2025 event.

**Would you like to get involved in future events?**

The event could not happen without the support and commitment of our volunteers. If you would like to join our team, and raise money for a local community group or charity, contact: [volunteers@etapelochness.com](mailto:volunteers@etapelochness.com)

In return, the event provides a donation to the community group or charity of your choice.

Over 330 unique volunteers gave over 2100 hours of time to help make the event happen. Donations were made to over 100 local and national charities and groups as a thank you on behalf of our volunteers.

A donation will be given to the Community Council for distribution to a local community project or charity of their choice.

**Temporary Traffic Restrictions**

- Organisers will keep traffic restrictions to a minimum to ensure the safety of participants and other road users.
- Roads are closed in both directions to create a safe traffic-free environment for the event.

**Advance notice will be given via:**

- Royal Mail leaflet drop to 34,700 letterboxes in the first week of April, covering Inverness to Spean Bridge.
- Two emails to database of local businesses, care centres, tourism and community groups, in January and April.
- Event social media channels and website
- Local media
- Advance notice signage along the route 13 days prior to event
- We continue to work with Highland Council, Transport Scotland, Traffic Scotland to communicate to the wider public that the area is open for business.

**Official Escorts**

- Organisers continue to work with local businesses, care homes and communities to identify those who have essential journeys to make during the event and facilitate these when it is possible and safe to do so.
- As the roads are subject to a Temporary Traffic Order, any movements must be agreed in advance with organisers and travel in the direction of the event.
- Local Fire Service and RNLI crews are located at their stations in case of emergencies.
- Please encourage people to get in touch with us, well in advance of the event, to help us plan any vital journeys – [info@etapelochness.com](mailto:info@etapelochness.com)



# Shinty Update

Thanks to Helen Clay and her team who chose the club to have the proceeds of the fantastic soup & sandwich lunch held in Fort Augustus Village Hall. Pictured is Helen giving the cheque to our treasurer, Anne Davies.

At the beginning of December, before the new shelving was installed, our new shed hosted the Glengarry Xmas Craft Fair which was a huge success. A full range of stalls, Santa's Grotto, Blazin' Pizzas, Santa's tractor run and the shinty café with mince pies and speciality hot chocolates.

The club ended 2025 with the junior coaches running a Beetle Drive and tombola to raise funds.

The men's season kicks off at home on Saturday 7th March at 2.30pm to Glenurquhart so why not come along and support your local team. Fancy giving shinty a try, our men now train on Tuesday nights 6 – 7.30pm at the Highland Hideaway gym for age 16+ and at Inverness Royal Academy on Thursday nights 7.30 – 9 pm.

Another way of supporting the club is through advertising boards. Contact the secretary at [secretary.glengarry@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.glengarry@outlook.com) for more information.

The club is always on the lookout for volunteers to assist in many ways e.g. kitchen assistant, grounds, pitch lining. If you have a few spare hours and think you can help, contact Scott at [scottbremner.culachy@btinternet.com](mailto:scottbremner.culachy@btinternet.com).



# Spring at Dundreggan

Spring is in the air at Dundreggan, and we're delighted that the Rewilding Centre is now open for the season. Whether you're dropping in for a coffee, coming along to an event, or setting off on the trails, we'd love to welcome you.

From 1 March, we're delighted to introduce bookable Daily Guided Rewilding Walks. These immersive tours offer the perfect opportunity to connect with nature, deepen your understanding of rewilding, and witness a landscape coming back to life.

## Job opportunity

We're currently recruiting for a Visitor Experience & Operations Assistant to join the team at our Dundreggan Rewilding Centre. If you're a confident communicator who enjoys working with people of all ages and backgrounds, delivering welcoming and engaging experiences in nature, we'd love to hear from you. Find out more and apply here: <https://treesforlife.org.uk/work-with-us/>

## Upcoming events

We've got an exciting programme of events for all ages and interests:

- FREE World Gaelic Week Celebration, Saturday 28 February
- Biofluorescent Night Walks, Sunday 8, Monday 9 & Tuesday 10 March
- FREE Rewilding Taster Tours, Friday 20 March
- Wild Pine Walk & Film Screening, Saturday 21 March
- Highland Cèilidh, Saturday 25 April

We're also hosting immersive multi-day residential experiences designed for learning, adventure, wellbeing and connection to the wild. Based at Dundreggan, these stays combine expert-led insights into rewilding with meaningful, nature-rich experiences - from immersive weekends rooted in nature and Gaelic culture to adventurous learning and time outdoors with leading experts.

We're always adding new events, so keep an eye on what's coming up.

See what's on: <https://visitdundreggan.co.uk/activities>

We'd love to see you this spring.



## 'Supporting Our Communities'



### Message from the Chair...

Both Beth and I, with the support of the 3 Glens CC trustees, have been very busy over the last few months. We attended the Highland Hospice Community Partnership Conference in Inverness in November. Many small Highland organisations were represented - it put some fire in our bellies! During January and February, we had meetings with the Senior Citizens Association and the FA&G Community Company regarding the Monthly Fort William Bus service; with Boleskine Community Care regarding running a taxi service for local essential trips and medical appointments for those in need; with Omexon, a branch of SSEN, re: handyperson services; as well as our own board meeting to make a plan of action.

*Become a volunteer.* Join our Board of Trustees. Help us to grow as an organisation. We will be recruiting at our AGM on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Volunteer drivers for driving services including our Community Minibus and Befriending Taxi services are always needed. Volunteer handypersons and befrienders are also high on our list.

*You can make a difference in many ways.*

Volunteers are at the heart of 3 Glens Community Care, helping older adults, people with mobility challenges, and isolated residents stay connected and supported across Fort Augustus, Invergarry and Invermoriston. Living in a rural area means many people face difficulties getting to appointments, shopping, or social activities, and a friendly visit or chat can make a huge difference. By giving just a small amount of your time as a **Volunteer Driver or Volunteer Befriender**, you can help someone travel safely, feel less alone, and remain independent in their own community. Your kindness, patience, and support create lifelines for people who have limited transport options and few opportunities for social contact.

Our community transport is also changing and improving to respond to local needs. We're developing a more flexible model that focuses on the journeys people truly need—such as our new **Befriending Taxi Service**, where volunteers use their own cars (mileage paid @ 45p per mile) to provide supported travel for those who cannot manage alone. We are also reviewing existing routes and creating transport options that work better for small communities, replacing low-use fixed services with personalised, purpose-led journeys. **To make this work, we urgently need more Volunteer Drivers and Befrienders to help deliver these essential services.** A volunteer Befriending Taxi Service can provide companionship and encouragement. No special experience is needed. A roadworthy car, valid insurance and a clean driving licence are required. Full support, guidance, and PVG checks are provided. Volunteering is flexible and can fit around your life, while offering the chance to meet new people and make a meaningful impact locally. If you would like to help strengthen your community and make a real difference in someone's life, we would love to hear from you. **Just get in touch to find out more or to join our friendly team. Beth**

#### CONTACT:

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

Visit our website  
[www.3glenscare.org](http://www.3glenscare.org)  
Facebook:  
3 Glens Community Care

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



# Cricket Club

Fort Augustus Cricket Club has proudly been a member of NOSCA (North Of Scotland Cricket Association) for the past decade. We compete in league and cup competitions playing in Fort Augustus and across the Highlands.

It is our ambition to encourage growth in the game by attracting new members, enabling the club to enter all available competitions, as well as furthering the benefits of team sport participation to physical and mental health.

Our progress has been boosted enormously by the following sponsors, who all recognise the need for cricket, amongst all sports, to flourish in Fort Augustus and the Great Glen. The SANTON GROUP, developers of the Highland Club, have invested heavily over the years in the provision of an artificial wicket, ground maintenance and associated infrastructure to give Cricket a home at the Abbey.

EMPOWER MENTAL FITNESS, has provided generous financial support for the provision of a completely new club kit, and towards the day-to-day running of the club.

FORT AUGUSTUS AND GLENMORISTON COMMUNITY COMPANY, provided funding for our new club storage shed and scoreboard.

The club is always seeking new members from across the Highlands who can contribute on and off the pitch, men and women, boys and girls. It is worth mentioning that girls from the north, Kirsty Gordon (Huntly) and Molly Parker (Northern Counties Inverness), have flourished to such an extent that they currently represent their country at international level.

We would also welcome new members who can help the club in a non-playing capacity, and who can assist us, with the help from EMPOWER, in expanding our online reach through Scotland and beyond.

We have regular weekly training sessions at the Abbey during the playing season, for juniors and seniors. These will start in April, and further details will be posted on social media.

Currently we run training sessions when possible at Invergarry Primary School, and are hopeful of running a programme at Lochaber High School in March, with the aim of expanding to other schools in the district.

The club will be hosting a coffee morning at Fort Augustus Village Hall on 28th Saturday March, from 11.00 to 13.00.

You are invited to come along, meet the team and learn more about your village cricket club. You may also have the chance to have a go and pick up a bat and ball!

## Fort Augustus Cricket Club - 2025



# Iaido

Here at Shoshinkan Invermoriston Iaido we celebrate two years since our dojo opened. Iaido tends to be more popular in urban environments in the UK and with such a small community here, there was always a risk to fail. However, it has thrived. We have had people come and go, and now there are numerous regular students that are dedicated to the art. All students bring individual differences to training and at our core is that anyone is welcome despite ability, age or background.

Iaido, is the Japanese martial art of swordsmanship, that involves the precise and controlled practice of drawing, cutting, and sheathing a katana (Japanese sword). Although it originates from the traditions of the samurai, its practice offers profound benefits for modern practitioners.

Iaido is a path to personal growth, physical health, and emotional balance. In a small community, the practice fosters connections between individuals, promotes discipline and focus, and contributes to an overall sense of well-being. Whether it is for physical fitness, emotional regulation, or cultural enrichment, the practice of Iaido has much to offer, making it an invaluable resource for communities of all sizes.

Running alongside Iaido we will be bringing in the art of Kenjitsu later in the year. Particularly, this form of Kenjitsu is handed down from the most famous Japanese swordsman in history, Miyamoto Musashi, whose double sword techniques were unmatched.

Anyone wishing to join us or come to see what we are all about, we train every Sunday morning 10am-12pm at Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Invermoriston.

Over 18's only for the moment.

Any questions or interest please call or text Craig on: 07568337238



# Railway

## Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Museum

Work on the railway has progressed well over the winter months, despite the wind, rain snow and ice! The team battled on, sometimes in quite appalling conditions, to achieve our aim of having the railway track over the station bridge. Some further works need to be done before the train can be taken over the bridge, but this depends on better weather. This is a milestone for us as a few years ago the bridge was condemned as not fit for use. Major work has taken place including the plating of one of the bridge beams,



and new running timbers have been fitted. For the future, our aspiration is to continue the track in the direction of Laggan. We would like to thank East Lothian Council for the donation of twenty five tonnes of rail. This is enough to complete our current track laying programme.

It's been a great pleasure to welcome some new working members to the team with fresh ideas and perspective on what we envisage the Project to become.

A date for your diary.  
 OPEN DAY  
 SATURDAY 4th APRIL  
 (Easter Saturday)  
 12 - 4 pm

See poster and Facebook for further details



## Men's Shed

### Community Update

The Fort Augustus Men's Shed was established in July 2022 and has grown into a vibrant group of thirteen local men who meet each Tuesday evening at the British Legion for darts, followed by a relaxed coffee and chat every Wednesday morning at the Caledonian Canal Centre. These regular meet-ups have become an important source of friendship, routine, and wellbeing for everyone involved.

After a long search for a permanent workshop, the group has been generously offered the use of a shed by Maura, the widow of our late Vice President, who sadly passed away last year. The members are now busy organising the space and tools to create a functioning workshop. We are very grateful to Maura for her kindness and support.

The Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company are very supportive and has offered help in identifying woodworking projects that the Shedders can take on. As we grow, we continue to welcome new members who might benefit from the camaraderie, creativity, and mental-health support the Shed provides.

In November, the group proudly donated a new dartboard and cabinet to the British Legion in the Village to help enhance the sporting facilities enjoyed by the wider community. More information about the Men's Shed association can be found at [www.scottishmsa.org.uk](http://www.scottishmsa.org.uk) or for local information you can contact the Men's Shed secretary at [ftaugmshed25@outlook.com](mailto:ftaugmshed25@outlook.com)



# Announcements

## Graduations



Debbie and Geoff Allan are proud to present Jack Allan for graduating with a class 2:1 in Bachelor of Arts with honours in Business Management from Edinburgh Napier Univeristy class of 2025.

## Births



Katrina Fyfe was delighted to welcome four new great grandchildren into the family within the space of two months.

Twins, Orla Rose Dorothy Brew-Devitt weighing 6lb 1oz, and Adam John Fraser Brew-Devitt, weighing 6lb 12oz, were born on 29th October 2025 in Newcastle to Katie & Joe. A little brother and sister for Jonah.

Willow Belle Weighell arrived at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on 26th November 2025, weighing 9lb 11oz, to Lauren & Jamie and big brother Frankie.

Alfred Thomas Fyfe Shield arrived on Christmas Day weighing 8lb 2oz in Harrogate to mum & dad, Emma & Luke.



Mhàiri and Daniel Welcomed Dolaidh Peigi Anne Dhòmhnallach-Cullen on the 7th December 2025 weighing 8lb 3oz. A little sister for Seocaidh.

## Engagements



Cameron Findlay and Mhairi Duncan got engaged at the summit of Goat Fell on the 29th of December, during a short stay on the Isle of Arran.



Emily-May Winstanley and Matt Cluness got engaged on 26th December 2025.

## Deaths



### Lorna Harriet Service (née Sey)

1944 – 2025

Lorna was born in 1944 in rural Aberdeenshire. Her family worked on farms and they gradually moved west until they settled in Croy, Inverness-shire. While living there, Lorna met Jimmy. Lorna's family then moved to Invermoriston, Jimmy followed and soon they married and had two daughters, Lorraine and Yvonne. Eventually, Jimmy built 'Sonas' in Fort Augustus and they happily lived there for over forty years. Lorna was a beloved wife, mother, sister,

granny, and great-granny. She was the heart of her family, known for her ability to keep her family and extended family close to her and to one another.

Lorna's kindness created a home where everyone felt welcomed and accepted. She had a gift for bringing people together and maintaining strong family bonds.

To her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Lorna was a source of wisdom and unconditional love. She loved to spend time with her family. Lorna's legacy lives on through the close and loving family she worked so hard to nurture. She will be deeply missed and remembered with love.



### Gordon Leach

Gordon Leach aged 84 years died on 2nd December 2025 at Moss Park Care Home in Caol. He and his wife Cynthia came to live in Fort Augustus after taking holidays in the area. They were B&B proprietors at The Dell until retiring in 2002 and moving

to Kerrera at Lower Bunoich. Cynthia would like to thank everybody for their expressions of sympathy in cards and phone calls as they were much appreciated.



### Ronald Stewart

Ronald was born at Inshlaggan on 10th March 1944, son of Neil and Anne Stewart alongside his twin sister, Isobel and older sibling of Neil. Died 3rd January 2026 aged 81.

Ronald attended Invergarry Primary School and Fort Augustus Secondary School where he excelled at woodwork. On leaving school, he joined the Forestry Commission, then in 1972 ran Home Farm, Invergarry. He married Kate Hunter in 1969 and they had three children, Ronald, Evonne and Calum.

After leaving the farm, he worked for DA Johnstone, followed by Marine Harvest, then ending his working career by working the Scottish Hydro Board as a lorry driver which took him all over the UK.

After a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, Ronald decided to retire and work as a school taxi driver for A & S Sutherland for a few years.



This meant that he had more time to spend in his garden and with his grandchildren, Shannon, Ruaridh, Megan and Kian.

Ronald's mischievous ways, cheeky smile, gentle heart and joyous outlook on life will be remembered fondly by everyone who knew him.



### **George Whyte**

George Whyte, aged 92, of Renagour, Canalside, Fort Augustus died peacefully in Abbeyfield Care Home, Ballachulish on 31st January 2026.

He and his late wife, Ella, moved to Fort Augustus when they retired in 2002, where previously, they had a croft in Kintail. As well as working on the croft, George was a blacksmith and farrier. In the 1980s, he helped his son set up a salmon hatchery on the croft. It was typical of George that he was always ready to learn something new and throw himself fully into it.

Retirement, for George, didn't mean taking things easy. He was never one for sitting still and always found something that

needed doing. George and his wife, Ella bought bicycles and kept cycling well into their seventies, along with plenty of gardening, walking, and outdoor work. Even in his mid-eighties, and after two knee replacement operations, he could still be found up ladders trimming hedges, just at a slower pace.

He had a very good sense of humour, and although he liked to joke, he was a very determined, self-sufficient and down to earth person who believed in getting on with his life on his terms, without any fuss.

He is sadly missed by his family and all those who knew him well.



### **Norman MacKenzie (Torrie)**

Peacefully at home on the 2nd of February 2026 Norman Hugh Mackenzie (Torrie) aged 96, Fort Augustus. Hotelier, founder of Cruise Loch Ness. A much loved Dad, granddad, uncle and father in law



### **Elma Stoddart**

19.03.1947 – 08.02.2026

Peacefully on Sunday 8th February 2026 at Morar Highland Care Home, Elma Stoddart of Lindsey Avenue, Inverness and formerly of Cluanie Inn, aged 78 years. Cook at Highview House Care Home. Beloved wife of the late Danny, much loved mother to Fraser and Scott, mother-in-law, grandmother, sister and a well-loved friend of many.



## Alasdair Nicholson

Alasdair Nicholson, MBE, son of Marion Nicholson, Fort Augustus died suddenly on 10th February aged 72 in Tanzania working as a volunteer. He was educated at secondary schools in Oban and Lochaber going on to study Scots Law, Constitutional Law, forensic medicine plus gaining an MA majoring in advanced Celtic and Scottish History. From 1990, he served for 9 years on the Western Isles Island Council, later Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and became chair of the former Housing Committee after 2 years as vice chair. He also stood for the SNP in the 1999 and 2003 Scottish Parliament elections and in the 2001 UK parliament election. He worked in the voluntary sector for 29 years and was awarded an MBE for his services. Living in Tong on the Isle of Lewis, he played a major role at Voluntary Action Lochaber and was involved in a long series of projects with the Point and Sandwick Trust, He was also involved in the campaign for Gaelic medium education.

## Church News

Attached are photos of the Service of Ordination and Welcoming on Sunday 22nd February (First Sunday of Lent) The congregation, Members and Elders all made a 'Renewal of Commitment' of their vows to support each other, the Minister and the new Elders in the mission of the Church. It was a happy occasion and was the first 'live stream' service since the installation of WiFi by Highland Broadband.

Pictured are Ian Thomson and James Macrae being given the right hand of fellowship by the Minister and Elders. This brings the membership of the active Kirk Session to eight. There is also more of a proportionate gender balance.

Please see below a diary of the Easter Church Services. Sunday 22nd February at 12pm Service of Ordination and Welcoming to the Kirk Session of two new elders James Macrae and Ian Thomson during worship. Friday 6th March at 7pm (Church Hall) World Day of Prayer Service (Nigeria) Annual Stated Meeting of Fort Augustus Parish Church following worship at 12pm on Sunday 22nd March. Please do come along, support and give thanks for the church's witness in 2025/26. In addition, we look forward to welcoming Kilchuimen Primary School as they come to church to share their Easter Celebration on Thursday 2nd April at 11.30am. Sending Easter blessings to you and your family,  
Rev Anthony  
HOLY WEEK & EASTER IN THE GREAT GLEN  
Palm Sunday: Family service at 10am Glengarry Church and 12pm Fort Augustus Church

Maundy Thursday: Reflective service (with informal communion) at 7pm Glengarry Church  
Good Friday: 7pm Fort Augustus Church 'At the Foot of the Cross' A meditative service keeping vigil and reflecting on the Passion, the last hours of Jesus with lenten hymns , scripture readings and a homily. Easter Sunday: 'Easter Joy' Fort Augustus Church at 12pm Family Confirmation Service with Holy Communion. (family Easter egg hunt follows the service). All Welcome.



## Getting together in Invermoriston

### Silver Surfers Post Christmas Meal

The Glenmoriston Silver Surfers' Christmas Meal had to be postponed from January because of bad weather, but we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon together in February. Who says you can't eat Turkey any time? The 3 course meal itself was wonderfully cooked by the Glen Rowan café and their volunteers: no wonder we ask them to come back again! Thank you, Amy and Vicki and thanks to Lesley, Jackie and their helpers for transforming the Millennium Hall for the occasion.

### Community Tuesdays

Our regular community days have continued this autumn and winter, with up to 52 people of all ages coming to enjoy lunch, tea and cakes and evening meals as well as the chance just to get together, chat, play games and take on the newspaper challenges. We cater for meat eaters (steak pie, lamb cutlets, mince and dumplings) and vegetarians (mushroom risotto, mediterranean pasta, stilton pie) and Jean's baking is the highlight of the afternoon, along with Jackie's craft sessions. This year we have welcomed visits from Citizen's Advice, Home Energy Scotland and SSEN. All are welcome to come along.

We owe thanks to generous wind farm funding from Community Company for both of these activities.





## Invergarry Primary School News

It has been a busy start to the new term at Invergarry Primary School and nursery. We have been keeping active by taking part in swimming lessons, basketball sessions and shinty – thank you to everyone involved in organising and running these activities for us.

We welcomed poet Ash Dickinson to Invergarry in February. The children all had fun learning about poetry and writing with him. We're looking forward to other upcoming workshops in school including a theatre session and author visit.

Our nursery pupils have been joining in with many of the school activities, celebrating Burns Day and getting out and about in the community. We have enjoyed taking part in the Community Craic event, having lunch and playing games with the grownups at the village hall. Nursery took part in a Childsmile session where we learned all about the importance of brushing our teeth; the children especially liked the puppet! On 11th March at 11am we are inviting parents and young children to nursery to 'Stay and Play' and join in with a Bookbug session. We hope to have more of these later in the year and will advertise upcoming sessions on our Invergarry Primary School Facebook page, so please keep an eye on this.

Enrolment weeks for P1 and ELC for the next school session starting on 19th August 2026 took place in January and February. Don't worry if you have missed these enrolment weeks – you can still find out more information and enrol now at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/enrol>.

We are planning a toy and bake sale as our fundraiser this term. We hope to see as many people from the community as possible there on Wednesday 1st April from 2pm at school. Thank you to our families and community for all your support and wishing you all a wonderful Easter when it comes.

# TABLE TOP & BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL AT 2PM**  
*at Invergarry Primary School*



# Kilchuimen 2-18 Campus



## Kilchuimen 2-18 Campus Update

It has been another busy and exciting term at Kilchuimen 2-18 Campus.

We are delighted to share that we have extended the age range of children attending our nursery. We now welcome 2-year-olds, who have been a wonderful addition to our school community. Their enthusiasm and energy have brought so much to the campus, and we warmly welcome all new families who have joined us.

In the Primary School, we recently celebrated Reading Schools Week. This was a huge success, especially our 'Drop Everything and Read' sessions. Staff and pupils from across our full 2-18 campus joined in with spontaneous reading. The atmosphere was magical with many stories, so much enthusiasm and comfy reading corners.

This term we celebrated Rabbin Burns all week long, finishing with our very first Kilchuimen Burns Supper. Many thanks to our marvellous canteen team who treated us to delicious haggis, neeps, tatties and cloutie dumpling. The pupils were absolute stars and the whole event felt wonderfully warm and inviting.

Sport has also been in the spotlight. Our P4-7s joined five other primary schools from all corners of the compass for a brilliant Floor Curling Festival here at Kilchuimen. This even included a visit from Ewan MacDonald, the Olympic, World and National curling champion. Our pupils were truly inspired by the experience. P4-7 pupils also got the opportunity to participate in some brilliant shinty taster sessions as well, thanks to the amazing Glengarry Shinty Club coaches who brought fun, skills and lots of encouragement. Our P7 Sports Leaders have been fantastic this term, helping with multi-sports and supporting rugby sessions. P4-7 pupils powered their way through the MacRobert Cup and the Glenurquhart Cross Country event. They looked very smart in their new school tracksuits, a big thank you to the Primary Parent Council for making that possible.

This term, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to our local community company for once again supporting our school with generous funding. Their contribution has enabled us to purchase important items for our Primary School Discovery Garden, including a new metal storage shed, balance beams and stepping stones. These additions have significantly improved the accessibility of the garden and enhanced the range of learning and play opportunities available to our pupils. The Discovery Garden continues to be a valuable outdoor space where children can explore, learn and develop new skills.

One of the biggest highlights of the term was our trip to the Glasgow Science Centre. Hands-on exhibits, exciting demonstrations and wide-eyed wonder everywhere! Thank

you again to the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company for helping make this amazing adventure happen.

All our Primary pupils have also benefited from a fantastic trip to the Highland Cinema Fort William, where film experiences were linked to their learning in school. The visit provided a brilliant shared experience for everyone involved and sparked plenty of discussion back in the classroom. Our Primary 1-3 pupils have also been thoroughly

enjoying Dance Club this term, led by Miss Surkitt and supported by our S6 pupils, Carys Jones and Sophie Gordon. The club has been full of energy and enthusiasm, with children developing their confidence, coordination and teamwork each week.

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) continues to play a key role in enriching the curriculum at Kilchuimen Academy, providing pupils with valuable real-world learning experiences and meaningful engagement with employers.

Recent highlights include senior pupils visiting the Scottish Ambulance Service station in Fort William to gain insight into careers in paramedicine and emergency response. Our S3 Climate Change class worked in partnership with the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) and Glendoe Estate to explore peatland restoration and the importance of environmental sustainability. Pupils from S3 to S6 also took part in Elite Skills Workshops delivered by the British Army, developing key skills in teamwork, leadership and resilience.

This term, we are looking forward to several additional events. Our Senior Exercise & Fitness class will be delivering a Highland Games event for residents at the Telford Centre. S1 and S2 pupils will visit the Dundreggan Rewilding Centre to learn more about the rewilding project and the variety of careers available there. We will also be welcoming a number of local and national organisations into the school as part of Apprenticeship Week. Representatives from SSE, Balfour Beatty, Nevis Range, The Highland Council and others will speak with pupils about apprenticeship opportunities and career pathways within their organisations.

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

At Kilchuimen Academy this term our senior pupils are working incredibly hard as they prepare for their upcoming exams. Classrooms have been busy with focused revision sessions, supported study, and practical preparation across all subject areas.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our families, partners and wider community. Your encouragement and involvement make a real difference to the experiences we are able to offer our young people. We look forward to another busy and successful term ahead at Kilchuimen 2-18 Campus.





# Heritage and Gaelic Update

As the Heritage and Gaelic Development Officers for the area, Laura Brown and Eilidh Sykes have been working alongside Glenmoriston Heritage Group, Cill Chuimein Heritage Group, Trees for Life, and other organisations to help share our history, culture and language.

In December, it was a full house for Cill Chuimein Heritage Group's festive screening of an episode of Leap in the Dark from the 1970s, telling the dramatic tale of the ghost of Ardachy House. Afterwards, it was great to hear people's memories of the house before it was demolished, and see some old photos. We've included one here – you might recognise these local lassies!

Eilidh gave a talk on Gaelic place names in January, marking the start of Glenmoriston Heritage Group's 2026 programme of events. Thanks to all who came along and asked questions. Anyone who's interested in getting involved with the group would be warmly welcomed – send us an email if you'd like to help out.

Our workshop in February to mark Là Naomh Brìghde, or St Bride's Day, was a fun afternoon teaching some crafty folk at Community Tuesday in Invermoriston how to make traditional St Bride's crosses. Apparently, hanging these crosses above your door is meant to bring good weather. At the time of writing, we are still patiently waiting for this to come true.

We want to arrange a couple of scanning and recording sessions for residents of Fort Augustus and Invermoriston later this year, but both heritage groups are delighted to receive artefacts, documents and photos for their archives at any time – these can be originals or high-quality copies. Recently, some fantastic items were donated to Cill Chuimein Heritage Group, including a script of an episode of Children's Hour that was recorded in Fort Augustus, which we believe is from the 1930s. We're currently on the hunt for Glenmoriston images to use in an updated heritage display in the vestibule of the Millennium Hall – let us know if you have anything you'd be willing to lend.

Preserving our heritage isn't just an indoor pursuit, of course, and there are projects in the pipeline to protect areas of historic importance in the great outdoors. The grotto in the convent wood in Fort Augustus has become rather overgrown courtesy of the highly invasive, purple-flowered *Rhododendron ponticum*. We'd like to organise a day to clear this patch – and we'll be calling on volunteers to help us. So, if you want an opportunity to take out your frustrations on some pesky shrubs, keep an eye on the local Facebook pages for more details. Once we've tackled the rhodies, we can consider a possible sculpture to sit in the archway.

We're also keen to hear your ideas of how to renovate the nuns' graveyard. Send your suggestions to the Convent Land Development Officer, Chris Rose. If you have a skill such as drystone dyking, woodworking or metalworking that might help us repair parts of the wall and gate, even better!

As well as continuing to host our Gaelic Café every Tuesday at 3.30pm, we've spent the past few weeks planning a Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week) get-together at Dundreggan Rewilding Centre, and have been thinking ahead to our Bealltainn (Beltane) celebrations at the start of May. It's been a busy time for Cill Chuimein Heritage Group, too, looking at beautiful postcards of Fort Augustus at their February meeting, taking a trip to the West Highland Museum in Fort William, and planning walking routes around the village. Read on for some more events and talks happening soon.



You can email us at [laurabrown@treesforlife.org.uk](mailto:laurabrown@treesforlife.org.uk) and [eilidh@treesforlife.org.uk](mailto:eilidh@treesforlife.org.uk). Any convent land ideas or offers of rhodie-bashing assistance should be sent to Chris at [conventland@communitycompany.co.uk](mailto:conventland@communitycompany.co.uk).

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Every Tuesday at 3.30pm

Church of Scotland Hall, Fort Augustus

New students are welcome at our free Gaelic Café, where we're using SpeakGaelic materials for beginners. Each class lasts about an hour, and there's tea and coffee to fuel our chatter.

Coming soon – date TBC!

Church of Scotland Hall, Fort Augustus

Thanks to a generous grant from Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, Cill Chuimein Heritage Group will be hosting a talk and demonstration by Tom Langhorne this spring. Tom is an expert in Highland weaponry from the 17th and 18th centuries, and specialises in teaching the survival skills of our ancestors. He has replica swords and targes which he'll be bringing along. This evening session will follow a similar event for school pupils earlier in the day. We'll publicise this on Facebook and the village noticeboards when a date has been finalised.

Wednesday, 18th March at 7pm

Glenmoriston Millennium Hall, Invermoriston

To mark Women's History Month, Laura is giving a talk about great women of the Great Glen at the March meet-up of Glenmoriston Heritage Group.

Sunday, 24th May at 3pm

Church of Scotland Hall, Fort Augustus

Cill Chuimein Heritage Group's AGM will also include a talk by committee member Felix Paterson about the Paterson family.



# Fort Augustus Senior Citizens' Association

On Saturday, 13th December, 85 Seniors enjoyed a Christmas lunch at The Lovat hotel. There was a welcome drink on arrival. The Rev. Anthony Jones said a grace prior to a delicious three course meal with wine which was followed by tea/coffee and mints. The committee members held a raffle which raised £300.

We wish to say a huge thank you to the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company who awarded a generous grant to pay for the meal and wine. Thanks also to everyone who kindly donated raffle prizes and to everyone who bought tickets. Thank you to Chris Rose for driving the Community bus and to The Lovat staff for the warm welcome and attentive service. Lastly, thank you to the Area Representatives for your efforts in contacting all the Seniors in your area.

Our AGM will be held in the Church of Scotland hall on Monday 20th April at 2pm. It will be followed by tea/coffee and cake. All are welcome to attend.

Provisional date for our annual bus trip is Monday 7th September. Any suggestions of where to go will be appreciated. Remember we have to have venues which can accommodate 40 – 50 people and has parking for a full sized coach.





Tel: 01320 366800

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

Office hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 3.30pm

### *Convent Land Fitness Trail*



If you've walked around the Convent Land recently, then you may have noticed some odd markings on the ground; you could be forgiven for raising an eyebrow at what they mean.

They are not the start of major reconstruction but are in fact the early stages of a new, outdoor Fitness Trail!

Leisure and recreation remain a priority in the Community Action Plan with many highlighting the Convent Land as a valued space for activity and well-being. Thanks to funding of £25,000 from Beinneun Community fund, Development Officer Chris Rose has been progressing plans for a fitness trail that will complement the adventure play area, the network of paths, and the open space.

Various stations will be discreetly located around the land within a comfortable distance of each other. The stations will focus largely on body-weight exercises allowing users to move quickly and quietly between stations for pull-ups and other bodyweight exercises. The material has been carefully chosen to blend into the surroundings in keeping with the landscape.

The location of each station has been sensitively selected as we balance encouraging a healthy activity and preserving the open character of the land that many of our community value so highly. The majority of the land will remain as it is; open, accessible, and available for everyone to enjoy.

You'll see pull-up bars, steps, balance beams, and more appearing on the land to ensure a full body work-out is possible. We anticipate the work being completed by April.

This is a small but meaningful step in investing in community wellbeing while respecting the landscape that makes the Convent Land special.



### *Funding in Action!*

Our community has no shortage of groups and clubs that provide a great selection of activities, projects, and events all aimed at contributing to improving our community. We're delighted to distribute funds on behalf of the community to help.



It's always encouraging to see how much effort, time, and commitment club and group leaders dedicate.

**Life Drawing Class** – Sarah McPhee secured **£983** in funding to continue running the successful Life Drawing Class that has been running since 2023. The funding is being used to provide basic materials, hall hire costs, model fees and a tutored session. The Life Drawing Class is held on a Sunday around the middle of every month from 4pm to 6pm. Get in touch for more information if you're interested; it is open to all abilities.

**Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council**

The Community Council acquired funding of **£5,766** to support the Legal and Survey fees to transfer ownership of Inchnacardoch Bay to the recently formed Cill Chuimein Legacy Project. The CCLP aims to look after local natural spaces and historic places so they can be enjoyed for generations to come. It will also promote responsible use and caring for our shared land and heritage.



**Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company**

The Community Company have approved a grant up to **£15,000** of matched for the new fitness trail and to do the groundworks. The 'workstations', situated with a one-minute walk between them, will give our community the opportunity to exercise outdoors focusing on strength, cardiovascular, and mobility.

**Kilchuimen Primary – trip to Glasgow Science Centre**

The Primary Parent Council have been awarded **£861.46** for the pupils' trip to the Science Centre.

This will provide an exciting, educational, and memorable outing for the pupils as well as a chance to grow independence and for social skills with their school friends.

Congratulations to the Primary Parent Council for securing the funds and for all their hard work bringing the initiative to fruition.

**FAGCC Janitor's House**

The Community Company were recently awarded **£70,000** for the purchase of the Janitor's House on Station Road. While the grant depends on further funding from other sources for the work needed on the house, it is anticipated that this project will provide another family home for our community.



**FASCA Monthly shopping trips**

Fort Augustus Senior Citizens monthly shopping trips were approved for **£4,028** funding, ensuring the trips to Fort William and Inverness can continue.

The Senior Citizens Committee work hard to make things happen for and in our community. Congratulations and thank you to the committee for the time you dedicate to managing a significant, local group.

**Kilchuimen Primary - Chrome tablets**

The Primary Parent Council successfully sought **£3802.99** funding to buy a range of high-quality play items and classroom storage resources for the nursery team and primary. The Chrome Tablets, role-play corner, and Kapla educational planks will make a meaningful and long-lasting difference to pupils' learning experiences.

## **Heritage Group Event**

A combined effort between **Heritage Officer Laura Brown** and **Kilchuimen Academy** has secured **£500** in funding to host an educational event focusing on 18<sup>th</sup> Century Highlander and Jacobite weaponry and martial skills.

The morning session is being held at the school followed by an afternoon session at **Fort Augustus Church Hall**. The funding will cover the costs of the two re-enactors. The event will enrich knowledge about the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Highlander life and strengthen the school's curriculum subjects.

## **Soup and Sandwiches**

Local **Helen Clay** and a small but sturdy group of volunteers have been awarded **£5,280** to continue the successful and popular Soup and Sandwiches that run two Wednesdays every month at Fort Augustus Village Hall.

This initiative has been running since May 2024 and only seems to grow in popularity. It gives local residents the chance to socialise in a warm and welcoming environment, reducing the risk of loneliness and isolation.

Huge thanks to Helen and the team for the many hours of work and dedication they put into bringing the Soup and Sandwiches project to life.

## **Glentarff House**

This worthwhile project is moving forward, albeit slower than we would like. That said, we have made progress and we are delighted to report, if you haven't already noticed, the trees in the garden have now been removed letting a huge amount of light into the property. We hope to get more garden clearance and fencing work done in the coming weeks.

We are now working on the tender documents and additional funding needed to get work started on converting this amazing house into 2 more homes for affordable rent for local people.

## **Janitor's House**

We are delighted to confirm that the Highland Council have agreed to our purchase of this 3-bedroom home. We still must go through the legalities, which will take a few months. However, once that is completed, we can get on with all the work needed to bring the home up to the standard we need for a local family.

Another exciting project to bring another local property back into use for local people.

## **Community Larder**

The **Community Larder** continues to operate, bringing support to those who need it. We are grateful to the donations we receive from the Community whether it be food donations or food vouchers in **Tarff Trading**.

While we appreciate the sentiment of non-food items in the larder, we respectfully ask that only food is left. We often find items like nappies, or Christmas decorations, or clothing. The Larder is aimed at providing food or cleaning products; it is unfortunate but anything other than that is at risk of going to waste.

We are always delighted to receive donations from **Balfour Beatty**, **Omexom**, and **Fareshare**.

We also want to thank the Directors who kindly volunteer their time in keeping them stocked up. That's **Helen** and **Lorn** in Fort Augustus, **Catriona** in Dalchreichart and **Kelvin** in Invermoriston. Without their help this would not be possible.

Fareshare is a charity distributing unsold food and cleaning items to worthy causes. Some interesting stats below from Fareshare's continued distribution between January 2025 and January 2026:

**Surplus food – 1.89 tonnes**

**Equivalent meals – 4,500**

**Value - £6,730**

## **ILM Electrical recycling service**



Don't forget that the first Friday of each month sees **ILM Recycling** at the **Fort Augustus Village Hall** car park ready to accept any domestic electrical goods with a plug on them. This service reduces electrical waste joining the general waste and gives your old items the opportunity to be serviced, repaired and re-used.

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

### **Did you know.....?**

Thanks to **ILM Recycling Highland** communities help divert over thirty-two tonnes of electrical waste from landfill. Between **May and December 2025**, Highland residents helped recycle 32.93 tonnes of household electricals through ILM Highland's Household Electrical Recycling Collection Service.

This is a fantastic achievement and a real testament to the power of local, community-led action in creating a more sustainable Highlands.

Our community has contributed towards electrical recycling equivalent in weight to

32.93 tonnes might sound abstract, so here's what it looks like in Highland terms:

- Around eighteen Highland cows — hair included
- Roughly six traditional croft cottages
- Over sixteen-thousand pairs of walking boots — enough to hike the Great Glen Way a few times over
- About eleven Land Rover Defenders — a true Highland workhorse
- Around 5,500 mature Scots pine trees, representing environmental value kept out of landfill

Every item collected through the service is reused, recycled, or responsibly processed at ILM Highland's **SEPA**-approved facility in Alness. This helps reduce environmental harm, conserve valuable materials, and keep economic and social value within Highland communities.



## Community skip dates

**Invermoriston** 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Dalchreichart** 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Fort Augustus** 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026



## Tarff Trading

As we march towards Spring, Tarff Trading is fully stocked to help you prepare for the growing season ahead!

We have a fantastic range of compost, soils, and fertilisers to get your garden growing, along with garden tools for every job; whether your pruning, planting, or preparing!



Don't forget if we don't have what you're looking for, you can order in-store including electrical equipment from lawn mowers to hedge trimmers – yes, it's nearly time to start cutting the grass again....

Fresh and frozen food is always available. We consistently stock bread products, ambient foods like cereals and tinned goods (and biscuits for those emergency situations), and dairy products to keep your kitchen well stocked.

We're often complimented on our huge array of stock that includes hardware, homeware, and hygiene.

We are delighted to introduce **Jade** to the team. Already making an impact in the office, Jade spends some of her week helping **Donna**, **Nigel**, and **John** serve our valued customers and is becoming a familiar face.

We're still open seven days a week; Monday to Saturday 8am to 5pm, and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

## Village Hall

In the last edition of the **Ness News**, we highlighted the many clubs and gatherings taking place in Fort Augustus Village Hall and how well the building is being used.

As part of our ongoing work behind the scenes, the Board regularly looks at how our community buildings and spaces are working for everyone. Like any well-used building, it's important that we





occasionally step back and consider whether the space is meeting current needs and how it might best serve the community in the years ahead.

We have plans, for the long term, to make the hall a resilience centre which will mean updating it comprehensively to include insulation, improving the heating and showers to name just a few things. However, in the short term we are desperately short of storage space for the increasing number of groups who require to leave items at the hall, and the growing need for supplies for the community larder. We have evaluated the spaces that are used and where we can meet this need right now. The stage is only used on average 3 times a year, so is very much dead space and not suitable for the kind of storage we need. The plan is therefore to remove the stage and convert it to a storage area for tables and chairs. We will add some much needed insulation to the external wall as part of this work. We can then re-allocate the existing storage areas and use them more productively. However, this is only a temporary measure while we look at longer term enhancements to improve the hall for everyone.

We will provide further updates when there is more information to share. In the meantime, the Hall continues to host the regular activities enjoyed by so many in our community.

### **Community Caretakers – Spring Update**

The Caretaking Team have a continuous waste management schedule, combined with the dilemma of trying to recycle, re-purpose, re-use and all the other re's..... this modern world brings to our plate. This allows us to be resourceful with what we've got and this winter we've been working on improving cemetery paths and other areas using our scrap wood pile accumulated over the years. We've graded, de-nailed, chipped, transported and spread tons of this waste wood and put it to good use. The chippings act as a comfortable walking surface on the paths, an excellent thick mulch controlling weed growth and it's all locally sourced and re-used.



Numerous floral display areas have also benefited from spreading oak wood chip mulch which was kindly donated by **Mark Smith, Jimmy Clark, Dan Clark** and **Ben MacKenzie**. A big thank you goes to them also.

The team also recycle metal which helps keep our tea hut going, and now with this bonus addition of the '**Domestic Electrical Recycling**' service, (1st Friday of every month, top car park) unwanted items are going in the right direction... Or maybe sideways?

Onwards to spring and better weather, we hope to have some fine floral displays for all to enjoy. The bulbs are pushing through and the competition for light and space will be upon us. Tourist numbers will creep up, and the caretaking team presence will also increase to counteract the impact this might have on the villages. You can't go wrong with more 'Boots on the Ground'.

See you about

*Glen*





# Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston Community Council

**FORT AUGUSTUS & GLENMORISTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL,  
FORT AUGUSTUS ON WEDNESDAY,  
28TH JANUARY 2026 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:**

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

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**NEW COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS**

There has been interest in the vacancies on the Community Council. Currently, there are three elected members and three co-opted members, and it is not possible to have more co-opted members. Highland Council (HC) has informed DM that all Community Councils must wait until August/September to hold an election. Appointing associate members (without voting rights) is possible in the interim period. The Community Council is still looking for members from Glenmoriston. Anyone interested should contact CL or DM.

**BEAR/TRANSPORT SCOTLAND/HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

The previously reported loose manhole covers in Fort Augustus have now been fixed.

DM has reported a loose brick in Torgoyle Bridge in Glenmoriston to Ken Hossack at BEAR.

The existing Achnaconeran Road issues, including the need for signage, are ongoing. DF is meeting with the roads manager at HC to discuss these along with other issues regarding Invermoriston.

Turning the layby opposite the Bothy into a loading bay was raised again. DF advised that the yellow lines can be repainted and that the layby can be used as a loading bay without officially calling it that.

DM mentioned that there are potholes all the way up Canalside South and that there is no sign at the top (near Station Road) saying that it's one way. DF suggested she contact Matt White at HC.

Regarding a pedestrian crossing for Invermoriston, DF advised that a new area manager, Stephen Kitt, has started at Transport Scotland.

**ROAD SAFETY & VISITOR MANAGEMENT**

DM reported that a meeting was held on 26th January with representatives from HC, Visit Inverness Loch Ness (VILN), Scottish Canals (SC), Transport Scotland, the Community Company and the Community Council, along with town planner/mediator Nick Wright, to discuss visitor management and road safety on the A82. It is anticipated that these meetings will take place quarterly.

**RESILIENCE**

In the future, Councillors plan to have similar meetings with key stakeholders from relevant groups to discuss resilience.

Councillors have been invited to a Teams meeting with Leona Jones from the NHS and representatives from other organisations and Community Councils on 3rd February, exploring how to work together during emergencies. DM, JP and MA all expressed their intentions to attend.



TREASURER'S REPORT: Current balance is £12,884.17.

Money has been received from the Community Company which will fund the transfer and survey of the Inchnacardoch land.

#### COMMUNITY COMPANY REPORT:

CL updated Councillors on current Community Company matters.

MA presented his proposal for a possible volunteer group that would work as part of the Community Company to deliver projects for our communities. It has been decided to wait and re-evaluate this when the currently advertised Community Company roles have been filled and the new employees are in post.

Funding for the fitness trail through the Convent land has come through, this is hoped to be completed in spring.

The stone dyke between the Tarff and the Convent land has been partially undermined; solutions are being considered.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS:

Trucks are delivering cabins over several days to the Auchterawe site. On 31st January, work to connect electricity and plumbing will take place.

Formal objections to two proposed wind farms have been submitted by the Councillors.

#### PLANNING AND LICENSING APPLICATIONS:

Reference: 25/04458/FUL

Description of works: Erection of 3no. houses (amended design - 15/04722/MS)

Location: Land 90m SW of Inchnacardoch Lodge Hotel, Fort Augustus

Applicant: Passivhaus Living Limited

Reference: 25/04786/PNO

Description of works: Formation of forest road turning area

Location: Land 215m NE of Forestry Commission Office, Auchterawe, Fort Augustus

Applicant: Forestry and Land Scotland

Reference: 26/00008/PNO

Description of works: Agricultural shed

Location: Land 500m NE of Taigh Sealladh Fèidh, Invergarry

Applicant: Mr Archie MacLellan

Reference: 25/04857/DEM

Description of works: Demolition of 2no. houses

Location: 6 Auchterawe, Fort Augustus, PH32 4BT

Applicant: SSEN Transmission

Reference: 26/00075/PNO

Description of works: Formation of access track

Location: Land 540m NW of Forest Lodge, Auchterawe, Fort Augustus

Applicant: Forestry and Land Scotland

Reference: 25/04450/FUL

Description of works: Erection of anemometer mast and associated infrastructure of up to 80m in height for a period of up to 18 months (22/05686/FUL)

Location: Bunloinn Meteorological Mast located approx 13.8km NW of Invergarry

Applicant: Energiekontor

Five members of the public have asked the Community Council if the veranda at Cobbs Café in

Fort Augustus requires planning permission, particularly as this is a conservation area. DF stated that the community council should contact Craig Wilson from HC's planning/building standards team so that this can be checked.

#### SCIO REPORT:

JP updated the Councillors that the SCIO's OSCR application to be recognised as a charitable organisation has been approved. It is now possible to move forward with all other business (land survey, bank accounts etc.) MA thanked DC for his invaluable help and support so far.

#### COMMUNITY AMENITY ISSUES:

JF will follow up with Dougie Gordon from SC regarding the missing dog waste bins along the canal being replaced.

DM said the Legion has asked to place a bench in front of the war memorial at the Memorial Hall in Fort Augustus. This is not a Community Council matter. DF and MA advised that waiting until the transfer of the building from HC to the Community Company has been finalised might be easier.

Strathoich Cemetery is regularly being referred to as 'Jenkins Park Cemetery' by funeral directors and in funeral notices. DM has highlighted this issue with the relevant authorities but has not yet heard back.

There are concerns about wild boar getting into Invermoriston Cemetery and damaging graves after they knocked down walls when the gates were removed for repair. DF suggested contacting John MacLean at HC.

DM raised the problem of the canal bridge, which needs to be cleaned. DC also reiterated that drainage and lack of gritting along Canalside North are an issue. DF will find out if BEAR is responsible for cleaning the bridge or if there is a service-level agreement in place. DC added that it needs to be done regularly.

DM also brought up the ongoing parking and traffic issues in Fort Augustus, particularly the parking of tour buses along Oich Road; a parking meter/traffic order was suggested as a solution but never happened. Parking spaces are also too close to the A82 junction. A list of registration numbers of tour vehicles parking along this road has been compiled. MA added that VILN is in contact with all the regular bus companies and the Community Council can benefit from this.

Minibuses and private hire vehicles are regularly parking at the pier. DF said that PC Jonjo Gibb needs to be informed about such matters, with an outline of the incident and the time it occurred. DC reiterated that the yellow lines at the pier aren't effective and that he thinks this area should be turned into a roundabout with arrows. More/clearer signage is also required. DM to speak to Ross Bartlett at HC, and JP to contact PC Gibb. A local resident will log times of specific occurrences.

JP added that PC Gibb intends to attend the next Community Council meeting and has asked if another community engagement session in the car park should be scheduled. It was agreed this probably isn't the best use of his time at the moment.

DM updated Councillors on the Abertarff play area. HC's Playpark Coordinator, Lynn MacGillivray, has allocated £5000 towards installing equipment. Space will be left for the Community Company to install further equipment at a later date. It was noted that HC does not have a statutory obligation regarding playparks.

DM said tree roots from gardens are causing problems on the path at Abertarff Place. There is a similar issue in Lovat Terrace. DF will get the appropriate housing officer's name for DM.

The rail at the school came down but was put up again very quickly.

DM thinks a barrier should be put up between Caledonian Court and the A82, particularly as there are young families there. She will raise this with the relevant person.

CL discussed the existing issue with the war memorial in Invermoriston. Councillors need to ascertain who owns the land that this is built on. DF will broach this matter with HC again.

CL also asked for an update on the Invermoriston car park repairs. DF has this on his list.

There is a blocked drain on the corner of Dalcataig Road in Invermoriston, exacerbated by recent compacted snow/ice. DF advised that this is an issue for BEAR.

CL asked if a map of CCTV cameras, including those on private and business properties, could be compiled following the spate of break-ins in the area. MA expressed concern; this could not be made public as it would make properties without CCTV vulnerable.

There has been a report of a window at Kilchuimen school (in the Home Economics room) that looks as if it might fall out.

CL to request an update from HC regarding the access path in Invermoriston that goes along the estate to the river.

The litter problem in summer was also raised, as was the issue that businesses have with glass recycling in Fort Augustus. The Lovat has suggested a method of glass-crushing that will turn bottles etc. into sand for community use.

DC expressed local people's concerns regarding overtaking and speeding in Fort Augustus. This is a persistent problem that needs a solution, perhaps by extending the 20mph zone leaving the village. DF will check on progress and follow up with Councillors. DM added that the 20mph sign obscures the 'elderly people' road sign for the Telford Centre.

DC also mentioned that tarmac is coming away in the turning area on Abertarff Place near numbers 5 and 6. DM said there is a similar problem at The Riggs. She will flag this issue with Matt White at HC.

DC has been asked to bring up domestic bins at Bunoich Crescent again. Passers-by are continually using these, plus the area for one house's bins is being used by other nearby houses. Public bins are required along the route to help alleviate this problem, and JF suggested a bin locker could also be built. DF advised that Alan McKinnie at HC should be contacted.

#### AOCB:

Due to work commitments, DC announced that he is standing down as a Community Councillor with immediate effect. All present expressed their thanks to DC for everything that he has brought to the role and the work he has done on behalf of our communities.

A local resident mentioned that there is often a car parked in the bellmouth at Caledonian Court, affecting visibility for other drivers.

Another resident raised the ongoing issue of a large pothole by the old wooden bridge, and the fact that the fence has collapsed there. DM to contact Ross Bartlett about this. Also, there is still a damaged lamppost to fix.

Councillors were asked if any progress had been made, ahead of peak season, in managing the number of coaches coming to Fort Augustus, and the timings of these. MA responded that the Community Council will try to tackle this via VILN's contacts.

The existing problem of campervans using Oich Road as an overnight stop was brought up by a resident, who asked if it was possible to have a larger sign stating 'no overnight parking'. DM will follow up on this. CL asked if a parking meter could be installed there.

#### NEXT MEETING:

Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus on Wednesday, 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm

# Notice Board

## The Legion, Canalside Fort Augustus

Upcoming Events at the Club

### March

Every Monday Free Pool Table 6pm to 10.30pm  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Killer Pool night 7.00pm  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night & Raffle 7.30pm to 9.30pm  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 4Play live music 9pm to 12am

### April

Every Wednesday Free Pool Table 6pm to 10.30pm  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Live Event Jailhouse Jock 9pm to 12am  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Killer Pool night 7.00pm  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night and Raffle 7.30pm to 9.30pm

### May

Every Wednesday Free Pool Table 6pm to 10.30pm  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Killer Pool night 7.00pm  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night and Raffle 7.30pm  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Black Rock Ceilidh Band 9pm till 12.00am

**Everybody Welcome**  
**See Posters at the Club for more details**

## Fort Augustus Senior Citizens' Association

### AGM

will be held in the  
Church of Scotland  
hall on Monday 20th  
April at 2pm.

It will be followed by tea/coffee  
and cake.

## CRAFT & CRAIC



DO YOU KNIT, SEW, CROCHET, CROSS STITCH or ENJOY  
SIMILAR CRAFTS?

DO YOU HAVE A CURRENT PROJECT ON THE GO OR  
ARE YOU A BEGINNER WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN?

Then why not join our Friendly Craft &  
Craic Group - In the Church Hall every  
2nd and 4th Friday 10-12

Just turn up or Contact Val for more details

email [val@kishmu1.mz.uk](mailto:val@kishmu1.mz.uk)

Mobile: 07942261533

### AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

2 WHEELCHAIRS

2 TRI-WALKERS

1 SHOWER CHAIR with arms

Available for temporary loan to residents of  
Glengarry, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston.

- Aid recovery from broken limb/debilitating illness.
- To use whilst awaiting personal equipment.
- To trial prior to deciding what help is needed.
- To use on holiday.
- To assist with visiting relatives or friends.

Stored at the Fort Augustus Village Hall  
To book: Mon-Fri - contact: 01320 366800  
Pick up from Village Hall)  
Out-of-Hours: contact Denise 07760 360007

More information:

Email: [chair@3glenscare.org](mailto:chair@3glenscare.org)

[contact@3glenscare.org](mailto:contact@3glenscare.org)





# Notice Board

## Andrew Lloyd Garden Care & Handyman Services

### 07487 537302

#### General Garden Maintenance

Grass Cutting - Strimming - Tidying - Pruning  
Hedge Trimming - Tree debris clearing - Wood chipping



#### Home maintenance

Handyman odd jobs



**FULLY INSURED**

[www.gardenhandy.co.uk](http://www.gardenhandy.co.uk) ~ [andrew.gchs@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.gchs@gmail.com)

### Bus to Fort William

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

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 11th & 25th  
March

12.00 – 14.00



For more information contact Helen on  
07359 083997

Donations welcome for various charities

Thanks to



& BANK OF SCOTLAND

# Notice Board



**TABLE TOP & BAKE SALE  
FUNDRAISER**

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL AT 2PM  
at Invergarry Primary School

Toys! Books!

**INDOOR BOWLS**  
(Carpet Bowls)

**FORT AUGUSTUS  
VILLAGE HALL**

**Every Tuesday from 2 - 4 pm**

**Club bowls available.  
Tea/coffee at half time.**

First month free trial  
Subs: £12 per month

**INVERGARRY AND FORT  
AUGUSTUS RAILWAY  
MUSEUM**

**OPEN DAY**

**EASTER SATURDAY 4 APRIL 2026**

**12 - 4PM**

LOCATION – A82 NEAR LAGGAN BRIDGE

MINIATURE STEAM TRAIN RIDES

EASTER TRAIL

EASTER BONNET COMPETITION

BARBEQUE, TEAS, COFFEE AND CAKES

**BRING THE FAMILY FOR A FUN DAY OUT**

**FREE ENTRY AND PARKING**



**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.**